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THE KENTUCKY ENQUIRER

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SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2006

AN EDITION OF THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER B K C 50 CENTS

Up Front

Must reads inside today's Enquirer



AP / Tony Tribble

Reds get another middle infielder, beat Pittsburgh

Felipe Lopez (above) homered twice as the Reds won a rain-delayed game Friday against the Pirates, and the team acquired middle infielder Brandon Phillips from the Indians. **SPORTS C1**

Crenshaw revisits Masters of past

Ben Crenshaw, 54, is sitting pretty on the Masters leader board, five shots behind leader Chad Campbell after two rounds. **SPORTS C1**

Immigration bill hits a big snag

An overhaul offering citizenship to illegal immigrants hit a roadblock in the Senate as the bill fell victim to internal disputes. **NATION & WORLD A2**

Comair judge: Keep talking

A Comair judge expressed skepticism over the cases of management and the union – a move possibly intended to push a settlement. **BUSINESS D1**

Boone County gets a veteran

Jeff Earlywine, Fort Thomas' longtime city administrator, was named Boone County administrator. **NORTHERN KENTUCKY B1**

COMING SUNDAY

If N.Ky. continues to grow, it needs the equivalent of a southern outerbelt, a state lawmaker says. Where would it go, and what's the likelihood that it would happen?

WEATHER



High 51°
Low 30°
Brisk and cold

COMPLETE FORECAST: B10

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CYBER-TITHES

More churches set up electronic payments for offerings



The Enquirer/Michael E. Keating

Offerings at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Anderson Township are collected, then transferred to a money bag in church offices. About 10 percent of the church's givers now make electronic transfers or pay with credit or debit cards.

GIVING STATISTICS

12 Percent of U.S. churches offering an electronic donation option in 2005, up from 7 percent in 2000.

28 Percent of large churches – attendance of more than 1,000 adults – offering an electronic giving option.

30 Percent of the 222 parishes in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati in Greater Cincinnati and Dayton offering electronic giving.

63 Percent of households that donated to a place of worship in 2003.

2.2 Percent of annual income that was the average U.S. yearly donation to a church in 2003.

5 Percent of givers who tithed (gave 10 percent of their income) to their church in 2003.

Sources: Barna Group and Matt Zeck of Fifth Third Bank

They let the plate pass – and they feel no guilt

By Karen Vance
Enquirer contributor

At Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, more than 200 families won't offer even a dime when the collection plate passes them this weekend.

And church officials couldn't be happier. That's because those families have already paid their weekly contribution electronically. And while they represent only 10 percent of the Anderson Township church's 2,300 givers, those families typically donate 20 percent of the \$200,000 monthly collection.

"E-commerce is how things are headed," said Paul Vanderbosch, the pastoral associate for administration and finance

at Immaculate Heart. "It's one less check you have to write."

Those families are among thousands across Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky who are turning to technology to pay their church tithes or donations.

Among churches across the nation, 12 percent offer an electronic-payment option – through automatic transfers, credit or check cards – according to the Barna Research Group, a Ventura, Calif., company that studies trends among religious institutions. Such payment options were unheard of a decade ago.

That number is expected to continue to climb now that some churches are offering donations via the Internet.

See OFFERING, Page A9

'In the early days, Christians brought livestock as their offering. At some point, people began bringing money. ... Then it changed so people were bringing checks, and we survived that. We will survive collections in the technology age.'

Charles Zeck, center for the study of church management, Villanova University

Suit filed against Lakeside

Nursing home's care is poor, resident says

By Jim Hannah
Enquirer staff writer

Just days after state agents raided Lakeside Heights Nursing Center searching for evidence that residents might have been neglected, a former resident has filed a suit in U.S. District Court in Covington.

Melissa Atkins, who still lives at the home, says she was given substandard care and was forced to endure inhuman and horrific conditions.

Atkins' lawyer, Paul Dickman of Covington, says in the complaint that the inhuman treatment included "revolting and overpowering odor of human waste, poor lighting and ventilation ... and failure to provide proper medical care."

Investigators for the Kentucky Attorney General executed a search warrant at the home earlier this week after the federal government said it was stopping Medicare and Medicaid funding because of health and safety violations.

That forced the 113 residents on public assistance to find new housing by April 27. As of Friday, 84 of the nursing home's 140 residents remained.

"I say conditions, at times, are closer to conditions at a jail," Dickman said. "The conditions are not what one wants to see in a home for the elderly."

An attorney for the home, David Vance of Frankfort, didn't return a message Friday seeking comment. Officials at the home also didn't return messages seeking comment on the suit.

Dickman has asked Senior Federal Judge William Bertelsman to certify the suit as a class action on behalf of everyone who was at the home since January 2000. He said he is pooling his resources with Don Nageleisen, another Covington lawyer, and will soon ask that five to eight additional plaintiffs be added to the suit.

"You have to keep in mind there are a lot of people still at the home seeking to get out of there," Nageleisen said. "I think the first priority of a lot of families is to find their loved one another place to live. It's not finding a lawyer."

Atkins says in the suit that staff abused her in retaliation for complaining about the conditions.

The suit alleges that the home was understaffed and didn't provide proper medical care for its residents.

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Storm brings flooding, some wind damage

Water cascades down Bryan Bass' front yard Friday evening in Springfield Township; his basement had more than 2 feet of water. Some areas received up to 3 inches of rain, causing road closings, while others were hit by hail and strong winds. **Story, B4; 11 die in Tenn., A6**



The Enquirer/Glenn Hartong

FOR MORE WEATHER NEWS,
GO TO NKY.COM. SEARCH FOR: WEATHER

Ohio Marine's death in Iraq 'hard to imagine'

By Howard Wilkinson
Enquirer staff writer

Lance Cpl. Bryan Taylor came back to Milford High School in December in his Marine dress uniform to say goodbye to his favorite teachers before reporting for duty that would take him to Iraq.

Little did those teachers know it would be the last time they would see the 20-year-old they had watched grow from a happy-go-lucky freshman into a grown man with a purpose.

Friday, word came that the Miami Township man, who had been in Iraq for only a month, was dead – apparently the victim of gunfire while he fueled his Humvee near Baghdad.

"I told him back in December to be careful, to come home safe; and he said, 'Aw, don't worry about me,'" said LaRue Turner, the technology teacher who hit it off with Taylor. "It is hard to imagine him gone."

As of Friday night, there was no official confirmation of Taylor's death from the De-



Taylor

partment of Defense, which typically does not release information on casualties until 24 hours after official notification of the next-of-kin.

All day Friday, family members and friends converged on the Miami Township cul-de-sac where Richard and Sherri Taylor, the Marine's parents, live.

The family, through a friend, said they were not ready to comment on their son's death, choosing instead to remain inside their home with friends.

Taylor is the 21st Marine or soldier from Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky to be killed in Iraq. As of Friday, 2,344 members of the U.S. military had been killed in the war that began three years ago.

Taylor, a 2004 graduate of Milford High School, joined the Marine Corps last fall, going through boot camp in California.

See MARINE, Page A8

Coming Monday

We're celebrating 165 years of news

To mark The Enquirer's 165th anniversary, we asked you to help us rank the 165 best, worst, most memorable and most interesting things about this city and its environs.

Thousands of you responded. You picked the best athletes, greatest musicians, most evil Cincinnati, even the best chili parlor. (Hint: It's not what you think.)

On Monday, we'll share your picks in a special section.

Get ready for some surprises.



KENTUCKY'S POWERBALL TODAY'S JACKPOT \$195 MILLION It's on a roll. Got your ticket? www.kylottery.com