

XAVIER WINS SHOOTOUT BRAGGING RIGHTS



Jackson is fouled by UC's Darnell Wilks as the teams faced off in the annual Crosstown Shootout Saturday at Fifth Third Arena. Xavier won 76-66.

The Enquirer/
Jeff Swinger

Cincinnati.com

GO ONLINE: TALK ABOUT THE GAME, AND LOOK FOR OUR SPECIAL SECTION ON THE RIVALRY. SEARCH: CROSSTOWN

COUPONS WORTH OVER \$107 INSIDE

THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

CINCINNATI.COM

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FN \$1.50

Where does our community stand in 4 critical areas?

Today's Forum section assesses progress our community has made in four socioeconomic areas: Percentage of young workers; access to health care; intergroup relations, and early childhood school readiness.

FORUM D1

Families at odds over appointment

The Driehaus and Mallory families, once partners in reviving the local Democratic party, are now at odds over an appointment to the Cincinnati housing authority.

LOCAL D1

'Nutcracker' still on Frisch's plate

The most enduring sign of the vibrancy of "The Nutcracker" is its main sponsor for 35 years: Frisch's, the locally owned chain of family restaurants.

A&E I1

Germany does Christmas well

Germany is drawing on centuries of tradition to attract tourists to its celebration of Christmas.

TRAVEL F1

Also...

A 19th-century Wyoming home remains a work in progress.

HOME E1

ABC offers another sweet Christmas movie with "Snow 2 Brain Freeze."

TV WEEK

Superstar Will Smith shares why he feels "greater than I could ever imagine."

USA WEEKEND

Cities across the country are racing to become the electric-car capital of the nation.

CARS.COM J1

President-elect Obama has named Shaun Donovan as secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

NATION A5

WEATHER



High 54°
Low 43°
Not as cool

COMPLETE FORECAST: B8

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Depression puts tough times into perspective



Provided/Cincinnati Historical Society

When this photo was taken by John Vachon on Fountain Square in 1938, Americans had endured nearly a decade of hard times. Despite its diverse economy, the region had its share of unemployment and people with no safety nets.



The Enquirer/
Michael E. Keating

Sue Mandell, 83, of Wyoming, remembers when her father lost his business.

Inside, online

In Business

How long could our current recession - and recovery - take? **G1**

Cincinnati.com

See video of people who lived through the Depression remembering the hard times they faced in the area. **Search: video**

We can learn from those who lived through the '30s

By John Johnston
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For Sue Mandell, that melancholy morning in 1930 remains vivid, all these years later.

She was a little girl living in a small Avondale house with her parents, four siblings, grandfather and aunt. She awoke to find file cabinets and phone books that were not there the night before.

"I asked my mother where they came from," says Mandell, now 83, "and she explained that my father, a real estate broker, could no longer pay office rent and had closed his business.

"When my parents exhausted their savings, we lived from day to day."

Her family and millions of others were caught in the worst and longest economic collapse in the history of the industrial world.

The Great Depression, ushered in by the stock market crash of 1929, lingered in the United States for more than a decade, until the start of World War II.

It is the benchmark against which bad times are measured. Indeed, a common refrain is that the current financial crisis is the worst since the 1930s.

Raising the specter of the Great Depression rekindles memories of those who lived through it in Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky.

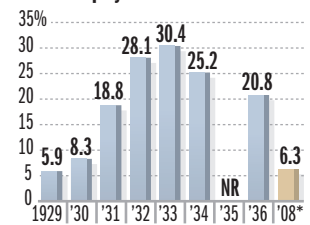
"The Depression robbed me of my childhood," says Mandell, a resident of the Cincinnati suburb of Wyoming. "I heard my parents say, 'They're going to put us out on the street.'"

See **DEPRESSION**, Page A15

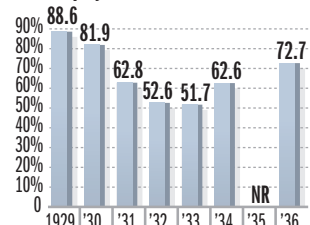
Jobless in 1933

The Great Depression did not spare Cincinnati, as shown below. Nationally, one in four workers was jobless then.

Pct. unemployed in Cincinnati:



Pct. employed full time in Cincinnati:



Source: Historical data reprinted from "Cincinnati: The Queen City," which cites "Municipal Activities of the City of Cincinnati, 1936" as the original source.

Rebuilding of Iraq rife with blunders

Report depicts fudged data, haphazard plans

By James Glanz
and T. Christian Miller
The New York Times

BAGHDAD - An unpublished, 513-page federal history of the U.S.-led reconstruction of Iraq depicts an effort crippled before the invasion by Pentagon planners who were hostile to the idea of rebuilding a foreign country, and then molded into a \$100 billion failure by bureaucratic turf wars, spiraling violence and ignorance of the basic elements of Iraqi society and infrastructure.

Inside

Page A14

U.S. troops to stay in Iraqi cities after June.

"Hard Lessons: The Iraq Reconstruction Experience," the first official account of its kind, is circulating in draft form here and in Washington among a circle of technical reviewers, policy experts and senior officials. It also concludes that when the reconstruction began to lag - particularly in the critical area of rebuilding the Iraqi police and army - the Pentagon simply put out inflated measures of progress to cover up the failures.

In one passage, for example, former Secretary of State Colin L. Powell is quoted as saying that in the months after the 2003 invasion, the Defense Department "kept inventing numbers of Iraqi security forces - the number would jump 20,000 a week! We now have 80,000, we now have 100,000, we now have 120,000."

See **IRAQ**, Page A7

Great Living Cincinnatians

4 who made a difference

This year's Great Living Cincinnatians share a lifelong commitment to community service. The Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber will salute the four Feb. 17 at the annual dinner. They are:

- Ray Brokamp, a career educator who now organizes the region's future leaders.
- Ross Love, who built a broadcasting company and stepped up after 2001's riots.
- Joseph Hayden Jr., the former Midland Co. CEO who founded the Midland youth baseball program.
- Paul M. Flory, a volunteer under whose direction the former ATP tennis tournament has thrived.

BUSINESS, G1

Wrestler eases pain for Shriners kids

By Peggy O'Farrell
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The Enquirer/Gary Landers
Ric Connelly collects comics, games and video games to share with kids at Shriners.

A nurse brought Ric Connelly a box full of comic books, games and novels - a good deed that helped a badly burned little boy survive three painful months of recovery.

He thinks he was about 6 years old; Connelly's mother had a history of abusive behavior, and he can't remember much of his early childhood. Waking up in the hospital after his mother deliberately set him on fire is one of his earliest memories.

Now it's Connelly's turn to help young patients at Shriners Hospital for Children, which he called "an island of sanity" in his chaotic and abuse-filled childhood. He suffered burns to his hands, arms, chest and abdomen.

Some of the physical scars from his

Holiday HEROES

During the 12 days of Christmas, The Enquirer will feature people who are heroes for helping others.

burn injuries are still visible. Helping children get better is helping to heal the invisible emotional scars.

Losing himself in the adventures of "Conan the Barbarian" and "Spider-Man" gave Connelly an escape from a harrowing reality in the hospital.

"When you're at Shriners, you're not there because of a minor inconvenience. You're there because you're fighting for your life," he said. "Your recovery takes a

long time, sometimes months, and it's rough. When you're reading a comic book, you're playing a video game, that's a way of escaping the here and now."

For the last several years, Connelly, now a 35-year-old professional wrestler, has headed up Christmas toy drives that bring in thousands of dollars' worth of comic books, video-game systems and other goodies for children at the Corryville burns hospital.

Connelly, who wrestles under the name Ric Byrne, works with local comic book shops, including Clifton comics, and with fans at www.valiantfans.com, as well as at conventions and other events, to collect items.

His West Price Hill home is stacked

See **CONNELLY**, Page A7

COMING MONDAY

Doctors didn't expect Michael McVicker to live when he was born. Now, more than 40 years later, he helps hundreds of people.

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Save 10¢ gal. for every two prescriptions you fill

Save 10¢ gal. for every \$100 in groceries

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