



IN SPORTS

A SALUTE TO OUR OHIO PREP ALL-STARS

THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

CINCINNATI.COM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2006

FN 50 CENTS

INSIDE

New leads debut in the Cincinnati Ballet's "The Nutcracker," premiering tonight at Music Hall.

Woman dies in wrong-way crash

By William A. Weathers
wweathers@enquirer.com

A 26-year-old Delhi Township woman died early Thursday on Interstate 71 when an off-duty Cincinnati firefighter who had been drinking and was driving the wrong way on the highway hit her car, police say.

"This shouldn't have happened," Donna Walters said Thursday of the death of her daughter, Lisa Kreutzer, who leaves

Firefighter accused of driving drunk after party

behind a 7-year-old daughter, Sydney. Kreutzer attended the Cincinnati-Xavier basketball game Wednesday and afterward went to Covington's MainStrasse to socialize with friends, said Walters, who shared a home with her daughter.

Kreutzer, a customer representative for Humana in Covington, was giving a co-worker a ride back to his car, which was parked on Eden Park Drive in Walnut Hills, when the crash occurred, her mother said.

Police charged Cincinnati firefighter Joseph Dance with two counts of aggravated vehicular homicide in Kreutzer's death. Dance, 28, of Green Township, is in the Hamilton County

Justice Center and is scheduled for arraignment this morning.

Alcohol is believed to be a factor in the crash, police said. Dance attended a Christmas party thrown by firefighters Wednesday night at the Game Day Sports Café on Pete Rose Way.



Lisa Kreutzer, Delhi Township, died in a car collision with Joseph Dance, Green Township, police say.

See CRASH, Page A7

Up Front

Must reads inside today's Enquirer

Tournament puts focus on cornhole

The American Cornhole Organization will host its first-ever national tournament Saturday at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center.

LOCAL B1

Pollack's injury means surgery

Bengals linebacker David Pollack will undergo surgery to repair damage in his fractured neck, likely ending his football career.

SPORTS C1

Extraordinary work of ordinary people

Once homeless with six children, shelter coordinator Fannie Johnson remade her own life and now helps others do the same.

LIFE D1

Also...

Strong company earnings and a drop in unemployment pushed the Dow Jones Industrial Average to its first close above 12,400.

BUSINESS A11

With Democratic Sen. Tim Johnson in critical condition after surgery, politicians keep an eye on his recovery as control of the Senate hangs in the balance.

NATION & WORLD A2

Get Published!

Share your news and photos. Go to Cincinnati.com, click GetPublished! and post on your community's Web page.

Cincinnati.com

An edition of The Cincinnati Enquirer

WEATHER

High 56°
Low 35°
Partly sunny

COMPLETE FORECAST: B10

INDEX

Six sections, 166th year, No. 250

Abby D2	.....	Movies ..	Weekend
Business	A11-15	Obituaries	..... B5
Comics	..... D6	Sports	..... C1
Editorials	..... B8	TV	..... D2
Lotteries	..... B10	Worship	..... D4-5
Classified	.....	E1-6, F1-10	
First Run Classified	.....	A18	



Lights! ... Camera! ...



Where's the action?



Kristen Erwin, Cincinnati Film Commission executive director, scouts film locations on Pendleton Street in Over-the-Rhine. She shoots photographs to present to studios, producers and directors seeking film locations.

Commission says city won't get its share of movie, TV productions if council cuts budget

By Paul Clark
pclark@enquirer.com

Two major Hollywood productions plan extensive location shooting in Greater Cincinnati next year, emboldening supporters of the regional film commission to predict a \$20 million movie payoff for the local economy in 2007.

But they say it depends on whether municipal fiscal planners yell "cut."

Cincinnati City Council, as part of its biennial budget debate, is considering whether to eliminate the subsidy for the Greater Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky Film Commission. Such a cut would perhaps shutter the group, whose \$305,000 income this year included \$200,000 from the city.

Inside, B3

Urban Institute portrait ranks Cincinnati 25th among cities for vitality of its arts scene.

Kristen Erwin, the commission's executive director, said her organization transuses far more money into the regional economy than it spends.

"We have two major productions slated for 2007, and that creates dollars for Cincinnati," Erwin said. She wouldn't disclose details except to identify one as a "Disney-like movie" that plans to film in Greater Cincinnati for 10 weeks beginning in spring.

See FILM, Page A5

With 10 days to go, deals getting hotter

'I'm watching the sales ... for sure'

By John Eckberg
jeckberg@enquirer.com

Attention, shoppers! Stores across Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky are taking Big Markdowns on inventory. You can save as much as 50 Percent off storewide inventory on selected items.

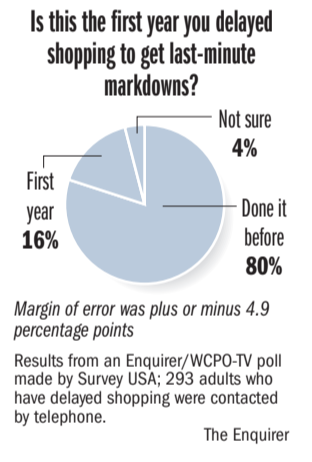
But wait, there's more. If you act now, you may qualify for easy credit that allows you to spread those payments over many months.

So hurry. Best selections are going fast!

Ah, gotta love the holiday markdowns.

Most slowpokes are veterans

Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky adults who have delayed shopping to get end-of-season bargains have used the tactic before.



With 10 days left before Christmas, retailers are pulling out the stops to lure shoppers into their stores. And while they plan to do some discounting every year, retailers also are responding to procrastinating shoppers, who are holding off on purchases until they can find the very best deals.

Inside

- 81% in survey waiting for last-minute deals. A6
- Online sales up 24%. A13

"This is the most bargain-hunting consumer I have seen in 20 years," said Britt Beemer, chairman of America's Research Group, a consumer behavior and marketing firm based in Charleston, S.C.

agent said. "I'm looking at the Sunday paper and grabbing any coupons I can get."

Indeed, an Enquirer/WCPO survey taken Wednesday of local shoppers found that 40 percent hadn't even started their shopping. Whitney Fuller, a freshman at the University of Cincinnati, is one of them. She was browsing at the Macy's adjacent to Fountain Square on a recent weekday.

"I tell my friends don't buy now - just wait" for the discounts, she said.

Renee Wurzelbacher also was playing the waiting game.

"I'm watching the sales, that's for sure," the real estate

The holiday shopping season got off to a strong start on the day after Thanksgiving as shoppers clamored for high-end electronics and other video or game gear. But the action soon tapered off.

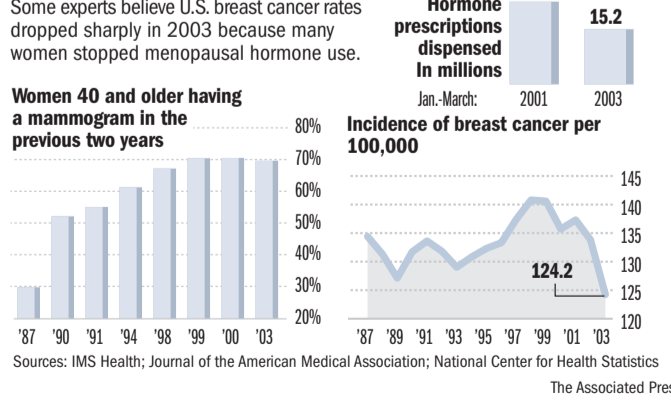
According to an International Council of Shopping Centers holiday survey, 25 percent of households nationwide had completed only 50 percent or more of their total holiday shopping through the first week in December, which was well below the 32 percent from the same point last year and even two years ago.

See MARKDOWNS, Page A6

Holiday memories

Tell us about the Christmas memory that gives you the most comfort and joy. Put Best Christmas Memory in the subject line, and e-mail localnews@enquirer.com.

A link to hormone use?



Breast cancer rates fell sharply in '03

By Marilyn Marchione
The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO - In a startling turnaround, breast cancer rates in the United States dropped dramatically in 2003, and experts said they think it is because many women have stopped taking hormone pills.

The 7.2 percent decline came a year after a big federal study linked menopause hormones to a higher risk of breast cancer, heart disease and other

problems. Within months, millions of women stopped taking estrogen and progesterone pills.

A new analysis of federal cancer statistics, presented Thursday at a breast cancer conference in Texas, revealed the drop in tumors.

About 200,000 cases of breast cancer had been expected in 2003; the drop means that about 14,000 fewer women were diagnosed with the disease.

Because breast cancer takes years to form, experts think that withdrawing

hormones mostly caused small tumors that had been growing to stop or shrink, making them no longer detectable on mammograms.

The next set of cancer statistics, for 2004, is due out in April.

Why do doctors think that the 2003 drop is largely due to hormones?

Cases declined most among women 50 and older with tumors whose growth is fueled by estrogen - the age group and type of cancer most affected by hormone use.

FREE ESTIMATES ONLINE
www.TheComfortZone.com

On our best system. With approved credit thru GECC. Down payment required. Interest accrues at 24.99% if not paid in full within 24 months.

FURNACES REPLACED

24 Hours 24 Months To Pay

Recker and Boerger

Tri-County • Montgomery • Beechmont

513-942-ZONE (9663)