

# The Daily Roar

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MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION – BAGHDAD

JANUARY 8, 2009

## School opens despite past violence



by Sgt. 1st Class Christina Bhatti, 2nd SBCT PAO, 25th Inf. Div.

Two students of the Huda Girls School patiently await the official reopening of the school in Tarmiyah, northwest of Baghdad, Jan. 5.

**By Sgt. 1st Class Christina Bhatti**  
*2nd SBCT PAO, 25th Inf. Div.*

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Approximately 300 girls in blue jumpers and white head scarves stood in formation on the school’s courtyard. The chill in the morning air rose in puffs as they chatted, happily anticipating the formal opening of their new school.

“Today is a good day,” said Sheik Saeed Jassim Hameed al Mashhadani, a tribal sheik in Tarmiyah. “This day marks a beginning of education for these girls.”

The Huda Girls’ School in Tarmiyah, northwest of Baghdad, officially reopened its doors Jan. 5 in a ceremony, which featured speeches, poems and songs.

The school provides education to approximately 950 girls, who attend at various times throughout the day to accommodate the valuable education opportunity.

The school has a long history of learning. Originally built in 1982, the building was used as dormitory but

transformed into a school for agriculture in 1995. Since then, it has transformed again into a primary and high schools specializing in the sciences.

The school has long been recognized by the Ministry of Education for its excellence in education, but in 2003, that excellence was threatened.

The building was the scene of significant violence, said Dr. Malcom Phelps, a native of Washington, and senior education advisor for the embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team attached to the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team “Warrior,” 25th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

During major combat operations in 2003, the school slowly ceased to function as a fort of science and transitioned into a fort for terror.

The school, which lies up the road from a Joint Security Station, was the launching point of ambushes, improvised-explosive device attacks and sniper fire against Coalition Forces and the then nascent

**See School Pg. 2**

## Striker Brigade aviation element plans for takeoff

**By Sgt. Whitney Houston**  
*3rd BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.*

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WAR EAGLE, Iraq – Every time a helicopter flies overhead, one can’t help but watch the magnificence of a machine that defies the laws of gravity.

Rarely would anyone think of the time and preparation it takes to coordinate those flights; the Brigade Aviation Element for the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Bag-

dad, toils daily to ensure air operations go smoothly within its operational environment.

“We deal with helicopter operations and pretty much schedule, plan and track all of the flights that are submitted through our brigade. The way we plan for this is through air mission requests, which take around three days to approve,” said Staff Sgt. James Tebbe, a native of Reno, Nev., serving with BAE, 3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

“We take the request and send it up to

division, where it gets filtered through an approval process. And finally, Soldiers, commanders and pretty much anyone who needs to move efficiently and safely throughout the battlefield in a timely manner, can do so,” said

Coordination of flights is a continuous mission and demands nearly all of the time and focus of the dedicated Soldiers’ who work within the BAE.

**See Flight Pg. 3**

# Dagger Soldier honored in memorial ceremony

**By Spc. Dustin Roberts**

*2nd HBCT PAO, 1st Inf. Div.*

BAGHDAD – A Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldier, who was killed in northwest Baghdad, was honored by friends and comrades for his ultimate sacrifice for freedom during a memorial ceremony at Camp Liberty Jan. 6.

Pfc. Benjamin Tollefson, 22, who served with the personal security detachment of Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, died Dec. 31 in Balad, Iraq, of wounds after Special Group criminals attacked his PSD with indirect fire in the Ghazaliya district of northwest Baghdad.

“We honor the sacrifice that he gave,” said Lt. Col. David Imhof, commander, STB, 2nd HBCT. “We recognize the spirit that was evident in his character, and we also strive together to declare the significance of his life.”

The quietly packed Warrior Chapel set the somber mood as Soldiers shared their memories and paid their respects to Tollefson, who was survived by his spouse, Natalie Tollefson, and their eight-

month-old son, Mac Tollefson.

“Pfc. Tollefson was a son, a brother, a husband, a father and a Soldier,” said Capt. Ryan Cripps, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd HBCT. “I’ve had the privilege to serve with Benjamin Tollefson, and I will never forget him; he will always hold a special place in my heart.”

Imhof added that Tollefson understood the meaning of personal courage and loyalty to his country, sacrificing his life for the freedom he believed in.

“Sacrifice is the highest form of devotion to duty,” said Imhof. “When one is willing to sacrifice for a particular cause, it means he sees his part in a larger movement for a greater good whatever the price.”

Staff Sgt. Zachery Hasse, PSD, 2nd HBCT, said Tollefson always had a smile on his face – even when times were most stressful.

“He was more than just a Soldier in the PSD,” said Hasse. “He was a friend, a comrade and a member of our Family. We’re going to miss him.”



by Spc. Dustin Roberts, 2nd HBCT PAO, 1st Inf. Div.

Staff Sergeant Zachary Hasse (left) and Brandon Ferguson, Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, kneel at the memorial of Pfc. Benjamin Tollefson, STB, 2nd HBCT, 1st Inf. Div., at a memorial ceremony on Camp Liberty Jan. 6

# School opening marks new beginnings for education

**School, From Pg 1**

Iraqi Security Forces.

After a cautious stability was reached in the area in 2006, Soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division began projects to rebuild the badly war-damaged school.

During the process, a major terror plan was thwarted. According to a Multi-National Corps – Iraq press release, Soldiers assigned to 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, discovered a command wire leading from the school’s outer perimeter to one of the rooms.

Inside the room, the cavalry troops discovered five artillery shell explosives.

The insurgent’s planned attack also included two large explosive-filled propane tanks buried underneath the school’s floor and numerous projectiles emplaced underneath electrical conduits in front of each classroom.

“This was a major setback,” said 1st Lt. Erik Peterson, a native of Centennial, Colo., who is a civil military officer assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, “Golden Dragons,” 2nd SBCT, 25th Inf. Div. “If they went off, not only would the building have been destroyed, many lives would have been lost.”

More damage was caused to structure by removing the explosives, Peterson said. Engineer crews had to deliberately pull up the floor and take down walls brick by brick to ensure there was no longer a threat built into the structure. Eventually those individuals involved in the plot were captured or

killed by U.S. Forces and ISF.

“Even though this was a setback,” Peterson said, “we had to try again. This is the only secondary school in the city. If it wasn’t rebuilt, there would be no place for these girls to go to school and get a good education.”

Approximately \$300,000 dollars of Iraqi and U.S. funds were spent to rebuild and refurbish the school, which contains 18 classrooms, science labs, an administration suite and an auditorium.

Now that the school is open, it faces many of the same issues plaguing the entire education system of Iraq.

“We have so many students,” Jassim said, adding that the girls now go to school in shifts to help alleviate the overcrowding. “We need more buildings so we can effectively teach these students.”

Peterson said there are more school projects currently in the works, and he hopes more schools will open soon.



by Sgt. 1st Class Christina Bhatti, 2nd SBCT PAO, 25th Inf. Div.

Approximately 300 girls stand in formation in the courtyard of the Huda Girls School in Tarmiyah, northwest of Baghdad, during the official reopening Jan. 5.

# IA soldiers, Iron Brigade Sappers continue partnership

**By Staff Sgt. Scott Wolfe**  
2nd BCT PAO, 1st Armd. Div.

BAGHDAD – Soldiers from the 1st Engineer Company, 9th Iraqi Army Division, and Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers Coalition Forces from Company B, 40th Engineer Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, conducted a combined operation in accordance with the Security Agreement in the Al Rasheed area of southeast Baghdad Jan. 3.

The new year marked a transition in the way MND-B and their Iraqi Security Forces allies execute missions as the MND-B Soldiers moved to a supporting role.

No changes were needed for Company B, and their partners at 1st Company. Following a communications check and some minor vehicle repairs, the two units filed into one convoy and set out to conduct patrols with the Iraqi engineers in the lead – just as the units had been operating for the past few weeks.

In fact, very little will change with the way the reconnaissance patrols are run because of how eager and thorough the IA soldiers from 1st Company were during their training, said Capt. John Holcombe, from Shawnee, Okla., the commander of the Company B “Bulldogs.”



by Staff Sgt. Scott Wolfe, 2nd BCT PAO, 1st Armd. Div.

Iraqi Army Sgt. Ali Balad (back left) watches as one of his soldiers is presented a certificate of training for successfully completing his training on route-clearing techniques Jan. 03

The Bulldogs put the 1st Company through a rigorous regimen of basic and advanced engineer skills from early October through the end of November. The MND-B Soldiers said they are very pleased with the results.

“The IA (engineers) surprise me a lot. They like going out,” said Sgt. Russell Slaven, a Tulsa, Okla., native, and combat engineer with Company B. “This is the group I trained,” he said, with a note of pride in his voice. “They found three

improvised-explosive devices during training in 35 minutes. None of the other groups were even close.”

Slaven is on his third deployment and said he has worked with the Iraqi Army each time.

“But this time, more than any other, I have to say they are a lot like us,” he said.

The lead vehicle for the route-clearance patrol was an Iraqi Badger, a vehicle based off of CF Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle. This Iraqi armored vehicle had an interrogation arm that the Soldiers used to good effect, stopping the convoy three times to check suspicious debris and trash on the side of the road.

Once the IA soldiers cleared the articles as “safe” and not a danger to the patrol, they retracted the arm and moved out again with a confidence demonstrated by the banter amongst themselves as they alertly scanned the area while conducting the mission.

Speaking through an interpreter, Sgt. Ali Balad, the Iraqi sergeant in charge of the patrol, said he liked working with the Bulldog engineers and was glad they had provided him the training he had received. “We succeed at our job because we like it,” he said, in very passable English.

## Brigade aviation element helps keep Soldiers off dangerous roads

**Flight , From Pg 1**

“A typical day starts out with a mountain of requests, and we basically sift through them and see what we need to submit by what times. We are basically submitting those requests throughout 12- to 14-hour days. We are constantly adjusting for things that will happen or did not happen the day before,” said Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Green, a Jackson, Miss., native, serving with BAE, 3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

As time draws nigh to leave Iraq, the BAE has started making preparations to move Soldiers serving with the Striker Brigade to where they need to be in order to take off for home.

“We’re in charge of getting 3,500 to 3,800 Soldiers out of this AO, and we’re probably right on target. Our biggest concern is that our numbers match up and timelines are met

as far as when the helicopter comes in and how many Soldiers get on and, at the same time, ensuring everything runs smoothly and safely,” Tebbe said.

“Right now we are formulating a manifest and figuring out how many people we gotta move and to what locations,” added Green. “That number of people will play a part in which type of aircraft we’ll use, like Chinooks for larger loads or Blackhawks for the smaller ones.”

The strenuous work of BAE Soldiers may, at time, seem to fly under the radar. However, the Soldiers witness and appreciate the fact their hard work keeps Soldiers from encountering improvised-explosive devices.

“We enjoy keeping Soldiers off of potentially dangerous roads and getting them where they need to be as quickly and safely as possible,” Tebbe said.



by Sgt. Whitney Houston, 3rd BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

Staff Sgt. James Tebbe, exits a bunker Jan. 6 to verify his flight manifests in hand at Forward Operating Base War Eagle.

# Soldier in focus

Today's Soldier in Focus is 1st. Sgt. Matthew Gibbs, the senior enlisted leader of the 955th Engineer Company, a U.S. Army Reserve company based in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and currently serving with the 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), 926th Engineer Brigade, Multi-National Division – Baghdad. Gibbs, a native of Salem, Mo., serves his community back home as a law enforcement officer.

He said he took on the job because: "Like the Army, only a small percentage of the population is able to handle such a career." His two careers blended together when, two days before Christmas in 2007, as he patrolled in his police car, he received the phone call telling him to prepare for his second deployment. His career military career began in 1991 when he enlisted in the Navy.

"I wish I would've just joined the Army in the first place," he said, when reflecting upon his career, adding that his time with the Navy certainly had one huge advantage for which he is grateful..

"I wouldn't have met my wife and had my beautiful kids," he explained with emphasis.



by 1st Lt. Janeene Yarber, 926th Eng. Bde.

## This Week in 4th Infantry Division History

**WWII 1945** All regiments aided by the 4th Engineer Combat Battalion improved their defensive positions on the west banks of the Sauer and Moselle Rivers. Mines and booby traps were emplaced. Scaffolds were placed on bridges for demolition and barriers were erected. While this was going on, extensive patrolling was taking place both day and night by all units. Several times the patrols crossed the rivers to probe enemy positions.

## Daily Iron Games

The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow: **Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.**

Every Sudoku game begins with a number of squares already filled in, and the difficulty of each game is largely a function of how many squares are filled in. The more squares that are known, the easier it is to figure out which numbers go in the open squares. As you fill in squares correctly, options for the remaining squares are narrowed and it becomes easier to fill them in.

1	2			5				
		3	8		2	5	1	
		7					3	
6						4		
			9	5	6			
		9						3
	1					3		
	8	2	1		7	9		
			6				4	8

### Wednesday's SuDoku challenge results

6	9	8	7	5	4	3	2	1
5	3	7	1	9	2	6	8	4
2	1	4	3	8	6	5	9	7
4	8	9	5	7	3	1	6	2
3	2	5	9	6	1	7	4	8
7	6	1	4	2	8	9	3	5
8	7	3	6	1	4	2	5	9
9	5	2	8	3	7	4	1	6
1	4	6	2	5	9	8	7	3

# Safety Sense



## POV Safety –

When was the last time you thought of this topic? For some of us it has been months and for others, weeks. Regardless, both Soldiers and leaders need to maintain POV safety and control measures in their safety toolbox. As personnel go on leave or return home after their rotation, they need to think about long travel distances, severe weather, loss of normal driving skills and driving laws. Over here you have gunners to cover your back, EOF to deal with other drivers, and vehicles that weigh several tons. Back home you cannot use gunners, there are no EOF procedures, and you are expected to operate your vehicle in a safe and prudent manner. Remember, no matter who you are your skills will decrease while you are here and you need to mitigate the increased hazards. Operating a POV is a privilege and you must operate it in a socially acceptable way. Doing so may save your life.

## Weapons Awareness Reminders

- Weapons must always be treated as if they are loaded and muzzle discipline maintained.
- Weapons are not to be carried with finger on the trigger.
- Soldiers must ensure weapons are on safe when not actively engaged.
- Ensure Soldiers know the proper procedures for clearing weapons which are jammed.
- Proper PMCS and annual checks are to be performed on all weapons using the applicable “-10” or “-20”.
- Ensure the proper head-space and timing is performed on .50 cal. prior to firing.
- Remember to use the required slings for M4, M16, M249, and M240B (when carrying).
- When carrying an M9, always use a holster that points the weapon down and lanyard.
- Weapons must be cleared at the clearing barrels, after missions, and upon arrival at FOB, COP, JSS, PB; unless told otherwise.
- Ensure SQD LDR, PLT SGT, PLT LDR are actively engaged with their Soldiers in validating that their crew served and small arms weapons are cleared!
- References: 4ID OIF Leaders Handbook, MND-B Accident Prevention Plan (section 10), and appropriate weapons TMs.



Army Safe is Army Strong!

Stay Focused!

Stay Alert!

Stay Alive!

## David Letterman’s Top Ten Questions

10. Sup?
9. Are you a cop?
8. Where’s the husky section?
7. May I call you Mommy?
6. If we can put a man on the moon, why can’t we make a denture adhesive without the unpleasant aftertaste?
5. Why won’t Regis shut up?
4. What does it sound like when a monkey sneezes?
3. Kiskey kiskey?
2. How do they get the deer to cross at that yellow road sign?
1. Is it January 20th yet?

## Chaplain’s Inspiration

Too many people quit looking for work when they find a job. Lets not let this spirit surface in our team as we remain steadfast and loyal in our mission. Labor is a gift from God and our profession is the most honorable one. We must remember that we are called to a profession and our mission is a duty and privilege. The size of our success is determined by the size of our belief. Let us expand our belief in helping our Iraqi partners.

Proverbs 18:9 “One who is slack in his work is brother to one who destroys.

## BETLE BAILEY

BY GREG & MORT WALKER



## Daily Laugh

An American farmer was on holiday in Wales. He could not resist exploring the hill farms north of Aberystwyth. At lunch time he dropped into a pub and fell into easy conversation with a Welsh farmer.

'How big is your spread?' , asked the American. 'Well look you, it's about 20 acres he said' . Only 20 acres the American responded, back in Texas I can get up at sunrise, saddle my horse and ride all day, when I return at supper time, I'll be lucky to cover half my farm'. 'Dew dew' , said the Welshman, 'I once had horse like that, but sent him to the knackers yard.'


**Hometown Briefs**

**Denver rodeo bars use of electric prods**
*The Gazette*


DENVER - Colorado's premier rodeo won't use electric prods this year to get uncooperative broncs out of the chute and bucking.

The National Western Stock Show and Rodeo said this week it was taking the step to allay public concern.

The Illinois-based group Showing Animals Respect and Kindness, or SHARK, recorded video at last year's National Western showing several horses being jolted out of the chute. State veterinarian Keith Roehr says the National Western used the prods correctly.

SHARK President Steve Hindi praised the decision not to use them this year.

The National Western starts Saturday. Organizers say it's one of the top five rodeos in North America in terms of prize money and number of contestants.

**Local auto sales shrinking**
*Killeen Daily Herald*


A sampling of Killeen car dealers Tuesday indicated that local sales reflected the nationwide December slowdown reported over the weekend, but not as drastically.

Nationally, Chrysler showed the largest drop at 53 percent for the month. Local Chrysler dealers were not available for comment Tuesday afternoon.

However, Toyota, down 37 percent nationally, was only down 20 percent from the previous December here, and Honda, down 35 percent nationally, was down about 30 percent here.

Bill Kliever of Patriot Pontiac-GMC-Buick in Killeen said he believes December's new car sales at his company would match December 2007, even though November sales were about 20 percent off.

Used-car sales were still about 20 percent down, he said.

"The first 10 days of December were just dead," Kliever said, "but then GM came out with some new incentives and we were able to call some customers who couldn't make it into a new car earlier and close some sales."

Nationally, GM's sales were off about 37 percent for the year. Kliever said he is "cautiously optimistic" about early 2009.

Most local business leaders are expecting things to start looking up about the middle of the year, but Kliever believes the return of 4th Infantry Division's troops will bring a turnaround in the car business earlier than that.

"They'll have money, and they'll find wear and tear on cars in storage just from sitting unused - dead batteries and so forth. They'll want to shop," Kliever said

Kliever also said he thinks consumer credit, which tightened up considerably as the economy tried to heal, will loosen up quite a bit early in the year, and people will be heartened once the policies of the new federal administration start falling into place.

Paula Lohse of Toyota of Killeen said that despite December's slump, the month was still better than the previous two or three months. "I think people are reassured by the government's assistance to the automakers," Lohse said. "Everyone's confidence had been shaken by the recession. No one can remember going through anything quite like this."

**Northwestern isles may get U.N. designation**
*The Honolulu Star Bulletin*


The Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands could become the second United Nations World Heritage site in Hawaii, joining Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.



The United States will nominate the marine monument, along with George Washington's Mount Vernon estate, to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, President Bush said yesterday.

The two sites are the first submissions from the U.S. in 15 years. There are 21 UN heritage sites in the U.S. and Puerto Rico, including Yellowstone National Park, Grand Canyon National Park and the Statue of Liberty.

If accepted by the United Nations, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands will join 878 sites in 145 countries already recognized for their cultural and natural heritage significance.

Native Hawaiian fisherman William Aila said the UNESCO designation for the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument has both natural history and cultural value. The designation would "put it on a much higher pedestal in terms of importance to the world."

**Delayed move to Little League Baseball**
*The Fayetteville Observer*


Back in October, the Fayetteville-Cumberland Parks and Recreation Department announced its intention to change its baseball and softball programs from Dixie Youth Baseball to Little League Baseball for the 2009 season.

It seems that the organization has been thrown a bit of a curveball.

Fayetteville-Cumberland will return to Dixie Youth Baseball this season while the organization re-draws its district maps to meet Little League Baseball's guidelines.

The Fayetteville-Cumberland Parks and Recreation Department still plans to make the change to Little League Baseball in the spring of 2010.

"We're delaying the change so that we can properly re-draw our maps to conform to Little League Baseball rules," athletic director Michael Seals said. "The rules say you can't have overlapping areas, so we have to change the maps."

The current registration districts are filled with overlap. For example, students at Lloyd Auman Elementary School are currently eligible to play at one of four different recreation centers — an arrangement that isn't possible under Little League regulations.


So, while officials within the department will spend the next year sorting out the maps, the teams will take the field again under the Dixie Youth banner.

"I've talked to Carey Wrenn, the state director (for Dixie Youth) and he's been very gracious and easy to work with," Seals said. "He said, 'we'd love to have you back permanently, but we're also glad to have you back for one more year.'"

As for the players, parents and coaches, not much will have changed since last season.

"No changes, (it will be) just like last year" Seals said. "Even when we get to Little League, people won't see much of a difference on the field."


**Hometown Briefs**

**TV monitor to help with swearing-in**
*The Capital Journal*


Shawnee County is seeking to accommodate what has generally been an overflow crowd at swearing-in ceremonies for judges and elected officials by setting up a TV monitor during that event Monday to enable people to watch from a second courtroom across the hall.


Court Administrator Don Troth said the ceremonies will begin at 9 a.m. in the District 9 courtroom at Room 402 at the county courthouse, 200 S.E. 7th.

Troth said the first people sworn in will be recently re-elected county commissioners Vic Miller and Ted Ensley, Sheriff Richard Barta, Treasurer Larry Wilson and Register of Deeds Marilyn Nichols.

Incoming District Attorney Chad Taylor and re-elected County Clerk Cynthia "Cyndi" Beck are to take the oath of office next, with plans calling for Taylor to make a presentation, Troth said.

Ceremonies will end at about 10 a.m. with the swearing-in of the 11 district judges voters retained in the November election, Troth said. He said Monday's ceremony will break from past practice in that the judges will be sworn in all at once instead of separately.

Those judges are Richard D. Anderson, Charles E. Andrews, Mark S. Braun, David E. Bruns, Larry D. Hendricks, Joseph D. Johnson, Jan W. Leuenberger, Nancy E. Parrish, Jean M. Schmidt, Franklin R. Theis and Frank J. Yeoman.

**Club wants to 'civilise' Cologne tradition**
*The Local*


While the Rhineland readies for the traditional "fifth season," or Karneval, the Turkish community in Cologne has founded the first foreign carnival club (TKVD) to take part in the wild and boozy festivities in their own way, the organisation revealed during Wednesday.

"The idea is that we'd like to celebrate too, but want it all to fit into our lifestyle a bit more," TKVD spokesperson Katharina Starke said at a press conference.

Many foreigners tend to leave the carnival stronghold Cologne this time of year to avoid the crazy crowds of party revellers, but TKVD wants a piece of the annual madness despite the fact that Cologne's Kölsch beer and kisses don't really mix with Muslim beliefs.


"It is not a matter of separating the genders, but we want it to be a bit more civilised," Starke said.

Regardless of the fact that carnival is actually a Christian celebration, the TKVD thinks they will fit in.

"Right now in Cologne it's a overall cultural phenomenon," she said, adding that the club plans to take part in the famous Rosenmontags procession that, with its colourful parades, is one of Karneval highlights.

Each year Karneval opens on the eleventh day of the eleventh month at 11:11 am – but only for one day. Then the festival, based in Catholic traditions, is suspended through Advent and Christmas until the New Year when the Jecken, or jesters, hit the streets for several days of alcohol-fuelled celebration beginning on the Thursday before Lent.

This year's festival motto is "Unser Fastelovend himmlisch jeck," or "Our festival of heavenly jest," in Cologne dialect.

**PSC OKs Alabama Power cooling plan**
*The Montgomery Advertiser*


Alabama Power will give customers a way to save \$20 annually by allowing the electric utility to cut off their home air conditioners for brief periods on the hottest weekdays of summer.

The state Public Service Commission voted unanimously Tuesday to let Alabama Power Co. start offering the optional program.


The state's largest electric utility will begin the program in the Birmingham area and plans to move it statewide by the end of 2010, company spokesman Pat Wylie said.

To sign up, residents of homes or apartments must have one of Alabama Power's new "smart meters." They are digital meters that communicate directly with the utility.

About 300,000 have been installed in the Birmingham area, and all 1.4 million Alabama Power customers statewide should have them by the end of 2010, Wylie said.

Customers who choose the cutoff plan will have a device installed on their air conditioner. When demand for electricity hits a peak on hot weekday afternoons between June and September, the utility will be able to cut off the air conditioners for 15 minutes out of every 30 minutes.

PSC staff members said air conditioners can be turned off between 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on weekdays for up to a maximum of 120 hours during the four months. Customers who participate will get a \$20 credit each November on their power bill.

**University of Texas wants 10 percent rule**
*The Dallas Morning News*


The University of Texas at Austin has "lost control" of its admissions policy and wants to change the law that guarantees automatic entry to students who graduate in the top 10 percent of their high school class, UT President William Powers said Wednesday.

Powers said a record 81 percent of the Texas freshmen entering the university this fall gained admission through the so-called "top 10 percent rule." Unless the Legislature changes the policy during its upcoming 2009 session, Powers said the state's premier university soon would have no room to admit any Texas student who does not meet that standard.

"We've lost control of our entering class because we don't have any discretion on the admissions," Powers said a legislative preview meeting hosted by the Texas Associated Press Managing Editors. Powers said the university supports some form of automatic admission based on high school grades but wants to modify existing law so that high achievers who happen to fall short of the top 10 percent can gain entry. Powers suggested that one solution would be to adopt a more "aggressive" program allowing students to transfer to the university from community colleges.

The automatic admissions law was adopted a decade ago after a federal appeals court decision made affirmative action illegal in Texas college admissions. In 2003, the U.S. Supreme Court allowed universities to use race as one of many decision-making factors.

Efforts to change the top 10 percent law, or place a cap on the number of students being admitted under it, have fallen apart in past legislative sessions. Many Democrats have argued against modifying it, saying the law has improved ethnic diversity

## Sports

# Browns to hire Eric Mangini as coach

*Associated Press*

CLEVELAND – Eric Mangini is the new head coach of the Cleveland Browns, a week after being fired by the New York Jets. A person with knowledge of the negotiations told The Associated Press that Mangini will be introduced Thursday at a news conference at the team's headquarters in Berea. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because Mangini's contract has not been finalized.

Mangini reached an agreement on a four-year deal with the club on Wednesday, the person said.

Mangini is represented by agent Ron Shapiro, who is Mangini's father-in-law.

The 37-year-old Mangini began his NFL career as a ballboy with the Browns in 1994 under then-coach Bill Belichick.

Mangini went 23-25 and made the playoffs once in three seasons with the Jets, who stumbled down the stretch to lose four of their last five games and miss the playoffs after an 8-3 start.

Mangini is taking over the job that one

of his best friends in football, Romeo Crennel, was just fired from. The friendship dates to the duo's days as assistants with the Jets under Bill Parcells. Mangini was a defensive assistant while Crennel was the Jets' defensive line coach from 1997-99. Mangini followed Bill Belichick to New England in 2000, and Crennel joined the Patriots' staff a year later after a stint as Cleveland's defensive coordinator.

Crennel and his wife, Rosemary, stayed with Mangini and his wife, Julie, for about six months when the Crennels were having a home built after Romeo took the job as New England's defensive coordinator.

When Crennel was hired as Cleveland's coach, he wanted Mangini as his defensive coordinator but Mangini decided to take over Crennel's spot with the Patriots instead.

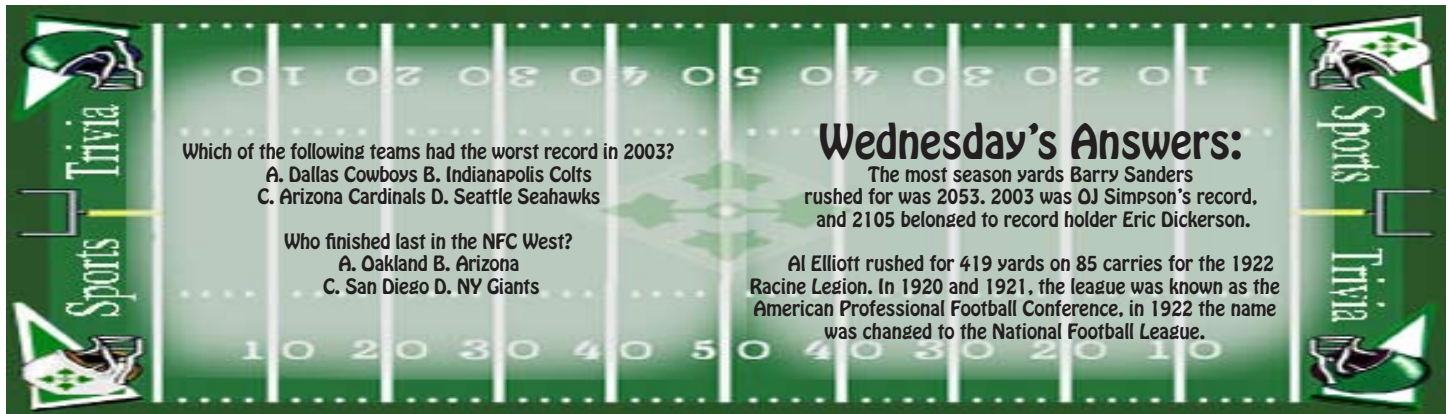
Mangini was one of four candidates interviewed by Browns owner Randy Lerner, but the only one with NFL head coaching experience — a prerequisite for Lerner, who also spoke with New York Giants de-

fensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo, New England offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels and Browns defensive coordinator Mel Tucker.

Mangini was fired by the Jets one day after the club finished a disastrous stretch where they lost to Denver, San Francisco and Seattle — three non-playoff teams — in the final month behind 39-year-old quarterback Brett Favre's failing arm and questionable play calling by Mangini.

Lerner fired Crennel the same morning Mangini was let go but he was unaware Mangini, who will be 38 on Jan. 19, was available when he met with reporters. Lerner, who has also been interviewing general manager candidates, wasted no time in going after Mangini and interviewed him the following night in the New York area.

Lerner was enamored with Mangini's potential and believed he would bring discipline to the underachieving Browns. During his interview, Mangini identified Baltimore player personnel director George Kokinis as his preference as GM.



Which of the following teams had the worst record in 2003?  
A. Dallas Cowboys B. Indianapolis Colts  
C. Arizona Cardinals D. Seattle Seahawks

Who finished last in the NFC West?  
A. Oakland B. Arizona  
C. San Diego D. NY Giants

**Wednesday's Answers:**  
The most season yards Barry Sanders rushed for was 2053. 2003 was OJ Simpson's record, and 2105 belonged to record holder Eric Dickerson.

Al Elliott rushed for 419 yards on 85 carries for the 1922 Racine Legion. In 1920 and 1921, the league was known as the American Professional Football Conference, in 1922 the name was changed to the National Football League.



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