

FLORIDA WINS BCS TITLE GAME TO BE CHAMPS YET AGAIN

SPORTS BROWNS INTRODUCE MANGINI

Bill Livingston
Mangini might be the hard-case coach the Browns need right now

Terry Pluto
Mangini really wants to coach the Browns — and prove the Jets wrong



FRIDAY
New generation of lanes that are right up your alley



THE PLAIN DEALER

BREAKING NEWS: CLEVELAND.COM ★ ★ ★ 50¢ HOME DELIVERY | 75¢ NEWSSTAND

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2009

NEWS MINUTE

METRO Gund Foundation to cut back grants

The George Gund Foundation announced Thursday that its investment portfolio had lost about \$200 million, hurting its ability to give money away. It will not affect grants issued for this year.

Details, B1



WORLD

U.N. calls for cease-fire in Gaza

The U.N. Security Council approves a resolution calling for "an immediate, durable and fully respected cease-fire" in Gaza. The resolution also called for unimpeded access for humanitarian assistance to Gazans.

Details, A6

BUSINESS

Hyland Software logging big gains

Northeast Ohio's largest software company is buying most of Nordson Corp.'s 25-acre campus in Westlake. Last year, Hyland's work force grew 30 percent with more hiring planned.

Details, C1

WEATHER

Some snow in the afternoon. High 28, low 22. FORECAST: B6

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SPORTS
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INSIDE

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LISA DEJONG | THE PLAIN DEALER

AN INVITATION TO WITNESS HISTORY



GUS CHAN | THE PLAIN DEALER



LISA DEJONG | THE PLAIN DEALER

As a Tuskegee Airman during World War II, Clarence Jamison of Shaker Heights, top, stationed in Italy, led a flight of fellow pilots credited with shooting down five German planes. Arthur Saunders of Cleveland, center, trained as an armaments and engineering officer with the 477th Medium Bombardment Group. Joe Burrucker of Shaker Heights, above, who was an air traffic controller at the Tuskegee Army Air Base, still flies with his son, also a pilot, whenever they can.

THE INAUGURATION

Decades after breaking barriers in combat, local Tuskegee Airmen hope to be there for Obama's swearing-in

BRIAN ALBRECHT
Plain Dealer Reporter

Six decades ago they fought prejudice, discrimination, even threats of courts-martial to serve as the first black airmen in American military history.

On Jan. 20, the aging ranks of Tuskegee Airmen will be part of a second, similar historic event as invited guests for the inauguration of Barack Obama as the nation's first black president.

"It's wonderful. Terrific. It's something I never thought I'd see in my lifetime," said Roy Richardson, 79, of Oakwood.

Richardson is one of seven members of the North Coast Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Inc. hoping to attend. The others are Joe Burrucker, 82, of Shaker Heights; Thomas Austin, 92, of East Cleveland; Arthur Saunders, 88, of Cleveland; Clarence Jamison, 90, of Shaker Heights; James Travis, 86, of Cleveland; and Edward Lunda, 85, of Akron.

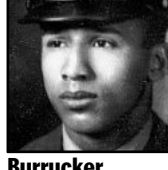
During and shortly after World War II, from 1941 to 1949, they were among more than 16,000 black servicemen who joined an experimental program in the then-segregated American military to train in all aspects of aviation, as pilots, mechanics, bombardiers, navigators and support personnel. The airmen initially trained at an Army airfield in Tuskegee, Ala., then at other bases across the country.

Two fighter squadrons of Tuskegee Airmen served overseas in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France and Germany, credited with shooting down or damaging 261 enemy aircraft. Some 150 fliers were killed in training or combat.

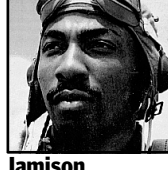
SEE TUSKEGEE | A8



Austin



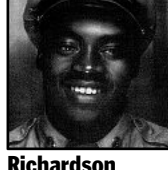
Burrucker



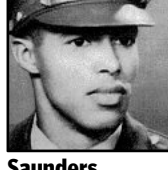
Jamison



Lunda



Richardson



Saunders



Travis

Strickland softens stance on gambling

"Trying to be a realist," given Ohio economy

REGINALD FIELDS
Plain Dealer Bureau Chief

COLUMBUS — Gov. Ted Strickland, who has repeatedly opposed expanded gambling in Ohio, said Thursday that Ohio's economy is so bad that he is now willing to consider rolling the dice.

It is the first time the Democratic governor has shown any openness to the idea.

"I can tell you if our economy was robust and growing and we were seeing job development occur without having expanded gambling in Ohio, that would be my preference," Strickland said.

"But I am trying to be a realist and understand that the circumstances that we are facing I believe are unprecedented."

Another influential state leader and gambling opponent, Republican Senate President Bill Harris of Ashland, also softened his stance Thursday. Harris and Strickland both said in interviews that they still frown on the idea of casinos in Ohio but would consider legalizing more gambling here to bring in new revenue to deal with an expected \$7 billion hole in the state budget over the next two years.

Support of gambling has not been a smart political position in Ohio, as voters have turned down several proposals for full-blown gambling venues.

SEE OHIO | A8

Sheriff McFaul's niece quits her job

She worked as guard while on injury leave

MARK PUENTE
Plain Dealer Reporter

Sheriff's Lt. Theresa Shaffer, the niece of Cuyahoga County Sheriff Gerald McFaul, resigned from her job Thursday after The Plain Dealer learned she broke the rules by working as a security guard while she was on leave for an injury.

Shaffer did the private security work after applying for Workers' Compensation payments for an injury she suffered on her job as a deputy.

Shaffer's resignation came four days after she became a lightning rod for criticism when McFaul promoted her while laying off other deputies. McFaul adamantly denied the promotion of Shaffer and two others with personal ties to the sheriff were acts of nepotism.

The newspaper obtained documents Thursday listing the work performed by Shaffer in June 2007 for Willco Security.

SEE SHAFFER | A8

Paralyzed boy's surgery to make medical history at UH

He's youngest for 'Christopher Reeve' operation

DIANE SUCHETKA
Plain Dealer Reporter

A 10-year-old boy with a severe spinal cord injury will become the youngest child to undergo the surgery made famous by the late actor Christopher Reeve. The operation will allow him to breathe without a ventilator.

And it will happen here in Cleveland.

Doctors at University Hospitals Case Medical Center say the surgery, scheduled for 8 a.m. today, will make life easier for the boy, who they say is the youngest ever to receive the diaphragm pacing system developed here.

Alex Malarkey, from the small town of Huntsville, 50 miles west of Columbus, wants the surgery for several reasons.

"So I can breathe by myself," the fifth-grader said from his wheelchair, after arriving in Cleveland Thursday afternoon. "And I want to be able to smell a good plate of spaghetti."

Alex can't smell because while he is on a ventilator, no air goes through his nose or mouth.

The doctor who helped develop the device and pioneered the surgery to implant it gave one more reason.

SEE ALEX | A8



JOHN KUNTZ | THE PLAIN DEALER

Alex Malarkey, 10, is scheduled to undergo surgery this morning that will allow him to come off his ventilator.



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