

TODAY'S WEATHER

HIGH 25
LOW 13



TUESDAY'S WEATHER

HIGH 32
LOW 22



FORECAST PAGE 2

INSIDE



AUTO

Aveo an economy car worth checking out. Page 7



NATION

Harvard names first female president in its history. Page 8



SPORTS

BV wins second-straight Red Division title. Page 9

QUOTE OF THE DAY



No man is good enough to govern another man without that other's consent.

— Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865).



Todd Street Road between North Galena Road and Clark Road will close today and is scheduled to reopen Friday. For more information, call 740-833-2400.

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Bombs kill at least 80 as Shiites mark attack anniversary

By BUSHRA JUHI
Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Thunderous explosions and dense black smoke swirled through the center of Baghdad today when at least two car bombs — one parked in an underground garage — tore through a crowded marketplace, setting off dozens of secondary explosions and killing at least 71 people, police said. Another bombing nearby killed at least nine.

The blasts shattered the city center on

INSIDE

Iran rejects accusations it armed insurgents in Iraq, Page 3

attack by al-Qaida militants in Iraq set off the torrent of sectarian bloodletting that has turned Baghdad and much of central Iraq into a battleground.

A column of smoke hundreds of feet wide billowed a thousand feet into the air

above the market near the east bank of the Tigris River and near the Central Bank building.

Ambulances and pickup trucks rushed many of the wounded to nearby al-Kindi hospital in the largely Shiite region that has been hit by a series of deadly bombings since the first of the year.

The worst carnage occurred about 12:25 p.m. shortly after the Iraqi government called for a 15-minute period of commemoration for the bombing of the golden domed shrine in Samarra a year ago.

The blast obliterated the shops and stalls in a central building in the Shorja market district and billowing smoke blackened the entire area. Police said at least 71 people were killed.

Debris and clothing mannequins were scattered in thick pools of blood on the floor of the warehouse-type building while men tossed plastic chairs onto piles. Two men carried the limp body of one of the victims, while small fires burned in the rubble on the street outside the building.

N. Korea nuclear talks could be extended

By JAE-SOON CHANG
Associated Press Writer

BEIJING — Talks on North Korea's nuclear program were likely to be extended a day in a possible sign of narrowing differences, a South Korean official said today, as envoys lay responsibility for resolving the long-running standoff solely on Pyongyang.

Over the previous four days, the six-country talks in Beijing have stalled over disagreements on energy assistance for the North in exchange for its abandonment of nuclear weapons.

"It is up to the North Koreans. We have put everything on the table. We have offered a way forward on a number of issues. They just need to make a decision," U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill told reporters before today's session, which he said would be the last day of talks.

But later after a series of meetings between delegations, a South Korean official said negotiations were expected to be extended another day.

"Consultations among the countries are under way in a more sincere manner," the official said on condition of anonymity due to the ongoing diplomacy. "The talks are expected to continue tomorrow although China has not yet made any decision."

Delegates remained in negotiations at a Chinese state guesthouse into the evening today.

The current round of six-nation talks began on a promising note after the United States and North Korea signaled a willingness to compromise. But negotiations quickly became mired on the energy issue.

The negotiations — which include the two Koreas, the U.S., Japan, China and Russia — have plodded on intermittently for more than three years.

Adding pressure on the delegates was a sense that failure to reach an agreement this time could permanently doom the talks.

"There's a certain life cycle to these negotiations," Hill said today. If North

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Gazette Amy Allan

Former gas station owner G.A. Stout has been everything from a National Guardsman to a volunteer sheriff's deputy during his lifetime.

Still in service

Hard work comes naturally for G.A. Stout

By CONNIE E. CURRY
Special to the Gazette

Today, you'll find a Walgreen's drug store on the corner of London Road and South Sandusky Street in Delaware.

But from 1965 to 2002, a busy gas station was there that offered fuel and service for vehicles. From changing tires and oil to brake repairs, putting on new exhausts and pumping gas, business was laborious but prosperous, which suited George Allen Stout just fine.

The 74-year-old Stout, known as G.A. to many, owned the service station. He was born and raised on a small farm in southern Delaware County.

Stout was a teenager when he met Nancy Rinker. He lied about his age so he could join the National Guard, and shortly after was drafted into the Army in 1954. He and Nancy corresponded as she waited for his return. He came home from Korea in 1956; soon after, he and Nancy married.

While raising three children, Stout worked at Sunray Stove and part-time in the

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evenings at Humble Oil in Powell. In 1965, he was approached about buying his own gas station in Delaware, and his self-employment began. Gas was 26.9 cents a gallon then, and Stout made 5 cents off of each 25,000-30,000 gallons he pumped a month. The station hours were 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Stout worked alone for the first year, then hired a part-time employee for the evening shifts.

In addition to servicing automobiles, Stout sold 25-pound ice blocks at his station. City Ice and Fuel, located on East Union Street, supplied the machine and ice for Stout to sell. Stout was responsible for loading the machines with the heavy ice blocks, which sold for 50 cents each. Crushed ice sold for 75 cents.

Stout also offered U-Haul rentals to his customers.

Please see STOUT, Page 3

They came, they saw, they bought

Crowds brave cold for chance at duck decoys

By LIZ ROBERTSON
Staff Writer

They came dressed for the occasion, mostly in brown. Carharts brown. And while some might have thought the cold would keep the crowds away, it didn't. They just dressed for it.

Wood smoke from a 50-gallon drum permeated the air providing a brief chance to warm chilled hands. The auctioneer's voice rose above the cold as household items were sold.

But this is not what the crowd came for. They came for the chance to bid on duck decoys — mostly unfinished — carved by longtime Ashley resident Josef Wooster. Known as "Buckeye Joe," the acclaimed carver has had his decoys shown around not only the country (in prestigious places such as the Smithsonian), but also abroad in London and Edinburgh.

Carving his first decoy in 1944 at the age of 10, Wooster sold his decoys for \$5 or \$10 in the 1950s. By the 1980s, they were commanding prices 25 times higher. And at last Friday's auction,



Gazette Amy Allan

Larry Wigton holds up a Michigan Kelly decoy that was auctioned off for \$475, bought by Jack Wilkie Friday afternoon in Ashley.

many went for 40 times that price. Overall, he carved about 2,000 decoys averaging about a month for each one.

Today, Wooster is in declining health and living in a V.A. home. But daughter Pat Krebs said her father would be pleased at the out-

come of the auction. While everything in the home would be sold, most buyers and bidders came for the ducks. One lot including trays of eyes for the carvings went for \$80.

Don Stowe, from Mt. Gilead, said he came because he was bored and cabin fever

was setting in. He came with neighbor Bruce Slates, who was looking for bird pictures and decoys. And even though the frosty temperature was only in the teens, Slates said the cold was "absolutely not"

Please see DECOYS, Page 3

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▶ BAGHDAD

Iraqi court raises sentence against former Saddam deputy to death by hanging

An Iraqi court today raised the sentence against Saddam Hussein's vice president to death by hanging for the killings of Shiites in the town of Dujail.

The decision had been expected after an appeals court ruled that Taha Yassin Ramadan's previous sentence of life in prison was too lenient.

Saddam, his half brother and former intelligence chief Barzan Ibrahim, and Awad Hamed al-Bandar, former head of Iraq's Revolutionary Court, were sent to the gallows in the case.

Iran rejects U.S. accusations it armed insurgents

Iran today rejected U.S. accusations that the highest levels of Iranian leadership have armed Shiite militants in Iraq with armor-piercing roadside bombs, a day after U.S. military officials in Baghdad said they had traced the weapons to Tehran.

"Such accusations cannot be relied upon or be presented as evidence. The United States has a long history in fabricating evidence. Such charges are unacceptable," Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini told reporters.

The deadly and highly sophisticated weapons are known as "explosively formed penetrators," or EFPs, which have killed more than 170 troops from the American-led coalition. Three senior military officials in Baghdad said the "machining process" used in the construction of the deadly bombs had been traced to Iran. But Hosseini said Iran's top leaders were not intervening in Iraq and considered "any intervention in Iraq's internal affairs as a weakening of the popular Iraqi government."

TALKS

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Korea rejects the current proposal, the American diplomat speculated that there would "be some political climate change, if not in the U.S., then maybe among some other countries."

But he added, "I don't want to predict that this is the last chance."

Negotiators had hoped the latest round would result in North Korea taking its first concrete steps in dismantling its nuclear program, an issue that became especially critical after the North conducted its first nuclear test explosion in October.

The issue that had previously stalled the talks — U.S. financial restrictions against a Macau bank with North Korean accounts — was not an obstacle this time.

Japan's *Asahi Shimbun* newspaper reported today that the U.S. told North Korea last month it is prepared to proclaim that \$11 million in Pyongyang's assets at the bank was legitimately earned, and was not related to alleged North Korean crimes including counterfeiting and money laundering.

The move would allow the money to be released from accounts frozen after Washington blacklisted the bank in 2005.

DECOYS

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

going to keep him away from the auction.

Wooster's son-in-law, Paul Zeto, said early in the day that he thought the auction was going pretty well.

"There's a lot of stuff," he said.

Brenda Solon, a private collector from Wooster, said she has been in the business for 20 to 30 years.

"He's one of the old wildlife carvers left. He's a legacy," she said. "These don't come available very often. It's very seldom you ever get to bid on them. He has an amazing book collection as well. It's going to be interesting."

Solon said, "It's a snapshot of someone's life. It's not just about the decoys. It's history. How things used to be."

As the auctioneers were selling off other pieces from the home, a crowd grew in anticipation around the table with the decoys. They talked quietly about duck decoys — and their carver.

Meanwhile, Wooster's saws and carving tools were being sold. A sander went for \$90.

Anthony Terzis, from Marysville, does some carving himself. "I just wanted to see what was here," he said.

And is he staying warm? "It's tough. You gotta love it to be here," he said.

And then auctioneer Larry Wigton, of Wigton Real Estate and Auction Company, stepped up to the table of decoys and took the mike.

"This is the end of an era," he said. "You are buying a piece of history."

"Dad did have an incredible talent," Krebs

told the crowd. "Dad won't be doing any more carving, but he still has that duck hunter's heart."

And then the first carving — a pair of shore birds — went for \$175.

Things went quickly after that. An unfinished carving went for \$220. Another carving, with a bird posed in flight, went for \$430.

Krebs said her father is so well known that people from all over the country were e-mailing their bids.

Another decoy sold for \$110. Then a branded decoy went for \$475.

Tim Godard, from Medina, knew Wooster.

"He taught me how to carve," he said. He bought a branded carving by Roger Barton, an 80-year-old carver now living in San Francisco.

"I talked to him last night," Godard said.

Jack Wilkie drove from Monroe, Mich. He bought a Kelly carving from the late 1920s.

Intermixed with the decoys, Wigton would occasionally auction off a painting from the home. One, with jazz musicians, went for \$420.

Chris Graves, of Delaware, bought a painting of Wooster for \$400 — "My wife wanted it" — and a carving of ducks in motion for \$475. He said they knew about the auction and had stopped by on their way back from grandparents' day at school in Cardington.

Like many others on the cold February day, he was "very much pleased with his purchase."

And like most in the crowd, he knew it was the end of an era.

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Sworn in

Fifth District Court of Appeals Judge Patricia A. Delaney, right, was officially sworn in Saturday by Judge Henry Shaw Jr. during a ceremony at the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas. Her daughters, son, Michael, and husband, Patrick, stood beside her.

Gazette Amy Allan

IN BRIEF

The **Tolerance Alliance**, a student organized group focused on ending discrimination, will hold an HIV/AIDS awareness event at Buckeye Valley High School at 7 p.m. today.

The event will feature guest speakers from the Columbus AIDS Task Force and HIV Community Services. The public is encouraged to attend and there is no cover charge. Guests are invited to bring canned goods to be donated to the CATF Food Pantry.

The Tolerance Alliance was formed two years ago by 18-year old Buckeye Valley student Elizabeth Slyman in an effort to fight discrimination and create awareness of issues such as AIDS, racism and equal rights.

The City of Delaware is expected to declare Feb. 12-19 as HIV/AIDS awareness week in Delaware and related events are being planned throughout the week.

The AIDS education and awareness event will run from 7 to 9 p.m. today at the high school at 901 Coover Road.

Approximately 750 registered standardbreds will be auctioned off during the **44th Annual Winter Blooded Horse Sale** today and Tuesday at the Delaware County Fairgrounds.

A silent auction, which will benefit New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program, is being held in conjunction with the sale. Items offered include a Las Vegas vacation package, a week in a beachfront condo on Marco Island for six, a BlackJack Sheriff race bike, framed equine art, jewelry, tack, horse figurines and wall hangings, boxed gifts, feed supplements and much more.

The fund-raiser will conclude at 2 p.m. Tuesday. For information on adopting a retired racehorse visit New Vocations at www.horseadoption.com.

STOUT

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In 1967, Stout's station became Stout's Union 76. It remained a Union 76 station until 2000, when Stout sold out to Walgreen's.

He moved the business across the street, renting a site for a year until purchasing land in 2002. Stout's sons, Danny and Mike, both worked for their dad; today, Danny manages Stout's Service Inc. on Pittsburgh Drive. The U-Haul part of the business came with the move, too.

Mike started working for his dad when he was 16 and in high school. After graduating, he worked full-time until his unexpected death in 1995.

Stout is a chartered member of the Delaware County Mounted Deputies and played a key role in originating the group in 1967. Jean Jackson was the sheriff at the time, and when Stout approached him about the idea, Jackson was supportive. Stout was required

to attend law enforcement school. In between work and raising his children, he became certified. Stout volunteered for special functions to help the Delaware County Sheriff's department until 1998.

Dick Harter, a full-time deputy, was a key player in working with the Mounted Unit. Stout, Nancy, Harter and his wife, Pat, formed a special friendship that lasted for years.

"There were many meetings at the gas station with all the mounted guys," Pat said. "They'd meet on Saturday mornings for coffee."

The Mounted Unit originally consisted of seven members. Stout's love of mankind and horses, and his hard work ethic, were assets to the county.

"There are only two of us left from the original seven,"

Stout said. "I remember the inauguration of Governor Celeste, and the Mounted Deputies rode down High Street in Columbus to welcome him. It was so cold and the wind was awful, but it was an honor."

Stout also took special training classes and became a member of the Delaware County Mounted Deputy Dive Team. He recalls assisting with many drownings in the six years he was involved.

Hard work always came naturally to Stout, but he still found time for his family. With camping, trail riding with their horses and riding motorcycles, his life was full.

"Oh, we had a great life," daughter Debbie Schutte said. "I remember when Dad came home with seven horses because they were a good

deal." She recalled many fun weekends, hauling horses to go camping at Sand Run in Lancaster with the Mounted Deputy families.

"G.A. is a funny guy. Our families had a lot of fun. He is soft-spoken and kind. I've seen him give money to people so they could eat or get a cup of coffee," said Pat. "We raised out kids together. We had a lot of fun over the years."

Stout has had some major losses in his life. Along the death of his son, Mike, Nancy faced a long battle with breast cancer. It took its toll and she passed away four months after their 50th anniversary in 2006.

"They had a special marriage," said Pat, who lost her husband in 2005. "He called

her 'Brown Eyes.'" "And he misses Dick a lot, too," said Debbie. "He was his best friend."

Stout doesn't have to work so hard anymore, but he makes frequent trips out to Pittsburgh Drive to check in on his son, Danny, at the shop. And daughter Debbie said Stout is now a "lifetime member of Hamburger Inn." He has a high energy level and a warm smile.

Today, he shares his tidy home with two house cats they had before Nancy's death.

"These cats drive me crazy. But I can't get rid of them," Stout said. "Nancy would be mad at me."

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