

# LOCAL REPORT

## ■ Courts

**NOT GUILTY IN SHOOTING:** A jury in Hamilton County Judge Richard Niehaus' Common Pleas Court found William Cromwell, 23, of Westwood, not guilty Thursday in the shooting of a 15-year-old boy more than a year ago near Mt. Airy Elementary School. The shooting victim, Derrell Pruett, suffered bullet wounds in both legs and was treated at University Hospital on July 3, 1995. Clyde Bennett II, attorney for Cromwell, said his client maintained all along that he was innocent, but he was charged with two counts of felonious assault. Four persons present at the time of the shooting identified Cromwell. "In cross examination it became clear that these individuals didn't have the opportunity to observe the assailant," Bennett said.

**PROBATION IN RIFLE CASE:** Michael J. Laug, 42, of Hamilton, was placed on six months' probation, fined \$250 and given a suspended six-month jail term Wednesday in Hamilton County Common Pleas Court for bringing two rifles in April to the Pauline Warfield Lewis Center, where he was working. The former employee pled guilty to failing to secure a dangerous weapon. Laug had brought the rifles to work to clean them. But a police officer saw a rifle case in an open locker in the Lewis Center power plant, took the rifles and contacted the Ohio State Highway Patrol. The charges were brought by patrol investigators.

## ■ Grand jury

**LAUNDERING CHARGE ADDED:** A federal grand jury in Cincinnati has added a money laundering charge to earlier charges against Samuel Dagan, 49, of Anderson Township. Dagan currently is in custody in Australia. He was indicted by a grand jury on June 5 on four counts of wire fraud, four counts of mail fraud and multiple counts of structuring cash transactions at a bank to avoid reporting cash transactions over \$10,000. The charges relate to an alleged investment scheme to defraud victims in Cincinnati and elsewhere of more than \$800,000 over the past three years. Hamilton County authorities are seeking Dagan on a warrant for allegedly passing \$41,800 in bad checks to a Cincinnati-area pharmacy.

## ■ Lottery results

**OHIO PICK THREE:** 245

**OHIO PICK FOUR:** 7151

**OHIO BUCKEYE FIVE:** 12, 14, 16, 25, 30

**KY. PICK THREE:** 135

**KY. PICK FOUR:** 8904

**KY. CASH FIVE:** 8, 23, 26, 30, 32



**Council newcomer:** New Cincinnati City Council Member Jeanette Cissell received greetings from Hamilton County Republican Party chief Michael Allen just before she was sworn in Thursday. Mrs. Cissell will serve for a year — the

## ■ Update

**PRINCIPAL SUSPENDED:** The school board in Lyndhurst, Ohio, has voted unanimously to suspend without pay a high school principal charged with secretly videotaping cheerleaders as they changed into swimsuits. The South Euclid-Lyndhurst Board of Education called the special meeting Thursday to consider terminating Walt Conte's employment contract. Conte, 50, of Mentor, Ohio, east of Cleveland, has been principal of Brush High School for four years. He invited the 16 varsity cheerleaders to his home along Lake Erie for a beach party Tuesday evening. About 100 parents, teachers and students demanded that Conte be fired.

## ■ In Indiana

**WOMAN KILLED ON I-74:** A tractor-trailer struck the rear of a car parked in the emergency pull-off lane of I-74 early Thursday, killing the passenger, Nahla Abdoh, 20, of the Raleigh area of North Carolina. Her husband, Omar Abdoh, 28, was reported in stable condition at University Hospital. The two had pulled off the highway near the U.S. 52 exit when they were struck by the truck driven by Ralph Allgood, 38, of Cincinnati, according to the Dearborn County, Ind., Sheriff's Department. No charges have been filed against the truck driver because the accident is still under investigation. A deputy said the couple were apparently asleep in their car at the time. Mrs.