

... A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS!



ERIC WENSEL | THE LEADER

Northside residents look on Thursday as the Christmas tree is lit outside the Marconi Lodge.

RAMP

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Painted Post Village Police Chief Robert Halm reported a dramatic increase in traffic accidents as a result.

"It's been a real pain going through Painted Post in the morning to get to Gang Mills," said Sonja Williams, a Pulteney Street resident. "I'll be glad when this project is done and over with."

The work is part of the \$70 million, three-phase Painted Post Interchange project that will separate local and interstate traffic and bring the roadway to federal

standards.

Bertch said the project will be completed by the end of next July.

"All the bridges have been completed. Most of the work next year will be beyond the curb," Bertch said. "We have two bridge decks to repave, but the majority of the work will be beyond the curb."

The initial phase included bridge work and construction of a full-diamond interchange near Forest Drive in Gang Mills. The \$41 million phase also included work to bring a section of Route 15 to interstate standards.

Other aspects of the phase included the construction of numerous drainage ditches, as well as a bridge that links South Hamilton Street to Forest Drive.

The second phase of the project included rebuilding the railroad bridge that crosses the Conhocton River in Painted Post and reconstructing a 2-mile stretch of I-86 near the new intersection with Route 15. Phase two cost \$11 million.

The third phase is currently under way. It includes paving new bridges, building curbs and landscaping.

CHIEF

Continued from 1A

have signed an agreement with Russell Reynolds Associates, a national executive search firm.

In a press release, John Nespoli, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Guthrie Healthcare System, said he hopes to begin the first round of interviews after Jan. 1.

"I expect the entire process to take up to six months," Nespoli said. "In the meantime, I am confident that Paul will serve Corning Hospital very well."

Nurick starts in his new position Monday.

KUHL

Continued from 1A

do in my job involves something that has something to do with my district, but I also make decisions that affect the world."

Kuhl said the trip to Brazil was organized by a member of Massa's own party, U.S. Rep. Elliott Engel, and was approved by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

It also centered on an issue that's vital to both the 29th Congressional District and the country as a whole.

"The number one issue deals with high cost of energy," Kuhl said. "People are telling me how it will have a negative impact on them in terms of heating fuel and

the cost of filling up gasoline tank in a car."

Kuhl said Brazil has pioneered the development of bio-fuel from sugar cane and has achieved energy independence. The trip included meetings with representatives of the sugar cane industry, the president of Petrobras, a Brazilian energy company, and the president of the Brazilian House of Deputies.

Kuhl spoke with reporters Thursday via a cell phone. His phone went dead prior to the end of the call and Kuhl's office did not return e-mails asking how much the trip cost taxpayers.

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST



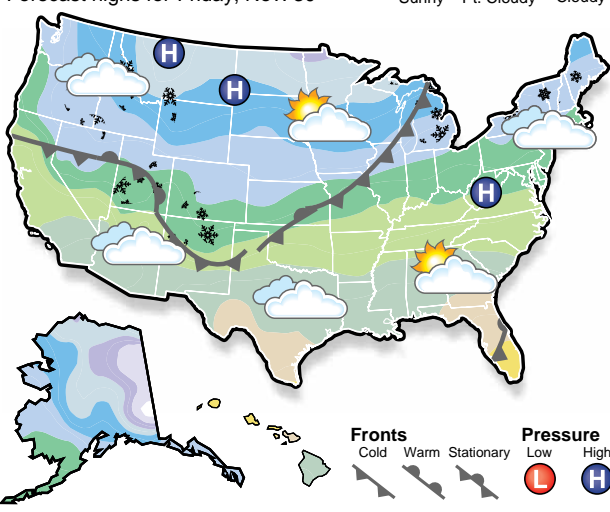
WETM 18 Storm Team
Chief Meteorologist Scott Mayer
Meteorologist Joe Pasquarelli
Meteorologist Matthew Szejwka



Today P. sunny, sct. flurries	Saturday Morning sun, increasing clouds later	Sunday Morning snow, sleet, turning to rain	Monday Rain showers turn to snow, tapering off	Tuesday P. sunny, flurries	Wednesday P. cloudy, flurries	Thursday P. cloudy
High 42 Low 22	High 30 Low 20	High 35 Low 22	High 36 Low 29	High 30 Low 19	High 33 Low 19	High 35 Low 20

National forecast

Forecast highs for Friday, Nov. 30



NEW YORK

Today will be partly sunny with a chance of snow showers late in the afternoon and highs in the lower 40s.

Tonight will be mostly cloudy with scattered snow showers after midnight and lows 15-20.

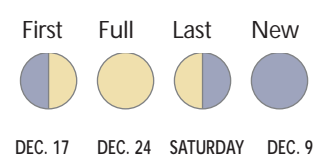
Saturday will be mostly cloudy in the morning, becoming partly sunny with highs in the lower 30s.

Saturday night snow is likely with lows 15-20.

WEATHER HISTORY

In 1957, winds enhanced by Hurricane Nina gusted to 82 mph in Honolulu, Hawaii, a record wind gust for that location. Wainiha, on the island of Kauai, was deluged with 20.42 inches of rain, and 35-foot waves pounded some Kauai beaches, even though the eye of the hurricane was never within 120 miles of the islands.

MOON PHASES



SUNRISE | SUNSET

Sunrise today	7:16
Sunset today	4:38
Sunrise Saturday	7:17
Sunset Saturday	4:38

TRIAL

Continued from 1A

cold blood. No gun was ever recovered from Scharborough and Hall was in a separate room when Fairley ambushed him, Assistant District Attorney John Thweatt said. Also, the physical evidence doesn't back up Fairley's story, Thweatt said.

Scharborough's version of the events are similar to Fairley's, although the 32-year-old said he wasn't armed and neither he nor Hall were robbing Fairley at the time of the shooting.

According to Fairley, Hall and Scharborough showed up at his home June 2 to buy \$250 worth of crack cocaine. The three men were friends and Scharborough put down the cash to purchase the drugs. Fairley testified he told them he wasn't selling drugs that night.

When Fairley refused to sell, Hall picked up the \$250 in cash, slammed Fairley against a closet door and demanded he give up the drugs, Fairley testified. Then, Hall briefly left the residence.

When Hall left, Scharborough and Fairley discussed

the situation, and Hall soon returned to the home, allegedly with a gun, Fairley said. Hall then passed the small-caliber weapon to Scharborough, who allegedly went to search for the drugs, known to be hidden in Fairley's bathroom.

As Scharborough allegedly searched for the drugs, Hall removed his shirt "like he was going to work me over," Fairley said. Hall had "gotten the best" of Fairley days earlier and Fairley admitted he was scared of Hall.

Moments later, Fairley testified he grabbed a .41-caliber revolver he kept under his mattress.

"I just came out shooting," he testified. "I was shooting my way out of there."

Firing rapidly by continuously cocking the revolver's hammer, Fairley shot at Hall several times. Hall eventually fell to the floor, according to testimony.

After the shots rang out, Scharborough ran from the bathroom and headed outside, according to witnesses. Fairley then fled the house without helping Hall.

"I didn't want to (help)," he said. "I panicked."

Scharborough, who testified Wednesday, admitted he and Hall went to buy the drugs and Hall picked up the \$250 in cash. However, he said, neither man was armed and Hall never slammed Fairley against a door.

"Mike lied to you," Fairley said.

Thweatt has also pointed out discrepancies between physical evidence and Fairley's version of the story.

According to Thweatt, Fairley shot Hall while he lied on the ground. Fairley denies that.

Hall was struck by two to four bullets from Fairley's firearm, said Dr. Caroline Dignan, who performed the autopsy. The medical examiner said Hall died when his brain stem was severed. She said she could not determine how many bullets hit Hall, although she testified Hall had four separate bullet wounds.

The trial resumes with closing arguments at 9 a.m. today.

UNION

Continued from 1A

In the meantime, the process of getting the workers back to D-R could take a few days and some members may be put on a recall list, Coates said.

That is despite a letter from the company that said workers would return immediately, he said.

There is not enough work left at the plant for all 400 union members, said Dan Meisner, manager Human Resources.

Since the strike began 16 weeks ago D-R hired more than 90 permanent replacement workers and 130 temporary employees. It also subcontracted approximately 35 percent of its work out to other facilities.

Coates was not sure how the company would decide who will return or when.

"The union had to provide

to the company a list of employees that are willing to go back to work," union officials wrote in a release.

Coates said all of the union members are willing and want to go back to work.

He stressed that employees should not return to the facility unless they have been called by the company. If they have any questions, they should call the union hall at 962-7921.

Last week D-R turned down an unconditional offer made by the union's international executive board for employees to return to work.

The company said it wanted to negotiate at the bargaining table instead of on the factory floor. Officials also cited fears of harassment toward replacement workers and possible sabotage.

Coates said he was surprised the company claimed it was "afraid for workers' safety"

last week but now that it has imposed "a contract that is against what a union is all about" no longer has concerns.

"Allowing (union members) to come in under the old contract would not have been a good decision," said Dan Meisner, manager Human Resources on Thursday. "The new contract addresses some of the previous concerns and allows flexibility in how we operate the facility."

For example, the new contract does not contain any past practices clauses that maintain work habits adopted 20 years ago, he said.

"(This) is the offer we want to live by for the next three years - not how we operated 20 years ago," he said.

Coates said negotiations may continue but meeting dates will have to be determined by union and company lawyers.

HOLIDAY Fix-Up TIME!

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