

To celebrate 225 years of Lancaster newspapers, we present this weekly series of 52 front pages from throughout our history. Many feature events that would shape the course of world history. Some feature events of great local importance. Still others simply provide windows into the long-ago lives of Lancaster County residents. Make sure to check in every week, and enjoy this trip through time with LNP.

1999

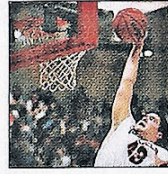
Canal day

A worker who helped build Panama Canal will be on hand at today's handover. Back page



Knights' night

Hempfield is victorious in its basketball tourney with win over Garden Spot. Page C-1



PLAY LICENSE TO WIN SEE DETAILS INSIDE

Clouds, 43 Details Back Page

Intelligencer Journal



206th year - No. 170 LANCASTER, PA., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1999 Home Delivered 40¢ Newsstand 50¢

Gunman kills 5 in Florida rampage

The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — In a hotel jammed with football fans, an employee shot and killed four co-workers Thursday, then killed a fifth person as he tried to escape, police said. Three others were wounded.

The suspect, described by police as a 36-year-old man, was arrested shortly after he opened fire in the Radisson Bay Harbor Inn. Police said they seized two weapons.

"He didn't say nothing — just 'boom, boom, boom,'" said Radisson employee Lawrence Wilson, pantomiming how the shooter fired. "We had no beef with the guy. He just...snapped."

The shootings started after 3 p.m. when the hotel was packed with football fans in town for the New Year's Day Outback Bowl between Purdue and Georgia.

Police Chief Bennie Holder said the suspect was working at the time. Three victims were shot in the lobby, and one was found dead by the swimming pool.

"Right now, we don't know the motivation," Holder said.

As the gunman fled, he encountered Rafael Barrios, 20, a bellman who was coming in on his day off to pick up his paycheck. The suspect approached Barrios' car and pointed the pistol at him through the window.

"I saw him switching the clips," Barrios said. "I jumped out of my car and ran."

More GUNMAN on A-B



GEORGE HARRISON

Ex-Beatle Harrison is stabbed

Kristin Gazlay Associated Press

LONDON — Former Beatle George Harrison fought off a knife-wielding intruder who broke into his mansion west of London early Thursday and stabbed him in the chest.

The suspect in custody was said by his mother to hate The Beatles and believe "they are witches."

The reclusive guitarist received a wound that collapsed his right lung, in an attack that came 19 years after an obsessive fan shot to death fellow Beatle John Lennon in New York City.

Police would not identify the suspect, but media reports named him as Michael Abram, 33.

In an interview published in Thursday's Liverpool Echo newspaper, Abram's mother, Lynda,

More HARRISON on A-B

Counting down: 2000 a day away

Officials here are ready for big night

David Griffith Intelligencer Journal Staff

State, county and local officials are gearing up for a unique experience as they juggle Y2K concerns and a special holiday spirit fueled by a once-in-a-lifetime event.

Many people have celebrated the turn of a decade or two, some have had the chance to usher in a new century, but none have toasted the dawn of a new millennium.

For many people, however, fears over what may happen when computers are told it's the year 2000 have necessitated a New Year's Eve away from family and friends.

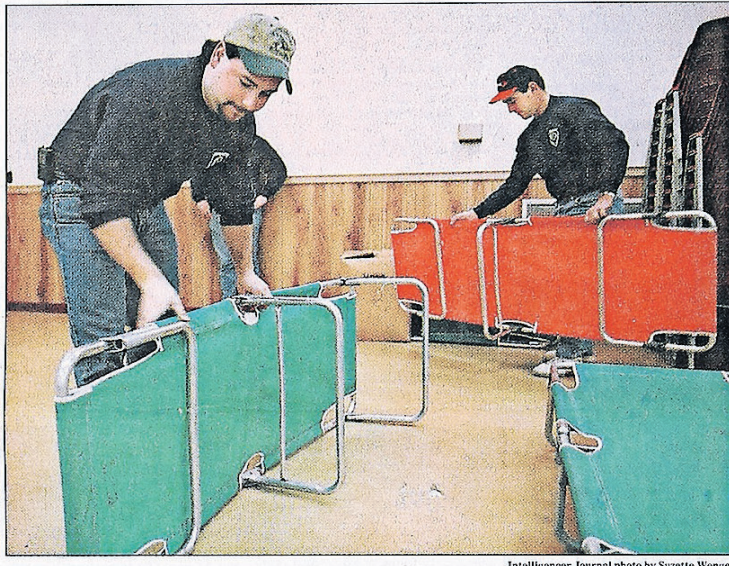
At the New Danville firehouse, sandwiches will be on the menu for the eight to 10 volunteers expected to show up for duty requested by the state.

"The main reason we're standing by is the anticipation of having some kind of phone problems," Chief Robin Beveridge said.

"We're going to have Sloppy Joes for whoever shows up. I'll be down there for a while, and I'm not far away, so I'll just pop in and out to make sure everything's OK."

State officials put out a request to every volunteer fire

More COUNTY on A-B



East Petersburg firefighters Dave Reightnour, left, and Aaron Petersheim set up cots Thursday in preparation for an overnight stay at their firehouse on New Year's Eve.

Algerian arrested in bomb plot ties

John Kiffer and William K. Rashbaum New York Times

NEW YORK — Storming a shabby Brooklyn apartment block at dawn on Thursday, a black-clad antiterrorist task force seized a man they alleged was an accomplice of Ahmed Ressam, the Algerian charged with trying to smuggle powerful explosives and four sophisticated timing devices across the border near Seattle two and a half weeks ago.

The man arrested Thursday, identified as Abdel Ghani, a 31-year-old Algerian, traveled to Seattle earlier this month to meet with Ressam as part of an elaborate Islamic terrorist bomb plot, federal authorities said. But their role in the plan was foiled when Ressam, nervous, suddenly bolted off a ferry at the border when a Customs Service agent looked in the trunk of his car, the authorities said.

Ghani was arrested on a day FBI agents fanned out to question, and in some cases detain, Algerian immigrants in several cities. In Vermont, federal prosecutors said that a Canadian woman arrested while crossing the border with another Algerian man was linked to Ressam. In successfully arguing that the woman be kept in federal detention, prosecutors said that Ressam and the Canadian, Lucia Garafolo, were friends of Said Atmani, identified in court papers as a member of the Armed Islamic Group, "a violent Algerian terrorist organization."

Federal agents acknowledged privately that they hoped the sweep would serve as a warning or a deterrent to potential terrorists.

In Boston, federal officials arrested five men, one of whom fled from his workplace, and officials chased him with guns drawn, but the men were charged only with immigration violations, not with anything related to terrorism.

Ghani was charged with helping Ressam's efforts to bring explosives into the country with the intention of setting off a bomb.

More BOMB PLOT on A-7

New millennium sees world hope and fear

Marcus Eliason Associated Press

From a sprinkle of South Pacific islands to the skyscrapers of the Americas, across the pyramids, the Parthenon and the temples of Angkor Wat, mankind stood on the threshold of a new millennium today, linked by satellite technology for the most closely watched midnight in history.

The world celebration was tempered, however, by unease over Earth's vulnerability to terrorism and its dependence on computer technology.

The excitement was typified by the Pacific archipelago nation of Kiribati, so eager to be first to see the millennium that it actually shifted its portion of the international dateline two hours east.

The caution was exemplified by Seattle, which canceled its New Year's party for fear of terrorism. Around the nation, such fears were heightened Thursday when U.S. prosecutors alleged that a man and woman arrested separately at the Canadian border are linked to a violent Algerian group.

More WORLD on A-8

When midnight arrives around the globe

When midnight arrives around the globe (all times Eastern Standard Time)

- KIRIBATI 5 a.m. Dec. 31, 1999
NEW ZEALAND: 6 a.m.
SOUTH POLE, Antarctica: 6 a.m.
SYDNEY, Australia: 8 a.m.
GUAM: 9 a.m.
TOKYO: 10 a.m.
BEIJING: 11 a.m.
INDIA: 1:30 a.m.
MOSCOW: 4 p.m.
JERUSALEM: 5 p.m.
CAIRO: 5 p.m.
ATHENS: 5 p.m.
ROME: 6 p.m.
PARIS: 6 p.m.
BERLIN: 6 p.m.
GREENWICH, England: 7 p.m.
SAO PAULO, Brazil: 9 p.m.
BUENOS AIRES, Argentina: 10 p.m.
PERU: midnight
NEW YORK: midnight
CHICAGO: 1 a.m., Jan. 1, 2000
DENVER: 2 a.m.
LOS ANGELES: 3 a.m.
ANCHORAGE, Alaska: 4 a.m.
HONOLULU: 5 a.m.
TAHITI, French Polynesia: 5 a.m.



Fully costumed young Kiribati dancers rehearse the dance they will perform when the sun strikes Millennium Island in the South Pacific. Early this morning, the island will be the first to see the dawn of 2000.

Pittsburgh firm wins Rt. 30 bid battle

P. J. Reilly Intelligencer Journal Staff

A Pittsburgh-based construction company is poised to take on the next phase of the Route 30 reconstruction project.

When bids were opened by Pennsylvania Department of Transportation officials Thursday for the rebuilding of the western two-mile section of Route 30 between the Route 283 split and Rohrerstown Road,

Dick Corporation was identified as the apparent low bidder.

The company bid \$45.6 million for the job, which is supposed to commence in March and be completed by July 2, 2002.

Hempt Bros. Inc. of Camp Hill bid \$50.6 million; Denton Construction Co. of Michigan bid \$52.3 million; and The Lane Construction Co. of Connecticut bid \$55.9 million.

More RT. 30 on A-8

INDEX

Table with 2 columns: Index items and page numbers. Includes Births, Business, Classified, Comics, Dear Abby, Dr. Gott, Farm, Lifestyle, Local News, Lottery, Movies, Mutual funds, Newsmakers, Obituaries, Opinion, Puzzles, Readers' forum, Sports, Stocks, Television, Weather.

COVER 47 OF 52

OMG IT'S Y2K

The notion that a computer glitch tied to the date would somehow lead to global unease that occasionally bordered on apocalyptic panic is the sort of thing that likely won't make sense to anyone who didn't live through it.

But that's exactly what the Y2K scare was.

Founded on the very real possibility that the switch from '99 to '00 might cause glitches in computer systems that weren't updated to account for the change, the scare quickly spiraled into end-of-the-world thinking.

Would the power grid go down? Would banks somehow delete your life savings? Would planes start dropping out of the sky?

These are the sorts of questions people were asking with growing frequency as 1999 drew to a close. The New York Times, reporting on the

increasingly common links between Y2K fears and apocalyptic religious groups, mentioned the Rev. Jerry Falwell's belief that the Y2K event would be evidence of God's efforts to humble America, and that it might also incite a global Christian revival. Many fringe religious groups associated Y2K with the Rapture, and others — including Falwell, as well as non-religious survivalists — advised stocking up on food and guns.

But by the time New Year's Eve rolled around in Lancaster, things were pretty peaceful.

This Intelligencer Journal front page from Dec. 31, 1999, features a local story that seems downright placid — municipal officials and emergency crews were to be on standby in case of any problems, but judging by the tone of the officials interviewed, the fear of

something serious happening was remote at best.

This stood in contrast to places like Seattle, which canceled its entire New Year's celebration because of fears of a terrorist attack linked to the new millennium.

Given that there were, in fact, no world-shaking disasters on Jan. 1, 2000, the Y2K fears have been relegated to the realm of historical footnotes. Though there were occasional computer glitches as the millennium changed, they were widely scattered and very minor.

The cost of analyzing and rewriting millions of lines of computer code to avoid the Y2K bug, however, was far from minor — an estimated \$308 billion worldwide, or nearly a half-trillion 2019 dollars.

