



BEUERLEIN PRODUCE

Leads Cowboys past Steelers

PAGE B1

VINELAND VICTORY

Clan blanks Millville 28-0

PAGE B1

WHO'S THE BOSS?

Familiar names gone in 'mobland'

PAGE A14

The Press

OF ATLANTIC CITY

35 Cents Single Copy

© 1991 South Jersey Publishing Company

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1991

Vol. XCII No. 333

CAPE MAY COUNTY EDITION

MORE THAN TURKEY

Thanksgiving 1991:

Food.
Family.
Football.
Frivolity.
Did we mention food?
Phew!

On Thursday, it was time to pause, amid feasts and frivolity, to give thanks. There were plenty of reasons.

In high school football, Vineland beat Millville 28-0. It was the first time Vineland beat Millville since 1985. Thanks, said Vineland fans. Thanks very much.

High above Earth, the six shuttle astronauts looked in the pantry and found dehydrated turkey tetrazzini.

Thanks — we guess, the astronauts reportedly said.

Thomas Sutherland, home after six years as a hostage, issued a statement:

"We really do want to give thanks to everybody, all of America, for the reception we've had, for a homecoming like this beyond all possible expectations."



Staff photo by Walter O'Brien

Pom poms away

Dana Hutless, 17, of Galloway Township, cheers for Absegami High School's football team Thursday. The final: Absegami 20, Oakcrest, 27. (High school football coverage on Page B1.)

Retailers hopeful on holiday

□ **Economy:** Store owners anticipate consumers will be more value-conscious this year, without cutting back drastically on holiday gift-giving.

By PETER KEY
Staff Writer

Southern New Jersey retailers are hoping for the best, preparing for the worst, and expecting something in between from the Christmas shopping season that begins today.

"We're cautiously optimistic and very hopeful," said Lorraine Huffnagle, the marketing and promotions director for the Shore Mall in Egg Harbor Township. "Let's face it, we all know that the economy is not good."

Americans certainly perceive the economy to be something less than healthy.

The Conference Board, a business-supported research organization based in New York, said Tuesday its monthly index of consumer confidence is now three points below the level it reached in the depths of the 1982 recession.

Consumers in New Jersey have a reason to lack confidence in the economy, according to Lawrence Clark, an economist who runs the Economic Research Institute in Plainsboro.

Clark said personal income in the state isn't keeping pace with inflation, meaning the real income in constant dollars is declining for state residents.

That doesn't bode well for the Christmas season, according to Clark. "I think that's going to contribute to weak retail sales for quite a while," he said.

Doom-and-gloom stories about the economy are also contributing to weak retail sales, according to Thomas Filandro, a vice president of research with Grant & Co. in New York.

But Filandro said Americans aren't as bad off as many people think. He predicted consumers will search for the best values this Christmas season, but spend more money than most analysts and economists believe.

"Although Santa might not be riding his bright red sleigh, he will come to town," Filandro said.

He's already come to the major malls in the area. With Thanksgiving arriving late this year, many area merchants rolled out their Christmas promotions last weekend, instead of waiting for Black Friday, as today is known. That's supposedly the day when the black ink that signifies profits begins appearing in retailers' ledgers.

Consumers responded at the Hamilton Mall in Hamilton Township, according to marketing director Brenda Lounsbury. "There are people out there shopping early," she said.

But although shoppers are out, they aren't

□ See Economy, Page A6

Members of jury, please stay awake

■ Patent lawsuits, already bogging for experts, can overwhelm hapless lay people serving as jurors for these complex and often boring cases.

Associated Press

NEWARK — One thing seems clear in the high-stakes patent trial between Minolta Camera Co. and Honeywell Inc.: The jury is bored stiff.

This raises the question: Should experts hear complex cases?

In this case, Honeywell claims Minolta pinched its technology for autofocus cameras and is demanding at least \$74 million in royalties for patent infringement and an unspecified amount for breach of contract.

"But 11 weeks into the trial, the five men, four women jury seems bored. Sometimes, jurors plop their chins on their hands, eyelids drooping. Other times they slouch or squirm in their seats."

None of the lawyers will speak on the record about the case, expected to last until the end of January. But one attorney, speaking on the condition of anonymity, called the whole exercise a "crashout."

After several months of slogging through libraries' worth of blueprints, internal memo and technical patent law, the jurors may decide, with the lawyer they liked better or how they dressed.

There must be a better way to sort out a multimillion-dollar spat between former friends. The two companies had agreed to share technology to produce autofocus cameras, but Honeywell claims Minolta stole its patents.

American companies used to be able to keep out foreign products that unlawfully used American patents by appealing to the International Trade Commission in Washington.

But now, the first level of patent protection in the United States is the federal courts, where lay people are expected to judge complex patent issues.

Abduction probe begins for missing Cape boy



HIMEBAUGH

■ Volunteers continue to search the area for 11-year-old Mark Himebaugh of Middle Township who disappeared Monday, as police begin a criminal investigation.

By YVETTE CRAIG
Staff Writer

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP — Authorities shifted their efforts Thursday from a possible runaway search to a criminal abduction investigation in

their attempt to locate an 11-year-old Del Haven boy missing since Monday. Additionally, a neighborhood park worker has reported seeing Mark Himebaugh shortly before 4 p.m. that day.

He is the only person who has reported seeing the boy since his mother saw him heading toward their Sun Ray Beach Road home on foot around 3:30 p.m. on Monday, police said.

Detectives began interviewing relatives and friends close to the missing child, including his parents, ac-

cording to Detective Sgt. Walter Oliver.

"Today, we have eliminated the parents as suspects in this case. We do not feel they had anything to do with their missing son," Oliver said. Jody and Maureen Himebaugh are separated. Jody Himebaugh lives in Cape May, police said.

A custodian at the Cape May County Park South, a recreation park on Rayshore Road just a few blocks from Mark Himebaugh's home, told police

□ See Missing, Page A7

Shuttle steers clear of space junk

■ Atlantis mission: On Thanksgiving, shuttle astronauts veer away from debris of an old Soviet rocket, practicing spying techniques and gobbling turkey.

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Atlantis' astronauts steered out of the way of a chunk of Soviet rocket Thursday, becoming the second shuttle crew in three months forced to change course because of space junk.

Shuttle Commander Frederick

Gregory maneuvered out of the way of the rocket debris late Thursday afternoon, about 10½ hours before the two objects were to have passed in space.

The crew of the last shuttle flight, in September, had to dodge a Soviet Cosmos rocket part. It was the first time in the 10-year-old shuttle program that astronauts had to move their ship to avoid orbiting debris.

NASA rules stipulate that the shuttle fly no closer than 1.6 miles above or beside another orbiting object, or four miles behind another object. It was not immediately known how close the piece of Cosmos rocket would

have come to Atlantis, which was orbiting at 17,500 mph.

Shortly after the shuttle maneuver, the six astronauts settled down to Thanksgiving dinner.

Earlier in the day, Atlantis' space sleuths sniffed out military targets in Nicaragua, Australia and Florida in an exercise to test astronauts' spying skills.

In a humorous tribute to the holiday, flight controllers sent them a last-minute addition to their surveillance list — Turkey Creek, Australia.

"Gobble" was the NASA code name for the make-believe target.

INSIDE

■ Ukraine welcomes recognition by U.S. — Page A5.

■ Israel says it will attend Washington talks, five days late — Page A9.

Complete index on Page A2.

WEATHER

TODAY: Partly sunny and mild, highs in the mid-50s.

TOMORROW: Partly sunny and very mild, highs in the mid-50s.

More weather on Page C3.

NOV 29 1991