

NEW YORK LIGHTS

City sparkles at Christmastime

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PLAYOFF FOOTBALL

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ROADSIDE GEMS

Touring the automotive culture

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COMSERV's legacy: A.C. minorities abandoning politics

Voter registration down, fear up

By KATHLEEN CANNON
Staff Writer

ATLANTIC CITY — To hear Lorenzo Langford and Kimberly Nance tell it, the next generation of black leaders gave up on this city on July 27, 1988.

then-Mayor James L. Ury, the city's first black chief executive, and a host of other prominent blacks resulted in a disinterested bloc of minority voters — and a dispirited group of young African-Americans who previously held aspirations for public office,

they say.

Results from the fall 1989, spring 1990 and fall 1991 elections seem to bear them out.

Election data from Atlantic City's predominantly black Wards 1 through 4 show that voter registration rates fell markedly those years compared to similar elections held prior to the arrests, even taking into account the drop

in population in the resort.

"Most people feel — that the state's original attempt was not to find (the suspects) guilty, but to destroy the black leadership in town, to discourage them, to destroy faith and to create apathy at the polls," said Langford, a casino pit manager who is expected to soon announce a City Council bid.

Nance, daughter of former U.S. aide Rosalind Norrell-Nance, termed herself a victim of that apathy. The spectacle of black role models in handcuffs that humid July day caused her to radically rethink her career goals.

At the time, the now-22-year-



LANGFORD NANCE

See Abandon, Page A8

Report predicts hostage release

■ Paris-based radio reported from Tehran that Joseph Cicippio and Alann Steen will be freed 'no later than Wednesday.'

Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus — An Iranian newspaper said Saturday that one or two Americans could be freed from captivity in Lebanon within days, and a radio station said all three U.S. hostages may be out in 10 days.

The reports coincided with a new trip to the Middle East by the U.N. secretary-general's envoy to resolve the hostage ordeal.

The Paris-based Radio Monte Carlo reported from Tehran that Joseph Cicippio and Alann Steen will be freed "no later than Wednesday." The third American hostage, Terry Anderson, may be released within 10 days, it said.

Monte Carlo's correspondent in Tehran, Mohammed Sadeq Hussaini, said he obtained his information from "reliable sources" in the Iranian capital.

In October, Radio Monte Carlo reported an imminent release of

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Yeltsin to bail out Gorbachev

Russian budget to be consolidated with U.S.S.R.'s

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Boris Yeltsin's Russian Federation agreed Saturday to bail out Mikhail Gorbachev's central Soviet government from a budget crisis that threatened to cut off salaries of millions of workers and paralyze the country.

After national legislature approved Yeltsin's plan, he would get nearly complete control of the central government and its ministries, further eroding Gorbachev's authority.

At a Kremlin news conference, Yeltsin and Soviet State Bank Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko agreed on a consolidated budget of Russia and the union for the 1992 fiscal year.

The agreement included giving Russia control of the Soviet Finance Ministry as of today. Yeltsin's move was seen as a major step toward ending the chaotic financial situation that has plagued the union since the August 1991 coup attempt.

See Yeltsin, Page A12

17 dead in Calif. pileup



Cleanup crews work to clear Interstate 5 in Coalinga, Calif., where 93 vehicles collided Friday.

AP Wirephoto

Crews clean up, search for more victims in rubble

Associated Press

COALINGA, Calif. — Crews cleared burned hulks of cars and trucks off an interstate Saturday, and officials identified victims of a pileup that killed 17 people and injured 150 others during a blinding dust storm.

Authorities described the series of crashes Friday as the worst highway pileup in state history and perhaps in the nation in terms of dead and injured.

The wreckage of vehicles was strewn over a one-mile stretch of Interstate 5 about 160 miles southeast of San Francisco. It shut down a 150-mile portion of the major north-south interstate between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

The highway was reopened Saturday evening, the California Highway Patrol said.

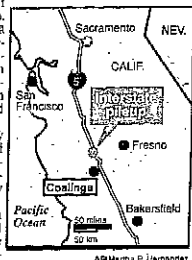
The death toll could mount because 20 of the injured remained in critical condition in hospitals, and the Highway Patrol was still inspecting some charred wreckage for possible bodies.

The Fresno County Coroner's Office released the identities of 15 of the 17 victims, who ranged in age from 1 to 70 years old. The other two victims were "burned beyond recognition" and wouldn't be positively identified for a few days, Deputy Coroner Richard Tobin said.

The crashes involved 93 vehicles, including 11 big rigs. More than a dozen vehicles burned down to metal frames. Others were smashed from all sides. Some appeared to have been involved in simple fender-benders right after the crash.

"By the time I saw brake lights, it was too late

See Pileup, Page A12



AP/Maria R. Hernandez

Hope fading, volunteers comb Cape for boy

■ Middle Township Police Chief Raymond Saunders believes that if Mark Himebaugh, 11, is still in the area he probably isn't alive.

By CHRISTINE JAPUSHEK
Staff Writer

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP — Volunteers on Saturday launched what may be the largest missing person hunt ever in Cape May County as they searched for 11-year-old Mark Himebaugh.

More than 250 volunteers, police officers and firefighters from New Jersey and Delaware fanned out across the area, searching for the boy, who has been missing since Monday.

When talking to him, the boy's mother said he was in the area of the beach.



Volunteers fan out along the Delaware Bay in Middle Township in massive search for boy, 11.

Press photo by Dale Campbell

INSIDE

■ N.J. teen is accused in killing of his 82-year-old great-grandmother. — Page A4.

■ William Kennedy Smith's rape trial opens Monday. — Page A5.

■ Springfield, Mo., hit by tornado. — Page A6.

■ Jordan's king accuses Israel of trying to obstruct the Mideast peace process. — Page A10.

Complete index on Page A2.

WEATHER

TODAY: Chance of showers with a high near 65.

TOMORROW: Rain with temperatures in the low 60s.

More weather on Page A3.

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