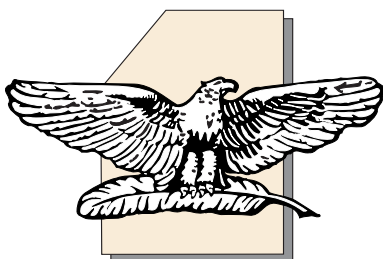




**GRIDIRON GREATS** — The Eagle kicks off the football season with previews of local high school and college teams. **Inside**

# Butler Eagle



TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2006

Butler County's daily newspaper

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## Deaths may be linked to drugs

By **JIM SMITH**  
Eagle Staff Writer

Authorities are investigating the deaths Monday of two Butler County women — one in a Butler apartment and the other in a pickup truck along a Forward Township road.

Investigators are looking into whether drug overdoses could have killed both women, Butler County District Attorney Randa Clark said.

### Charges are pending in 1 incident

Butler police said charges are pending in the death of 24-year-old Raylene Michael, whose body was found Monday in the stairwell of the Terrace Apartments on South Cliff Street.

A call from Tyrone Edney,

51, who lives in the apartment building, led officers to the body. Edney told authorities that he happened upon the body in the stairwell between the fifth and sixth floors, police said.

Investigators, however,

believe Michael, of East Penn Street, earlier died in Edney's sixth floor apartment. Police said they suspect Edney came home and found the body, which he later placed in the stairwell before calling authorities.

Edney has an unlisted telephone number and could not be reached for comment this morning.

Butler County Coroner William Young III pronounced Michael dead at the scene.

An autopsy Monday night

revealed no immediate cause of death; however, there was no trauma to the body.

Police said results of toxicology reports could shed light into the cause of Michael's death.

Clark said while investigators suspect Michael died of an overdose, no drugs or drug paraphernalia were found on her body or in Edney's apartment.

■ See Deaths on Page 5

Residents of New Orleans hold a candlelight vigil Monday with 1,600 candles to commemorate those who lost their lives after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. The bags with the candles are on the Lake Ponchartrain levee in eastern New Orleans. The storm made landfall one year ago today. Additional stories are on Pages 13 and 14.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



## Robots, elderly take steps together

### Passavant residents help with research

By **MATT SMITH**  
Eagle Staff Writer

ZELIENOPE — In a mechanical voice, Earl announced he is a robot.

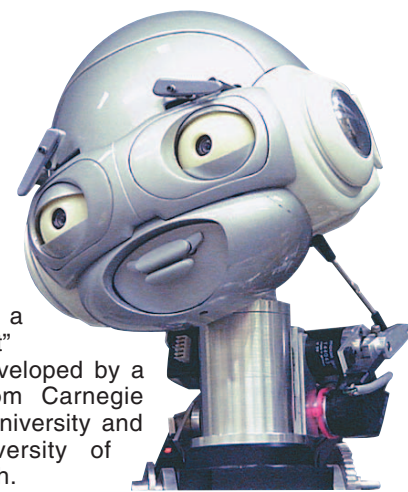
"In case you did not notice," he said. Earl is designed as a kind of mobile, personal assistant for the elderly. When all the kinks are worked out, Earl, who is still being developed, will lead people where they need to go, remind them of appointments and come and go as the owner pleases.

A team from Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh came to the Lutheran SeniorLife Passavant Retirement Community last week as part of ongoing research. The team works with residents to see how people interact with the robot, and what improvements need to be made.

Besides Earl, which has lifelike eyes, lips and eyebrows as well as a computer screen, the team also worked with the Intelligent Mobility Platform, or IMP, which is basically an automated walker with a computer screen and a laser that scans for obstacles in front of it.

Irma Schroeder, who has lived in an apart-

■ See Robots on Page 5



Earl is a "nursebot" being developed by a team from Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh.

## Katrina's smallest victims

### Animals left homeless by storm getting 2nd chance

This is the last in a series of stories marking the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina and its impact on the people and animals who were affected by it and now live in Butler County.

By **TOM VICTORIA**  
Eagle Staff Writer

While Jackie Carson works at her Connoquenessing Township home, Petey, a 2-year-old Chihuahua/Manchester terrier mix, sits in a chair watching his owner intently.

"He realized he went to dog heaven," Carson said.

Petey was one of 30 dogs in Louisiana left homeless a year ago by Hurricane Katrina that were brought to Butler County on Oct. 5.

Carson was among a small group of county residents who donated their time and effort in finding homes for the critters. There was going to be a prob-

lem finding Petey a home, though.

"He was a biter," Carson said. She decided to take Petey home until he settled down. He never left.

Petey was part of a third group of Louisiana pets Carson and Sue Varner of Franklin Township relocated to new homes.

Shortly after Katrina struck Louisiana on Aug. 29, 2005, Carson and Sue Varner began watching news coverage of the disaster.

The women saw the plight of wandering dogs and cats separated from their owners.

"It was heartbreaking to see people getting rescued while animals were standing on rooftops," Varner said.

Varner saw one dog swimming after a boat trying to be saved. The women had seen enough.

"We said 'We need to do something,'" Carson said.

Carson and Varner then went to work, checking the Internet and making calls to see how they could help.

After making the right connections, Varner's group drove to Louisiana, returning Oct. 2, 2005, with 12 dogs and 20 cats.

The group then found homes for 38 dogs and five cats that arrived Oct. 29, 2005, after a Louisiana business owner sent them north to find homes.

Finally, Varner and her husband on Nov. 5 picked up 30 dogs in Tennessee that came from Mississippi.

The number of the third group grew by two-thirds when two of the dogs, a Rottweiler mix and a Labrador mix, turned out to be pregnant. Between the

■ See Animals on Page 5



JACK NEELY/BUTLER EAGLE

Jackie Carson of Connoquenessing Township holds Petey, a 2-year-old Chihuahua/Manchester terrier mix. Petey was among the many animals left homeless after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

### Eagle wants input on 9-11

With the approach of the fifth anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, the Butler Eagle is seeking comments from people about how those attacks and their aftermath have impacted their lives. Comments may be sent by: Fax: 724-282-4180; E-mail: news@butlereagle.com Call: 724-282-8000, Ext. 266.



Forecast on Page 2.

### DEATHS

- Raymond K. "Shorty" Barger, formerly of Renfrew
- Raphael A. "Ray" Baumgarten, Tionesta
- John R. Blystone, formerly of Butler
- Shirley A. Huseilton Campbell, Penn Township
- Mary Ann Grimes Cleary, Jackson Township
- Catherine "Jean" Coyle Guerriero, Evans City
- Raylene A. Michael, Butler
- Linda J. Salsgiver, services
- Eileen June Diehl Steighner, 100 Sunbury Fields
- Donald T. Whitfield, Boardman, Ohio

### Austin Sevens make Butler visit

Five baby English Austin Sevens and their owners who crossed the pond to drive Route 66 across America arrived in Butler on Monday after spending the weekend in the Big Apple.

Today, they will tour Butler, stopping to see the site where the American version of the diminutive cars were built between 1930 and 1935. They also plan a trip to the Butler

County Heritage and Industrial Museum at 119 W. New Castle St., which houses the American and British Austins, Bantams and their offspring, the jeep.

The British Austins here range from a 1929 Tourer to a 1938 Sports.

The cars will be on display today from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. across from Community Alliance Church on Mercer Road,

near Duffy Road. The public is welcome to see them.

On Wednesday, the adventurers will leave for Chicago, where Route 66 begins. The visitors will follow it to its end in Santa Monica, Calif.

To learn more and follow their progress, read tomorrow's Butler Eagle, and check out the group's Web site at a7route66.typepad.com.

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