

Sunny

HIGH 45 LOW 22

SEE PAGE A-3



Playoff wins

Becahi, Saucon Valley boys, Easton girls advance. C-1

MEDALS

Germany 10
U.S.A. 10
Norway 11



10
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TOTALS

Winter Olympic coverage. Pages C-1, 3

P E N N S Y L V A N I A E D I T I O N

The Express-Times

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Saturday, February 23, 2002

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35 cents

Never mind anthrax— doctor says flu taxes hospitals

By RUDY MILLER
The Express-Times

If emergency rooms fill up quickly for a small increase in flu cases, imagine what would happen during an anthrax outbreak.

That's a question that haunts Luther Rhodes, chief of infectious

diseases and a 25-year veteran of Lehigh Valley Hospital in Salisbury Township.

It bothers the doctor that every year local emergency rooms are ill-equipped to handle the small but inevitable surges of flu victims.

"It never fails — we get into a situation that paralyzes the medical

staff," Rhodes said. "I've been at this stuff for 30 years. The Lehigh Valley has to get better at surge capacity without having to divert patients and close emergency rooms."

Rhodes believes some of the federal funding on the way to help communities prepare for an anthrax outbreak might be better served fight-

ing the flu. A lot of the lessons learned dealing with a flu outbreak could be applied to anthrax, he said.

Rhodes calls the flu "nature's bioterrorism."

Unlike anthrax, which killed only a few people during the recent outbreak and may never appear again, the flu comes every year and claims

the lives of 20,000 to 25,000 people nationwide, mostly the elderly or people with other health complications.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has earmarked \$1.1 billion to the states for bioterrorism preparedness. Pennsylvania's share is \$37 million, according

to Barbara Stader. She chairs the health subcommittee of the Lehigh Valley terrorism task force and is the health department director of Allentown.

To get the federal grant money, the states must submit bioterrorism plans to the federal government before. Please see **FLU/A-5**

Pet Shop reports dog lifting

Puppy worth \$900 taken from shop.

By JONATHAN HENRY
The Express-Times

PALMER TWP. — The Pet Shop at Palmer Park Mall has reported another pocketed puppy.

Police are investigating reports that two women cooperated to distract a store employee and steal a \$900 Maltese puppy from the store Thursday. The tiny dog — about 2 pounds and less than a foot in length — has not been recovered.

The Maltese filching took place around 6:30 p.m. According to police, one suspect distracted a store employee with questions about rodents in the back of the store. She was described as standing 5 feet 6 inches tall and has black hair. She spoke with a heavy Spanish accent and wore a tan jacket.

Please see **DOG/A-5**



Easton's 'Brother' Bright dies

Thomas Bright, longtime NAACP leader and civil-rights champion, was 90.

By RUDY MILLER
The Express-Times

EASTON — Thomas "Brother" Bright, who fought for racial equality in Easton for more than 50 years, died Friday at the age of 90.

As the longtime president of the Easton chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Bright was remembered by one friend as the city's version

The current president of the Easton branch of the NAACP walked away from corporate America and constant travel to care for his parents three years ago.

While Walter Bright spent most of his adult life away from Easton, his heart was never far from his father.

"I will always remember the way he answered the phone: 'God bless you. Brother Bright speaking,'" Walter Bright said. "I will al-



Friends hope Williams not facing prison

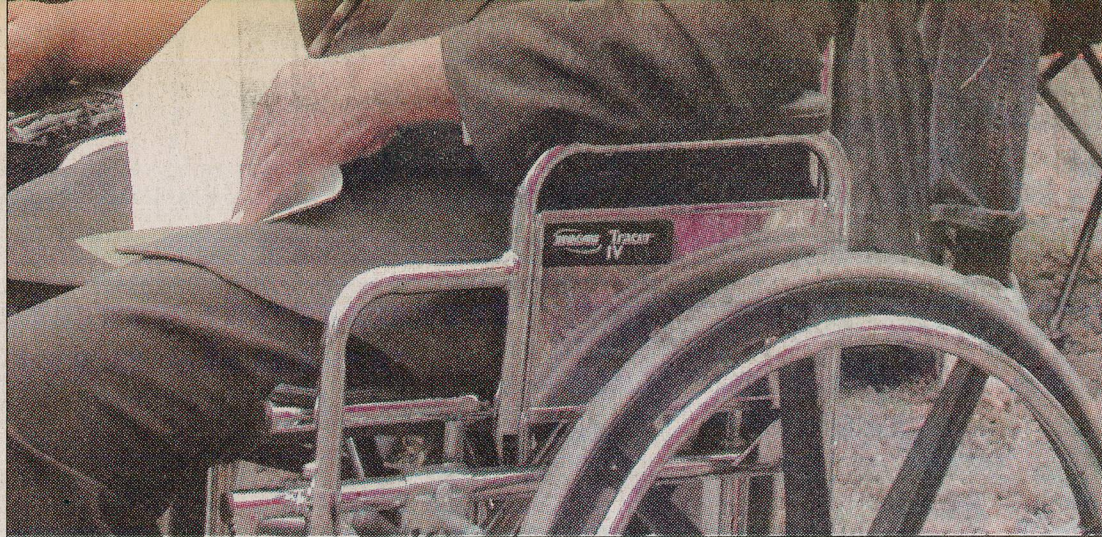
By TOM CANAVAN
Associated Press

NEWARK — During his playing days, NBA star Jayson Williams made headlines with his rebounding and his locker-room wit, along with his hard partying and barroom scuffles.

Now, in retirement — and with his wildest days behind him, according to friends — he may be in the biggest trouble of his life.

Last week, a limousine driver was

Please see **WILLIAMS /A-5**



Thomas "Brother" Bright was among the crowd for the groundbreaking ceremony at the new Shiloh Baptist Church on Sept. 24, 2000. Bright died Friday at age 90.

Express-Times photo/SUE BEYER

King Jr.
Bright encouraged untold numbers of young black people to seek higher education, encouraged employers to give them jobs, and pushed everyone to believe in themselves.

Twenty people gathered around his widow, Marian, on Friday morning at the Bright home on South Side, according to Bright's son, Waltar.

"It's been like Grand Central Station here," Waltar Bright said.

Waltar Bright got the news on his cell phone early Friday as he was preparing to give a lecture to students at Cheston Elementary School on Black History Month.



Thomas Bright
... As he looked in 1987

whenever I would be leaving the house, he would say, 'God bless you son. I love you.' Every time."

Funeral arrangements, handled by the Jesse Johnson Funeral Home of Allentown, were incomplete Friday. Waltar Bright said the funeral

is set for noon Wednesday at Union A.M.E. Church, 927 West Berwick St., Easton.

Frances Ketchen met Thomas Bright 50 years ago, when they lived on the same street in the Bronx. She followed Bright to Easton in the mid 1950s. Bright allowed Ketchen and her husband to stay with him until the young couple

Please see **BRIGHT /A-2**

Angry Russians demand gold for figure skater

By TIM DAHLBERG
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — An Olympics that began with countries marching together in harmony is sputtering to an end with Russia seething, South Korea unhappy and the United States wondering what the fuss is all about.

Olympic controversy escalated to a new level Friday, with Russia demanding a gold medal for figure skater Irina Slutskaya and warning that its hockey players had better be treated fairly in a crucial game against the United States.

Russian indignation spread all the way to the Kremlin, where President Vladimir Putin suggested there was a reason Americans were doing so well in the games — they had the judges on their side.

"North American athletes receive a clear advantage," Putin said.

South Korea was upset over a referee's

ruling that cost one of its speedskaters a gold medal that went to America's Apolo Anton Ohno. The Koreans, though, backed off earlier threats to boycott the closing ceremony and sue.

"The IOC should have more control as far as the Olympic Games are concerned," said Kim Un-yong, IOC member from South Korea. "This hurts the IOC, it hurts the Olympic Games."

It was the Russians who had the most complaints, and they weren't hesitant to voice them loudly. If nothing else, they figure they have precedent on their side.

The Canadians used the same tactic to whip up public frenzy to get their pairs figure skating team an unprecedented duplicate gold medal.

"Canadian pairs skaters were awarded their gold medals. Now that subjective judging harmed us, we want the same for Slutskaya," said Viktor Mamotov, head of

Please see **PROTESTS /A-2**



Slutskaya



AP photo

The United States men's hockey team celebrates a goal in Friday night's 3-2 victory over Russia. It's on to the gold medal game at the Winter Olympics for the U.S. team, which plays Canada. Olympics coverage in Sports, Page C-1.

Cop radio racket muted with arrests

By TOM QUIGLEY
The Express-Times

PHILLIPSBURG — Three area juveniles are charged with interrupting police radio communications with music, comedy and sexual dialogue on Monday.

The investigation began after some bizarre transmissions were heard on the Warren County and Phillipsburg police radio frequencies.

The messages included the theme music from "Sesame Street," a selection from Vivaldi's "Four Seasons," a Three Stooges comedy routine, obscenities and moaning followed by the phrase, "Oh, big daddy."

Police said the three juveniles from Alpha, Phillipsburg and Holland Township are charged with

Please see **RADIO/A-2**

I N S I D E

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Nazareth Pallet Co.
Wood repair outfit splinters waste into shades of mulch.

C-7

Turkeys and Trophies
This week's installment of the best and the worst.

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PROTESTS

Continued from A-1

the Russian delegation in Salt Lake City.

The Russians, however, had problems getting others to see the connection.

Russia's contention that the fix was in for the women's figure skating final was more difficult to push than the pairs skating dispute, in which a judge was disqualified.

Canadian pairs skaters Jamie Sale and David Pelletier skated an error-

free program to stake their claim to gold. Slutskaya didn't, though she still appeared shocked when the gold medal went to America's Sarah Hughes.

"You couldn't beat that program last night without being perfect and Irina wasn't," said Hughes' coach, Robin Wagner.

It wasn't just the Russians' protests that had Olympic officials scurrying to pacify them Friday with condolences and promises that they would be treated fairly. It was the tone that was surprising.

Though Putin later said the team would stay, the Russians first threatened to pull out of the games and said they also might not attend the Summer Olympics in Athens two years from now.

"Without Russia, the Olympic Games will be lost," said Vitaly Smirnov, an IOC vice president from Russia.

The women's figure skating concluded on a day when a Russian cross-country skiing favorite was disqualified following a blood test, and the Russians alleged that Olympic hockey officials were biased against them.

Some of the complaints may have been borne of frustration. Through Friday, Russia — a tradi-

tional winter sports power — was in fifth place in the overall medal standings with 14 medals.

At the same time, the United States was enjoying its best Olympics ever by far, with 30 medals.

Top Olympic officials met with the Russian delegation, with IOC president Jacques Rogge sending Putin a letter assuring him that the games were fair and his nation's anger understood.

In Russia, though, the words rang hollow.

State-controlled ORT television had planned live coverage of Thursday's cross-country race, but after Larissa Lazutina was disqualified, the station cut the broadcast off in mid-race in protest.

Renowned Russian film director Nikita Mikhalkov told the network that this year's Olympics were "a continuation of the Cold War."

"Perhaps it is caused by fear among the American people after the horrible day of Sept. 11 or fear that we (Russians) now have hope of climbing out of the hole we have fallen into and could be dangerous, so they have to humiliate us," he said.

BRIGHT

Continued from A-1

ple could get a place of their own.

The 72-year-old recalls how her husband, Gene, struggled to find work. Bright doggedly approached employer after employer demanding that they open their doors to blacks like Ketchen.

Gene Ketchen decided to leave Pennsylvania to train to become a bricklayer with relatives. When he returned, the local union refused to consider him as a member because of his race, Frances Ketchen said.

Some of Bright's stubbornness and ingenuity must have rubbed off on Ketchen, because he left Pennsylvania to join another bricklayer's union, then returned with his union card and gave the union no choice but to accept him, Frances Ketchen said.

Many of Easton's community leaders grew up at Bright's feet.

"I was one of his 'adopted sons.' He had a lot of them," said John Robinson, who owns Black Diamond Enterprises of Easton.

"I tell my kids, when they say, 'Why do you love Brother Bright?' he's like our Easton Mar-

tin Luther King," Robinson said.

Bright was a loving father figure, but also a stern one if the situation demanded it, according to Dean Young, the executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of Easton.

"Sometimes when he needed to ream me out, he would ream me like my father would," Young said. "And I always embraced that, because I knew what he stood for."

Young called Bright "one of our champions."

Added his son: "No one could do it like he did. He was straightforward, direct, honest, sincere and pure, and he was able to get away with it because of who he was."

"Brother Thomas Bright was a mentor to me," said Easton Area School Board member Kenneth Brown. "When I didn't have a father figure or grandfather figure, he was there."

Brown remembers going to Bright for advice when he was considering running for the school board in 1998.

"I remember him saying, 'Boy, what is there to think about? What have I taught you?'" Brown said. "That was the whole story right there. There was nothing to think about. It was time for me as

a young African-American to take the baton and run with it."

Bright leaves a long legacy. In addition to his countless community awards, he was recognized by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in a proclamation on his 90th birthday in December. A South Side street bears his name.

Bright was outspoken and active until the end of his life. Last October, he pressed Northampton County Executive Glenn Reibman at a public forum to address why no minorities have been hired for county jobs under Reibman's administration.

Bright suffered from a variety of ailments and wound up in SCCI Hospital, a separate hospital within Easton Hospital, less than two months later.

Waltar Bright said his father left this world the way he lived his life: with dignity, pride and toughness. He was out of bed walking as recently as last week.

"With what he has wrong with him, I don't think a man half his age could have toughed it out that long," Waltar Bright said.

"One of his favorite sayings was, 'If you see me drowning, pour water on me. I can always get up,'" Young said. "That's the way

Please see **BRIGHT /A-4**

RADIO

Continued from A-1

harassment and obstructing administration of law or governmental function.

Authorities wouldn't disclose the identities of the youths; all were under 18.

The radio equipment allegedly used to broadcast over the police frequencies was confiscated by police, who didn't detail exactly how the three interrupted the airwaves.

Warren County Prosecutor John Laky applauded the efforts of Phillipsburg investigators. The prosecutor said the alleged radio antics interfere with critically important police communications.

Equipment used to broadcast over a police frequency is available on the market, but not to the average customer, a Radio Shack salesman said earlier this week.

Information about the incidents has been turned over to the Federal Communications Commission, a police dispatcher said this week.

The investigation was handled by the patrol and investigations unit of the Phillipsburg Police Department.

LOTTERIES

Friday, Feb. 22, 2002

PENNSYLVANIA

Daily Number: 557

Big 4: 6523

Cash 5: 18, 22, 23, 31, 32.

Payoffs: 5 of 5, no winner; 4 of 5, \$341 to 149; 3 of 5, \$11.50 to 4,887; 2 of 5, \$1 to 57,891.

NEW JERSEY

Midday

CARPET
THAT
YOUR FEET
WILL LIKE



BRIGHT

Continued from A-2

he was. That's the torch that we can carry for Brother Bright."

Waltar Bright, 60, said one of the wisest life decisions he made was coming home to care for his parents after the death of his sister in 1999.

"I have often said that God blessed me with the opportunity to live around my mom and dad in my close-to-senior years," Waltar Bright said. "Every day was an education in love, about love. It was a very cherished, cherished experience and I encourage everyone when they have the opportunity past 50 to try it. I was sitting at the feet of wisdom."

All day Friday people in the Lehigh Valley paid their respects to Thomas Bright.

Bill Houston, the former Easton Area High School principal and city councilman, was devastated by the news.

"That knocked me to my knees," Houston said. "I just don't know what to say. Brother Bright was just a great man. I'm just awfully, awfully sorry to hear that."

"From my perspective, being regarded as a young leader, I respect a lot of the things he has done," said Drew Lewis, a management consultant who was recently recommended for a seat on the Northampton County General Purpose Authority.

"He's always been a beacon in the city of Easton for many, many years," Lewis said.

"He was a man that I recognize from the days he came through, where men had to stand up and be counted," said Esther Lee, president of the Bethlehem branch of the NAACP. "We don't have many left like him, if any, with the degree of perseverance he had."

"He was known as Mr. NAACP," said the Rev. Clyde McRae, pastor of the Open Bible Evangelical Church in Easton. "He was a great

churchman. He was a great leader in the community. If a decision had to be made while I was the president of the NAACP he was there to help me."

Bright held a number of jobs and in 1969 opened what he billed as Easton's first soul food store. He also worked at the old Lehigh Foundry and as a cook at a Lafayette College fraternity.

Religion was a mainstay in his life. He served as a pastor's steward and as Sunday school superintendent at Union A.M.E. Church on South Side.

Bright was born in Georgia and worked on his grandfather's farm as a boy.

His work as a railroad chef took him to New York. He eventually found his way to Easton and with Marian raised three sons and twin daughters.

"I'm appalled to learn that he's left this world," said retired Easton businessman Jack Bradt. "I don't know anyone I have more respect for than Tom and his family. He was a very caring, giving person. He gave totally of himself."

"I thought the world of Tom," said state Rep. Robert Freeman, D-Northampton. "He was always engaged in the community, trying to make it better, particularly for those disenfranchised from power."

"We're deeply saddened to learn about his death," Easton Mayor Thomas Goldsmith said. "It's certainly a significant loss for the city of Easton. Brother Bright was a very calming voice and a calming influence. I think that was recognized when they honored him by naming a street after him."

Until Friday, only one other living person had an Easton street named after him: Larry Holmes.

"He would do anything he could to help you," said the former heavyweight boxing champion. "He would stop you, talk to you. He was a good guy that way. I don't think I've ever seen him angry but two times in his life."

BRIGHT LIFE

Some highlights from the life of Thomas "Brother" Bright:

- ◆ Dec. 16, 1911: Bright is born in Albany, Ga.
- ◆ Aug. 29, 1937: Bright marries the former Marian Whitehead in New York City.
- ◆ 1951: Bright moves to Easton and starts work in the old Lehigh Foundry. He later works as a cook at Pi Lambda Phi fraternity at Lafayette College and opens his own grocery.
- ◆ January 1963: Bright starts his first term as head of the NAACP's Easton branch. One of his first pushes is for blacks to use the political process to gain power in government. He serves until 1970.
- ◆ June 1963: Bright leads a picket at City Hall, protesting what he says is job discrimination against blacks. In the fall he leads a protest against the old Mohican Market because no blacks have been hired there.
- ◆ August 1965: Bright launches a voter registration drive for blacks as a way to get jobs at the county courthouse.
- ◆ February 1966: Bright is instrumental in establishing the first Negro History Week observance in Easton.
- ◆ April 6, 1968: Bright helps lead hundreds in a memorial march and service in Easton two days after the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.
- ◆ April 9, 1968: Bright and wife Marian attend the viewing and funeral services for King Jr.
- ◆ August 1969: Bright urges black ministers to take a leadership role — not only from the pulpit on Sunday but within the community in general.
- ◆ September 1969: Bright opens what he bills as Easton's first soul food store on South Fourth Street. He gives up the business in the late '70s after moving it to Wilkes-Barre Street.
- ◆ January 1970: Bright urges Lafayette College to lower its admission standards or give greater attention to disadvantaged black and white Easton youths.
- ◆ 1971: Bright, a Democrat, makes an unsuccessful run for Easton City Council.
- ◆ Jan. 2, 1976: Bright makes an appearance on statewide television to collect a \$3,000 prize in Pennsylvania's Lucky Lotto contest.
- ◆ 1976: Bright loses his second bid for city council.
- ◆ 1982: Bright is elected as NAACP president — a post he holds again until retiring in 1990.
- ◆ August 1991: City council declares a one-block section of Reynolds Street, between West Nesquehoning and Canal streets, as Brother Thomas Bright Avenue.
- ◆ Feb. 22, 2002: Bright, 90, dies at SCCI Hospital, a separate facility inside Easton Hospital.

Archdiocese admits 35 priests abused kids

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The Archdiocese of Philadelphia said Friday it has found "credible evidence" that 35 priests sexually abused children over five decades and relieved several of them of their duties.

About 50 children were victims, diocesan spokeswoman Catherine Rossi said.

Rossi could not say how many of the 35 names had been given to police when the allegations were made. She said the archdiocese fol-

lowed state law.

The archdiocese will not turn over the names of the priests now because the statute of limitations has expired in all of the cases, she said, adding that most allegations involved one victim.

"We will follow the letter of the law 100 percent, but we are not going to go back and release the names of priests from years ago," Rossi said.

"We don't see any good that would come from that, for either the victim or the priest."



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◆ Thomas "Brother" Bright's memory will be honored with a \$2,000 annual scholarship that The Express-Times will

