

LOCAL NEWS

Crime and Safety

Volney man, 90, killed in collision

Erwin L. Allen lost consciousness before the crash, Fulton police say.

Staff reports

Erwin L. Allen, of Volney, died Saturday after his car crashed into a pickup truck at Route 481 and Van Buren Street in Fulton.

Emergency crews found Allen unresponsive in his 1994 Oldsmobile when they arrived at 9:04

a.m. Allen, 90, was taken to Lee Memorial Hospital, where he was pronounced dead, Fulton police said.

Allen was driving west on Van Buren Street, Deputy Chief Tom Abalgore said, when he lost consciousness and veered off the road, crashing into a 2000 Dodge pickup that was traveling north on Route 481.

Gordon Roberts, 71, and Marjorie Roberts, 64, of Baldwinsville, were the occupants of the

truck. Marjorie Roberts suffered non-life threatening injuries. She was treated at University Hospital.

Syracuse man shot

A Syracuse man detailing his car at an East Raynor Street carwash Friday night suffered a minor wound after shots were fired, city police said.

Cornelius Johnson, 33, of Midland Avenue, was grazed on his right forearm by a bullet

about 8 p.m., said Sgt. Tom Connellan. Johnson was treated and released from a local hospital Friday night.

His car, a gold Mercedes, was hit three times by gunfire at the carwash at 113 E. Raynor St., Connellan said. Johnson did not know who fired the shots, Connellan said.

There are no suspects and the investigation is continuing, Connellan said.



Mike Greenlar / The Post-Standard

RUSS NICHOLAS sleeps on a bench at Walton and South Franklin streets in Armory Square in downtown Syracuse. Nicholas says he doesn't panhandle. He can be found sleeping on the bench almost everyday.

Program Stresses Education

PROGRAM, FROM PAGE B-1

variety of tactics to deal with the problem.

In Orlando, Fla., a city law makes it illegal to ask for money outside of blue rectangles that have been painted on the sidewalk.

Portland, Ore., and Missoula, Mont., have both adopted an approach known as "Real Change, Not Spare Change," which is becoming increasingly popular.

"Real Change" encourages people not to give panhandlers money directly. If enough people resist giving panhandlers money, it makes the whole enterprise of begging more difficult and less profitable. It also reduces the chances that the beggar can afford drugs or alcohol.

Educating the public is a huge part of "Real Change," which encourages people who feel obliged to help to instead give money to soup kitchens, shelters, drug and alcohol treatment centers and other charities that provide services to the homeless and other individuals who might beg.

Ginny Merriam, communications director for the Missoula mayor and co-chair of the city's panhandling work group, said the city adopted a two-pronged approach to the issue. It put more uniformed police downtown to make people feel safer and make panhandlers think twice about getting aggressive. And it expanded what had previously been a poorly publicized "Real Change" program, putting posters on buses, producing radio spots with well-known Missoula citizens and even snagging a foundation grant that promised to give participating charities \$10 for every \$1 placed in donation jars in local businesses.

"The jars are stuffed with money, and not just change," Merriam said.

Both Merriam and Mike Brady, Missoula's assistant police chief, said the program has cut down on panhandling already.

"I think the outreach has been very effective, and it is not just the general public that has been educated not to give to

panhandlers — the panhandlers themselves have been educated," Brady said.

Representatives of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, the Rescue Mission, the Downtown Committee, the city's Police Department and City Hall all said they thought a "Real Change" campaign could be part of the solution to Syracuse's problems with panhandling. They all added that no one should feel compelled to give directly to a panhandler because there are plenty of services for them in Syracuse.

But not all agree that a "Real Change" program would be a good idea. Kathleen Rumpf, a Syracuse woman who has spent more than 30 years advocating for street people, said the program could further stigmatize a population that is already scorned. She said the real need is to change people's perception of the homeless.

"They're part of this community, too, and we should embrace them," she said.

Greg Munno can be reached at gmunno@syracuse.com or 470-6084.

Morrisville professor gets grant

Staff report

A Morrisville State College professor has received a grant of \$20,000 to foster entrepreneurship in Madison County.

Christopher Scalzo, a town of Clay resident who has taught at the college for seven years, was chosen by Syracuse University's Initiative program in conjunction with the Kauffman Foundation. The program focuses on creating a culture of entrepreneurship to improve the local

economic climate.

Scalzo will team up with Madison County's chapter of Service Corps of Retired Executives, also known as SCORE, which offers free and confidential counseling to small businesses. The money will be used to fund seminars, create a video tool kit and hook up students with real entrepreneurs in the community.

Scalzo said he was excited about how the grant will enhance Morrisville's degree programs while also allowing students and faculty to "reach out and contribute to the community."

To learn more about Initiative, visit www.entrepreneurship.syr.edu.

Irish festival turns city's gray skies green

By David Taube
Contributing writer

Gray skies didn't stop the green-natured spirit of the 2008 Syracuse Guinness Irish Festival on Saturday.

Green lawn chairs, green T-shirts and green balloons filled Clinton Square for the ninth annual event celebrating the nation of Ireland and Irish settlers of Syracuse through music, dance, exhibits and food.

"This is our New Year's," said Leslie Walker, 65, a member of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Irish rock set an upbeat tone. Event coordinators boasted the performers formed one of the most competitive entertainment lineups on the East Coast for Irish festivals.

"It's like a rock concert," said Dennis Brogan, the city's director of public affairs and the festival's ambassador.

Organizers expected more than 20,000 to attend the two-day event, which began Friday.

Various tents featured authentic Irish food. Local restaurants and groups sold salt potatoes, sausage and Blarney burgers. A children's area provided a



Gary Walts / The Post-Standard

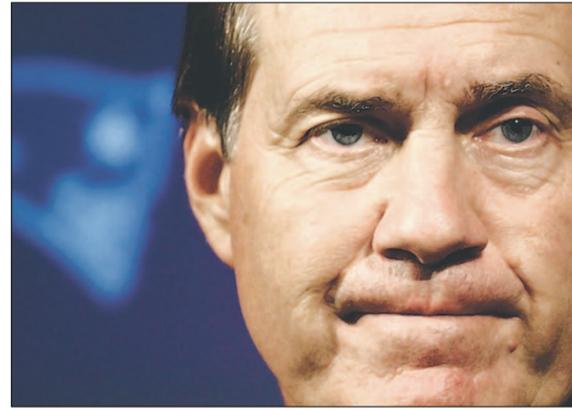
KENNY STREETER, of Syracuse, enjoys the food, exhibits and music of the Irish Festival on Saturday in Clinton Square.

miniature golf course, juggler and green balloon animals to festival attendees young and old.

On Saturday, the festival began a new tradition to honor Syracuse clans. An 11-minute film featuring Rep. Jim Walsh, R-Onondaga, included a personalized message from former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Brogan said.

LOOKING BACK AT THIS WEEK

September 7-13



Michael Dwyer/AP, 2007

2007

(one year ago)

▲ **I Spy:** New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick issued a one-paragraph statement apologizing to his team and confirming he had spoken with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell about an interpretation of the league rules regarding videotaping the opposing sidelines.

Also that week:

■ **Pipes clogged:** Seaweed caused the James A. Fitzpatrick Nuclear Plant to shut down. High winds and waves forced the seaweed into the intake canal and fouled the screens, decreasing the flow of water available to cool the plant.

■ **No key:** The owner of Doc's Little Gem had to call a locksmith after a fire in the diner forced him to close. But he didn't have a key. The restaurant had never closed since it opened Sept. 1, 1952.

■ **Called to honor:** The Syracuse Scottish Pipe Band was invited to perform at two Sept. 11 remembrances in New York City. It played at the ceremony at Floyd Bennett Field, which became a "healing field," and it played at a service for employees of a company that lost 67 employees Sept. 11, 2001.



1998

(10 years ago)

◀ **Mc-Wonderful:** The Syracuse University football team beat the defending national champion, Michigan, 38-28, at Michigan Stadium before 111,012 fans. Quarterback Donovan McNabb completed 21 of 27 passes for 233 yards and three touchdowns. He rushed 19 times for 60 yards and a touchdown.

Also that week:

■ **Labor Day storm:** High winds killed two people on the state fairgrounds, left 140,000 in the dark, and did

more than \$30 million in damage to homes and businesses in Onondaga County. Twelve Upstate counties were declared disaster areas by Gov. George Pataki because of the storm.

■ **Starr report:** Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr released a 445-page report that accused President Bill Clinton of 11 impeachable offenses including lying under oath and obstructing justice in connection with Clinton's sexual misconduct with Monica Lewinsky.

1983

(25 years ago)

■ **Bottle law:** New York's beverage container law took effect, putting a five-cent deposit on all glass, metal and plastic cans and bottles used for carbonated soft drinks, beer, mineral and soda water. The deposit is returned when the containers are returned.

Also that week:

■ **Home sales:** Sales of existing homes in the Syracuse area reached a record high in August: 567. It was the most existing homes sold in a month since the Multiple Listing Service was established.

■ **EEE death:** A 7-year-old boy who died from Eastern equine encephalitis was believed to be the first Onondaga County resident to die from the disease and first human fatality in New York in at least 12 years. Residents were urged to avoid the Cicero swamp at dawn and dusk.

1968

(40 years ago)

■ **Brotherly support:** William F. Buckley was at Long Branch Park on Onondaga Lake for a picnic and rally for his brother James L. Buckley, the Conservative Party candidate for U.S. Senate. It was one of five times that the brothers were together on the campaign trail.

Also that week:

■ **It's a girl:** The baby chimpanzee of the Burnet Park Zoo was traveling with the "zoomobile" in search of a name. Children submitted their suggestions over the summer, and the panel of judges chose Cuddles as the name for the female chimp from Africa.

■ **Foiled escape:** A prisoner being transported with two others from the Auburn State Prison attempted to escape from the two Westchester County sheriff's deputies escorting them to White Plains via the New York State Thruway. One deputy and one prisoner were killed and the two remaining prisoners shot.

— Compiled by research librarian Bonnie Ross

Tell us about your time working on 'The Express'

In June 2007, a crew from Universal Pictures rolled into town to shoot scenes for "The Express," the upcoming movie about Syracuse University football hero Ernie Davis.

The Post-Standard is looking for people with connections to Central New York who were a

part of that experience.

If you or someone you know were involved in the making of the movie, which premieres Friday at the Landmark Theatre, e-mail details about your involvement to staff writer Mark Bialczak at mbialczak@syracuse.com.

For information, visit blog.syracuse.com/dailydose.

— Staff report

» [MORE ON syracuse.com](http://www.syracuse.com)

These highlights from our local history are available from the page image archive of The Post-Standard. You can search the new paid service by clicking on "Page Archives" on the Web at

www.syracuse.com/poststandard