

# OBITUARIES/NEWS

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## Lawmakers driving distractions away

Greenwood  
Carolyn Jane Gagen, 92  
Rodney D. Greene, 31  
Indianapolis  
Charles Hubert Ludwig, 74  
Marjorie Clark Mahoney, 90  
Elsewhere  
The Rev. Floyd A. Blake, 76

CUMBERLAND, Ky.  
**The Rev. Floyd A. Blake**

The Rev. Floyd A. Blake, 76, died Sunday, Feb. 4, 2007. He was a resident of Cumberland, Ky.

His wife, Kathleen (Blevins) Blake, preceded him in death.

He was the father of Floyd Blake Jr. and Rebecca (Blake) Houston.

Visitation will be from 6 to 9 p.m. today at Tri-City Funeral Home, 506 Holly St. in Benham, Ky. A service will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Cumberland Missionary Baptist Church, 408 Spring St. in Cumberland, Ky.

Flowers may be sent to the funeral home, 506 Holly St., Benham, KY 40807.

Gifts for Boyce Bible College may be made at any BB&T bank or through the funeral home in memory of Floyd A. Blake for a scholarship fund for future ministers of the gospel.

GREENWOOD  
**Carolyn Jane Gagen**

Carolyn Jane Gagen, 92, died Jan. 18, 2007. She was a resident of Greenwood.

Survivors include her husband, Jim Gagen; a daughter, Patricia A. (David) Mickel; two grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Jess and Hester (Smock) Whitst.

A memorial service will be conducted at 2 p.m. Saturday in the lower level at Greenwood Village South Pavilion, 295 Village Lane, Greenwood.

G.H. Herrmann Greenwood Funeral Home is handling arrangements.

GREENWOOD  
**Rodney D. Greene**

Rodney D. Greene, 31, died Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2007, at his residence in Greenwood.

Survivors include his two children, Anthony and Austin Busone-Greene; his parents, Beverly Stone and Dale Greene; a sister, Michelle Greene; and a brother, Craig Greene.

A memorial service will be conducted at 2 p.m. Saturday at G.H. Herrmann Greenwood Funeral Home, 1605 S. State Road 135. Friends may call from 1 p.m. until service time Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to his children in care of the funeral home.

INDIANAPOLIS  
**Charles Hubert Ludwig**

Charles Hubert Ludwig, 74, died Monday, Feb. 5, 2007. He was a resident of Indianapolis.

Survivors include his sister, Helen A. Shoemaker.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles F. and Avis Ludwig.

A service will be conducted at 1 p.m. Saturday at G.H. Herrmann Greenwood Funeral Home, 1605 S. State Road 135. Friends may call from 11 a.m. until service time Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

INDIANAPOLIS  
**Marjorie Clark Mahoney**

Marjorie Clark Mahoney, 90, died Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2007, at St. Francis Hospital & Health Center in Beech Grove. She was a resident of Indianapolis.

She was born Oct. 20, 1916, in Edinburgh to the late Wilber and Cora (Coy) Clark. She married William J. Mahoney on Dec. 14, 1940. He preceded her in death Jan. 22, 1987.

Survivors include a daughter, Nancy Minahan of Superior, Wis.; a son, James Mahoney of Indianapolis; a brother, Maurice (Betty) Clark of Trafalgar; four grandchildren; and two great-step-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Merrill Clark; and a sister, Beulah Dinn.

She was a 1935 graduate of Nineveh High School and graduated from Indianapolis Consolidated Business College.

She was a member of Congregational Church in Darien, Conn.

She and her husband owned and operated a Taylor Rental Store in the Greenwood area from 1972 until retirement.

The Rev. Byron Fritz will conduct a funeral service at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Eskew-Eaton Funeral Home, 302 E. Main Cross St. in Edinburgh. Friends may call from 1:30 p.m. until service time Saturday at the funeral home. Burial will be at Rest Haven Cemetery in Edinburgh.

## Bills would ban eating, phone use at the wheel

By JOHN CURRAN  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BARRE, Vt.

Put down the flute and keep your eyes on the road.

And forget about sipping that cup of coffee on the way to work, or smoking a cigarette on the way home. In some states, it could soon be illegal, if it isn't already.

Emboldened by the passage of cell phone bans for drivers in some communities, states are turning their attention to other things that drive motorists to distraction.

Vermont lawmakers are con-

## AT A GLANCE

The following are accidents, some fatal, which were caused by distractions while driving.

Illinois

A bicyclist was killed in September by a driver who had been downloading cell phone ring tones while behind the wheel.

Westminster, Calif.

A 7-year-old boy was struck and killed Nov. 29 by an SUV whose driver lost control as he was trying to reach a cell

phone and plowed into a family at a bus stop, authorities said.

Spokane, Wash.

A trucker who was allegedly using a cell phone crossed a highway median and struck another truck head-on, killing five children, in 2005.

Athens, Ala.

A woman lost control of her car while reaching for a ringing cell phone and crashed into a church last month.

sidering a measure that would ban eating, drinking, smoking, reading, writing, personal grooming, playing an instrument, "interacting with pets or cargo," talking on a cell phone or using any other personal communication device while driving. The punishment: a fine of up to \$600.

Similar bills are under consideration in Maryland and Texas,

and Connecticut has passed one that generically bans any activity that could interfere with the safe operation of a motor vehicle.

"Cell phones attracted people to this issue," said Matt Sundeem, a transportation analyst with the National Conference of State Legislatures. "Now that people are more focused on distracted driving issues, they're beginning

to talk about the broader range of distractions."

For the sponsor of the Vermont bill, the motivation came from his own observations.

"What finally pushed me over the edge was when I was at a stop sign and somebody opposite me was trying to navigate around the corner with a cell phone to the ear in one hand and a cigarette in the other, and she wasn't doing very well," said Republican state Rep. Thomas F. Koch.

He said his wife recently saw a driver playing the flute, which led him to include the instrument ban in his bill.

"There are a lot of bad habits out on the road. This isn't just for drivers' own good. This is to protect the other people on the road," he said.

Distracted drivers were involved in nearly eight out of 10

collisions or near-crashes in a study by the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute that was released last year by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Young drivers are some of the worst offenders. A study of more than 5,600 students released last month by the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and State Farm Insurance Co. reported that nearly 90 percent had seen friends drive while talking on cell phones and that half saw drivers playing hand-held games, using listening devices or sending text messages.

Jeff Rogers, 44, of Barre, Vt., filling up his pickup at a gas station Thursday, said the Vermont bill is "going a little too far."

"I can understand the cell phone thing," he said. "But the rest of it, how are they going to enforce that?"

## Study: One in 150 U.S. children has autism

By MIKE STOBBE  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA

About one in 150 American children has autism, an urgent public health concern, said U.S. health officials Thursday who reported on the largest study done so far on the troubling disorder.

The new numbers, based on 2002 data from 14 states, are higher than previously reported.

Advocates said the study provides a sad new understanding of how common autism is and should fuel efforts to get the government to spend hundreds of millions of additional dollars for autism research and services.

"This data today shows we're

going to need more early intervention services and more therapists, and we're going to need federal and state legislators to stand up for these families," said Alison Singer, spokeswoman for Autism Speaks, the nation's largest organization advocating more services for autistic children.

The study by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention calculated an average autism rate 6.6 per 1,000. That compares with last year's estimated rate of 5.5 in 1,000.

The research involved an intense review of medical and school records for children in all or part of 14 states and gives the clearest picture yet of how common autism is in some parts of the country, CDC officials said.

However, those states are not demographically representative of the nation as a whole, so officials cautioned against using the results as a national average. The study doesn't include some of the most populous states such as California, Texas and Florida.

Also, the study does not answer whether autism is increasing — a controversial topic, driven in part by the contention by some parents and advocates that autism is linked to a vaccine preservative. The best scientific studies have not borne out that claim.

"We can't make conclusions about trends yet," because the study's database is too new, said Catherine Rice, a CDC behav-

iorial scientist who was the study's lead author.

Autism is a complex disorder usually not diagnosed in children until after age 3. It is characterized by a range of behaviors, including difficulty in expressing needs and inability to socialize. The cause is not known.

Scientists have been revising how common they think the disorder is. Past estimates from smaller studies have ranged from 1 out of every 10,000 children to nearly 1 in 100.

Last year's estimate of 5.5 out of every 1,000 U.S. children was based on national surveys of tens of thousands of families with school-age children. That fit into a prevalence range found in other recent studies.

"This data today shows we're going to need more early intervention services and more therapists, and we're going to need federal and state legislators to stand up for these families."

Alison Singer

Spokeswoman for Autism Speaks on the new research about autism that is troubling health officials

## YouTube investors benefiting from Google

### Stockholders received millions of shares

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO

Television talk show host Maury Povich hasn't always been a big fan of YouTube Inc. because the online video sharing pioneer frequently displays unauthorized clips from his copyrighted program.

But Povich's feelings softened a few days ago when he found out that he was on a long list of universities, foundations, Silicon Valley executives and, yes, television personalities who will share in the windfall from YouTube's recent \$1.76 billion sale to Internet search leader Google Inc. His windfall: More than \$80,000.

"It's like I caught lightning in a jar," Povich said in a Thursday interview. "I had no idea I even owned a part of YouTube."

Povich's piece of action came through a small contribution he made a few years ago to a venture capital fund managed by Sequoia Capital, a Menlo Park firm that parlayed an \$11.5 million investment in San Bruno-based YouTube into one of Silicon Valley's biggest paydays since the dot-com boom.

The biggest winners, not surprisingly, are YouTube's co-founders, Chad Hurley, Steve Chen and Jawed Karim, who, collectively, received nearly \$700 million worth of Google stock, the prized currency used to finance the acquisition.

That payoff punctuates the meteoric rise of a pop culture phenomenon that began in a Menlo Park garage two years ago when Hurley, Chen and Karim, all of whom are in their 20s, began working on a sketchy idea for a video sharing site that was initially funded by credit card debt.

The Google deal also made instant millionaires out of at least 18 other YouTube employees, including Hurley's younger brother, Brent, and the office manager, according to a Securities and Exchange Commission filing Wednesday. Hurley's parents also are getting nearly \$5 million in Google stock.

The eye-opening numbers laid out in the SEC documents will probably fuel even more deal-making, predicted Keith Rabois, who agreed to invest in YouTube during a June 2005 barbecue.

"You can sort of look at Silicon Valley as a giant casino where you need the slot machines to pay off at certain intervals," said Rabois, now an executive at LinkedIn, a professional networking site. "It's payoffs like this that make people want to keep taking risks."

Eager to cash in his winnings, Rabois on Thursday sold about 25 percent of the roughly \$4 million in Google stock that he received in the sale.

Google shares gained \$1.02 Thursday to close at \$471.03 on the Nasdaq Stock Market.

### KEEPSAKES

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