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**LIFE**

Ebersol's son feared dead  
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**LITTLE BROTHER**  
9-year-old boy is looking for a friend  
This week's Little Brother is 9 years old. His parents are divorced and his dad, whom he misses very much, has moved out of state. The boy has recently moved into a new neighborhood and new school system, and it is taking time for him to make friends and feel a part of things. His mother believes he is lonely and dealing with issues of low self-esteem. He is described as a very loving child who enjoys sports, bowling, skateboarding and video games. Although she has a close relationship with her son, his mother believes a Big Brother in his life would make him feel wanted, special and brighten his day. If your parents were divorced when you were younger, maybe you would be someone with whom he could share his feelings. Feel like talking? Call Big Brothers Big Sisters, 204-6441, e-mail: info@bbbsmuncie.org or visit our Web site at www.bbbsmuncie.org.

**PICK A PET**  
With restrictions, the real COAT is a beautifully marked 8-month-old Jack Russell terrier mix, described as "very playful" and good with kids. He can be seen at the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, 200 S. Penn St., seen to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, and noon to 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sunday. Information: 284-5606.

**TRAVEL**  
Window shopping is fun in the big city  
NEW YORK — New York City hills itself as the shopping capital of the world, and there's a full court press on during the holidays. Even the windows get dressed for the season. • Saks Fifth Avenue's mechanical windows on the Fifth Avenue side of the store will feature scenes from *Sentimental*, a new children's picture book from best-selling author James Patterson. Also planned is a Snowflake Spectacle, a light and sound show on the store's facade featuring 72,000 Philips LEDs that illuminate 50 giant snowflakes, inspired by photos by William Bentley, choreographed to a modern version of Carol of the Bells. There will be 2-minute shows at the top of the hour each evening. • Lord & Taylor salutes the U.S. Postal Service and its delivery of holiday greetings through nine airtel and now in six scenes in the retailer's Fifth Avenue windows. One window depicts Boston Harbor, Mass., in 1773, when tartrons were used as small drops another in 1840s stagecoach scene in Colorado. • Carter wraps its main-transformation in a red bow adorned with tiny white lights. The windows feature vintage Carter stiers previously owned by women such as Grace Kelly. • Bloomingdale's forges traditional red and green holiday displays in favor of windows tied to the new film version of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera*, directed by Joel Schumacher, began his career as a window dresser for Harrod's London. The Associated Press

**TOMORROW**  
Making a splash  
Water therapy keeps dog healthy and happy.

**Bearcat History**  
Museum preserves Central memories through donated items

By KATHY KIRBY  
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I'm hanging for years in the back of his closet. Memories of playing on the Central High School Bearcat football team cling to the 1943 purple leather athletic jacket. I didn't play basketball, that was too tame for me," mused George Yingst, a 1945 Central graduate. He got the jacket for being the running guard on offense and the right guard on defense during his junior year with Walter Fisher as coach. "We only lost three games in three years," Yingst said with pride still in his voice. The Muncie resident served 18 months in the Army during World War II after graduation. Although he was eligible, he never received an athletic jacket for playing football his senior year. "Things were kind of hectic back in those days, with the war and everything going on," he said. "I'm glad this jacket is here now, though. I really didn't have anyone to leave it to."

**Home for athletic memories**  
Yingst's jacket is among myriad trophies, old photographs, athletic uniforms and other items on display in the new Bearcat Memorabilia Room in the Fieldhouse. Once covered in dust, the trophies were resurrected from storage closets in Central and the Fieldhouse.

**Visit the Bearcat Memorabilia Room**  
Fans attending Central High School home basketball games in the Fieldhouse can visit the Bearcat Memorabilia Room beginning at these times: • 6:30 p.m. Friday, game with Logansport. • 6:30 p.m. Dec. 10, game with Richmond. • 6 p.m. Dec. 20, game with Delta High School. • 6 p.m. Dec. 22, game with Pike. • 6:30 p.m. Jan. 14, game with Anderson. • 6 p.m. Jan. 25, game with Hobbsville. • 6 p.m. Jan. 29, game with Anderson Highland. • 6 p.m. Feb. 5, game with Vicksburg. • 6 p.m. Feb. 24, game with Ben Davis.

RON WILSON, a former baseball player for Central, donated his jersey, cleats, a baseball and a photograph to the Central Alumni Association for the Bearcat Museum.

See MUSEUM, 3C

**Guard your budget during holidays**

SANTEE NEWS SERVICE

Whether Smith has begun shopping for Christmas presents. She and her husband, LeRoy, decided to spend at least \$200 more than they did last year but want to stay within a \$1,000 budget. So the money will go mostly toward clothes and toys for their 2-year-old son, Jack, and cash gifts for close family. (LeRoy) wants a laptop," says Smith, of New Castle, Del. "I said, 'You are not getting that. It's too pricey right now, and he already has a computer.' Many consumers are expected to stretch their wallets further this year, spending more on gifts for family, friends and co-workers. But financial planners advise consumers to take a close look at their resources before racking up purchases. "We work on hard trying to get everyone to get a budget and savings," says Evelyn Baldwin, who teaches personal finance workshops at the YWCA in Winston, Del. But many consumers' financial goals tend to fall by the wayside during the holidays. Before shopping, consumers should create a budget and calculate how much they can afford to spend, experts say. The budget should include spending limits on specific items — such as gifts for individual people, decorations, party clothes and food. Ideally, consumers should set aside money during the year based on how much they spent the year before. And consumers should have a dollar amount in mind for particular gifts before walking into a store. Vague budgets and gift ideas lead to overspending. "I tell people not to compare their family to others," says Beth Snyder, budget counselor for the Manitowish, Wis., office of Catholic Charities. "Remember the true meaning of Christmas. Give gifts that cost little but have meaning."

"I tell people not to compare their family to others. Remember the true meaning of Christmas. Give gifts that cost little but have meaning."

**Don't overspend on holidays**

Use to help your finances survive the holidays. • Create a budget and stick to it. • Make a list of the people for whom you are buying gifts. Set a dollar limit on each one. • Don't wait until the last minute to start shopping. You will miss the best deals. • Find a fabulous deal? Buy several and give to different people, especially if the recipients never will meet. • Consider giving young children one or two larger gifts instead of a pile of smaller gifts. Use other kids gift certificates to they can take advantage of post-holiday sales. • Keep track of your spending. • Avoid using your credit card. • Avoid all-ship payment and buy now pay later offers. • Be candid with family and friends if times are tough. • Don't buy a gift you can't afford. • Be creative. Offer your time as services or make your own presents. • Open a Christmas club or other savings account. It's never too early to start setting aside for next year. • Check out sites like Bankrate.com and ConsolidatedCredit.org for more budgeting tips and spending calculators. General News Service

See CASI, 3C