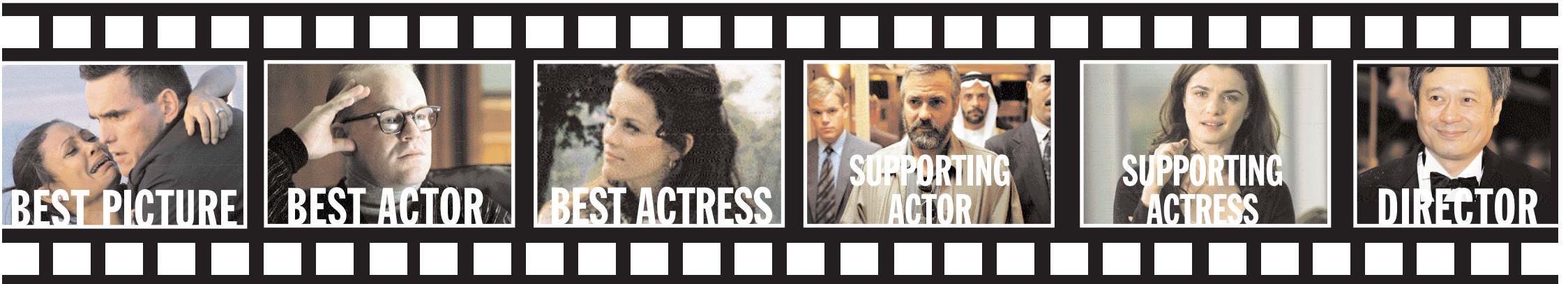


STUNNER VICTORY FOR 'CRASH'... COMPLETE OSCAR COVERAGE A6-7



THE CHRONICLE

T E L E G R A M

28 pages MONDAY, March 6, 2006 50¢

A group of Navy veterans is seeking to name a new ship in honor of Lorain native Admiral Ernest J. King

TRIBUTE TO A KING

Chris Powell
The Chronicle-Telegram

A group of national veterans and Lorain County high school students have combined forces in a letter-writing campaign aimed at honoring the legacy of the late U.S. Navy Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King by naming a new naval vessel after him.

A Lorain native and distinguished naval leader, King was known for his exceptional vision during World War II, when he commanded global naval operations. He died in June 1956, and a naval destroyer was named the USS King in his honor in 1958. The ship was decommissioned and sold for scrap in 1994.

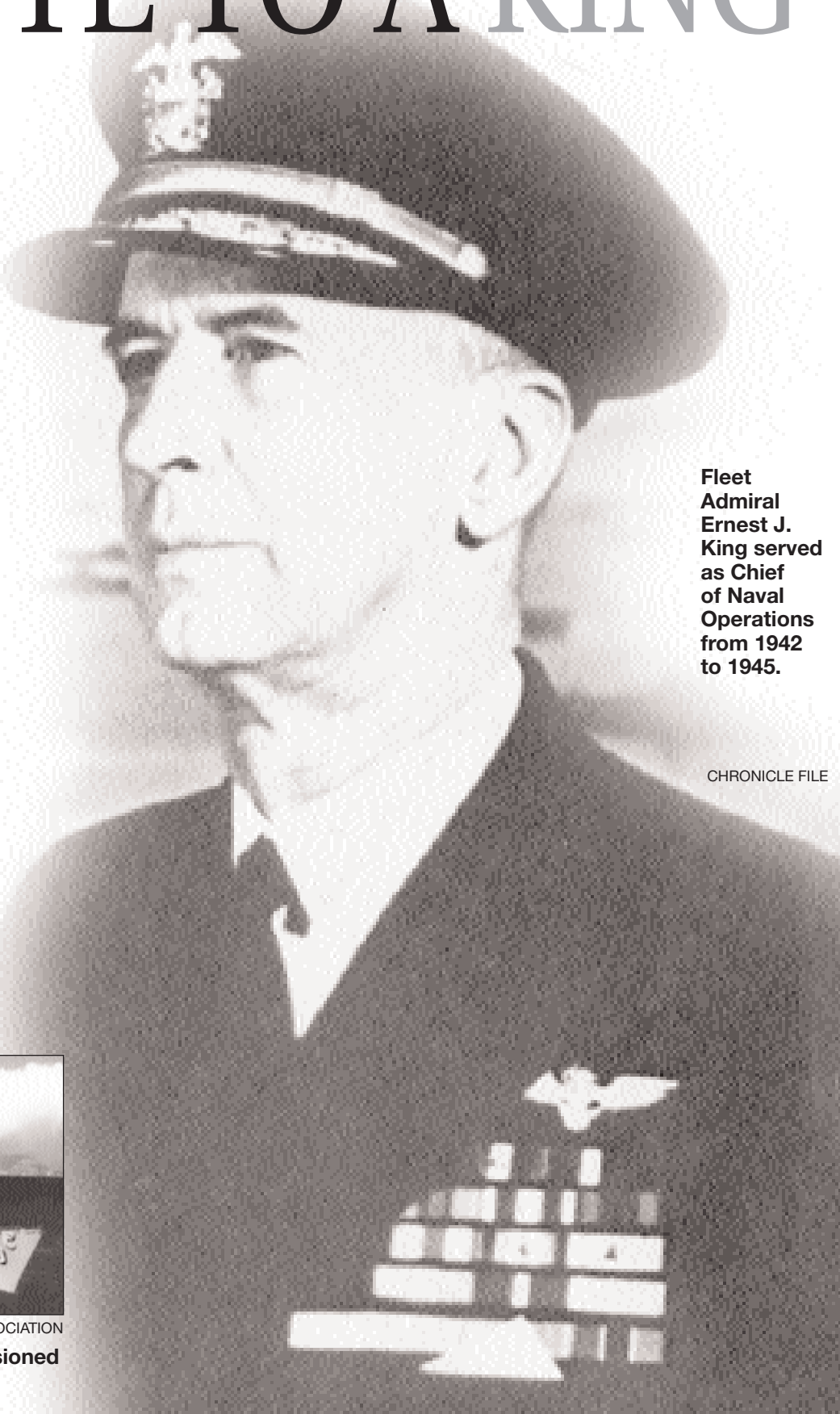
Vermilion resident David McHenry was one of the 4,000 sailors to serve aboard the USS King during its 33 years of service.

"It was just a great ship with a great crew," said McHenry, 47. "Whenever there was a problem, we were always the first ones called. I don't know what it was about that ship, but it always kicked butt. It was the 'King of the Fleet,' and I still can't believe it was scrapped."

Mark Donovan, a Delaware state resident who served aboard the USS King for four years, echoed those sentiments.

"It was a whole lot more than metal and steel," Donovan said. "There was an honest-to-God soul to that ship, and it broke our hearts when we found out it was being sold for scrap. ... We would have liked to have saved the King for preservation."

See KING, A2



Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King served as Chief of Naval Operations from 1942 to 1945.

CHRONICLE FILE



COURTESY THE USS KING ASSOCIATION

The original USS King was decommissioned and sold for scrap in 1994.

AT&T buys BellSouth for \$67B

AT A GLANCE

The new company would have...

70 million local phone customers

10 million broadband subscribers

Harry R. Weber
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — AT&T Inc. is buying BellSouth Corp. for \$67 billion in stock in a bid that further consolidates the telecommunications industry and would give AT&T total control of their growing joint venture, Cingular Wireless LLC.

The proposed purchase, announced Sunday, also goes a long way toward resurrecting the old Ma Bell telephone system, which was broken apart in 1984.

The merged company would operate in 22 states. The deal appears to be the largest yet among U.S. telecom players.

In 1999, MCI WorldCom Inc. agreed to buy Sprint Corp. for an even larger sum, \$115 billion, but that deal was blocked by federal regulators. Internationally, Britain's Vodafone Airtouch PLC paid \$180 billion in stock for Mannesmann AG of Germany in 2000.

The sale, which is subject to regulatory and shareholder approvals, would give San Antonio-based AT&T total control over Atlanta-based BellSouth's nine-state network and its share of Cingular.

See AT&T, A2



AP

AT&T will have total control of Cingular Wireless after its \$67 billion purchase of smaller telecom company BellSouth.

Feds probing workers' comp kickback charges

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS — A federal grand jury investigating investments by the state's fund for injured workers is trying to determine whether the agency's top officials got favors for directing business to select brokers.

A key element of the investigation is allegations that Terrence Gasper, the Bureau of Workers' Compensation's former chief financial officer, had a handwritten list that specified how much each firm was to receive in commissions for stock trades, sources familiar with the investigation in Cleveland told The Columbus Dispatch.

The commissions totaled about \$15 million for 25 to 30 firms with each broker getting up to about \$750,000, a source with a copy of the list told the newspaper.

The investigation of the agency has revealed \$300 million in investment losses and led to the conviction of Gov. Bob Taft on ethics violations for accepting golf games and other gifts he did not report. Four former Taft aides also have been convicted.

See KICKBACKS, A2

City gains cash for holding federal inmates

Chris Powell
The Chronicle-Telegram

ELYRIA — A terror suspect charged with plotting to kill Americans was held at the city jail for six days under a federal inmate housing program that nets the city about \$400,000 a year.

Mayor Bill Grace said the deal with the U.S. Marshals Service is a profitable arrangement that helps the city offset the annual \$1.2 million operating cost of the 60-person jail. As of Sunday night, 10 of the 42 inmates behind bars were federal prisoners.

"It's not unusually for us to have several if not up to a dozen federal prisoners in our jail daily," Grace said. "That's not unusual — terror suspects are. Most of the prisoners have minimal little or no risk of violent behavior."

The terror suspect, Mohammad Zaki Amawi, 26, was quietly housed in a jail isolation cell along with nine other federal inmates until last Monday, when



CARL SULLENBERGER / CHRONICLE

he was transferred to an undisclosed facility amid security concerns.

The U.S. Marshals Service currently houses about 53,000 detainees in federal, state, local and private jails throughout the country. The Elyria City Jail is one of nine facilities used to house prisoners in northern Ohio, according to the agency.

Elyria police Chief Mike Medders said the city leases about 20 cell spaces to the U.S. Marshals Service and charges about \$70 per day per inmate.

"It costs us the same amount to run the jail, whether we have 60 prisoners or 2 prisoners inside," he said. "It's like a hotel — staffing is the same whether we're occupied or not, so we sell the

space to the federal government."

Federal inmates are housed in an isolated wing and prevented from interacting with local inmates. Three corrections officers keep a constant watch on the prisoners, and the facility is under round-the-clock video surveillance.

See JAIL, A2

WEATHER

Mostly cloudy, a few flurries. High of 39, low of 29.
Complete AccuWeather forecast, Page A8

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