EXERCISE 52  NAME ________________________

Assignment 1. You may find that important information has been omitted from these stories, the facts are inconsistent or the leads are not supported. If you were the assignment editor and 90 minutes remained before the deadline, what would you tell the reporters they need to do to improve these stories? Remember that you’ll lose the respect of your reporters if your questions lack focus or demand extensive reporting without concern for deadlines. Assume that the stories are for a Northern City daily.

Assignment 2. Edit the stories for style, grammar, word usage and punctuation errors and eliminate any wordiness.

STORY 1

A former president of Northern State University was charged with drunken driving, assault on a police officer, and reckless driving Tuesday night in downtown Northern City.

Officer Kurt Williams said he saw Dobson Jennings, 45, 21 Kings Way, drive erratically from the parking lot of the Hitching Post Tavern and pulled him over.

Williams said Jennings became belligerent. When Williams asked him to take a sobriety test, Jennings punched Williams in the face, knocking the officer to the ground.

Jennings then got back in his car, put it in gear and rammed Williams patrol car, according to Officer Janet Voss, who arrived at the scene to back-up Williams. Voss took Jennings to the county jail, where he refused to take a breath-alcohol test.

Officer Williams received a broken nose and a deep cut over his eye. He was treated at University Hospital.

STORY 2

A chain-reaction accident near the Northern City Mall shut down traffic on busy Washington Boulevard and knocked power out for more than 1,000 homes late Monday night.

At least 10 cars were damaged in the accident, but no one was seriously injured.

Police said a car driving by Marty Potter, 61, 275 N. 9th St., stopped at a red light at Washington and 25th Street, touching off the pile-up.

Four cars were considered total losses and five others had to be towed from the scene.

Police said the accident was weather-related.
STORY 3

Much to the disappointment of Southside High basketball coach Sam Lewis, his Raiders did not crack the state’s Top Ten list this week. The Raiders were one of five teams given honorable mention.

The Raiders, 10–2 for the season and 4–1 in conference play, put on two impressive showings last week. They upset third-ranked Spring Central, 70–69, in overtime and defeated 10th ranked Lewiston, 65–62. Spring Central fell to number 9 this week. Lewiston was replaced by Ashbourne in the 10th spot.

The undefeated Tipton Blue Devils remained the top-rated team in the state, with Halstead second. The rest of the top ten were 3. Brookline, 4. Jackson, 6. Overton, 7. Washington Central and 8. Hobbs Valley.

STORY 4

A 79-year-old woman on Monday filed a $1 million suit against the Northern City Steak and Ribs Place restaurant.

Her attorney, Dorothy Wilson, said the suit is the first under the state’s new civil liability statutes, which went into effect last month.

“The reformed laws shifts the burden of proof to make these kinds of suits more equitable,” Wilson said. “In the past we would have had to prove that the business was totally to blame before our client could get any retribution. Now the law allows “shared responsibility” which means that we can collect those portions of the damages that resulted from the restaurant’s negligence.”

Bob Mooreland, the restaurant’s attorney, said he had not seen the suit but said he was familiar with the case. “I think it’s best if I wait to comment until we see how this thing develops,” Mooreland said. “Believe me, the Nussbaum family, who owns the restaurant, want a fair settlement here. There’s no bad guys here.”

No court date has been set.