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We regret to inform you of the death of Frances (Frannie) Ferrell. She passed away on Tuesday after an extended illness. As some of you will remember, Frannie was a longtime employee of the West Virginia Motor Truck Association. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, February 29th at St. George Orthodox Cathedral in Charleston. Family will receive friends from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. today at Johnson-Harding Funeral Chapel, 514 50th Street, SE (Kanawha City), Charleston. Trisagion prayers will be at 8:30 p.m. The family will also receive friends one hour prior to the service tomorrow. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. George Orthodox Cathedral, P.O. Box 2044, Charleston, WV 25327.

The American Trucking Associations' advanced seasonally adjusted For-Hire **Truck Tonnage Index** increased 2.4 percent in January 2008, after rising an amended 1.5 percent in December 2007. ATA recently revised the seasonally adjusted index back five years. The new seasonal factors resulted in slightly lower truck tonnage volumes for 2007 than previously reported. ATA's truck tonnage index fell 1.5 percent in 2007 from the previous year. ATA originally reported a 1.4 percent drop. December's tonnage level, meanwhile, increased a modest 1.5 percent; down from the previously reported 4.1 percent gain. ATA annually revises the index as part of its calculation for the upcoming year's seasonal factors. ATA also restated the not seasonally adjusted data for several months in 2007 as some carriers amended tonnage levels at year end. The not seasonally adjusted index surged 11.4 percent from December to 113.6. The latest seasonally adjusted increase marked the third sequential gain, totaling 5.7 percent. The tonnage index stood at 117.3 (2000 = 100) in January, a 26-month high. Tonnage was also up 5.3 percent from a year earlier, which was the largest year-over-year gain since January 2005.

Initial jobless claims increased by 19,000 for the week ended Saturday, the Labor Department said Thursday. Initial claims rose to 373,000, from a revised 354,000 last week, the department said in its weekly report. The less-volatile four-week moving average fell to 360,500 from 361,750, Labor said. Economists had expected an increase of 1,000 from last week's initially reported level of 349,000, Bloomberg News reported.

The U.S. economy expanded at a 0.6 % annual growth rate in the fourth quarter, unchanged from last month's preliminary estimate, according to a revised figure issued Thursday by the Commerce Department. Economists had expected an upward revision to 0.8%, Bloomberg news reported. Meanwhile, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, in congressional testimony on Wednesday, signaled that the Fed could be ready to enact further interest rate cuts in order to stave off further economic contraction, Bloomberg said. The 0.6% fourth-quarter growth rate followed a 4.9% GDP expansion in the third quarter, which was the highest rate of growth in four years, according to Commerce.

Today's Federal Register carries a notice from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration that officially sets the 2008 fees due under the **Unified Carrier Registration Agreement**, the program that took the place of the Single State Registration System toward the end of last year. The fees for 2008 remain unchanged from last year's fees. Registration has not yet opened for 2008 because, although the fees have now been determined, the federal and state systems that handle the registration information have not yet been changed over to receive this year's data. Those changes will probably be made within the next few weeks and the 2008 registration and fee collection process will probably begin in March. Carriers subject to UCRA fees can expect to receive a notice from their base state when registration opens, just as carriers did last fall. You may see the Federal Register notice here: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20081800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-3603.htm>.

Truck Driving Championships Notice

We have extended the deadline to receive all entries for Safety Awards and the Truck Driving Championships to **March 11, 2008**. This is a firm deadline. Please make sure all entries are turned by that date.

*Questions or Comments? Contact Jan Vineyard at
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