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The Press

DEMOCRAT

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2004 • SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA

HAUNTING IMAGES

Dress up as your favorite ghost, goblin or presidential candidate / **D1**



JDS sales

SR operations provide boost for firm / **E1**

Windsor

Police chief, city officials vow to fight ethnic profiling / **B1**

Petaluma women's gym faces bias suit

State action backs SR man, could have statewide effect

By **STEVE HART**

THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

In a case that could affect women's health clubs across California, the state filed a lawsuit accusing a Petaluma women's fitness center of sex discrimination.

The lawsuit in Sonoma County Superior Court alleges Elan Fitness Center fails to provide "full and equal accommodations" for men, in violation of the state's civil rights law.

The suit stems from a discrimination complaint filed last year by a Santa Rosa man who said he was discouraged from joining the fitness club.

The state Department of Fair Employment and Housing said Phillip Kottle was the victim of discrimination because of his gender. The department is seeking a court order requiring Elan Fitness to provide equal services and facilities for men.

The case could test a 1995 state Supreme Court decision that limits the ability of private organizations to discriminate on the basis of sex or race.

TURN TO **PETALUMA**, PAGE A12

Bush, Kerry spar over Iraq explosives

By **DANA MILBANK** and **JIM VANDEHEI**

WASHINGTON POST

LITITZ, Pa. — The disappearance of nearly 400 tons of explosives in Iraq dominated the presidential race for a third straight day Wednesday, as Democratic nominee John Kerry accused President Bush of evading responsibility and the Republican said Kerry was making "wild charges."



VOTE 2004

EUROPE WAITS

More diplomacy likely regardless of election's outcome / **A3**

Kerry, traveling in Iowa, scrapped plans to talk about domestic policy in favor of accusing Bush of trying to cover up the failure to secure the explosives in Iraq.

"This is a growing scandal, and the American people deserve a full and honest explanation of how it happened and

TURN TO **CAMPAIGN**, PAGE A13



CURSE REVERSED

Pigs fly, hell freezes, Babe Ruth jinx breaks — the impossible does happen as Red Sox win Series



CHARLES REX ARBOGAST / Associated Press

Boston's Dave Roberts hoists the World Series trophy while riding teammate Mike Timlin's shoulders in St. Louis on Wednesday after the Red Sox got their first World Series win since 1918. A week after completing the biggest comeback in baseball history against the New York Yankees, the Red Sox swept the St. Louis Cardinals in four games. **Sports, C1**

Priests' files to be kept secret

Major victory for Catholic Church as Oakland judge reverses earlier ruling

By **GUY KOVNER**

THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

An Oakland judge handed the Roman Catholic Church a significant victory Wednesday, ruling that the public isn't entitled to see personnel files of priests accused of sexual abuse.

The order by Alameda County Superior Court Judge Ronald Sabraw gave the church most of the broad order it sought to maintain confidentiality of records involved in about 160 cases of alleged sexual misconduct by priests in Northern and Central California.

Eleven of the cases were filed against the Santa Rosa Diocese, alleging that church officials failed to protect children from offending priests.

The Santa Rosa lawsuits involve former priests Don Kimball, Gary Timmons and Patrick Gleeson.

Sabraw's final order overturned a tentative ruling he issued two weeks ago at the request of The Press Democrat and other news organizations, which petitioned the court for access to the personnel files.

"It's a major reversal," said Judy Alexander, an attorney for The Press Democrat. "We lost a lot of ground."

The Press Democrat and San Francisco Chronicle argued in court that public interest in the sex abuse scandal outweighed the church's privacy interests.

In his tentative order, Sabraw said the personnel files would be kept confidential.

TURN TO **CHURCH**, PAGE A13

Officials drop fight over Mendocino cell phone antennas

By **GLENDA ANDERSON**

THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

Cell phones, one of the joys and curses of the modern world, soon will become a familiar sight in Mendocino despite an intense battle by critics who fought to preserve the peace and quiet of their isolated seaside village.

Mendocino County supervisors Tuesday reversed a May decision and tentatively granted U.S. Cellular a permit to install two hidden cell-phone antennas at the historic Stanford Inn.

The supervisors also agreed to pay the Chicago-based cell phone company \$10,000 to drop a lawsuit challenging the decision to deny U.S. Cellular a permit to install the antennas secreted inside the inn's chimneys.

The 3-2 decision, reached in closed session, is expected to be finalized at the board's Dec. 14 meeting.

TURN TO **CELL**, PAGE A12

"I wish Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace were here to see it."

TIM WHITE, UC Berkeley paleoanthropologist

Remains of hobbit-sized humans discovered

HISTORIC FIND

■ The Flores specimens date from as long ago as 95,000 years to as recently as 12,000 years ago.

■ Barely 3 feet tall, species used fire and stone tools for communal hunting of pygmy elephants and giant rats.



Finding on isolated Indonesian island shakes up understanding of human evolution

PRESS DEMOCRAT NEWS SERVICES

On an isolated Indonesian island, scientists have discovered skeletons of a previously unknown human species — a hobbit-sized people barely 3 feet tall, with heads no larger than grapefruits and oddly bulging eyes, who lived as recently

as 12,000 years ago.

Experts in human origins called the discovery, made public Wednesday, of the extinct human species the most important — and surprising — human find in the past 50 years.

"It is probably the most significant thing that has happened in my professional lifetime," said Bernard Wood, a paleoanthropologist at George Washington University. "It comes out of nowhere."

"This is a splendid example of hu-

man evolution. I wish Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace were here to see it," said Tim White, a celebrated paleoanthropologist at UC Berkeley, whose discoveries in Africa have caused the family tree of man to be rewritten several times.

Found last year in a deep cave on an island called Flores east of Java, the creatures had the smallest brains and shortest bodies of any known human relative of the past 4 million years.

TURN TO **DISCOVERY**, PAGE A13

INSIDE

BRITISH NEAR BAGHDAD

Shift of forces could be prelude to U.S. attack on Fallujah; kidnapped CARE director pleads for life in new video. **A8**

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