

Blix going back to Iraq

Top U.N. weapons inspectors returning to Baghdad in attempt to resolve impasse / A17



SUNNY & NICE
Santa Rosa
High: 65 Low: 33
Details, Page B8

The Sunday Press

DEMOCRAT

FEBRUARY 2, 2003 • SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA \$1.25



GREGORY SHAVER / Racine Journal Times

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Residents reflect on loss / B1

Mourners gather in astronaut Laurel Clark's hometown of Racine, Wis.

THE LOST CREW



Michael Anderson



David Brown



Kalpana Chawla



Laurel Clark



Rick Husband



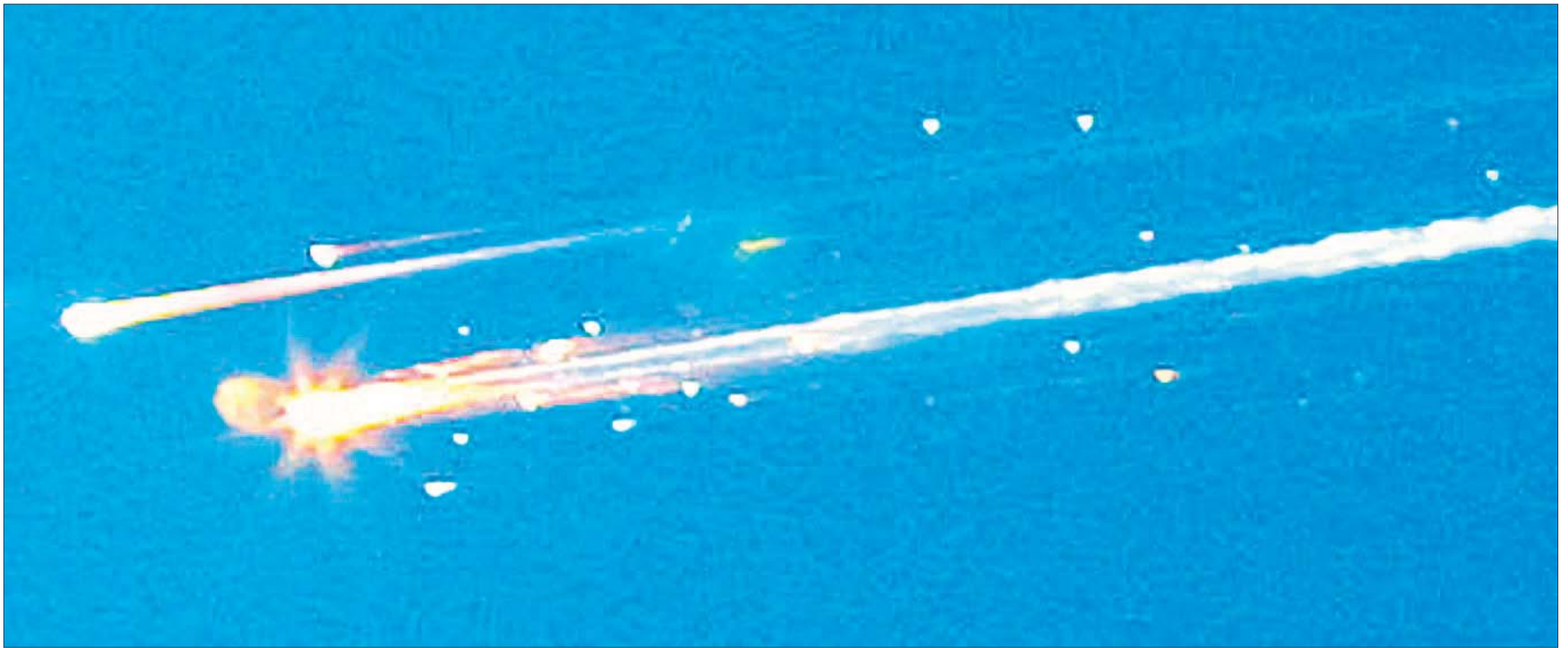
William McCool



Ilan Ramon

Shuttle disaster — what went wrong?

ALL SEVEN ASTRONAUTS KILLED AS COLUMBIA DISINTEGRATES OVER TEXAS



DR. SCOTT LIEBERMAN / Tyler Morning Telegraph

Debris from the space shuttle Columbia streaks across the sky over Tyler, Texas, on Saturday. Wreckage was scattered over hundreds of square miles in Texas and Louisiana. See story, A10.

NASA probe focuses on heat tiles

By **WILLIAM J. BROAD** and **JAMES GLANZ**
NEW YORK TIMES

NASA officials, saying it could take months to learn what caused the destruction of the shuttle Columbia, on Saturday focused on the possibility that some of its protective tiles had failed, dooming the craft.

A small piece of foam insulation broke from the external fuel tank and struck tiles on Columbia's left wing about a minute after the shuttle's blastoff Jan. 16, NASA officials said.

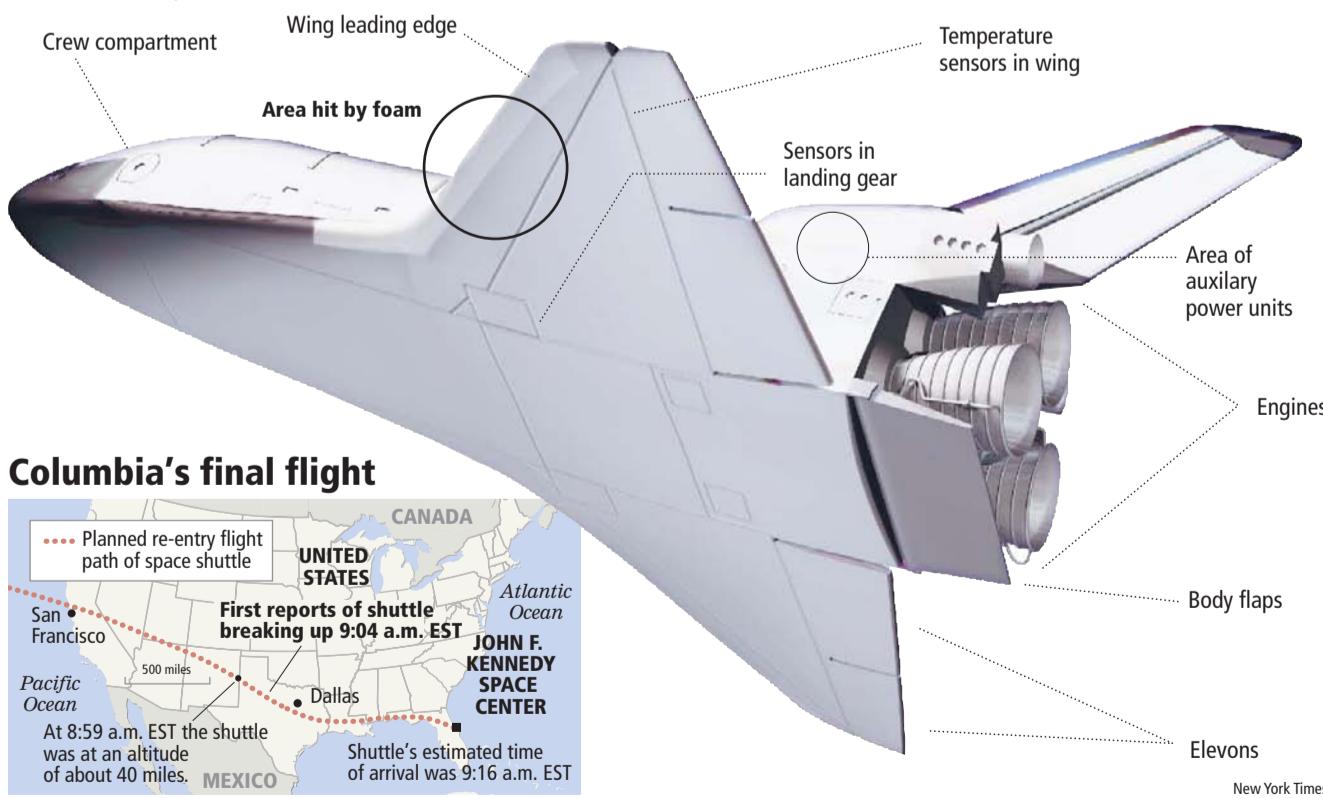
Although the incident was analyzed at length and dismissed as unimportant, NASA officials and other experts said it might have set off a series of problems that ended in the destruction of the spacecraft and the death of its seven crew members.

Ron Dittmore, shuttle program manager, said Saturday the impact

TURN TO **TILES**, PAGE A7

Signs of trouble

The space shuttle Columbia lost sensors in its left wing before breaking apart during re-entry Saturday. A piece of foam insulation from the external tank, which drops off after liftoff, had hit the left wing on Columbia's launch Jan. 16, but NASA officials did not confirm that the damage caused the breakup.



Columbia's final flight



Debris rains upon Texas, Louisiana

PRESS DEMOCRAT NEWS SERVICES

WASHINGTON — The space shuttle Columbia broke up Saturday morning on re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere, killing all seven astronauts aboard and sending fiery debris over east Texas in the second loss of a space shuttle in 17 years.

It sounded like "rolling thunder," one witness said. Shock waves rattled homes and barns. Bright objects hurtled off the spacecraft and debris plummeted about 40 miles to Earth. Some pieces were soaked with toxic fuel. Others were in flame and set several brush fires.

Four plumes of chalk-white smoke streaked across the blue sky, visible from Texas to Mississippi.

Officials warned people in central eastern Texas and northwestern Louisiana not to touch the debris. No injuries were reported on the ground.

TURN TO **COLUMBIA**, PAGE A10

INSIDE

TAX & FINANCE SECTION

From home refinancing to tax returns, special expanded Business section puts the focus on finance. E1

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