

# Remember the fallen and missing

## 14-page commemorative section

Profiles and pictures of U.S. servicemembers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the war in Iraq



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



FULL-PAGE  
U.S. FLAG  
Page 21A

# SPRINGFIELD NEWS-LEADER

TUESDAY  
April 15, 2003

OzarksNow.com

Springfield,  
Missouri  
50¢



**Restoring order:** U.S. Marines, Iraqi police patrol Baghdad / 4A  
**Arms search:** Evidence of banned weapons expected soon / 5A



**Dominic James**  
Died in foster care; DFS ordered to turn over files.

# Combat gives way to wrangling over power

**LAST CITY FALLS:** U.S. troops easily take Tikrit  
**TODAY'S TALKS:** Iraqi leaders fall into discord  
**SYRIA NEXT?** Coalition won't invade, Blair says

NEWS-LEADER WIRE SERVICES

Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit fell Monday with unexpectedly light resistance, the last Iraqi city to succumb to overpowering U.S.-led ground and air forces.

"The major combat operations are over," Maj. Gen. Stanley McChrystal said after more than 3,000 Marines fought their way to the center of the city.

As the fighting on the battlefields wound down, conflicts among Iraq's power brokers intensified on the eve of talks to forge a democratic nation. One faction said it would boycott the session and two others broke into infighting.

The White House and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld turned up pressure on Syria, demanding that it stop harboring Iraqi fugitives and renounce terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, even as British Prime Minister Tony Blair denied any U.S.-British plans to invade Syria.

Looting eased in Baghdad, and a group of religious and civil opposition leaders met in the capital to plan efforts at renewing power, water, security and other vital services.

American forces found prodigious amounts of Iraqi weaponry, French-made missiles and Russian anti-tank rocket launchers among them. And Army troops discovered thousands of microfilm cartridges and hundreds of



DAVID GUTTENFELDER / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Accused of trying to ambush U.S. troops,** a group of men are arrested by American soldiers in Baghdad on Monday. U.S. military sources said the men were non-Iraqi Arab fighters. Their vehicle was stopped and found to contain weapons.

paper files inside a Baath Party enclave as the dead regime began yielding its secrets.

The military action, however, focused on the Marines' success in securing Tikrit.

They seized an opulent presidential palace and rolled their armored vehicles along the city's broad boulevards. They set up checkpoints to keep prominent regime figures from leaving.

Tikrit was the last important center of Saddam's regime, and now it had fallen — much like Basra, Nasiriyah,

Najaf, Karbala, Kut, Kirkuk, Irbil, Mosul and Baghdad.

"There is nothing beyond Tikrit," said Marine Lt. Col. Doug Hardison. "That is it. It's now just a function of when to call the win."

Said McChrystal: "Tikrit was the last area where we anticipated seeing major combat formations."

Iraqi forces once again evaporated and large concentrations of Iraqi troops no longer existed anywhere,



DAVID GUTTENFELDER / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**A U.S. soldier** subdues a man arrested in Baghdad with a group of men accused of trying to ambush U.S. troops.

See War, Page 5A

## DFS turns over files in Dominic James case

News-Leader wins lawsuit; release of 800 pages sets open-records precedent.

By Laura Bauer  
NEWS-LEADER

For the first time in Missouri, records regarding a child in DFS custody have been released, setting a precedent for other cases where a child dies or is seriously injured.

After a six-month court battle, the News-Leader has won a lawsuit with the Missouri Division of Family Services, obtaining the complete DFS file on Dominic James. The release of more than 800 pages of records includes DFS files and caseworkers' notes, some medical records and the hotline investigation of alleged abuse which became the green light for the toddler being put back into the home where prosecutors say he was fatally injured by his foster father, John Dilley.

Dilley is charged with second-degree murder in the case.

"What this case does is it gives us clarity of what we can and can't be releasing," said Steve Roling, the new director of the Department of Social Services. He was appointed by Gov. Bob Holden after past director Kathy Martin resigned amid controversy.

"We'll react better in the next case, God forbid there is one. ... I think our people are understanding that we are going to break our backs to be open and honest and forthcoming," Roling said. "We have to be held accountable to the public. Clearly, this will help set the precedent."

The judgment, signed by Circuit Judge Miles Sweeney on Monday, interprets a two-year-old law allowing

See DFS, Page 7A

## Chinese leaders admit 'grave' SARS concerns; DNA of virus decoded

Another 11 deaths are reported on Monday.

NEWS-LEADER WIRE SERVICES

BEIJING — China's leaders expressed grave concerns over the deadly SARS outbreak for the first time Monday, following weeks of assurances that the flu-like disease was under control.

In China and Hong Kong, another 11 deaths were reported in the global outbreak that has killed more than 140 people.

Chinese President Hu Jintao was shown visiting hospitals in the southern province of Guangdong, the hard-hit region where severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, is believed to have originated.

State media quoted Premier

Wen Jiabao as saying the situation "remains grave" and warning that China's economy, international image and social stability could suffer. He called for airline and train passengers to be screened and quarantined if necessary, among the toughest measures suggested so far as China battles the disease which has killed 64 in the country and sickened more than 1,300.

Four of those deaths were reported Monday, three in Shanxi province and one in the Inner Mongolia region, the World Health Organization announced. Worldwide, there are more than 3,100 suspected cas-



**Chinese President Hu Jintao** (center) talks with medical workers at the Disease Prevention and Control Center in southern China.

FAN RUJUN / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

es of the disease and 144 deaths, mostly in Asia.

In Canada, health officials Monday reported a new cluster of 31 possible cases. The 31 people were ordered quarantined for 10 days.

Meanwhile, progress was reported on another front: Scientists in Canada and the United States have identified the genetic code of the virus suspected of causing SARS — a first step toward a better diagnostic test and possible vaccine.

The genetic code still doesn't explain how the disease arose or how to stop its spread, officials said Monday.

Canadian researchers over the weekend first published the entire genetic sequence of the new type of coronavirus believed to be the cause of SARS. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention officials released their own sequencing of the virus' gene code Monday.

Health officials celebrated the breakthrough, but cautioned that more work is ahead. The gene sequencing will help create diagnostic tests and increase the chance that a vaccine will be found, but it could take weeks or even months, CDC Director Julie Gerberding said.

## Apparent overdose at party kills girl, 15

Man faces drug charges in Pulaski County.

By Jeff Arnold  
NEWS-LEADER

Fourteen hours after three teenagers started to snort a deadly combination of prescription drugs, a hysterical 17-year-old placed a frantic call to a Pulaski County 911 operator.

Shalynn Pierce, 15, who had spent the night at a friend's rural Dixon home after a party, was nonresponsive. She didn't appear to be breathing.

She needed help.

About 50 minutes after the 911 call was made and after attempts to revive her by CPR failed, Pierce was pronounced dead Friday afternoon from an

apparent drug overdose, authorities said Monday.

Pierce was one of three teens who had snorted a variety of prescription drugs — including Xanax, OxyContin, Percocet, methadone, Klonopin and Soma, according to a probable-cause affidavit filed in court.

William Shane Hogshooter, 18, has been charged with six counts of unlawful distribution of a controlled substance to a minor — one count for each type of drug provided for the girls.

Hogshooter, who Pulaski County Sheriff J.T. Roberts said

See Overdose, Page 7A

### Index

Automotive	9C	Garage Sales	13C	Ozarks	1B
Business	5B	Horoscope	5C	Real Estate	
Classified	8C	Life	2B	Rentals	13C
Comics	7C	Lottery	2B	Sports	14C
Crossword	5C	Merchandise	5C	Stocks	1B
Deaths	3B	Movies	4C	Television	6B
Education	6B	Night Life	4C	Weather	4C
Employment	9C	Opinion	6A		2A

### Weather

80° The day should start  
62° out nice, but it may storm tonight. 2A  
Precipitation: 40%



GMT-MASTER II

JUSTICE  
JEWELERS  
417-881-0551

A GANNETT NEWSPAPER  
VOL. 113, NO. 105  
©2003, NEWS-LEADER

