

■ Mets swept by Expos as bullpen fails again, 1C ■ Matsui's homer highlights Yankees' win, 2C

Sports Final

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DAY IN THE LIFE BEDFORD

SPORTS

Isles fall in two overtimes.

Todd White's goal gives the Senators a 2-1 lead in their best-of-seven series. **1C**

LOCAL

Former hospital sale denied.

Hudson Valley Hospital Center officials renege on planned sale of former Cold Spring hospital to Putnam County. **1B**



LIFE&STYLE

Still radical.

She's been agitating, advocating and having her say for 30 years. But Gloria Steinem shows no signs of slowing down. **1E**

BUSINESS

IBM reports higher profits.

IBM sales and profits were up in the first quarter despite a sluggish economy and war jitters among customers. **1D**

Tax deadline is here.

Still have not filed? There are six post offices in the area that are open late tonight. **1D**

NATION AND WORLD

Genome mapped.

The book of genetic instructions for the human body is just about complete, heralding an era of medical advances. **8A**

Deadly shooting.

Gunmen kill a 15-year-old boy and wound three teenage girls at a New Orleans high school. Four young suspects are arrested. **10A**

Four convicted.

Four people are convicted in a deadly bombing outside the U.S. consulate in Pakistan. **12A**

COMING TOMORROW

Easter table.

This year's holiday table can feature a spring favorite: lamb. **1E**



DOW UP 147.69 to 8,351.10

NASDAQ UP 26.10 to 1,384.95

Stock listings: **2-3D**

WEATHER OUTLOOK

Today: Sunny and warmer. High in the upper 70s.

Tonight: Clear. Low in the mid-50s.

Tomorrow: Sunny, then chance of rain. High near 80.

Complete four-day forecast, boating conditions and air-quality ratings: **11A**

INSIDE

Classified	1F	Movies	4E
Comics	4E	Obituaries	4B
Crossword	3F	Opinion	6B
Dear Abby	6E	Region	6A
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► Profiles of the American troops who have died in the war, **3A**

WAR WITH IRAQ

► Iraqi police back on patrol, **4A**

► Reality check for 'axis of evil,' **5A**

'Major combat over'

24 HOURS OF THE CONFLICT

LAST CITY FALLS

U.S. Marines find little resistance in Tikrit, because, residents say, the Iraqi army left the area about two weeks ago. The town was calm, there appeared to be no looting, and Saddam Hussein's statue was still in the square.

SYRIA WARNED

The Bush administration tells Syria to avoid interfering in Iraq by harboring regime leaders and allowing fighters to cross the border. U.S. officials also claim that Syria has a large cache of chemical weapons.

BAGHDAD ON PATROL

U.S. troops and Baghdad police officers begin patrolling the city's streets, arresting looters and bank robbers. Life in the capital appears to be returning to normal as some workers return to their jobs, the city's markets reopen and hundreds of men apply to become police officers.

LEADERSHIP VACUUM

In Kut, Marines find some residents have set up their own government — led by an anti-American cleric.

REBUILDING IRAQ

The interim American administration is starting to set up shop in Iraq, and a key meeting is scheduled for today with Iraqi groups to discuss the future of the country. Several groups, however, are boycotting the meeting to protest the installation of a U.S. leader.



U.S. soldiers arrest a group of men yesterday in Baghdad. They are accused of driving a vehicle with weapons inside and attempting to ambush American troops. The soldiers and local officials said the men were not Iraqis.

DIPLOMATIC FRONT

U.S. warns Syria over weapons

Dana Milbank
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration escalated sharp diplomatic warnings to Syria yesterday, accusing Iraq's neighbor of developing chemical weapons, harboring former Iraqi leaders and allowing foreign fighters to enter Iraq to attack U.S. troops.

White House press secretary Ari Fleischer, at his morning briefing, said repeatedly that "Syria needs to cooperate." He read from a CIA report to Congress last year that Syria had stockpiles of the nerve agent sarin, that it was "trying to develop more toxic and persistent nerve elements," and that it was "highly probable" that Syria was pursuing biological weapons. Fleischer described the document as "authoritative" and said the charge is "well corroborated."

Fleischer declined to dispel the impression that the administration was targeting Syria for possible diplomatic or even military measures. "I can only say to you that it should not be unexpected that the United States for a considerable period of time has said through diplomatic channels that nations that are rogue nations need to clean up their act," he said. "They should not harbor terrorists. They should not produce weapons of mass destruction."

Syrian officials denied Washington's charges, calling the increasing administration rhetoric a "campaign of misinformation and disinformation." Imad Moustapha, deputy ambassador to the United States, told the Reuters news agency that the administration's statements were meant to distract from the "human catastrophes" taking place in Iraq.

At the Pentagon, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told re-

Please see SYRIA, 2A



U.S. Marines pose with American and Iraqi flags yesterday in front of al-Faruq Palace in Tikrit after taking control of most of the city with little resistance.

AIR WAR

Somers man makes mark in B-52 raid in Iraq war

Rob Ryser
The Journal News

When Air Force Capt. Joseph Babboni and his crew boarded their B-52

Stratofortress on Thursday for a bombing raid in Iraq, no one said they were going to make history.

As a pilot of the world's most famous bomber, the Somers resident often has the sense that he's steering an American icon.

But it took him by surprise when he and his crew returned safely after more than 12 hours in the air to learn they had just completed the unit's 100th B-52 mission of the Iraq war.

"It is not like we were counting down or anything like that, but it is a pretty significant milestone to launch 100 sorties successfully," said Babboni, 29, who was allowed to call home yesterday from a location the Air Force would describe only

as a forward base. "We have successfully launched every sortie we've been assigned."

At his home in Somers, Babboni's mother spoke with the same mix of humility and restraint as her son when asked how it felt to hear that he was achieving his country's aim.

"Very definitely, this has been a team effort from the beginning," said Barbara Babboni, who speaks to her son on the phone every week. "I'm very proud he has chosen the Air Force for his career."

The B-52 bombers have been an integral part of the U.S. arsenal for four decades because of their range and versatility. They also have been controversial in Great Britain, where protesters opposed their deployment at the Royal Air Force base in Gloucestershire, England, be-



Capt. Joseph Babboni

Please see B-52, 2A

Marines capture Tikrit; U.S. begins shift to rebuild Iraq

Rajiv Chandrasekaran
The Washington Post

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.S. Marines seized control of Tikrit yesterday, wrapping up the last significant Baath Party stronghold in Iraq and marking a shift in the U.S. campaign from grabbing territory to targeting pockets of resistance, rebuilding war-ravaged infrastructure and creating a new system of government.

U.S. officials said the Marines who captured Tikrit, a small farming community 90 miles northwest of Baghdad and the ancestral region of former President Saddam Hussein, encountered lighter-than-expected resistance, mostly from paramilitary Baath loyalists instead of the organized military defenses some had feared. By the end of the day, U.S. troops patrolled the city center and set up checkpoints, receiving a calm, if sometimes reserved, welcome from the population.

Marines here in the capital also refocused their duties from fighting to peacekeeping, sending out more troops to apprehend looters and starting joint patrols with Iraqi police officers. The tide of lawlessness that had enveloped the city for the last five days appeared to ebb.

Maj. Gen. Stanley McChrystal, vice director of operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in Washington that the fall of Tikrit means "major combat operations are over" in the 26-day military campaign to take out Saddam's government. But the challenge of restoring civil order and searching for pro-Saddam militia remained formidable in this still-chaotic country of 24 million.

To help with those tasks, thousands of soldiers from the Army's 4th Infantry Division moved into southern Iraq from their staging areas in Kuwait. At the same time, Pentagon officials announced that two aircraft carriers, the USS Kitty Hawk and the USS Constellation — each with about 80 warplanes — will depart the Persian Gulf and return to their home ports.

Earlier yesterday, eleven containers buried close to an artillery ammunition plant in southern Iraq were discovered by U.S. troops and could be dual-use chemical and biological laboratories, U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Ben Freakley told CNN.

The 20-foot by 20-foot metal containers, which could be attached to semi-trucks or railway cars, were found by members of the 101st Airborne in Karbala. About 1,000 pounds of documentation was also found at the site, Freakley said. There was no evidence of weapons.

Maj. Trey Cate, a spokesman for the 101st, said the division found 11 shipping containers with lab equipment inside buried close to an ammunition factory near Karbala. He said tests were planned.

As the Marines moved into central Tikrit early yesterday in tanks and armored personnel carriers

Please see WAR, 2A

Reisman: War columnist Ernie Pyle set standard, **1B**
Editorial, **6B**
Index of war coverage, **2A**

For the latest news on Iraq, visit thejournalnews.com/iraq

Pair charged in longtime sex abuse of teenage girl

Police say woman, man taped deviant acts with adolescent

Terry Corcoran
The Journal News

SOUTHEAST — A Putnam County woman and a Danbury, Conn., man have been accused of sodomizing an adolescent girl for several years and videotaping some of the abuse, authorities said yesterday in announcing their arrests.

The investigation by the Putnam County Sheriff's Office, Danbury police and the FBI began April 1 when the girl, now 17, reported the alleged abuse to Danbury police, Putnam Sheriff Donald Smith said.

That resulted in Smith's office charging Donnaann Dambro, 43, of 50 Joe's Hill Road with use of a child in a sexual performance and second-degree sodomy, both felonies. She was arrested April 3 by investigators Anthony Nappi and Vincent Martin and was being held last night in the Putnam County jail. Her bail was set at \$25,000.

The man police call her accomplice and boyfriend, Bernabe "Bernie" Diaz, 52, was arrested the same day by Danbury police on charges of possession of child pornography, a felony, and possession of marijuana, a misdemeanor, after police searched his home, said Detective Matthew McNally of the Danbury police Youth Bureau.

On April 4, Danbury police filed additional charges against Diaz. He was charged with two counts of second-degree assault and one of conspiracy to commit second-degree sexual assault, both felonies, and two misdemeanor counts of risk of injury

to a minor. He was being held on \$1.25 million bond.

Police seized videotapes and computers from both suspects' homes, Smith said.

Dambro will eventually be charged in Connecticut, and Diaz will be charged in New York, authorities said.

"The investigation suggests that the conduct was committed by both defendants in both states. At this point, to avoid any problems with extradition, the charges are being handled in each state," said Sheriff's Investigator Tom Velotti.

Dambro and Diaz were ac-

cusced of having deviate sexual intercourse with the girl at their residences when she was 13 to 16 years old and videotaping some of the acts, police said, after the girl came forward.

The sheriff said that, although Dambro and Diaz were arrested more than a week ago, police did not immediately release information because the investigation was continuing with Danbury police and the FBI in Connecticut.

"The FBI is very involved in the entire case," Smith said.

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