

Democrat and Chronicle

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2003

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50 CENTS NEWSSTAND

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Roy Williams leaves Kansas for North Carolina

Tearful Jayhawks basketball coach is returning to his alma mater, **1D**

Canada celebrates its Masters champ

Lefty golfer Mike Weir returns home with a new green jacket in his wardrobe, **1D**

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Never fear, you can make lamb for Easter

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New books have new take on home cooking

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Fujifilm e-systems now employs 100 in Greece, **12D**

LOCAL

Device may help decipher plane crash

A global positioning system device might help investigators determine why a small plane crashed Saturday, **1B**

COMMENTARY

City needs to bet on itself

Without investment in downtown, the city will die, says Mark Hare, **1B**

COMING UP

Healthy fun for spring break, Rochester style

Couldn't get away for Easter recess? We have some local "Escape" ideas. **Thursday in Weekend Magazine**

War coming to a close

PENTAGON SAYS MAJOR COMBAT OVER U.S. STEPS UP PRESSURE ON SYRIA

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon on Monday declared that major combat operations in Iraq were over after U.S. forces took control of Tikrit, the last bastion of Saddam Hussein's government.

The war is "coming to a close," said Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks after American troops entered the heart of the city.

"I would anticipate the major combat engagements are over be-

cause the major Iraqi units on the ground cease to show coherence," said Maj. Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal, a Pentagon spokesman. "There will be a requirement for combat power for some period of time. But clearly, the requirements for civil affairs, engineer organizations, military police, will be significant."

Meanwhile, senior Bush administration officials again accused Syria of harboring Iraqi leaders.

Secretary of State Colin L. Powell threatened Syria with economic or

diplomatic sanctions if it continued to provide "safe haven" to fleeing officials of Saddam Hussein's government. Other administration officials accused Damascus of backing terrorists and amassing weapons of mass destruction.

The White House spokesman, Ari Fleischer, used even harsher language, calling Syria "a rogue nation" and its president, Bashar Assad, an "untested leader" who now has his



The Associated Press

MAJOR, PAGE 3A **Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks**

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ROCHESTER MARINE RECALLS RESCUE OF SEVEN U.S. POWS / 6A

SPRING TEASES WITH SUNNY RESPITE



DANESE KENON staff photographer

First-year Red Wings manager Phil Roof gets high-fives from his players prior to Monday's home opener at Frontier Field. More than 11,000 people took advantage of the weather to attend the game, which had been postponed for more than a week.

BY STAFF WRITER **JEFFREY BLACKWELL**

Take the time to wash the car and take in a ray or two of the sun — because this is April in Rochester, and the warmth is not going to last long.

"Sunny" is in the forecast today, and the high temperature is expected to be in the low or mid-80s. Looming behind this day of summer, however, is the dying breath of a harsh winter.

"I don't want to get anybody excited, but it's not out of the question to see a little mixed precipitation sometime late in the week," said Steve McLaughlin, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Buffalo. "We are going to see the two sides of April."

On Monday, the high temperature reached 74, allowing the Rochester Red Wings to play their home opener — it had been postponed for more than a

week because of nasty weather — and bringing relief to those tired of winter.

"I'm just taking the opportunity to sit in the sun and store up a little vitamin D," said Joe Rozzano of Webster, parked on a sun-drenched bench overlooking the Genesee River downtown.

But the picture will change Wednesday as cooler weather slips into the Rochester area. High temperatures will fall

about 30 degrees into the 50s, the lows to the 30s.

Rain will move in Wednesday night and continue Thursday and Friday. McLaughlin said there is a slight chance of wet snow mixing with the rain.

"We've got to take advantage of the two nice days," said Kyle Angelo of Brighton, who was taking in the sun along the river Monday. □

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RED WINGS COVERAGE IN SPORTS GAME STORY, PITONIAK COLUMN, NOTEBOOK

Parents' survey keeps track of kids' pace

■ Annual Rochester effort finds some hopeful trends.

BY STAFF WRITER **DONNA JACKEL**

Health forms and childhood immunizations are part of the spring ritual of kindergarten enrollment.

For city parents, there is one extra form to fill out: a carefully crafted survey that gives school and health officials a glimpse into the home lives, health and academic readiness of their children.

The results of the survey, known as the Parent Appraisal of Children's Experiences, or PACE, can be inspiring — or disappointing. It's encouraging, for example, that fewer kindergartners in the 2001-02 school year displayed high levels of lead poisoning and developmental delays than five years ago.

But it is troubling that 72 percent of city children watch between two and four hours of television daily, up 2 percentage points from five years ago.

Despite the distraction of TV, these 5- and 6-year-olds were better prepared academically than those in previous years, a trend local experts credit to a long-term campaign to expand and improve preschool programs.

"We know a lot about people when they are born and when they die, but we (didn't) have a systematic way of finding out about people in between," said Dirk Hightower, executive director of the Children's Institute, a local think-tank. "Now, we are able to track trends and make decisions, based on real information, to better the lives of children."

Edgerton Day Care's pre-kindergarten program prepared Jack Gagliano, 5, for school, both



SHAWN DOWD staff photographer

Teacher Eric Pipkins congratulates Dasia Barclay, who finished a puzzle while in the prekindergarten program at the Carlson Metro YMCA child care center in downtown Rochester.

SURVEY, PAGE 10A

Delay of school votes stalls

■ Assembly OKs it; Senate ignores it; Pataki pans it.

BY STAFF WRITERS **JAY GALLAGHER and JOHN KOHLSTRAND**

ALBANY — With no state budget deal in sight, lawmakers were trying Monday to delay the state school budget voting day from May 20 to June 3.

A measure to do so passed the Assembly on Monday, 144 to 0. But Gov. George Pataki said he would veto it, and the Senate did not take it up.

Despite the veto threat, the Assembly vote appeared a victory for the Fairport Central School District, which has created a statewide stir by vowing not to hold a local budget vote unless Albany settles on a state budget first.

Superintendent William Cala has said it is unfair to ask local voters to approve school budgets when a lack of a firm state aid figure makes the property tax implications uncertain. But the state Education Department has threatened to remove Cala and school board members if Fairport follows through.

The Fairport stand "clearly got their attention in Albany," said Jody Siegle, director of the Monroe County School Boards Association.

Overall, however, negotiations over a new state budget slammed to a halt

SCHOOL, PAGE 6A

Midnight deadline looms for filing your tax returns

The clock is ticking. You have until midnight to file state and federal tax returns, or to file paperwork asking for an extension. The deadline also pertains to taxpayers who file electronically.

If you're struggling to meet the deadline, there's lots of help available. The local IRS office, its mobile van and hotline, and the main post office on Jefferson Road in Henrietta all have extended their hours and put on additional personnel to assist filers. □

STORY, 12D

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REGION

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SUMMER VISITS

83° 52°

Expanded Weather 6B

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Photos of Ice Storm 03

Images from the storm that plunged the region into darkness for a week. DemocratandChronicle.com scroll down to "Multimedia," click on image

