

WEATHER

Times of clouds and sunshine today with a shower or two, mainly in the afternoon. Variably cloudy tonight.



Complete report on 6C

58° 42°

TAX TIME

The deadline is today: Do you know where your tax forms are? Did you use the correct state forms?

Business / 8B

MEMORIES

Longtime Blazers statistician John Simmons shares his sports memorabilia.

Sports / 1B

Preparing for prom

Life / 1D

Statesman Journal

Tuesday
April 15, 2003

StatesmanJournal.com

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Widely used chemical studied

PFOA is used to make Gore-Tex and Teflon cookware.

BY ERIC PIANIN
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Environmental Protection Agency launched an expedited investigation Monday of a chemical compound widely used for decades in manufacturing Teflon-coated cookware, water- and stain-resistant clothing, cosmetics and scores of other products.

The tests are to determine whether the chemical, perfluorooctanoic acid, or PFOA, poses a serious risk to women of child-bearing age and young girls.

PFOA is toxic and persistent in the environment and has been detected at low levels in the bloodstreams of the vast majority of humans tested for it.

There has been growing concern about the effects of this compound for several years, but Monday's announcement suggested that the government is taking the problem more seriously and eventually might regulate the chemical.

EPA officials became highly concerned late last year after reviewing a study by 3M, which once manufactured PFOA. It found that laboratory rats exposed to the synthetic chemical lost weight and experienced delayed sexual maturation, and that an inordinate number of their offspring died prematurely.

PFOA also has been linked to testicular, liver and pancreatic cancer in animals, and EPA officials will investigate whether the chemical may be carcinogenic in humans.

Until recent years, the EPA paid scant attention to the chemical, which is used to produce such brands as Teflon, Stainmaster, Scotchgard and Gore-Tex, despite environmentalists' warnings that it eventually might rival DDT, PCBs and dioxin as a dangerous global chemical contaminant.

Last major Iraqi city falls



DAVID GUTTENFELDER / The Associated Press

ARRESTED: U.S. troops arrest a group of men Monday in Baghdad who were accused of driving a vehicle with weapons and attempting to ambush U.S. forces. U.S. troops and Baghdad residents said the men were non-Iraqi Arab fighters.

American military leaders say the big battles are over but that the war is not.

BY TONY PERRY
AND JOHN DANISZEWSKI
Los Angeles Times

TIKRIT, Iraq — U.S. Marines on Monday captured Tikrit, the last big target of the war and the center of power for Saddam Hussein's Ba'ath Party, as Pentagon officials declared that large-scale combat in Iraq was over.

"This is a day of emerging liberation for the people of Iraq," President Bush's spokesman, Ari Fleischer, said in Washington, D.C. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's spokeswoman, Victoria Clarke, declared: "The (Saddam) regime is at its end."

In London, British Prime Minister Tony Blair told Parliament that "the cause was just, the victory right."

Sniper fire and mortar attacks in Tikrit persisted into the night, but the Marines said Saddam's Republican Guard chose to flee rather than fight. Brig. Gen. John Kelly, assistant commander of the 1st Marine Division, said the Guard no longer existed as a combat force and that most Iraqi paramilitary fighter groups had disbanded.

The Air Force and Navy began sending planes and ships home, including the four B-2 stealth bombers that flew wartime missions; several strike aircraft, including stealth fighters; and two of the five aircraft carrier battle groups that have been engaged in the war. Also headed home were two attack submarines that had joined cruisers and destroyers in firing 800 cruise missiles into Iraq.

The capture of Tikrit on the 26th day of the war gave military officials a distinct sense of relief, moderated by the likelihood that sharp, smaller, close-in firefighting would continue for days in scattered parts of Iraq. The officials said ongoing hostilities might include suicide

Oregon guardsmen prepare to ship out

The soldiers, many from the Salem area, will head to the Middle East.

BY CAPI LYNN
Statesman Journal

Parents, wives, siblings, aunts, uncles and friends had hoped this day would never come for the 1st Battalion, 162nd Infantry.

"Maybe they won't go," Diane Moorehead said last week. "That's in the



Moorehead

back of our minds."

It doesn't look like she and her husband, Ken, will get their wish.

On Monday, the day the Pentagon said large-scale combat in Iraq had ended and that some U.S. forces were headed home, their 23-year-old son is doing some last-minute packing for the Middle East.

Sgt. Matthew Moorehead and the rest of his Oregon National Guard unit are scheduled to leave Wednesday from Fort Carson, Colo.

His parents have been dreading the news.

Their emotions have been spared before, as previous departure dates have been postponed, rescheduled and postponed again, but this time, it looks to be the real deal.

Soldiers from the 1/162 — many from the Salem

area — essentially have been packed and ready to go for three weeks, eager to leave a place where they have been training non-stop since Feb. 15.

They finally will get their wish, to the chagrin of family members and friends.

Some of the battalion's key leadership and logistics personnel — a group of fewer than 30 soldiers — departed Monday for the Middle East. A Fort Carson spokesman referred to the group as the advance party.

The main body of the unit is set to leave Wednesday, although loved ones may not believe it until it happens.

"They call and say they're going, and then they call and say they've changed it," said Donna Pence, whose son, Mike, is a sergeant. "It's so hard on the families."

Oregon National Guard officials said the 400-or-so-member battalion will

SEE GUARD / 2A

SEE TIKRIT / 2A

DATELINE

Genome map project hits a milestone

Scientists announced the formal completion of the human genome map Monday — a milestone that marks the end of the first chapter of the genetics revolution and the dawn of a second chapter: figuring out the meaning of it all.

The next challenge will stretch far into the decades to come: determining the function of all 3 billion DNA letters and understanding how those letters direct the growth, life, reproduction, disease and death of humans. **Story, 3A**

Civilian trial for Moussaoui gets nod from feds

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The Justice Department said Monday that terrorism suspect Zacarias Moussaoui's rights can be protected in a civilian court, signaling that the government won't move the case



ALEX BRANDON / The Associated Press

SCHOOL SHOOTING: Students at a New Orleans high school console one another Monday after one student was killed and three injured in a shooting. Police arrested four suspects. **Story, 3A**

to a military tribunal.

The move comes in response to a judge's comments about the government's "shroud of secrecy" toward Moussaoui. **Story, 5A**

Budget crisis hits community colleges hard

The Oregon budget crisis has hit Chemeketa Community College hard. Classes are overflowing

even as enrollment has decreased. Jobs and 350 courses have been cut. The college has proposed a 25 percent tuition increase.

Take a closer look at how community colleges lobby for funding, often behind the scenes and in the shadow of K-12 education. **Story, 1C**

As part of the same series, the Statesman Journal reruns a page about the school budget process that was misprinted Sunday. **Stories, 6A**

Tobacco funds still flowing

An Illinois judge's ruling leaves some states relieved.

BY ALEX DAVIS
Statesman Journal

Some state officials breathed a sigh of relief Monday after an Illinois judge issued a ruling that allowed national tobacco settlement payments to continue uninterrupted.

Oregon lawmakers and budget experts had worried in recent weeks that tobacco giant Philip Morris might seek bankruptcy protection, thus canceling or delaying a nearly \$30 million payment due today to the state.

"It's very good news," said Kevin Neely, spokesman for Attorney General Hardy Myers. "That's obviously the big question that's been looming over the heads of all 46 states" linked to the settlement.

The judge's ruling, in the southwest Illinois city of Edwardsville, requires Philip Morris to post a \$6 billion appeal bond for a lawsuit judgment. Company

officials said the initial bond of \$12 billion would be financially crippling and would threaten today's \$2.6 billion payment to the 46 states.

Oregon already has received more than \$250 million from the 1998 settlement. Lawmakers are counting on another \$450 million in tobacco money over the next decade to help plug revenue shortfalls.

State Rep. Lane Shetterly, R-Dallas, said the status of the tobacco settlement is of key interest to the House Revenue Committee, which he chairs.

"This, of course, is money that we are already counting on," said Shetterly, R-Dallas.

The states involved in the settlement likely would have pursued legal action against Philip Morris if the company had tried to halt the payments. Three other tobacco companies in the settlement play a smaller financial role. They were scheduled to send a combined payment of about \$20 million to Oregon today.

Salem widower still awaiting judgment

The estate of Michelle Schwarz is due \$100 million.

BY ALEX DAVIS
Statesman Journal

Richard Schwarz observed his wife's birthday Sunday, nearly four years after she died of lung cancer.

The retired neurologist sat in his West Salem home, sipping cognac and listening to a recording of the couple's favorite songs.

The quiet memorial unfolded more than a year after a Portland jury required Philip Morris to pay \$150 million in punitive damages to the estate of Michelle Schwarz.

The figure, later reduced to \$100 million, still stands as one of the largest judgments ever for a tobacco lawsuit by an individual.



Schwarz

The company also was ordered to pay \$168,000 in compensatory damages. But Schwarz maintains that his motive isn't personal gain. He wanted to send a message to the domestic branch of the world's largest cigarette maker.

"I feel frustrated that we can't try them in criminal court for manslaughter," he said. "I'd prefer that to money."

The Schwarz case is one of hundreds of tobacco lawsuits grinding through a complicated maze of legal precedents, motions and appeals.

SEE TOBACCO / 2A

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A Gannett newspaper
© 2003 Printed on recycled paper.
Vol. 152, No. 17