

Orange County's information source since 1905 • Visit us at www.ocregister.com



BASEBALL

THE CURSE IS OVER

RED SOX WIN FIRST WORLD SERIES SINCE 1918

SPORTS

Jumping for joy over October snow



PHOTOS: CINDY YAMANAKA, THE REGISTER

MOUNTAIN HIGH: Taking a "flying squirrel" jump Wednesday from the snack bar area to the ski lift are, from left, James Honey, 21, of Phelan (in yellow); Curtis Hill, 19, of Palmdale; David Helble, 20, of Lancaster; Scott Kelly, 31, of Los Angeles; Brittany Farris, 15, of Apple Valley.

20 inches of snow hits mountains

Mountain High opened its ski and snowboard season Wednesday, and resorts in Big Bear planned to open Friday and Saturday as a rare October snowstorm dumped up to 20 inches on the ski areas. Northern California resorts are also benefiting from the early-season snowfall. **Story on Sports 15**

Making tracks in Southern California

- Bear Mountain: Opens Friday. Snow Summit: Opens Saturday. (888) 786-6481
- Mountain High: Opened Wednesday. (888) 754-7878
- Mount Baldy: Considering opening this weekend. (909) 981-3344



Orange County gets record October rainfall

Nearly 7 inches of rain has fallen in Santa Ana this month, smashing the record set in 1934. The wettest spot during the most recent storm was Santiago Peak, which was doused by 5.98 inches of rain. Showers could fall today, but the weekend should be sunny. **Details on Local 1 and 10**

For breaking news, go to:
www.ocregister.com

THIS SECTION

Klaas family split on 'three strikes' reform

Politics • Prop. 66, the initiative to reform "three strikes" sentencing for repeat offenders, has set Marc Klaas, a victims-rights advocate and the father of kidnap and murder victim Polly Klaas, against his father, Joe, a champion of the ballot proposition. **News 16**

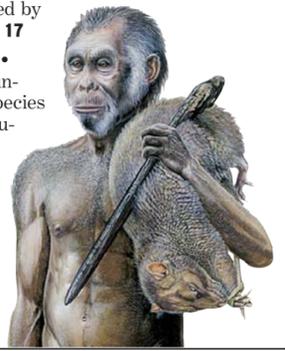
NATION & WORLD

Officer doubts cache charges

Weapons • A commander whose troops first captured the explosives site in Al-Qaqa said it is highly improbable the enemy could have taken the missing material without being detected by U.S. forces. **News 17**

Archaeology

Scientists have unearthed a new species of hobbit-sized humans that may have lived as recently as 12,000 years ago, sharing the Earth alongside modern-day man. **News 17**



LOCAL

Trying to ID militant speaker

Terrorism • The FBI wants to know whether a former Santa Ana resident threatened a 9/11-style attack in a newly discovered videotape. **Local 2**

Education • Orange County's teachers of the year and dozens of nominees were honored. **Local 1**

BUSINESS

Ease in oil supply propels Dow

Wall Street • Stocks rallied with the Dow index back above 10,000 after a reported rise in crude-oil inventories caused the price per barrel to fall to \$52.46, just two days after hitting an all-time high of \$55.67. **Business 1**

WINE & FOOD

Making food look good on film

Presentation

Appetizing food shots are painstaking products of skilled stylists and photographers. **Wine & Food 1**

A lively Day of the Dead

If that Halloween party you're planning seems more ho-hum than scary, consider giving it a twist with a *Día de Los Muertos* theme. **Wine & Food 1**



LIFE, ETC.

Strictly ballroom in O.C.

Dance! Dance! Dance! • Many have known the secrets spelled out in the film "Shall We Dance?" for years. **Life, etc. 1**

The power of hip-hop • What started on the street 25 years ago has grown into a global phenomenon. **Life, etc. 1**

Index

- Comics • Life, etc. 10-11
- Crossword • Life, etc. 10-11
- Deaths • Local 6
- Dear Abby • Life, etc. 9
- Lottery • Local 1
- Stocks • Business 9-11
- Weather • Local 10

Weather

Today ☀ 64° 68°
COAST INLAND
Tonight ☁ 54° 45°

The Orange County Register is a Freedom Communications newspaper. Copyright 2004
Customer service toll-free 1 (877) OCR-7009 [627-7009]
Read us online www.ocregister.com



Ailing Arafat remains in 'very difficult situation'

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RAMALLAH, WEST BANK • Yasser Arafat collapsed Wednesday night, was unconscious for about 10 minutes and remained in a "very difficult situation," Palestinian officials said. Jordanian doctors were on their way to treat the ailing Palestinian leader.



Yasser Arafat

MORE ON NEWS 17 & 22

A Palestinian official in Arafat's office said Arafat had created a special committee of three senior officials to run Palestinian affairs while Arafat was incapacitated. But other Palestinian officials denied that.

Arafat was eating soup during a meeting with his predecessor, Mahmoud Abbas, Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia and another official when he vomited, said a bodyguard. Arafat,

75, was taken to the clinic inside his compound, where he collapsed and was unconscious for about 10 minutes, the guard said. His doctors were urgently summoned.

Arafat has been ill for two weeks. Palestinian officials speculated he might have stomach cancer, but two of his doctors said Wednesday that a blood test and a biopsy showed no evidence of cancer. On Tuesday, a hospital official said Arafat had a large gallstone.

ELECTION 2004

Charges fly over missing explosives

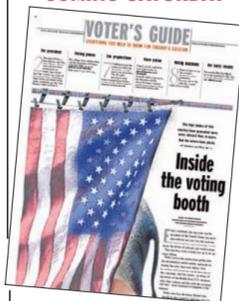
The candidates continued to hurl accusations over the explosives missing in Iraq, with President Bush accusing Sen. Kerry of "wild charges" and Kerry accusing Bush of "bobbing and weaving" on the issue. **News 6, 7**

MORE INSIDE

IN DEPTH NEWS 3 >> **ISSUES:** The Register examines the positions of President Bush and John Kerry on homeland security.

FLORIDA: Some voters are missing absentee ballots. **News 6**

COMING SATURDAY



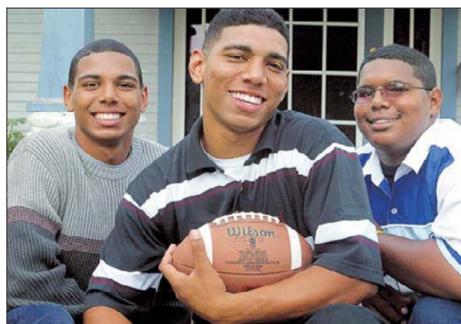
For online election information, see www.ocregister.com/voterguide

THE MORNING READ

A GAME KID

Fullerton's Xavier Hicks busts all the myths about what O.C. football, and success, are about.

By **JEFF MILLER**
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER



DIANDRA JAY, THE REGISTER

FULLERTON
You're not going to be surprised, OK? Tell yourself that right now. What you must remember while meeting Xavier Hicks—perhaps the best high school football player around, and a kid who's much more, too—is that the most extraordinary thing about his story is just how ordinary so much of it really is.

The face of the O.C. quarterback? It's Carson Palmer, right?

Or Matt Leinart? Winning the Heisman Trophy one year, an NCAA co-championship the next. Prepped for stardom at a south-county football factory, or maybe Mater Dei or Los Alamitos?

HIGH PRAISE: Fullerton High School senior Xavier Hicks, 17, is flanked by his brothers Michael, 16, left, and Randall, 13.

SEE HICKS • PAGE 10

Council slate takes aim at Placentia rail fix

But incumbents defend expensive project to put tracks under street level.

By **MARTIN WISCKOL** and **HEATHER McCREA**
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

PLACENTIA • Train tracks put Placentia on the map nearly a century ago, and some boast of the glory they'll bring the bedroom community once more, with plans for a new passenger depot surrounded by a blend of revitalized old-town charm and new urbanism.

But first, there is the threat of scandal and financial insolvency, a crisis at the center of next month's city elections. A crisis brought on by that same railroad.

The troubles begin with the ever-in-

SEE RAIL • PAGE 4