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CURSE? WHAT CURSE?

It has happened, and all that other stuff is history

By Bryant Carpenter
Record-Journal staff

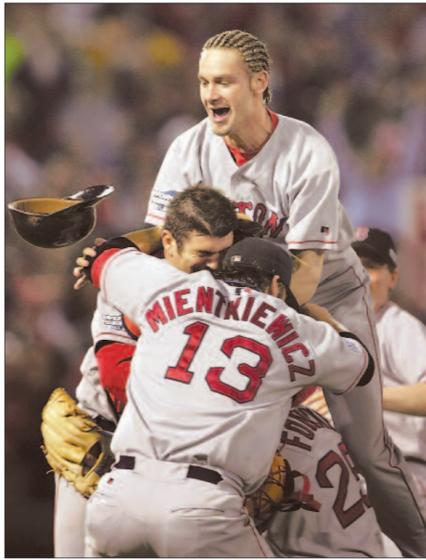
Let the hearts of the grandfathers, the fathers, the sons and the daughters pound — POUND — across Red Sox Nation.

Let the mocking chants of "1918" and talk of curses rest in peace.

All that is dead. All that is buried. All that is washed away in champagne and midnight endings that beat even the fairy tales.

The Boston Red Sox are World Series champions. It has happened in our lifetime.

On a night when the full moon went in and out of eclipse, the baseball universe fell into a new



Red Sox teammates Bronson Arroyo, Jason Varitek, Doug Mientkiewicz and Keith Foulke celebrate Wednesday night after winning the World Series in four straight games against the St. Louis Cardinals. The Red Sox last won baseball's championship in 1918.

Sports, page 19.

Associated Press

RED SOX WIN SERIES



The baseball gods smiled again on star-crossed Boston ... and the Red Sox shut out the St. Louis Cardinals 3-0 Wednesday night in Busch Stadium to complete a four-game sweep.

Eighty-six years of ultimate victory eluding one team's grasp was surehandedly sent packing when closer Keith Foulke snared Edgar

| | |
|-----|----------------------|
| RHE | YANKEES |
| 1 | C. WITT |
| 11 | 3 ^d DUGAN |
| 1 | R. RUTH |
| 1 | L. PIPPER |
| 12 | L. R. MEISEL |
| 1 | C. SCHANG |
| 2 | W. WARD |
| S | S. SCOTT |
| P | R. RIISH |

In olden times, you could always watch the Series on the Playograph. **Page 11.**

Renteria's comebacker and threw so calmly, so smoothly to Doug Mientkiewicz at first base for the final out.

Eighty-six years after 1918, there would be no repeat of the 1986 heartbreak.

New century, new mojo. No hauntings, no ghosts. If they re-

Please see **Red Sox / 4**

Governor delivers money to raze Hub

\$2m grant will kick-start project

By Paul Hughes
Record-Journal staff

MERIDEN — The signs of a downturn on the mend were visible Wednesday as Gov. M. Jodi Rell announced a \$2 million state grant to demolish the Meriden Hub at a mid-day news conference.

Workers repairing a roof on a building on Colony Street could look down on the check-passing ceremony on the nearby Hub property. Across from the spot where Rell, 5th District U.S. Rep. Nancy L. Johnson and a cadre of city leaders stood, another work crew was preparing to pour a new concrete sidewalk on Pratt Street.

"Today is an active day in the city of Meriden. We could not have set it up any better down here," Mayor Mark D. Benigni said. "We have the sidewalks going in across the street. There are some people on the roof fixing a building on Colony Street."

And, in the near future, wrecking crews will be demolishing the boarded-up Hub, thanks to the grant that Rell announced Wednesday and a \$150,000 federal grant that Johnson secured earlier.

"Medium-size cities, just like Meriden, are important to our state's economy, and we need to do all we can to address their immediate needs and help in revitalizing their urban centers," Rell said.

The demolition of the Hub repre-

Please see **\$2m grant / 4**

Photo of Titan mystifies scientists



European Space Agency / Associated Press

A purple haze, photographed by the Cassini spacecraft, surrounds Saturn's moon Titan.

By John Noble Wilford
New York Times News Service

PASADENA, Calif. — Scientists are delighted, fascinated and thoroughly perplexed by the Cassini spacecraft's first close-up pictures of Titan, the smoggy giant moon of Saturn.

"We are still mystified and not quite sure what we are looking at," Carolyn C. Porco, leader of the Cassini imaging team, said at a news conference Wednesday at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory here.

On the spacecraft's approach within 728 miles of Titan on Tuesday, its cameras were able to see through the moon's opaque atmosphere of haze and smog and snap hundreds of pictures that revealed vast stretches of landscape never seen before, in-

Please see **Saturn's moon / 4**

Sky Party eclipses mundane concerns



Mike Ross / Record-Journal

Benjamin Egan, 8, of Southington, watches the start of Wednesday's lunar eclipse through a telescope that was built by Julian Shull, left, at DePaolo Middle School in Southington. Behind Benjamin is his father, Peter.

By Martha-Anne Hawley
Record-Journal staff

SOUTHTON — Eight-year-old Benjamin Egan pulled away from the telescope and, after expressing his awe, told his father his eye was watering. He had been looking at an edge of the bright, white moon through a telescope.

Benjamin was at the Total Lunar Eclipse Sky Party at DePaolo Middle School Wednesday night with his parents and sister. The Sky Party was sponsored by Southington schools' gifted and talented program, Project Discover, in conjunction with the Astronomical Society of the Greater Hartford Area and town resident, Julian Shull.

"We're interested in science and astronomy," Peter Egan, Benjamin's father, said.

"It was really cool," Benjamin added.

The evening began with a talk by Shull, explaining both lunar and solar eclipses. Then, Project Discover students along with their families, friends and the general public were led out to the athletic field where six members of the society had each set up a telescope. Many of the telescopes were homemade.

Shull's telescope, a Newtonian telescope build on a Dobsonian mount, took him six months to make, he said.

"We're looking at the moon and maybe a planet or two, if we're lucky,"

Shull said. He hosts the Sky Parties on a voluntary basis.

Project Discover II teacher, Trish Kenefick, said that, in the past, the parties were open only to Project Discover students but have grown to include families, students not in the gifted and talented program and other members of the public. She said she had received 50 RSVPs for Wednesday night and was overwhelmed when more than 50 showed up.

"I think it's because of the lunar eclipse," Kenefick said. "Each year, there are more and more (people) because the kids get excited. ... I'm so excited."

Please see **Sky Party / 4**



Today: Mostly sunny, high in the mid-50s, low tonight in the low 30s.

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Associated Press

A cast taken from from a skull believed to be that of a new species, left, is seen at London's Natural History Museum.

Scientists find remains of little people, a species apart, on remote island

By Nicholas Wade
New York Times News Service

Once upon a time, but not so long ago, on a tropical island midway between Asia and Australia, there lived a race of little people, whose adults stood just 3.5 feet high. Despite their stature, they were mighty hunters. They made stone tools to spear giant rats, clubbed sleeping dragons and hunted the packs of pygmy elephants that roamed their lost world.

Strangest of all, this is no fable. Skeletons of these miniature people

have been excavated from a limestone cave on Flores, an island 370 miles east of Bali, Indonesia, by a team of Australian and Indonesian archaeologists. Reporting their find in today's issue of Nature, they assign the people to a new human species, Homo floresiensis.

The new finding is "among the most outstanding discoveries in paleoanthropology for half a century," say two anthropologists not associated with the study, Dr. Marta Mirazon Lahr and Dr. Robert Foley of the University of Cambridge, in a written commentary in the same is-

sue.

The little Floresians lived on the island until at least 13,000 years ago, and possibly to historic times. But they were not a pygmy form of modern humans. They were a down-sized version of Homo erectus, the eastern cousin of the Neanderthals of Europe, who disappeared 33,000 years ago. Their discovery means that archaic humans, who left Africa 1.5 million years earlier than modern people, survived far longer into recent times than was previously

Please see **Little people / 4**

