



RED SOX WIN WORLD SERIES

Jason Varitek (left) and Boston reverse the curse, sweep St. Louis for 1st title since 1918 — SPORTS, D1

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WESH-TV

Victoria Velez's stroller is seen after a crash in Winter Park killed her 5-year-old sister Wednesday.

Motorist runs light, kills girl, police say

The victim's 2-year-old sister was listed as critical after the Winter Park crash.

By AMY C. RIPPEL and LISA EMMERICH
SENTINEL STAFF WRITERS

A 5-year-old girl, walking alongside her mother and 2-year-old sister in a stroller, was struck and killed Wednesday afternoon as they crossed a busy Winter Park street when a sport utility vehicle ran a red light, authorities said.

The SUV, driven by Ashley Townsend, 22, of Tallahassee, threw the girls about 150 feet before it stopped, the Florida Highway Patrol said.

Witnesses told troopers that Townsend might have been talking on a cell phone when her 2003 Honda CR-V hit the family as they crossed busy Goldenrod Road.

Anjelica Velez was taken to Orlando Regional Medical Center by helicopter but later died. Her sister Victoria Velez was in critical but stable condition at ORMC, the FHP said.

Yamilka Velez, 28, the girls' mother, was not injured.

"She was pretty bad," Trooper Christopher Aguila said after trying to interview the distraught mother. "She just cried. I just did the best I could to comfort her."

Aguila said Victoria was in a coma with her mother at her bedside.

Velez and her two brown-haired daughters were on the west side of Goldenrod, at Bates Road, crossing the street at the crosswalk, Trooper Kim Miller said. Velez told investigators that she had a green light to cross.

Townsend ran a red light just as Velez pushed the stroller into the road, Miller said. Velez tried to pull the stroller

PLEASE SEE FATAL, A8

★ ★ ★ CAMPAIGN 2004: 5 DAYS TILL ELECTION DAY

Bush, Kerry exchange shots on explosives



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Supporters cheer for President Bush as he speaks Wednesday during a campaign rally at Lancaster Airport in Pennsylvania. 'I want to remind the American people, if Senator Kerry had his way, Saddam Hussein would still be in power . . .,' Bush said.

Florida early voting could top 2 million

By LISA EMMERICH and JASON GARCIA
SENTINEL STAFF WRITERS

More than 2 million Floridians will have cast their ballots before a single precinct opens at 7 a.m. Tuesday if the early and absentee voting blitz holds its current pace.

That is more than a third of all people who voted in the 2000 presidential election and almost 20 percent of the state's 11.4 million registered voters.

"I've never seen anything like it in the 15 years that I've been here," said Sharon L. Harrington, Lee County supervisor of elections. "Just think what it's going to be like on Election Day if it's like this for early voting."

With five days left to vote before Tuesday, about 1.4 million people already have made their choice.

At least 718,000 had taken advantage of Florida's new early-voting system by Wednesday, according to a survey by the *Orlando Sentinel* of 64 of the state's 67 counties, in-

PLEASE SEE VOTING, A19

Missing munitions become hot issue

By TAMARA LYTLE and JOHN KENNEDY
SENTINEL STAFF WRITERS

LITITZ, Pa. — President Bush on Wednesday labeled Sen. John Kerry a political opportunist making "wild charges . . . without knowing the facts" by blaming the White House for failing to secure 380 tons of explosives now missing from a munitions depot in Iraq.

"After repeatedly calling Iraq the 'wrong war' and a 'diversion,' Sen. Kerry this week seemed shocked to learn that Iraq was a dangerous place full of dangerous weapons," said Bush, drawing laughs from about 17,500 supporters at an airport rally in Pennsylvania's Lancaster County as he made his first public comments on the growing controversy.

Kerry, campaigning in Sioux City, Iowa, quickly fired back, saying the president was deceiving the nation and shunning responsibility for ongoing troubles in Iraq.

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ABSENTEE BALLOTS

• Group representing retirees urges rush mailing. | Page A19

U.S. SENATE RACE

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CHENEY, EDWARDS VISIT

• Rivals vie for undecideds in Central Florida. | Page A21

PART OF OUR FAMILY TREE? Story, Page A10

Scientists have uncovered the bones of a human dwarf species on the remote Indonesian island of Flores that existed between 95,000 and 18,000 years ago while modern humans rapidly developed elsewhere.

• **The best specimen found:** 1 tiny adult female, about 3 feet tall.

• **The implications:** The discovery questions conventional wisdom that modern humans began to crowd out other upright-walking species 160,000 years ago.

• **The skeptics:** Some researchers say the dwarf species doesn't belong in the genus *Homo* at all, even if it was a recent contemporary.

SOURCE: The Associated Press



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A skull of the newly discovered species (left) is smaller than a human skull.

ORLANDO SENTINEL

Wife summoned to Arafat's side

The Palestinian leader is said to be in poor health after a collapse.

By MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RAMALLAH, West Bank — An ailing Yasser Arafat collapsed Wednesday night, was unconscious for about 10 minutes and remained in serious condition. A team of Jordanian doctors was urgently summoned to treat the ailing Palestinian leader, whose wife headed to her husband's side from Paris.

An official in Arafat's office said the Palestinian leader had

created a special committee of three senior officials, including Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia, to run Palestinian affairs during the 75-year-old leader's continuing illness.

Other Palestinian officials, including his spokesman Nabil Abu Rdeneh, denied a temporary leadership group was formed.

The Palestinian leader was eating soup during a meeting with Qureia, former Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas and another official between 8 and

9 p.m. when he vomited, a bodyguard said.

Arafat was taken quickly to the clinic inside his Ramallah compound, where he collapsed and was unconscious for about 10 minutes, the guard said.

Palestinian officials soon descended on the sandbagged, partly demolished compound where Arafat has been confined for 2½ years. The officials milled about the

PLEASE SEE ARAFAT, A13



GETTY IMAGES

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, seen in this September photo, has been confined to Ramallah since 2002.

WEATHER



83 HIGH
Some afternoon clouds and hazy. Northeast wind. Low, 65.
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