

THE MORNING CALL

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2004 •

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Partly cloudy
58° | 34°
Forecast, B10

BRIEFING

THE BOSTON RED SOX beat the St. Louis Cardinals 3-0 Wednesday night to complete a four-game sweep of the World Series. It was the first Series title for the Red Sox since 1918. **A1**

PRESIDENT BUSH on Wednesday accused challenger John Kerry of taking political advantage of the disappearance of tons of high explosives in Iraq "without knowing all the facts." **A1**

AIR PRODUCTS AND CHEMICALS officials said Wednesday the company might sell part of its chemicals operations. The news tarnished otherwise solid earnings for the fourth quarter and full year. **A1**

DELTA AIR LINES' PILOTS UNION said late Wednesday it had reached a tentative agreement on concessions that could save the struggling carrier from bankruptcy. **A7**

A KIDNAPPED BRITISH AID WORKER made another plea for her life in a video aired Wednesday. She urged Britain to withdraw troops from the country as 800 British soldiers headed to Baghdad to bolster U.S. forces. **A9**

FOUR BRITISH CITIZENS released from U.S. detention in Guantanamo, Cuba, filed a lawsuit Wednesday alleging they were repeatedly abused during their two years in the prison camp. **A11**

THE KYOTO PROTOCOL overcame its final legislative hurdle in Russia when the upper house of Parliament ratified the global climate pact. **A11**

PROSECUTORS WON their first convictions in a case related to a wide-ranging corruption probe in Philadelphia that involved FBI wiretapping of city officials and their political supporters. **A14**

KAUFMAN'S WEDDING WORLD, whose sudden bankruptcy filing and closing last month stranded brides without dresses, will reopen Friday morning to liquidate its stock. **D1**

TODAY

in GO GUIDE



Poets use rhythm to spread word

Def Poetry Jam performers, fueled on the culture of the disenfranchised, get their message across at hip-hop speed. They're at Lehigh University on Sunday.

Gotcha, Babe! Sox are champs

Boston completes 4-game sweep to win first World Series title since 1918 and officially end Curse of Bambino.

By Jim Salisbury
Of Knight Ridder Newspapers

ST. LOUIS | In the end, nothing could stop the 2004 Boston Red Sox from accomplishing their mission, not the dangerous Anaheim Angels, not the historically superior New York Yankees, not the explosive St. Louis Cardinals, and certainly not some silly curse.

Climb to the top of Mount Washington and shout. Blare those horns out in Boston Harbor. Break out the bubbly and dance in the streets around Kenmore Square. Wake the Babe and tell him to find some other team to haunt.

The wait is over, Red Sox Nation. For the first time since 1918, your team stands atop the

baseball world.

The Red Sox completed a four-game World Series sweep of the Cardinals with a 3-0 win on Wednesday night at Busch Stadium.

The long dreamed about victory washed away 86 years of frustration, and once and for all exorcised the so-called Curse of the Bambino, the mythical hex that had tormented the Red Sox since they had sold the great Babe Ruth to the hated Yankees after the 1919 season.

The Red Sox took no chances — and no prisoners. They got it over with in four games with a stunning sweep of the Cardinals, who led the majors with 105 wins during the regular season.

The Cardinals never held a lead in the series and several of the big bats that helped them score the most runs in the National League this season never got untracked.

IN SPORTS

■ Complete Series coverage.

PAGES C1, C5



BOSTON RED SOX PLAYERS celebrate their World Series win over the St. Louis Cardinals in Busch Stadium. The Red Sox won their last eight postseason games in a row on their way to the Series crown.

Al Behrman Associated Press

ELECTION 2004

Bush: Kerry 'jumps to conclusions'



PRESIDENT BUSH greets backers at a campaign rally at Lancaster Airport in Lancaster County.

Pablo Martinez Monsivais Associated Press

President uses stop in Lancaster County to discuss Iraq explosives.

By John L. Micek
Call Harrisburg Bureau

LEWIS | President Bush on Wednesday accused challenger John Kerry of taking political advantage of the disappearance of nearly 380 tons of high explosives in Iraq "without knowing all the facts."

"A political candidate who jumps to conclusions without knowing the facts is not a person you want as your commander in chief," Bush said in

his first public comments about an incident that has been pushed front and center in the final days of a bruising campaign.

At a mid-morning rally at Lancaster Airport, Bush said U.S. military officials are

"now investigating a number of possible scenarios" on what happened to the munitions, "including that the explosives were moved before our troops

MORE INSIDE

■ Trends in three largest battleground states diverge. **PAGE A3**

BUSH **PAGE A4**

AT ISSUE: LEADERSHIP

'Gut feeling' could sway voters

Some might decide for candidate they believe is strongest leader.

Editor's note: This is the last in an occasional series on issues in the presidential race.

By Steve Wartenberg
Of The Morning Call

Harry Truman! Now there was a president who was a strong leader, at least in the eyes of Allentown's Walter Schmidt.

"He had the nerve to drop the bomb on Japan, and that

saved a lot of American lives," Schmidt said. "He had the nerve to fire General MacArthur; I don't know if he was right or wrong, but he had the guts to do it."

Schmidt, 75 and a registered Democrat, is unsure for whom he will vote Tuesday for president. But he said he is trying to find a little of "Give 'em Hell Harry" in



Picking the President

LEADERSHIP **PAGE A5**



HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON acknowledges the crowd after urging Democrats at a Montgomery County rally to help get out the vote. **Story, A3**



TERESA HEINZ KERRY told a rally in Allentown that her husband, John Kerry, would show an America that is 'strong but not threatening.' **Story, A3**

Air Products might sell portion of chemicals business

Company also plans job cuts as part of its measures to boost profits and productivity. Officials won't say how many positions could be lost or where they might be.

By Kurt Blumenau
Of The Morning Call

Air Products and Chemicals officials said Wednesday the company might sell part of its chemicals operations, which tarnished otherwise solid earnings for the fourth quarter and full year.

Operating income for the chemicals business, which accounts for one-quarter of Air Products' revenues,

dropped 9 percent in the quarter and 7 percent for the fiscal year. Both ended Sept. 30. Rising costs of raw materials and transportation played the largest part in the downturn.

Company officials believe they have taken steps, including price hikes, that will improve profit. But if those fixes do not work, Air Products will have to decide whether to sell off parts of its chemicals business, as it has done

with other, less profitable product lines.

"If we can't make the businesses successful, we will take other actions," Chief Financial Officer Paul Huck said in a conference call with analysts. "Our patience is not forever."

Air Products officials are also eyeing companywide job cuts as part of efforts to boost productivity and profits.

The Trexlertown company

wants to keep those cuts low-key. Officials said the layoffs will be made on a continuing basis and a small scale.

Air Products does not plan to publicly discuss the layoffs, or say how much they cost the company. Huck said Air Products is approaching the severance costs as an ongoing business expense rather than a one-time charge.

AIR PRODUCTS **PAGE A6**

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