

THE MORNING NEWS

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TODAY IN SPORTS
UA BREEZES TO WIN OVER MISSOURI STATE

SECTION C



THURSDAY
APRIL 19, 2007

50¢

SPRINGDALE ATTRACTION

City Splits Stadium Contracts

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE PICKS UP AS PLANS SOLIDIFY

By Steve Caraway

THE MORNING NEWS • SCARAWAY@NWAONLINE.NET

SPRINGDALE — Divide and conquer is Springdale's motto for the completion of its baseball stadium.

The city is dividing the building of the stadium and its infrastructure into six contracts, to keep construction on schedule. The city will be out a year's lease payment if the stadium isn't substantially completed by March 1. The leasing team, the Northwest Arkansas Naturals, is scheduled to pay the city \$325,000 per year for use of the stadium.

Splitting the contracts makes the construction go faster, said Patsy Christie, city director of planning and community development. "If we waited until we had all the plans and bid one contract, the construction still wouldn't be under way," Christie added.

Crossland Construction earned the site preparation bid, and is on schedule to be finished on deadline, the end of May, said Doug Swift, architect with HOK Sport, which designed the ballpark.

The contracts for widening Watkins and 56th streets next to the ballpark and building the parking lot are next scheduled for bid. When the contracts are awarded, the city will know the

figure it needs to hit to bring in the stadium within the budget.

A contract to connect the stadium with the city's sewer system and to expand the water lines will be handled by Springdale Water Utilities. The four contracts affecting the water utilities call for work to be completed by Nov. 19 or before.

The scoreboard also will be on a separate contract.

A bid for the general contract to construct the stadium could reach the City Council on June 12 with a notice to proceed given the next day, if the schedule holds up.

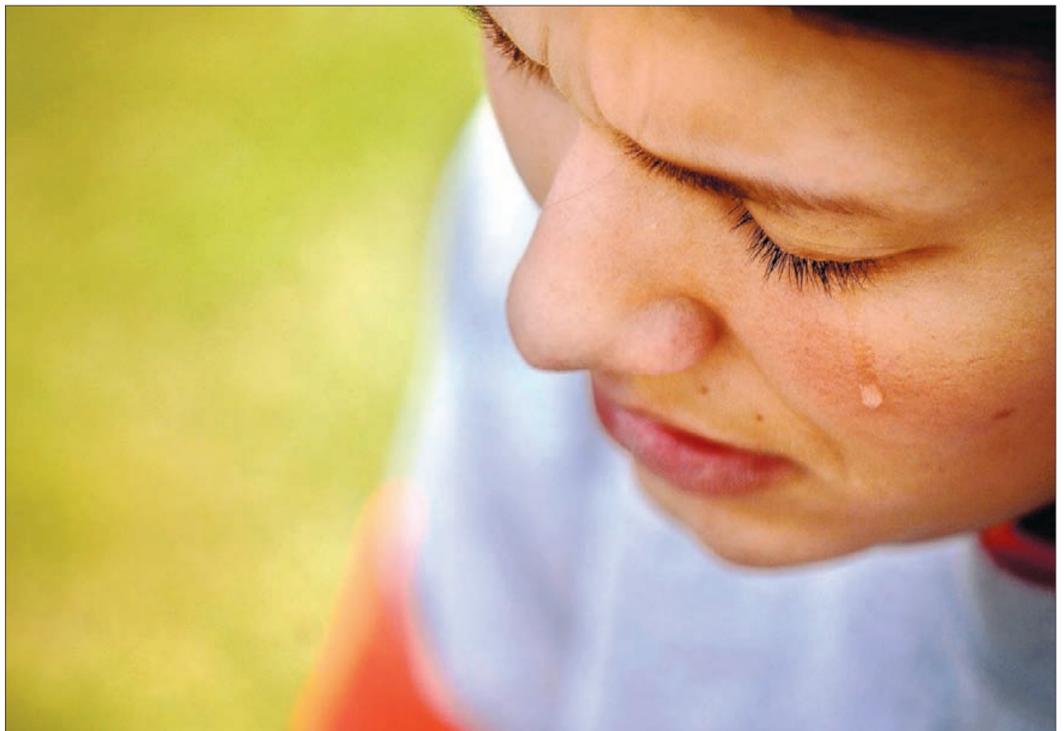
The city has a budget of \$34 million for the stadium, including site preparation and the parking lot. Once the contracts are awarded for the other portions of the project, the remaining money will go to the stadium.

"We've worked with HOK to identify some deductive alternatives," said Mayor Jerre Van Hoose. "Once we know how much money we have to work with, we can adjust the design to fit the budget."

If the parking lot bid comes in at or below the engineers' estimate, the design shown Wednesday to members of the City Council would fit in the budget.

SEE STADIUM PAGE 2A

A TIME TO MOURN



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ashley Renfrow, a Virginia Tech graduate student from Chesapeake, Va., sheds a tear while praying with friends during a prayer service Wednesday at the drillfield on the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg. A student gunman killed at least 30 students and teachers at the school on Monday.

Professor Sees Growing Trend

NUMBER OF STUDENTS WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES RISING ON CAMPUSES

By Elenor Chute

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE
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After 31 years of teaching English, Jim Vincent, an associate professor of English studies at Robert Morris University, has noticed a trend found on college campuses across the country: More students have mental-health issues.

Nowhere has that challenge played out so tragically as at Virginia Tech, where Cho Seung-Hui, a 23-year-old English major from South Korea, shot and killed 32 students and faculty

members as well as himself.

Cho may have been taking medicine for depression, was becoming more erratic and violent, and was referred to counseling after a creative-writing instructor found him "troubled," according to The Associated Press.

Campuses across the country have been working to try to identify and help students with mental-health issues.

A spring 2006 survey of nearly 95,000 students on 117 campuses paints this portrait:

• Nearly half of the students

SEE ISSUES PAGE 2A

AT A GLANCE

VIRGINIA TECH SHOOTING MEMORIALS

University of Arkansas students have several opportunities to offer condolences to the Virginia Tech community in the wake of Monday's deadly shootings.

Today and Friday

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Students can sign memorial banners at the Arkansas Union. Banners will also be available at residence halls.

Monday

9:15 a.m. Campuswide moment of silence.
8 p.m. Candlelight vigil at Fulbright Peace Fountain, between Old Main and Vol Walker Hall.

SOURCE: UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

VIDEO MANIFESTO CAPTURES KILLER'S RAGE

PAGE 1B

Controversial Author Shares Views

RUSHDIE, WHO PENNED 'THE SATANIC VERSES,' LECTURES AT UNIVERSITY

By Dan Craft

THE MORNING NEWS • DCRAFT@NWAONLINE.NET

FAYETTEVILLE — Salman Rushdie, a noted author and essayist, visited Fayetteville on Wednesday as part of the University of Arkansas' Distinguished Lecturer Series.

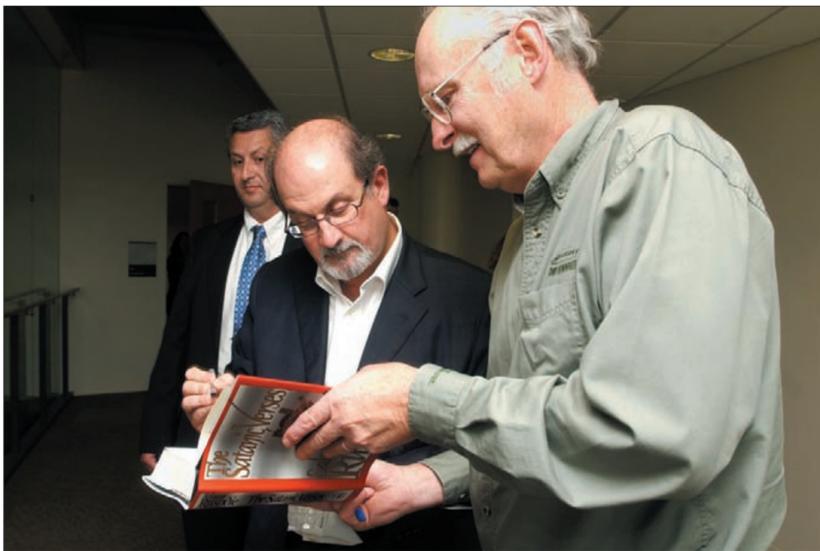
Rushdie, best known for the death threat issued against him in 1989 by the leader of Iran, spoke on the role of writers and fielded questions from university students in several appearances.

'Verses' And The Fatwa

Rushdie was already a published novelist when "a subplot in what's really a very funny novel about a Bombay movie star" prompted Ayatollah Kohemeni, the religious ruler of Iran, to issue a fatwa, or Islamic death sentence, for Rushdie.

Two factors put him in the spotlight, Rushdie said: Discontent in Iran over losing a war with Iraq meant Kohemeni needed a cause to rally his people, and Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses" had just been published.

"I guess it was too funny," Rushdie said. "If it had been



NEEMAH A. ESMAELPOUR • THE MORNING NEWS

Salmon Rushdie signs a copy of his book "The Satanic Verses" for local non-fiction writer Jack McQuarrie on Wednesday at the University of Arkansas Law School. Rushdie was in Fayetteville to speak about the role of writer's in today's society.

scholastic and theological, it would have been too boring to upset anybody."

He recounted the phone call from a British Broadcasting Corp. journalist.

"He said something to the effect of, 'The ayatollah has ordered a death sentence for you. Do you care to comment,'" Salman Rushdie said.

Rushdie remembers his

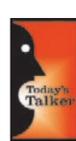
first words, but they can't be printed in a newspaper. They got a chuckle out of about 150 University of Arkansas students, though.

SEE AUTHOR PAGE 2A

GETTING STARTED

IN THE NEWS

New Diapers Offer 'Green' Alternative



Bags of sopping, smelly diapers have long been an occupational hazard of parenthood, not to mention a mainstay of landfill tonnage and laundry loads. Now there's a flushable diaper on the market that hopes to make rank diaper pails a thing of the past and help save the planet as well.

FULL STORY, 3B

Giving Up Books Not Easy



NEW YORK — When Sandra Wilde decided it was time to downsize, she had no trouble giving away jewelry, linen and clothing. It was parting with her books that proved to be painful, if not impossible.

FULL STORY, 1E

Siloam Springs Chamber Makes Move

The Siloam Springs Chamber of Commerce is leaving the historical house on University Street that has been its home for almost 20 years and moving to a more practical location just across the street.

FULL STORY, 1D

Kaluder's Future Bright

FAYETTEVILLE — When Ela Kaluder completed her freshman year with the Arkansas women's tennis team, Lady'Back coach Michael Hegarty already had a good idea of what to expect from her as a sophomore. Hegarty wanted a nationally competitive player — and, well, he got one.

FULL STORY, 4C



INDEX

THE MORNING NEWS

Volume 13, Number 165, 58 Pages
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Business	Section D	Nation & World	Section B
Classifieds	Section F	Region & State	7A
Comics	4-5E	Sports	Section C
Crossword	3E	Your Home	Section E

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