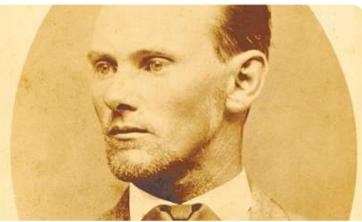




DAYS OF PAIN AND GLORY FOR CHREBET IN SPORTS, PAGE 61

TAKING AIM AT JESSE JAMES

NEW FILM DEBUNKS MYTHS — IN TODAY, PAGE 25



The Star-Ledger

4EX59+

FINAL EDITION

TODAY'S FORECAST: Patchy morning fog, then mostly sunny and warm.



at 7 A.M. 63°

at 2 P.M. 78°

at 7 P.M. 76°

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THE NEWSPAPER FOR NEW JERSEY

A CIVIL RIGHTS PHENOMENON



Pedro Fernandez, 16, of New Brunswick is among about two dozen people marching yesterday in New Brunswick in support of the 'Jena Six' in Louisiana. Below, racial tensions were fueled when three nooses were hung from this tree in front of Jena High School.

ANDREW MILLS/THE STAR-LEDGER (above), MAVIS YORKS/NEWHOUSE NEWS SERVICE (below)

Internet galvanizes Jena, La., demonstration

BY HOWARD WITT CHICAGO TRIBUNE

JENA, La. — There is no single leader. There is no agreed schedule. Organizers aren't even certain where everyone is supposed to gather...



This will be a civil rights protest conjured out of the Ethernet, of a type that has never happened before in America — a collective national mass action...

Jackson, Sharpston and other big-name civil rights figures, far from leading this movement, have had to scramble to catch up. So, too, have the national media...

What could be one of the largest civil rights demonstrations in years is set to take place here today, when the Revs. Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton, Martin Luther King III, popular black radio talk-show hosts and other notables converge in Jena to protest what they regard as unequal treatment of African-Americans in this racially fractured Deep South town.

tating many black Americans for months. As formidable as it is amorphous, this new African-American blogosphere, which scarcely even existed a year ago, now comprises hundreds of interlinked blogs, and tens of thousands of followers who within a matter of a few weeks collected 220,000 petition signatures — and raised more

[See JENA, Page 10]

N.J. Guard faces major combat duty

Thousands to be deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan for 1-year assignment

BY WAYNE WOOLLEY AND JEFF DIAMANT STAR-LEDGER STAFF

The largest single deployment of soldiers to a combat zone in the modern history of the New Jersey Army National Guard could launch by the end of 2008 — more than a year earlier than state military officials initially expected.

Maj. Gen. Glenn Rieth, the state adjutant general, yesterday said nearly half of the state's 6,200 soldiers should expect a yearlong mobilization that would include deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan and begin in early 2009 at the latest.

Earlier this year, Pentagon war planners told state military officials to expect the call-up in 2010 or late 2009.

"It's been moved up," Rieth said yesterday at Fort Dix. "It's what the nation needs. . . . We're ramping up for what will be a major deployment."

The largest previous troop deployment for the National Guard in New Jersey since World War II came in 2005, when about 1,600 soldiers were called to Iraq.

Rieth said state officials expect to learn within the next month exactly where the troops will go this time and when the Pentagon expects them to arrive.

At least some of the soldiers who will go have already served in Iraq. Few said they were surprised by the sooner-than-anticipated mission because many commanders have been bracing them for that possibility in recent weeks.

"I knew there was another deployment coming," said Lt. Col. Joanne Martindale, a chaplain who served in Iraq in 2005. "Personally, I'm okay with another deployment. . . . But it's difficult."

"The hardest part is thinking about all the disruption to my

[See GUARD, Page 16]



NOAH ADDIS/THE STAR-LEDGER

Lt. Col. Joanne Martindale, at Fort Dix yesterday, is a chaplain who served in Iraq in 2005 and expects to return next year.

2 bikers stop trial with guilty pleas

BY NYIER ABDOU STAR-LEDGER STAFF

The trial of a Pagans motorcycle gang member charged with fatally shooting a man for wearing a rival Hells Angel shirt ended yesterday when the biker feared testimony was going against him and pleaded guilty.

William "Rodent" Martin, 35, of North Plainfield was two days into his trial in Somerville and worried about a possible life sentence when he asked his attorney, David Oakley, to seek a deal with the state.

"I know these considerations have been weighing heavily on him," Oakley told Superior Court Judge Edward M. Coleman.

Martin's buddy, Peter Ciarletta, 30, of Warren, also pleaded guilty yesterday to weapons charges in connection with the shooting, ending the joint murder trial. The men were charged with killing John Grover, 40, of Hillsborough — a local mechanic who didn't even own a motorcycle — on April 17, 2005.

Martin, clean-shaven and wearing a tie and long-sleeved, button-down shirt that covered numerous Pagans tattoos, told the judge that he and Ciarletta

[See PAGANS, Page 9]

She got the fish, not the glory

Accidental rule violation is costly to Neptune angler

BY JUDY PEET STAR-LEDGER STAFF

The fluke really was a fluke. Neptune nurse Monica Oswald's monster summer flounder — the largest fluke caught by rod and reel — has been disqualified for world record consideration by the International Game Fish Association.

Bye-bye fame. Immortality. Potential six-figure endorsements.

The 24.3-pound fluke that Oswald, an amateur angler, caught in August off the coast of Monmouth County was rejected not because she lied as the critics claimed — she passed a lie-detector test about whether she

caught it — or allowed the fish to be eaten by a wild animal.

Oswald, 45, was denied a place in the record books because, in the end, she broke a rule.

While reeling in the hulking specimen of the coveted saltwater fish, Oswald temporarily rested her pole on the rail of her boat. She volunteered that information to the IGFA — sort of the Olympic committee of the recreational fishing world — and was disqualified.

"It is unfortunate because it was an outstanding catch, but rules are rules and you

[See FISH, Page 11]

IN OTHER NEWS

Democrats fail on Iraq vote

The Senate blocked legislation designed to alter President Bush's Iraq policy, another loss for his Democratic foes. Page 17.



Dan Rather sues CBS over flawed Bush report

Dan Rather filed a \$70 million lawsuit against CBS and his former bosses yesterday, charging they made him a "scapegoat." Page 3.

LOCAL NEWS

TODAY

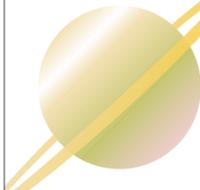
SPORTS

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Dad admits to teens drinking

Michael Barson of Glen Ridge pleads guilty, becoming the first parent in memory to be collared at a teen booze party in a town where parents have united to stop the late-night bashes. Page 37



World of Wonder's weighty subject

Our weekly science page explains gravity throughout the universe. So what's holding you down? Drop those crash-diet plans and move to Mars, where you'll weigh a whole lot less. Page 31

N.J. guy has plans for 'Bonds ball'

Fashion mogul Mark Ecco of Lakewood spent three-quarters of a million to buy the ball from Barry Bonds' record-breaking home run. But he's letting fans decide what to do with it. Page 61

New rules coming for drug makers

Congress has agreed to a compromise plan to beef up the Food and Drug Administration's drug safety authority and increase the fees paid by the pharmaceutical industry. Page 55

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