

Company turns favorite photos
into hip, one-of-a-kind artwork
HOME & FAMILY D1

Happy
Easter
SUNDAY APRIL 11, 2004

Yankees' struggles continue
in 7-3 loss to White Sox
SPORTS C1

The News-Times

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TODAY

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

With states embroiled in their own budget problems, now may be an especially good time to buy state-backed bonds.

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Violence continues in Iraq, Page A3

PERSPECTIVES



The settlement of the Sheff v. O'Neill lawsuit has inspired the state to fund programs that bring together students from rural, suburban and urban school districts in an effort to reduce the racial isolation that was challenged by the lawsuit.

B1

TRAVEL

The Alamo is an 18th-century Roman Catholic mission that became a 19th-century makeshift fort that became a 20th-century household name. Its history is large, but nowhere near as large as the legends it has perpetuated.

D5



The painful breakup of her marriage has taught "Alias" star Jennifer Garner that it's OK to be strong in some ways yet vulnerable in others.

WEATHER D4

HIGH 51 LOW 36

Occasional showers

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Iraqis reject Shiite leader

Baghdad improvements lauded by city council chief who wants peace

By Chipp Reid
THE NEWS-TIMES

The weeklong uprising of Shiite Muslims led by outlawed cleric Muqtada al-Sadr has Baghdad residents and U.S. soldiers alike spitting mad. "He is not an imam, not a Muslim," Hadnan Abdul Salih Hassan, chairman of the Baghdad City Council, said in

a telephone interview from Iraq. "He is a criminal and his followers are criminals and troublemakers. No one here supports them." Hassan lives in the al-Kamayah district, which borders Sadr City, the sprawling Shiite slum that is home to 2 million of Baghdad's 5 million residents. While Hassan said his own district "is very poor," it pales in comparison to the abject poverty of Sadr City. The Shiite area, originally known as Saddam City, had

almost no infrastructure when U.S. troops arrived in Baghdad last year. "They didn't have electricity or sewers, or if they did, they weren't official," said Master Sgt. William von Zehle of Ridgfield. "It is absolutely the poorest of the poor." When the U.S.-led coalition ousted Saddam Hussein last year, the Iraqis renamed the district Sadr City in memory of al-Sadr's father, who was a respected cleric. Saddam executed in 1995.

"The conditions there were just terrible when we arrived," said von Zehle, who spent a year in Baghdad with the Danbury-based 41st Civil Affairs Battalion. "They didn't have anything. If they wanted electricity, they would just tap into the mains and run a wire to their house. The same with the water. But even those lines weren't the kind of lines we would think of as being serviceable."



IRAQIS, PAGE A7

Muqtada al-Sadr AP

PASSIONATE ENDEAVORS



Deborah Nakano of Brookfield took three years to paint her interpretation of Michelangelo's Pieta. The News-Times/Carol Kaliff

Faith, time produce religious artwork

By Brian Saxton
THE NEWS-TIMES

BROOKFIELD — Michelangelo was only 23 when he began creating his marble masterpiece, The Pieta. Brookfield artist Deborah Nakano was 40 when she decided to emulate the master, and it took her three years of spiritual belief and determination to do

a single slab of stone depicts the Virgin Mary holding the body of her son, Jesus Christ, after his death, juggling her busy schedule as a mother, homemaker and part-time sales associate. Nakano has created her own interpretation in oils on canvas. "It's been a labor of love and a reflection of my lifelong faith," the 43-year-old Nakano said of her Easter-themed work. "It depicts the feeling of a mother's love for her children, to hold and

comfort them and to provide assurance that things will be all right." The Rev. Albert Audette of St. Peter Church in Danbury, who has seen Nakano's work, describes it as "a very personal interpretation" of the Blessed Mother. "This is a lovely and devoted artist's view of the Blessed Mother," Audette said. "I found it very sincere and a very

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Bryan Kellner, manager of Mercy and Truth Bookshop in Brookfield, shows off some of the Christian-themed computer games and board games for sale in his store.

Stores notice increase in sales of religious items

By David Levine
NEWS-TIMES CORRESPONDENT

Most video games that feature a sword-wielding warrior on the cover wouldn't be considered Bible-friendly, but "Saints of Virtue" is not a normal video game. These aren't normal times, either, which might explain an increased interest in religion and Jesus among consumers of both pop culture and more traditional religious items. The video game, in which players "don the armor

of God" to fight the "masks of humanity" is but one example of religious feeling influencing areas it would not have just a few years ago. "People see the conditions of the times in which we live and they see the godlessness and the ungodliness of the time," said John MacLean, founder of Mercy and Faith Ministries, the operator of Mercy and Truth Bookshop in Brookfield. "They're going to be making decisions. Are they

Lawmakers looking to mandate recess time

Area schools lag in recreation time for elementary students

By Fred Lucas
THE NEWS-TIMES

HARTFORD — Some state lawmakers want Connecticut's elementary school students to get more physical. The state House of Representatives has approved a measure that would require elementary school students to get at least 20 minutes of recess a day, or 100 minutes a week.

The proposed requirement seems modest. But at least three districts in the region — Danbury, Brookfield and Bethel — wouldn't meet that standard. Danbury would have to make the biggest change. The district schedules 60 minutes a week for elementary students, putting it among the bottom 10 percent of districts statewide.

Still, Danbury offers more recess than other urban districts, many of which have scaled back play time as they try to meet new academic standards set by the federal No Child Left Behind legislation. William Glass, Danbury's associate superintendent, said he has no problem with the intent of the proposed law, which still faces a vote in the Senate. "So many positive things happen on the playground," Glass said. "Social skills develop. Plus, we're facing a national epidemic of childhood obesity. Kids need a physical outlet to let off steam."

The proposed recess law, which would apply to students in kindergarten through fifth grade, also would require districts to give students at least 20 minutes a day to eat lunch. Additionally, it would require schools to make available dairy products, including low-fat products, water, pure fruit juices, and fresh and dried fruit. Glass and other educators have some misgivings about the state legislature telling districts how much time to set aside for play.

Montgomery, Ala., has taken orders from across the country for shirts and other souvenirs bearing the smiling mascot that serves as the team's logo — and the team doesn't even open its inaugural season until later this month. Contests are a common way to find team names. Danbury drew more than 500 suggestions for its new minor league baseball team. The name "Coyotes" was selected for the team, which has yet to play.

Picking a team name not all fun and games

By Jacqueline M. Domin
THE NEWS-TIMES

When Lansing, Mich., landed a minor league baseball team, residents were asked to come up with a name. Like Danbury's Jimmy Galante, they turned to local business for inspiration. The winner was the Lansing Lagniappe, for its tie-in to the Lansing automotive industry. Galante, meanwhile, had to look no further than his own company to come up with a name for the minor league hockey

team he's bringing to Danbury. He owns the AWD waste disposal company. The team name? The Trashers. The Trashers and Lagniappe have plenty of company in choosing unusual team names. Minor league hockey boasts the Amarillo Gorillas, the Cape Fear FireAnts, the Lubbock Cotton Kings



and the Odessa Jackalopes. Minor league baseball's ranks are filled with the Albuquerque Isotopes, the Winston-Salem Warbirds, the Tri-City Dust Devils and the Savannah Sand Grabs. A clever team name can create more than laughter — it can bring in big bucks. The Montgomery Biscuits, a minor league baseball team in

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