



High 36 | Low 26
Details **D8**
HOME FINAL ■ ■
50 CENTS

Rural unity

Appalachian churches celebrate their heritage | **FAITH & VALUES, C1**



Avalanche tops Blue Jackets, 1-0
SPORTS, F1

The Columbus Dispatch

FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2006

Mystery charges infuriate customers

Cell-phone users find extra items on bill via unsolicited offers

By **Monique Curet**
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Carroll Glynn's cell-phone bill included three \$10 charges that no one in her family could explain.

The Ohio State University professor finally traced them to a text-messaged sales pitch her 15-year-old son received but ignored.

The message was sent by a company that sells cell-phone content, such as ringtones. The company then began charging Glynn for services that no one in her family had requested or received, she said.

"He got nothing," she said of her son. "That was what was so strange."

Glynn tried calling the company but couldn't reach anyone. She spent two hours on the phone with T-Mobile, her service provider, before the charges were removed.

More customers like Glynn are wrangling with their cell-phone companies over such mystery charges.

The charges often involve solicitations that customers don't respond to or services that are initially offered free but later are converted to a subscription.

The company that was charging Glynn says it interacts only with customers who have initiated a relationship. Burton Katz, president of Buongiorno USA

See **CHARGES** Page **A4**

Red tape can be a workout for athletes

Overseas entrants often face obstacles reaching 'the Arnold'

By **Sherri Williams**
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

A preliminary weigh-in put Finnish powerlifter Sakari Selkainaho a few ounces above weight. It might have been a little water retention from his 12-hour flight.

It's a problem global competitors face after hours of traveling. It's also why Selkainaho, who competes today in the Arnold Sports Festival for the second time, arrived three days early to lose the weight and adjust to the time change.

The hours of travel and working and sweating off the ounces are worth it to compete in Columbus this weekend, said Selkainaho, who weighed in at 166 pounds.

"It is the highest-ranked competition by any standard," said Selkainaho, 43, who has been powerlifting for 30 years. "Everything is top-notch."

The festival has attracted

See **ATHLETES** Page **A4**

INDIAN MUSLIMS RAGE AT AMERICA



AJIAZ RAHI | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thousands gather in Bombay, India, to protest President Bush's visit. Bush announced what he called a "historic" deal on India's nuclear program.

A 'historic' nuclear deal

With accord in India, Bush heads to Pakistan

By **Elisabeth Bumiller** and **Somini Sengupta**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW DELHI — President Bush said a "historic" nuclear pact announced yesterday would help India satisfy its enormous civilian energy needs while allowing it to continue to develop nu-

clear weapons.

At the same time, Bush said that he was going forward with a trip to Pakistan today to meet with its president, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, despite a bombing yesterday morning outside a Marriott hotel and the U.S. Consulate in Karachi. The bombing, a suspected suicide attack, left four dead, including

an American diplomat.

U.S. officials said there was evidence the U.S. diplomat, foreign-service officer David Foy, was targeted.

"Terrorists and killers are not going to prevent me from going to Pakistan," Bush said at a joint news conference with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. "It's important to talk with President Musharraf about continuing our fight against terrorists."

Islamabad, Pakistan's capital, is

about 1,000 miles north of Karachi, but security is expected to be extraordinarily tight during Bush's visit.

In the nuclear deal announced yesterday, India agreed to permanently classify 14 of its 22 nuclear-power reactors as civilian facilities, meaning those reactors will be subject to international inspections for the first time.

The other reactors, as well as a pro-

See **DEAL** Page **A4**

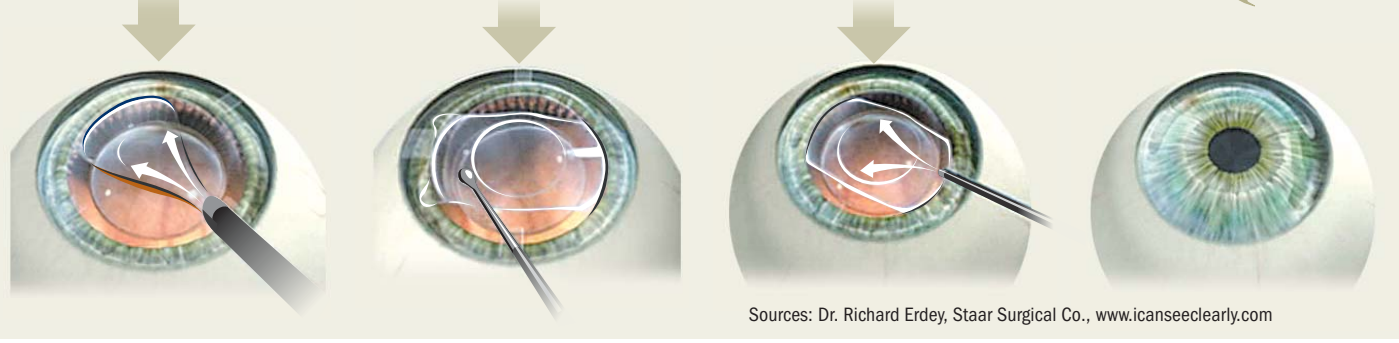
Implantable contact

A new option for nearsighted people, the Staar implantable contact lens, is billed as a permanent option for those who don't want to use contacts or glasses. The lens was approved by the Food and Drug Administration in December.

1. The patient's eye is dilated and numbed before the doctor makes a small incision and inserts the lens.

2. The lens, which sits between the iris and the natural lens, is tucked behind the iris with four tabs. After the doctor anchors the lens, it does not move.

3. The eye is constricted with a chemical. The surgery requires no stitches.



Sources: Dr. Richard Erdey, Staar Surgical Co., www.icanseeearly.com

AARON HARDEN | DISPATCH

Quick fix for nearsightedness

20-minute operation adds a permanent contact lens for instant vision upgrade

By **Misti Crane**
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Unless something was an inch or two from Esther Black's eyes, it was a blur. With glasses, her vision still wasn't terrific, and contacts irritated her eyes.

Black, an Ohio State University art student, said the quality of her prints — which often incorporate images of eyes — has suffered because of her impaired depth perception.

Yesterday, the 23-year-old was eager for a fix and became one of the first in the country to have a new type of permanent contact lens implanted in her right eye.

The lens, for people who are moderately to severely nearsighted, was approved by the Food and Drug Administration in December.

The surgery costs about \$3,500 per eye and is typically not covered by insurance.

A handful of ophthalmologists, including Dr. Richard Erdey, who performed Black's surgery and has studied the lens since 1998, have begun using it. By April, it is expected to be widely available.

The lens offers a surgical option for many who aren't good candidates for laser surgery, Erdey said.

Those with stronger prescriptions need to have more tissue removed during laser surgery and "it's not a good idea to push the limits," he said.

To implant the lenses, doctors make a small incision in the eye and insert a folded lens that opens up inside the eye.

It sits between the iris and the eye's natural lens. Once it's anchored, the lens does not move, is invisible and is supposed to last a lifetime.

Surgery takes about 20 minutes. Eyes are done separately, usually a week to a month apart.

Erdey, who works out of the East Columbus Surgery Center, said Black's

See **FIX** Page **A5**

FALSE ALARM AT OU

Oops ... This bike wasn't a pipe bomb

By **Jim Phillips**
FOR THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

ATHENS, Ohio — Ohio University police need to brush up on their obscure folk-punk bands.

An OU officer on patrol saw a bike in a busy area of campus early yesterday that sported a sticker reading, *This Bike Is A Pipe Bomb*.

Buildings were shut down. The Columbus Division of Fire's bomb squad drove down to investigate. Authorities used a high-powered water spray on the bike, and then pried it apart with a hydraulic device.

Hours later, police learned that the sticker referred to the Pensacola, Fla., band *This Bike Is A Pipe Bomb* and had nothing to do with the bike's contents.

The ordeal not only cost graduate student Patrick K. Hanlin his bike, but also earned him a misdemeanor charge of inducing panic.

The 28-year-old declined to

See **BIKE** Page **A4**



Senate OKs Patriot Act renewal with new safeguards

By Laurie Kellman
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Senate gave its blessing yesterday to the renewal of the Patriot Act after adding new privacy protections designed to strike a better balance between civil liberties and the government's power to root out terrorists. The 89-10 vote marked a

bright spot in President Bush's troubled second term as his approval ratings dipped over the war in Iraq and his administration's response to Hurricane Katrina. Renewing the act, Bush and congressional Republicans said, was key to preventing more terror attacks in the United States.

Bush applauded the Senate for overcoming "partisan at-

tempts to block its passage." The House was expected to approve the two-bill package next week and send it to Bush, who would sign it before 16 provisions expire March 10.

"This bill will allow our law-enforcement officials to continue to use the same tools against terrorists that are already used against drug dealers and other criminals, while safeguarding

the civil liberties of the American people," Bush said in a statement from India.

Critics held their ground. A December filibuster led by Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., and several libertarian-leaning Republicans, forced the Bush administration to agree to modest new curbs on the government's power to investigate library, bank and other records.

Feingold insisted those new protections are cosmetic.

"Americans want to defeat terrorism and they want the basic character of this country to survive and prosper," he said. "They want both security and liberty, and unless we give them both — and we can if we try — we have failed."

Some lawmakers who voted for the package acknowledged

deep reservations about the power it would grant to any president.

"Our support for the Patriot Act does not mean a blank check for the president," said Democratic leader Harry Reid, of Nevada, who voted to pass the bills. "What we tried to do on a bipartisan basis is have a better bill. It has been improved."

FIX

FROM PAGE A1

surgery went perfectly.

Another patient, Joan Paulino of Westerville, was more than eager yesterday to have her right eye fixed after a Baltimore doctor implanted a lens in her left eye in 1998 as part of the clinical trial.

"When (the lens) unfolds, instantly, at that moment, you have vision," said Paulino, 40, who described the procedure as painless.

Approval was slow as an FDA panel looked at potential complications and cited the manufacturer, Staar Surgical Co., a California company, for manufacturing problems at its plant. Risks include infection, glaucoma and cataracts.

The FDA approved a similar lens, called Verisyse, in 2004, but it requires a larger incision and is placed in front of the iris, rather than behind it. The lens has not gained much popularity

in the United States but has been more popular in Europe.

Dr. Jack Dingle, an ophthalmologist at the Eye Center of Columbus, said he and his partners have had patients waiting several years for the Staar implants.

"I think this is a big deal, and I'm a pretty conservative person," he said.

The implant is limited because it can correct only nearsightedness and is approved only for those with vision at a minus-3 level or worse.

Even in those who are candidates for laser surgery, the implants may be preferable because they eliminate the halo problem many LASIK patients experience at night, Dingle said.

Eventually, implants may expand to people with better vision and a similar product may be available for patients with an astigmatism. Staar is working on a lens for farsighted people, but it is less promising, Dingle said.

mcrane@dispatch.com

New video details despair, confusion among officials in Katrina's aftermath

By Lara Jakes Jordan
and Margaret Ebrahim

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — In the hectic, confused hours after Hurricane Katrina lashed the Gulf Coast, Louisiana's governor hesitantly but mistakenly assured the Bush administration that New Orleans' protective levees were intact, according to a new video showing briefings that day with federal officials.

"We keep getting reports in some places that maybe water is coming over the levees," Gov. Kathleen Blanco said shortly after noon on Aug. 29, accord-

ing to the video that was obtained last night. "We heard a report unconfirmed, I think, we have not breached the levee. I think we have not breached the levee at this time."

In fact, the National Weather Service received a report of a levee breach and issued a flash-flood warning as early as 9:12 a.m. that day, according to the White House's formal recounting of events the day Katrina struck.

The new video, which runs 45 minutes, details uncertainty and despair among state and local emergency response officials as they began chronicling the disaster that swept across

90 square miles in the Gulf Coast region.

Blanco spokeswoman Denise Bottcher said yesterday that "our people on the ground were telling us that there could be overtopping and breaching, but it was hard to tell" by the noon briefing.

Delays in confirming the breaches held up repair and allowed flooding to worsen

The video shows weather forecasters predicting the storm's path and also briefly cuts to White House deputy chief of staff Joe Hagin asking Blanco about the status of the levees and the situation at the Superdome in New Orleans.

By that time, an estimated 15,000 evacuees had gathered at the stadium, where food and water were beginning to run out, said Col. Jeff Smith, Louisiana's emergency preparedness deputy director. Smith also reported up to 10 feet of flooding in neighboring St. Bernard Parish and that there were 45 patients on life-support at one area hospital that lost its power.

Mississippi officials were reporting significant damage to hospitals, flooded and collapsed emergency operations centers and people trapped on the roofs who were begging for help.