

Ledger-Enquirer

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COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

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50 cents



Do you know . . .

Which star allegedly married a Georgia woman in 1953 and never got a divorce?

Which star was ordered by a judge to stop changing phone numbers?

Which star could be preparing for a criminal trial if there is sufficient evidence?

SEE PAGES A2, A5 FOR ANSWERS

- 1 Spencer 2 Shaw
- 3 Northside 4 Columbus
- 5 Troup 6 Kendrick
- 7 Harris Co. 8 LaGrange
- 9 Jordan 10 Hardaway

Carver's pursuit of PERFECTION

Carver beats Hardaway to finish 10-0 for the first time in its regular season

SPORTS, C1

Fed chief to Joint Economic Committee: Economic growth will slow significantly in coming months



Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke
BUSINESS, B5

Going for it all

For Brookstone, Pacelli fans, it's for the rivalry. For the teams, it's for the Broocelli Jug, bragging rights, most of all — the Region 4-A championship

STORIES, B1 AND C1

Coming attractions

This weekend is full of star power with the openings of the comedy 'Fred Claus,' thriller 'P2' and drama 'Lions for Lambs' today. **REVIEWS, D4**



Vince Vaughn



Rachel Nichols



Tom Cruise



Meryl Streep

TO DO TODAY

Concerts continue

The Uptown Concert Series continues at 7-10 p.m. in the 1100 block of Broadway with ColourSlide and singer/songwriter Matt Self. Colourslide is an alternative rock quartet from Gainesville, Fla. The show is free. Call 706-596-0111.

Today's Forecast

Mostly sunny and seasonable. High: 68. Overnight low: 43.

WEATHER, B8

INSIDE

- ARMY LIFE D1
- BUSINESS B5
- CLASSIFIED E1
- COMICS D6-7
- DEATHS B2
- EDITORIAL A8
- LEGALS B6
- LOCAL B1
- MOVIES D3
- PEOPLE A2
- SPORTS C1
- TELEVISION D3



Congress overrides \$23B water bill veto

Was a first in Bush's seven-year presidency

By RICHARD SIMON
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Congress delivered its first override of a veto by President Bush on Thursday, giving final approval to a \$23 billion bill that

authorizes water projects eagerly sought by lawmakers from both parties.

The Senate overwhelmingly voted to override the veto, 79-14, with a majority of Republicans and Democrats rejecting Bush's assertion that the bill was fiscally irresponsible. The House had voted to override the veto



Isakson

earlier this week.

"I have complete respect for the president of the United States, and I don't like to vote against him, but he's just wrong to veto this bill," said Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga.

The override vote is likely to intensify the battle between the White House and the Democratic-controlled

See VETO, Page A3

WHAT IT MEANS TO GEORGIA

The water resources bill would authorize \$127 million in state water infrastructure projects and a management study of watersheds of five state rivers, including the Chattahoochee River. Locally, more than \$24 million would go to municipal water, stormwater and wastewater infrastructure in LaGrange and Pine Mountain and \$7 million in Meriwether County.

Scenes from the desert



BARRY GOLDSTEIN Special to the Ledger-Enquirer

Two soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment of Fort Benning, are shown at Forward Operating Base Rustamiyah, eastern Baghdad.

In June and July, Barry Goldstein spent time in Iraq photographing and interviewing soldiers of Fort Benning's 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, part of the 3rd Infantry Division's 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team. The visit was the culmination of an 18-month project recording oral histories and portraits of Iraq war veterans that Goldstein plans to include in a book tentatively titled "Gray Land: Soldiers on War."

Every Friday through the rest of the year, Army Life will feature some of Goldstein's photographs from Iraq. Originally trained as a physician, he is associate professor of medical humanities at the University of Rochester Medical Center. He was artist-in-residence at the New York University Medical School on Sept. 11, 2001, an experience that led to his collection "Being There: Medical Student Morgue Volunteers Following 9/11." He lives in North Adams, Mass. You can see a slideshow of Goldstein's images from Iraq at www.bgoldstein.net/iraq.

TO SEE THIS WEEK'S INSTALLMENT, GO TO ARMY LIFE, D1

Testimony details baby's struggle, recovery from drug

Jury expected to begin deliberations

By ALAN RIQUELMY
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The woman accused of negligently allowing her 18-month-old girl to ingest cocaine used the drug, the defendant's mother testified Thursday in Superior Court.

Laura Beck also testified on the second day of the trial that her daughter, Amber Baxley, 19, tested positive for cocaine when she gave birth to another child in March.

The Columbus woman and her boyfriend, Jeremiah Linder, 26, are charged with second-degree cruelty to children, charges that stem from the night of April 21 at the couple's residence, Lot 431, 3150 Plateau Drive.

Beck collected the girl the next morning, though she became worried when the toddler hadn't moved for hours.

"I put her in the (bath) water and tried to wake her up," Beck said. "She had her hand laying on my hand. She was being unresponsive. That's when I called my

"What happened to (the child) should break all of our hearts, but we don't rule on emotion."

Susan Henderson, Amber Baxley's defense attorney

daughter and said we were going to the hospital."

"They said she tested positive for crack cocaine."

Beck also testified that Baxley's sister and her sister's boyfriend, who lived with Baxley and Linder, also used cocaine.

Latonya Kelly, with the Muscogee County Division of Family and Children Services, testified the girl is now in a therapeutic foster home in Atlanta. Looking at a picture of the girl, she said a mark over her right eye was a scar she got after she fell during a seizure.

"The child had a stroke and now she has seizures daily," Kelly said. "She did have 10 to 20 seizures

See BABY, Page A3

'TO CATCH A PREDATOR' STING

Tifton man found guilty, gets 13 years

Prison sentence followed by 12 years probation

By ALAN RIQUELMY
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Marvin Harrison Smith, the second of three men who have said they wanted a trial for their role in the Harris County "To Catch a Predator" sting, was found guilty of attempting to have sex with someone he thought was an underage girl.

The verdicts against Smith, 36, of Tifton came Wednesday afternoon after around 90 minutes of deliberations by a Dalton, Ga., jury at the conclusion of the three-day trial. He was found guilty of attempted child molestation, attempted enticing a child for indecent purposes and obstructing or hindering law enforcement officers.

Harris County Superior Court Judge Frank Jordan Jr. sentenced Smith to 13 years in prison, followed by 12 years probation, said Chief Assistant District Attorney Mark Post.

See GUILTY, Page A3

"I thought it was a wonderful verdict and a strong sentence. He was the worst of the worst."

Chief Assistant District Attorney Mark Post

THE VERDICTS against Marvin Harrison Smith, 36, of Tifton came Wednesday afternoon after around 90 minutes of deliberations by a Dalton jury at the conclusion of the three-day trial. Jurors found Smith guilty of attempted child molestation, attempted enticing a child for indecent purposes and obstructing or hindering law enforcement officers.