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- News | Stories
Newsfeatures | Stories
Page One | Stories
Sunday | Stories
Business | Stories
Sports | Stories
Op Ed | Stories
Lifestyle | Stories
Entertainment | Stories
Food | Stories
Books | Stories
Travel | Stories
Corrections/Kills
Advisories

Regional News

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- Pitts | Oppenheimer
Poker | Sanchez
more...

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Upcoming
Assignment Service

By Topic

- US | World
Sports | Business
more...

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News | Sports
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more...

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Weekly Features
Caricatures
Illustrations
Interactive

Pages and Packages

- OnePages | Elements
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Adventure
Entertaining
Green
Kids Content
Love & Relationships
Moms
News2Use
Plugged In
That's Racin'
Trendsetter
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Select a budget: Monday, May 3, 2010 Go

BC-MCT-NEWSFEATURES-BJT — wire editors (1400 words)

McClatchy-Tribune News Service
Newsfeatures Budget for Monday, May 3, 2010

Updated at 5:15 p.m. EDT (2115 UTC).

Additional news stories appear on the MCT-NEWS-BJT.

TOP STORIES

Key bomb ingredient is smuggled in freely in Pakistan

PAKISTAN-FERTILIZER:LA—Twice a week, a caravan of trucks lumbers out of this volatile northwest Pakistan city in the dead of night and makes its way toward Afghanistan, loaded with one of the most coveted substances in a Taliban bomb maker's arsenal: ammonium nitrate fertilizer.

Every time the illicit caravan makes its trip, it moves unhindered past a gauntlet of Pakistani police checkpoints along the Pak-Afghan Highway. A string of bribes paid out to police, politicians and bureaucrats ensures that the smuggled explosive agent reaches its destination, middlemen on the Afghan side of the border who sell it to insurgents, says the co-owner of a Pakistani trucking firm that dispatches the caravans.

Banned in Afghanistan, ammonium nitrate is the basic ingredient of the Taliban's roadside bombs.

1150 (with trims) by Alex Rodriguez in Peshawar, Pakistan. MOVED

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Is Sarah Palin serious about running for president?

PALIN-POWER:KC—She wrote a mega-best-seller. She's one of Time magazine's 100 most influential people in the world. And she revs up Republicans like no one else.

But is Sarah Palin serious about running for president? Or has a second-time-around TV career and moneymaking taken over?

Only Palin knows for sure and, for now, she's not saying.

But she is leaving behind tantalizing hints about a potential White House bid on the heels of her rocky 2008 vice presidential outing.

1000 (with trims) by Steve Kraske and Dave Helling in Kansas City, Mo. MOVED

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WASHINGTON

Western states launch new round in skirmish over use of federal land

FEDERAL-LAND:SH—Utah State Rep. Chris Herrod has gotten a lot of attention since his bill to explore seizing federal land through eminent domain became law in March. Colleagues in other Western legislatures have called seeking tips on replicating his success in their states. And the law was a topic of discussion last week when U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar paid a visit to Salt Lake City.

Outrage over federal land policies is nothing new in Western states, where local officials have long sought to develop public land and collect tax revenue from it. Now, with Democrats in charge in Washington and conservative activists energized in their opposition to the Obama administration's health care, energy and budget policies, some in the West are trying to counter what they see as federal heavy-handedness in land-use matters.

1000 (with trims) by David Harrison in Washington. MOVED

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UNITED STATES

Three years after devastating tornado, renewal hasn't come easy in Greensburg, Kan.

GREENSBURG-CORRECTION:KC—Step up to the rooftop garden of the Silo Eco-Home and look north. See how much Greensburg has changed in the three years since it was nearly wiped clean by an EF-5 tornado.

Look west and you will see the state-of-the-art hospital. It is loaded with cutting-edge green features, such as a wind turbine, gray water recycling, heat-recovery systems and a concrete-reinforced conference room with a three-day supply of food and water.

Look east and you will see the dramatic passive-solar rooflines of the school that soon will educate children from all of Kiowa County.

What you will not see, however, are trees.

Most of Greensburg's trees were hauled away after the storm. Around town, barren zombie trees jut from the ground at ghoulish angles, a reminder of what Greensburg lost on May 4, 2007, and what it cannot readily replace.

Thirteen people died that night. Five hundred people—more than a third of the town's population — moved away afterward. As for that other greening of Greensburg, it will be years before residents can look out the windows of their new

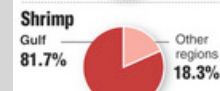
SPECIAL PACKAGES

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Threatened business

Half the total value of the U.S. oyster crop and most of the value of the shrimp crop were produced the Gulf of Mexico. Origin of U.S. oyster and shrimp landings, 2008.



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Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Graphic: Jay Lee, Los Angeles Times

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energy-efficient homes and see the foliage in all its pre-storm glory.

“We’re a very tender community emotionally right now,” said Mayor Bob Dixon. “We’ve been running on adrenaline for three years, and now our emotions are catching up with us. Our loss has been internalized for three years, and it hasn’t spilled out because we’ve been uplifting each other by being busy.

“We had a cause. Now we are back to so-called normalcy.”

1700 (Corrects Scott Brown’s name in 14th graf, and correct Kansas 52 to Kansas 54 in 22nd graf.)by Aaron Barnhart in Greensburg, Kan. MOVED

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Health care coverage may lose hurdles

[HEALTHCARE-CASE:LA](#)—On the same day that Daniel Rona qualified for health care coverage through his job as an emergency medical technician, an SUV slammed Rona’s motorcycle as he was riding in Santa Monica, Calif.

He was propelled more than 20 feet and landed on his head, breaking his cervical spine and injuring the frontal lobe of his brain.

The new federal health care overhaul could affect Rona in a variety of ways because of his youth and the severity of his injuries.

750 by Ann M. Simmons in Los Angeles. MOVED

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THE WORLD

Sudan tea ladies’ sidewalk lives

[SUDAN-TEALADIES:LA](#)—The tea ladies come before the sun, lighting fires, shaking jars, spooning sugar. They hum and sing, lost women marked with tribal symbols, far from home. They sit and wait, kettles hissing in ember and ash, the great day beginning, rolling off the Nile like a damp, smothering cloth.

Khadiga Salim takes a breath. She has hopped two buses and spent two hours traveling from the slums to downtown Khartoum. She’s been here 16 years, since gunshots and cattle raiders chased her family from their farm in Darfur. Her sister brought her into the trade, told her, on these streets, my dear, a tea lady is the best you can be.

1200 (with trims) by Jeffrey Fleishman in Khartoum, Sudan. MOVED

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South Korea volunteers aim to help world’s poor

[SKOREA-VOLUNTEER:LA](#)—On a solo trip to Laos in 2008, Lim Keon-yeob’s well-mapped career plans took an unlikely detour. All around, he saw social outreach programs run by Americans and Japanese.

Where, he asked, were the South Koreans?

He volunteered for the fledgling World Friends Korea, a newly formed domestic version of the U.S. Peace Corps.

South Korea’s new international volunteer program is one way this bustling Asian nation is marking its emergence as one of the world’s most industrialized nations.

850 (with trims) by John M. Glionna and Ju-min Park in Seoul, South Korea. MOVED

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Israel tries new tactics against Palestinian protesters

[MIDEAST-SKUNKWEAPON:LA](#)—It’s the usual Friday afternoon cat-and-mouse dance between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian protesters in this West Bank village.

Young village men, joined by Israeli leftists and international activists, begin blocking roads with boulders and tires; soldiers take up positions at key intersections. Israeli forces fire tear gas canisters; protesters fling rocks.

Before long, the military calls in one of its most dreaded weapons.

A white armored truck rumbles toward the scene. A small cannon on the vehicle’s roof takes aim and fires — not bullets or tear gas, but a heavy stream of the foulest-smelling liquid imaginable.

As Palestinians have reshaped their resistance in recent years from suicide bombings and armed attacks to civil disobedience and nonviolent demonstrations, Israel’s military is grappling with how to alter its tactics as well.

1000 (with trims) by Edmund Sanders in Nabi Saleh, West Bank. MOVED

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