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Monday March 29,2004 - 01:38:22 pm

The Sierra Times[®]



An Internet Publication for Real Americans

Last Updated: Monday March 29,2004 - 11:38:38 am

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Headlines

Land Rights News

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Dixie News

Border News

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Features

Editorials

External Editorials

Mailbag

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Two bombs target police station in Italy

MON 03.29.2004 5.52 PT

Arab Times Online

ROME - Two bombs exploded during the night near a police station in the northern Italian city of Genoa, police said.

No one was injured in the blasts, but police said the bombs were intended to kill and they accused anarchists or extreme leftists of planting the devices.

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War escape plan hatched for queen

MON 03.29.2004 5.46 PT

Gulf Daily News

LONDON: Queen Elizabeth II would have been spirited out of Britain had the Soviet Union launched a nuclear attack, according to top-secret documents which will go on public view later this week.

Written in 1965 in blue ink on the back of a brown envelope, the plan was to move the British monarch to a secret cabinet bunker, than fly her out of the country, possibly to Canada, the Sunday Telegraph reported.

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U.S. Gas Prices Hit New Record High

MON 03.29.2004 5.35 PT

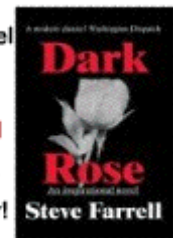
Yahoo

LOS ANGELES - There is little chance that gas prices, which have reached a record high, will fall significantly in the near future, a national analyst says.

Gas prices climbed another 3 cents in the past two weeks, said Trilby Lundberg of the Lundberg survey, which regularly surveys 8,000 stations nationwide.

The nationwide average in the past two weeks is \$1.80 for

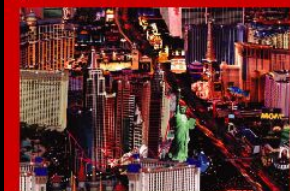
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all grades, a new record high, Lundberg said Sunday.

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Hypersonic aircraft flies at Mach 7

MON 03.29.2004 5.29 PT

Dawn

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, March 28: An experimental X-43 pilotless plane late on Saturday broke the world speed record for an atmospheric engine, briefly flying at 7,700 kilometres per hour - seven times the speed of sound, NASA said.

The hypersonic aircraft, a cross between a jet and a rocket, was dropped from the wing of a modified B-52 bomber, boosted by an auxiliary rocket to an altitude of nearly 100,000 feet and flew on its own power for 10 seconds, said the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

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Ocean 'dead zone' alert

MON 03.29.2004 4.28 PT

SMH.com.au

So-called "dead zones" - oxygen-starved areas of the world's oceans that are devoid of fish - top the list of emerging environmental challenges, the United Nations Environment Program warned today in its global overview.

The spreading zones have doubled over the last decade and pose as big a threat to fish stocks as overfishing, UNEP said in its Global Environment Outlook Year Book 2003, released at the opening of the agency's 8th summit for the world's environment ministers.

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Law enforcement can get most records with subpoenas

MON 03.29.2004 2.03 PT

NC Times

CARLSBAD ---- Ivy Street resident Ed Juchniewicz said Thursday that he didn't know his electricity information was used by law enforcement officials recently to get a search warrant for a neighbor's house.

The home of Beryl and Dina Dagy, who live near Juchniewicz, was one of 25 locations raided a week ago as area law enforcement officers broke up a scheme that involved renting houses and growing marijuana in them.

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Bush Welcomes 7 Ex-Soviet Nations to NATO

MON 03.29.2004 2.05 PT

Sun-Herald

WASHINGTON - Russia may be quietly concerned about NATO's expanding girth, but the United States is not as

President Bush welcomes seven former Soviet-dominated nations joining the 55-year-old alliance.

Bush presides Monday at a White House ceremony to greet the prime ministers of the new member nations along with NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer.

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AP: Accused Cadet Was Kept on at Academy

MON 03.29.2004 2.03 PT

Sun-Herald

DENVER - An Air Force Academy cadet who had been accused of rape and threatened to crash a glider into a classroom building was allowed to remain at the school for several more months, during which he was arrested for sodomizing a woman in a wheelchair and accused of raping another cadet, according to files obtained by The Associated Press.

Even after his arrest in Los Angeles for sodomy, the Air Force got cadet Doncosta Seawell released from custody and took him back to the academy, according to the files. He was accused of rape by a fellow cadet three months later.

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Security alert as another bomb found on French rail line

SUN 03.28.2004 12.52 PT

Daily Times.com.pk

PARIS: French bomb disposal experts on Wednesday defused a bomb containing several detonators found on a rail line linking Paris to the Swiss city of Basel, French authorities said.

As a result, the state railway company SNCF said police and railworkers would "shortly" again comb the country's railway network, although they did not give a date. The railway network — 32,000 kilometres (20,000 miles) of track along parts of which high-speed trains race at more than 200 kilometres an hour, had last been checked in a fruitless search for bombs on March 4.

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Spanish police arrest five more suspects over Madrid bombings

SUN 03.28.2004 8.52 PT

Channel News Asia

MADRID : Spanish police said they had arrested five people, including at least three North Africans, over the March 11 train bombings in Madrid.

The latest arrests bring the total number of people in custody in connection with the 10 blasts which killed 190 people to 18.

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Greek train, two ferries evacuated after bomb alert

SUN 03.28.2004 8.50 PT

Channel News Asia

ATHENS : Greek police evacuated a train travelling between Athens and the Greek-Bulgarian border and two ferries following bomb alerts, police said.

Nearly 40 passengers travelling between Greece's second city Salonika and the northeastern city of Alexandroupolis were ordered off the train at the station in the town of Drama.

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London Police Try X-Ray Instead Of Strip Search

SUN 03.28.2004 7.26 PT

KCCI - TV

LONDON -- London police say they liked what they saw in the first trial of their latest gadget.

Police say they the first street trial of a 7-foot X-ray body scanner that sees through clothes resulted in 35 arrests on drug, weapons, immigration and fraud charges.

Metropolitan Police used the machine during a drug raid in northwest London Friday. Suspects detained in two pubs were offered the choice of a strip search or a few seconds in front of the 1,100-pound machine, which was hauled to the area by truck.

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FBI Denies Clarke's Terrorist LNG Tanker Claims

SUN 03.28.2004 6.31 PT

WCVB - TV

BOSTON -- The FBI is denying a claim by former counterterrorism chief Richard Clarke that created quite a stir in Boston.

In his controversial book "Against All Enemies," Clarke charged that al-Qaida terrorists were smuggled into Boston Harbor aboard liquefied natural gas tankers.

But NewsCenter 5's Jorge Quiroga reported that the local FBI office said those claims are not true.

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Dick Morris: Clarke Nixed Warnings About Terrorist States

SUN 03.28.2004 6.04 PT

NewsMax

The list of contradictions between what ex-terrorism czar Richard Clarke told the 9/11 Commission this week and what he's said in the past just keeps growing longer and longer.

Now comes word that the anti-terror crusader actually tried to tone down terrorism warnings in President Clinton's speeches.

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Report: Suspects' Prints in Spain House

SUN 03.28.2004 3.14 PT
A.P.

MADRID, Spain (AP) -- Spanish police searching a rural house believed to have been used to prepare the Madrid commuter train bombs found fingerprints from two prime suspects currently detained for the March 11 attacks, according to news reports Saturday.

Police also recovered detonators and traces of dynamite inside the house near Morata de Tajuna, 20 miles southeast of Madrid, Spanish media reported.

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Madrid train blast probe leads to Germany, Morocco

SAT 03.27.2004 5.47 PT
NZ Herald.co.nz

MADRID - The investigation into the Madrid train bombings led to Germany and Morocco on Friday as police arrested one more suspect in Madrid and hunted for the mastermind of Europe's deadliest bomb attack in 15 years.

In Germany, police searched the apartment of a Moroccan man who is one of those under arrest in Spain, and prosecutors said they were probing his possible links to militant groups.

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[What others have said](#)

Justice, FBI Seek Rules for Internet Taps

SAT 03.27.2004 3.38 PT
Guardian.co.uk

(Note: Story almost 2 weeks old; for info purposes only)
WASHINGTON (AP) - Technology companies should be required to ensure that law enforcement agencies can install wiretaps on Internet traffic and new generations of digital communications, the Justice Department says.

The push would effectively expand the scope of the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act, a 1994 law that requires the telecommunications industry to build into its products tools that U.S. investigators can use to eavesdrop on conversations with a court order.

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Identity Theft Scheme Uses Fake Bank Letters and IRS Forms

SAT 03.27.2004 3.36 PT
Insider Reports

(N.B. This is an old story. For information purposes only).
Bank customers throughout the United States could become victims of a new fraud scheme that uses phony Internal Revenue Service (IRS) forms and fake bank correspondence. The Office of the Comptroller of the

Currency (OCC) is warning banks that the fake bank letters and phony IRS forms "are being circulated nationwide in an attempt to steal your customer's identity and **money** by having your customer disclose personal and banking information."

The fake bank letter states:

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US a major hub for global money laundering: Think-tank

FRI 03.26.2004 6.01 PT
Hindustan Times

The US is a major hub for international **money laundering** with its banks accountable for 50 per cent of the \$1 trillion worth of such deals, an Indian economic think-tank has said.

"The size of the **money laundering** worldwide through the banking sector is estimated to be between \$500 billion and \$1 trillion annually with about half of that circulated through US banks," Indian Institute of Finance (IIF) director J D **Agarwal** told the Asia Pacific Bankers Congress held in Manila, according to a release from the institute.

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Retired brass urge delay in U.S. antimissile shield

FRI 03.26.2004 5.42 PT
Swiss Info

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - A group of 49 retired U.S. generals and admirals is urging President George W. Bush to postpone the scheduled deployment this year of a multibillion dollar missile shield and spend the **money** instead on securing potential terror targets.

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German flat raided after Madrid blast arrests

FRI 03.26.2004 5.35 PT
Swiss Info

BERLIN (Reuters) - German police have searched an apartment in the western city of Darmstadt amid media reports a man arrested in connection with the Madrid bombings lived in Germany, state prosecutors say.

Spanish officials said on Thursday that police had arrested five more people over the commuter train bombings that killed 190 people, raising the total number of suspects in detention to 18.

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False alarm forces Air France flight to land

FRI 03.26.2004 5.28 PT
Swiss Info

MILAN (Reuters) - An Air France flight from Pisa to Paris has been forced to land at Milan's Malpensa airport after a suspicious piece of baggage was found aboard, but the airline says it was a false alarm and no one was in danger.

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Blair and Gaddafi pledge to fight al Qaeda

FRI 03.26.2004 5.25 PT

NZ Herald.co.nz

TRIPOLI - Britain's Tony Blair has sealed Libya's return to the international fold with an historic handshake for Muammar Gaddafi and an agreement to fight al Qaeda together.

After more than an hour of talks on Thursday, the prime minister said Libya's rejection of banned weapons and rapprochement with the West could act as a template for other Arab nations to turn their back on Islamic extremism.

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Al-Qaeda double agent duped MI5

FRI 03.26.2004 5.02 PT

news.com.au

One of al-Qaeda's most dangerous figures has been revealed as a double agent who fooled MI5, raising intense criticism from European governments who had repeatedly called for his arrest.

Britain ignored warnings from friendly governments about Abu Qatada's links with terrorist groups and refused to arrest him.

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Likely al-Qaida Tape Seeks Pakistan Coup

FRI 03.26.2004 2.23 PT

New York Post

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) -- A tape purportedly recorded by Ayman al-Zawahri, the No. 2 figure in the al-Qaida terror group, called Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf a "traitor" Thursday and urged people to overthrow his government.

The pan-Arab satellite channel Al-Jazeera broadcast a seven-minute excerpt from a tape it received Thursday. Its authenticity could not immediately be verified, but the speaker sounded like al-Zawahri and made references to the Islamic holy book, the Quran, which is known to be al-Zawahri's style.

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UN warns of threat to the IQ of nations

THU 03.25.2004 6.02 PT

Guardian.co.uk

About one in three people around the world are not getting enough vitamins and minerals, lowering the IQ of nations, contributing to the death of 1 million children a year and leading to mental impairment in 20 million babies, a UN report said yesterday.

Its authors called on companies to fortify foods with nutrients missing from diets in developing countries and to provide supplements through low-cost tablets, capsules and syrups for children, and women of child-bearing age.

[Give us your feedback](#)[What others have said](#)**Clarke accuses Bush of ignoring al-Qaeda threat****THU 03.25.2004 5.53 PT****Middle East Online**

A former top White House security chief has accused President George W. Bush of undermining the war on terrorism by invading Iraq and not giving the al-Qaeda threat enough importance before the September 11 attacks.

In stunning testimony Wednesday to the official inquiry into the 2001 terror strikes, Richard Clarke, whose new book has angered the Bush administration, apologised to relatives of the September 11 victims saying that the US government had failed them.

[Give us your feedback](#)[What others have said](#)**Russia seen ignoring environment over oil sales**

THU 03.25.2004 5.41 PT

Reuters

GENEVA (Reuters) - Russia is undermining plans to protect key world marine areas from potential tanker disasters in an effort to keep its oil shipping costs down, ecology body WWF says.

WWF, the World Wide Fund for Nature-International, said this was the motive behind a Russian proposal that would block the marine protection plans, to be put to a meeting in London next week of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

[Give us your feedback](#)[What others have said](#)**Two More Madrid Bombings Suspects Jailed**

THU 03.25.2004 4.40 PT

A.P.

MADRID, Spain (AP) -- A Spanish judge on Wednesday charged two more suspects, including the first woman, in connection with the Madrid commuter train bombings.

The charges bring to 11 the number of those accused in the March 11 attacks that killed at least 190 and wounded about 1,800.

[Give us your feedback](#)[What others have said](#)**Group Suspends Terror Threats to France**

THU 03.25.2004 4.33 PT

A.P.

PARIS (AP) -- A mysterious group that claimed to have planted bombs on the French railroad network announced Thursday that it is suspending its terror threats while it improves its ability to carry them out.

In two letters, addressed to President Jacques Chirac and Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy, the group, which calls itself AZF, said that "there are currently no bombs capable of functioning on the French rail network."

[Give us your feedback](#)[What others have said](#)**Mars Rover parked at edge of ancient sea**

WED 03.24.2004 5.37 PT

NZ Herald.co.nz

WASHINGTON - NASA's Mars rover Opportunity is parked by the shore of what used to be a salty martian sea, scientists reported today.

"We think Opportunity is now parked on what was once the shoreline of a salty sea on Mars," said Steve Squyres, principal investigator for the science payload on Opportunity and its twin Mars exploration Rover, Spirit.

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