

Fit to be tied: Men's clothing gets bold SOURCE



TOP SECRET RECIPES

What's in that dish you love? TASTE

'Top Secret Recipes' cookbook author Todd Wilbur imitates chain restaurant recipes.



StarTribune Thursday

MARCH 8, 2007 • STARTRIBUNE.COM "SPORTS DO NOT BUILD CHARACTER. THEY REVEAL IT." — HEYWOOD HALE BROWN • MINNEAPOLIS • ST. PAUL • 50¢

U.S. may cut pay of troops in Kosovo

• A proposal to downgrade the combat status of U.S. forces in the Balkans would affect Minnesota Guard troops there.

By BRADY AVERILL and MARK BRUNSWICK
Star Tribune staff writers

The Pentagon is considering cutting combat pay for soldiers assigned to peacekeeping missions in Kosovo, just as members of a Minnesota National Guard battalion are about to be shipped there.

The change could cost the soldiers and their families hundreds of dollars each month in tax benefits and combat pay.

"I truly believe that if they go through with this many families will be in financial hardship," said Christina Weigel of Albert Lea, whose husband, Sgt. Douglas Weigel, was notified over the weekend that he would be sent to Kosovo.

Members of a Mankato-based battalion will begin their second deployment to Kosovo later this year. They were part of a group of about 800 sent to Kosovo in 2004.

Kosovo continues: Minnesota elected officials moved quickly. A4 ▶

TWINS STADIUM

Possible fix for ballpark impasse arises

• It involves a parking ramp next to the stadium that could be the base for structures above it.

By MIKE KASZUBA
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A proposed parking ramp for players, coaches and upscale ticketholders next to the new Minnesota Twins stadium has emerged as a possible key to moving the stalled ballpark project forward.

The dispute over the sale price for the stadium site has threatened to derail construction of the 40,000-seat ballpark, which is set to open in 2010. But Wednesday, Hennepin County officials and landowners indicated that they were pursuing creative ways to overcome the millions of dollars that separate them over an agreement on an 8-acre site in downtown Minneapolis.

Details of the ramp proposals remain sketchy.

Ballpark continues on A6 ▶

Parents charged with abusing once-conjoined twin

• Jacob and Jordan James were separated by Mayo clinic doctors in November. Now, Jordan is recovering from numerous injuries.

By MARY LYNN SMITH
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A week after being released from the Mayo Clinic, where he was separated from his conjoined twin Jacob in November, 2-month-old Jordan James was back in the hospital.

His tiny legs and ribs had been fractured numerous times.

The parents, Valerie J. James and Robert L. Heck III of Mankato, told Rochester police that a car seat likely caused the injuries. But the Mayo pediatrician who examined Jordan doubted that. Now the parents have

been charged with first-degree assault for allegedly abusing their son.

Rochester Police Chief Roger Peterson called the baby's injuries "egregious."

"As difficult as these cases are to investigate, when you have a particularly vulnerable child, it makes it all that much more difficult," Peterson said. "These are two young babies who have already gone through

more in their very short life ... and to have this occur in addition to that is really hard to imagine."

The twins are in supervised care and not with their parents, who are scheduled to make their first appearance April 12 in Olmsted County District Court.

Abuse continues: X-rays showed multiple leg and rib fractures. A6 ▶

BOYS STATE HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

Extra! Extra! Excellent action at Xcel



JOEY MCLEISTER • jmcleister@startribune.com

As St. Thomas Academy players were being introduced Wednesday, Orono fans feigned disinterest. But freshman Cari Browne, center, couldn't help taking a peek at the Jumbotron. Such fan antics are commonplace at the tourney, which is underway at Xcel Energy Center in downtown St. Paul.

This tourney is really hockey's big deal

nick coleman columnist



You can blame the firefighters of St. Louis and the venture capitalists of Iowa if you can't get a ticket to the 63rd Minnesota State High School Boys' Hockey Tournament in St. Paul, where the big schools start play today.

"Are you kidding me?" David Schroder, a venture capitalist from Cedar Rapids said Wednesday while looking for a hot dog during the tourney's opening round. "This is the best hockey tournament in the country, and the minute I leave here and go back to Iowa, I will be pining for it to begin next year."

People have tried to puncture the legend of Minnesota's high school hockey tournament. And they have failed. Despite all the cheesy hyperbole about ice dreams and the over-the-top theories about the tournament's iconic representation of the quest for glory, nothing can debunk it.

Coleman continues on A7 ▶



RICHARD TSONG-TAATARI • rtsong-taatarii@startribune.com
Colin Schroeder and his dad, David, rose from their seats as Hermantown scored against Little Falls. They didn't care who won; they only wanted to see good hockey.

Past, present merge at this year's state 2A tournament C1

From Xcel to Baghdad, fans can watch live A7

- CLASS 2A TODAY**
- Roseau vs. Woodbury, 11 a.m.
 - Hill-Murray vs. Rochester Century, 1 p.m.
 - Edina vs. Grand Rapids, 6 p.m.
 - Blaine vs. Burnsville, 8 p.m.

ONGOING COVERAGE

- For live updates during today's Class 2A games as well as multimedia coverage of Wednesday's Class 1A quarterfinals, go to www.startribune.com/tourneys.
- Are some schools' fans obnoxious or just energetic supporters? Join a discussion at www.startribune.com/a2431.

TARGETING THE ELDERLY

Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson sued two California companies that she says have illegally marketed millions of dollars in living trusts and other investments to as many as 2,000 older Minnesotans who didn't need them. D1

HAVE YOU HEARD?

- 1 The Minnesota Twins have already sold more than a million tickets for the 2007 regular season. This is the earliest the team has surpassed the 1 million milestone since 1993.
- 2 Are you a "helicopter" parent? The College Board has a quiz for parents to test whether they're hovering too much over their kids' college search: www.collegeboard.com/helicopterquiz.

3 After the best-selling tour in the history of country music in 2006, Tim McGraw and Faith Hill are hitting the road again. The second stop on their Soul2Soul Tour 2007 will be St. Paul on June 8. A2

4 An unknown number of George Washington dollar coins were mistakenly struck and circulated without their edge inscriptions, including "In God We Trust."

