

Seattle Post-Intelligencer

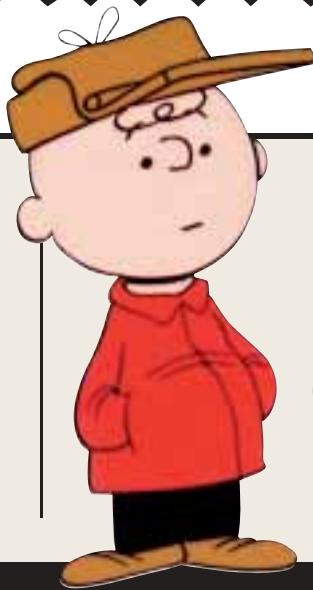
A HEARST NEWSPAPER
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50¢
AND,
HERE 75¢

FOOD

We're talking serious pizza

WHAT'S HAPPENING



ENTERTAINMENT

HOLIDAY LAUNCH

Christmas TV for a month

LIFE AND ARTS E1

Put just the right book under your tree

LIFE AND ARTS E1

'Nutcracker' and more

WHAT'S HAPPENING



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2006

TOP STORIES

Grandmother suicide attack



A 64-year-old Palestinian woman blew herself up near Israeli troops in northern Gaza, slightly injuring two soldiers. She had nine children and more than 40 grandchildren, and she was by far the oldest known suicide bomber in the conflict. **SEE A4**

Dashing across the freeways

Pedestrians trying to cross area expressways have become an increasing problem for drivers. On Tuesday, an apparent transient trying to cross I-5 in Seattle was hit. He was in serious condition. **SEE B1**

Microsoft hails EU 'milestone'

Microsoft submitted a new batch of technical information about Windows to the European Commission on Thursday, meeting the latest deadline to comply with a 2004 antitrust ruling. "This is an important milestone," Microsoft said. **SEE D1**

ALSO IN THE NEWS

NATION/WORLD

Anti-Syrian rally: Hundreds of thousands of Lebanese flooded downtown Beirut to mourn a slain politician and vent anger at Syria. **A3**

Iranian nuclear program: Iran has agreed to crack open the books on its uranium-enrichment activities, the U.N. nuclear agency said. **A4**

Cheaper prescriptions: Efforts to allow Americans access to cheaper prescription drugs from abroad may not be a top priority in the new Congress, lawmakers said. **A7**

SEATTLE

Missing soldier: Authorities are searching for a 21-year-old soldier from Bellingham who went out with friends to a club in Tennessee on Nov. 16 and hasn't been seen since. **B1**

Snow piles up: As Seattleites eyed another potential rainfall record, skiers gave thanks for bountiful snow. **B1**

Median home prices: Statewide, the median sale price of a home in the third quarter was \$300,900. In King County, the median was \$432,600, up 16.3 percent from a year ago. **B2**

BUSINESS

Bidding for remains: The ancient trade in the most coveted religious relics has moved into the global flea market of online bidding. **D3**

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TODAY'S WEATHER

Showers; snow showers possible north end. High 44. Low 35. **B8**

Comics	E4,5
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Bloodshed in Iraq worsens

Deadliest sectarian attacks yet kill 202

BY THOMAS WAGNER
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq – In the deadliest sectarian attacks in Baghdad since the U.S.-led invasion, Sunni Muslim insurgents blew up five car bombs and fired mortars into Baghdad's largest Shiite district Thursday, killing at least 202 people

and wounding 252. The dramatic attacks sent the U.S. ambassador racing to meet with Iraqi leaders in an effort to contain the growing sectarian war.

Shiite mortar teams quickly retaliated, firing 10 shells at Sunni Islam's most important shrine in Baghdad, badly damaging the Abu Hanifa mosque and killing one person. Eight more rounds

slammed down near the offices of the Association of Muslim Scholars, the top Sunni Muslim organization in Iraq, setting nearby houses on fire.

Two other mortar barrages on Sunni neighborhoods in west Baghdad killed nine and wounded 21, police said late Thursday.

The bloodshed underlined the impotence of the Iraqi army and police to quell determined sectarian extremists at a time when the Bush administration appears to

be considering a move to accelerate the hand-over of security responsibilities. President Bush plans to visit the region next week to discuss the security situation with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

"We condemn such acts of senseless violence that are clearly aimed at undermining the Iraqi people's hopes for a peaceful and stable Iraq," said Jeanie Ma-

SEE IRAQ, A13

This marathon is for Maniacs



PAUL JOSEPH BROWN / P-I PHOTOS

Seattle marathoners, from left, Eric Gierke, Ruben Contreras, May Cheng, Guy Yogi, Steve Supkoff and Paul David train Sunday on the Preston-Snoqualmie Trail.

For 1 dedicated group of Seattle runners, the more races the better

BY DAVID ANDRIESEN
P-I reporter

Anyone who has completed a marathon will tell you about the immense sense of accomplishment that comes with finishing the 26.2-mile course – and the extreme toll it takes on the body.

He or she also will tell you that it takes a special kind of maniac to get up the next morning and do it again.

"The strategy is, the first day you just go for it," said Steve Supkoff of North Bend, who recently pulled the back-to-back feat in races in New Hampshire and Maine. "The second day you kind of deal with the consequences. You definitely know you have run a marathon the day before."

Supkoff happily accepts the maniac label as a member of the Marathon Maniacs, a Seattle-based group of nearly 400

SEE MARATHON, A15



"The strategy is, the first day you just go for it. The second day you kind of deal with the consequences. You definitely know you have run a marathon the day before."

– Steve Supkoff of North Bend

INSIDE: A map of the marathon route and a list of street closures. **SEE A15**

SEATTLE MARATHON

► **WHEN:** Sunday, main event beginning at 8:15 a.m.

► **COURSE:** Starting on Fifth Ave. between Mercer St. and Harrison St., 26.2 miles across the Interstate 90 bridge and back, continuing along Lake Washington and finishing at Memorial Stadium.

► **ENTRANTS:** More than 10,000 are expected to enter the marathon and half-marathon running and walking events.

► **DEFENDING CHAMPIONS:** Men, Uli Steidl, 2:24.24; women, Sara Otepka, 3:07.42

► **RECORDS:** Men, Robert Greer, 1983, 2:17.25; women, Isabelle Dittberner, 1989, 2:41.04

Season of red and green sends stores into black

BY CRAIG HARRIS
P-I reporter

Brent Griggs has avoided the frenzied shopping atmosphere associated with Black Friday in years past, but that's likely to end today.

The stocky Monroe said his girlfriend was taking him shopping in downtown Seattle for his first after-Thanksgiving Day sale. Despite being a Black

Friday rookie, Griggs said he had no worries about battling the crowds on one of the busiest shopping days of the year.

"I'm big enough that I can make it through the rush," the 6-foot-3, 300-pound Griggs said with an impish grin. "Besides, I like to people-watch."

Griggs, a father of two young boys, said he expects to spend at least \$600 on Christmas gifts. That's a bit less than

SHOPPING BLOG

Out and about on Black Friday? Check out the Seattle P-I's new shopping blog. By the Buy, at blog.seattlepi.com/bythebuy.

the \$728 national average, according to a survey by NPD Group, a Washington, D.C.-based consumer and retail infor-

mation firm.

The holiday survey found that Christmas spending is expected to increase nearly 7 percent compared with a year ago as lower gas prices and a fairly healthy economy are giving consumers confidence to open their pocketbooks.

Meanwhile, the National Retail Federation is projecting a slightly less rosy picture, saying holiday sales will jump 5 per-

cent to \$457.4 billion. Last year, sales rose 6 percent.

Locally and across the country, retailers are gearing up for Black Friday – so dubbed because it traditionally was the day when they went into the black, or became profitable – with major deals for shoppers. Long considered "the busiest shopping day of the year," Black

SEE SHOP, A14