



SUNDAY
APRIL 1, 2007

BUCKS COUNTY Courier Times

\$1.50

new
THERE'S SOMETHING IN IT FOR YOU

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HIGH 54 **LOW** 42

Mostly cloudy, then rain. **8C**

THIS JUST IN ...

Intersection closed 2 hours after crash

Three people were taken to an area hospital after a two-car collision at Route 13 and Bath Road in Bristol on Saturday night. Police said one car tried to make an illegal left turn from northbound Route 13 onto Bath Road and struck a southbound car. None of the injuries appeared to be life-threatening. The crash closed the intersection for more than two hours Saturday night. No further information was available at press time. Police are asking witnesses to call Officer Dino Lepore at 215-788-7814.

Australia's largest city turns out the lights

The Sydney Opera House's gleaming white-shelled roof was darkened Saturday night along with much of the rest of Australia's largest city, which switched off the lights to register concern about global warming. The arch of Sydney's other iconic structure, the harbor bridge, was also blacked out, along with dozens of skyscrapers and countless homes, for an hour. Organizers hope Saturday's event — which about 2,000 businesses and more than 60,000 individuals signed up for online — will get people to think about regularly switching off nonessential lights, powering down computers and other simple measures they say could cut Sydney's greenhouse gas emissions by 5 percent this year. For more information, access <http://earthhour.smh.com.au/>



Host Justin Timberlake opened the Kids Choice Awards, singing "You'll never get a drop of slime on old J.T." Guess what happened at the end of his song? **ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Time for slime at Kids Choice Awards

Justin Timberlake gave up his burping title, but took home a trophy as favorite male singer Saturday night in a raucous, slime-drenched 20th Annual Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards in Los Angeles. Other winners included Adam Sandler as favorite male movie star, Dakota Fanning as favorite female movie star and Ben Stiller as winner of the night's top honor, the Wannabe Award, for the celebrity kids most wanted to be like.

The Kids Choice Awards are Hollywood's messiest, most raucous celebration honoring kid viewers' personal picks for best movies, music and TV shows. The show's hallmark is the drenching of a celebrity in green slime, but this year hundreds of celebrities and audience members got the treatment.

Bucks pet owners keep watchful eye on recalls

At a conference Saturday, dog and cat lovers aired their concerns and talked about alternative diets.

By **DANNY ADLER**
COURIER TIMES

Larry Kantner noticed something was wrong after he switched his puppy's food around the same time as the recent pet food recalls.

Truman, the months-old pup, had diarrhea for days, so Kantner got on the phone with his veterinarian.

The vet said it was nothing to worry about, the Newtown resident said. The puppy's tummy problem was a result of not gradually introducing the new food.

Still, the incident frightened Kantner, especially with the recall of nearly 100 canned and pouched pet foods.

The Food and Drug Administration's investigation has traced the chemical melamine to wheat gluten that Menu Foods, Nestle Purina PetCare Co. and Hill's Pet Nutrition bought from an unnamed U.S. supplier. Since Friday, the latter two companies have recalled a limited number of products, including a dry cat food. The wheat gluten, a protein source, was imported from China.

Nestle Purina said Saturday that it was recalling all sizes and varieties of its Alpo Prime Cuts in Gravy wet dog food with specific date codes.

"It's really shocking," Kantner said as

Truman lapped water from a bowl outside a Falls pet store Saturday afternoon. "You think you're just feeding him, but that food on the shelf might kill him. And now they're saying it's the dry food, too. ... It's definitely disconcerting."

About 12 dog and cat lovers also expressed concern for their pets Saturday at the Pet Owners Conference, sponsored by Warminster-based Pet Guardian Education & Animal Advocacy Services, in Newtown Township.

Since the recalls, Hilltown's Carol McCoy has focused her interest on alternative diets,

See **OWNERS**, 8A

Inside

Cats seem to be more sensitive to chemical. **8A**

Recall turns attention to home-cooking. **6A-7A**



Susan Magidson, owner of Ross Mill Farm in Rushland, makes Porkchop look beautiful at Lula's Piggy Spa, which offers various services for pampered pigs. **BILL FRASER / COURIER TIMES**

Pamper your PIG

Check out the sound slideshow on phillyburbs.com/couriertimes



Facials, cosmetic surgery and Reiki massage — they're not just for humans anymore.

There's now a Bucks County spa catering solely to pigs.

Check into Ross Mill Farm, "the Home of the Pig," in Rushland and you'll find outdoor cabins and private bedroom suites for the discerning pig.

Yes, that's right, pig.

There's an indoor track and mineral baths, complete with massages.

There's hair conditioning, aroma therapy, skin treatment and an exercise program.

There might not be Botox, but the staff will nip and tuck at some excess fat, if necessary. And room service? Of course, with warm blankets.

Owner Susan Magidson and "pig-tician" Brenda Koller cater to their guests — sometimes as many as 140 piggies — with the utmost care.

Sitting on 30 acres of woods, Ross Mill Farm claims to have been carefully "modified to provide the perfect environment for the care of pet pigs."

It's a "resort experience" for your piggy pal.

Lula's Piggy Spa at Ross Mill Farm offers the ultimate in indulgence for the pampered pet pig. Here, a pig can find its true inner and outer beauty.

**You know
you want to
read more.
See today's
LIFE section.**

Bush to Iran: Release sailors

But Iranian President Ahmadinejad continued to demand an apology for "trespassing by British forces."

CAMP DAVID, Md. (AP) — President Bush on Saturday said Iran's capture of 15 British sailors and marines was "inexcusable" and called for Iran to "give back the hostages" immediately and unconditionally.

Bush said Iran plucked the sailors out of Iraqi waters. Iran's president said Saturday they were in Iranian

Iraq news

Death toll rises in last week's truck bombing. **3A**

waters and called Britain and its allies "arrogant and selfish" for not apologizing for trespassing.

"It's inexcusable behavior," Bush said at the Camp David presidential retreat, where he was meeting with the president of Brazil. "Iran must give back the hostages. They're innocent. They did nothing wrong."

It was the first time that Bush had commented publicly on the captured Britons. Washington has taken a low-key approach to avoid aggravating tensions over the incident and shaking international resolve to get Iran to give up its uranium enrichment program.

Bush did not answer a question about whether the United States would have reacted militarily if those captured had been Americans. The president said he supports British Prime Minister Tony Blair's efforts to find a diplomatic resolution to the crisis, now in its second week.

Bush would not comment about Britain's options if Iran does not release the hostages, but he seemed to reject any swapping of the British captives for Iranians detained in Iraq.

"I support the prime minister when he made it clear there were no quid pro quos," Bush said.

See **IRAN**, 2A

MIDDLETOWN

Country club still seeking new operator

Former Eagle Ron Jaworski has expressed interest in the township-owned facility after an agreement apparently fell through.

By **CHRIS ENGLISH**
COURIER TIMES

The long reach of "Jaws" could be extending into Middletown.

Don't worry about going into the water. It's not a shark, but former Eagles quarterback and ESPN football analyst Ron Jaworski who has expressed an interest in running the

township-owned Middletown Country Club on Bellevue Avenue.

"[Jaworski] left a message on my machine saying he heard the deal had fallen through and he'd be interested in talking to me about having one of his companies take over the operation," said Jim Worthington, owner of the Newtown Athletic Club and president of the country club's operating company, Mitchland Inc. "I haven't gotten back to him yet, but I will."

The Courier Times was unsuccessful in its efforts to reach Jaworski for comment. He was

recently named to replace Joe Theismann as one of the analysts on ESPN's "Monday Night Football." He also works for NFL Films in Mount Laurel, N.J., and has various business interests in the Delaware Valley and elsewhere.

Worthington, whose company has operated the country club since 1999, said other parties also would like to buy the license agreement with Middletown and run the facility. The deal that fell through was with Liberty Golf of Philadelphia, which had reached an accord in

principle last year to buy the agreement from Worthington and take over operations.

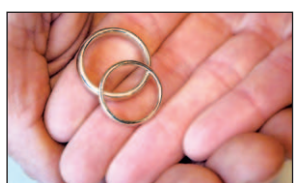
However, any new operator must be approved by the supervisors. Liberty Golf president Bud Connors had said he wanted to take over the country club by mid-February, and had proposed meeting with township officials to negotiate new terms and an extension of the license agreement, which runs through 2016.

See **GOLF**, 2A

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Actors Annabella Sciorra and Vincent Pastore played characters who came to brutal and untimely ends on "The Sopranos." ASSOCIATED PRESS

Whacked!

Actors still feel the pain years after their violent exits from "The Sopranos."

By JAKE COYLE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

David Chase looks like a nice guy. The 61-year-old television writer and producer is slight, wry and direct. But with a mere phone call, he strikes fear in the heart of actors — after all, his rap sheet is a mile long.

As creator and executive producer of the beloved, violent "Sopranos," Chase has sent character after character to his or her demise, held up for sacrifice to the gods of taut, uncompromising drama.

Five of the actors who were whacked by Chase in their previous fictional life on the HBO mob drama, sat down with their executioner Wednesday night at the Museum of Television and Radio in New York.

Steve Buscemi (Tony Blundetto), Drea de Matteo (Adriana La Cerva), Vincent Pastore (Salvatore "Big Pussy" Bonpensiero), David Proval (Richie Aprile) and Annabella Sciorra (Gloria Trillo) reflected on their fate in a panel discussion that also included "Sopranos" executive producer Terence Winter and was moderated by Bryant Gumbel.

"It's not a big deal to me," Chase stated flatly at the start. "These are not real people."

Their deaths came in a variety of ways: A shotgun blast on a country porch, offing in the woods, execution at sea, a bullet to the head over dinner and suicide off-screen — all endings woven into the often-ugly fabric of New Jersey mob life depicted in "The Sopranos." The show, which began in 1999, starts its final season April 8.

The actors all said they have come to understand the reasons for their character's killings as befitting the show's grim reality.

"What are you going to do, put him in witness protection? That's NBC," said Pastore, whose character was discovered to be a police informant.

But while the deaths are obviously fictional, they can also be a severe blow to an actor's career and happiness. Getting the bad news from Chase can be shocking.

"I begged," said Sciorra, who played a depressed lover of Tony Soprano (James Gandolfini) who killed herself.

Proval's character was dispatched by Janice Soprano (Aida Turturro) after Aprile smacked her. Having learned of his fate, Proval received another call from Chase and asked, "Is this the governor's office? Is there a reprieve?"

Buscemi was scheduled to remain for two seasons, but his

See WHACKED, 6E



'Pigtician' Brenda Koller exercises boarded pigs Madison and Willie as Smalze looks out from his pen. BILL FRASER / COURIER TIMES

Pampered stay at hog haven



Susan Magidson, owner of a spa and resort for potbellied pigs in Rushland, pets one of her breeding boars. BILL FRASER / COURIER TIMES

Pot-bellied pigs can get away from it all at a Rushland spa, where trained 'pigticians' pamper their guests with massages, facials and mineral baths.

By JAMES MCGINNIS
COURIER TIMES

Mirabelle squeals with satisfaction at her sensual massage.

Madison runs the indoor track with her trainer, trying to burn off bacon.

And a little piggy named Peggy is checking into her cabin at Ross Mill Farm, the spa and resort exclusively for pigs.

Yes, pigs. And only pigs.

Located on 30 acres of secluded farmland in Rushland, Ross Mill Farm — "The Home of the Pet Pig" — offers moisturizing oil and mineral baths, dander exfoliation, emulsifying skin treatments, hair conditioning and sensual massage, among other things.

Spa indulgences aside, all these piggies seem to want is a warm blanket. Owner Susan Magidson said the farm goes through sheets faster than Bed Bath & Beyond.

"Yes, it's true," she says with a smile. "Pigs love blankets — the warmer the better."

Almost on cue, a little piggy named Hannibal runs in from the field to dive under the covers.

Magidson chooses from a selection of jazz or classical standards to relax the hogs. But it's hard to muffle the sound of 140 pigs snorting, squealing and breaking wind under so many blankets.

Some of the clientele require "special care," explains "pigtician" Brenda Koller as she demonstrates the hydraulic hog cage capable of lifting 500 lbs.

In this room, pigs can receive a complete facial. And Magidson said they even do some cosmetic surgery.

At 200 pounds, Madison has gained so much weight she's blinded by her own face-fat. After she loses about 100 pounds, she'll probably still need surgery to remove the fat from around her eyes.

Guests at this home away from home can choose between indoor suites or outdoor cabins. Each suite connects to an outside pen. In the summer, Magidson said she'll install small covered pools for each piggy. The outdoor pens were constructed to look like little cabins in the woods.

Magidson has trained farm hounds to break up any disputes between irate guests, fighting over hay, blankets or territory. "Pepper will not only break up the fight, but he also knows who started it and he'll bark at that pig," Koller said.

A brown horse named Pee-Wee watches from his stable, unmoved by all the drama.

At any time, there are about 170 pigs at the spa. Clients come from all over the country.

On Wednesday, Peggy was dropped off by her owner, Helga Davies of Virginia. Davies said she



Potbellied pigs Mira (left), 6 weeks old, and Kara Belle, 5 months old, live at Ross Mill Farm.

Pig indulgences

- Bath, w/full body massage .\$.20
- Oil, moisturizing treatments .\$.5
- Dander exfoliation .\$.5
- Complete facial .\$.5
- Eye and ear rejuvenation .\$.5
- Emulsifying skin treatment .\$.5
- Pedicure .\$.5
- Skin and hair condition .\$.5
- Health, nutrition coaching .\$.5

See HOG, 6E

Disc-us

CDs due in stores Tuesday

David Ball, "Heartaches by the Number" (Shanachie).

Black Sabbath, "The Dio Years" (Rhino/WB).

Brandi Carlile, "The Story" (Sony).

Mink DeVille, "Cadillac Walk: The Mink DeVille Collection" (Caroline).

Hilary Duff, "Dignity" (Hollywood).

Kurt Elling, "Nightmoves" (Concord).

Fountains of Wayne, "Traffic and Weather" (Virgin).

Macy Gray, "Big" (Geffen). Out now.

Idlewild, "Make Another World" (Sanctuary).

Alan Jackson, George Strait and Jimmy Buffett, "Live at Texas Stadium" (MCA Nashville).

Klaxons, "Myths of the Near Future" (DGC).

Jon Peter Lewis, "Stories From Hollywood" (Cockaroo). "American Idol" third season finalist. Out now.

Kings of Leon, "Because of the Times" (RCA).

Alison Krauss, "A Hundred Miles: A Collection" (Rounder). Odds 'n' ends.

Jeff Lorber, "He Had a Hat" (Blue Note).

Martina McBride, "Waking Up Laughing" (RCA).

Ozomatli, "Don't Mess With the Dragon" (Concord).

Soundtrack, "Grindhouse: Planet Terror" (Varese Sarabande).

Timbaland, "Timbaland Presents Shock Value" (Interscope). Hip-hop producer is joined by Justin Timberlake, Nelly Furtado, 50 Cent, Missy Elliott and Elton John.



Memories of Greatest Show on Earth



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Watching the TV news the other evening, I noticed a clip of a long line of circus elephants parading through the streets of Atlantic City. That meant that this year's version of the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus had arrived at the seashore resort, and in a couple of weeks they'd be in Philly.

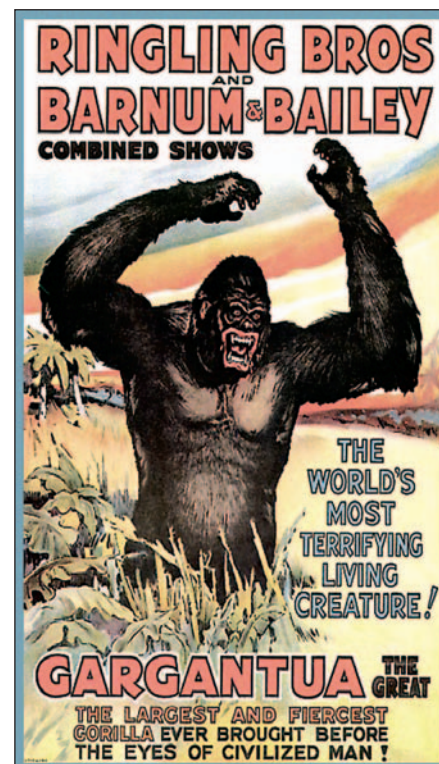
As a youngster, one of my real delights and one of the signs that spring had truly arrived was when the circus came to town. To most of us, there were few things in life comparable to it.

Since TV advertising was still a decade in the future, the hype would always start a month or so before its

arrival with full-page, magazine ads and larger than life billboards that whet our appetites as few other things ever did. All in brilliant color, they featured lions and tigers, elephants, trapeze artists, acrobats and clowns.

Even more spectacular than all the other ads combined were those heralding the most prized member of the circus menagerie, "Gargantua the Great," their supposedly ferocious gorilla, who was billed as "the world's most terrifying living creature." Giant posters displayed Gargantua as a huge rampaging beast leaping out of the undergrowth and frightening off scores of terrified, spear-wielding African Bushmen. This was one animal my friends and I all wanted to see.

Shortly after my 10th birthday, my family moved from West Philly to Kensington, where we were only a short walk from the circus grounds at 10th and Luzerne Streets near



See JONAS, 3E