

FLOYD LANDIS' SECOND DOPING TEST COMES BACK POSITIVE



ACCENT

### LEAVING HIS MARK

Tattoos have fascinated local artist since he was a child.



REGION

### EXAMINER RULES ON JAIL DEATH

Report says man was on suicide watch. Sheriff says he wasn't.

# Times-News

Burlington, North Carolina

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Weather

High 88, Low 69



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119th year, No. 93

August 6, 2006

\$1.00

After more than 47 years in business, Kirk's Motor Court

## CHECKS OUT



Peter Schumacher / Times-News

Kirk's Motor Court on North Church Street was built in 1959 by Ralph Kirkpatrick Sr. He modeled the place after a motel he visited in Blowing Rock.

By Eric Neff • Times-News

If it were a city, Kirk's Motor Court would be Venice.

Venice was once the thriving jewel of Italy. In the late Middle Ages, it boasted one of the world's biggest economies, and was home to a who's who of aristocrats.

Today, however, the city is in a sort of dignified decline — beautiful and nostalgic, but a shadow of its former self. The aristocrats who once dominated the luxury goods trade are long gone, and their beautiful waterfront palaces are all that remain. The 270,000 residents are living on borrowed time, as Venice is slowly sinking into the bay on which it was built.

For the last decade, Kirk's was also living on borrowed time. The motel was losing about 10 percent of its business



L. Kirkpatrick

each year and slowly sinking into the red. It closed for good last week. At one point, Kirk's truly was the crown jewel of Burlington. The motel boasted guests like Joan Crawford, Rory Calhoun and presidential candidate George Wallace. Built, owned and operated by one of Burlington's well-established families, the Kirkpatricks, the motel's business was booming all the way up into the '80s.

Ralph Kirkpatrick Sr. founded the place in 1959. At the time, Ralph Sr. was running R.F. Kirkpatrick & Sons Concrete (now Chandler Concrete), and his efforts were focused on the construction of Fort Bragg.

It was during his time at Fort Bragg that Ralph Sr. stayed in a similar type of

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### Kirk's was one-of-a-kind

It was the Taj Mahal of Burlington hostels. It had quickly upscaled the old downtown hotels, becoming a resort in the city where distinctive travelers stopped.

Even the name, "Kirk's Motor Court" was retained to the end; when all the slick, new franchise places on I-85 had become "inns."

The office dome ran straight to the ceiling with chandeliers hanging. The swimming pool was right out of Hollywood — bathers entered and exited not on

See ONE-OF-A-KIND/Page A8



Glenn Ayers

## Coble, Miller say timeline needed for Iraq withdrawal

### Sens. Dole, Burr reject the idea

By Eric Neff Times-News

A little more than six months after the war in Iraq began in 2003, Rep. Brad Miller went with a Congressional delegation to visit Baghdad.

There, he listened to former Iraq director Paul Bremer and Sir Jeremy Greenstock, Bremer's British equivalent, say that whatever operations still needed to be completed would be done within a year or two.

Three years later, we know how that prediction turned out.

With midterm elections fast approaching, members of Congress must decide on, and defend, their positions on the Iraq war. Are they going to support an increasingly unpopular war? Or are they going to stand against it and risk being seen as soft on security?

For Alamance County's representatives in the House, Republican Howard Coble and Democrat Brad Miller, the Iraq war has gotten to a point where a timeline for withdrawal is necessary.

"I don't think we should set a deadline, but I think we should set at least a flexible timeline, and I expect that that timeline would be a year or two," Miller said.

Coble, also reluctant to set a deadline, said withdrawal should be taking place "sooner

rather than later," and that another three years of the status quo would be "inexcusable."

"After we've lost in excess of 2,500 troops and we've been over there for three years, I don't think anybody can in good conscience accuse us of cutting and running," he said. "I think the time to hand the baton over is imminent."



Coble



Miller

North Carolina's two Republican senators, on the other hand, reject the idea of a timeline.

Sen. Elizabeth Dole is the most outspoken.

Through a spokeswoman, she said "pulling out of Iraq ... is unthinkable."

"Such an action would destabilize the region, and would embolden the terrorists to attack us again."

Sen. Richard Burr said through a spokeswoman that to "remain committed to defeating terrorism" is crucial to U.S. interests, also emphasizing the importance of establishing freedom in Iraq.

Miller, the only Democrat among the four, charged that the war has been bad policy from the outset. He said President George W. Bush did not necessarily lie when he made his case for going to war, but he "shut his eyes to what was true."

Miller believes American troops have come to be seen as "occupying, rather than liberating" by most Iraqis.

"The longer we're there, the more there will be resentment of the United States military as an occupying

See IRAQ WITHDRAWAL /Page A2

## War causing ripples across Mideast

By Sally Buzbee The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — Anger toward America is high, extremists are on the upswing and hopes for democracy in the Middle East lie dashed. The Lebanon war is creating dangerous ripples in the war on terror, the future of Iraq — even the effort to keep nuclear weapons from dan-

### NEWS ANALYSIS

gerous hands. "America, we hate you more than ever," Ammar Ali Hassan wrote in the independent Egyptian daily Al-Masry Al-Youm, in the kind of visceral, slap-in-the-face rhetoric boiling across the region.

So far, the violence has not led allies to take steps that directly hurt

### More to the story

U.S. France OK truce pact/Page A10

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America's strategic interests, such as forcing the military from its regional headquarters in Qatar or its naval base in Bahrain. And there are those who see the conflict as the bloody but necessary prelude to a real assessment by the

## Bush wants more immigrants to come to U.S.

By Nedra Pickler The Associated Press

CRAWFORD, Texas — With 6,000 National Guard troops deployed to Southwestern states, President Bush said Saturday he has fulfilled his pledge to help beef up border

security and challenged Congress to give him legislation that will welcome more foreigners into the country.

Speaking in his weekly radio address, Bush said immigration reform can only be successful if the get-tough border security to keep

people from sneaking in is combined with opportunities for more immigrants to enter the country legally.

"By passing comprehensive immigration reform, we will uphold our

See MORE IMMIGRANTS/Page A2

## Minimum wage earners only clear losers in election-year battle

By Andrew Taylor The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republican lawmakers called it the "trifecta bill" — evoking the image of a three-time winning ticket at the racetrack. The legislation didn't make it out of the gate, but both parties think they'll still be able to cash in with voters in November.

Senate Democrats on Thursday blocked the bill, which would (1) raise the minimum wage, (2) cut taxes on multimillion dollar estates and (3) extend tax breaks for business research, college tuition and state sales taxes.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., led the effort to roll all three issues into one bill.

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### Both parties claim upper hand

#### AND THE WINNER IS?:

Senators from both political parties claim the upper hand in last week's failed attempt to raise the minimum wage and cut estate taxes along with offering other tax breaks.

VOTERS: Both parties claim the vote will pay off for their side in the midterm elections.

PUNDITS: Some political analysts say this reflects poorly on the Republicans, because they could not push their interests through, although they are in the majority. While the GOP hopes to portray Democrats as blocking an increase in the minimum wage.

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