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PHOTOS: JUSTIN MERRIMAN/TRIBUNE-REVIEW

LEFT: Midge Beachem holds a picture of her son, Spc. Robert E. Hall Jr., who was killed in action June 28 in Iraq. RIGHT: Diane Davis Santoriello's son, 1st Lt. Neil Santoriello Jr., was killed Aug. 14 in Iraq.

'You do not get over this' Moms of killed soldiers have differing views on Iraq

s the number of U.S. soldiers who have the history of the war, but it also represents 2,000 died in Iraq reached 2,000 last week, it heightened the national debate over how long America's armed forces should remain in the war, and at what cost.

New Delhi blasts kill dozens

Explosions rip through a bus and crowded markets

Police declare a state of emergency and the prime minister urges calm.

BY MATTHEW ROSENBERG THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW DELHI — Near-simultaneous explosions rocked the Indian capital Saturday evening, tearing through a bus and two markets crowded with people shopping for gifts for a Hindu festival. At least 58 people were killed and dozens wounded in the blasts, which the government blamed on terrorists.

Police declared a state of emergency and closed all city markets. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh urged calm while denouncing the apparently co- before the festival of Diwali, a ordinated bombings, which did major Hindu holiday during not prevent an unprecedented India-Pakistan agreement to open the Kashmir border to facilitate aid for survivors of the region's devastating Oct. 8 earthquake. "These are dastardly acts of terrorism," Singh said in a brief televised statement. "We shall defeat their nefarious designs and will not allow them to succeed. We are resolute in our commitment to fighting terrorism in all forms.

Asked who was responsible, he would only say "there are several clues." The Indian government faces opposition from dozens of militant groups - particularly Kashmiri separatists, some of whom also oppose the peace process between Pakistan and India.

The first explosion hit at 5:45 p.m. in New Delhi's main Paharganj market, leaving behind bloodstained streets and mangled stalls of wood and twisted metal. Within minutes came an explosion at the popular Sarojini Nagar market and the bus blast in the Govindpuri neighborhood. Police said at least 60 people were wounded in the first blast and dozens in the other two.

The attacks targeted the many people shopping just davs

The 2,000th death placed a symbolic marker in

Spc. Robert E. Hall Jr.

to her son, Army Spc. Robert a party. E. Hall Jr., the day before his death in Iraq.

"I wished I had recorded it," she said, recalling those final moments with tears glistening in her eyes as she stood near a memorial to her son in the front yard of her Ross home. "We talked about when he was coming home, and I

Midge Beachem last spoke told him I wanted to have him

"I never thought anything would happen to him. My heart broke.

Beachem gets chills each time she hears another American soldier has been killed in action, as she did Tuesday when it was announced that

SEE HALL • A14

individual stories of the Americans who have died, their loved ones' grief, and differing views about the war among the families of the fallen soldiers. Here are two of those stories.

1st Lt. Neil Santoriello Jr.

In one of her final letters. Diane Santoriello told her son, Army 1st Lt. Neil Santoriello Jr., that she was planning a homecoming celebration when he returned from Iraq.

"I told him that I was proud of him," said Diane Santoriello, 56, of Penn Hills, a school teacher. "I often told him that."

Santoriello Jr. never made it home to celebrate his 25th birthday on Sept. 19, 2004. Instead, he became the 930th U.S. soldier to die in the war when a roadside bomb exploded Aug. 13, 2004, near his tank outside Khaldiya, Iraq. The U.S. military death toll

reached 2,000 on Tuesday,

SEE SANTORIELLO • A14

STORIES BY DAVID BROWN/TRIBUNE-REVIEW

'Scooter' Libby: Man on vendetta or public servant?

The CIA leak case ensnares Cheney aide in war and the law.

> BY LARRY MARGASAK AND PETE YOST THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

 $WASHINGTON-The \, prosecution's \, con$ clusion: Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff pursued information about a critic who said the Bush administration manipulated intelligence to make the case for war.

dent: I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby is a dedicated public servant who has worked tirelessly on behalf of his country.

Is Libby an influential White House ad-viser who lied? Or is he a man with a hectic schedule who happens to remember events differently from the reporters and administration figures who will eventually be called to testify against him?

"As lawyers, we recognize that a person's recollection and memory of events will not always match those of other people, partic-

The view of the president and vice presi-ularly when they are asked to testify months after the events occurred," Libby's lawyer, Joseph Tate, said in a statement.

Special Counsel Patrick Fitzgerald drew his detailed portrait of Libby based on a twoyear investigation that pulled dozens of witnesses in for questioning, including President Bush and Cheney.

Libby, the indictment against him concludes, received information from Cheney, the State Department and the CIA about

SEE LIBBY • A10

which families exchange gifts, light candles and celebrate with fireworks. The markets where the blasts occurred often sell fireworks that are elaborate and potentially dangerous.

'When I got up, there were people everywhere — they were bleeding and screaming," Anil Gupta said about 45 minutes after the blast as he sifted through the wreckage of his

SEE NEW DELHI • A12

Vets guard against flu at the Aviary

The facility is not bringing in any new birds and is checking its population regularly.

BY ALLISON M. HEINRICHS TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Like people, the nearly 800 birds that inhabit National Aviary in the North Side have personalities.

Some — such as the greenwinged macaws — are colorful and flashy. Others, such as the Guam rails, are very shy. And a few are friendly: the Victoria

crowned pigeons will tag along as tourists walk through the sprawling rain forest exhibit.

And, also like people, they can get sick.

While health officials worldwide are taking steps against the spread of an avian influenza virus killing people in Southeast Asia, on the North Side veterinarians and aviculturists including those at the nation's premier bird park — are taking precautions to keep their birds safe

"We haven't been bringing

SEE AVIARY • A8

Weather





Mostly sunny and warmer today, followed by a starry night. A20

Nation & World

Sports Uncle Sam has tried Penn State easily disposes of Purdue at to feed millions of hurricane victims with Beaver Stadium to Meals-Ready-to-Eat, maintain a share of only to fear some have first place in the Big become Meals-Ready-Ten Conference. D1 for-eBay. A3 Penguins blow a third-period lead, Harriet Miers failed losing to the Supreme Court nomination is driving Hurricanes,

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If so, be sure to turn your clocks

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