

# The Gazette

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INSIDE

THIS SECTION



## California fire destroys homes

At least 165 homes and other structures are destroyed and 750 acres scorched by a wind-driven fire near South Lake Tahoe. **A8**

## Arrest in slaying

The former classmate of an Ohio man suspected of killing a pregnant woman is arrested on suspicion of obstruction of justice. **A3**

BUSINESS

## Caring for aging boomers

As the baby boomers head toward retirement and failing health, where are the workers going to come from to look after them? **Business 1**

SPORTS



## Versatility wins \$1,000

A two-time Olympian takes the men's elite wave of the Prospect Lake Triathlon in Memorial Park. **Sports 1**

LIFE

## Chill out, athletes

Hot weather can be dangerous if you're exercising outdoors and don't take precautions to keep your body cool. **Life 1**

TODAY

**Game night at Penrose Library**  
A hot, dry day in city  
Cooler on Tuesday.  
HIGH **93**  
LOW **59**  
SEE METRO 8  
Play board games, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Penrose Library, 20 N. Cascade Ave., free; 531-6333.

INDEX

Calendar	A2
Headlines	A3
Military	Metro 4
Obituaries	Metro 6
Opinion	Metro 7
Movies	Life 5
Comics	Life 6
TV	Life 8

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# War's wounded

More than 800 of them have lost an arm, a leg, fingers or toes. More than 100 are blind. Dozens need tubes and machines to keep them alive. Hundreds are disfigured by burns, and thousands have brain injuries and mangled minds. These are America's war wounded, a toll that has received less attention than the 3,500 troops killed in Iraq. Depending on how you count them, they number between 35,000 and 53,000.

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

More of America's troops are coming home with injuries of a scope and magnitude the government did not predict and is struggling to treat.

"If we left Iraq tomorrow, we would have the legacy of all these people for many years to come," said Dr. Jeffrey Drazen, editor in chief of the New England Journal of Medicine and an adviser to the Department of Veterans Affairs. "The military simply wasn't prepared for its own success" at keeping severely wounded soldiers alive.

Survival rates today are even higher than the record levels set early in the war, thanks to body armor and better care. For every American killed in Iraq, 15 have survived illness or injury there.

Mental health problems loom large. More than a third of troops got psychological counseling soon after returning from Iraq, and a third of those were diagnosed with a problem, a Pentagon study found. The government plans to add 200 psychologists and social workers to help treat post-traumatic stress disorder and other issues.

No one knows what the ultimate cost will be. Harvard University economist Linda Bilmes estimates the lifetime health care tab for these troops will be \$250 billion to \$650 billion — a wide range but a huge sum no matter how you slice it.

NUMBERS

This year, the Defense Department changed the way it tallies war-related injuries and illnesses, dropping those not needing air transport to a military hospital from the total.

AS OF JUNE 2

52,933

Troops ill or injured in Iraq

34,788

Those needing medical air transport

25,830

Troops wounded in action

18,155

Troops treated who stayed in Iraq

7,675

Those flown to military hospitals

19,915

troops had illnesses or other medical problems.

Top 10

causes of the illnesses or other medical problems:

1. General symptoms (fever, pain) that need tests and evaluation
2. Back pain
3. "Adjustment reactions" — psychological problems from being in a war zone
4. Disk pain — back problems with neurological complications
5. "Effective psychoses" — not able to function and care for themselves in a war zone
6. Neurotic disorders
7. Respiratory or chest pain or symptoms
8. Depression
9. Head and neck problems, including traumatic brain injury
10. Epilepsy

ONE SOLDIER'S STORY

'... He's our son. We'll do everything for him.'

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INSIDE

Three senior aides to Saddam Hussein sentenced to death. **A6**

TAMPA, Fla. • He lies flat, unseeing eyes fixed on the ceiling, tubes and machines feeding him, breathing for him, keeping him alive. He cannot walk or talk, but he can grimace and cry. And he is fully aware of what has happened to him.

Four years ago, Joseph Briseno Jr. was shot in the back of the head at point-blank range in a Baghdad marketplace. His spinal cord was shattered, and cardiac arrests stole his vision and damaged his brain.

He is one of the most severely injured soldiers — some think the most injured soldier — to survive.

"Three things you would not want to be: blind, head injury, and paralyzed from the neck down. That's tough," said Dr. Steven Scott, head of the Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center at the Tampa VA Medical Center, where Briseno has



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Joseph Briseno Jr., shown with his mother, Eva, was shot in Iraq four years ago. He is one of the most seriously injured soldiers to come home from the war.

CONTAGIOUS ILLNESSES

## Disease sleuths try to stop spread of infection

By CARY LEIDER VOGRIN  
THE GAZETTE

Call them disease detectives.

Every day, public health workers throughout Colorado knock on doors or make calls to track down people who may have been exposed to a reportable, contagious disease.

It could be whooping cough or HIV, mumps or meningitis. Doctors and laboratories are required by law to report certain diseases to state and local health departments, which then begin investigations aimed at stopping the spread of infection.

The state's chief medical officer calls such work "shoe leather epidemiology."

"We track people down as quickly as we can," said the official, Dr. Ned Calonge. "Public health will go to people's houses."

Although diseases are tracked and statistics regularly posted on the state Health Department Web site, workers' efforts usually get little notice.

But some cases make head-

SEE CONTAGIOUS • PAGE 10

PHILANTHROPY

## Country's charitable giving nearly flat in 2006

By STEPHANIE STROM  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Although 2006 was heralded as the dawn of a golden age of philanthropy after Warren Buffett pledged his multibillion-dollar fortune to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, charitable giving was almost flat last year.

Individuals and institutions gave away an estimated \$295 billion last year, a 1 percent increase on an inflation-adjusted basis over the prior year.

"Given the media and non-profit sector buzz around what we're calling the megagifts made last year, it is maybe a little surprising that giving did not increase more dramatically," said Patrick Rooney, director of research at the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University. "I think what we're seeing is philanthropy growing in a steadier, more linear way, when everyone has been hoping for a pattern more like the roaring 1990s."

The Giving USA Foundation, which produces an annual report on giving together with

SEE GIVING • PAGE 8

SEE JOSEPH • PAGE 6