



### Top Stories

#### Parties make final bids for Crewe and Nantwich voters



UK political parties are making their final bids for votes in the the Crewe and Nantwich

constituency, where a by-election, due to the death of Gwyneth Dunwoody MP, is to be held tomorrow.

#### Judge continues injunction against 'Expelled' film

A New York Judge ruled to continue a injunction against Premise Media, which effectively prevents Premise, the producers of Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed, from further distribution.

Yoko Ono, Julian Lennon, Sean Lennon, and EMI Blackwood Music, Inc. filed a lawsuit against Premise Media in United States District Court for the Southern District of New York on April 23, 2008 alleging copyright infringement against one of John Lennon's songs.

#### Pedestrian, three others killed in helicopter crash in British Columbia

A 23-year-old college student was killed last Tuesday when a helicopter carrying three passengers crashed into him and exploded in southeast British Columbia. The freak accident has

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sent the Canadian press into a tailspin over an iPod, which the student was allegedly listening to at the time of the helicopter crash.

#### Fire damages building housing Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra

At least 170 firefighters in Berlin, Germany battled a fire on Tuesday at the Berliner Philharmonie, the building that is home to the Berlin Philharmonic orchestra. No one was injured, and the cause of the fire is believed to have been accidental.



*Credit: Manfred Brückels (GFDL)*

### Wikipedia Current Events

Ten thousand Iraqi troops enter Sadr City in Baghdad to seize control from Shiite militants.

•The SPLA attacks Sudanese government soldiers at Abyei, a disputed town at the border of South Sudan.

•Cyclone Nargis:The Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-Moon leaves for Burma calling the situation critical.

•Burma commences a three day period of mourning for victims of Cyclone Nargis and allows entry to foreign aid workers from neighboring countries.

•Senator Hillary Clinton of New York wins the Kentucky Democratic primary, 2008.

### Wikipedia Current Events

•Senator Barack Obama of Illinois is projected to win the Oregon Democratic primary, 2008.

•A 24-hour strike by employees of the National Railway Company of Belgium ends rail services in Belgium and to France, Germany and the Netherlands.

•Ma Ying-jeou is sworn in as the President of the Republic of China (Taiwan) with Liu Chao-shiuan as his Premier.

•Manoel de Oliveira is awarded a palme d'or for his lifetime career achievement at the 2008 Cannes Film Festival.

#### Abel prize 2008 awarded to John G. Thompson and Jacques Tits

Today, the King Harald V of Norway awarded the Abel Prize which, along with the Fields Medal is one of the two most important mathematical prizes, to John G. Thompson and Jacques Tits.

They received the award for their "outstanding achievements in algebra and especially for their shaping of modern group theory".

The Norwegian Academy of Science announced the names of the prize winners at the beginning of April. The prize, which includes a €750,000 award to the winner, has been awarded every year since 2003 and it is named after the Norwegian mathematician Niels Henrik Abel (1802 - 1829).

## Ted Kennedy diagnosed with brain tumor

Senator Ted Kennedy, a Democrat from Massachusetts, who was recently hospitalized after suffering two seizures, has been diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor. Kennedy's doctors discovered the tumor as part of a battery of tests performed to diagnose the cause of the seizures.

Late last week the senator was rushed to Cape Cod Hospital from the Kennedy Compound, after reportedly suffering stroke-like symptoms. After two hours in the emergency room, he was flown to Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts.

A statement given by Dr. Lee Schwamm and Dr. Larry Ronan of Massachusetts General Hospital stated, "Over the course of the last several days, we've done a series of tests on Senator Kennedy to determine the cause of his seizure. He has had no further seizures, remains in good overall condition, and is up and walking around the hospital."

The statement went on to say, "However, preliminary results from a biopsy of the brain identified the cause of the seizure as a malignant glioma in the left parietal lobe. The usual course of treatment includes combinations of various forms of radiation and chemotherapy."

The statement finished by saying, "Decisions regarding the best course of treatment for Senator Kennedy will be determined after further testing and analysis. Senator Kennedy will remain at Massachusetts General Hospital for the next couple of days according to routine protocol. He remains in good spirits and full of energy."

## Reactions

Various Senate colleagues and other politicians have reacted to the announcement.

John Kerry, the junior senator from Massachusetts and fellow colleague noted, "We are pulling for our pal, and I know he is determined to fight this."

Kerry also released a statement from his office saying, "Now, everybody needs to pull together on behalf of Ted. We must pull for him and his family and remember that Teddy is one unbelievable fighter," and noting that "Over the weekend, I saw him and he's in a fighting mood."

Kerry finished by stating, "I know that Ted is determined to fight this because he wants to continue his fight for the people of Massachusetts and he wants to continue to fight for everything that he believes in here in the United States Senate and throughout our country."

"We are pulling for our pal, and I know he is determined to fight this." —John Kerry

Christopher Dodd, the Democratic senator from Connecticut and one of Kennedy's closest friends, joined Kerry along with Senate Majority Leader, Harry Reid and said of Kennedy, "He's a strong guy and has great heart and we're confident he'll be back here."

Harry Reid, the Democratic Senate Majority Leader from Nevada said, "He knows how we feel about him, without our even telling him. ... And so we stand as a body, and as certainly a Democratic family, with our affection, our love and our prayers with Senator Ted Kennedy."

"Ted, Ted, Ted. My dear friend. I love you and miss you."

—Senator Robert Byrd (D-WV)

Bob Kerrey, the former Democratic senator for Nebraska, recently said that Ted Kennedy is "the one politician who brings tears to my eyes when he speaks."

"I am so deeply saddened I have lost the words," said John Warner, the Republican senator from Virginia.

Senator Robert Byrd from West Virginia wept on the Senate floor as he said, "Ted, Ted, Ted. My dear friend. I love you and miss you." Byrd also stated, "Keep Ted here for us and for America."

The three Presidential candidates, all three of whom are Senators gave statements on the announcement of Kennedy's tumor.

"He fights for what he thinks is right. And we want to make sure that he's fighting this illness. And it's our job now to support him in the way that he has supported us for so many years. He's not just a great senator, he is a great friend. He is beloved by me, and beloved by my colleagues," said Barack Obama, the Senator from Illinois and one of the two Democratic candidates for President.

Kennedy threw his support behind Obama and endorsed him back in January right before Super Tuesday.

Hillary Clinton, the other Democratic candidate for President and New York's junior senator said, "Ted Kennedy's courage and resolve are unmatched, and they have made him one of the greatest legislators in Senate history. Our thoughts are with him and Vicki

and we are praying for a quick and full recovery." The Clinton family is also friends with the Kennedy family. The Clinton's occasionally vacationed at the Kennedy Compound in Hyannis, Massachusetts.

"Obviously, our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and to him. We hope and pray that they will be able to treat it and that he will experience a full recovery. I have said on numerous occasions, I have described Ted Kennedy as the last lion in the Senate, and I have held that view because he remains the single most effective member of the Senate if you want to get results," said John McCain, the Republican senator from Arizona and presumptive nominee for the Republicans bid for the White House.

"Our thoughts are with Senator Kennedy and his family during this difficult period. We join our fellow Americans in praying for his full recovery."

—President George W. Bush

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Democrat from California said, "I have confidence though because Senator Kennedy has been a fighter all his life. He is a fighter — a fighter for our children, for our workers, for our seniors. He is a champion fighting for health care for all Americans. I know that that fighting spirit will hold him in good stead in the challenge that he faces now."

President George W. Bush released a statement saying, "Laura and I are concerned to learn of our friend Senator Kennedy's diagnosis. Ted Kennedy is a man of tremendous courage, remarkable strength and powerful spirit. Our thoughts are with Senator Kennedy and his family

during this difficult period. We join our fellow Americans in praying for his full recovery."

### **Ma Ying-jeou becomes President of Republic of China**

Today, Ma Ying-jeou was sworn in as the President of the Republic of China, also known as Taiwan, and delivered his inauguration speech, entitled "Taiwan's Renaissance".

In his speech, he discussed four issues. He called for people to "establish mutual trust and Seek common ground while ignoring differences, setting aside disputes, and creating a win-win situation", which was also promoted by Jintao Hu. Ma also stressed three of his principles "No reunification, No independence, No war". He also said, he hopes the governmental executives of China can positively appreciate "one China, but agree to differ on its definition under the 1992 consensus".

In the speech, Ma also said that he hopes that new cabinet members of Executive Yuan will establish the example of clean government and ensure the rights and interests of the disadvantaged minorities in the future.

### **Explosives found in California cave**

Crystal Cave, which is in Sequoia National Park, was evacuated after park employees found a substance that was believed to be explosive material left behind after construction work inside the cave conducted during the 1930s.

The discovery was made while workers were performing restoration work at the cave. They found what appeared to be remnants of live explosives. The person serving as the chief regional blaster for the park was then contacted.

The National Park service said that the explosives may be nitroglycerin. They also said that because of its instability, detonation may be required for removal. "In preparation for that possibility, park staff will install temporary blasting mats and blankets to protect cave formations and features. The area remains closed," said the NPS.

The cave remains closed at this time but staff aim to reopen on May 21.

### **Asbestos discovery triggers evacuation and closure of New Jersey middle school**

The discovery of the presence of airborne asbestos in a middle school in Montclair, New Jersey Friday prompted the evacuation of over 200 students from the school and the school's closure. Renaissance Middle School, part of the Montclair Public Schools in New Jersey, was closed Monday and remains closed Tuesday while undergoing asbestos testing and cleaning.

According to a letter sent home to parents by the Superintendent's Office of Montclair Public Schools on Friday, "plaster may have been disturbed" during construction on new fire doors at the Renaissance School building on Thursday.

An inspection arranged by the school district indicated asbestos was present in the plaster, and a subsequent inspection performed by asbestos consultant Detail Associates revealed "a level of airborne asbestos fibers that exceeded the acceptable range" in the third floor hallway of the school. Montclair Public Schools business administrator Dana Sullivan told The Star-Ledger that testing conducted on March 31

revealed the presence of asbestos in a brown undercoating of plaster at the Renaissance School building.

"The safety of our students and staff is always our first concern"  
—Laura Federico, School District Public Information Officer

The affected area was sealed off, and some students were moved to other areas of the building while others were moved to off-site locations. District Public Information Officer Laura Federico told The Montclair Times that sixth and seventh graders were transported to Hillside Elementary School, and eighth graders were bussed to Montclair High School. "The safety of our students and staff is always our first concern," said Federico.

According to The Montclair Times, Detail Associates conducted a cleaning protocol at the school on Saturday and tested the building to make sure it did not contain unacceptable levels of asbestos fibers. The letter sent to parents Friday by the Superintendent's Office said that Detail Associates had told the district that the building would be "cleaned, tested and cleared for occupancy by Monday morning". The school remained closed Monday, and a meeting was held between parents and school district officials. A Parent-Teacher Association meeting is planned for Wednesday night.

The Star-Ledger reported that the ongoing asbestos cleanup of the school is being supervised by the state Department of Environmental Protection. At the meeting Monday morning between parents and school district

officials, parents demanded that the inside of lockers be included as part of the asbestos cleanup. This additional step in the asbestos inspection process prompted the school's closure Tuesday. A Monday statement by the Business Office of Montclair Public Schools said that the Renaissance School would remain closed Tuesday for sixth and seventh grade students "so that an extensive cleanup and additional asbestos testing can be completed". Eighth grade students did not have classes scheduled as a trip to Washington, D.C. had previously been planned; the school trip is unaffected by the recent asbestos incident.

"The kids will be able to go back to school soon, and that's the important part." —Jim Goodness, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark

Steve Jaraczewski of Detail Associates was present at the district meeting Monday, and said that one of four test samples taken at the school was positive for the presence of airborne asbestos at over six times acceptable levels. Jaraczewski was critical of the asbestos management plan provided by Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark, which owns the school's building and leases it to Montclair Public Schools.

Jaraczewski said that the state Department of Environmental Protection has required asbestos management plans since 1988, but that the company that drafted the asbestos plan for the Archdiocese of Newark is out of business. Representative for the archdiocese Jim Goodness emphasized that the building would be back open for classes soon. "The kids will be able to go back to school soon, and that's the

important part," said Goodness.

Exposure to airborne asbestos can lead to mesothelioma, a cancer which develops in the sac surrounding the lungs and chest cavity, abdominal cavity, or the sac surrounding the heart. Exposure to disturbed asbestos fibers can also lead to lung scarring, a condition called asbestosis, and lung cancer. Patients with malignant mesothelioma generally do not have positive outcomes, and once diagnosed have six months to a year to live.

### **Detroit Red Wings win 2008 NHL Western finals**

North American ice hockey's major championship, the Stanley Cup playoffs, is down to a contest between the Pittsburgh Penguins and the Detroit Red Wings. Detroit defeated the Dallas Stars on Monday with a 4-1 score to win the Western Conference finals.

Despite a third-period goal by Dallas defenceman Stéphane Robidas, Detroit prevailed with three goals in the first period (Kris Draper, Pavel Datsyuk, Dallas Drake) and a goal by left winger Henrik Zetterberg in the second period.

Detroit captain Nicklas Lidström accepted the Clarence Campbell trophy on behalf of his team after the game concluded at the American Airlines Center in Dallas.

The first game of the Stanley Cup finals is scheduled for Saturday in Detroit at Joe Louis Arena.

**Today in History**

1758 – French and Indian War: Ten-year-old Mary Campbell was taken captive from her Pennsylvania home by members of the Native American group Lenape, presumably becoming the first white child to travel to the Connecticut Western Reserve.

1894 – The Manchester Ship Canal, linking Greater Manchester in North West England to the Irish Sea, officially opened, becoming the largest navigation canal in the world at the time.

1904 – The Fédération Internationale de Football Association, the international sport governing body of association football, was founded in Paris.

1927 – Aboard the Spirit of St. Louis, American aviator Charles Lindbergh completed the first solo non-stop transatlantic flight, flying from Roosevelt Field near New York City to Le Bourget Airport near Paris.

1998 – Indonesian President Suharto resigned following the collapse of support for his three-decade-long reign.

May 21 is Navy Day in Chile

**Quote of the Day**

The flying Rumours gather'd as they roll'd,  
Scarce any Tale was sooner heard than told;  
And all who told it, added something new,  
And all who heard it, made Enlargements too,  
In ev'ry Ear it spread, on ev'ry Tongue it grew.  
~ Alexander Pope ~

**Word of the Day**

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1. A strong flow of water away from the shore of the ocean.
2. A confusing situation in which a person is overwhelmed.

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