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**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**Warlords may need U.S. advisers**  
KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Worried that renegade warlords could plunge Afghanistan into civil war once again, the United States may send military advisers to act as referees between rival factions, the U.S. special envoy said Sunday.

The idea appeared aimed at finding a way to stem factional fighting without expanding the U.S. military presence or diverting troops from hunting Taliban and al-Qaida fugitives.

"We are worried about the multiple armies," envoy Zalmay Khalilzad told reporters. "There is a danger of multiple armies going to war."

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Monday, February 25, 2002

**Whitfield**  
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lower interest rates, Whitfield said, making it easier to borrow money to buy a home or start a business.

"It's one thing to talk about cutting taxes, it's another to actually do it"

— Eric Whitfield  
Republican candidate

Whitfield said he would "stand shoulder to shoulder" with President Bush in the war on terrorism. Congress may have to decide whether to send American troops into combat, and as the only veteran in the race, Whitfield said he understands the risks involved in sending young men into harm's way. Whitfield said he left college during the Vietnam War to enlist in the Army, and his son is currently in the Marine Corps.

Whitfield said he would work to steer more federal research and development grants to Texas A&M.

**Putty Player**



ALISSA HOLLIMON • THE BATTLE

Five-year-old Megan Quartermont plays with the putty she made at the Engineering Fair at Post Oak Mall Saturday afternoon.

**California appeals for federal changes to electricity contracts**

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — California will petition the federal government to modify dozens of long-term electricity contracts signed during the peak of the state's power crisis, state officials said Sunday.

With California \$14.5 billion in the red, two state agencies will ask the federal government Monday to find that power sellers overcharged the state by roughly \$21 billion on contracts signed last spring to keep electricity flowing over the next two decades.

The appeal to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which oversees wholesale electricity sales, could give the state leverage in its efforts to renegotiate contracts with the companies.

It could also lower electric bills, which would boost Gov. Gray Davis' approval ratings as he seeks a second term in November.

At issue are deals with 22 power companies, including subsidiaries of Mirant, Williams and Calpine.

The state has pledged more than \$40 billion to buy the contracts, which consumer groups and utilities commissioners alike have called overpriced and unfair to ratepayers.

Davis has defended the contracts, saying California struck the best deals it could when skyrocketing prices left power sellers with no other negotiating power.

"We got the best contracts we could get," Davis said. "That's not to say, however, that they were the contracts or the fairest contracts that we could have gotten had FERC been doing its job."

Barry Goode, chief counsel to Davis, said the state is looking for a second term in November.

The Texas Transportation Department is planning to asphalt test tracks before it is paid by ratepayers. One of the tests is for asphalt. The Texas Transportation Department is planning to asphalt test tracks before it is paid by ratepayers. One of the tests is for asphalt.

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- **HURRY FEBRUARY SPECIAL ENDS SOON!**—Personal Training Sessions—One FREE Personal Training session during the month of February when you sign up for partner sessions. Your fitness goals can become a reality starting with a good foundation. Please sign up at Member Services.
- **FREE Healthy Living Lectures**—Healthy living is a holistic approach, mind and body go hand and hand. Lectures are in the Rec, room 281 at 5:30pm. Next lecture is on February 27th—*Communicating For A Healthy Relationship*
- **Swedish Massage Therapy**—One full hour of Swedish massage therapy is only \$35 for Rec Members and \$45 for affiliates without a Rec Membership. Appointments are available every day of the week, register at Member Services.
- **FREE Weight Room Orientation**—Guided assistance to help you better understand and utilize your weight room facilities. Held every Saturday morning. Sign up at Member Services.
- **REC SPORTS GIFT CERTIFICATES**—Someone hard to shop for? Rec Sports Gift Certificates are a great idea for a unique gift for birthdays, gift exchanges or just to surprise someone special in your life. Available now at Member Services.
- **FITNESS INSTRUCTOR TRAINING (FIT) Program**—This six-week course is geared towards the fitness enthusiast with limited or no experience instructing an aerobics class. Classes will meet Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30-6:45pm in room 304, March 18-April 24th. Registration runs through March 16th, cost is \$50 for Rec Members, \$60 for Rec Affiliates and \$70 for the general public. Register early, class is limited to 40 participants. Register at Member Services. Contact DeAun Woosely for more information at 862-3995.

**GO, SEE, & DO WITH OUTDOORS**

Upcoming Events	Registration	Event Dates
Lead Climbing Clinic	Now-Mar. 4	March 4-5
Rafting Day Trip	Now-Mar. 19	March 19-20
Fly Fishing Day Trip	Now-Mar. 19	March 19-20

• **SAVE MONEY WITH OUR Spring Break Trips!**—Time is all running out and space is limited! Sign up today at TAMU Outdoors for these unique and competitively priced INCLUSIVE vacation packages. Sign up by March 15th or reserve your spot! Drop by TAMU Outdoors for more info or call 845-4511.

Trip Destination	Travel Dates
Climb Hueco Tanks	March 10th-March 11th
Horsepack Mexico's Frontier	March 13th-March 14th

**STAY ACTIVE WITH INTRAMURALS**

Program	Registration
Handball	Feb. 25-Mar. 5
Swim Meet	Feb. 25-Mar. 5

**GET WET WITH AQUATICS**

- **Lifeguard Training**—First session begins April 1st! Cost is \$110. For more info. please call 862-3224.
- **Adult Learn To Swim**—Learn to swim with an experienced instructor in a safe and comfortable environment. Register now through March 17th. Cost starts at \$25 for Rec Members. For more information please contact Chris Logan at 862-3224.