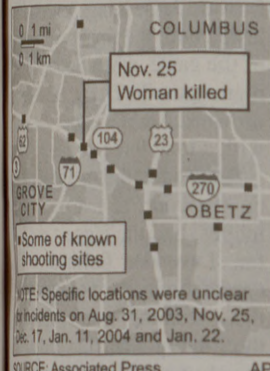
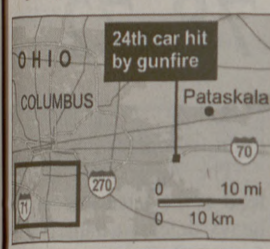


**Shooter seen on Columbus overpass**

Police are looking for a man seen on a highway overpass who fired a handgun that struck a sports utility vehicle on Saturday. Investigators are linking the incident with the series of highway shootings in Columbus.



NOTE: Specific locations were unclear in incidents on Aug. 31, 2003, Nov. 25, Dec. 17, Jan. 11, 2004 and Jan. 22.

SOURCE: Associated Press AP

**Latest shot fired on Ohio highway linked to series of shootings**

By Jonathan Drew  
 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The day after the chief investigator said authorities were closing in on a serial highway shooter, a man stood in plain view on an overpass and fired a handgun at cars below. He then walked to his car and slipped into traffic.

Ballistics testing has confirmed that the Saturday morning shooting was the 24th in a series in the Columbus area, investigators said Sunday. No one was injured in that shooting.

The bullet recovered from the battery of a sport utility vehicle struck on Interstate 70 matches eight others recovered during the investigation, includ-

ing the one that killed a woman in November, according to a release. The others have been linked by factors including location and circumstances.

Experts said the shooter is becoming bolder after evading capture for three months, when authorities first established a pattern in the shootings.

"He's sending a message to police: 'You're not as close as you think you are. I can shoot in broad daylight, and you still won't find me,'" said Jack Levin, a criminologist and director of the Brudnick Center on Violence at Northeastern University.

On Friday, Franklin County Chief Deputy Steve Martin said he felt confident in the investigation's progress.

**Ex-prison chef details last meals**

By Michael Graczyk  
 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CROCKETT, Texas — A cheeseburger and french fries.

That's what more Texas inmates facing execution request as a last meal than any other, says Brian Price, who prepared 220 final meals in the Huntsville prison kitchen while serving 14 years there himself.

Steak, ice cream and fried chicken are popular too. Vegetables? Not so much, although one inmate wanted fried squash, fried eggplant, mashed potatoes, snap peas, boiled cabbage, corn on the cob, spinach and cheese-covered broccoli with his chicken.

Price provides 42 jailhouse recipes and details on the inmates' crimes in "Meals to Die For," a more than 500-page cookbook coming out in March. Paige Corp. of San Antonio, whose president is Frank Wesch, Price's nephew, is the publisher.

"Some folks think I'm poking fun at a serious and solemn subject," said Price, who was paroled last year after serving time on a pair of convictions related to the abduction of his brother-in-law and a sexual assault on an ex-wife. "My intention is not to offend anyone."

But with recipes with names such as Gallows Gravy, Rice Rigor Mornis and Old Sparky's Genuine Convict Chili in escalating levels of spice (5,000, 10,000 or 20,000 volts), some people find the book in bad taste.

"He's a scum-sucking bottom-feeder," said Dianne Clements, president of the Houston-based Justice For All, a victims' rights group. She said Price is trying to profit from crime at the expense of victims.

Price said his book is as much about prison experiences as it is food. "There's a fascination with death, the macabre, a curiosity of the dark side," he said. "There's no way to get around it."

Until December, every item requested in a last meal since Texas resumed capital punishment in 1982 was listed on the state Department of Criminal Justice's Internet site. That was 313 meals until the site was updated and the listing eliminated because officials said they'd received complaints from people who found it offensive.

"The subject of last meals is one that seems to captivate the public," department spokeswoman Michelle Lyons said. Price will "definitely find an audience in chronicling his years as the preparer of all the last meals."

Price's recollections draw from the prison system's online records of death row inmates and are embellished with entries he made in a personal journal during his years in prison. He also includes in the book copies of some of the handwritten notes inmates submitted requesting their final meals.

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**Gas prices climb at the pump**

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP) — Retail gasoline prices continue to climb at the nation's pumps, rising more than 17 cents a gallon since late December, according to a study released Sunday.

Gas prices for all grades rose 3.61 cents in the past weeks to a national average of \$1.68 per gallon, according to the Lundberg Survey of 8,000 stations.

Industry analyst Trilby Lundberg said several factors were responsible for the hike, including OPEC's decision to cut oil production by 1 million barrels a day beginning April 1.

The rate of increase was slowing, compared to the past period, but Lundberg said there is no indication "prices have peaked or will fall anytime soon."

**Afghan raids net three arrests**

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — American forces backed by warplanes sealed off two villages in southern Afghanistan and detained two terror suspects Sunday, while Afghan police and NATO-led troops in Kabul made one arrest and seized arms and terror-related material in another raid.

As many as 60 U.S. soldiers supported by warplanes sealed off a pair of villages Sunday in southern Helmand province and detained two men — Mulvi Abdul Ghafar and Gul Agha — suspected of ties to top Taliban commander Mullah Dadullah, local district leader Haji Amir said.

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