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Top Stories



[Hundreds Said Killed in North Korea Blast](#)

AP - 23 minutes ago

North Korean officials say several hundred people were believed killed and several thousand injured in an explosion at a train station in the town of Ryongchon near the Chinese border, the British ambassador to

North Korea said Friday. [Full Coverage](#)

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Slideshows



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A ten-day-old marmoset clutches the finger of a zoo keeper at the zoo in Wittenberg, Germany, Friday, April 23, 2004. (AP Photo/Eckehard Schulz)

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[USA TODAY Snapshot](#)

Why do people worry about contractors working on their homes?

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Business

[Durable Goods Orders Up Sharply in March](#)

Reuters - Fri Apr 23, 8:57 AM ET

Orders for long-lasting durable goods surged again in March, as U.S. factories sought to keep up with unexpectedly strong demand for a broad array of products, a Commerce Department report on Friday showed.

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World



[Sharon Says No Longer Bound by Pledge Not to Harm Arafat](#)

Reuters - 15 minutes ago

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Friday he was no longer bound by a pledge he gave President Bush not to harm Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

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Entertainment



[Hewitt, Chaplin Go 'Carol'-Ing](#)

Reuters - 1 hour, 3 minutes ago

Jennifer Love Hewitt and Geraldine Chaplin are set to join the cast of NBC's "A Christmas Carol," a musical based on the stage production at New York's Madison Square Garden.

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(NPR)

Sports



[Former NFL Player Killed in Afghanistan](#)

AP - 15 minutes ago

Pat Tillman was killed in Afghanistan after walking away from a multimillion-dollar NFL contract to join the Army Rangers, U.S. officials said Friday. [Full Coverage](#)

Technology



[Justice Dept. Identifies Internet Pirates](#)

AP - Fri Apr 23, 10:38 AM ET

An international effort to dismantle major Internet piracy groups has identified more than 100 people in the United States and abroad involved in the theft of more than \$50 million in music, movies, games and computer software, U.S. authorities said Thursday. [Full Coverage](#)

Politics



[Kerry: Religion Shouldn't Mix With Politics](#)

AP - 40 minutes ago

Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry's campaign said Friday that religion should not be an issue in U.S. politics after a top Vatican official said Catholic politicians who support abortion rights should be denied Communion.

Science



[Da Vinci: Inventor of Car?](#)

Reuters - 1 hour, 53 minutes ago

Leonardo da Vinci is revered around the world as a master of Renaissance painting and an ingenious engineer, but few have thought of him as the father of the modern car.

Health

[Cold Virus May Lurk in Body, Study Finds](#)

Reuters - 2 hours, 17 minutes ago

A common cold virus that can land babies in the hospital may hide out in the lungs for weeks or months, perhaps explaining how it spreads easily despite the best hygiene efforts, doctors reported on Friday.

Oddly Enough

[Woman Parks Car, Sparks Nude Protest](#)

Reuters - 2 hours, 18 minutes ago

A naked man chased a woman motorist to her house in Germany to protest that she had parked badly, police said Friday.

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Op/Ed

[Troop buildup in Iraq exposes critical shortages](#)

USATODAY.com - Fri Apr 23, 6:15 AM ET

A USA TODAY/CNN/Gallup Poll this week showed that a third of Americans believe that the U.S. needs to send more troops to Iraq to help stem the rising violence. After months of insisting additional forces weren't necessary, President Bush and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld now agree that's the wiser course. As a result, the Pentagon has canceled plans to reduce U.S. troops to 115,000, and it is drawing up contingency plans to quickly deploy even more soldiers to Iraq if necessary.

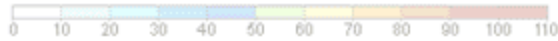
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San Francisco Weather

at: 12:55 pm PDT

F° | C°



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