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MORE NEWS



BASEBALL

Little Leaguer in spotlight

Twelve-year-old Jordan Johnson made an over-the-wall catch of a fly ball that was so good the Little League player wound up on ESPN./C1

INVESTIGATION

Waste hauler under scrutiny

The owner of County Waste and Recycling built his firm up over two decades and now faces claims it has bilked millions from the town of Colonie./B1

SARATOGA STYLE

Know what to do

We collect all the information you will need to plan your fun in the Spa City during this year's racing season./Sunday



INTERNET

Prosecutors like help from MySpace

Prosecutors are using Facebook and MySpace to get damaging photos of defendants to argue for harsher punishment./A4

PLEA DEAL

Ex-bus driver admits abuse

A former Saratoga Springs school bus driver admits to charges of having sexual contact with three boys as part of a plea deal./B1

Bush talks of leaving Iraq

In concession, President agrees to goals for withdrawing troops

By STEVEN LEE MYERS
New York Times

HOUSTON — President Bush agreed to “a general time horizon” for withdrawing American troops in Iraq, the White House announced Friday, in a concession that reflected both progress in stabilizing Iraq and the depth of political opposition to an open-ended military presence in Iraq and at home.

Bush, who has long derided timetables for

troop withdrawals as dangerous, agreed to at least a notional one as part of the administration's efforts to negotiate the terms for an American military presence in Iraq after a U.N. mandate expires at the end of the year.

The agreement, announced in statements released by the White House and Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's government, reflected a significant shift in the war in Iraq. More than five years after the conflict began with the overthrow of Saddam Hussein, the American military presence now depends significantly, if not completely, on Iraqi acquiescence.

The White House offered no specifics

about how far off any “time horizon” would be, with officials saying details remained to be negotiated. Any dates cited in an agreement would be cast as goals for handing responsibility to Iraqis, and not specifically for reducing American troops, said a White House spokesman, Gordon D. Johndroe.

But the White House statement said that the two leaders “agreed that improving conditions should allow for the agreements now under negotiation to include a general time horizon for meeting aspirational goals such as the resumption of Iraqi security control in their cities and provinces and the

Please see IRAQ A10 ►

Ⓜ **Previously:** The Bush administration refused to set a deadline pulling troops out of Iraq, saying it would give insurgents the chance to simply outwait U.S. forces.

Ⓜ **The latest:** The President agrees to “a general time horizon,” with no dates yet attached.

Ⓜ **What's next:** The details will be negotiated with the Iraqis. The administration says any dates in the agreement are goals for handing responsibility to Iraqis, and not specifically for reducing troops.



SEN. JOSEPH L. BRUNO pays a visit Friday to Joseph L. Bruno Stadium in Troy. He obtained state funds to build the stadium.

PHOTOS BY WILL WALDRON/TIMES UNION

A \$153.5M farewell to Capital Region

Last weeks in office bring deluge of state money to projects in area

By RICK KARLIN
Capitol bureau

ALBANY — Maybe they could have called it the million-dollar-a-mile tour down memory lane, but it would have totaled a lot more than that.

While Sen. Joseph L. Bruno on Friday capped off his 32-year political

career with a bus tour visiting some of the buildings, transportation centers and sports facilities he helped bring to the area, the trip also followed a nearly month-long reminder of how many state dollars Bruno directed to the Capital Region over the years.

And during the last two weeks before he retired from public office the senator went on a veritable ribbon-cutting binge, with barely a day going by in which he didn't appear at some business, research center or municipal

Please see DOLLARS A7 ►



SPEAKING TO THE MEDIA, Sen. Joseph L. Bruno makes a point during his Friday bus tour.

Bruno takes a last bow on tour

Senator's final day in office includes bus trip, media crush and lots of reminiscing

By IRENE JAY LIU
Capitol bureau

Joseph L. Bruno had wandered off again. Walking through the Albany International Airport, with a crush of staffers, media and well-wishers in tow, Bruno was supposed to be headed toward the observation deck that bears a bust that honors the former Senate majority leader, and now former senator.

Bruno was saying goodbye Friday, the last of many “lasts” over the past few weeks, and he couldn't resist the stares from people at the Colonie airport. He bee-lined toward anyone at all — airline attendants, passengers, custodial workers, a baby.

Some recognized him, others responded to his greetings with curious looks. He chatted, he shook hands, and before moving on, he introduced himself: “I'm Senator Joe Bruno.”

But as of 12:01 a.m. Saturday, “everybody calls me Joe,” Bruno said.

Friday was his last day in office
Please see TOUR A6 ►



View moments from Sen. Joseph L. Bruno's farewell tour at <http://timesunion.com>.

CAROL DRAPER

of Loudonville shops Friday at W.F. Ryan Produce in Colonie. The store used information to allay fears about tomatoes during the salmonella scare.



LORI VAN BUREN/TIMES UNION

A sour taste or sweet embrace?

Tomato industry hopes consumers come back after salmonella scare

By JENNIFER GISH
Staff writer

Mike Ryan, vice president of W.F. Ryan Produce in Colonie, doesn't want to be one to say “I told you so” when it came to the tomato scare, but he did.

When the Food and Drug Administration warned consumers on June 7 that certain tomato varieties may be the source of a nationwide

salmonella outbreak, Ryan didn't pull a single tomato off the shelves, choosing instead to talk to his customers about the safety practices of the farmers who supply his store and his confidence in them. He shared third-party farm inspection reports with customers and posted signs detailing where his tomatoes were grown.

On Thursday, the FDA lifted its warning, turning instead to raw jalapeno and serrano peppers as the possible source of contamination. But the damage had already been done to the tomato industry, which

was left with tons of produce rotting in the field while many consumers left tomatoes out of their salads and off their sandwiches, Ryan said.

The question now is, when will those customers come back to the tomato bins?

“It's a terrible scare factor that goes on with anything that's food-related, and it gets everybody excited, and they jump ship,” Ryan said, adding that it took a month and a half for spinach sales to bounce back after the 2006 FDA warnings about potentially contaminated spinach.

Please see FOOD A10 ►

INSIDE

Kevin Costner: Don't let fear get in the way of love.
Parade



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TOUR: Bruno enjoys final day in political office

▼ CONTINUED FROM A1

as senator of the 43rd District, representing Rensselaer and Saratoga counties, a post he held for 32 years, 14 of them as Senate majority leader. As the top Republican in the Senate, he cultivated a persona that alternated between down to earth and larger than life, joshing and jousting with the news media, colleagues and political foes. He took on the seemingly unassailable Gov. Eliot Spitzer, who eventually left the Executive Mansion amid a prostitution scandal.

Even on his last day, Bruno took a few shots at Spitzer, at one point calling his successor, David Paterson, wonderful "compared to that previous piece of work."

His final workday hours were, in keeping with character, spent with the news media, sponsoring a bus tour to view his achievements, the ride paid for from his \$1.7 million campaign coffers.

The bus traveled his district, stopping for photo ops at the landmarks created through his power and influence over millions of state dollars — the Joseph L. Bruno Stadium in Troy, nicknamed "the Joe"; Rensselaer Tech Park; the former site of Rensselaer High School, where a riverfront residential and commercial development is slated; the Rensselaer Train Station; the UAlbany East Campus; and Albany International Airport.

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WILL WALDRON/TIMES UNION

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people would do is say, 'Ah, he thinks they're going to lose.'"

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► Irene Jay Liu can be reached at 454-5081 or by e-mail at iliu@timesunion.com.

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. Bruno takes a last bow on tour Senator's final day in office includes bus trip, media crush and lots of reminiscing

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Illustration: Photo

Caption: WILL WALDRON/TIMES UNION

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By **IRENE JAY LIU**

Capitol bureau

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Factbox: Gallery

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