

Staging a comeback

Mike Hampton is back on the mound, seeking to show he's got something left for the Atlanta Braves /1C



A VOICE FOR CHILDREN

East Cobb teenager spearheads divorced youths' rights group/1D



MONDAY

Marietta Daily Journal

February 18, 2008

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Beef recall makes history

USDA bans 143 million pounds of meat

By Greg Risling
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — The U.S. Department of Agriculture on Sunday ordered the recall of 143 million pounds of frozen beef from a California slaughterhouse, the subject of an animal-abuse investigation, that provided meat to school lunch programs.

Officials said it was the largest beef recall in the United States, surpassing a 1999 ban of 35 million pounds of ready-to-eat meats. No illnesses have been linked to the



The Associated Press

A worker throws a piece of meat among cattle carcass scraps dropped into a truck at the Hallmark Meat Packing slaughterhouse in Chino, Calif.

newly recalled meat, and officials said the health threat was likely small.

The recall will affect beef products dating to Feb. 1, 2006, that came from Chino-based Westland/Hallmark

Meat Co., the federal agency said.

Secretary of Agriculture Ed Schafer said his department has evidence that Westland did not routinely contact its veterinarian when cattle

became non-ambulatory after passing inspection, violating health regulations.

"Because the cattle did not receive complete and proper inspection, Food Safety and Inspection Service has determined them to be unfit for human food and the company is conducting a recall," Schafer said in a statement.

A phone message left for Westland president Steve Mendell was not immediately returned.

Federal officials suspended operations at Westland/Hallmark after an undercover Humane Society video surfaced showing crippled and sick animals being shoved with forklifts.

Two former employees

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The Associated Press

Democrats are offering up plenty of ideas on how Hillary Clinton can beat Barack Obama in the presidential race, but there doesn't appear to be a sure plan for victory for her in 2008.

Opinions abound for Clinton win

By Nancy Benac
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Ask a dozen die-hard Democrats around the country what Hillary Rodham Clinton can do to beat Barack Obama and win the presidential nomination and they have plenty of ideas — some of them contradictory.

The question generates strong sentiment, though, that Clinton simply can't compete on charisma, that there are forces at play beyond her control. Going negative could backfire, they warn. Laying out nitty-gritty policy details isn't enough, they say.

There's no shortage of advice, but also no shortage of head-scratching. Add it all up, and there doesn't appear to be a secret plan to save her candidacy.

Tips to regain Clinton's footing

A sampling of Democratic voices from the field:

■ SHOW PASSION:

"The challenge for Hillary Clinton is to be seen as an agent of change, to recapture the passion that the people who support her really have for her," says Kari Chisholm, a political consultant in Oregon who blogs at www.blueoregon.com. "I'm not sure that I'd want to be in the shoes on her team. ... She's considered the same old, same old, and she's not. But she's having trouble communicating that." Chisholm said Clinton should hit her universal health care message harder, stop using Washington insiders to defend her on cable TV and "find a way to communicate some excitement." Chisholm supported John Edwards,

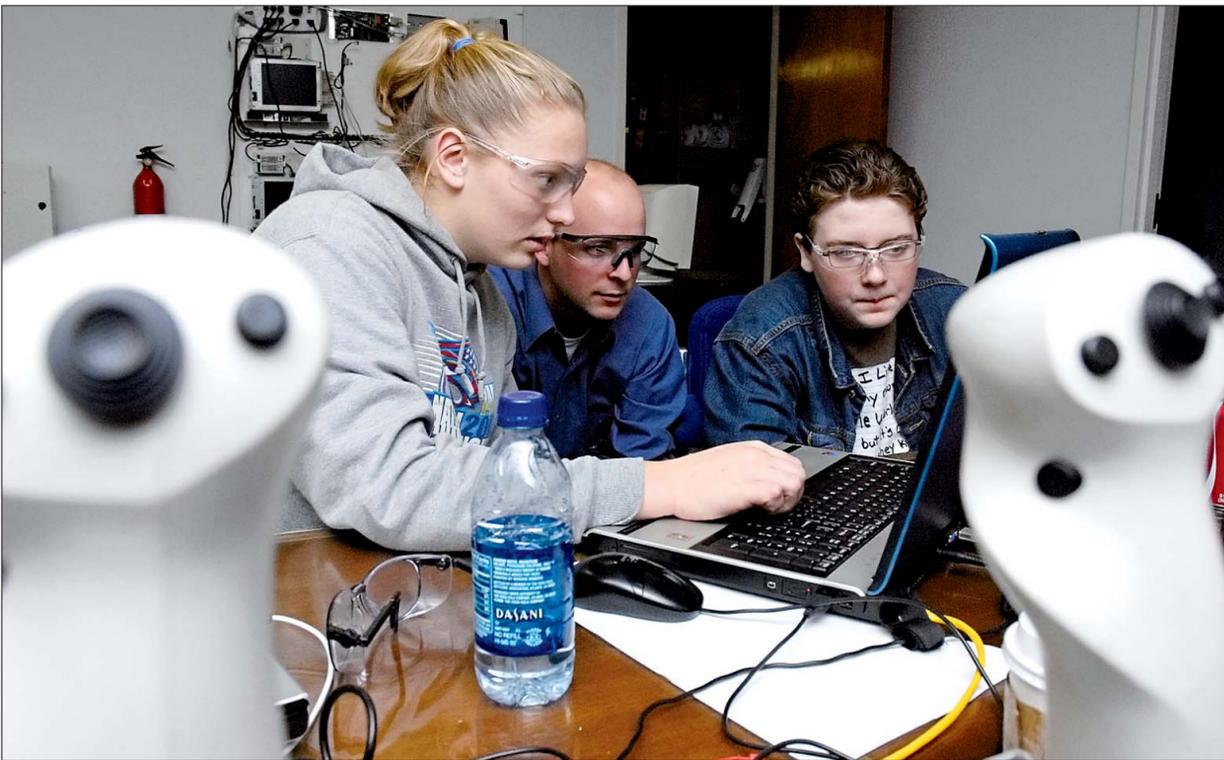
and says he could go either way between Clinton and Obama.

■ **IT'S THE ECONOMY. AGAIN:** "HRC's fire-wall must be predicated on message," says Chris Lehane, a political consultant in California and former aide to President Clinton. "She is THE candidate who the public, press and pundits by instinct, temperament and history believe is the best on the economy at the exact time the economy is THE brooding, omnipresent force hovering over both the primary and general electorate." Lehane is backing Clinton.

■ **GO NEGATIVE:** "She needs to come in strong," says Judy

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Robotic Ingenuity



Staff photo by Laura Moon

Daniel Volker, center, of Lockheed Martin aides Kell High School freshmen Kelsey Merick, left, and Spenser Tousignant with the 'C' code to program the robot. Kell High and Wheeler High School students are preparing to compete in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Peachtree Regional, to be conducted March 14 and 15 at the Gwinnett Civic Center. Teams have six weeks to design and build a robot that can complete a series of tasks. For story, see Page 1B.



The Associated Press

An Afghan police officer stands guard near damaged police vehicles at the site of a suicide attack on the western edge of Kandahar, south of Kabul, Afghanistan on Sunday.

Bombing at dog fight in Afghanistan kills 80

By Allauddin Khan and Jason Straziuso
Associated Press Writers

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — A suicide bomber penetrated a crowd watching a dog-fighting competition in the Taliban's former stronghold Sunday, killing up to 80 people in one of the bloodiest bombings since the regime's 2001 ouster.

The attack follows a year of record violence and predictions that the Afghan conflict could turn even deadlier this year.

Several hundred people, including Afghan militia leaders, had gathered in a barren dirt field to watch the event on the western edge of the southern city of Kandahar. Witnesses reported gunfire from bodyguards after the blast, but it was not immediately clear if the bullets killed or wounded anyone.

A prominent militia commander who stood up against the Taliban was killed in the attack and officials said he may have been the target. The bombing crumpled several Afghan police trucks and turned the field a bloody red.

Death tolls fluctuated. Kandahar Gov. Asadullah Khalid said 80 people died, while the Health Ministry said 70 were killed and 70 wounded. The Interior Ministry first said 80 died and then revised the toll to 65.

The previous deadliest bombing in Afghanistan killed about 70 people — mostly students — in November, part of a record year of violence in 2007 that included more than 140 suicide attacks.

Khalid blamed the attack on "the enemy of Afghanistan" — which typically means the Taliban.

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