

FINAL SCORES

Reggie White dead

Defensive end, 43, was all-pro for Eagles, Packers



By John Sommers II, Reuters
Peyton Manning: 2 TD passes.

Record day

Colts' Manning gets 49th TD pass, steers comeback win

- NFL: 1-10C
- TD record at a glance, 2C



Passages 2004

Remembering the notables — from Reagan to Reeve, Ray to Rodney — who left indelible impressions

10-11A

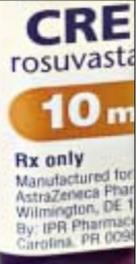
Monday, December 27, 2004

Newsline

News Money Sports Life

The dizzying Crestor debate

With all the give and take about the cholesterol drug, including an ad blitz, what's a consumer to believe?



USA TODAY



By Mike Simons, Getty Images

Air travelers wait it out

Wintry weather and computer glitches affect Comair and US Airways flights, snarling holiday travel for many



Yushchenko claims victory

Opposition candidate Viktor Yushchenko, left, posts a commanding lead in Ukraine's third presidential election in two months

Reuters

New bad guys for Justice's Nazi hunters

The recent intelligence overhaul includes a provision directing the Justice Department to seek out all manner of war criminals who try to settle in the USA.

Video purports to show Mosul attack

An Iraqi insurgent group posts a video showing a fireball rising from a white tent, supposedly a view of last week's suicide bombing at a U.S. base.

Money: Finding market to protect PCs

Businesses find it critical to provide safeguards for computers to offset threats to e-commerce.

Sports: Conference hoops action starts

A close-up look at men's basketball conference play in the red-hot ACC and across the USA.

Life: 'Fockers' meets a big box office

Meet the Fockers rakes in \$44.7 million for weekend, including a record \$19 million on Christmas Day.

Tuesday: Films focus on families

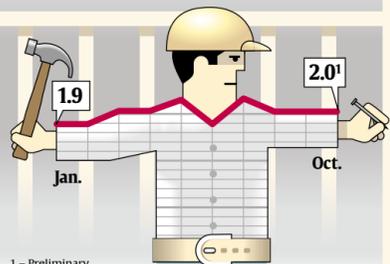
Hollywood is discovering that it pays to produce wholesome movies for multigenerational audiences.

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USA TODAY Snapshots™

Building houses in the USA

Last year monthly housing starts ranged from 1.6 million to 2.1 million. This year they've stayed at around 2 million each month. Totals in millions, rounded:



By Shannon Reilly and Frank Pompa, USA TODAY

7D	Crossword
14-15A	Editorial/Opinion
15C	Lotteries
7D	Marketplace Today
13A	State-by-state
8B	Market trends

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Asia quake kills thousands

9.0-magnitude tremor spurs devastating tidal waves

By Paul Dillon
Special for USA TODAY

JAKARTA, Indonesia — The most powerful earthquake in 40 years hit early Sunday near the Indonesian island of Sumatra, sending 20-foot waves crashing onto the densely populated shores of several Asian nations.

The 9.0-magnitude earthquake was centered 155 miles south-southeast of Banda Aceh, the capital of Aceh province on Sumatra, and 6 miles under the seabed of the Indian Ocean.

The initial shock waves destroyed bridges, toppled power poles and severed the trans-Sumatran highway in many places. The domes of several mosques and sections of the largest hotel in Banda Aceh collapsed.

Traveling at nearly jetliner speeds, huge waves began pummeling southern Thailand an hour after the quake. In 2½ hours, the walls of water had traveled 1,000 miles to India and Sri Lanka.

Home to hundreds of active volcanoes, the Indonesian archipelago is at the southern end of one of the world's most seismically active regions, the so-called Ring of Fire that includes Alaska.

President Bush expressed his condolences. "The United States stands ready to offer all appropriate assistance to those nations most affected," he said in a statement issued on Air Force One.

Pope John Paul II called on the international community to provide assistance.

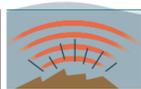
Scope of devastation

In Aceh, waves knocked out power to most of the province's 4 million residents. Phone lines were severed, complicating efforts to gauge the severity of the damage.

In Sri Lanka, massive waves that hit villages along a wide stretch of the coast killed thousands and displaced a million people.

In southern India, the rising waters submerged vast swaths of countryside. Television showed bodies floating in turbulent, muddy seas.

In Thailand, where thousands of tourists were on the country's white sand beaches, officials and resort owners feared many people were missing.



The tsunami

Anatomy of a disaster, 7A

'I've lost my granddaughter in all this. I was swept away by an absolutely massive wave. I was lucky enough to get stuck in some trees.'

— Frenchman Philippe Gilbert in southern Sri Lanka

'Suddenly this huge wave came rushing down the beach, destroying everything in its wake. People that were sunbathing got washed into the sea.'

— Simon Clark, of London, on island of Ngai in Thailand

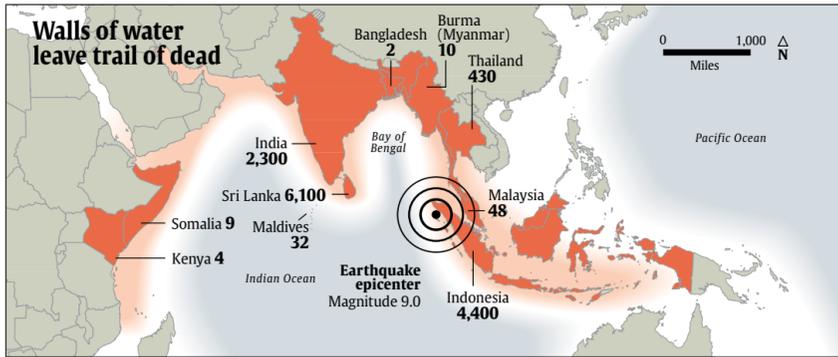
'People had blood all over them, and they screamed and screamed. The Thai people came again and shouted, "The waves are coming, the waves are coming," and we threw down our food and ran into the hills.'

— Swede Ann Sophie Spetz in Thailand



By Eranga Jayawardena, AP

Destruction in Sri Lanka: A woman cries after tidal waves destroyed her house in Colombo on Sunday.



By Alejandro Gonzalez, USA TODAY



By Gemunu Amarasinghe, AP

Inundated: Tidal waves triggered by earthquakes wash over houses south of Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Contributing: Wire reports

What do you believe when drug messages conflict?

By Julie Appleby
USA TODAY

What's a consumer to do? The back and forth on Crestor is dizzying. The newest and most-powerful cholesterol drug on the market is safe, insists its maker. No, it's not, some consumer advocates argue.

Crestor maker AstraZeneca says reports of adverse reactions to the drug are comparable to other cholesterol drugs. Advocacy group Public Citizen says those same reports show the drug has a higher-than-average rate of problems.

Pros

- Most powerful cholesterol drug in use
- Approved for use in more than 50 countries, including the USA
- Price competitive with other anti-cholesterol drugs

Cons

- Risks include muscle disorder and kidney failure
- Consumer group seeks recall
- Canadian and FDA officials advise caution in using drug at highest dose, 40 mg

Crestor: Users are confused as scientists debate its merits.

said Crestor is one of five drugs that need more scrutiny. But, shortly after, the FDA issued a statement saying scientist David Graham's testimony does not reflect the agency's views.

All the while, a multimillion-dollar advertising blitz for Crestor continues. On television, viewers repeatedly see a Crestor commercial featuring a jogging woman fretting about her cholesterol.

Caught between ubiquitous marketing and conflicting science, many consumers can't tell what to believe.

Please see COVER STORY next page

Because holiday meals and new low-rider jeans don't mix. Convenient holiday return shipping at FedEx Kinko's.

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