

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTTO

FANTASY 5

1, 16, 2, 38, 15

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 6, 0, 5
Evening picks: 0, 5, 8

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 06, Whirl Win
2nd Place: 07, Eureka
3rd Place: 05, California Classic
Race Time: 1:48.14



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

■ A 67-year-old woman, outraged that Guinness recognized only an 831-gallstone-removal surgery as the world's record, said she would submit her 3,110 stones (from a 1981 surgery), which fortunately she has saved (Neustrelitz, Germany).

■ In land-scarce Japan, the Tokyo city government started selling small cemetery plots for the first time since 1960, at prices ranging from US\$30,000 to US\$86,000.

■ Career criminal Gary Cowan, whose latest sentence was up, confessed to three more crimes with the hope he would be allowed to stay in prison to finish a restaurant management course (Cambridge, England).



"I improve on misquotations."

— Cary Grant

INDEX

Horoscopes

Don't push too far, Scorpio 2

Local

Santa Monica surf report 3

Opinion

Not worried about empty nest ... 4

State

Law enforcement budget cut 6

National

Unemployment rate dips 9

International

Russian hospital bombed 10

Sports

In brief 11

People in the News

Country music concert tribute ... 16

City wraps up second phase of pedestrian improvements

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

The second phase of a project to make Santa Monica's streets safer for pedestrians will be completed this month.

City Hall has spent \$7.5 million to date on the project, which has focused largely on upgrading crosswalks and installing medians in local roadways.

Construction has taken place on Montana and Ocean avenues, Neilson and Barnard ways, Wilshire, Santa Monica and Ocean Park boulevards, Pearl and 26th streets, and Broadway.

Mayor Richard Bloom said the long-term goal of the project is to make the streets safer



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
A newly-installed median on Wilshire Boulevard provides safety for pedestrians.

and more attractive for everyone.

City Hall over the years has embarked on a series of "traffic calming" measures intended to slow traffic downtown, said Beth

Rolandson, a senior planner. But these projects are different. They're aimed at making the streets more usable for pedestrians.

Some local businesses and residents say the changes are a waste of money.

"Every time they do this, our business goes down 30 percent," said Samim Chowdhury, co-owner of Marty's Liquors at 1736 Ocean Park Blvd.

Chowdhury said the new crosswalk adjacent to his store, which juts a few feet into Ocean Park Boulevard, eliminated an essential parking space. About 80 percent of his customers drive to his store, he added.

Bloom said much of the distaste for the projects is an understandable resistance to change.

"What I've seen on the whole is that people adapt to the traffic measures very quickly," he said. "And after a period of time, I think everybody gets to like them."

"They've beautified the streets," Bloom added. "They've made the roads safer for pedestrians and motorists, and they've enhanced the business environment on every street where they've been installed."

But that does not appear to be the case for Mike Howell, owner of Santa Monica Lock and Safe Co. at 2208 Pico Blvd.

See MEDIANS, page 6

'Flying Day' coming to Santa Monica Pier this fall

Wacky 'Flütag' features pilots taking Pacific plunge

BY PATRICK KINMARTIN
Special to the Daily Press

Although it's illegal to jump into the Pacific Ocean from the Santa Monica Pier, dozens of people are expected to exactly that this fall.

That's because Flütag, an Austrian event that began in 1991, is coming to Santa Monica in September.

Flütag, which means "Flying Day" in Austrian, features fearless amateur pilots attempting to fly human-powered machines as far as they can before plunging into a body of water, while spectators watch with glee.

Officials are expecting crowds



Photo courtesy

A participant in one of the recent Flütag events tries to fly as far as he can in the event coming soon to the Santa Monica Pier.

to number in the thousands and the event could possibly be one of the wackier events to come to Santa Monica in quite some time.

"Being the type of event that it is,

Flütag really thrives off its audience," said Jessica Mandoki, a spokeswoman for Red Bull, the

See FLÜTAG, page 5

'Flütag' rules: The zanier the better

By Daily Press staff

Next month's "Flütag" flying event at the Santa Monica Pier has a few rules — but the main one is to be as wacky and unique as possible.

Other considerations include the stipulation that vehicles constructed by participants must be entirely human-powered. Vehicles can be no wider than 30 feet — the size of the launch ramp — and can't weigh more than 450 pounds.

It doesn't matter how much money is spent on the flying vessel, but just that it flies, organizers said. With the realization that everything from paper mache to

See RULES, page 5

Kobe, accuser had some consensual sexual contact

BY JON SARCHÉ
Associated Press Writer

EAGLE, Colo. — Kobe Bryant has already admitted he had sex with a 19-year-old hotel worker who has accused him of rape, but a new report presents a more complicated picture

about what allegedly happened in his mountain resort suite last month.

ABC News reported on its Web site Wednesday that Bryant and the woman had some consensual sexual contact but that she did not agree to have intercourse with him.

Citing unnamed sources, the network also

said the woman, a concierge at the Lodge & Spa at Cordillera, was in Bryant's room for less than a half hour and that Bryant later gave inconsistent statements to Eagle County authorities.

Police and court records have been sealed and

See KOBE, page 9

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HOROSCOPE

Don't push too far, Scorpio



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★★★-Average
 ★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 2003

This year, hang out more with those you care about. Your strength is your interpersonal relationships. Because of that ability, you're able to make friends easily and network successfully. Your work gains as a result, though you need to let go of some insecurity or touchiness. You often find that associates, friends and loved ones serve as muses, activating your imagination. Brainstorm. Finances grow, though the impulse to spend could overwhelm you. If you are single, a relationship certainly marks your year, though you determine just how serious it is. If you are attached, the two of you have an unusually wonderful time together. Enjoy each other. LIBRA loves to joke with you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Push to get a project done. Listen to your inner voice. Your ingenuity allows greater flow with those around you. You get around the foibles of others. You easily relate to others. Get together with friends. Tonight: Go with a loved one's plans.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Everyone needs a lazy day — you, too. You might have made a promise or plans of some sort. Give yourself permission to back off. Think through a decision more carefully that revolves around a family matter. Tonight: Just make it easy.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Your extremely frisky nature points you in a new direction. Make time for a loved one you care a lot about. Even if you would like to reverse directions, or perhaps rein in your spending, others won't work with you. Tonight: Kick up your heels.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Are you being overly serious? Relax more with others, allowing greater give and take. Allow your imagination to play a role in your choices rather than holding yourself back. Your dynamic interaction with a partner inspires you. Tonight: Invite others over for some good times.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ You have the knack for saying the right thing at the right time. This gift will take you far in your life. Consider your options carefully that surround an emotional matter. Let go of your insecurities and head in a new direction. Tonight: Chat up a storm.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Price a certain item that you might be eyeing. If you think you might be spending too much or going overboard on a certain purchase, stop. Taking your time will allow you to gage when enough is enough. Get into a favorite pastime or chore. Tonight: Fun doesn't have to cost.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Work with someone close to you. In fact, you might want to discuss a critical issue that has been on your mind. Sometimes you take someone too seriously, reading more into a situation than is really going on. Tonight: As you like it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Know when to pull back. A change in plans works for you if you allow it. You might want to reassess your interaction with someone in charge. Don't push too far. Use your resourcefulness to open new doors, or at least break past self-imposed restrictions. Tonight: You don't have to tell everyone what you're up to.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Certainly don't spend the day alone, but rather open up your door. A partner or associate draws you much closer than you anticipated, and you enjoy every minute. Take time to catch up on others' news. Tonight: Where the action is.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You might feel the need to go into work or to complete a project. Stay on top of a relationship with an older relative or friend. Your instincts will take you in a new direction if you relax. Check out what might be a fleeting idea. Tonight: Off to a concert or play.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Your ability to read between the lines could frequently be helpful, but on the other hand, you also could misread a situation. Sometimes you could make too much out of what is happening. Verify. Ask questions. Tonight: A favorite jazz, blues or rock spot.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Relating on a one-on-one level could make all the difference in what goes down between you and someone else. Test out what might seem like a daydream on someone you trust and who can give you adequate feedback. Tonight: Close works.

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LOCAL

Summer JAM scheduled

By Daily Press staff

The Youth Ministries department of First African Methodist Episcopal Church By the Sea will host its Summer "Jesus and Me" jam session today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This spiritually uplifting event will take place on the grounds and surrounding area of the church and will include youth gospel choirs, gospel rappers and praise dancers in addition to food and product vendors.

Among some of the entertainment slated to perform is the anointed contemporary gospel music group Mack Mossett and SPIRIT, the Dance Ministry of Ward A.M.E. Church of Los Angeles and the singing of New Directions, an all-male singing sensation who help those recovering from drug and alcohol addiction.

Creole pecan pralines, cakes, fudge, African clothing, magnets and novelties will be available for purchase. The entire family is encouraged to share in this day of praising the Lord through music, song and dance.

Admission is free to the general public and \$5 will buy an all-day riding pass for moonbouncers and carnival rides. Vendor booths are still available for a \$75 rental fee. To reserve a space, call the church office at (310) 450-0331.

First AME Church (by the sea) is located at 1823 Michigan Avenue. The Rev. E. Keith Richardson, Sr. is the senior pastor.

Levi's displaying its history

By Daily Press staff

In celebration of the company's 150th anniversary, Levi Strauss and Co., will display pieces of its collection of rare garments and memorabilia that span the company's history.

Specific items include a pair of jeans, believed to be the oldest in existence (circa 1880s), found intact in a Nevada mining town and purchased for \$46,532, and a denim tuxedo specially designed for Bing Crosby in the 1950s. Catalogs from the 19th Century, print advertisements and retail signage will also featured.

The display is part of a tour designed to share the archives with enthusiasts around the world.

Lynn Downey, Lev's historian, invites vintage-clothing enthusiasts to bring in their own vintage products for authentication, which will take place on Saturday from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The archive viewing will run from Thursday through Saturday. The display will be open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Thursday and 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday at The Levi's Store located on 1409 Third Street Promenade.

surf report

SW swell will build this morning. Expect some head-high sets at the best breaks.

OUTLOOK: Sunday will be kind of weak. The S on Monday will be a little smaller, but hopefully still fun. The tropics are still showing some action, but it's too early to say if any of it will be headed our way.

Get stoked on an epic sesh? Get burned by a bad report? Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing at your local break.

Today the water is:

65°

Sunrise: 6:13 a.m.
Sunset: 7:54 p.m.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	6:50	0.2	7:11	2.0	12:01	5.3	1:27	4.8
SUNDAY	7:27	0.8	8:31	1.8	12:56	4.6	2:11	5.0
MONDAY	8:09	1.4	10:05	1.5	2:08	3.9	3:02	5.2
TUESDAY	9:01	2.0	11:35	0.9	3:52	3.3	4:01	5.5
WEDNESDAY	10:10	2.4	N/A	N/A	5:55	3.2	5:05	5.8
THURSDAY	12:47	0.2	(11:29)	2.7	7:28	3.5	6:07	6.1
FRIDAY	1:44	-0.4	12:40	2.7	8:27	3.8	7:03	6.5

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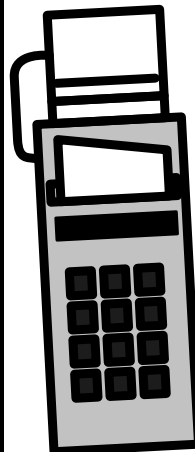
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LETTERS

Weller should be in jail

Editor:

Senior citizens are often subject to, and rightly offended by, age discrimination. On July 16, George Weller, 86 years of age, plowed his car through Santa Monica Farmers Market, killing 10 people and injuring more than 50 others. Family and friends say Weller is not senile. Authorities found no drugs or alcohol in his system. Uninjured, he was released that very evening to his family and went home.

If a man such as I, less than half Weller's age and unimpaired by drugs or alcohol, were to plow my car through the farmers market and state afterwards that I mistakenly hit the gas pedal for almost three blocks, would I be sitting comfortably at home later that same night? Extremely doubtful.

The justice system should not discriminate. George Weller should be in jail.

Adam Telaak
Santa Monica

Heartfelt wishes for peaceful future

Editor:

During the unfortunate accident at the farmers market on the week of July 16, I have witnessed a community that has come together with dignity and pride.

I've been working on the Third Street Promenade for the last four years and this is the first time that I have witnessed everyone getting along with each other, such as the police, city officials, homeless and street performers.

It shows me that we all can get along no matter what our differences may be, and live in harmony in our unique and beautiful community.

Also, I would like to thank the farmers for returning to the market place because they bring us specialness that we are all grateful to experience.

Peace, love and happiness.

Vincentt Garofalo
Santa Monica

An elegant plan

Editor:

Here's a modest proposal for getting at Saddam Hussein, and a better use for the \$25 million and other money we are now spending to hunt him down.

You will have to follow this for a moment to get the elegance of the plan.

We get Vons to open up a couple of supermarkets in Baghdad and in some other strategic locations.

The U.S. military covertly supplies free air transport to keep the stores fully supplied at standard prices, especially in the critical produce, meat, fish, poultry and dairy sections.

The Vons membership discount prices are posted, but here's the deal: No membership cards will be issued until Saddam Hussein turns himself in.

The way I figure it, Saddam Hussein may think that he rules over his inner cadre, bodyguards, et al., with the fear of torture and death, but wait until their wives want those discount cards.

Once we get Saddam Hussein, we "sandbag." We smoothly reveal that the U.S. military is providing free shipment for the suppliers. Perhaps, we could leak it to the

Democrats, who would immediately protest, demand Congressional investigations, etc.

Secretary Rumsfeld then makes the economic argument that if we could transfer the costs of hunting down WMDs to paying private shipping companies, all would be well. Even the Democrats could not attack "guns to butter." At least, I don't think they could.

We have a pretty good count of the tonnage of certain of the precursor chemicals for Saddam's WMDs. We know how much we are looking for. We simply start a public collection drive. When the target tonnage is collected, funds will be transferred to the air carriers supplying the supermarkets.

Once the ladies of Iraq get into the campaign to collect the WMDs in order to keep their supermarkets well supplied, it will be all over.

There are some serious dangers in this proposal. Once the ladies organize to get their men to act in this regard, the U.S. is going to have to get out fast. We are going to have to make the deal very clear, live up to every letter of it and get out.

The Iraqi men (as their counterparts around the world) will naturally prefer to sit comfortably at home and focus the demands of their wives elsewhere — in this case, on the United States. "Honey, this is in the hands of the United States. I can't do anything about it. Bring me another Sam Adams, will you?" If the U.S. gets out, the wives will get after the husbands to paint the schools, protect the power lines, get a job, etc.

If Chalabi thinks he has problems now, wait for what's in store for him if this plan hits.

Ronn S. Pickard
Santa Monica



Continue investing in children and have a long life



MODERN TIMES

By Lloyd Garver

My wife and I have an 18-year-old daughter and a 21-year-old son, so people keep asking us how we're going to handle having an "empty nest."

After we stop laughing, our answer is always the same — we'll believe it when we see it. We aren't the only parents aware of the "boomerang syndrome," in which kids move out, then move back into the house, then out, then back. It doesn't bother us. It's nice to have kids around, and we assume that we won't still be feeding them and trying to get them off the couch when they're 35.

We won't, will we?

If you're concerned about continuing to support your children financially or emotionally long after you thought it would be over, now there may be a good reason to

take heart. The latest theory on why humans live longer than many other species is because we have to live longer to keep taking care of our kids. They wouldn't be able to survive without us.

So, if you're annoyed about writing those tuition checks for their eighth year of college, or if it's driving you crazy that they don't want a job that "isn't fun," remember that their attitudes could be responsible for your living to a ripe old age.

In his new theory, Dr. Ronald Lee of the University of California at Berkeley, says that species that "invest in their children" live much longer than those who don't. So, birds who kick their kids out of the nest might be able to take adults-only vacations, but they probably won't ever qualify for senior discounts.

Some animals are even less involved with their children. Certain insects mate, have their babies, and then die. Evidently they just don't have the stomach for living with their offspring through the driving and dating years.

Because human kids continue to be dependent on them, more and more parents

keep working longer than they planned. So, grandparents come in to pinch-hit. Keeping Dr. Lee's theory in mind, those grandparents must continue to live longer and longer so they can help with those kids and live out their genetic propensity to sneak the kids money behind the parents' backs.

Then as children become adults, they help their parents. If people didn't live to a nice, old age, then their kids couldn't satisfy their biological need to tell them to move out of the old neighborhood and into a condo.

In other words, Dr. Lee's evolutionary theory is that we all need each other, so we continue to live longer in order to keep helping each other. Sounds pretty nice, doesn't it?

But wait a minute.

What about those tortoises who live for 200 years? Do they live long so they can be around when their daughter needs help with the down payment on the house that she and that unemployed husband of hers just bought? Are they spending the better part of a day helping their grown child look for his lost credit card? Do they leave their 160-year-old kid's room exactly as he left it "just in case" he moves back in?

I don't think so. In fact, once tortoise eggs hatch, the mothers go away and the hatchlings are on their own. How do you explain that one, Dr. Lee?

Those tortoises don't live long because they care about their kids. They live long because their body parts don't weaken with age, and because they have a very slow metabolism. So, they get a long life even though they don't spend sleepless nights worrying about why their little tortoises haven't hatched.

So what does this mean?

Maybe it proves that it's not essential to be overly involved with our kids if we want to have a long life. But if you want to just push them into the cruel world, you've got to be a little cold-blooded and have a hard shell.

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's Opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermodern-times.com.)

LOCAL



Thousands of spectators expected to watch Flügtag

FLÜGTAG, from page 1

event's sponsor. "It would not be what it is today if it weren't for its appeal to everyone."

The Sept. 20 event is exactly the type of action the pier has been looking for, said Ben Franz-Knight, executive director of the Pier Restoration Corp., which manages the pier.

"It's zany, it's whimsical, but it's something creative that I really think is going to work," Franz-Knight said. "We're excited to see what kind of reaction it gets."

Among the 36 teams selected in Southern California, three are Santa Monica-based, including the Hooters Restaurant located at 321 Santa Monica Blvd.

"When I found out we were picked, I was thrilled," said Vince Lesko, the restaurant's general manager. "I think it's not only good exposure for us, but also a chance to get out and do something wild."

Lesko and five other workers at the restaurant decided to build their launch vehicle in the shape of a large chicken wing and call it "Hot Wing One." Although they haven't built it yet, the group is eager to see how far they can go before plunging into the Pacific.

"I'm pretty pumped up," said Sean Richards, a member of Hot Wing One. "It's definitely one of the kookiest things I've done, but it's all about having fun."

Since its debut in Austria, the idea of flying hand-made machines into bodies of water has spread like wildfire. From Ireland to San Francisco, inspired pilots have come out of the woodwork to construct their own outrageous crafts. And while the flights haven't yet broken any records, the showmanship has been unparalleled.

Red Bull approached the PRC last year when it was looking for a place to host Flügtag in Southern California for the first time.

"We felt it was the perfect place to do this," Mandoki said. "Santa Monica has always been a city full of creative people and we knew if we brought the event here we wouldn't be let down."

The Los Angeles area was one of six sites across the nation that Red Bull scheduled to hold Flügtag.

Flügtag comes to Southern California after a decade of success overseas. Since it was created by Red Bull founder Dietrich Mateschitz, the event has become a fixture across Europe.

Flügtag made its debut in the United States last year when it came to San Francisco and a large audience showed up to watch participants hurdle themselves into the San Francisco Bay.

But it wasn't until Flügtag appeared in Austin, Tex. on April 26 that Red Bull knew it could thrive in the U.S. As participants launched their flying machines off a massive platform into the Colorado River, more than 45,000 spectators looked on anxiously.

"That was really eye-opening for us," said Steve Pegram, a Flügtag organizer. "We knew then we had a shot to take this around the nation."

Red Bull looks at the cleverness of each group's costumes, vehicle and performance in judging who gets in. Mandoki estimated that more than 100 teams applied to participate in the Santa Monica Flügtag.

Flügtag organizers hope the appeal of the event extends to spectators. Admission is free and for those who can't make it to the pier, there will be two large screens set

**"It's zany, it's whimsical,
but it's something
creative that I really think
is going to work. We're
excited to see what kind
of reaction it gets."**

— BEN FRANZ-KNIGHT
Executive director, Pier Restoration Corp.

up on the beach showing the live action.

Whether or not the event draws as well as it did in Europe or Texas remains to be seen. Franz-Knight said the PRC will control the crowd, including hiring extra security. However, Franz-Knight doesn't anticipate any major problems and believes the community will receive the event well.

"I'm not sure how difficult it is to be entertained by people in costumes throwing themselves into the water at high speeds," Franz-Knight said. "We'll see what happens, but it wouldn't surprise me if the interest level is high."

Rules of Flügtag

RULES, from page 1

high-grade aluminum costs money, event sponsor, Red Bull, will allow limited sponsorship of crafts, provided it is presented in a clean, non-obtrusive manner.

How Flügtag is judged (combined score wins):

1) Distance. Obviously, the farther the better. The launch pad is a flat, non-inclined, smooth runway about 80 feet in length. If participants fly too far, the judges won't be able to see them and judge the other two criteria.

2) Creativity. It's not enough that it flies. Actually, it's not even required that you fly at all. A dramatic stone-like path into the water can lead you to victory if your craft is outrageous enough. Bells, whistles and the audacity of building something that both physics and common sense tells you can't fly is what judges are looking for.

3) Showmanship. Think James Brown with a cape being helped off the stage, yet turning back for more. Think Kiss rocking Detroit in '77. And whatever you do, make sure judges can't forget your launch routine. The creativity and excitement of your two-minute skit prior to launch will score big points with judges and spectators alike. As a wise man once said, "It's not whether they love you or hate you, it's whether they remember your name."

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Second prize is \$3,000 toward paragliding lessons, or the cash.

Third prize is \$1,500 toward skydiving lessons, or the cash.

The most creative prize will be evolving and growing right up to the date of the event. When the prize is ready to be awarded, it will emerge from its cocoon to spread its wings and soar over the stage.



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LOCAL □ STATE

State's police community braces for budget cuts

BY KIM CURTIS
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Sonoma County Sheriff Bill Cogbill says he's in a tough spot. He may be forced to start charging nearby police departments for specialized services, like his SWAT team, helicopter and dive team.

"We can't keep absorbing those costs," he said, citing the need to cut \$4 million from the department's \$95 million budget. "We could be saving a significant amount of money by either charging or not doing it. I don't want to not do it, because I don't want to leave the citizens of Sonoma without those services."

Cogbill's plight isn't unusual. Law enforcement agencies around California will be expected to do more with less, especially after lawmakers settled on a budget compromise that Gov. Gray Davis is expected to sign Saturday.

The plan trims the state's record deficit that could have mushroomed to nearly \$40 billion by next July, Davis said. Instead, the shortfall will be about \$8 billion by next summer, a problem Davis said he will address by appointing a special task force of business and financial experts to examine and make recommendations to the state.

The budget plan means the California Highway Patrol may need to trim \$100 million from its \$1 billion annual budget.

"I drank more than my share of Maalox the last few days," CHP Commissioner D.O. "Spike" Helmick said Wednesday. "We're watching every single dime we spend."

Helmick said he's already limiting the purchase of new cars and motorcycles, freezing transfers, holding promotions, reducing training and restricting travel.

The department spends about \$28 million a year on patrol cars and another \$5 million on gasoline, so Helmick said he's now urging deputies to carpool when they go to court.

"They're told, 'Do what you have to do to keep the public safe, but keep in mind

we're watching the fuel,'" he said.

CHP union leaders agreed to a raise reduction Wednesday in hopes of avoiding possible layoffs. Leaders of the California Association of Highway Patrolmen recommended the union's 6,100 members accept a 2.7 percent raise this year instead of the 7.7 percent boost they had been scheduled to receive. In exchange, they would get an extra day off each month and health care costs would be capped.

The Corrections Department faces sizable cuts, as well. Last year's budget was \$5.2 billion. Officials on Thursday wouldn't give a number for this year.

The biggest savings, an estimated \$20 million, should result from freeing up inmates to enter a drug treatment program 120 days before their scheduled parole date, according to CDC spokeswoman Terry Thornton.

CDC also will begin granting medical parole to sick inmates, saving an estimated \$2 million a year. Compassionate releases previously were granted only to the terminally ill.

While more pre-release programs will be put into place, which could help reduce recidivism, many vocational training programs will be cut, Thornton said.

About 300 teachers will lose their jobs, mostly at maximum security prisons. But CDC will expand its educational programs at reception centers, usually an inmate's first stop in the prison system.

Three low-security community correctional facilities in McFarland, Bakersfield and Desert Center will be shut down, saving about \$400,000, but displacing nearly 1,000 inmates and 15 CDC employees, Thornton said.

At least one youth correctional facility, DeWitt Nelson in Stockton, also will be shut down, according to California Youth Authority spokesman George Kostyrko.

Corey Weinstein, a board member of California Prison Focus, a San Francisco-based nonprofit prisoners' rights group, says CDC's cutting back in all the wrong places.

Third phase of pedestrian improvements on hold

MEDIANS, from page 1

Though the construction on Pico Boulevard was not part of the current project, it did have some pedestrian improvements, Rolandson said. One of those is the medians installed four years ago in what was then the center lane.

"We despise them greatly," Howell said Friday, adding that accident rates are up while traffic has slowed to a crawl in front of his store.

"It frustrates people," he said. "People stay off of Pico. What used to take us, to get around Santa Monica, minutes, now takes two to three times longer. It's bad for business."

Howell, whose shop has been on Pico Boulevard for 31 years, said for the past four years his walk-in business has been cut in half. And during the six-month construction period sales were down more than 20 percent, he added.

However, not everyone is against the improvements.

Rick Faurot, a 15-year resident of

Ocean Park, said Friday that although some of the changes will complicate the situation for drivers, there don't appear to be any drawbacks for pedestrians.

"It's kind of a weird restriction on an old neighborhood street," said Faurot, who was walking down Ocean Park Boulevard with a grocery bag in each hand. "But in many ways, it's a lot safer."

While pedestrians and local businesses sound off on the project, Bloom said any further work is in a holding pattern until more funds become available. Though some money was budgeted for it earlier this year, much of it was used to help plug what was a \$16 million deficit the city faced.

What's left is next to nothing and no specific area of town has been chosen for a future contract, Rolandson said.

City Hall will wait to hear from the City Council on what improvements to make next, Rolandson said. The projects typically include restriping, curb cuts, installing flashing lights at crosswalks and installing medians.

STATE



CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

Father who dissected daughter's guinea pig is sentenced

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — The father who dissected his daughter's guinea pig because he thought it was a government spy was sentenced to 50 days in jail — time he's already served.

Benny Zavala, 35, of Oxnard was also placed Thursday on three years' probation and ordered to seek psychiatric and drug counseling.

Jurors convicted Zavala of felony cruelty to animals for starving the animal to death and misdemeanor being under the influence of methamphetamine.

"It's not often you have someone this paranoid from using drugs that they think a guinea pig is spying on them for the government," Deputy District Attorney Tom Connors said. The paranoia was apparently a byproduct of Zavala's methamphetamine use, not mental illness.

Police arrested Zavala in September 2001 after a neighbor reported he had hit the guinea pig with a screwdriver and had cut it open and ripped out its teeth.

After dissecting the animal, he called relatives and said, "The good news is guinea bleeds. The bad news is guinea's dead," Connors told jurors during the trial.

Zavala told the neighbor he thought the pet's teeth were bar-coded and that there was a camera in the animal's head.

Health clinic shuttered for flea infestation

By The Associated Press

ONTARIO — A health clinic was shut down temporarily because it was infested with fleas.

Employees complained about the infestation at the San Bernardino County Public Health Department on Holt Boulevard and it was closed on Wednesday. Fifteen to 20 employees complained about flea bites to the San Bernardino Public Employees Association.

"The fleas are all over the building, and they've been there for a while," union representative Elizabeth Campos said. "What we saw were a lot of bites on arms, legs, ankles, on the mid-belly and the neck."

Health Department spokesman Mark Deboer said the building manager had exterminators come in last Saturday and spray. The adult fleas were killed, he said, but the eggs remained and eventually hatched into a new generation of problems.

Exterminators returned Wednesday and employees were back on the job Thursday.

Jailhouse sergeant accused of rape

By The Associated Press

BUENA PARK — Police want prosecutors to charge an Orange County Sheriff's Department jailhouse sergeant for allegedly luring an inmate's girlfriend to a motel and coercing her into sex acts.

The woman claimed she was coerced into drug-induced sexual acts with sheriff's officials, including a reserve lieutenant, authorities said.

The James A. Musick jail sergeant was placed on paid administrative leave Wednesday while Buena Park police investigate the rape allegations, Assistant Sheriff George Jaramillo said. The reserve lieutenant was also placed on leave pending outcome of the investigation.

The sergeant, a 15-year veteran, and the lieutenant, a 13-year officer, weren't identified.

The 38-year-old woman told investigators she met the sergeant when she called the

jail on July 5 because her boyfriend was serving time for petty theft. She reported on Monday that she'd been raped repeatedly over the course of several days while at a Motel 6 in Buena Park, police Sgt. James Banks said.

"It appears that something happened between them," Banks said. "We're investigating to see if anyone used any undue influence or an official position to coerce the woman into doing something she didn't want to do."

Indian tribe buys Las Vegas casino company

By The Associated Press

CABAZON — The Morongo Band of Mission Indians announced its \$21 million acquisition of a Las Vegas-based casino management and development company.

"Morongo has sought ways to continue to diversify its economic ventures and this investment will allow us to bring our gaming management expertise and experience to bear in new markets," tribal council chair Maurice Lyons said Thursday.

Full House Resorts Inc., primarily manages Midway Slots and Simulcast at the Delaware State Fairgrounds in Harrington, Del., where it maintains 1,400 slot machines, a 450-seat buffet, a dining room and a lounge.

The tribe is using cash reserves and existing credit facilities to pay for Full House Resorts, the chairman said.

In May, the Morongo Band broke ground on a \$250 million, 23-story casino resort hotel.

Full House Resorts became a public company in 1992, and moved to Las Vegas in 1998 — the same year it sold a casino in Deadwood Gulch, S.D.

"This is an excellent opportunity for our shareholders," Full House chief William McComas said. "They will receive a significant premium to the market price for their shares."

Each shareholder will receive \$1.30 for each share of common stock while holders of its preferred stock will get \$6.15 per share. For much of this year the stock has traded for under \$1 per share, but it jumped to \$1.15 Thursday on news of the proposed sale.

The deal, expected to close later this year, must be approved by the tribe, Full House Resorts shareholders and regulators.

The Morongo tribe also owns and operates a \$26 million water bottling plant, a 16-island gasoline station, as well as an A&W drive-in restaurant and a Cocos, all in the Cabazon area. The tribe also owns the landmark Hadley Fruit Orchards, which includes three retail outlets and mail order and Internet operations.

City to sell land with cross

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — The city is selling a portion of Grant Park where a cross on a hill in the city has become embroiled in a battle over constitutional separation of church and state.

After four hours of impassioned pleas to save the 90-year-old cross, the City Council voted 5-2 on Thursday to sell the parcel that includes the cross.

San Francisco attorney Vince Chhabria, representing three county residents upset about the cross, contacted the city four months ago and demanded that it divest itself of the religious landmark or face legal action.

Chhabria said use of public funds to maintain the religious icon violates the constitutional separation of church and state.

Deputy City Attorney Amy Albano, noting rulings by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, urged the council to sell the cross. The court ruled that the public maintenance of similar crosses in San Francisco and San Diego violated the No Preference Clause of the California Constitution.

"Recent court decisions suggest a substantial likelihood that the city would lose in court should it decide to litigate," Albano said. She recommended that the cross and the land be sold at a public auction on Sept. 22 for a minimum price of \$10,000.

SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

Compiled by Natalia Aivazova

WEEKEND, AUGUST 2, 2003

EVENTS

The Book Club

Everyone is invited to come discuss by Jared Diamond's book "Guns, Gems and Steel." Saturday, Aug 2, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Fairview Library Branch 2101 Ocean Pk Bl. (310) 450-0443

Anime & Manga Art Workshop

Teens and kids can learn animation techniques and share their favorite art with fellow fans of the genre. For 6th - 12th graders. Event takes place on Saturday 1:00 p.m. - 3:00p.m. Montana Library Branch 1704 Montana Ave. For more information call: (310) 829-7081

Computer Fair

Come browse through the latest technology and find the perfect computer for you. Santa Monica Civic Auditorium 1855 Main St.

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10a.m. - 5p.m. 310-458-8551

CULTURE

Festival of the Chariots

The Celebration will begin with a parade, starting just north of Civic Auditorium on Main Street, continuing south in Venice and ending at Ocean Front Plaza, where the festival will take place. During the Festival volunteers will serve free vegetarian food while musicians perform traditional Indian music. Parade starts at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday (310) 836-2676.

Because of You

The Life and Loves of Sholom Aleichem

Evelyn Rudie and Chris DeCalo created 'Because of You' a musical based on the letters and stories of Sholom Aleichem, the creator of the characters in "Fiddler on the Roof." Aleichem wrote about the Russian-Jewish experience, including works in Yiddish at a time when there was no literature in the language.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Harvelle's

The oldest Blues club on the Westside Harvelle's has been in service since 1931. Though the club is famous for its blues it plays everything from R&B to Funk. On Saturday visitors can enjoy "Blowin' Smoke and the Fabulous Smokettes." Meanwhile on Sunday party-goers can dance to the sounds of "Pure Unadulterated Soul with the Toledo Show. Doors open at 7pm 1432 4th Street Santa Monica CA. (310) 395 1676 or visit www.harvelles.com

Gaslite

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MOVIE °GUIDE

LAEMMLE'S MONICA 4-PLEX

1332 2nd Street
Whale Rider PG-13 — 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15,
The Magdalene Sisters — 1:15, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
Lucia Lucia — 4:25, 9:30
I Captured the Castle — 1:50, 7:00,
The Secret Lives of Dentists — noon, 2:30, 5:00, 6:30, 10:00
Man on the Train, Gilda, Shockproof and Zus & Zo — Sat&Sun only 11:00 a.m.

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd
Northfork PG-13 — 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
Swimming Pool R — 1:45, 4:15, 7:30, 10:00
LOEWS CINEPLEX BROADWAY CINEMAS
1441 Third Street Promenade
28 Days Later R — 11:15, 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 10:00
Terminator 3 R — 11:10, 1:40, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
Sabbath's Curse PG-13 — 11:00, 2:45, 6:05, 9:20, also 12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:30

AMC SANTA MONICA 7

1310 Third Street Promenade
American Wedding — 11:10, 1:50, 4:25, 7:25, 10:15
Gigli (R) — 11:00, 1:45, 4:35, 7:35, 10:25
Bad Boys II R 12:20, 3:45, 7:15, 9:45, 10:35
Finding Nemo G — noon, 2:20, 4:45, 7:10
Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life PG-13 — 11:30, 1:10, 2:10, 4:00, 5:05, 7:00, 8:00, 9:55, 10:45
Spy Kids 3D: Game Over PG — 10:50, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 9:50

MANN CRITERION 6 THEATERS

1313 Third Street Promenade
Buffalo Soldiers R — 2:00, 9:45
Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blue PG-1 — 11:30, 4:35, 7:10,
Johnny English PG — 11:15, 1:45, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30,
The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen PG-13 — 11:10, 1:55, 4:45, 7:35, 10:30
Pirates of the Caribbean PG-13 — 11:45, 12:20, 3:15, 3:45, 6:45, 7:15, 10:05, 10:35

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STATE

Recall accelerates popular vote on racial initiative

BY JUSTIN PRITCHARD

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Recalling the governor isn't the only bombshell question California voters will face on the Oct. 7 ballot.

Race is again at issue, courtesy of a proposition that would ban state government from asking people their ethnicity or national origin when collecting data about public education, contracting and employment.

Ironically, the proposition Gov. Gray Davis has described as "a big step backwards" could help him keep his job.

Like much about the recall, who will land the political advantage is still murky.

Proposition 54 was originally set for the March 2004 primary, when a disproportionate Democratic turnout for the presidential primary would have brought its natural opponents to the polls. Now, the accelerated timetable could help the initiative's chances because opponents have less time to rally — but a shotgun campaign could also benefit Davis.

"I think it will have a net effect for the anti-recall folks," said Barbara O'Connor, a communications professor at California State University, Sacramento. "It provides a moral imperative for those who don't want to recall the governor, but aren't inclined to vote."

In other words, Proposition 54 could motivate liberals who might have been noncommittal on retaining Davis, but the recall had already galvanized conservatives, who are more likely to support Proposition 54.

A recent Field Poll suggested the linkage.

Voters who opposed the recall were also more likely to oppose Proposition 54. And while 50 percent of respondents would vote yes on Proposition 54 — buoyed by support among 42 percent of Democrats — just a quarter of respondents said they had heard anything about it.

The initiative's main backer, University of California regent and long-time affirmative opponent Ward

Connerly, said he's leery about being on the same ballot as the recall.

"It's too perilous to get caught up in something that is as unpredictable as this recall," said Connerly, who calls the initiative an overdue opportunity to move toward a colorblind society. "They're going to be thrashing about to try to find a life-jacket to get to shore. And I just prefer that Proposition 54 would not be that vehicle."

Democrats are already piling on board, toting plans to wrestle back the rhetorical advantage Connerly, who is black, gained when he cast the measure as the "Racial Privacy Initiative."

They say that what sounds like an innocuous change to state law would actually wreck anti-discrimination efforts in law enforcement, public health, education and other areas.

The Coalition for an Informed California, a newly formed group of everyone from civil rights stalwarts to medical professionals, will air commercials that focus on emotional issues such as breast cancer screening for women of different races, said Larry Grisolano, campaign manager for Davis' anti-recall effort and a primary consultant for the "No on 54" campaign.

Grisolano has said he hopes the broad coalition can raise and spend about \$3 million. On Thursday, Connerly said, "If we get \$1 million, I will think I've died and gone to heaven."

Both sides must bet millions on an outcome that is still up for grabs.

"The pro-recall forces could help pass the initiative and the anti-initiative forces could help defeat the recall," said John Pitney, a professor of government at Claremont McKenna College. "Nobody knows right now which current is stronger."

In the end, the question might not be answered until March after all. The California Supreme Court is considering a petition that seeks to push Proposition 54 back to its original ballot date.

Associated Press Writer Jennifer Coleman in Sacramento contributed to this report.

Department of Health Services announces surplus

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The county Department of Health Services, which has funding shortages for drastic recent service cuts, announced a year-end surplus of \$225 million, some \$103 million more than expected.

Supervisor Gloria Molina was furious over the miscalculation and accused the department of "funny math" that misled her into voting to lay off health workers and cut programs.

"We make decisions based on these numbers," Molina said this week. "It costs people losing their jobs, it costs us closing hospitals. It's shocking and appalling to me that we have a department who plays so loosely with these figures to get us to make decisions that are inappropriate on behalf of communities so desperately in need."

Despite the sudden cash surge, Health Services director Thomas Garthwaite said there's a bleak future ahead. Health-care expenses continue to outstrip the money available to pay for them and Garthwaite warned of a \$768 million deficit by 2007.

Attorney Elena Ackel of the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles wasn't convinced. "The fact that they come up with an additional \$103 million to their favor makes it hard to take seriously the size of their anticipated deficit in 2007," she said. "They can't even predict one year out."

Health officials said the windfall came from a variety of legal settlements, the improved collection of insurance payments and the postponement of technology upgrades.

"I don't believe there's been any intent to misinform," Garthwaite said.

NATIONAL



Unemployment rate dips as people leave work force

BY JEANNINE AVERSA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The nation's unemployment rate dipped to 6.2 percent in July, but businesses cut jobs for a sixth month in a row, still wary despite signs the economy is on the mend. With jobs scarce, close to half a million people gave up looking.

The Labor Department's report Friday suggested that the job market remains stubbornly sluggish, frustrating jobseekers on Main Street, discouraging investors on Wall Street and polarizing lawmakers in Washington as they look for a way to get the economy back to full throttle.

Employers chopped 44,000 jobs in July, which brought losses since January to 486,000. Economists had been saying the statistics might show positions had been added, perhaps as many as 10,000.

"Employers remain skeptical. While there are clearly some hopeful signs that the economy is improving, they want to be ... sure that it is not just a flash in the pan," said Ken Mayland, president of ClearView Economics. "Corporate hiring managers want to see a track record of growth before they make permanent new hires."

The jobless rate declined to a two-month low of 6.2 percent from a nine-year high of 6.4 percent in June. The drop, however, reflected people leaving the work force, not a burst in hiring. The civilian labor force declined by 556,000 during the month as people left for any number of reasons.

The report also identified 470,000 people in July who were not currently looking for work because they were discouraged over job prospects. That was up from 405,000 in July 2002 but down slightly from the 478,000 discouraged people reported for June.

On Wall Street, the employment report pulled stocks lower. The Dow Jones industrials lost 79.83 points to close at 9,153.97.

The lackluster job market, however, hasn't stopped shoppers, the main force

keeping the economy afloat, from ringing up retailers' cash registers. Consumer spending and Americans' incomes each rose by a modest 0.3 percent in June, the Commerce Department reported.

Another report offered a fresh sign of healing in the economy: Manufacturing expanded in July for the first time in five months. The Institute for Supply Management's manufacturing index rose to 51.8 in July, up from 49.8 in June. A reading below 50 indicates that manufacturing activity is slowing, and a reading above 50 indicates it is growing.

With some scattered signs of an economic revival, analysts believe the Federal Reserve probably will hold a vital short-term interest rate at a 45-year low of 1 percent at its next meeting on Aug. 12.

President Bush, mindful of the political defeat his father suffered in 1992 owing to a weak economy, pushed for a third round of tax cuts, passed by Congress in May, to bolster the economy. The administration insists the fresh \$330 billion package along with previous tax cuts will help the

economy grow and eventually create jobs.

"There's still too many people looking for work, so we keep working on the economy until people can find a job," Bush said Friday. Noting that people have additional money from earlier tax cuts and the child tax credit, Bush said: "This will enhance demand for goods and services, which will make it more likely someone will find work."

Democrats say the tax cuts have not energized the job market, have benefited mainly the wealthy and are helping to plunge the federal budget deficit into a record amount of red ink this year and next.

"President Bush's misguided economic policies have failed to create jobs," said House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California. "Since President Bush took office, the country has lost 3.2 million jobs, the worst record since President Hoover," she said.

Manufacturers, hardest hit by the 2001 recession, continued to hemorrhage jobs. The sector lost 71,000 positions in July, marking the 36th month in a row of job

losses. Retailers, normally the engine of job growth, cut 14,000 positions in July, and education and health services lost 1,000.

In a glimmer of hope, though, temporary help firms saw employment go up by nearly 42,000 in July from the previous month. Economists said companies often are more inclined to use temporary workers to meet their needs before making a commitment to hire full-time workers.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and private economists believe the economy will stage a material rebound in the second half of this year. Some economists are predicting a growth rate in the second half in the range of 3.5 percent to 4 percent or more.

Even if that should turn out to be the case, it would take time for the job market to show real improvement, economists said. Some economist believe the jobless rate could move higher in the months ahead because job growth probably won't be strong enough to handle an expected influx of people looking for jobs amid an improved economic climate.

Report: Kobe gave inconsistent statements

KOBE, from page 1

County Judge Frederick Gannett has limited what officials can say about the case. Gannett was scheduled to hear arguments Thursday during a hearing on whether the records in the case should be made public.

The ABC report said Bryant's unidentified accuser had given Bryant a tour of the hotel when he arrived June 30 and that he later called and asked her to come to his room.

The Rocky Mountain News reported Thursday that law enforcement sources close to the investigation said that the woman suffered physical trauma in the vaginal area.

Krista Flannigan, a spokeswoman for the Eagle County prosecutor, did not return calls or pages late Wednesday. She declined comment to the newspaper.

Bryant, an All-Star guard for the Los Angeles Lakers, has been charged with one count of sexual assault. Bryant said he had consensual sex with the woman. His attorney, Pamela Mackey, did not immediately return a phone message seeking comment.

Bryant has posted a \$25,000 bond and is scheduled to return to Colorado Aug. 6 for an initial court appearance, where he

will be advised of the charge against him and of his rights.

When he filed charges July 18, prosecutor Mark Hurlbert said he had both physical and testimonial evidence to prove the case. He said Bryant forced the victim into "submission" through physical force but refused to disclose other details.

Hurlbert and defense lawyers want to keep the records of the case sealed, arguing that publicity could affect Bryant's right to a fair trial.

Defense attorneys Mackey and Hal Haddon also have asked Gannett to reconsider an earlier order allowing cameras in the courtroom during Bryant's Aug. 6 initial appearance.

Attorneys for media organizations — including the Los Angeles Times, Denver Post and NBC — have argued that many details have been publicized already, some by Bryant and the district attorney. They also contend the public should have the opportunity to determine the veracity of statements made by those involved in the case.

Gannett has already ordered a limit on public comment about the case by attorneys, authorities and others, including Bryant and any witnesses. He said the order was necessary to guarantee a fair trial.

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WORLD BRIEFLY

Operation aims to flush out Taliban

By The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan security forces were trying to flush out Taliban fighters in a new operation in rugged southern Afghanistan, where recent gunbattles between Afghans have killed five insurgents and two soldiers, officials said Friday.

Four Taliban guerrillas and two soldiers died in a firefight late Thursday in Torgbar, or Black Mountain, about 45 miles northeast of Kandahar, said Khan Mohammed, an Afghan military commander.

A fifth Taliban fighter died in a separate gunbattle with Afghan police late Thursday, Mohammed said. The insurgent was among 20 Taliban fighters in two cars who fired at a police post in Dund district, about 15 miles south of Kandahar, a former Taliban stronghold, he said.

The police returned fire, killing one of the attackers while the rest fled, he said.

The fighting was part of the new campaign launched Wednesday involving nearly 400 government troops armed with heavy machine-guns and AK-47 rifles, Mohammed said.

The operation began a day after three government soldiers were killed in an ambush in the area.

Israel to build housing in Gaza

By The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel said Thursday it would build new housing in a Gaza Strip settlement, angering Palestinians and raising questions about implementation of the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan.

Separate summits in Washington over the past week between President Bush and the Israeli and Palestinian premiers brought out the differences over the peace plan, and the disagreements have spawned new troubles for the blueprint.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said implementation of the first phase of the plan, including a "total cessation of violence," is beginning. The plan envisions a Palestinian state by 2005.

On June 29, Palestinian groups called a limited cease-fire, greatly reducing violence, but Israel is insisting that violent militant groups be disarmed. Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, who met Bush on Friday, is resisting a crackdown, fearing a civil war.

Sharon said subsequent phases of the road map cannot start until all the elements of previous stages are implemented.

Burger King retains Frozen Coke

By The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Coca-Cola Co. and one of its largest customers, Burger King, have resolved a dispute over Frozen Coke, ensuring the fast-food chain will continue to sell the slush drinks at its restaurants.

"Both companies are focused on strengthening our relationships and forming a stronger partnership and growing our businesses," Coke spokesman Dan Schafer said.

Just three weeks ago, Burger King said it was discontinuing the sale of Frozen Coke at its restaurants and would stop using Coke's frozen carbonated-beverage machines because the drink was no longer "strategically relevant" to Burger King's long-term plans.

Burger King spokesman Rob Doughty said updated sales figures show Frozen Coke is doing better than expected. The product is now called ICEE in its restaurants.

He would not give any further details of the settlement.

Friction between Atlanta-based Coke and Miami-based Burger King started after a former Coke manager filed a lawsuit in May that accused Coke of fraud, including claims that Coke rigged a market test at Burger King outlets to inflate the popularity of Frozen Coke.

NASA criticized for unchanging culture

By The Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A Nobel Prize-winning member of the board investigating the space shuttle Columbia disaster says he fears NASA won't change its culture, possibly leading to yet another accident.

The "same faulty reasoning" that led to the 1986 Challenger accident also led to Columbia, said Douglas

Osheroff, one of the 13 board members wrapping up the report on the Columbia accident.

"No matter how good the report looks, if we don't do something to change the way NASA makes its decisions, I would say that we will have been whistling in the wind," Osheroff told The Associated Press in a telephone interview this week.

"At the moment, I'm in a state of depression," he said from his office at Stanford University.

Several Columbia board members have said the space agency must make dramatic changes in its culture, but Osheroff is pessimistic.

"Look, I think it's been clear for a long time that what has to change is not NASA's policies and procedures or management structure. I suppose they have to change as well, but it's culture," he said. "Culture is a very funny thing, of course. It is the way people intuitively behave to a situation."

Local bully charged with murder

By The Associated Press

DIXON, Ill. — A man known as a small town bully who terrorized his neighbors was convicted Friday in the shooting deaths of a sheriff's deputy and a couple with whom the gunman had a long-running feud.

The judge ruled Curtis Thompson, 61, eligible for the death penalty after he waived his right to have a jury decide. Testimony in the penalty phase of the trial was to begin Monday.

Defense attorneys acknowledged Thompson killed the three in March 2002, but had sought a verdict of innocent by reason of insanity.

About 30 police officers and relatives of the victims packed the small courtroom, some holding hands and weeping as the verdicts were read. Many cried and hugged in a hallway outside the court afterward.

The panel reached a partial verdict Thursday, telling Judge Scott Shore it had decided on all but one of the charges. In all, the panel deliberated 12 1/2 hours over three days.

Thompson, armed with a sawed-off shotgun, opened fire on Stark County Deputy Adam Streicher on March 22, 2002, when he tried to serve an arrest warrant for a probation violation. Thompson then stole the deputy's gun and squad car, broke into the home of James and Janet Giesenhausen and shot the couple in front of their 10-year-old daughter.

Suicide truck bombing destroys hospital, at least 33 killed

BY SERGEI VENYAVSKY

Associated Press Writer

ROSTOV-ON-DON, Russia — A suicide bomber rammed a truck packed with explosives through the gates of a Russian military hospital near Chechnya on Friday, destroying the building and killing at least 33 people.

Seventy-six others were wounded in the attack, the latest in an upsurge of suicide bombings that have killed more than 100 people since May.

Russian authorities suspected Chechnya's separatist rebels in the blast, which demolished the four-story red brick hospital in the city of Mozdok in Russia's North Ossetia region.

At least 33 people were killed, said Yevgeny Volodchinkov, an Emergency Situations Ministry official at the scene.

The region's Emergency Situations Minister Boris Dzgoyev told The Associated Press that at least 76 were injured, including personnel at the hospital and soldiers taken there after being wounded in Chechnya, where Russia's second war against rebels in a decade is nearly four years old.

Russian Deputy Prosecutor General Sergei Fridinsky said 35 were killed and 150 injured, according to the Interfax news agency.

The building, which had 115 people

inside, including medical workers and patients, collapsed like a house of cards, Dzgoyev said.

Maj. Gen. Nikolai Lityuk said the Russian-made Kamaz truck broke through the hospital gates, pulled up to a reception office building and exploded. The blast left a crater 26-feet wide and 10-feet deep, according to Lityuk, deputy chief of the southern Russia branch of the Ministry of Emergency Situations.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but Russian authorities said they suspected Chechen rebels. Lityuk said it appeared to have been carried out by a lone attacker in the truck.

"Near the checkpoint of the hospital there were charred corpses," a medical assistant from Mozdok's central hospital identified as Galina said on state-run Rossiya television. "Tents that were put up near the main building were all gone. There was one wall left from the main building."

"The United States condemns this act of terrorism," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said. "No cause whatsoever, be it national, ethnic, religious, or political, can justify terrorism."

A woman who lives 2 1/2 miles from the hospital said windows broke and plaster fell from walls in her neighborhood. "I saw a big column of smoke," said the woman, identified as Valentina, speaking on Ekho Moskv radio.

Mozdok is the headquarters for Russian forces fighting in Chechnya and has been repeatedly targeted by attackers.

Emergency workers were picking through the rubble, and the Ministry of Emergency Situations was sending a plane with rescuers, sniffer dogs and medical equipment from Moscow, officials said.

A duty officer at the regional Emergency Situations Ministry in North Ossetia said 35 of the wounded were taken to Mozdok's central hospital and four others died on the way.

Alina Totykova, deputy head of the North Ossetian hospital in the regional capital, Vladikavkaz, said all available ambulances were sent to Mozdok. There was a shortage of medicine, anesthetics and bandages and a severe shortage of blood, she said, adding that an appeal for people to give blood would be broadcast on television in the region.

President Vladimir Putin expressed condolences to relatives of the victims and urged the North Ossetian leadership to tell federal authorities in Moscow what was needed to aid the victims, the Kremlin said. Putin also ordered law enforcement officials to investigate.

Chechnya has been wracked by violence since Russian forces entered the mostly Muslim region in 1994 in a bid to crush separatist rebels. Russian troops withdrew in 1996, leaving the separatists

in charge, but returned in 1999 after Chechnya-based militants invaded a neighboring region. The Kremlin also blamed rebels for apartment-building bombings that killed 300 people in 1999.

Last month, Putin signed an order setting presidential elections in Chechnya for Oct. 5 — the latest step in his strategy of trying to bring a political resolution in the Caucasus republic even as fighting continues.

However, rebel attacks — which have increasingly involved suicide bombings targeting civilians — have undercut the Kremlin's effort to portray the situation in the war-shattered region as stabilizing.

In June, a female suicide attacker detonated a bomb near a bus carrying soldiers and civilians to work at a military airfield near Mozdok, killing at least 16 people.

In May, in Chechnya, a suicide truck-bombing killed 72 people and a woman blew herself up at a religious ceremony, killing at least 18 people.

A double suicide-bombing at a rock concert in Moscow on July 5 killed the female attackers and 15 other people.

In Chechnya on Friday, fighting raged for hours in the town of Argun and 19 Russian servicemen and Chechen police were killed in the region in the past 24 hours, an official in the Moscow-backed administration said.

SPORTS

SPORTS IN BRIEF

By The Associated Press

BASEBALL

■ **CINCINNATI** — Three days after his father was fired, Aaron Boone was shipped off to the New York Yankees, who hope the All-Star third baseman can make a difference in a tight race.

The Yankees got Boone and left-handed reliever Gabe White in a pair of trades with the payroll-slashing Cincinnati Reds, who transformed the market by changing direction.

New York gave up left-hander Brandon Claussen — their top pitching prospect — another minor leaguer and cash for Boone, whose father, Bob, was fired as the Reds manager on Monday.

The Yankees then opened a spot for Boone by trading third baseman Robin Ventura to Los Angeles for two minor leaguers. Finally, a few minutes from the non-waiver trade deadline, they got the injured White for a player to be agreed upon.

■ **PITTSBURGH** — Jeff Suppan, one of the NL's best pitchers during the last month for Pittsburgh, returned to the AL as the Boston Red Sox added a reliable starter for their stretch drive.

In a reworking of a July 22 trade, the Pirates sent Suppan, right-hander Brandon Lyon and minor league pitcher Anastacio Martinez to Boston for infield prospect Freddy Sanchez, minor league left-hander Mike Gonzalez and cash.

BASKETBALL

■ **EAGLE, Colo.** — A bid by Kobe Bryant to skip his first court appearance next week on a sexual assault charge was rejected by a judge.

The decision came the same day attorneys for several media organizations asked the judge to unseal court records, saying the Los Angeles Lakers' star waived his right to privacy when he declared his innocence at a news conference.

Judge Fred Gannett said he wouldn't rule on the records issue before Bryant's court appearance Wednesday.

In their filing, defense attorneys had said Bryant's absence would reduce "the impact on the courthouse and the need for security." The defense suggested Bryant intends to seek a preliminary hearing to determine whether he should stand trial.

Bryant, a 24-year-old husband and father of one, has said he had sex with a 19-year-old employee at a mountain resort June 30 but denies assaulting her. He is free on \$25,000 bond.

GOLF

■ **GRAND BLANC, Mich.** — Mike Sposa, who missed the cut in four of his last five tournaments, shot a 7-under 65 to take a one-shot lead after the first round of the Buick Open.

Carl Paulson, Craig Perks, David Sutherland and Paul Gow all had 66s, while 10 golfers were another shot back at Warwick Hills.

Defending champion Tiger Woods had a 69, while Ben Curtis, playing in his first tournament since winning the British Open, was among a slew of players at 68 with U.S. Open champion Jim Furyk and John Daly.

■ **LYTHAM ST. ANNES, England** — Karrie Webb, the defending champion and a three-time winner of the Women's British Open, shot a 5-under 67 and shared the first-round lead with Wendy Ward.

One stroke behind at Royal Lytham & St. Annes was Annika Sorenstam, the world's No. 1 golfer.

Among the players at 69 were Se Ri Pak, winner of four majors including the British Open in 2001, Lorie Kane, Shani Vaughn and Jennifer Rosales who tied for fourth last year.

HOCKEY

■ **PITTSBURGH** — Mario Lemieux will play next season for the Pittsburgh Penguins, who have fallen on hard times since his surprise comeback 2 1/2 years ago.

Lemieux has 682 goals, 1,010 assists and 1,692 points, but didn't score a goal in his final nine games last season, the longest such streak of his career.

FOOTBALL

■ **PHILADELPHIA** — First-round pick Jerome McDougle ended a one-week holdout by signing a six-year contract with the Philadelphia Eagles.

The contract would pay McDougle up to \$12.6 million with incentives over the first five years, including a \$6.1 million signing bonus. A sixth year is voidable if he attains certain performance incentives.

■ **TERRE HAUTE, Ind.** — First-round pick Dallas Clark has agreed to terms with the Indianapolis Colts, and tight end from Iowa was expected to sign a contract in time to practice with the team Friday, agent Neil Cornrich said.

Cornrich said the contract prohibited him from discussing terms of the deal. The Colts did not comment.



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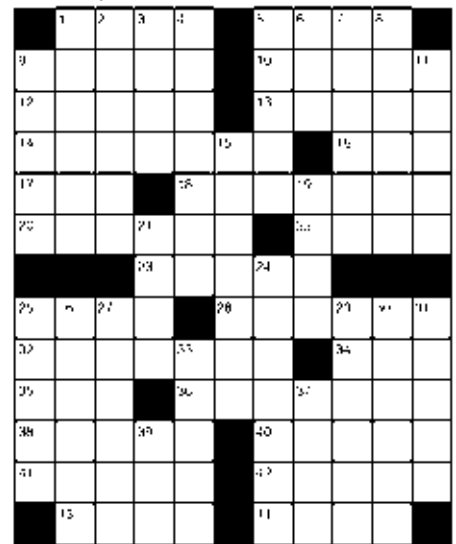
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Country stars perform at sold out tribute concert

By The Associated Press

■ **LEBANON, Tenn.** — Charlie Daniels and other country music stars performed a sellout tribute concert to two Wilson County law enforcement officers who died during a police chase.

Thursday night's show at the Wilson Central High School gym raised about \$30,000 for the officers' families. Besides The Charlie Daniels Band, Lee Greenwood, Kellie Coffey, Daryle Singletary, Rhett Akins, Andy Griggs and Blackhawk performed.

"Everyone wanted to do something, but they didn't know what to do," said the 66-year-old Daniels, who lives in Mt. Juliet in Wilson County. "This concert basically gives people a way to show respect to the officers."

Mt. Juliet Police Sgt. Jerry Mundy, 43, and Wilson County Sheriff's Deputy John Musice, 49, died July 9 when they were struck by a stolen Mercedes-Benz authorities say was driven by Fallon Tallent, 21.

The officers were on the side of Interstate 40, about 25 miles east of Nashville, after they'd placed spike strips on the road to try and flatten the speeding car's tires. Authorities had been chasing the car for 30 minutes in a pursuit that began hours earlier in Knoxville.

Tallent's attorney, David Boyd, told Nashville station WZTV that his client would plead innocent during a

court hearing Monday. Tallent faces two counts of felony murder, two charges of premeditated first-degree murder and two counts of second-degree murder. She's being held at the Tennessee Women's Prison in Nashville on \$4 million bond.

■ **LIMESTONE, Maine** — Traffic was backed up outside the former Loring Air Force Base long before the gates opened Friday morning for the outdoor music festival by the jam band Phish.

State police issued travel advisories and the inevitable traffic tie-ups began early as cars and vans streamed onto two-lane highways in northern Maine. As many as 60,000 fans were expected to attend the festival.

In Hampden, three people believed to be bound for Limestone were seriously injured in a rollover at 7 a.m. on I-95.

Traffic came to a standstill as a LifeFlight helicopter landed on the highway to take away the victims. Troopers said the occupants were ejected and one person was trapped beneath the wreckage.

The highway was closed for two hours before another rollover at 11:15 a.m. in Carmel slowed traffic again. No one was seriously injured in that accident.

The Phish festival, dubbed "It," was the first since the back-to-back festivals "The Great Went" and

"Lemonwheel" in 1997 and 1998, each of which attracted about 60,000 people, doubling the population of Aroostook County.

If this year's festival tops 70,000, it would become the state's biggest city for the weekend.

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Novelist and Oscar-winning screenwriter Sidney Sheldon has donated money for a University of California, Los Angeles, scholarship that will be named in his honor.

The UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television announced Thursday it would present the scholarship next January to a student studying screenwriting or playwriting.

"His success in the worlds of theater, film and television parallels our unique program integrating those three artistic disciplines," said Robert Rosen, dean of the school.

The 86-year-old won a screenwriting Oscar for 1947's "The Bachelor and the Bobby-Soxer." He also won a Tony for the musical "Redhead," and produced and wrote many episodes of television's "The Patty Duke Show" and "I Dream of Jeannie."

Sheldon also has written several best-selling novels, including "The Other Side of Midnight" and "Bloodline."



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