

Santa Monica Daily Press

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36, 33, 24, 16, 2

DAILY 3

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1st Place: 12, Lucky Charms

2nd Place: 10, Solid Gold

3rd Place: 09, Winning Spirit

Race Time: 1:42:30



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

As straphanger Joyce M. Judge, 42, stared out the window of the Boston subway car during morning rush hour on July 30, she started dripping profusely, and a minute or so later, a baby fell out from underneath her skirt and slid around on the car's floor. According to witnesses (some of whom vomited at the sight), Judge at first acted as if nothing had happened, then finally picked up her newborn, declined the help of passengers, nonchalantly continued the ride, and left the train at the next station (stopping only to pick up the placenta when it fell to the ground). She subsequently reported to Boston Medical Center, where the baby was in good condition (and where the mother was referred for a mental health evaluation).



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It is easier to forgive an enemy than to forgive a friend."

— William Blake



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John Wood/Daily Press

Midnight Special Bookstore owner Margie Ghiz says delays at City Hall have pushed back the re-opening of her store at its new Second Street location.

New chapter in Midnight Special sequel

Owner says City Hall bureaucracy has delayed re-opening the bookstore

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Nearly five months after the lease signing for its new downtown location, the Midnight Special Bookstore still hasn't re-opened its doors in Santa Monica.

Owner Margie Ghiz said Friday it will be at least another six weeks before customers are welcomed back into the popular liberal bookstore, which was forced off of the Promenade earlier this year by escalating rents.

Ghiz had originally planned to re-open the store at 1450 Second Street earlier this summer, but said multiple delays have changed her plans. She pointed to City Hall as a key culprit and said she's now cautiously hoping for an October opening.

"It's turned into a three-act play," Ghiz said. "Everything, everything, everything needs permits. It's ridiculous and it's wearing me down, to tell the truth."

Ghiz attributes the drawn-out process to delays with the landlord, the contractors and city bureaucracy. But she said City Hall has been the major player in holding up the opening, despite that the bookstore is a local favorite politicians fought to keep in Santa Monica and that no structural changes are needed in the new space.

The permitting process has set Ghiz back nearly \$5,000, she said, while forcing her to forego profits because she is prevented from conducting business. Meanwhile, she continues to shell out more than \$15,000 a month in rent. Add that to the \$100,000 contractor's bill and the \$11,000 architect's bill and nearly all of Ghiz's resources have been exhausted, she said.

Ghiz's story of planning department woes comes as no surprise to dozens of small business owners who say

See DELAYS, page 5

Recall: Schwarzenegger or bust for GOP

BY BETH FOUHY

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — A new poll showing Democratic Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante well ahead of Republican Arnold Schwarzenegger in the race to succeed Gov. Gray Davis if he is recalled has prompted top Republicans to warn that the party must unite behind Schwarzenegger or risk keeping the state's top office in Democratic hands.

The Los Angeles Times poll showed Bustamante with 35 percent support among likely voters, compared to 22 percent for Schwarzenegger. Collectively, three other Republican candidates had 25 percent support.

"The headline here is that Republicans are winning but the vote is split, so pressure by Republicans to coalesce behind a single candidate will be greater than ever," said Allan Hoffenblum, a former Republican strategist. "It's a competitive race, and it needs to be turned into a two-person race between Schwarzenegger and Bustamante."

The recall ballot will have two parts. Voters will first be asked to vote yes or no on whether to recall Davis, and then will choose from a list of candidates to replace him if he is recalled. The Times polled on both questions, releasing data on the first question Friday and the second question Sunday. The poll of 801 likely voters had a margin of error of plus or minus three

percentage points.

On the first question, the survey found that just 50 percent of likely voters said they would vote to recall Davis, with 45 percent opposed.

The latest results, released Sunday, dealt solely with the list of replacement candidates.

The poll found that Bustamante, as the only major Democrat in the field, enjoyed solid support among Democratic voters and split the independent vote almost evenly with Schwarzenegger. By contrast, Republican votes were fractured among all four major Republican candidates. Schwarzenegger got 39 percent of Republican votes, with 21 percent going to State

See RECALL, page 6



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Scorpio, a must show tonight



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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2003

You have certain goals that you will want to meet. Although you could find it hard to create, you need to think carefully about the best route to the end results. Many of you will choose to spend some quiet time thinking and evaluating. Your creativity emerges at work, though you might be attracted to some offbeat interests as well. You could become interested in New Age medicine or vegetarianism. Avoid going to extremes in any of these areas. If you are single, you could meet someone at any given moment. This person could be most special. If you are attached, your relationship will warm up from taking special time away together. You find that your tie will strengthen considerably. LEO reads you cold.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ What you see might not be what you get. Right now an air of deception floats through the ether. Verify everything you hear, and know that there could be a white lie or two around. Be your cynical self, but use your creativity. Tonight: Ever playful.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Someone's suggestion might seem like a great idea, but it could easily fall apart. Your ability to see past the obvious makes quite a difference, but right now, being a bit of a cynic could help. Take time with a family member. Tonight: Happy at home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ You might want to carefully think through a problem that involves a child or loved one. You aren't getting the whole story, but your intuition is coming through for you. Follow your instincts. Communicate what is on your mind. Tonight: Catch up on a friend's news.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ A partner might not be playing it straight, but he or she also might not realize it. In fact, he or she could be bluffing him- or herself, too. You could easily find yourself in a state of confusion as you go off on a truth-finding hunt. Tonight: Treat another.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Someone might be pulling the wool over your eyes, and you couldn't care less. Get more in touch with what you want by doing some soul-searching and questioning. Your point of view might differ considerably from an associate's. Tonight: Beam in what you want.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Knowing when to step back could help you feel more comfortable. Clearing out what is going on behind the scenes will take some skill. Listen to someone's feedback at work, but also use your sixth sense. Tonight: Get some extra sleep.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Listen carefully to a loved one or a friend. Your ability to read between the lines makes a huge difference. You seem to understand a child much better than he or she realizes. Aim for more of what you need and want professionally. Tonight: Where your friends are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Take charge at work. You might be a bit off-kilter with what is happening on the home front. Your leadership can and will make all the difference in what goes on in the office. Don't let vagueness slip into your work. Tonight: A must show.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Read between the lines with a boss. What might be more important is what he or she isn't saying. You also might want to observe more with others. You will learn a lot from a partner who discloses key information. Tonight: Out on the town.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Others come toward you. Your job is to listen and decide which way to respond. A partner gives you key feedback; work with this person as a team. One-on-one relating takes you in a new direction. Tonight: Say "yes" to a loved one.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ If you feel confused, you might decide not to make many decisions. Lie back some and let others run the show. You don't always need to be on top of a personal matter. Let others help you pave the way. Tonight: Out and about.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ The unexpected occurs when you least expect it. You might ponder what is being said for quite a while. Pace yourself and decide to clear out as much work as humanly possible. Schedule a long-overdue checkup. Tonight: Put your feet up.

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1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. #202 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • www.smdp.com

PUBLISHER

Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com

EDITOR

Carolyn Sackariason sack@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER

John Wood wood@smdp.com

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER

Rob Piubeni rob@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Steve Averill steve@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Del Pastrana del@smdp.com

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Alejandro Cantarero alex@smdp.com

ADMINISTRATIVE TRAFFIC MANAGER

Elise De Ford elise@smdp.com

CLASSIFIED REPRESENTATIVE

Mitch Troy mitch@smdp.com

CIRCULATION MANAGER

Robert Deamicis Rob@smdp.com

CIRCULATION

Keith Wyatt keith@smdp.com

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Dave Danforth dave@smdp.com

MASCOT

Maya Furukawa maya@smdp.com

LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Photo courtesy of St. Joseph Center
April Wright, St. Joseph Center child care coordinator, interviews preschool graduates about their future.

Preschoolers get diplomas

By Daily Press staff

Seven 5-year-old children received their diplomas last week in the Child Care & Parenting Program graduation ceremony at St. Joseph Center in Venice, while 13 of their fellow students sang "Baby Beluga" in enthusiastic support.

The 20 preschoolers and their parents are part of the center's ongoing childcare and case management services to help create self-sufficiency for homeless and low-income families. When program coordinator April Wright asked the graduates about their future career choices, two said they wish to become nurses, one plans to be a singer and one wants to be a lion tamer.

"This graduation ceremony is very special to me," Wright said. "Because it marks the expansion of our program into an Early Learning Center that will be located at Fourth and Ashland, and where we will be able to prepare even more children for the future."

St. Joseph Center has been building new futures for the less fortunate in the West Los Angeles community for 26 years. Volunteers and funds are needed to support St. Joseph Center's eleven ongoing programs, including emergency services, childcare, counseling, and training for more than 7,500 men, women and children each year.

Develop your skills at the Center for Healthy Aging

By Daily Press staff

The Center for Healthy Aging is holding four free volunteer training sessions on Mondays, Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at 2125 Arizona Ave.

There will be a group of volunteers helping seniors with many volunteer opportunities such as friendly visiting, money management, reception and health clinic assistance. For more information contact Debbie Henderson at (310) 576-2550, ext. 244.

The center also is holding a 10-session class on how to become more effective in life, career and relationships.

The class will be taught by Evelyn Freeman, Ph.D. on Thursdays, Oct. 9 through Dec. 18, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the center.

The cost is \$150. To register, call Marlena at (310) 576-2550, ext. 371.

surf report

Look for leftover S swell today, a slight increase in NW wind swell and a small, new SW swell. Most spots will see waist high and below surf, while best combo breaks see more consistent waist to occasional chest high surf.

OUTLOOK: Head-high stes are en route.

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 today at your local break.

Today the water is:

69°

**Sunrise: 6:28 a.m.
 Sunset: 7:37 p.m.**

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	2:01	0.3	1:01	2.9	8:51	3.8	7:10	5.6
SUNDAY	2:33	-0.1	1:43	2.6	9:12	4.0	7:50	6.0
MONDAY	3:04	-0.3	2:21	2.3	9:34	4.2	8:28	6.3
TUESDAY	3:33	-0.5	2:58	2.0	9:57	4.4	9:06	6.4
WEDNESDAY	4:02	-0.6	3:37	1.7	10:22	4.7	9:44	6.4
THURSDAY	4:32	-0.5	4:20	1.4	10:50	4.9	10:25	6.2
FRIDAY	5:02	-0.2	5:06	1.2	11:20	5.2	11:09	5.7

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The Q-Line

More than 2,000 homeless people live in Santa Monica.

City Hall spends about \$2 million each year in social services for the homeless and untold dollars more in police and paramedic hours dealing with the large transient population.

Recently, City Hall approved \$9.2 million to relocate and expand the city's largest provider of social services.

Some say all the services are necessary because of the large amount of homeless people in Santa Monica who desperately need help.

Others say the mere fact that the resources exist continues to attract more

homeless to Santa Monica than can be helped. They say we should limit our services in accord with what neighboring cities spend.

The debate has raged on for decades.

So, this week Q-Line wants to know, **"Is Santa Monica making itself a magnet for more and more homeless people or are we simply doing our fair share for society at large?"**

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.



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LETTERS

Local news is disgusting

Editor:

Reading your newspaper and other local newspapers disgusts me — not for the good public service you provide but for the disgusting news items concerning political corruption in Santa Monica you thankfully report.

City politicians making back room deals for the city to give nearly \$8 million to an agency for a homeless shelter and then letting the public in on it only after it's a done deal and too late for citizens to take any meaningful action.

City building inspectors taking bribes from the public after threatening to file false charges against city residents and business owners.

City planning commissioners and a city councilmember illegally conspiring in private to deny applicants their legal rights.

A City Councilmember being investigated for fraud.

Have other Councilmembers and Commissioners conspired with their cronies to deny unsuspecting citizens their rights? What other corruption has gone on that we don't yet know about?

If the city had gone after its own corrupt politicians with the same vigor it has with landlords, the ATM industry and wedding photographers, would any of this have happened?

It's time for the City Manager to step up to the plate and clean out City Hall. The City Manager needs to appoint an independent commission consisting of respected civic leaders representing all political groups to investigate the corruption committed by city councilmembers and city commissioners.

Saul Cohen
Santa Monica

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Santa Monica 'community' should help all of its residents



What is community? What does it stand for? Is it only for those who have apartments and houses? Is it only for people who were born and raised in it, or can anyone join a community?

When I look at the word, "community" I see the word "commune" is the root. It is also the root of the word "communicate." When I look up "commune" I see it means "to talk over or discuss." That is exactly what should be done to begin to bring understanding to homelessness.

When I started this column I had hoped to bring understanding to the causes of homelessness and also to show those who

read this newspaper that we are not all dirty, drug addicted, lazy and mentally ill. I had hoped to show you that there are those of us out here on the street who don't want to be here but have landed here for various reasons not stemming from drugs, alcohol or mental illness as some in this community would have you believe. In essence I "communed" with you and, hopefully, made some of you aware of this being a symptom of a greater problem facing the community of Santa Monica as a whole, of which I consider myself a part even though I am homeless.

I have showed you that some of us out here ARE working. I have showed you that there some of us out here who ARE making a difference in helping the addicted to get out of that trap. I have showed you that we ARE living breathing, thinking human beings, not animals. I have showed you that we ARE a community that cares about where we live and sleep. Yes, we ARE a community who looks out for each other much the same way you do

in the Pico neighborhood or the community north of Wilshire Boulevard.

I know people who live in both communities. One person, who is like a brother to me, was born and raised here. So when I say things about what I know is going on in this COMMUNITY, I am speaking from what I have heard and seen here since I moved here in 1995.

Now the opportunity to be a progressive community, which is Santa Monica's claim to fame, is here more than ever. The mayors of Los Angeles and Santa Monica want to tackle the problem in a positive manner. But I still hear "Why should we do this or that for the homeless?" or "We have done enough for them." Well, I ask you what is enough? Where is there a line drawn that says this? We are ALL American citizens and we ALL have the right to live where we choose. This city is a progressive place where rich and poor live side by side. Yet, it is a place where the homeless are not even considered poor, as I was told by someone collecting

donations for a food bank. I was also told "they can find work."

Well, I have been hit up to give people work since I started a cart pushing job on the Promenade. I am letting the community as a whole know there are people looking for jobs out here. In fact, there are more of us who WANT to work than not out here right now. As a matter of fact, there is a young lady out here who just got a job at Toys 'R' Us and is looking for a second job to get herself off the streets.

I honestly hope I make my point to those who are so anti-homeless they would have us driven out of here if they had their way. I hope you will begin to see that if you are not part of the solution you are part of the problem. With more than 16,000 apartment vacancies in Santa Monica, it can't be wrong, can it?

(Charles Springer is a freelance artist and writer, and a homeless resident of Santa Monica who can be reached at Chaz_59@yahoo.com)

Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

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LOCAL



Midnight Special looks to October re-opening

DELAYS, from page 1

despite City Hall's goal of promoting locally owned businesses downtown, the process seems to be geared toward larger companies with deep pockets.

"The permit process in Santa Monica is unreal," Ghiz said. "It's a little bit of everybody's fault and I think, too, that doing construction in this town is organized around major corporations. So if you've got a delay and it costs 500 bucks, what's that? It's chump change. Well it's not chump change for us. And there's millions of those little things."

Ghiz said when she closed the bookstore on the Third Street Promenade earlier this year she thought she had enough money in reserves to open in a new location. But instead, she has had to borrow money and expects there will be thousands of dollars more in expenses.

The experience has been surreal for Ghiz.

"It would only be a funny movie to somebody who's already been through it," Ghiz said. "After a while it was hysterical, it really was. You enter the planning department (in City Hall) and you've left the real world."

After struggling for weeks to obtain permits for plumbing, electricity, waste management and various other items, Ghiz said she finally complained to City Councilman Mike Feinstein. Though Ghiz said she was immediately contacted by apologetic and helpful City Hall workers, she still didn't have her permits more than one week later.

Officials from City Hall couldn't be reached for comment Friday because City Hall was closed as part of its ongoing plan to reduce pollution by limiting the amount of car trips employees make and therefore they have every other Friday off.

City Councilwoman Pam O'Connor said she recently received an e-mail message from City Manager Susan McCarthy indicating Midnight Special ran into delays because of a problem with a contractor Ghiz hired to haul away construction debris. Apparently the original contractor did not have the proper certificate filed with City Hall to take the waste.

That delay has since been straightened out.

O'Connor said much of the restrictions are simply part of doing business in any modern city.

"The cities over the 20th century developed zoning codes and development standards, and we as a society have looked at ways to provide clean air and clean water," O'Connor said. "There's a regulatory side. No matter how beloved an institution is, everyone has to go in being treated fairly and held to the same standards."

Still, O'Connor said the planning

department's regulations need to be re-examined every couple of decades or so when restrictions and laws become too burdensome to navigate through.

City Councilman Ken Genser said Ghiz's experience is not at all unique. He said there is plenty of room for improvement in the planning department and added that City Hall must be diligent in fixing the problems.

"In spite of planning department officials' goals to improve the process, we continue to hear many complaints about unclear and excessively bureaucratic processes, and the city not meeting its reasonable time expectations," he said.

To date, Ghiz said she's paid nearly \$5,000 in fees, everything from \$1,080 to the building and safety department to \$202 to the transportation manager and \$323 for something called "permit issuance." She said she will have to pay nearly \$1,000 more to have her proposed signage go before the Architectural Review Board, a city board that recommends to the City Council whether a local project should be approved or denied.

Besides the financial issue, Ghiz pointed to slow service in City Hall, which has been experienced by many business owners. In response, the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce and the Planning Commission have both separately decided to conduct independent audits of the planning department's management and operations.

"You sit in the building department for 15 hours waiting to talk to somebody, but once you're on site there's someone there every day checking in on you," Ghiz said.

Ghiz finally got the proper permits in place for the new Midnight Special last month and her contractor is eight days into what will likely be a 30-day project to upgrade the bookstore's interior.

In the meantime, bookcases are conspicuously absent in the store, as are books. Only the steel skeleton of what will one day separate the shop from the cultural center and offices stands.

Midnight Special began 32 years ago in Venice by civil rights activists. By the end of its first year, two of its founders had been jailed for refusing to give the FBI the names of friends and customers who were attending anti-Vietnam War meetings.

The store, which most recently spent nearly two decades on the Promenade, closed its doors in February.

Asked when the shop will finally re-open, Ghiz said hopefully sometime in October, but then quickly added, "I don't give estimates anymore because of what happens. I just hope. And then three to four weeks afterwards we'll have a big open house."

NEED A GOOD LAUGH?

CHECK OUT THE FUNNIES ON PAGE 12!

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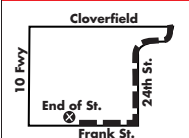
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STATE

Bustamante campaign receives key endorsements

RECALL, from page 1

Sen. Tom McClintock, 12 percent to businessman Bill Simon and 10 percent to former Major League Baseball Commissioner Peter Ueberroth. Simon dropped out of the race Saturday, saying the crowded field would hurt Republican chances.

"Mr. Simon spelled it out clearly yesterday — there are too many candidates in the race," said Schwarzenegger spokesman Sean Walsh. "Clearly, from all parts of the spectrum, there is activity that says Arnold is the guy, and we should be supporting him very vigorously."

Neither of the remaining candidates appeared ready to exit anytime soon. A spokesman said Sunday that Ueberroth would remain in the race and that his campaign would launch radio ads this week.

McClintock, a conservative favorite, said the poll results — combined with Simon's exit from the field — has only strengthened his determination to remain a candidate. Taking a page from popular culture, McClintock compared himself to the famous underdog racehorse Seabiscuit and his legendary battle with the better known champion, War Admiral.

I understand that War Admiral doesn't want to race, but Seabiscuit does," McClintock said. "This horse is in the race to the finish line."

On the Democratic side, the poll was the latest piece of good news for Bustamante, whose campaign picked up significant momentum in recent days from several key endorsements. The state's Democratic Congressional delegation and the California Teachers Association endorsed Bustamante's "no on recall, yes on Bustamante" strategy last week, and even Davis himself edged closer to adopting the strategy as the best way to save his job.

There is no question that I have a lot of confidence in Cruz Bustamante — he is the most qualified person on question number two," Davis said on CNN

Simon out of the recall running

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Republican Bill Simon dropped out of California's gubernatorial recall race Saturday, boosting the position of GOP front-runner Arnold Schwarzenegger amid calls from party leaders to narrow the Republican field.

"I strongly believe that the desire of Californians must come before the aspirations of any single candidate," Simon said in a statement released by his campaign. "There are too many Republicans in this race and the people of this state simply cannot risk a continuation of the Gray Davis legacy."

Recent statewide polls have shown

"Mr. Simon spelled it out clearly yesterday — there are too many candidates in the race. Clearly, from all parts of the spectrum, there is activity that says Arnold is the guy, and we should be supporting him very vigorously."

— SEAN WALSH

Schwarzenegger spokesman

Sunday. "I understand why other Democrats would want a safety valve — it is a perfectly rational position to take."

Davis refused to say whether he would vote for Bustamante on the second part of the ballot, saying he'd announce that decision 10 days before the election.

Bustamante himself was said to be unfazed by the poll's results.

"He said four words to me — we have to work harder," said Bustamante strategist Richie Ross. "We're working 19 hours a day, and he told me to bump it up to 20."

Ross said that Bustamante plans to deliver another major policy address this week. Last week, he laid out a detailed budget plan that differed with Davis's in some key areas.

"Cruz is projecting a level of confidence that is reassuring to Democrats," said longtime Democratic strategist Bill Carrick. "It sends a message to the base that says hey, maybe we can pull this off."

Schwarzenegger far ahead of other Republicans but still running neck-and-neck with the only high-profile Democrat on the list of replacement candidates, Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante.

Leaders and donors in both parties, worried about splitting the vote Oct. 7 if Gov. Davis is recalled, have started lining up behind the two front runners — Republicans largely supporting the actor and Democrats favoring a "No on recall, yes on Bustamante" strategy as a hedge against losing the governor's office.

Republican leaders also have stepped up pressure on GOP candidates trailing Schwarzenegger in the polls.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

STATE



CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

Bolanos visits LA

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Reform-minded Nicaraguan president Enrique Bolanos was greeted warmly by countrymen during his first visit to California.

Highlighting his stay was a dinner speech Saturday before an audience of about 400 Nicaraguan-Americans, who paid \$35 apiece to hear him speak at the downtown Radisson Wilshire Plaza Hotel.

"When we have someone like this president, who is struggling against this history of corruption, this is the response," said Manuel Mena, editor of a Los Angeles-based Nicaraguan community newspaper.

Bolanos was inaugurated in January 2002 after defeating former Sandinista revolutionary and President Daniel Ortega by a 14-point margin. The Bolanos campaign targeted corruption.

At a news conference, Bolanos addressed several issues, including the return of some \$100 million allegedly looted from Nicaraguan coffers; the presence of Nicaraguan troops in Iraq; and the possibility of identification cards for U.S.-based Nicaraguans.

Sales tax for transit?

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Transit officials may ask county voters to approve a temporary hike in the sales tax to pay for new light-rail lines, bus routes and subways.

The proposed increase is being considered because of current state and federal budget constraints, transit officials said.

The proposed half-cent increase could generate at least \$4.1 billion for the Metropolitan Transit Authority over its six-year collection period. The money would help complete more than a dozen new transit projects within 10 years.

Any increase requires state legislation plus a two-thirds majority vote by the public next year.

The MTA board expects to decide Thursday whether to support the tax hike.

The biggest share of the additional revenue created by the tax would go toward creating trains between Santa Monica and downtown, and extending the Gold Line while adding a downtown spur connecting it to the Long Beach Blue Line.

Money would also be targeted for a three-mile extension of the MTA's Red Line subway down Wilshire Boulevard to Fairfax Avenue, adding stops at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Park La Brea apartments and the Grove shopping center.

Officials tackle drownings

By The Associated Press

BAKERSFIELD — Central Valley officials are trying to prevent accidental drownings this summer as the state creates a comprehensive database to help pinpoint problems and determine who is most vulnerable to drownings.

Twenty-one people have drowned in lakes, rivers and irrigation canals in parts of Kern, Kings, Merced, Tulare and Stanislaus counties — a toll on par with past totals. Statistics from Fresno and Madera counties were not available.

A new effort to compile information on a statewide basis is being readied as a way to bring those numbers down.

"The valley heat is driving people to the rivers to cool off and get away — vacation, picnic or whatever," said Matt Scharper, search and rescue coordinator for the state's Office of Emergency Services. "Fatigue, heat, alcohol and a lack of common sense gets them in trouble. They literally get in over their heads."

The June melt of the heavy late-spring Sierra snow generated powerful currents in some San Joaquin Valley rivers, and the water level has dropped since then, but undertows still can sweep people below the surface.

In Kern County, officials have posted signs in English and Spanish at the mouth of Kern River Canyon that tallies the deaths in the Kern River since 1968 — 219 — but some people don't heed the warning.

Individual county statistics on recreational drowning deaths may be incorporated in a comprehensive database being created by the state, Scharper said.

Fast food shooting

By The Associated Press

VISALIA — A 20-year-old man was killed in a gang-related shooting at a fast-food restaurant as he sat with friends inside a car at the drive-through, police said.

Jose Luis Landin, 20, of Alpaugh, died at Kaweah Delta Hospital. The shooting happened just after midnight Saturday at a Jack in the Box restaurant.

Police had not made any arrests, but indicated they got a general description of who did the shooting.

Family members said Landin — who would have turned 21 on Sunday — was a gang member and that he was wearing a jersey signifying his gang affiliation. His family believes he was shot by a rival.

Landin had driven to Visalia to pick up his older brother after his release from the Tulare County Main Jail. After he picked up his brother, Landin drove to get a hamburger, said Laura Landin, his 17-year-old sister. He had just placed his order when someone approached the Honda Civic and fired several shots inside the passenger window. Landin, who was in the driver's seat, was killed. No one else was hurt and the gunman ran away, according to police.



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NATIONAL

Child molester, former priest killed in prison

BY ROBERT O'NEILL
Associated Press Writer

BOSTON — Former priest John Geoghan, the convicted child molester whose prosecution sparked the sex abuse scandal that shook the Roman Catholic Church nationwide, died Saturday after another inmate attacked him in prison.

Geoghan was injured in an incident with another inmate about noon and died shortly after being taken to Leominster Hospital, said Department Of Correction spokeswoman Kelly Nantel.

The incident happened just after lunchtime at Souza-Baranowski Correction Center, about 30 miles northwest of Boston, Nantel said. Geoghan was being held in protective custody to shield him from the general prison population, but he still had some contact with other inmates, Nantel said.

The other inmate was being held in isolation and the incident is under investigation, she said. She declined to give further details.

In civil lawsuits, more than 130 people have claimed Geoghan sexually abused them as children during his three decades as a priest at Boston-area parishes. He was convicted last year of indecent assault and battery for fondling a 10-year-old boy at a swimming pool.

Mitchell Garabedian, an attorney for many Geoghan victims, said he was "surprised and shocked" by Geoghan's death.

"Many of my clients would have rather seen Father Geoghan serve out his time in jail and endure the rigors of further criminal trials, so that his pedophile acts could have been exposed further," he said.

Geoghan often targeted boys from broken homes, ingratiating himself during frequent visits or fun outings. One victim said Geoghan molested him as the two were driving home from getting an ice cream cone. Others said Geoghan molested them after visiting their rooms at bedtime to tuck them in, sometimes while whispering prayers.

The church abuse scandal, which has had repercussions worldwide, broke in early 2002 with revelations that the Boston Archdiocese had shuttled Geoghan from parish to parish despite warnings about his behavior.

The scandal mushroomed after a judge ordered the release of archdiocese files involving dozens of priests, showing repeated examples of the archdiocese shipping priests to different parishes when allegations arose.

Soon dioceses and bishops across the country came under scrutiny for their handling of abuse allegations over the years, with the church tainted by scandal in many states. With the public outcry reaching a new crescendo, the bishops adopted a toughened policy against sex abuse and more than 325 priests of the roughly 46,000 American clergy were either dismissed or resigned from their duties in the year after the Geoghan case.

David Clohessy, national director of the Chicago-based Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, said what made Geoghan's case more "than just a single case about a single predator" was that it revealed the corruption in the church.

"In many respects, Geoghan is not the pivotal figure, it's the people who he wounded and still came forward and the

"Upon hearing the news of the tragic death of John Geoghan, the Archdiocese of Boston offers prayer for the repose of John's soul, and extends its prayers in consolation to his beloved sister, Kathy, at this time of personal loss."

— **REV. CHRISTOPHER COYNE**
Spokesman, Archdiocese of Boston

bishops who enabled him but were finally exposed," he said.

Geoghan was ousted from the priesthood in 1998 at the urging of Cardinal Bernard Law. The Geoghan case was one of several that led to Law resigning in December over his mishandling of abuse cases.

Rev. Christopher Coyne, a spokesman for the Archdiocese of Boston, offered prayers for Geoghan's family.

"Upon hearing the news of the tragic death of John Geoghan, the Archdiocese of Boston offers prayer for the repose of John's soul, and extends its prayers in consolation to his beloved sister, Kathy, at this time of personal loss," he said.

Geoghan was convicted in January 2002 for grabbing the buttocks of a 10-year-old boy in 1991 in the first of three criminal cases against him. He was sentenced to nine to 10 years in prison.

Most of the allegations against Geoghan did not lead to criminal charges because the statute of limitations had expired.

In September 2002, the archdiocese settled with 86 Geoghan victims for \$10 million, after pulling out of an earlier settlement of about \$30 million.

One of those victims, Ralph DelVecchio, said Geoghan deserved prison but didn't deserve to be killed.

"I wouldn't say he deserved to die, you know?" DelVecchio said. "He was in jail — that's where I believed he should be."

DelVecchio said he didn't wish ill on Geoghan.

"It's over with," he said.

A recent report by state Attorney General Thomas Reilly estimated that more than 1,000 children were abused by priests in the Boston archdiocese in the last 60 years. The Boston Archdiocese has offered \$65 million to settle cases filed by more than 540 alleged victims.

On Saturday, the archdiocese announced that four priests had taken voluntary leaves of absence in response to allegations of sexual misconduct with minors. The church had asked the priests to step aside until the alleged incidents — all said to have occurred decades ago — are investigated and resolved.

NATIONAL



NATIONAL BRIEFS

Middle East peace dealt setbacks

By The Associated Press

CRAWFORD, Texas — Last week's bombing of the U.N. headquarters in Baghdad and renewed eye-for-an-eye attacks by the Israelis and Palestinians dealt setbacks to President Bush's effort to promote stability in the Middle East, yet he says he won't retreat in his battle against terrorists.

"The world will not be intimidated," the president said Saturday in his weekly radio address. "A violent few will not determine the future of Iraq. ... A Palestinian state will never be built on a foundation of violence."

On Tuesday, a suicide truck bombing attack at the U.N. headquarters in Iraq killed the top U.N. envoy there and at least 22 others; it injured more than 100. Also on Tuesday, the Israelis and Palestinians renewed their battle as a suicide bomber killed 20 people, including six children, on a bus in Jerusalem — an attack that prompted Israel to kill a leader of the extremist Hamas group.

"Terrorists commit atrocities because they want the civilized world to flinch and retreat so they can impose their totalitarian vision," Bush said. "There will be no flinching in this war on terror, and there will be no retreat."

Body of flood victim found

By The Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Searchers found the body Saturday of a woman missing since a flash flood swept her home into a swollen creek a day earlier. Her young son, who had also been in the home, was found dead on Friday.

Authorities also had been searching for a young girl, but after talking the missing woman's husband they determined that no one else was in the house when it was swept away, Franklin County Fire Chief Gary Watts said Saturday.

The boy, 6, was found dead Friday evening along Stony Creek, normally a small stream that trickles through a bed of rocks about 50 feet wide. Remnants of the single-story house — pieces of siding, a door, parts of the roof, — lay scattered along the banks.

Heavy rain Friday flooded the creek, a tributary of the Kentucky River, sending water over a nearby bridge and washing out a road and several structures, including the home.

The woman's body was spotted by search crews in a helicopter less than a mile from the spot where the home had stood, Watts said.

Activists want dream to be realized

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Forty years after Martin Luther King Jr. eloquently captured the struggle of black Americans for equality, civil rights activists called Saturday for his dream to finally be realized.

His vision of a land where little black boys and girls in the South would one day hold hands with little white boys and girls was remembered by thousands of people who gathered on a warm summer day to celebrate King's "I Have a Dream" speech.

"Despite the progress we've made during the last four decades, people of color are still being denied a fair share of employment and educational opportunities in our society," said his son, Martin Luther King III.

Speaking to a few thousand people gathered on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, King said it was a day to honor the hard work of all those behind the 1963 march. It also represented, he said, a moment of realization that much work lies ahead.

To mark the coming 40th anniversary of the March on Washington, King's widow, Coretta Scott King, urged the crowd to follow the peaceful path that her husband preached.

"We must make our hearts instruments of peace and nonviolence because when the heart is right, the mind and the body will follow," she said.

EPA to relax modernization requirements

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a victory for industrial plant operators, the Environmental Protection Agency is preparing to issue a new rule within days to let thousands more facilities modernize without adding more pollution controls.

The new rule relaxes the agency's definition of "routine maintenance," a catchphrase Congress adopted in its 1977 Clean Air Act amendments to describe the only reason an industry could modernize without having to install best-available pollution control technology.

"Routine maintenance" has been at the center of debate over the Clean Air Act's "new source review" program, which was intended to force businesses to install new clean-air devices if they modified or improved older plants in ways that increase emissions.

Bush administration members and industry officials who lobbied heavily for the changes describe them as clarifications of a confusing standard that has long stymied industry. The new source review program needs improving, said the EPA's acting administrator, Marianne L. Horinko, because "that program is not causing a whole lot of emissions reductions."

Horinko said she will sign the new rule, which is based on EPA's proposal last November, in the coming week and it will take effect in the fall. The announcement is planned for Wednesday.



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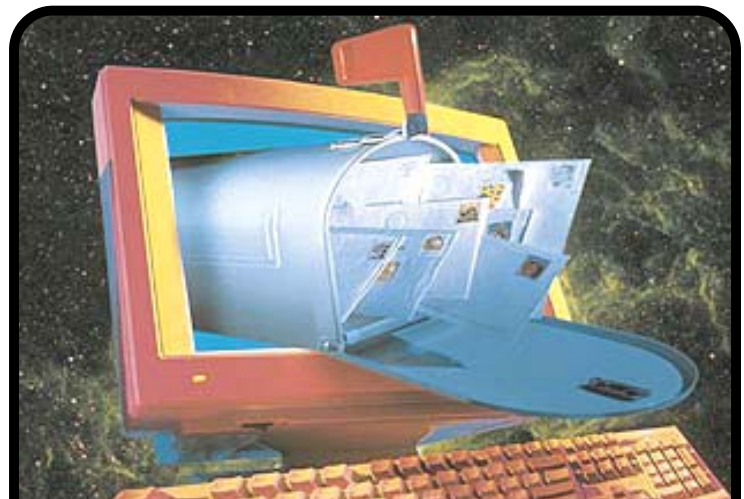
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INTERNATIONAL

British soldiers killed in Basra guerilla attack

BY STEVEN R. HURST

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The death toll among coalition forces rose Saturday when three British soldiers were killed in a guerrilla attack in southern Iraq. Also, U.S. troops killed two Iraqi Turkomen who opened fire when soldiers arrived to quell a bloody ethnic clash in the north.

Despite continuing violence, sabotage and terror attacks — including this week's suicide bombing of U.N. headquarters — the American administrator for Iraq said the U.S.-led coalition would not slow efforts to rebuild the country, shattered by war and 13 years of U.N. sanctions.

"We have never hidden the fact that we have security problems in Iraq," L. Paul Bremer told a news conference.

Also in Baghdad, U.N. workers who had not left Iraq after Tuesday's attack resumed work in a cluster of tents set up at the battered Canal Hotel compound, former home of U.N. offices.

Investigators and soldiers searched piles of debris for human remains and clues in the truck bombing that killed at least 23 people, including top U.N. envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello, whose memorial was held Saturday in his native Brazil.

One of the envoy's dying wishes was for the United Nations to remain in Iraq and continue work to establish democracy, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan told mourners.

"Let us respect that," Annan said. "Let Sergio, who has given his life in that cause, find a fitting memorial in a free and sovereign Iraq."

Back at work, U.N. staff embraced each other. Computers and office equipment were moved into portable, air-conditioned offices flown in from Italy and set up beside the tents.

"We are moving forward," Ramiro Lopes da Silva said on his first day on the job as acting head of the U.N.'s Iraq mission. The Portuguese diplomat's right hand, forehead and ear were bandaged from the blast.

Bremer said it was too early to speculate on who car-

ried out the bombing.

Addressing reports that he and the Iraqi Governing Council were increasingly at odds, Bremer said there was concern inside the council over the coalition's inability to fully restore electricity, which has angered many Iraqi people. Bremer established the 25-member council as an interim government, though it has little real power.

"They share our frustration with not being able to restore essential services to prewar levels," Bremer said, noting the coalition set an end-of-September goal for getting the lights back on permanently.

Bremer also said he had encouraged the council to reach out to Iraqis to join in the reconstruction and security of their country.

"We're worried about the situation, but we are working with city leaders and officials to resolve it."

— LT. JONATHAN HOPKINS
173rd Airborne Brigade

In Basra, the British military said a two-vehicle convoy was attacked by gunmen in a pickup truck as the soldiers traveled through the city center on a patrol about 8:30 a.m.

As of Saturday, the British government has reported 48 deaths since the war began. The American military says 273 U.S. soldiers have died since the beginning of military operations. Denmark's military has reported one death.

On or since May 1, when President Bush declared major combat operations over, 135 U.S. soldiers have died in Iraq, according to the latest military figures. Counting only combat deaths, 65 Americans and 11 Britons have died since the Bush declaration.

In Tuz Kharmato, 110 miles north of Baghdad, U.S.

soldiers killed two Turkomen tribesmen and wounded two others after the Americans were fired on when they arrived Friday to quell ethnic fighting, said Maj. Josslyn Aberle, 4th Infantry Division spokeswoman. She said it was the first ethnic conflict in the tense region since May.

Capt. David L. Swenson of the 173 Airborne Brigade in Tuz Kharmato told The Associated Press that several hundred Turkomen protesters were on the streets. The fighting reportedly broke out after Kurds destroyed a reopened Turkomen Islamic shrine.

Three Turks and five Kurds were killed and 13 people wounded, Swenson said.

Violence continued late Saturday in nearby Kirkuk, where rocket-propelled grenades were fired at statues of two Turkomen heroes as gunfire punctuated the night. There was no indication of who was shooting or any sign of U.S. forces.

Squads of police were stationed at each of the statues after the attacks.

"We're worried about the situation, but we are working with city leaders and officials to resolve it," said Lt. Jonathan Hopkins of the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

Earlier, Kirkuk Mayor Abdul Rahman Mustafa, a Kurd, told the AP two people were killed and several were wounded. He did not identify the victims' by ethnicity.

According to both CNN-Turk television and private NTV television in Ankara, Turkey, hundreds of Turkomen, carrying blue Turkomen flags, marched on the governor's office. Turkey's Anatolia news agency reported two Turkomen were shot and killed and 11 wounded by Patriotic Union of Kurdistan forces.

As the United Nations resumed work Saturday, staff members complained that the U.S.-led coalition had done little to provide security in the area before the bombing.

"It was the coalition's fault, because it was their job to watch the parking area where the bombing happened," said security officer Mohammed Abdul Aziz.

The U.S.-led coalition claims responsibility for security in the country but says it has no obligation to guard specific sites such as the U.N. headquarters and diplomatic missions. U.S. troops are, however, guarding locations such as Iraqi banks and the oil ministry.

But Maj. Mark Johnston said soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division had temporarily taken control of security at the bombed hotel, which became U.N. headquarters in Baghdad after the 1991 Gulf War.

"It's still a dangerous site. We are still in the recovery stage," he said.

Eighty-six seriously wounded U.N. workers were airlifted out for medical care.

Two U.N. employees were still unaccounted for and an unknown number of people — visitors to the building — remained buried in the rubble. The U.N. official death toll was 20, but checks of area hospitals by The Associated Press showed at least 23 died in the blast.



WORLD BRIEFLY

Palestinian forces lead raids

By The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Palestinian security forces began a series of raids in the Gaza Strip, seizing weapons and arresting suspects, a Palestinian security official said.

Security forces also closed three tunnels used to smuggle weapons and drugs across from Egypt, the official said on condition of anonymity. The crackdown began Saturday afternoon and came on the orders of the Palestinian leadership, the official said.

It was not clear whether the raids marked the start of a clampdown on militants demanded by Israel and the United States. Such a campaign could help defuse growing tension, triggered by a Hamas bombing of a Jerusalem bus this week and the killing of a Hamas leader in an Israeli missile strike.

The violence threatens to sink a U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan that envisions Palestinian statehood by 2005.

Israeli Foreign Ministry official Gideon Meir said Saturday's action was not enough, and Israel expects Palestinian security chief Mohammed Dahlan to arrest those involved in violence against Israel.

"We expect Dahlan to take his 20,000 troops and to

start making arrests of the terrorists," he said. "We don't need any more words."

Chavez will not bow

By The Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela — President Hugo Chavez celebrated the midpoint of his six-year term Saturday by telling hundreds of thousands of supporters he would not bow to efforts to oust him through the ballot box.

As many as 500,000 supporters gathered on a downtown avenue, according to Caracas fire officials, to hear Chavez and to rebuff an opposition push for a referendum on Chavez's rule. Organizers claimed as many as 3 million people were present.

"Victory is ours, whatever the cost!" Chavez told the cheering crowd. "We are prepared for any sacrifice to fulfill our promise to Venezuela. Long live the revolution!"

Many wore red shirts and berets identifying them with Chavez's "Bolivarian Revolution," a left-wing movement the president and his backers claim is aimed at redressing the inequalities of wealth in oil-rich Venezuela.

They accompanied the president in singing "Happy Birthday, Bolivarian Government."

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DID YOU KNOW?: Hippocrates, the Father of Medicine, suggested that a woman could enlarge her bust line by singing loudly and often.

SPORTS



Candy Ride still on top with Pacific Classic win

BY BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

DEL MAR — Candy Ride took jockey Julie Krone, trainer Ron McAnally and owners Jenny and Sid Craig on a sweet trip in the Pacific Classic.

The hyped horse from Argentina hooked up with pacesetter Medaglia d'Oro approaching the stretch, then blew by him to win by 3 1/4 lengths Sunday.

Candy Ride won in 1:59.11, a track and stakes record for 1 1/4 miles. The previous record was 1:59.40 by the Bobby Frankel-trained Bertrando in 1993.

Candy Ride is 6-0 in his brief career. "When he won the last race ... I said he could be the best horse on the planet, and you know what? He could be," Sid Craig said.

Candy Ride was purchased for \$900,000 by the Craigs in January, after McAnally saw the horse on videotape and went to check him out in Argentina.

Back then, McAnally predicted Candy Ride would be the horse to give the Craigs a victory in the race they most wanted to win. The couple lives 15 minutes away in Rancho Santa Fe and brought along 25 family and friends.

"It doesn't get any better than that in your own backyard," said Sid Craig, who used to awaken in the night and talk about the race.

"I saw that race 5,000 times before it happened," he said. "I started off winning by 20 lengths, then I started winning by 10 lengths.

At the end, I was barely winning. I really visualized winning that race, it was an obsession."

Krone, replacing injured Gary Stevens, became the first woman to win a \$1 million race in the United States. The two jockeys shared a bear hug on the track after the race.

"I'm still not fully absorbing this," she said. "I made the outrider pinch me. I asked the clerk of scales if this was really happening. It's a dream come true."

McAnally, a Hall of Fame member like Krone, is Del Mar's career leading trainer, but it was his first Pacific Classic victory after eight previous starters finished no better than fourth.

"I'm so happy I won for them," he

said, nodding at the Craigs, who've been longtime clients. "Today he beat one of the best horses in the country."

Medaglia d'Oro was undefeated this year, winning the Strub Stakes, Oaklawn and Whitney handicaps. He, along with Milwaukee Brew, shipped in from Saratoga for the race. Medaglia d'Oro is North America's richest thoroughbred in training, with earnings of more than \$3.2 million.

Frankel failed to win a record seventh Pacific Classic with either Medaglia d'Oro or Milwaukee Brew, who was fourth.

"He just got outrun," a disappointed Frankel said, adding that he didn't know what was wrong with Milwaukee Brew.

Candy Ride paid \$6.40 and \$2.80. Medaglia d'Oro returned \$2.20, and Fleetstreet Dancer was another seven lengths back in third. There was no show wagering for the smallest field in the race's 13-year history.

The victory puts Candy Ride among the nation's top older horses and creates an intriguing scenario for the fall. Among his East Coast rivals is Mineshaft, winner of six of eight races this year.

The Craigs said they'll consider supplementing Candy Ride to the Breeders' Cup, which would cost them \$800,000. They can afford it; Jenny Craig is the woman behind the nationwide chain of weight-loss centers and a diet food line named for her.

"I was a total basket case," she said.

Candy Ride stumbled slightly coming out of the gate, but quickly settled behind Medaglia d'Oro and jockey Jerry Bailey. The pace picked up on the backside, where Krone kept Candy Ride on the hip of Medaglia d'Oro.

Approaching the stretch turn, Candy Ride moved up to challenge Medaglia d'Oro in what resembled a match race. Candy Ride easily moved by Medaglia d'Oro, who last ran in the Whitney three weeks ago.

"It was kind of unfair because I know Gary 'The Iceman' Stevens was coaching Julie," Bailey said, smiling. "They ganged up on me."

Expos down the Padres

By The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Brad Wilkerson homered and drove in three runs and Jose Vidro added a two-run homer Sunday as the Montreal Expos broke a four-game losing streak with an 8-4 win over the San Diego Padres.

The Expos were helped when Padres rookie catcher Miguel Ojeda apparently lost track of the outs and rolled the ball back to the mound, allowing a runner to advance.

Wilkerson connected for a two-run drive off Kevin Jarvis (4-6) in the fifth inning as the Expos took a 4-0 lead. Vidro's homer against Joe Roa pushed Montreal's lead to 6-3 in the seventh.

Rookie Eric Knott (1-2) picked up his first major league win in relief of starter T.J. Tucker despite committing a two-base throwing error in the fifth that allowed two runs to score.

The left-handed Knott gave up two runs — one unearned — on two hits over 1 2-3 innings.

Jarvis allowed up four runs — three earned — on seven hits in five innings.

After Wil Cordero's sacrifice fly in the second, Wilkerson hit his 16th homer following Tucker's leadoff double in the fifth.

Jamey Carroll then reached on an infield single. After Jarvis struck out Vladimir Guerrero for the second out, Ojeda rolled the ball back and Carroll moved to third. Carroll scored on Orlando Cabrera's infield single.

The Padres chased Tucker in the fifth on consecutive doubles by Ojeda and Lou Merloni. Knott came in and struck out pinch-hitter Rondell White and walked Sean Burroughs.

Mark Kotsay followed with a high bouncer in the front of the mound that Knott fielded and threw wildly up the first-base line. By the time Guerrero picked up the ball in the Expos' right-field bullpen, Merloni and Burroughs scored to cut the lead to 4-3.

Merloni also had an RBI single.

Pinch-hitter Endy Chavez and Wilkerson added run-scoring singles in the eighth off Luther Hackman.

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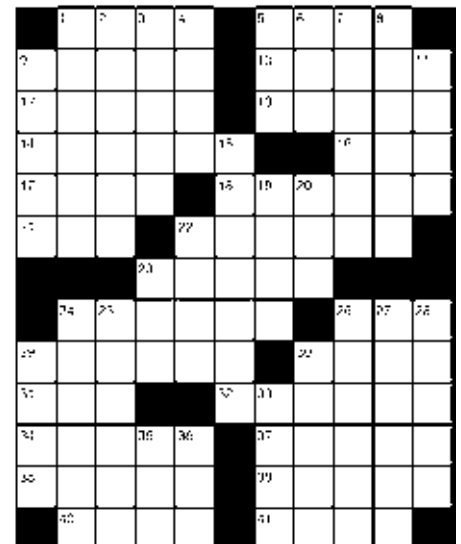
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Bradbury's birthday wish: Reader on Mars

By The Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. — Science fiction author Ray Bradbury celebrated his 83rd birthday with this wish:

One night, 100 years from now, a youngster will stay up late reading "The Martian Chronicles" with a flashlight under his blanket — on the Red Planet.

"That's the dream I have and that's the reason I'm here," the author of the 1950 classic said during a birthday party organized Saturday by The Planetary Society.

The space exploration advocacy group presented Bradbury with a mammoth birthday card printed with messages from 4,000 well wishers. Actress Angie Dickinson gave him a kiss. Director Peter Hyams, whose movie version of Bradbury's short story "A Sound of Thunder" is due in April, called him a "national treasure." Sci-fi author Kim Stanley Robinson asked for an autograph.

Actress Nichelle Nichols pinned a "Star Trek" badge on his lapel.

"It makes you an honorary member of the Starship Enterprise, which you actually have been from day one," said Nichols, who played Lt. Uhura on the original "Star Trek" TV series.

Bradbury said he developed his love for Mars as a high school student, when he read the nearly dozen Mars-themed books by an author now better known for creating Tarzan.

"Edgar Rice Burroughs taught me to go out on the lawns of summer and hold my hands out and say 'Mars, take me home.' And I have never been back," Bradbury said.

EXTON, Pa. — Hall of Fame catcher Roy Campanella's three Most Valuable Player awards from the 1950s sold at auction for a total of \$340,000.

Campanella spent half his career in the Negro Leagues and then went on to play for the Brooklyn Dodgers, a team he helped lead to five National League pennants and the 1955 World Series. He won the NL

MVP awards in 1951, 1953 and 1955 and is widely regarded as one of the top catchers in baseball history.

On Saturday, the 1951 MVP award sold for \$155,000, the 1953 award for \$95,000 and the 1955 award for \$90,000, according to Katie Leighton, a spokeswoman for Exton-based Hunt Auctions Inc.

Campanella's career was cut short when he was paralyzed from the shoulders down in a 1958 car accident. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1969 and died 10 years ago.

The final pair of cleats he wore before the accident sold for \$22,000, one of his catcher's mitts sold for \$38,000 and a warm-up jacket went for \$31,000.

Campanella's widow, Roxie, has said she decided to sell the trophies because she no longer felt the need to keep them. The family kept Campanella's league championship rings. Roxie Campanella said her husband's only World Series ring was stolen about 25 years ago.

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Academy Award-winner Meryl Streep served as auctioneer to help sell artwork — including her husband's — to benefit survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Streep took the stage before a crowd of about 1,500 on Saturday for the black-tie benefit for Arts for ACT, the annual auction for Abuse Counseling and Treatment.

"I don't want you to stand up. I want you to raise your hands all night long," Streep said.

Among the artists whose works were included was Streep's husband, sculptor Don Gummer, whose "Above the Cave" sold for \$37,500.

"I'm going to try and do two things: Sell a lot of art and try not to embarrass him," Streep said.

At one point, Streep offered to shake the winning bidder's hand if the sales price was at least \$500. On a laser print, Streep sweetened the pot.

"Maybe a kiss. Maybe a French kiss," she told the crowd.

The print, "Jarros," sold for \$3,500 and Streep deliv-

ered an appreciative kiss to the buyer.

The auction raised \$296,795. Including ticket sales and a silent auction, the fund-raiser exceeded \$400,000, ACT's executive director Jennifer Benton said.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — "American Idol" winner Ruben Studdard, known as "The Velvet Teddy Bear," will perform two free concerts in his native Alabama on behalf of a tax referendum backed by one of his biggest fans, Gov. Bob Riley.

The 8,800 free tickets for the Sept. 2 concert in Mobile ran out in 30 minutes, and 10,000 were distributed in 17 minutes in Birmingham for a Sept. 5 concert in Studdard's hometown. Studdard's band, Just a Few Cats, and comedian Ced Delaney are also scheduled to perform.

The "Believe in Alabama" concerts were organized to promote the Republican governor's tax increase proposals on the Sept. 9 ballot.

However, Studdard has not yet said whether he endorses Riley's proposals.

Studdard received a \$1 million recording contract for beating out runner-up Clay Aiken on the final segment of "American Idol" in May. A 39-show tour ends Aug. 31, and his album is due out in mid-September.

EDINBURGH, Scotland — American Demetri Martin on Sunday won the 23rd Perrier Comedy award, one of Britain's most prestigious comedy performance awards.

Martin, 30, who dropped out of law school to pursue comedy, took the prize for the best comedy of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival with his routine about his obsessive youth, "If I."

The New Yorker beat Australian favorite Adam Hills, fellow American Reginald D. Hunter, New Zealand duo Flight of the Conchords, and lone Briton Howard Read.

Nica Burns, director of the Perrier Comedy Award, described it as "a breathtaking win" for Martin, who is on his first trip to Britain.

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