

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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Megamember: 9
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FANTASY 5

10, 15, 38, 1, 27

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 4, 4, 8
Evening picks: 8, 1, 8

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 8, Gorgeous George
2nd Place: 9, Winning Spirit
3rd Place: 6, Whirl Win
Race Time: 1:41.63



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

ABC News reported in May that it is not illegal in Massachusetts for a man to take surreptitious photographs of his adult daughter in the family home, even though in "hundreds" of the photos, she is nude or partially nude. The Easthampton, Mass., woman was 19 when she moved back into her old bedroom, where her father had been keeping electronic equipment, but later got a tech-savvy friend to examine a camera and computer. The parents are now divorced, but since the father committed no crime, he got to keep the photos.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

'Lie Down and Roll Over and 159 Other Ways To Say I Love You.'

— 1981 book title



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Above: Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom, flanked by Santa Monica Fire Chief Ettore Berardinelli and Assistant City Manager Gordon Anderson, speaks to a crowd during the opening ceremony of the new Public Safety Facility behind City Hall on Wednesday while SMPD officers on the building's roof scan the area as an extra security measure. (Right) Hundreds of people line up on Wednesday evening to tour the new \$66 million building.



It's official: Cop shop open for business

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

Close to 500 city employees will move into their offices next month now that the \$66 million Public Safety Facility is officially open.

Hundreds of people showed up on Wednesday for a community celebration and ribbon cutting ceremony, which marked the official opening of a facility that has been at least eight years in the making.

Police and fire personnel have been waiting patiently to move into their new home after unforeseen circumstances caused the project to be delayed, which increased the facility's cost by millions.

Officials estimate that the move will take three days and will be done over a weekend in September. Paid movers, who all went through background checks and fingerprinting by the Santa Monica Police Department, will

move the SMPD's five offices individually. SMPD supervisors will oversee the transfer of the department's files and records to maintain the integrity of the move.

The SMPD's communication center, which includes the 911 dispatch operation, will be up and running before the move. The police department's front desk officer, watch commander and records section will be relocated to City Hall over the weekend of the move.

"Our services will not be impacted or interrupted because of this move," said SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega. "All of the critical 24-hour staff will be working."

The impetus behind the new facility was the deterioration of the current police building, which is attached to City Hall. Built to accommodate just over 100 employees in the 1950s, more than

See OPENING, page 5

Santa Monica City Council talking trash

What to do with city's rubbish is a multi-million dollar query

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

How to sort Santa Monica's trash is an \$8 million question city officials are pondering.

A plan to construct a transfer station for solid waste and recyclables in Santa Monica was put on hold Tuesday so that officials can decide whether to pay a private company to sort the city's rubbish or let City Hall do it.

If the city runs the operation, it will require \$8 million to build a new facility. But officials from Southern California Disposal, a private

"It doesn't make any sense to build a facility and spend millions of dollars when exactly the same type of services exist right across the street."

— MIKE MATOSIAN
Southern California Disposal

Santa Monica transfer facility, said City Hall's proposal is a monumental waste of money.

SCD officials said they will take care of Santa Monica's waste at a competitive rate and elimi-

nate the need to spend money on a new facility.

"It doesn't make any sense to build a facility and spend millions of dollars when exactly the same type of services exist right across the street," said Mike Matosian, son-in-law of SCD owner Sam Kardashian. "It's like buying a semi-truck to drive yourself from home to work in the same community. The magnitude of overkill on this project is ridiculous. It really is."

After three-and-a-half hours of public comment and debate, the City Council decided on Tuesday to wait on approving a new transfer station. City Council members said more information and analysis is needed before they can make a decision.

See TRASH, page 6

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2003

This year, you often trigger action without realizing it. You could be heard to say, "How did that happen?" A good question, as you might not always be in touch with your feelings. In the next few weeks, you enter a new life cycle where ultimately you have the ability to create more of what you want. Expansion is the name of the game. Do watch a tendency to overeat or overindulge. If single, sometimes you might find it challenging to get along with others, but trust that this year someone special will enter your life. If attached, your relationship will head in a new direction, though you might need to cater a bit more to your partner. The two of you will benefit from learning to communicate more effectively with each other. VIRGO is a soul mate.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 ★★ Whatever you begin might be hard to complete. Expect disruptions. You will do well as a result. Your ability to jump over hurdles needs to come out. Give up being angry. Look at how you can put a stop to the situation. Tonight: Put your feet up.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★ Creativity and ingenuity can only go so far, especially if you are dealing with an outrageous situation. Pressure builds when dealing with others. Someone expresses strong feelings, which, up to now, you were clueless about. Tonight: Pretend it is already the weekend!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★ Your ruler goes retrograde, causing some confusion in the next few weeks. Though you might wonder what is going on with someone close, you'll get answers if you ask the right questions. Bosses make demands. Tonight: Happy at home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★ Reach out for someone close. You might not have the control you desire, but you will manage to get through a problem if you stretch and walk in another's shoes. A work project develops differently than you originally thought. Tonight: Swap jokes and stories with a pal.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★ Be careful when dealing with others and finances. Rethink plans in the next few weeks. Someone definitely pushes your buttons. Establish your boundaries in a kind manner. This person might take a while to get it. Tonight: Be lighthearted with a loved one.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★ Consider information someone tosses in your face. Although you might not be comfortable with all that you hear, it is important to evaluate another perspective or viewpoint, especially this month. Think rather than act. Tonight: Rearrange the living room or clean out your desk.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★ Taking a step back might be the only appropriate action at the moment, and actually for a while. Do your work and concentrate on one item at a time. Stop worrying. Keep your eye on the big picture. Try to understand why someone might be triggered and upset. Tonight: Try your vanishing act.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★ For a month or so you might not feel that you are getting your just deserts. What might make a difference is rethinking your expectations, as well as possibly looking at different routes to the same place. Tonight: Hook up with your friends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★ Pressure builds in a most anticipated way. You finally get a grasp on what is happening with yourself vis-a-vis several different areas of your life. Relax with yourself while you see others react and express upset. Tonight: Put in the extra hours so you can have a special weekend.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★ You gain understanding, which could prevent a difficult, if not close to intolerable, situation. How you deal with someone close could make all the difference in the outcome. If you feel as if you need to put your foot down, do so. Tonight: Start thinking "weekend."

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★ You might not always get the end results you seek. Be sensitive to your goals, and success will happen more frequently. Often you throw out the baby with the bath water. Tonight: Do some thinking about a key relationship.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★ Be sensitive to a possible change in direction and plans. If you're not careful with your temper, you could lose it out of the blue. Your stress levels build. Talk to a trusted friend or loved one. Give yourself several weeks to cool down. Tonight: Say "yes."

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Is homeless law banning doorway sleeping working?

By Daily Press staff

The public safety committee of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce will visit area businesses today to determine whether a law passed last fall preventing people from sleeping in front of downtown doorways has been effective.

After much debate and controversy, the City Council passed an ordinance last October that bans people from sleeping in front of businesses, if the business owner posts a sign citing the law. The ordinance, which police started enforcing earlier this year, was in response to complaints from residents, merchants and tourists who say homeless people were urinating and defecating in the doorways.

All chamber members are invited to tour local businesses today with the committee. People are asked to meet at 3 p.m. at the chamber office, located at 501 Colorado Ave.

SMC Planetarium extends Mars show

By Daily Press staff

Because of the popularity in the "Mars Rover" shows at the Santa Monica College Planetarium, the current shows have been extended into September, replacing the "California Stars" show that had originally been scheduled.

"Mars Rovers" will continue to be the feature show Sept. 5, 12 and 19 at Santa Monica College's popular Friday night astronomy series.

The feature show is at 8 p.m. and is preceded by "The Night Sky Show," at 7 p.m., which recreates the night sky and provides the latest information on space exploration.

The guest lecture in September, as originally scheduled, will be "Surveying the Sky."

Schuyler Van Dyk of NASA will talk about his agency's Two Micron All Sky Survey project at CalTech, which is designed to close the gap between the country's current technical capability and the knowledge of the near-infrared sky. The guest lecture will be at 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26 and also will be preceded by "The Night Sky Show" at 7 p.m.

"The Night Sky Show" and "Mars Rovers" will be held in the John Drescher Planetarium, which features the state-of-the-art Digistar projection system, located on the second floor of Drescher Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd.

"Surveying the Sky" will be in room 140 of the science complex, located at 1900 Pico Blvd.

Tickets are \$5 each or \$9 for the double bill, with discounts for children and senior citizens. For information, call (310) 434-4223 or (310) 434-3000.

YWCA auditorium renamed

By Daily Press staff

The local YWCA auditorium on Friday will be officially named after a bank.

The YWCA auditorium will be dedicated as the First Federal Bank of California Auditorium because the institution has been supporting the YWCA Santa Monica/Westside for more than 15 years.

With the bank's support, the child care program has become a low-cost child care service for children of low-income working parents.

The YWCA Santa Monica/Westside is located at 2019 14th St.

For more information, or to attend the dedication, call (310) 452-3881.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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surf report

Bay Street's been hurting in the morning, barely good enough for learning to ride a foamy. So sleep in and wait for the ankle biters to make way for some real swell sometime soon.

And watch out for the wind.

OUTLOOK: Better swell next week. Maybe even some head-high bombers. Keep your quiver crossed.

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:

58°

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
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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.

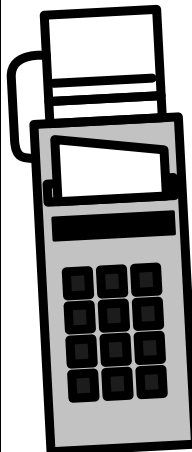
Others say the mere fact that the resources exist continues to attract more homeless to

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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OPINION

LETTERS

Don't force fluoride down our throats

Editor:

Amen, Evelyn (Think Twice opinion column, SMDP, Aug. 26, page 4). And thank you Daily Press.

It's so refreshing to see coverage being given to such important environmental issues. More concerned articles such as yours can help alert more of us to such major big biz self-interests and its governmentally-wed realities.

Since this is our environment — not theirs — it seems our public obligation to scrutinize everything, more than presently seems the case.

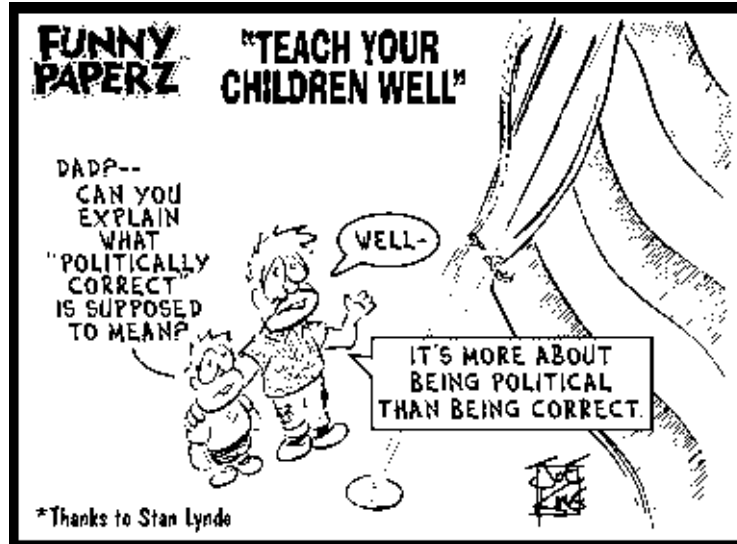
Example, locally: How few of us are aware of the what/how/why/and who's relating to the forced "fluoridation" process in the works at this moment?

If more people were to become aware of what we'll soon be drinking and bathing in, believe me, there'd be much more noise than now exists.

I suggest all of us able to do a little focused homework tune in on this as soon as possible.

Please keep up the good work.

Gene Burke
Santa Monica



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You can't take the Mr. Universe out of the man

EDGE
of the
WEST

By Ron Scott Smith



■ Nobody's exactly jumping out of tall buildings or driving their Hummer off the nearest cliff. This state hasn't fallen off the continent and sunk to the bottom of the Pacific just yet. But to listen to the roar put up by this morbid recall mob, you'd think it was time to man the life boats.

■ Yes, it seems like everybody in Bushamerica has a fight to pick. So a right wing multi-millionaire named Issa picks his and decides to go for this West Coast coup-de-etat. In broad daylight. He puts a little bit of his money where his mouth is and imports some desperate-for-work signature gatherers to hound shoppers at the local Ralphs and K-Marts for a couple months, and just like that we have the ballot from hell in October and a traveling carnival until then. All because of one suddenly wretched governor — the same governor millions of Californians willingly recalled back into office for a second term a mere nine months ago.

■ Of course this new breed of conservative activist, suddenly living in the unfamiliar fast lanes of the anti-establishment, has yet to find the appetite to step up to the plate to question things like the

wasting of young American lives in unprovoked preemptive wars, or having our basic American rights stripped away from us by fear-mongers in Washington via the so-called Patriot Act that was stuffed down our throat to help wage the never-ending, bottomless "War On Terror." That simple-minded slogan has to go away for a while. Too much stupidity is condoned in its name.

■ Here's how stupid this recall is in two words. Arnold Schwarzenegger. Did I spell it right? You've got to be kidding. You new anti-establishment guys are starting to scare me. When the ex-Mr. Universe declared his candidacy on the Leno show — of all possible appropriate venues — and jokingly confessed that he agonized over his decision to run in this sham even more than he did over whether or not to get his next bikini wax. That scared me too. You can take the man out of the Mr. Universe but you can't take the Mr. Universe out of the man. He's pumped and primed, waxed and wannabe'd, has all the right non-answers, so here we go and that cliff might be closer than anybody knows.

■ But misery loves company. Take solace fellow Californians and consider the besieged citizens of Alabama. Aside from their own record deficit ordeal, they've got serious dismantling problems. First of all, the Chief Justice of their Supreme Court has been ordered by his own fellow justices to remove the 5,000-pound boulder he installed there in the middle of the

night — with the Ten Commandments and other messages from God carved into it — from the middle of the state courthouse rotunda in Montgomery.

Enraged Alabamans have been gathered around the rock, around the clock in prayer and protest to block its removal, willing to risk jail time to save faith, disregarding the notion of separation of church and state, a sometimes great notion that distinguishes us from Talibans and the like.

■ And that's not even the half of it for Alabama. How would you like to be living in the little working-class city of Anniston, in the neighborhood the U.S. Army has officially dubbed "the pink zone?" It's officially the "pink zone" because it's where more than 2,000 tons of American weapons of mass destruction containing Sarin, VX, and other nerve agents are being meticulously dismantled and destroyed in a state-of-the-art disposal factory. Right in the middle of the neighborhood — and God help them if something springs a leak somewhere. But the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce supports the disposal facility because it's giving 750 people a job, and that's not an easy thing to get these days in Bushamerica. Damn those bothersome weapons of mass destruction — they keep causing problems all over the place, don't they? They're there, they're not there. We love 'em, we love 'em not.

■ Which brings us to our love/hate relationship with the disobedient United

Nations. We need you, we need you not. That malignant body warned us. Said don't go there, America, we've got your back. Iraq was in a state of containment that Houdini couldn't have gotten out of. Inspectors everywhere. No-fly zones enforced by the baddest air force in the universe as we know it — ours. This evil dictator wasn't going anywhere, wasn't about to attack anybody. The only weapons of mass destruction in sight were the ones in Alabama. The U.N. tried to tell us but were shunned and sent home like dogs with tails between their legs. So we got what we wanted — a liberated Iraq, a safer America. And there's some beachfront property in Arizona thrown into the deal too.

■ The fruits of this victory are rotten. There are so many ill-intentioned bombs exploding around this planet it must look like a fireworks show to inter-galactic travelers above us. Even the most vociferous of the war-mongers must admit that we're in way over our heads right about now with the peace part of the deal.

■ So, would you believe, we now seek the help of the very dogs we unceremoniously dumped not so long ago. America is about to present a resolution to the U.N., asking for assistance. A clarion cry goes out to Hans Blix. Here boy. Shake my hand boy. Come back, come back — wherever you are.

(Ron Scott Smith is living on the edge of the West. To reach him, e-mail to Edgeofthewest@aol.com).

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LOCAL

Emergency personnel to move into new home

OPENING, from page 1

400 now work in the police building that also houses the city jail.

The new jail, located in the Public Safety Facility's basement, is slightly smaller than the current one, but designed to be more efficient for processing and transferring prisoners to county facilities. The current jail holds 112 male and 21 female prisoners. The new jail has 96 beds and 55 cells.

When prisoners are booked into the current jail, they are all held in one temporary holding cell. But the new jail has five temporary holding cells. There also are two detox cells and two padded cells. All of the jail cells are sight and sound isolated, meaning prisoners can't see or hear each other. Unlike the current jail, which has bars on the cells allowing prisoners to talk to one another, the new cells are surrounded by walls and a solid door with a small slat where food is slid in.

The new jail also has three interview rooms, which the current jail does not have. The kitchen area is now located next to the jail, making it more convenient for jailers to serve TV dinners to the prisoners.

The Santa Monica Jail serves as a temporary holding facility where prisoners stay between 24 and 72 hours, depending on when their initial court appearance is. They are then either released or sent to a county jail facility.

And while the prisoners probably won't be any more comfortable in the new facility, police and fire personnel will be. For years, police personnel have worked in overcrowded offices with less than adequate facilities in some areas, officials say.

The SMPD's squad room in the basement of the police building has served as the emergency operations center for years. Now, the dedicated EOC in the Public Safety Facility is equipped with several televisions mounted on the walls, computers, an audio visual room and a host of other amenities for emergency responders.

"During an emergency, you may have employees spend the night here or 10, 12, 24 or 48 hours in the same room," Lt. Fabrega said. "It's important to give them an area of relaxation."



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts Jr. is surrounded by past and present City Council members while they cut the ribbon officially opening the new Public Safety Facility on Wednesday.

The new communications center is several notches above the working conditions in the current center, which is located in the basement of the police building near the squad room.

and his command staff which includes the police department's deputy chief, three captains, and other high ranking officers.

Also in the building's basement is the SMPD's

"During an emergency, you may have employees spend the night here or 10, 12, 24 or 48 hours in the same room."

— **LT. FRANK FABREGA**
SMPD spokesman

The new center is at least twice the size, has large windows facing Olympic Boulevard, is equipped with flat screen computer monitors and all work stations have retractable desks that can be lowered and raised so emergency dispatchers can either sit or stand. Each work station also has individual vents to control the air temperature, which will conserve energy, officials say.

Across from the EOC and communications center on the second floor is the administrative offices for the Santa Monica Fire Department.

The third floor is dedicated to police personnel, including internal affairs and the detective divisions. Two-thirds of the top floor are the offices of SMPD Chief James T. Butts Jr.

shooting range and a large parking lot where police vehicles will be parked.

When the public enters the facility's two-story main lobby, they will be able to go directly to the SMPD's front desk, or the parking office where tickets can be paid and visit the community relations department.

The SMPD's front desk window is bullet-proof and an elaborate alarm system with video surveillance and cameras throughout the building ensures high security.

City architect Lauren Friedman, who helped oversee the project, said the facility now puts Santa Monica's emergency personnel departments and the general public into the 21st Century.

"Everyone has nice digs," she said.

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LOCAL

Private company wants to handle Santa Monica's trash

TRASH, from page 1

But more analysis will come at a price. Councilman Mike Feinstein, who told his colleagues he was ready to make a decision, said City Hall has already spent thousands of dollars on consultants for the project. And more analysis will only cost City Hall more, he added.

Since the City Council first directed staff to get more information on the project in December, City Hall has spent more than \$160,000 in consultant fees, said environmental and public works director Craig Perkins, who is overseeing the proposal.

Perkins said a new facility could generate revenue for the city, but more importantly it would retain City Hall's control of waste operations, which would allow it to adapt more quickly to fluctuations in the market, as well as new regulations and policies, he said.

Transfer stations consolidate trash, recyclables, construction debris and other waste, and then haul them to landfills and processors throughout the region.

Perkins said he wasn't discouraged the project was put on hold.

"I don't see it as a set back," Perkins said. "I see it as a necessary step in the process to get to a decision. What you have to realize is that we've been working on this proposal for now over two years and this is only the second public hearing

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— KEVIN McKEOWN
Santa Monica City Councilman

council has held."

City Hall's existing transfer station is out of compliance with code requirements and sometimes goes over capacity, officials said. The proposed station would be part of the first phase of a \$50 million project to improve the city yards, which are located east of Cloverfield Boulevard and north of Interstate 10 on Santa Monica's eastside.

Though city staff had previously discussed partnering with SCD to handle waste management, staff ultimately decided it would be better if City Hall was in control of Santa Monica's garbage.

Currently, construction workers, landscapers and the general public pay a "gate rate" of \$60 per ton to drop off their waste at the city station and \$58 at SCD. Those rates reflect both the cost of sorting the waste and

sending it on to its final destination.

SCD offered to charge City Hall \$15 per ton just to sort the waste. City Hall will then decide where the waste ultimately ends up. The additional cost of hauling and dumping garbage can range from \$18 to \$40 per ton, depending on where the trash goes, SCD's Matosian said. That fee would be billed to City Hall on top of the sorting charge.

The proposed 125,000-square-foot station would be able to process 600 tons of waste each day, Perkins said. The current city station, which is situated on about 45,000 square feet of land, can process 400 tons of waste each day.

SCD can handle a little more than 1,000 tons. But Matosian said the facility receives an average of 300 tons per day,

meaning the facilities could process another 700-plus tons.

Councilman Ken Genser said the math on the city's proposal doesn't add up. Councilman Herb Katz said there are too many variables to make a decision right now. And Councilman Kevin McKeown said he thinks that maybe the land could be better used by the public.

"It's rare that we have a contiguous parcel large enough for play fields," McKeown said. "And we need play fields. It doesn't make a lot of sense to have redundant, duplicate uses sitting adjacent to each other."

More than a dozen people spoke to the City Council on the issue, some praising the work of Perkins and city staff and others saying City Hall needs to explore the possibility of partnering with a private contractor.

In its study sessions, which may take place in October, the City Council will be armed with a new analysis from city staff with clearer information and an accounting of the legal issues posed by contracting with a private company.

Katz, who requested a study session in the past, said he was glad that the City Council agreed the station deserves a closer look.

"All of us were kind of confused because they said, 'It's going to work if, if, if.' And what do you do if 'if if if' doesn't happen?"

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STATE



Gas prices, getaways are headaches for motorists

BY GREG RISLING

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Frustrated motorists coping with soaring gas prices that have dramatically increased over the past month can also expect more vehicles on the road this Labor Day weekend than last.

More than 33 million Americans will get out of town this weekend, up nearly 2 percent from last year, and the highest number since 1995, according to the American Automobile Association.

About 7 million of those drivers will be in the West, where seven states (California, Hawaii, Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, Washington and Alaska) have the highest retail gas prices in the nation, each averaging more than \$1.84 a gallon, the AAA reported.

In California, the average retail price of gas reached \$2.16 Wednesday, a cent lower than the all-time high set back in March. (When adjusted for inflation, however, prices are still lower than they were during the Iran hostage crisis.) Gas prices in Wyoming were the lowest in the West at \$1.65.

Clogged freeways will only add to the agony of drivers, many of whom have endured a gas crunch over the past three weeks.

Gas prices rocketed upward because of a number of factors, including a ruptured pipeline in Arizona and temporary refinery shutdowns that limited supplies. Record demand for gasoline — the highest ever four-week average, 9.4 million barrels, recorded by the federal Energy Information Administration — also played a role. The result was rapid increases at the pump as evidenced in Phoenix where prices jumped more than 60 cents a gallon over a two-week period this month.

Industry experts say prices will drop, but not until the holiday is over.

"I think we are going to see prices go down the second week of September, it could go down a good 20 cents," said Claudia Chandler, assistant executive director of the California Energy Commission. "What is going to hold it up is demand. What people need to do now is shop around (for the best price)."

Typically, two factors account for gas price increases — either spikes in the price of crude oil, which was mainly responsible for \$2-plus prices at the pump in March in California, or manufacturing problems in a key part of the United States that helps raise the national average.

But a confluence of events in recent weeks has contributed to the price hikes, especially in California.

Not only were four refineries down, causing statewide production to drop by 10 percent, but extra gasoline usually kept in-state was shipped east to Arizona to help its crisis.

"Part of this is bad timing," said Doug MacIntyre, an EIA senior market analyst.

"Also demand earlier this summer was lower than we expected because large portions of the country were wetter and cooler. One reasonable conclusion could be that people put off their vacations and are driving more now."

California drivers will be hard-pressed to find prices below \$2 this week. Santa Barbara County had the highest price in the state — \$2.22, the AAA said. Some drivers are happy to get out of California, to states where gas prices are a little more reasonable.

"I think we are going to see (gas) prices go down the second week of September, it could go down a good 20 cents. What is going to hold it up is demand. What people need to do now is shop around (for the best price)."

— CLAUDIA CHANDLER

Assistant executive director,
California Energy Commission.

"It's kinda crazy because you try to go on vacation and it costs so much," said Holly Pregler, 32, who was traveling with her husband to Lake Mead on Wednesday from their home in Oceanside, Calif. "Your major expense on a vacation shouldn't be on gasoline."

Her husband, Dean, was busy filling up their SUV, Yamaha WaveRunner and five 25-gallon containers with \$1.95 unleaded gasoline at a southern Nevada gas station.

"It's less than we pay at home, not that I'm exactly happy about that," he said. "It's sad that we're excited that it's under \$2."

Many drivers place the blame with major oil companies, two of which reported strong earnings last quarter. Exxon Mobil Corp., the world's largest oil company, boosted profits by 58 percent in the second quarter due to higher oil and gas prices. ChevronTexaco Corp. said its earnings nearly quadrupled during the same period.

"The price is outrageous," said Derek Levantian, 47, of San Bruno, Calif., as he filled up his BMW with premium gas in San Francisco. "The government should regulate it."

Ron Planting, an analyst for the American Petroleum Institute, rejected the idea that oil companies have purposefully gouged consumers at the pump.

"Any time gas prices go up there are investigations," Planting said. "But state and federal governments have never found any price manipulation."

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FACE-to-FACE with the Women & Children of Iraq

Local resident Kelly Hayes-Raitt just returned from her second trip to Iraq, where she found some of the children and women who touched her so deeply during her first visit in February. She also saw firsthand the impact of the bombings and invasion on innocent people's lives, homes and hearts. The trip revealed much devastation — and much inspiration.

She will be speaking about the people she met — and remet — in Baghdad, Hillah, Babylon, Fallouja, Basra and Umm Qasr.

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Since February, Kelly has addressed over 60 audiences, including religious congregations, state women's conferences, school classes, community clubs, large peace rallies and small neighborhood meetings. If you would like her to address your group, please call (310) 581-4421 or e-mail C2CCampaigns@aol.com.

Photos may be viewed at www.CommunityCampaigns.com/Iraq.

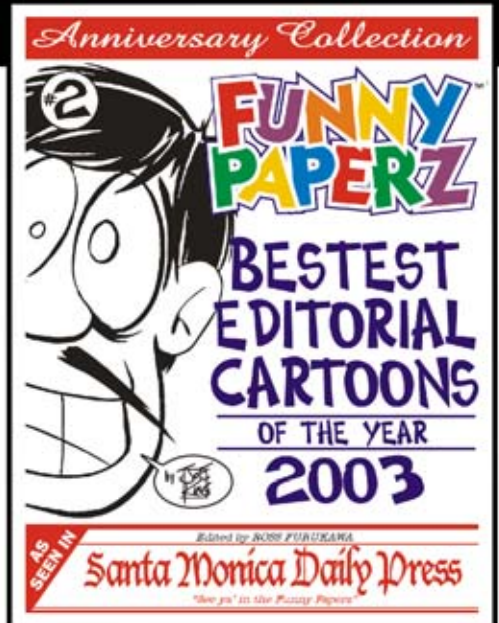
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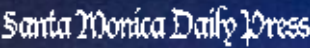
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STATE

CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

Fish ladder construction to begin

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — Construction begins Thursday on a Ventura River fish ladder designed to help restore the dwindling population of endangered steelhead trout.

The Casitas Municipal Water District has planned the fish ladder at the Los Robles Diversion since 1999, but the project was stalled because of differences with federal and state agencies over the amount of water running through it to make it effective.

The project should be completed next year.

"I've gone through quite a lot of learning, realizing how slow working with so many federal and state agencies is. I have empathy for those who thought this took twice as long as it should have," district board chairman Chuck Bennett said.

Steelhead trout were listed under the federal Endangered Species Act in 1997 and their numbers in the river may now be as low as 200. Environmentalists, the California Department of Fish and Game and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration hope the ladder will boost the population to possibly 1,000 in 10 years.

The ladder will help the trout get up the Ventura River to better breeding grounds that were previously unreachable because of the Los Robles Diversion in the Ventura River.

The fish ladder will consist of staggered boxes filled with water that allow fish to jump from one box to another while "climbing" up over a diversion or dam.

Crop values drop

By The Associated Press

COACHELLA — Crop values in the agriculturally rich Coachella Valley dropped slightly in 2002 due in large part to a competitive global market, officials said.

Figures released by the Riverside County Agricultural Commissioners Office showed the desert region's total agricultural crop output was valued at \$425.6 million, about \$25 million below the 2001 yield.

Deputy Agricultural Commissioner Dustin Wiley said much of the drop was caused by the tight market for the desert's citrus crops, particularly lemon.

Felix Mercado, citrus harvest manager for Sun World International, said the Coachella Valley's citrus crops have plenty of competition inside and outside the United States. But lemons have become particularly vulnerable to lower-priced products coming from South America.

"It used to be Chile, but right now the main competition is from Argentina," Mercado said.

The desert's prime lemon harvest season runs from August to January, but Mercado said much of last year's late-season yield remained on the trees because the price they would have fetched would not have justified the expense of picking them.

Table grapes remained the Coachella Valley's top crop in 2002, with five varieties totaling more than \$103.8 million in sales. Figures for this year's grape crop haven't been compiled.

Rural Crimes Unit down to one

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — Sheriff Bob Brooks has been forced to cut the county's Rural Crimes Unit to a one-man operation.

Detective Don Jennings is now the lone investigator probing agricultural crimes. Budget cuts forced Brooks to shave the unit in half for an annual savings of \$115,000.

"It's going to be a situation where we're really stretched," Brooks said Tuesday. "The pesticide thefts have really taken on a different dimension."

Last month, farmers in the Oxnard Plain lost \$50,000 worth of insecticides and fungicides. The chemicals are usually resold outside the county on the black market.

"This is the first year that we've really seen some pretty substantial thefts in that area," Jennings said. "I just came back from a meeting and what we're experiencing here is going on throughout the rest of the state."

Crimes will still be investigated, but it may take longer, Brooks said.

In addition to pesticides, Jennings searches for stolen tractors, confiscated livestock and avocado thieves.

Massage clinics allow alcohol, food

By The Associated Press

CHINO HILLS — Alcoholic beverages and food can be offered to massage clinic customers.

"We are just trying to make it more business-friendly, and another way to attract customers," Councilwoman Gwenn Norton-Perry said. Current law didn't allow beverage or food at massage clinics, but some beauty salons weren't following the rules.

The City Council approved the new ordinance on Tuesday. There will be a second reading and final vote Sept. 9 with the law going into effect 30 days later.

Tessie Duffy, owner of Tessie's Serenity Spa, said she was at a disadvantage under the old regulations and city staff proposed the code amendment that would bring equality to all such businesses.

The municipal code will be amended to allow massage clinics to serve complimentary food or beverages during business hours. Under the code amendment, alcohol can also be provided.

Businesses would not need an alcohol license if the alcohol isn't sold, community development director Jeff Collier said. But the council wants staff members to check further with the state's Alcoholic Beverage Control Board to make sure no permit is needed.

NATIONAL



Fixing NASA's culture may be most difficult of changes

BY PAUL RECER
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON — Space agency administrator Sean O'Keefe said NASA will, without reservation, follow the recommendations of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board, including a major renovation of NASA's culture.

"We get it," O'Keefe said Wednesday at a news conference. "We clearly got the point."

He said the report clearly spells out NASA's human failures and how its culture must change to assure safe human spaceflight.

"They've been clear throughout the report, repeatedly, that there must be institutional changes," O'Keefe said. "That is what we are committed to doing. ... We will go forward with great resolve to follow this blueprint and to make this a much stronger organization."

He said NASA reorganization will assure that the safety changes in the space agency culture are permanent.

The report from the investigation board suggests that fixing NASA may be harder than fixing the space shuttle.

Included in the board's 29 recommendations was a call for fundamental changes in the "culture" of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, a way of doing business that has resisted change for more than two decades.

In the report, the board found a continuation in the modern NASA of characteristics that were blamed 17 years ago for the accident that destroyed space shuttle Challenger and killed seven astronauts. NASA had pledged to change, and did for a while, but eventually drifted back to its old ways, the report found.

By the time Columbia was launched last January, "NASA retained too many negative ... aspects of its traditional culture," according to the report, which was released Tuesday.

Former astronaut Sally Ride, first American woman in space and a member of the board, said there were "very disturbing" echoes of the Challenger disaster. NASA "put a lot of attention into solving those problems in the few years right after

"They've been clear throughout the report, repeatedly, that there must be institutional changes. That is what we are committed to doing. ... We will go forward with great resolve to follow this blueprint and to make this a much stronger organization."

— SEAN O'KEEFE
Space agency administrator

1987, but those lessons seem to have been lost," she told NBC's "Today" on Wednesday.

Columbia broke apart while returning to Earth on Feb. 1 following a 16-day mission. All seven astronauts on board were killed.

The report said some of the negative aspects included flawed decision making and a tolerance by managers of abnormal events, such as the shedding of foam insulation from the shuttle's external fuel tank during launch.

Members of the board also found that communication was stifled in NASA and that the safety program often was "silent" because engineers with safety concerns were intimidated into silence.

The board's chairman, Ret. Navy Adm. Harold Gehman Jr., said the panel was confident that NASA would make sure that the next few space shuttles that fly will be among the safest ever, pushed by a vigorous vigilance, zeal and attention to detail inspired by the Columbia tragedy.

But Gehman and others said they were worried that that enthusiasm will fade with time and NASA will slip into its old culture, setting the stage for another accident.

To guard against this, Gehman said the board included in its report recommendations designed to prevent the "atrophy of energy and zeal."

He added on CBS' "The Early Show" that "we have kind of fallen into a trap here of a mix between NASA overmarketing and overpromising what they can do and NASA's masters, both the Congress and the White House, demanding more

than NASA can really achieve. That's a fatal trap."

The recommendations calling for culture changes in NASA, he said, "are more fundamental and harder to do" than the repairs that have to be made on the space shuttle. But that culture must be modified "for success in the future," Gehman said.

After the Columbia tragedy, the space shuttle fleet was grounded. But the board said the shuttle was "not inherently unsafe," and NASA officials have a goal of resuming flights sometime between March 11 and April 6 next year. However, they acknowledge that may be too optimistic, given the board's recommendations.

The organizational recommendations include establishing:

- An independent Technical Engineering Authority to assure that all the safety standards are met before each launch. The authority engineers would vigorously investigate any abnormal events in the complex spacecraft and not ignore problems that could cascade into another catastrophe. In Columbia, engineers knew that chunks of foam insulation coming off the fuel tank could damage the shuttle, but continued to fly because they were convinced, even without proof, that it posed no risk.

- An Office of Safety and Mission Assurance, with powerful authority over the space shuttle program. The office would have the power to stop launches if there were unresolved safety issues and would not be swayed by scheduling demands.

- A Space Shuttle Integration Office

that would monitor quality and assure that quality is maintained in equipment, testing, parts and design changes.

The board said NASA should be required to submit to Congress annual reports detailing how these recommendations were being carried out.

Gehman said the recommendations were just a start.

"You can't change bad culture by reorganization," he said. "It takes both reorganization and leadership."

He said NASA leaders at all levels will have to "actively drive the bad cultural traits out of the organization" and inspire workers to "accept it in their gut, in their daily reactions."

Because such changes would be so difficult, Gehman said the board was not insisting that they be made before the shuttle was cleared to fly again.

But the board did make 15 recommendations that it said must be accomplished before another shuttle can be safely launched.

Five of these "return to flight" issues dealt with strengthening, repairing and avoiding damage to the heat shield that protects the wings and body of the spacecraft. It was a breach of this heat shield that caused Columbia to break apart.

Four recommendations called for taking high-resolution pictures of the shuttle as it is launched and as the external tank separates from the orbiter. Also, NASA is to routinely get a spy satellite to take pictures of the shuttles while they are in orbit and to have the astronauts relay to the ground images of the shuttle's wings and underside.

The board also recommended that mission managers be trained to respond to safety contingencies that occur after the shuttle is in orbit. It also called for NASA to relax its tight shuttle launch schedule and make sure that the pressure of time does not impact safety.

NASA Administrator O'Keefe said his agency already was moving on many of these recommendations, including the establishment of independent engineering and safety organizations.

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WORLD BRIEFLY

Palestinians criticize Israeli retaliation

By The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Palestinian leaders criticized Israel on Wednesday for a series of strikes against Palestinian militants, saying they will bring only revenge and more bloodshed.

Following a botched Israeli missile attack on Tuesday that killed one bystander and wounded 26, Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas accused Israel of undermining limited Palestinian efforts to rein in the militants.

"This brutal Israeli government policy will only take us back to the vicious cycle of violence," Abbas said in a statement.

Israel has said every Hamas militant is a potential target for "liquidation" — a response to a Hamas suicide attack on Aug. 19 that killed 21 people on a Jerusalem bus.

In Tuesday's operation, an Israeli helicopter fired three missiles at a car stuck in a traffic jam on a residential street just north of Gaza City. Three Hamas members were able to flee their car before missiles struck it, witnesses said. Doctors said a 65-year-old water-pipe vendor was killed and 26 other bystanders were wounded, including five children. It was the third Israeli missile strike in five days.

Lawsuit will be the last chance

By The Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Running out of legal options, supporters of an Alabama judge's Ten Commandments monument are pinning their hopes on one more lawsuit.

A hearing was scheduled Wednesday afternoon before U.S. District Judge William Steele in Mobile on a lawsuit filed Monday.

The plaintiffs, a Christian radio talk show host and a pastor, say forced removal of the 5,300-pound granite monument from the state judicial building's rotunda would violate the constitutional guarantee of freedom of religion.

The lawsuit has no bearing on a standing order to remove the monument, which could be taken out at any time.

Another federal judge in Montgomery ruled last year

that the monument, which Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore installed two years ago, violates the constitution's ban on government promotion of religion and ordered its removal by Aug. 20. The U.S. Supreme Court last week declined to hear Moore's appeal.

But Moore so far has refused to comply. Eight associate justices voted Aug. 21 to remove the monument, and Moore was suspended the next day.

Bush: Iraq war crucial to fight terrorism

By The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — President Bush is working to win support from those who question his handling of the war and reconstruction of Iraq, saying the fight is essential to the U.S. campaign against terrorism.

"Our military is confronting terrorists in Iraq and Afghanistan and in other places so our people will not have to confront terrorist violence in New York or St. Louis or Los Angeles," Bush said Tuesday as the number of Americans who have died in postwar Iraq topped the death toll during major combat.

Bush is getting criticized from the left and the right over continued instability in Iraq and resistance from loyalists of Saddam Hussein and the foreign terrorists he says are streaming into the country.

The United States also has received scant support for a new U.N. resolution that would encourage more nations to join the mostly U.S. and British troops who are trying to keep the peace in Iraq.

Still, Bush appeared resolute Tuesday before a mostly gray-haired audience of 6,000 at the American Legion's 85th national conference in St. Louis.

"Our only goal, our only option, is total victory in the war on terror," said Bush, who received a standing ovation when he appeared on stage. "And this nation will press on to victory."

State senators not coming home

By The Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Texas Senate Democrats who stymied Republican redistricting plans by fleeing to New Mexico may not be returning home

any time soon, despite running down the clock on the special legislative session.

The 30-day limit on the latest session expired Tuesday and Texas Republican Gov. Rick Perry said he was prepared to call yet another special session to get the issue resolved, though he would not say when.

If they re-enter Texas, the 11 Senate Democrats now in Albuquerque said they feared being arrested and hauled back to the capitol.

Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, chairwoman of the Senate Democratic Caucus, said she and the 10 other Democrats are prepared to stay away another 30 days, the maximum length of a special session.

Both sides faced a hearing Wednesday in Laredo, Texas, on the Democrats' federal lawsuit that alleges their constitutional rights as well as the Voting Rights Act have been violated by the GOP.

Some of the senators had planned to attend but decided late Tuesday not to cross the state line amid mounting rumors that Republicans might try to get them arrested, said Harold Cook, a consultant for the Democrats. Perry didn't discount Democrats' concerns about being arrested in Texas.

Bad weather strengthens fire

By The Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. — Warm, dry, windy weather returned to the state Tuesday, making the job tougher for firefighters who had been holding back major wildfires for days.

The weather change strengthened a 32,000-acre fire in the Helena National Forest about 60 miles east of Missoula. Flames threw embers up to a half-mile away toward homes that had been evacuated.

Crews aided by cooler, damper weather over the past week had contained about a dozen blazes in the Northern Rockies region.

With the weather change, fire managers feared the wind could blow some of Montana's roughly three dozen blazes out of control again.

In Wyoming, firefighters said they were making progress toward getting Yellowstone National Park's east entrance reopened. The east entrance, one of five into Yellowstone, had been closed for more than a week because of fires.

Two wildfires burning in central Oregon continued to keep away about a thousand residents from the resort town of Sisters. The fires had burned 39,000 acres and threatened to merge.

Talks on North Korea's nuclear program have begun

BY AUDRA ANG

Associated Press Writer

BEIJING — The United States and North Korea held direct talks for the first time in months Wednesday, meeting for about a half-hour on the sidelines of a six-nation summit designed to resolve the standoff over Pyongyang's nuclear program.

A South Korean official said the North appeared "willing to resolve the nuclear issue through dialogue."

In Washington, State Department spokesman Philip Reeker confirmed that the meeting with the North Koreans took place but he gave no details except to say that it lasted about 35 to 40 minutes.

The meeting, held soon after the six-way talks opened Wednesday, was the first concrete sign of progress in six-nation talks designed to resolve the disagreement over the nuclear program — and to ensure security for the East Asian region. China, Russia, Japan and South Korea are also participating in the three days of meetings.

The heads of the U.S. and North Korean delegations participated in the one-on-one talks, said Wie Sung-rak, director-general at the South Korean Foreign Ministry's North American Affairs Bureau. The meeting came hours after the North Korean government reiter-

ated its insistence that the United States agree to a nonaggression treaty.

"The U.S. side made comments about easing North Korea's security concerns, but I cannot give you any more details," Wie said. "From what North Koreans said during the meeting, we could read that North Korea is willing to resolve the nuclear issue through dialogue."

The contact between the delegations ended a diplomatic drought between the two nations, at odds over the nuclear program and U.S. demands that it cease immediately. Pyongyang demands guarantees of security and economic aid as conditions for doing so.

Both sides would benefit if a sturdy channel of communication was re-established — even if it didn't lead to an immediate resolution of the nuclear dispute. Mere agreement this week to keep talking regularly would constitute some degree of success.

Earlier, when the full six-nation talks convened, the two nations' top envoys at the session — U.S. Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly and North Korean Deputy Foreign Minister Kim Yong Il — shook hands and smiled before sitting alongside the other participants around a vast hexagonal table behind the high brick walls of the Chinese government's state guest house.

"I am very happy the six countries are all here," Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wang Yi told the assembled diplomats before the meeting was closed to reporters.

The North Korean government had long demanded one-on-one talks with the United States, but dropped its objections to the multilateral arrangement after Beijing — a longtime Pyongyang ally and communist neighbor — agreed to host it.

Wie had no information about whether any breakthroughs were made in the one-on-one talks.

"We hope the contacts between the (American and North Korean) delegations will continue," Alexander Losyukov, the Russian deputy foreign minister and head of his country's delegation, told the ITAR-Tass news agency. But he stopped short of predicting progress.

"The sides have advanced a number of preliminary conditions which block the development of the talks," Losyukov said without elaborating. He said North Korea declared it wishes to be nuclear-free but expressed concern about "menaces from the U.S."

North Korea repeated its demand for the nonaggression pact from the South's key ally — the United States — saying it would not give up its "nuclear deterrent force" for anything less than that.

The United States should "clarify its will to make a switchover in its hostile policy toward (North Korea) and conclude a nonaggression treaty with it," Rodong Simmun, the North's official newspaper, said in a commentary carried by KCNA, the North's official news agency.

U.S. officials say they believe North Korea has one or two nuclear weapons, and experts believe it could produce five to six more in a few months. The North has withdrawn from key international agreements in recent months, including the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

In October, according to the United States, North Korea acknowledged having a secret nuclear program, beginning the standoff and war of words that led to this week's talks. President Bush already was wary of North Korea, calling it in a January 2002 speech part of an "axis of evil."

The discussions are expected to continue until Friday as part of a process experts say may be drawn-out — but is inching in the right direction.

"The talks will lay the foundation for the next talks," said Li Dunqiu, secretary-general of the Chinese Society for the Study of Korean History.

"Mistrust between the two sides cannot be dispelled within a single negotiation. It takes time," Li said in an interview.

SPORTS

SPORTS IN BRIEF

By The Associated Press

TENNIS

■ **NEW YORK** — On the second day of play at the U.S. Open most top players advanced, including men's No. 1 Andre Agassi and No. 4 Andy Roddick, and women's No. 2 Justine Henin-Hardenne and No. 6 Jennifer Capriati.

Three men's seeds were eliminated: No. 14 Gustavo Kuerten, No. 29 Feliciano Lopez and No. 32 Vince Spadea. On the women's side No. 10 Magdalena Maleeva, No. 16 Elena Bovina, No. 21 Anna Pistolesi and No. 31 Alexandra Stevenson lost.

Michael Chang played his last professional match, losing 6-3, 7-5, 5-7, 6-4 to 15th-seeded Fernando Gonzalez of Chile. Chang had announced in January that he would retire after the U.S. Open.

BASKETBALL

■ **SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico** — The United States beat Argentina 94-86 to remain undefeated at the Tournament of the Americas. Jermaine O'Neal scored 22 points for the Americans, who avenged a groundbreaking defeat in last year's world championships. O'Neal is one of only two U.S. players in the Olympic qualifying tournament that was on the last summer's American team that finished sixth after losing to Argentina, Yugoslavia and Spain.

■ **TORONTO** — Toronto Raptors center Eric Montross is retiring because of a lingering foot injury. Montross hasn't played since breaking a bone in his left foot while stepping over a child safety gate at his home in the spring of 2002.

FOOTBALL

■ **SANTA CLARA** — San Francisco 49ers defensive tackle Josh Shaw was suspended for the first four games of the season for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy.

Shaw, a second-year pro from Michigan State, left the team to enter the league's substance abuse rehabilitation program. He will be eligible to return to the 49ers on Sept. 29.

■ **GREEN BAY, Wis.** — Akili Smith, the third overall pick in the 1999 NFL draft, was cut by the Green Bay Packers. Smith was drafted by Cincinnati four years ago, but never established himself with the Bengals.

■ **KIRKLAND, Wash.** — Seattle defensive tackle Chad Eaton, who has had two operations on his right knee since May, is out for the season after the team placed him on injured reserve.

■ **SACRAMENTO** — Al Davis and his Oakland Raiders were awarded \$34.2 million by a jury that found Oakland coliseum officials failed to deliver on promises of sold-out stadiums in luring the team back from Los Angeles.

The verdict in the lawsuit was far less than the \$570 million to \$833 million the Raiders sought to compensate for weak ticket sales and the declining value of the franchise.

SOCCER

■ U.S. coach April Heinrichs announced the roster for her Women's World Cup squad. Heinrichs picked 12 players from the 1999 team that beat China in a penalty kick shootout to win the championship, including Brandi Chastain, who made the game-winning kick. Mia Hamm, Briana Scurry, Kristine Lilly, Julie Foudy and Joy Fawcett are among the veterans on the team. Eight players will make their debuts in a World Cup: Shannon Boxx, Kylie Bivens, Angela Hucles, Siri Mullinix, Cat Reddick, Danielle Slaton, Aly Wagner and Abby Wambach.

TRACK & FIELD

■ **SAINT-DENIS, France** — American Jerome Young won the gold medal in the men's 400-meter dash at the World Championships, while countryman Tyree Washington took the silver.

Allyson Felix, the 17-year-old American sprinter with the world's fastest time in the 200 meters this year, announced she will bypass college competition to go directly to the professional track circuit. She discussed her move immediately after being eliminated in the 200 quarterfinals.

Saif Saaeed Shaheen of Qatar won the men's 3,000-meter steeplechase. Maria de Lourdes Mutola of Mozambique won the women's 800 meters. In field events, Virgilijus Alekna of Lithuania won the men's discus and Tatyana Lebedeva of Russia won the women's triple jump.

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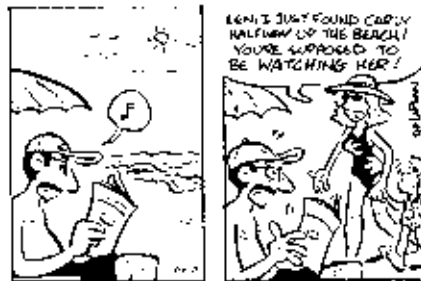
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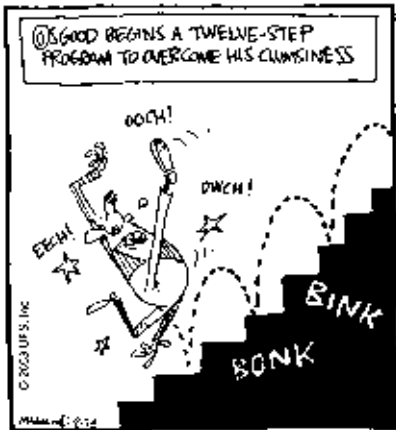
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ACROSS

- 1 Highway division
- 5 Caterpillars, e.g.
- 10 Buddy
- 12 Chicago hub
- 13 Nevada tree
- 14 "Affliction" star
- 15 Adm.'s org.
- 16 1993 Helen Mirren film
- 18 Self
- 20 Ring setting
- 21 Corrals
- 23 Blunder
- 24 Plumbing problem
- 26 Gofer's work
- 28 Pilot-policing org.
- 29 Crew members
- 31 Lawyer: Abbr.
- 32 In this way
- 36 2003 Eric Bana film
- 39 Flight
- 40 Hearts
- 41 Skirt
- 43 Put on a pedestal
- 44 Lustrous fabric

45 Looks after

46 Links needs

DOWN

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SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2003

EVENTS

Twilight Dance Festival

Enjoy a night of dancing under the stars as Santa Monica continues its tradition of weekly concerts on Thursday nights. *Russell Gunn accomplished Trumpet player* will perform tonight on the Santa Monica Pier's parking decks. You can come by car or ride the Tide shuttle from selected beach lots and from Downtown.

Admission: FREE 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
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CULTURE

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MOVIE °GUIDE

LAEMMLE'S MONICA 4-PLEX

1332 2nd Street
Whale Rider PG-13 - 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:35,
The Magdalene Sisters - 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00,
American Splendor - 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
The Secret Lives of Dentists - 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
All About Eve - Sat&Sun only 11:00 a.m
Songs From the 2nd Floor - Sat&Sun only 11:00 a.m

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd
Le Divorce PG-13 - 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
Swimming Pool R - 1:45, 4:15, 7:30, 10:00

LOEWS CINEPLEX BROADWAY CINEMAS

1441 Third Street Promenade
Freddy vs. Jason R - 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30
Grind PG-13 - 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00
Seabiscuit PG-13 - 11:00, 2:15, 6:05, 9:10, also 12:30, 3:30, 7:00, 10:10

AMC SANTA MONICA 7

1310 Third Street Promenade
American Wedding R - 12:10, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:30
Bad Boys II R 12:30, 3:40, 7:00, 10:15
Finding Nemo G - 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:30, 9:55
Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life PG-13 - 1:00, 4:00, 7:50, 10:30
Spy Kids 3D: Game Over PG - 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:40, 9:45
Freaky Friday PG - 12:00, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
Open Range R - 12:20, 3:45, 7:05, 10:20

MANN CRITERION 6 THEATERS

1313 Third Street Promenade
Johnny English PG - 11:40, 2:15, 4:40,
The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen PG-13 - 7:00, 9:35 (both p.m.)
Pirates of the Caribbean PG-13 - 11:45, 3:15, 6:45, 10:10
S.W.A.T. PG-13 - 10:30, 11:00, 1:30, 2, 4:15, 4:45, 7:05, 7:35, 10, 10:35, 12:40
Passionada PG-13 - 11:30, 2:10, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30,
Uptown Girls PG-13 - 11:15, 1:50, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50,

If you know of an upcoming event which may be included in the calendar please send the information to calendar@smdp.com or fax it to (310) 576 9913

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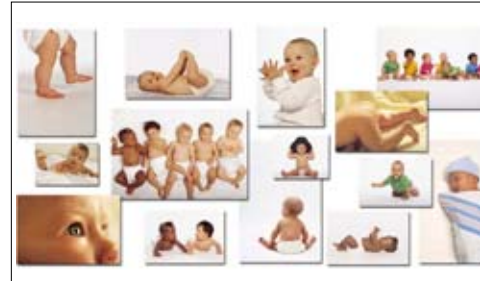
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Michael Jackson will open his ranch to 500 guests

By The Associated Press

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Like a real-life Willy Wonka, Michael Jackson has announced plans to open his carnival-style Neverland Ranch estate to 500 guests.

The invitation-only event, set for Sept. 13, is a one-time-only gathering, complete with dinner, magicians, games and a tractor-trailer full of stuffed animals, according to Jackson publicist Stuart Backerman.

Tickets for two people cost \$5,000, with \$1,000 from each sale being divided among three charities. Jackson will keep the rest — Backerman said it would pay for costs of the party.

Jackson's Neverland Ranch, in Santa Barbara County, includes an amusement park with bumper cars, a merry-go-round and a Ferris wheel.

Guests also will receive a "goodie bag" worth about \$1,000 and an original painting by Brazilian artist Romero Britto.

Backerman said 250 tickets will go on sale, potentially worth \$1.25 million. The maximum \$250,000 charitable donation will be split between the Make-A-Wish Foundation for sick children; Oneness, dedicated to erasing racism through art and music; and E Ai Como E Que Fica, a Rio de Janeiro group that provides food, clothing and medical care to impoverished children.

Jackson's former financial advisers settled a lawsuit against him in June that suggested he was overburdened with debt and near bankruptcy. That has led to speculation that the Neverland property, recently assessed at \$12.3 million, would go on the market.

■ **NEW YORK** — Serena Williams' dramatic acting debut has been postponed because of her recent knee surgery.

The tennis star had been scheduled to shoot scenes for the Showtime series "Street Time" in mid-August for an episode to air Oct. 1. Now she's expected to begin shooting Sept. 8 for an episode airing on the cable chan-

nel at 10 p.m. EDT Oct. 22.

Williams, the 2003 Wimbledon winner, will play a reformed gang member on parole.

"I am looking forward to filming the show. It's something that I am really excited about doing," the 21-year-old said in a statement Tuesday. "It's so nice of them to accommodate me in this way."

Previously, Williams has appeared in TV commercials with her sister, Venus, and played a kindergarten teacher last year in an episode of the ABC sitcom "My Wife and Kids."

"Street Time," starring Rob Morrow, follows the lives of ex-cons and parole officers.

■ **NEW YORK** — Wade Robson, the choreographer who's crafted moves for Britney Spears, 'N Sync and other pop stars, is giving aspiring dancers an "American Idol"-style shot at stardom on MTV.

"The Wade Robson Project" will allow 80 hopefuls to compete for a \$100,000 prize and a chance to perform in a video or on tour with a musical act.

Dancers first will show off their own freestyle or street moves, then must master the 20-year-old Robson's complex choreography to advance to the next level.

The show is scheduled to debut at 4 p.m. Monday and will air five days a week.

"In the last few years, Wade has not only been the man behind some of the hottest acts, but has become a celebrity in his own right," Lois Curren, MTV's executive vice president for series and movie development, said Tuesday.

Among the celebrity judges are Jessica Simpson, Mya, J.C. Chasez, Master P and choreographer Cris Judd. Viewers also will be able to vote for their favorite dancers at MTV.com.

■ **STATESBORO, Ga.** — A cast member from the current season of MTV's "The Real World" faces charges of loitering and public drunkenness in Georgia.

Adam King was arrested early in the morning of Aug. 18 in Statesboro after flagging down an officer and then running from him, police said.

King was arrested on charges of being a pedestrian under the influence and loitering/prowling, both misdemeanors. The 24-year-old was released on bond later that morning.

Statesboro is home to Ace Amerson, a fellow cast member from "The Real World: Paris." Amerson wasn't mentioned in the police report.

King, who lives in Beverly Hills, Calif., joined Amerson and five other young singles in Paris for five months for the reality show.

■ **RICHMOND, Va.** — Sen. John W. Warner is planning a December wedding to Alexandria real estate agent Jeanne Vander Myde, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

Warner, a five-term Republican from Virginia and chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, proposed to Vander Myde Aug. 15 in a small chapel in Scotland's Edinburgh Castle, the Richmond Times-Dispatch reported.

"I'm a very, very fortunate man to have the honor and privilege to be married to this wonderful lady," the 76-year-old told the newspaper in a telephone interview from Botswana, where he and his fiancée were traveling.

"I'm proud of her independence and small business work," the senator said.

The marriage would be the third for Warner and for Vander Myde, 65.

Vander Myde said she met Warner in 1973 when he was secretary of the Navy and she and her husband were attending an inaugural ball at the start of Richard Nixon's second term. She said her husband, Paul, was a fan of Warner's and introduced her to him.

Warner remained friends with the couple. A few months after Paul Vander Myde's death in 2000, Warner said, he and Jeanne Vander Myde "played a couple of games of tennis — and here we are!"

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