

FREE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2002

Volume 1, Issue 254

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Ballots are big bucks for signature gatherers

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

There she was, panhandling for registered voters at \$1.50 a pop — in an upscale neighborhood, no less.

One recent afternoon a woman stationed herself in front of Pavilions on Montana Avenue, asking people to sign a petition for an initiative that didn't make it on this fall's ballot, but is eligible for a special election early next year.

For every signature that she gets by a registered voter, the woman will receive \$1.50. She's being paid indirectly by the Homeowners for Voluntary Preservation, a committee made up of homeowners fighting to protect their property rights from Santa Monica city government.

The committee so far has paid a firm

\$20,000, which then contracts with people to hit the pavement and collect the required amount of signatures for a ballot initiative. It's a fairly common practice in Santa Monica, where most of the signature gatherers are paid based on how many registered voters they get to sign a petition. To get the petition signed, organizers have long known, they need to "buy" voters' signatures.

During the city's controversial minimum wage debate two years ago, signatures were reportedly fetching up to \$25 each.

And that's not all. The woman in front of Pavilions said she was receiving \$2 for every person she could register as a Republican.

The California Republican Party refers to such activity as the "Bounty program."

See BALLOTS, page 6

Consumer group says one gas grade could curb prices

By staff and wire reports

A Santa Monica-based consumer protection agency has found that Californians could save billions of dollars if oil companies were forced to offer only a single grade of gasoline.

A law requiring stations to offer only one grade of gas with an octane of 87 or 88 "would greatly reduce the ability of oil companies to create price spikes" by artificially lowering supplies of the most sought-after gas, said the study released last week by the Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights, which has offices on Ocean Park Boulevard.

By eliminating underused premium and mid-grade varieties, the state could free storage space for a public fuel reserve that could be used to cushion higher future prices, according to the two-year study.

"Rather than drill in the Arctic, let's clean the pumps of the 50 percent of higher-octane fuel that is not used," Jamie Court, executive director of the foundation, said in a statement.

About 95 to 97 percent of California cars could use the single grade and motorists whose vehicles need higher octane could use additives, the study argued.

The study, conducted by a gasoline industry consultant, concluded that Californians could have saved about \$2.8 billion for gas last year, or about 16 cents a gallon, had its recommendations been



File photo

A report says Californians could save big if only one grade of gas were offered at the pumps.

in place.

California's clean air regulations have required refiners to make costlier clean-air formulations of gasoline. But the study concluded "inflated refiner profit margins" are really to blame for most gas price hikes in the state.

"West Coast gasoline refiners have manipulated supplies to keep gasoline prices artificially high," the study alleged.

John Felmy, chief economist with the American Petroleum Institute, denied the allegation.

"The oil industry has been the subject of dozens of investigations over the years, and they all have exonerated us," Felmy said.



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press

Before (above) Caltrans began a "beautification" project along the Santa Monica freeway, lush green trees lined its sides. Now residents are faced with a barren lunar landscape devoid of vegetation.

Residents say Interstate 10 facelift is an eyesore

BY JOHN WOOD

Special to the Daily Press

A botched effort to spruce up Interstate 10 between Fourth Street and Cloverfield Boulevard in Santa Monica has turned the once-green corridor into a brown lunar landscape.

And those who live next to the freeway want it fixed.

"It was like a virtual forest," said Richard Martin, 56, a writer who has lived on the south side of the Santa Monica Freeway at 21st Street for six years. "Then Caltrans or the state or some genius decided that this rich greenery was no good, that it was going to die in the next 20 years or something, so they tore out every last leaf."

And nothing has grown in the once lush hillside since.

Two state bureaucracies and an errant landscaping contractor played roles in the upheaval, which began in the spring of 2001 with the removal of 35-year-old trees from the freeway's embankments.

New trees and other decorations were planted in their place, along with a new automatic irrigation system. But less than a year after the \$850,000 project began, many of those new plantings began to die, apparently because of a lack of water.

A California Department of Transportation spokeswoman said the general contractor for the project, Tapuz Enterprises, Inc., had defaulted on the job, and Caltrans was at the tail end of getting a new contractor.

She couldn't confirm whether anyone was tending to the area in the interim, but added that the new contractor would be paid from bonds that Tapuz held.

"They were not doing the work that they were contracted to do," said Caltrans' Chief of Public Affairs Deborah Harris. But she said she didn't know why Tapuz had stopped work on the project.

The Department of Labor Standards Enforcement said the Encino-based contractor, who also operates the Gali

See CAL TRANS, page 5

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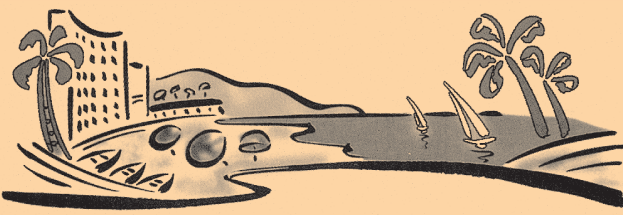
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★★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average
★★-So-so ★-Difficult

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ All's well that ends well. Though you might surprise someone close, you'll get results that please you. Avoid shocking those around you, if possible. Expressing your affection a bit differently gets the results you want. Tonight: Be more kidlike!

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Deal with others directly, and you'll like the results you obtain. How someone views a changeable this situation gives you a read on this person and situation. Be spontaneous, and others will flock to you. Give up a tendency to be self-conscious. Tonight: Visit with a pal on the way home.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Financial matters must take precedence right now. Be careful with your juggling. Somehow, this behavior might backfire. Loosen up when dealing with neighbors, siblings and those in your immediate circle. Add more lightness to your interactions. Tonight: What a whirlwind!

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Surprises happen in the financial realm. Loosen up when dealing with others. Indulge your family. A special purchase that will add to the quality and comfort of your life takes precedence. Play Ralph Nader before making the purchase. Tonight: Buy dinner, too.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Excitement surrounds an important relationship. You feel slightly out of sorts or emotional. Let others understand where you're coming from. Open up to a dear friend, and you'll get sensitive, pertinent advice. Review new information carefully. Tonight: Enjoy the break.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Schedule meetings. Brainstorm with others, and you'll discover better ways of making money and increasing efficiency. Extremes entice those around you. Don't worry if you can't say "no"; you'll make up for the good times. Tonight: Pretend you don't have to work tomorrow.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You might feel pulled in two different directions. Indulge others, taking a bit of a risk financially. Recognize that a change might be necessary to get a particular situation to work. Others encourage you to take a leap of faith. Tonight: Play away.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Do needed research, especially any involving a personal investment. What you hear others sharing might put a smile on your face. Laughter breaks out at the workplace. Be careful with a flirtation. You might not like the direction in which it could ultimately go. Tonight: Work as late as you need to.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Visualize, talk and share. You find that others come up with some exciting ideas you hadn't thought of. Teamwork stars in your workday. Laughter helps loosen up some tension. Eye the long term. Your vision cannot be too big. Tonight: Hop on the Internet.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ How you feel could dramatically change as easily as you can flip a switch. Be positive about your dealings with someone you want to please and/or impress. Review a personal matter later on, when you're not in the midst of so many people. Tonight: Dinner for two.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Your spontaneity could throw somebody off when he or she least expects it. Your sincerity and clarity of actions help others relate. Don't underestimate how important others are to you. News from a distance could tantalize you. Tonight: Change plans if need be.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You can spin quite a yarn if you let go and relax. Realize more of what you need from key associates. Perhaps scheduling a discussion will bring more than positive results. Laughter surrounds a key friend you care about. Tonight: Run errands on the way home.

QUOTE of the DAY

“There's a great woman behind every idiot.”
— John Lennon (1941-1980) on Yoko Ono

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LOCAL



Holiday heat wave continues; thousands pack SM beaches

By staff and wire reports

California continued to swelter Monday in a heat wave that may have caused one death.

To avoid the heat wave, thousands packed onto Santa Monica's beaches, where cooler temperatures prevailed.

For the second day in a row, temperatures climbed into the low 100s in many valley areas. It reached 93 degrees in downtown Los Angeles by midmorning.

The National Weather Service had issued a hazardous weather warning for the entire Labor Day weekend.

Michael Curtin, 38, died Sunday after he was found unconscious by a fellow hiker along the Santiago Truck Trail in Modjeska Canyon, Orange County Sheriff's Lt. Larry Abbott said.

The hiker performed CPR but was unable to revive the Lake Forest man, Abbott said. The temperature in the area was 109 degrees at the time, he said.

The heat has been caused by a lingering ridge of high pressure that blocked the cooler marine air layer from coming in off the ocean.

"When you have no marine influence, you have a much hotter atmosphere along the coasts," said Bill Hoffer of the National Weather Service in Oxnard.

Van Nuys, Ontario, Burbank and Palmdale hit 100 degrees around noon. Coastal cities such as Santa Barbara and Santa Monica reported temperatures in the high 70s and low 80s.

In Northern California and the San Francisco Bay area, temperatures spiked inland. Forecasters predicted temperatures of at least 100 degrees in Santa Rosa, while the central valley baked as well. Even temperatures in normally mild San Francisco were in the 80s by midday.

High temperatures were expected to continue through Tuesday, then ease somewhat.



Andrew H. Fixmer/Daily Press

Julio Martinez, right, and Jose Cabral, far left, build a sand castle Monday on a stretch of beach near the Santa Monica Pier. Thousands packed onto Santa Monica beaches Labor Day to escape the high temperatures found around the Los Angeles region. While many areas hit triple digit temperatures, Santa Monica stayed in the high 70s.

Boy drowns in backyard pool

By Daily Press staff

A two-year-old Santa Monica boy died after he was found floating in a backyard swimming pool Tuesday.

Santa Monica Fire Department paramedics responded to a home on the 300 block of 15th Street at 4:39 p.m., where they found two adults had already begun Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation on the boy.

Paramedics continued CPR as they transported the boy, who was in full cardiac arrest, to Santa Monica-UCLA hospital, where doctors also unsuccessfully attempted to revive the child.

Fire Department spokeswoman Jill Barnes said children playing in the backyard, where a holiday party was taking place, first noticed the boy was in the pool. She said the pool had a fence around it.

Santa Monica Police officers continue to investigate the incident

This is the second time this year a Santa Monica child has drowned in a swimming pool. An unsupervised five-year-old boy drowned in the pool of a home on the 300 block of 20th Street on June 26.

The Q-Line

Next week, we, as a nation, will honor the stolen lives that were taken by terrorists on September 11, 2001. At the time, the citizens of this country bonded over that tragic day, people re-examined their own lives and the news media declared that the United States of America would never be the same.

So this week Q-Line wants to know:

"How do you believe America has changed since September 11, if it has changed at all?"

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.

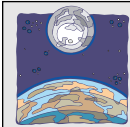
surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

We saw pretty small surf this long weekend past. A southeast swell was hitting OC, but LA doesn't have the exposure to take advantage of that swell angle.

The good news is south swell ramps up today as we start to see waves from Hurricane Hernan. Surf should begin to grow, and north bay spots will be in waist to chest level waves later in the day.

Wednesday, hurricane swell should fill in and south exposed breaks can expect chest-high waves, with occasional pluses.



Today's Tides:

Low-	1:48 a.m.	-0.01'
High-	8:30 a.m.	4.04'
Low-	1:03 p.m.	2.66'
High-	7:11 p.m.	6.02'

Location	Tuesday	Wednesday	Water Quality
County Line	2-3'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	A
Zuma	2-3'/Fair	2-4'/Fair	A
Surfrider	1-2'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Topanga	1-2'/Fair	1-3'/Fair	A
Breakwater	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
El Porto	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A

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OPINION

LETTERS

A prayer for the Living Wage

Dear Editor:

Sovereign and Gracious God, the source and destiny of all our lives, we come before you today as your people. We pray before you today at this noon hour - to you who made the Pleiades and Orion, who turns deep darkness in to the morning, who brings forth the sunshine and the rain, seed for sowing and hands to harvest and all the necessary things for life that we are called decently to share on with another so that we may live together and have dignity in our lives.

We stand before you who have called your people to seek the good and have commanded that justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Through your prophets you pronounce woe on those who would trample on the poor and squeeze their livelihood. We pray for a change of heart, for new understanding, compassion and economic sense for any persons or persons as part of corporations what would trample, or threaten or squeeze our workers' livelihood. We pray that they would not only yield to fairness and justice, but that they would come to strive for their workers' good and for their dignity and for their families' well-being.

We pray for all gathered here today. We pray for courage and perseverance to stand with one another and for others to stand with us. We pray for an unyielding faith and hope. We pray for dignity and respect. We pray for a living and livable wage, honest return for honorable work, that allows for food and some kind of housing and clothing and health care.

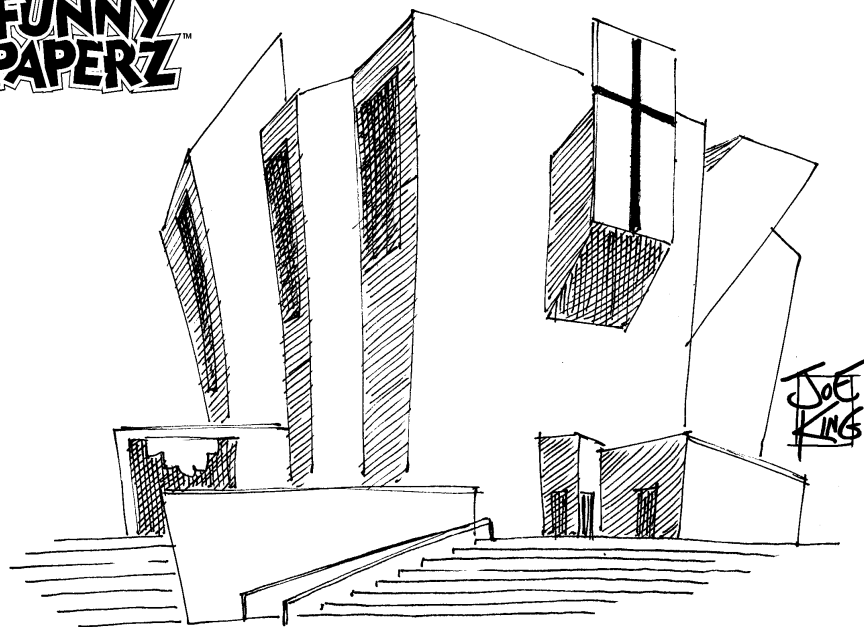
We pray for decent care for living and being part of this community and society. We pray for - we call for - human respect for one another and that dignity that is not only the right of each person but your desire for every human being.

We pray this day and for the days to come for this respect and dignity, the worth of our labor and service. We ask for the courage and faith to believe that justice can roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. We pray that your justness and we may prevail. We pray to you our Sovereign and Gracious God. Amen.

Retired Bishop Frederick H. Borsch
Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles

(Editor's Note: Borsch first read this prayer at a mid-August labor rally in front of the Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel at 1700 Ocean Ave. He submitted it to the letters page in honor of Labor Day.)

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Living wage full of unintended consequences

(Editor's note: This is one of a series of weekly columns editorializing on the hotly contested living wage ordinance. The city council passed an ordinance last July requiring businesses that generate more than \$5 million in annual revenue to pay their employees \$12.25 an hour. Those businesses and their supporters have asked for the ordinance to be rescinded, which is before voters this November.)

One of the inherent risks in any legislative action is to avoid introducing incentives that run contrary to the original intent. While many of the proponents of the City's Minimum Wage Ordinance have laudable motives, good intentions do not necessarily make good laws. Part of the legislative process is to craft laws which introduce the right incentives while regulating conduct thought to have negative social implications. For a variety of reasons, the City Council failed this fundamental test.

One of the major flaws in the ordinance is the fact that it will discourage employers from providing health insurance, thereby potentially contributing to one of society's primary problems.

The ordinance, now Proposition JJ, defines "Health Benefits" to be: "A payment towards the provision of health care benefits for employees and their dependents in the amount of \$1.75 per hour [during the first year] . . ." The required "Minimum Wage" is an hourly wage of either \$10.50 per hour with Health Benefits or \$12.25 per hour without Health Benefits." (The health benefit threshold goes to \$2.50 after one year and both amounts increase annually based upon changes in the Consumer Price Index.)

The amount contributed by an employer toward health benefits for any particular employee depends on the nature of the health plan, the employee's age and the number of dependents covered, with the lowest rate being for a young, single worker.

The perversity of this scheme results from the fact that the employer gets no credit against the \$12.25 minimum wage unless at least \$1.75 per hour is spent for health benefits. But no more than \$1.75 is permitted irrespective of the amount

actually contributed. Depending upon the nature of the plan, the cost for health coverage for a young, single worker may well be significantly less than \$1.75 per hour. (First beginning at \$295 per month, and then increasing to \$433 when the required threshold benefit goes to \$2.50 per hour.) As a result, the employer is

forced to pay the full \$12.25 minimum wage for this employee as if no health insurance were provided at all, thereby incentivizing the employer to drop health coverage for this employee.

On the other hand, if health coverage for a particular employee costs more than \$1.75 per hour, as it might with an older worker with a family, the employer receives no more than \$1.75 credit against the mandatory minimum wage. As a result, the employer is given a financial reason to drop health coverage for these workers and pay the maximum \$12.25 per hour wage.

Therefore, the employer is motivated to at least consider dropping health coverage altogether because the cost for

some employees will be less than \$1.75, meaning that absolutely no credit is given against the \$12.25 wage, while the cost for others will be more than \$1.75 even though only the credit is limited to \$1.75.

The employer cannot really escape this result. If coverage is enhanced in order to place the young, single employees at or above the \$1.75 threshold, then the employer's cost for family workers will increase as well. Similarly, if coverage is reduced in order to bring down the cost for workers with families, coverage for young, single workers will also be reduced. The only way out of this dilemma would be to allow a greater credit against the minimum wage in order to give the employers an incentive to pay for dependent coverage, if they are not already doing so, or increase the nature of the benefits. However, the ordinance does not permit this rather logical solution.

The result is that the employer's incentive, at least with respect to the ordinance, is exactly opposite from what would represent good social policy.

Tom Larmore is a Santa Monica resident and a property rights attorney.

Guest Commentary

By Tom Larmore

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

Resident calls freeway project a 'boondoggle'

CAL TRANS, from page 1

Landscape & Maintenance Company, were busted in March of this year for underpaying employees, irregular book-keeping and misdirection of employee wages. They are barred from bidding on or doing any public works projects for three years.

The Tapuz telephones are no longer listed and numerous messages on their old business line were not returned. A woman answering the home telephone number of Tomer Rotholz — the president of Gali Landscape & Maintenance Company, which has been barred from public works projects along with Tapuz — first said to call back in the evening, but later said he was "out of the country."

Caltrans officials said they removed the trees because they were dying, though they admitted the trees appeared healthy to the untrained eye.

"The plantings had outlived their life cycle," Harris said, adding that the trees were planted in the late '50s and early '60s and had a life span of 20 to 25 years. "They were crushing under their own weight."

After uprooting the old trees, Tapuz workers then began planting. Caltrans' plans called for more than 500 new trees, 1,500 shrubs and vines, and 38,000 ground coverings.

But Martin, who's apartment looks out upon the freeway embankment, said the new plantings didn't take root.

"The weeds grew lush and little else," he said, pointing out that more than half of the Jacaranda trees on the embankments had gone brown and apparently died in the summer heat.

Martin demanded answers from the project's manager, Lydia Deets.

"I told her the trees were dying," Martin said. "She said they had inadvertently had the watering system set for spring conditions ... and we should be seeing improvements shortly. I told her the trees looked dead to me, not merely dry."

"At the least this thing is a portrait of incompetence and bureaucratic idiocy. At the worst it's a serious boondoggle."

— RICHARD MARTIN
Santa Monica resident

Deets wouldn't comment.

"I'm certainly not going to talk to a reporter," she said.

Caltrans' Harris couldn't confirm if anyone is currently watering the trees, but she did say the irrigation system is designed to be automatic and new contractors would begin working on the situation "shortly."

In the meantime, Martin and his neighbors are waiting for the plants to grow again.

"At the least this thing is a portrait of incompetence and bureaucratic idiocy," Martin said. "At the worst it's a serious boondoggle. The result is not only a waste of taxpayer money, but a loss of plants in a world that needs every green leaf it can get."

Carjackers lead SMPD on chase near downtown L.A.

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

A pair of carjackers led Santa Monica police officers on a wild car chase that ended near downtown Los Angeles.

Edwin Umanzor, of Los Angeles, and an underage female partner, allegedly car-jacked a late model white Toyota Celica from the 1550 beach parking lot on Sept. 2 at 2:44 a.m.

A short time later, a police officer checking the area around National Boulevard and Overland Avenue in West Los Angeles reported witnessing a vehicle matching the description of the one stolen from Santa Monica. The officer observed the vehicle as it drove onto the eastbound entrance of the Interstate 10 freeway.

But when officers attempted to pull the car over, the suspect vehicle exited the freeway at 9th Street in Los Angeles and tried to evade police. A vehicle pursuit ensued until the driver of the vehicle struck a parked car near the intersection of 8th Street and Hoover Avenue, just a few blocks west of MacArthur Park.

Both suspects in the vehicle attempted to

run from the crash but officers said they were able to immediately capture the female passenger, who's identity is being withheld because she is under the age of 18.

Umanzor, 22, allegedly climbed over a nearby fence and ran into the Pac Bell SBC building located in the 700 block of Rampart Boulevard in Los Angeles.

Officers said they surrounded the building and contained Umanzor within it. Officers said Umanzor barricaded himself in the building and refused to surrender to police.

The Santa Monica Special Entry Team, a highly-trained equivalent of a SWAT team, was sent into the building to retrieve Umanzor, who was ultimately located and subdued with the assistance of a Santa Monica K-9, police said.

Both suspects were taken to the Santa Monica Jail. Umanzor, the alleged driver of the stolen car, was booked on armed carjacking and other related offenses. His bail has been set at \$100,000. The female suspect, who was the alleged passenger of the vehicle, was transported to Eastlake Juvenile Hall, located just behind the Los Angeles County USC Medical Center.

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STATE

Local officials look to preserve historical homes

BALLOTS, from page 1

It offers big incentives in some areas of the state for people to collect signatures.

"The California Republican Party took on a lot of aggressive registration programs at the beginning of the year to gear up for this year's election season and November, 2004," said Karen Hanretty, spokeswoman for the California Republican party. "It's fairly common statewide and even across the country where people go from state to state and do it for a living."

Hanretty said people in certain districts throughout the state can garner up to \$10 per signature, especially where a push is being made to register more Republicans. In Santa Monica, however, the ratio of Democrats to Republicans is a not a significant gap. Forty-nine percent are registered Democrats while 31 percent of Santa Monica's citizenry has registered Republican, she said.

"Republicans never need to be even with Democrats because we tend to vote more," Hanretty said, adding Santa Monica is not a high priority for the party right now. "Districts that aren't targeted just don't get as much money."

People have the right to ask the signature gatherer if he or she is a volunteer or is being paid, which by city law they have to disclose. They also can ask how much they are making per signature, according to an information sheet that signature gatherers are required to give people.

Many of the signature gatherers come from outside of the city and therefore are not Santa Monica registered voters. That makes the cost of collecting signatures even more expensive because the firm also must hire a "witness" eligible to vote, said Tom Larmore, a member of the Homeowners for Voluntary Preservation.

The committee is trying to put the Homeowners Freedom of Choice Initiative in front of voters. If it passes, it would allow homeowners of historic homes a choice as to whether their homes should be classified as landmarks, or structures of merit.

The group needs 9,300 signatures before Oct. 1 to place the initiative on a special election ballot.

"We've got enough signatures for a special election," said Larmore, who owns a home north of Montana Avenue and is a locally-based property rights attorney. Right now the group has collected between 8,000 and 8,500 signatures. "We will be working hard through the end of (September) but I think we have enough."

Santa Monica City Clerk Maria Stewart said the committee needs 15 percent of registered voters to sign the petition to force a special election and 10 percent will get the initiative on the November, 2004 ballot.

Committee members believe that the city's current ordinance imposes restrictions on private property which constitutes an unwarranted intrusion on personal freedoms.

The city allows the landmarks commission to designate single family homes as

"landmarks" and "structures of merit," as well as create historical districts in certain areas of Santa Monica without the permission of the property owner. If homeowners want to make an alteration to the exterior of their home, they have to go through a rigorous public approval process.

Homeowners of older homes feel it doesn't make sense that the government has more rights over their property than they do. They want to be able to decide for themselves what can and can't be done to their homes.

"This is a classic example of people taking things into their own hands. We've got a response because the homeowners feel it is very important to them."

— TOM LARMORE

Homeowners for Voluntary Preservation

"This is a classic example of people taking things into their own hands," Larmore said. "We've got a response because the homeowners feel it is very important to them."

The city procedure was prompted by a recent survey conducted by Hollywood-based Historic Resources Group, which was hired by the city. The study concluded that the north of Montana Avenue area includes some of the oldest and most significant historic resources in Santa Monica. The report said less than 1 percent of the potential historic properties in the area have been designated or preserved.

Consultants who prepared the report characterized Santa Monica as losing its older historical properties and said city officials need to make important decisions about how they want to preserve the remaining buildings before they are demolished or significantly altered.

Overall, the consultants looked at the 3,900 homes north of Montana. They found that about 9 percent, 358 homes were of historical merit.

The number of homes on the inventory didn't change very much from 1986, the last time a similar survey was taken, because many of the older homes were taken off the list and replaced with homes that have reached the 50 year-old benchmark for consideration.

The last survey on the subject recommended the city preserve about 158 homes from Palisades Avenue to Georgina Avenue.

Because those homes were not preserved 20 years ago, nearly two-thirds of them have either been demolished or altered enough to render them historically insignificant, consultants said.

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STATE



Cathedral opens amid troubled times for church

BY SANDRA MARQUEZ
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — The newest U.S. cathedral opened Monday amid incense, prayers and controversy as protesters condemned the \$195 million cost and Roman Catholics continued to struggle with the stigma of priestly sex abuse.

Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral — a \$195 million building intentionally a foot longer than New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral — was dedicated during a three-hour service that incorporated the many ethnic backgrounds of the faithful.

Cardinal Roger Mahony led a procession of some 3,000, including more than 560 priests, bishops and other clergy, in a journey of heat and light.

Organ music sounded as they moved from the courtyard, sweltering in 90-degree heat, through 25-ton bronze doors and into the cool stone and cement interior.

The cathedral's austere, modernistic look has been compared by critics to a prison or a shopping mall.

But the adobe-colored walls, lit by sunlight streaming through alabaster windows, became less stark with the presence of parishioners and a choir.

"My friends, welcome to the city's, and your new cathedral," a beaming Mahony said as guests settled into the new cherrywood pews. "It is truly exhilarating to see it filled with people ... this is what it is all about."

Pope John Paul II sent a special message that was read in the ceremony, saying the cathedral represents the diversity of Los Angeles.

"May this cathedral always remain an eloquent symbol of communion and fraternity, of mutual respect and understanding," said the Pope's messenger, Cardinal James Francis Stafford.

The Mass and dedication included elements as diverse as Vietnamese singing, African drumming and children in traditional Mexican costume.

Supporters consider the cathedral a symbolic new beginning for the archdiocese, one of many that has suffered from



Ric Francis/Associated Press

Elizabeth Lara, right, and other members of the group El Sembrador wave pro-cathedral signs while behind them activists with the Los Angeles Catholic Worker protests against the new Cathedral of Our Lady of The Angels Monday in Los Angeles.

the scandal of sexual abuse allegations against priests.

The stock market decline also has taken a deep bite out of the archdiocese's budget, forcing cuts for ministry and education by as much as 30 percent and a scaling back of the opening celebrations.

Dozens of people gathered outside the cathedral to protest the church's handling of the abuse scandal and the cost of the building.

A large papier-mâché effigy of Mahony held a sign saying: "Suffer the little children."

Signs urged "No fat cat cathedral."

Demonstrator Alice Callahan said the money for the cathedral should have been used to help the poor and homeless.

"I think the church would begin to look very redeemed if it would take all the artwork it just bought, that alone was \$30 million, and sell it," she said.

Tod Tamberg, spokesman for the archdiocese, said the cathedral was mainly funded through private donations and "not one dime" was taken from church social service programs.

Money raised from a 6,000-space mausoleum, built beneath the cathedral, along with a gift shop, restaurant, conference center and a 600-car parking garage are expected to help cover ongoing expenses.

Union workers rally in LA to support dockworkers

BY PAUL WILBORN
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — With labor unrest looming at West Coast ports, the Rev. Jesse Jackson told thousands of union members Monday to "stand your ground" in a rally in support of dockworkers.

President Bush, who has been considering possible federal intervention in case of a walkout, "wants to make an example of you," Jackson said in a park a few miles from the Port of Los Angeles.

The ports handle more than \$300 billion in trade annually, and a work stoppage would ripple through an already fragile American economy.

Mayor James Hahn sent the president a letter Monday urging him to stay out of the conflict between 10,500 members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union and the Pacific Maritime Association, which represents shippers.

"Federal intervention at this critical juncture is not needed and may well exacerbate the dispute," Hahn wrote.

erbate the dispute," Hahn wrote.

The contract for workers who handle trade at 29 major West Coast ports expired July 1. Both sides had kept goods flowing with short-term extensions, but the latest extension expired Sunday.

Without a deal, dockworkers could stage work slowdowns as early as Tuesday. Shipping lines that employ the dockworkers have threatened a lockout if there is a job action.

Union workers ranging from dockworkers to pipefitters to schoolteachers joined in the solidarity demonstration and picnic Monday, where talk centered on the possibility of a strike or lockout.

"If there is no contract, there will be no business as usual at California's ports," said Jerry Acosta, a spokesman for the AFL-CIO.

On average, a full-time longshoreman earned \$80,000 last year and a full-time foreman averaged \$167,000, according to maritime association records.

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STATE

Immigrants thrive where little English is spoken

BY SANDRA MARQUEZ

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Ask Odalia Ramirez if she speaks English and the Guatemala-born housewife will tell you “un poquito,” or a little bit.

But that doesn't limit Ramirez, 40, from getting by in Pico-Union, a predominantly Central American neighborhood where you can eat steamed corn “pupusas” stuffed with meat and cheese, put a down payment on a dream retirement home in El Salvador while doing your grocery shopping and have your taxes prepared by a Spanish-speaking accountant.

Newly released U.S. Census data show this is one of the most linguistically isolated enclaves in California. In 66 percent of households, nobody over 14 speaks English.

A section of Chinatown in San Francisco ranks as the most linguistically isolated for Asian Pacific Islanders, with residents of 74 percent of households speaking little or no English. Oakland, Los Angeles and other neighborhoods in San Francisco contain the state's other predominantly Asian-language enclaves.

Los Angeles and Santa Ana have the greatest concentration of isolated Spanish-speaking neighborhoods.

Demographers say the trend of immigrants clustering in neighborhoods with their peers is an age-old phenomenon that has steadily increased in California during the past decade, driven by high levels of immigration and a lack of affordable housing.

California has the nation's highest percentage of foreign-born residents — 26 percent of the state's nearly 34 million residents. Almost half of Californians were either born in another country or are the children of foreign-born parents.

“The underlying concept is that people in these households are isolated from America at large, whether they can't read their cereal box or access the media,” said Andrew Ruppenstein, a research analyst who interprets census data for the California Department of Finance.

But he notes a paradox facing those in transition.

“If they move somewhere where they weren't among their peers, then they would certainly be linguistically isolated,” he said.

Tucked in major urban centers, neighborhoods such as Pico-Union in Los Angeles and Chinatown in San Francisco serve as entry points for the newly arrived, a place to get a foothold in a new society while preserving one's culture. Immigrant children typically learn English quickly and as adults move to the suburbs, returning to their original neighborhoods to shop at ethnic grocery stores, attend church and connect with their roots.

Living a life entirely in Spanish or Mandarin Chinese can ease a family's transition to American life, but some say the isolation can become a limitation when immigrants remain monolingual.

“If people in the family do not have anyone speaking English, that is just going to make their adjustment here more difficult,” said James P. Allen, a professor of geography at California State University, Northridge and co-author of “Changing Faces, Changing Places: Mapping Southern California.”

“My perspective is that immigrants want to do well, and when you are linguistically isolated, that is harder to do,”

Allen said.

In San Francisco, the 3,000 mostly Asian immigrants who live in census tract 114 — tucked between Pacific Avenue and Clay Street and Stockton and Kearny streets — frequent a Chinese hospital, day care centers and banks that cater to speakers of Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese and Thai.

“The newer generation, the mom and kids will move out and leave the grandparents there. Inside those four streets, it is mostly seniors,” said May Gutchinov, fiscal director for the Chinatown Youth Center.

Gutchinov, originally from Hong Kong, spoke only limited English when she moved to California from Hong Kong at age 33. After attending college and improving her English, she moved to the Sunset district of San Francisco, about 20 minutes outside Chinatown.

She said the census definition of linguistic isolation does not necessarily pose a barrier in people's lives.

“Some people may not speak English, but they know how to get around,” she said.

In Los Angeles, Ramirez, the Guatemalan housewife, said she sometimes has a hard time keeping up with her four children, ages 13 to 24, who speak mostly English.

“Sometimes I understand them. Sometimes I don't,” said Ramirez, speaking in Spanish, who moved to the United States with her welder husband 15 years ago.

She noticed the language gap last week when her youngest son refused to go to high school on his second day after gang members threatened to beat him up if he didn't dress and style his hair like they did, she said.

Ramirez said she wanted to discuss the problem with a school administrator, but she had to wait until one of her older sons could request time off from work to translate for her.

“I feel frustrated,” she said.

Although the family is considering moving to a suburb in the San Fernando Valley or Pasadena to escape gangs and drug violence, Ramirez said the change would require her to leave her linguistic comfort zone.

“The best thing is that I can communicate with everyone here,” she said. “But once I leave, it gets difficult for me.”

Ramirez said she would miss leaving behind the Liborio supermarket, an ethnic emporium specializing in sweet breads, banana leaves, sodas and statues of saints from Central America.

Inside, Lorena Paz, a sales manager who sells retirement property in El Salvador from her tiny office wedged in front of the cash registers, gets a firsthand look at the neighborhood's demographics.

According to Paz, most of the restaurant owners, auto mechanics and seamstresses who stop to gaze at the promotional videos flaunting lakeside haciendas in their homeland have lived in the United States between 10 and 20 years. Many of them don't speak English.

“Almost 90 percent speak only Spanish,” she said. “We explain everything to them in Spanish. All the paperwork is in Spanish.”

But Martinez, who moved to California with her family from Nicaragua 19 years ago and speaks fluent English, said learning a second language is a key to the community's long-term success.

“Otherwise, they will do the work that our Hispanic brothers traditionally do, working as house cleaners, cooks and gardeners,” she said.

NATIONAL



Wisconsin declares welfare changes a success

BY CARRIE ANTLFINGER

Associated Press Writer

MILWAUKEE — Five years ago, Gov. Tommy Thompson took a radical step in changing welfare in Wisconsin: He eliminated it. No longer would families be entitled to help simply because they were poor.

In the years since Wisconsin Works was implemented, thousands of people have left the welfare rolls, and the program has been hailed as a national model, propelling Thompson to U.S. Health and Human Services secretary.

A handful of state studies have found that those who left the program did not necessarily leave poverty behind.

Two studies found that those who left in 1998 were earning an average of \$7.95 an hour. Another study, which tracked families for a month after they stopped getting cash assistance, found that more than a third who had jobs earned below the federal poverty level, and more than two-thirds received other government assistance.

Critics say the program needs to place more emphasis on education and training to help people get ahead.

While acknowledging there are improvements to be made, officials still say the gamble has worked.

"In the five years it has existed it's made a significant impact, great gains," said state Department of Workforce Development Secretary Jennifer Alexander. "It also has helped thousands of people into the work force who have had little or no work experience."

Wisconsin Works, or W-2, requires adults to work or get job training in exchange for a check and subsidized child care. Participants also may receive food stamps or medical assistance. The program has a five-year lifetime limit on cash benefits.

Wisconsin was the leader among many states doing welfare experiments that laid the groundwork for the 1996 federal reform of welfare. The state saw one of the country's most dramatic drops of those receiving cash assistance.

When W-2 began Sept. 1, 1997 — it replaced Aid to Families With Dependent Children, which had around in different forms since the 1930s — 34,491 Wisconsin families received cash assistance.

In December 2000, a low of 17,196 families received such assistance. As of June, the most recent data available, 19,189 families were receiving cash assistance.

"It gives people hope. It gives them opportunity. It gives them the chance for a better lifestyle, and by working you are able to get out poverty," Thompson said.

Ellen Bravo, director of Milwaukee-based 9to5, National Association of Working Women, said: "I know too many of the people, the rolls went down because they were driven out not because they became self sufficient."

Mary Anderson, 42, of Milwaukee, was diagnosed with a congenital heart disease in 1995 and didn't have

an easy time trying to keep up with the state's work requirement. She received cash assistance from W-2 from February 1998 until June, when she became eligible for disability benefits.

"It gives people hope. It gives them opportunity. It gives them the chance for a better lifestyle, and by working you are able to get out poverty."

— **TOMMY THOMPSON**
Governor of Wisconsin

"I was struggling really, really hard," said Anderson, who has a 6-year-old and a 16-year-old. "Just the disability is a job, and then add the children and work requirements, they expect us to work around the clock."

Lana Jean Siebers, 31, of Oshkosh, said W-2 helped her get the training and education she needed to work as

a nursing assistant, and it helped her deal with alcoholism.

"They give you the training, the computer knowledge," said Siebers, a single mother raising a 13-year-old boy. "Before, it was never much of that, now it's more skills to get a job and help you keep a job."

Alexander said officials are working to strengthen W-2's education program, which will help participants get better jobs.

In 2001, she appointed a reform group after critical state audits found W-2 helped relatively few clients out of poverty and two W-2 providers misspent money intended for the poor.

The state is implementing most of the panel's recommendations, including seeking federal permission to allow people who are staying home with disabled family members to also receive cash benefits and studying how to better train and educate participants in low income jobs.

Jack Tweedie, a welfare expert at the National Conference of State Legislatures in Denver, said the program needs to improve the way it deals with substance abuse problems, mental health issues and disabilities.

Tweedie said it has helped low-income families take positive steps toward work.

"Wisconsin has gone further than any other state to make their cash assistance program look like work," he said.

Seven dead after small airplane crashes in NH woods near airport

BY STEPHEN FROTHINGHAM

Associated Press Writer

SWANZEY, N.H. — Seven people, including at least six members of one family, were killed Monday when their small plane crashed in the woods outside a southwest New Hampshire airport, authorities said.

Keene Mayor Michael Blastos said the parents, grandparents and two young children had been visiting relatives in nearby Newfane, Vt., and had been staying in Keene.

Authorities said the pilot was from Lafayette, La. They did not disclose his name. Blastos did not know if he was a member of the family. Identities of the victims were being withheld until relatives were notified.

There were no survivors in the crash, said Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Jim Peters.

Peters said the plane was apparently attempting to return to the Dillant-Hopkins Airport, about two miles from where the craft went down. Witnesses said there was a large fireball and the plane burned up, Peters said.

"It's pretty much just a burnt mass," said Alan Dobrowolski of the state Division of Aeronautics.

He said there were no recognizable plane parts.

The plane crashed about 500 feet from the home of Charlotte Kendall.

"I heard a boom — it shook our house — and then another boom," she said. "It was too hot to get near.

You could see there was nothing they could do."

Peters said there was no distress call before the plane went down.

He said the pilot filed a flight plan for Charleston, W.Va., but it was not known if that was the final destination. The plane, a twin-engine Beech Baron, was registered under a corporate name in Wilmington, Del., Peters said.

No commercial flights operate from the Swanzey airport, which has no control tower. Instead, the plane had been in routine contact with the Boston FAA center in Nashua.

Officials from the FAA and National Transportation Safety Board were traveling to the crash site Monday.

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NATIONAL

Trial lawyers setting eyes on retired investors' losses

BY MIKE SCHNEIDER

AP Business Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. — Squeezed between a political ad and a weather update from the local news station, a bearded attorney in a yellow shirt and a lime-colored tie appears on the television screen.

"So you worked hard and socked your money away so that you could enjoy retirement," James Richard Hooper says. "You selected a major Wall Street brokerage firm to invest and protect your money and now, now you're left holding the bag. Your money is gone."

He blinks. Across his chest is a white graphic listing a toll-free number.

"Your dreams are shattered, but you might just have a claim against that trusted brokerage house," the Orlando attorney says.

Hooper is one of a number of trial lawyers who are finding a niche in mining the discontent of retired investors. At a time when many retirees are depending on their investment income more than ever, their portfolios have headed south with the stock market.

Nationwide, arbitration claims are up 10 percent this year, according to the National Association of Securities Dealers, which regulates brokerage firms.

The number of lawsuits also has grown: Last year, there were 486 class-action lawsuits for federal securities fraud, more than doubled the 214 in 2000, according to the Securities Class Action Clearinghouse at Stanford Law School.

While bigger law firms are getting attention filing class-action lawsuits against investment firms and brokerage

houses, Hooper is casting his net for clients in a state that is home to large amounts of retirement money. About 18 percent of Florida's population is over age 65.

"Most of the grandmas and grandpas in Florida who lost money in the market think it's their own fault or God's will. We're trying to educate them that they may have a claim," Hooper said.

Hooper has yet to file any claims, although his law firm has received hundreds of calls since his four radio and television ads began running in Florida two weeks ago. About half appear to have some merit, he said.

Not everyone who loses money in the stock market has a legal case. But Hooper said a case could be made if an investor tells a broker to invest conservatively and the broker puts the money in high-risk stocks or if the broker ignores specific instructions.

"When you get retirees, they can't afford to take those kinds of risks," Hooper said. "Every day, we're getting calls from people who shouldn't have been in telecommunications, high-tech, dot-coms."

Merrill Lynch spokesman Bill Halldin said he has no figures on how big an increase there has been in legal claims against his company.

"Typically, in bear markets that have followed bull markets, situations when investors have lost money because of investment decisions, all of Wall Street sees a rise in claims," Halldin said from New York.

Attorney Vincent DiCarlo points to the number of hits on his Web site as evidence

of the recent interest in legal action against brokers. In October 2000, the Web site had 410 hits. Last month, it had 19,000.

"When the market falls, all of the misconduct is revealed," the Sacramento, Calif., attorney said.

Because of high hurdles to filing financial lawsuits, investors' claims are unlikely to be the next frontier for trial lawyers who have found gold mines in asbestos, tobacco and defective tire cases, legal experts said.

"You're talking about a different situation than Firestone or asbestos," said Carlton Carl, a spokesman for the American Trial Lawyers Association in

Washington. "You're talking about financial injury rather than physical injury." Almost all such cases are heard by arbitration panels rather than the courts because of arbitration agreements investors sign when they hire a broker.

"Arbitration doesn't have the same power as class action," said Georgetown University securities law professor Donald Langevoort, a former special counsel at the Securities and Exchange Commission. "It's not the same megamoney that class action produces. You don't get a global settlement. You fight one-on-one."

The NY Times runs its first 'gay union' announcement

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Times ran its first announcement of a same-sex commitment ceremony, celebrating the union of a Fulbright scholar and the founder of a public affairs consulting firm.

The civil union ceremony of Daniel Gross, 32, and Steven Goldstein, 40, by a judge in Vermont, ran along with the couple's photo in the newly retitled "Weddings/Celebrations" feature Sunday.

"Ten years ago, none of this would have been possible," Goldstein said during an exchange of Jewish vows at the Musee des Beaux-Arts in Montreal. "Dreams do come true."

Times Executive Editor Howell Raines announced last month that the newspaper would begin announcing same-sex unions.

The gay and lesbian couples featured in the Times are selected by editors using the same criteria as used for weddings: the newsworthiness and accomplishments of the couples and their families.

"We didn't make this any kind of political statement, we didn't threaten to boycott or feel like it was anything unusual other than simply writing a letter to the society page," Gross said Monday on NBC's "Today" show. "Our union, and civil unions like this, are in fact part of what is truly happening in the world."

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INTERNATIONAL



Leaders push to fight poverty, preserve environment

BY PAUL GEITNER

Associated Press Writer

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — With world leaders pushing for action, negotiators at the Earth Summit agreed on a plan Monday to protect the environment and fight poverty.

"Humanity has a rendezvous with destiny," French President Jacques Chirac declared. Alarms are sounding across all the continents. We cannot say that we did not know!"

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged the more than 100 world leaders in Johannesburg to commit to firm action to solve problems identified a decade ago at the first Earth Summit in Rio.

"The focus from now on must be on implementing the many agreements that have been reached," he said.

Though President Bush declined to come — sending U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell in his place — U.S. officials say they are firmly committed to the summit's success.

"We've reached a real breakthrough with the summit in our collective attempt to ensure that this is a successful gathering of the global family," said Assistant Secretary of State John Turner.

After more than a week of bargaining, the European Union lost its push for targets on the use of wind and solar energy

— the last major sticking point in the summit's action plan.

The agreed text includes a commitment to "urgently" increase the use of renewable energy sources and report back on progress, diplomats said.

Developing countries had sided with the United States and Japan against including the targets.

South Africa's environment minister, Valli Moosa, said such targets were a rich country's luxury. "We will not support binding targets for renewable energies for developing countries," he said.

Japanese foreign ministry official Hidenobu Sobashima said: "It is very important for a country to have flexibility."

U.S. officials said the final wording "properly reflects" how a "diversity of clean energy resources" will contribute to sustainable development.

"The document clearly highlights the need to increase access to modern energy services and signals the valuable role renewable energy will play in the future," said Undersecretary of State Paula Dobriansky, head of the U.S. delegation.

Compromises were also reached in three other key areas: climate change, trade and sanitation.

Despite the Bush administration's refusal to ratify the Kyoto Protocol on cli-

mate change, it accepted language that says nations backing Kyoto "strongly urge" states that have not done so to ratify it in "a timely manner."

Kyoto got another boost Monday when Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, who had been wavering on whether to ratify, confirmed he would submit it to parliament by the end of the year.

But the accord cannot go into effect unless Russia — the crucial holdout — signs on too. The EU issued a "solemn appeal" to Moscow to join them in ratifying, but Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov said his government was not ready to decide.

Negotiators agreed to texts on trade that urge countries to reform subsidies that are environmentally harmful, such as those for the fishing industry that contribute to overcapacity.

They also committed to reducing the number of people living without sanitation from 2 billion to 1 billion by 2015, diplomats said.

The United States accepted the new timetable despite earlier insistence that the way to get results is through concrete projects, not paper agreements.

Negotiators agreed to emphasize the need for good governance to achieve sustainable development, but did not make it a condition for receiving aid as advocated by the United States, diplomats said.

Turner said the text went "beyond anything the world community had done before" in stressing the need to fight corruption and promote democracy and the

rule of law.

A host of civic and environmental groups condemned the compromises, calling some of them a significant step backward from previous commitments.

"Economic interests were allowed to maintain their primacy over other global priorities," said Kim Carstensen of World Wildlife Fund International.

World leaders, who have yet to formally adopt the nonbinding agreement, had insisted the most important measure of success would be whether the summit ends with concrete plans to tackle the problems first identified in Rio 10 years ago.

Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi announced Italy was prepared to cancel \$4 billion in debt to poor countries. Germany offered \$500 million over five years for renewable energy projects. Japan promised \$30 million in emergency food aid for children facing famine in southern Africa.

"This is not charity, it is an investment in our collective future," said British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

As delegates finalized their plan, former South African President Nelson Mandela said he had urged the United States not to "introduce chaos in international affairs" by attacking Iraq.

"No country should be allowed to take the law into their own hands," especially the United States, "because they are the only super power in the world today, and they must be exemplary in everything they do," he said.

A soldier mourned



Associated Press

Unidentified Israeli soldiers and friends of the deceased grieve at the grave of Israeli Sgt. Ofir Mischal at the Mt. Herzl military cemetery in Jerusalem on Monday. Mischal, 20, died of his wounds Sunday after was seriously injured Thursday when Hezbollah guerillas in Lebanon shelled two Israeli military outposts in the disputed Chebaa Farms area along the Israeli-Lebanese border.

Report: al-Qaida members have found refuge in Lebanon with Syria's permission

BY RAMIT PLUSHNICK-MASTI

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM — Nearly 200 al-Qaida operatives, including several senior commanders, have settled in Lebanon with Syria's permission, taking refuge in a large Palestinian refugee camp there, an Israeli newspaper reported Monday.

A source in Jerusalem, who spoke on condition of anonymity, confirmed the report, saying the information comes from Israeli and Western intelligence agencies.

A Lebanese security source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, denied al-Qaida members were in the refugee camp, saying 10 to 15 Islamic militants are hiding from authorities in the camp. The militants were involved in clashes in which nine Lebanese soldiers were killed.

Zeev Schiff, a prominent Israeli journalist who covers the military, reported in Haaretz daily that Damascus has allowed between 150 and 200 al-Qaida operatives to settle in the Palestinian refugee camp of Ein el-Hilweh, near the Lebanese coastal town of Sidon.

The group includes senior commanders who arrived from Afghanistan through Damascus and Iran, the newspaper reported Monday, attributing its information to "various intelligence services."

Raanan Gissin, an adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, refused to confirm the report but noted that several radical groups, including militant PLO factions, are based in Damascus.

"It was only a matter of time before al-

Qaida found a comfortable refuge in Damascus like other organizations," Gissin said.

Last month, fighting erupted in the refugee camp, wounding at least one person. Officials in the camp said the clashes were between members of a radical Palestinian faction and Lebanese militants who were hiding from Lebanese security officials.

But Haaretz said the fighting erupted when al-Qaida operatives tried to gain control over the camp, which is off-limits to Lebanese authorities and is run by various Palestinian factions who often settle their differences with arms. The camp is home to some 75,000 Palestinian refugees and their descendants.

Mohammed Atta, who commandeered the first airplane to hit the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, visited Syria two or three times, but Syrian intelligence agencies did not voluntarily offer this information to the United States, Haaretz reported.

In addition, Osama bin Laden's son, Omar, and his mother, Nagwa, were living in Syria until three weeks before the attacks, leaving when they received instructions to flee, the newspaper reported.

Haaretz said the son returned to Syria at least three times after Sept. 11.

Bin Laden's wife and son are not in Syria now, according to Haaretz.

Syria was considered a place where al-Qaida activists could move with relative freedom and served as a transit point where they set up infrastructure before Sept. 11, Haaretz said.



SPORTS

Rain prevents many matches to proceed in U.S. Open

BY HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK — Andy Roddick napped in the trainer's room. Gustavo Kuerten tried his hand at video tennis. Lindsay Davenport sat in a stuffed chair by the window, watching the drops fall.

Another wet day at a Grand Slam tournament.

Nope, not Wimbledon. The U.S. Open.

Rain that fell through the night continued into Monday, meaning not a single shot was hit on the courts of the National Tennis Center until Davenport and Silvia Farina Elia started their fourth-round match at 6:20 p.m. — a delay of more than 7 hours. Organizers postponed 60 doubles and junior tournament matches but were still hoping to be able to fit in a big schedule of main draw singles action.

"The bad news is: We're behind in matches, doing the best to make them up," tournament referee Brian Earley said. "We're certainly hopeful to get where we need to be. We know it's a hardship."

The worst potential backlog was in the lower half of the men's draw, which includes four-time U.S. Open champion Pete Sampras, 1997 finalist Greg Rusedski, third-seeded Tommy Haas, and three-time French Open winner Kuerten.

Their third-round matches got under way Sunday, but they were halted in progress, with Sampras serving down 5-4 to Rusedski, Haas up a set against Thomas Enqvist, and Kuerten a set ahead of Nicolas Massu. If they were unable to finish Monday, it would set up the possibility of a men's finalist having to play five matches in six days.

"We know best-of-five (set matches)



Roberto Borea/Associated Press

Pete Sampras of the United States returns to Britain's Greg Rusedski on Sunday at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York. Heavy rains prevented many matches from proceeding on Monday.

take a lot out of a guy," Earley said. "We know the bottom half of the draw is going to be a struggle for somebody."

It certainly wouldn't make things any easier for the 31-year-old Sampras, who has been struggling with his game of late. He hasn't won a tournament since July 2000, when at Wimbledon he claimed his record 13th Grand Slam title.

Others have more pressing fitness questions.

Haas has had pain in his right arm — though his coach, David Ayme, said

Monday it's "not a factor when he gets on the court" — and another player in that half of the draw, fifth-seeded Tim Henman, has been fighting right shoulder problems.

"We're not even thinking that far ahead," Ayme said, referring to the chance that there could be a jammed schedule. "If we lose one, Tommy's on a plane, and he watches the rest of the tournament at home on TV."

While pushing the men's final back a day to Sept. 9 could happen, Earley said there are some limits to what his options

are as he tries to figure out a way to get all the matches in. No day's action will start before 11 a.m., for example, and players won't have to play more than one singles match in a day, unlike at some lesser tournaments where weather interrupts action.

Unlike at Wimbledon, there aren't indoor practice courts made available to players during the two weeks of the U.S. Open. Instead, that space is handed over to sponsors and an area called SmashZone, where fans can measure how fast they serve or play the role of sports broadcaster by calling action from a match on tape.

And unlike at the Australian Open, there is no court with a retractable roof.

"When rain pushes back the schedule, that's more of an argument for a dome here, like they have in Australia," John McEnroe said.

At Wimbledon and the French Open, tarps are used to cover the courts when it rains. Not at the U.S. Open.

"They take up room, you have to have very good drainage at the side of the court, they look bad at the side of the court," Earley said. "We don't think that it really helps a lot."

Some idled away the waiting time Monday in the players' lounge by playing cards, reading newspapers or books, playing video games, surfing the Web or sending e-mail. Others rode stationary bicycles or lifted weights.

"Both players have to go through it," said the 11th-seeded Roddick, waiting to play his third-round match against No. 18 Alex Corretja. "It's just kind of a time to try to relax."

Boston Red Sox trim Yankee's division lead to 6 games

BY MIKE FITZPATRICK

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK — With a little less than a month to make a run at the playoffs, the Boston Red Sox gave themselves a good reason to believe they can keep playing into October.

Nomar Garciaparra drove in three runs, and Casey Fossum won for the first time in seven starts this season as Boston beat the New York Yankees 8-4 Monday.

"This is pretty much knock time," pitcher Dustin Hermanson said. "There's no giving up on winning our division. This is a big series for us. We know if we can come in here and take three games, we're right in this thing."

Shea Hillenbrand had three hits and scored twice for the Red Sox, who trimmed New York's AL East lead to 6 games on a rainy day at Yankee Stadium.

Rey Sanchez and Jason Varitek added two-run singles. Boston, outscored 13-0 in two home games against its longtime rivals last week, is 4 games behind Anaheim in the wild-card race.

After this series, the Red Sox don't play a team with a winning record the rest of the season.

"We're not sitting here saying let's go for the wild card," Hermanson said. "We still want to win this division. We want bigger things than the wild card. If you're just going for the wild card, you're not pushing yourself."

Alfonso Soriano hit his 35th homer, stole his 38th base and knocked in two runs as New York lost for the fourth time in five games.

Yankees starter Mike Mussina (16-8)

returned to the mound after a sixth-inning rain delay of 1 hour, 29 minutes and got out of a bases-loaded jam.

"We leave it to him. We were not going to send him out there, but he said 'Give me a chance to try and warm up,'" Yankees manager Joe Torre said.

Hillenbrand tripled to left-center with two outs in the seventh and scored on Garciaparra's single his 1,000th career hit.

Garciaparra, who finished 3-for-5, is the fastest Red Sox player to 1,000 hits, doing it in 746 games. Wade Boggs accomplished the feat in 747 games.

Garciaparra kept the ball from his 1,000th hit, as he often does when he reaches a milestone.

"I just put them in a drawer," he said. "Maybe one day I'll look back at all of them."

Trot Nixon's bloop double fell in front of sliding left fielder Rondell White in the eighth, putting runners at second and third. Sanchez followed with a two-run single to make it 6-3.

Varitek added a two-run single in the ninth, with Manny Ramirez sliding neatly around Jorge Posada's tag at the plate.

The first five innings were played in a steady drizzle as the grounds crew worked to keep the infield dry. With a puddle forming in front of second baseman Soriano in the top of sixth, play was finally halted.

Across town, the Mets and Marlins were rained out before they even got started.

The right-hander matched a career high with six walks in 6 2-3 innings, giving up four runs and seven hits. After throwing a three-hit shutout at Fenway Park last Wednesday, he dropped to 4-2 with a 3.12



Bill Kastroun/Associated Press

New York Yankees' Alfonso Soriano (12) slides into second with a stolen base as Boston Red Sox second baseman Rey Sanchez is unable to handle the throw Monday at Yankee Stadium in New York.

ERA in six starts against Boston this season.

"I was curious why the game started at all," Mussina said. "I was told they were going to delay it, and then told later it was going to start on time. It was raining from the time I warmed up. The mound was muddy for six innings."

Making his first start at Yankee Stadium, Fossum (3-3) fanned Derek Jeter on a high fastball with the bases loaded to end the fourth. The left-hander went five innings, allowing two unearned runs and six hits. He struck out six.

Hermanson replaced Fossum after the rain delay and worked three innings, giving up Soriano's leadoff homer in the sev-

enth and two-out RBI single in the eighth.

Jeter went 0-for-5 and left six runners on base. The Yankees stranded 11 in all.

An error by Hillenbrand at third base allowed Soriano to reach in the first inning, and the Yankees took advantage with two-out RBI singles by Posada and Ron Coomer.

Mussina lost his control in the third, walking two batters before Hillenbrand hit an RBI single. After a wild pitch put runners at second and third, Garciaparra reached out with two strikes and poked a two-run single over shortstop for a 3-2 lead.

"The rain killed us," Posada said. "It was a long game."

COMICS



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



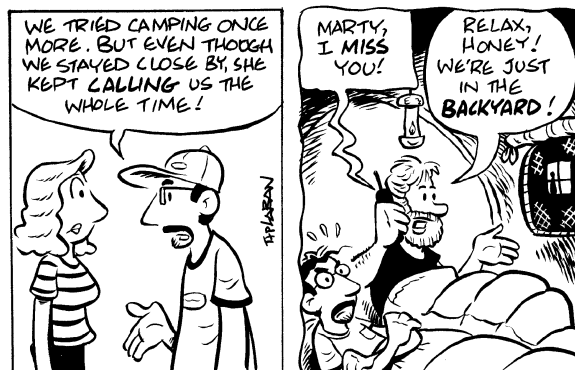
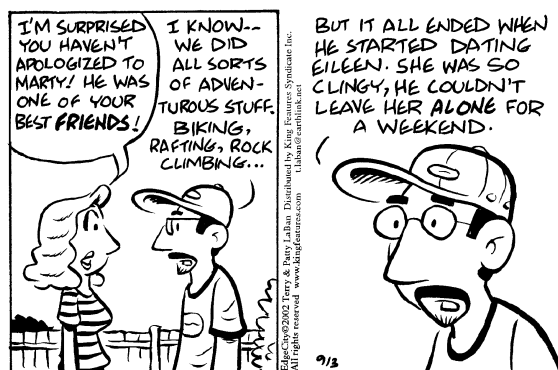
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11 Like a gymnast
12 Clear
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15 Slippery one
16 Chiding sound
17 "— a Small World"
18 Grounds
20 Male turkey
21 Family
22 Use a VCR
23 Deserve
26 Hayes of the theater
27 Votes of support
28 Born
29 Cal. neighbor
30 Architectural feature
34 Bullfight call
35 Nest egg, of a sort
36 Disen-cumber
37 John Woo film
40 Rolling Stones song
41 Emulate Astaire
- DOWN**
- 42 Marsh
43 Purloin
1 Cavalry sword
2 Concur
3 Orchestra instrument
4 Moose's cousin
5 Handle a task
6 Warms up
7 Botch
8 Kind of bliss
9 U-235, for one
10 Rather and others
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22 Prom attendee
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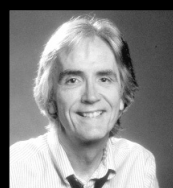
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Singer R. Kelly charged with child pornography

Greeting the arrival of singer R. Kelly ("I Believe I Can Fly") at the courthouse in Chicago on Aug. 7 for a hearing on the 21 counts of child pornography he has been charged with were 40 children, yelling support and wearing T-shirts reading "Not Guilty," "Case Dismissed," and "Kill his name/Kill the fame/That's the game," among other messages. Said organizer Janet Edmond, "(People) need to stop looking at all the negative stuff and start looking at the good things R. Kelly is doing. (K)ids need something to reach for. They have no role models."

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SANTA MONICA \$1300.00 Twnhse, PET OK, r/s, crpts, lrg clsts, Indry, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA \$1350.00 Cozy Gst Hse, PET OK, hrdwd flrs, patio, w/d, pkgng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

SANTA MONICA \$1550.00 Lovely Hse, hrdwd flrs, lrg clsts, Indry, pkgng, a must see! Westside Rentals 395-RENT

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PIANO LESSONS Private, professional in my Santa Monica home. Children and adults welcome. All styles. Mary Harper (310)315-5693.

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QUICK AND DIRTY (if the newspaper rubs off on your hands). Market your small business in our services section for a buck a day. Call (310)458-7737.

SM - Della Robbia. Floral design classes. Call for schedule & information. Now forming. (310)395-3337

Fitness

LACK MOTIVATION at the gym? You need a custom design program that provides maximum results. Personal training by Kim Cruson. Weight loss, nutritional counseling, natural herbal based supplements for optimum health, performance and results. (800)724-THIN.

Personals

MATCH MAKER for marriage minded singles. Are you celibate? Are you still a virgin? (Primary or secondary?) Your body is the holy temple of the lord where god lives. Get to know your partner as a best friend first. Abstain from sex before marriage. When you trust God, then yourself, it's very easy to trust your future partner completely with God's blessing. It's also easy to be disciplined in other areas of your life. If you have tried everything else, and couldn't keep a partner - Try to align your body with your soul and holy spirit. Dorothy (310)201-5553.

Personals

PLATONIC SOCIAL/SPIRITUAL companion to religious occasions, weddings, dance clubs, dining, movie theaters, singing, shopping malls, comedy shows, galleries, museums, sports events, conventions, weekend getaways, boat cruises, chopper rides, sight seeing, limousine rides, horseback riding, parks, walks on the beach, concerts, visiting family and friends, company parties, thanksgiving, ceremonies, anniversaries, etc. Where would you like to go? What would you like to do? Leave your worries and troubles behind. Come to fun public places and create happy memories. Rent me! The girl next door type. Casual or business attire are acceptable. Female bodyguard and driver with four door car or limousine wanted. Dorothy (310)201-5553.

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Classified Advertising Conditions :DOLLAR-A-DAY NON COMMERCIAL: Ad must run a minimum of 12 consecutive days. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. **REGULAR RATE:** \$2.50 a day. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. Ad must run a minimum of twelve consecutive days. **PREMIUMS:** First two words caps no charge. Bold words, italics, centered lines, etc. cost extra. Please call for rates. **TYPOS:** Check your ad the first day of publication. Sorry, we do not issue credit after an ad has run more than once. **DEADLINES:** 4:00 p.m. prior the day of publication except for Monday's paper when the deadline is Friday at 4:00 p.m. **PAYMENT:** All private party ads must be pre-paid. We accept checks, credit cards, and of course cash. **CORRESPONDENCE:** To place your ad call our offices 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (310)458-7737; send a check or money order with ad copy to The Santa Monica Daily Press, P.O. Box 1380, Santa Monica, CA 90406 or stop in at our office located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. 202. **OTHER RATES:** For information about the professional services directory or classified display ads, please call our office at (310)458-7737.

**Can't find the Daily Press in your neighborhood?
Call us. We'll take your suggestions.
(310) 458-PRESS (7737)**

Calendar

Tuesday, September 3, 2002

movies

Loews Broadway Cinema
1441 Third St. at Broadway
Blue Crush (PG-13) 12:40, 1:40, 3:30, 4:30, 6:20, 7:20, 9:10, 10:10. *Blood Work* (R) 1:00, 3:35, 6:40, 9:30. *Simone* (PG-13) 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50.

Mann Criterion
1313 Third St.
Minority Report (PG-13) 11:50, 3:15, 7:10, 10:20. *Austin Powers in Goldmember* (PG-13) 11:30, 2:00, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45. *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* (PG-13) 11:40, 12:20, 2:10, 2:45, 4:50, 5:30, 7:20, 8:00, 9:50, 10:30. *XXX* (PG-13) 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00. *Little Secrets* (PG) 11:30. *The Master of Disguise* (PG) 1:45, 3:50, 6:00.

AMC Theatre SM 7
1310 3rd Street
FearDotcom (R) 2:20, 4:45, 7:30, 9:55. *Signs* (PG-13) 1:40, 4:15, 5:45, 7:15, 8:15, 9:45. *Undisputed* (R) 2:30, 5:20, 7:50, 10:00. *Road to Perdition* (R) 1:45, 4:25, 7:10, 9:50. *Lilo & Stich* (PG) 1:30, 3:35. *Spy Kids 2* (PG) 1:50, 4:35, 7:00, 9:25. *Serving Sara* (PG-13) 2:00, 4:55, 7:20, 9:40.

Landmark Nu-Wilshire
1314 Wilshire Blvd.
The Kid Stays in the Picture (R) 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45. *Mostly Martha* (PG) 11:00, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30.

Laemmle Monica
1332 2nd St.
Tadpole (PG-13) 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:55. *The Good Girl* (R) 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:55. *Possession* (PG-13) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:45, 10:15. *24 Hour Party People* (R) 1:30, 4:15, 7:10, 10:05.

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
The Bourne Identity (PG-13) 5:00, 7:30, 10:00.

Today

Community

The Westside Walkers, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Westside Walkers meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at Westside Pavilion, Pico Blvd. Between Overland Ave. and Westwood Blvd. In West LA. For more information about the program, call (800)516-5323.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUPS AT SMC'S EMERITUS COLLEGE. Santa Monica College offers free bereavement support groups in the summer session through it's Emeritus College, a widely praised program designed for older adults. Two support groups will meet Tuesdays on an ongoing basis. One group will meet from noon to 1:50 p.m. and the other from 7 p.m. to 8:50 p.m. For information and registration, call Emeritus College at (310) 434-4306.

Senior Suppers - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. To 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

Music / Entertainment

Anastasia's Asylum, 1028 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. Board games, cushiony sofas, a full veggie menu, juices, teas, and coffee that grows hair on your chest. No cover. (310)394-7113.

Rusty's Surf Ranch, 256 Santa Monica Pier. Walls and ceilings are lined with one of the area's largest collections of pre-1970's surfboards. Cover varies. Full bar. All ages. (310)393-7386.

LUSH 2020 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. Three bars, plenty of booths, sofas, leopard-print carpet and a sunken dance floor. Mexican grill serves dinner after 5 p.m. Full bar. Over 21. Cover \$5 - Free. (310)829-1933.

The Joint, 8771 W. Pico Blvd., W. LA. One

of the most exotic rooms in the local rock-facility pantheon. Pizza. Cover \$10 - \$5. Full bar. Over 21. (310)275-2619.

Wednesday

Community

Senior Suppers - Discounted meals for people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. To 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

Santa Monica Strutters, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Santa Monica Strutters meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at Santa Monica Place, Fourth St. and Broadway Ave. in Santa Monica.

Music / Entertainment

Anastasia's Asylum, 1028 Wilshire Blvd.,

Santa Monica. Board games, cushiony sofas, a full veggie menu, juices, teas, and coffee that grows hair on your chest. No cover. (310)394-7113.

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Cara Rosellini hosts The Gaslite's Comic Review, followed by open-mic comedy karaoke, at The Gaslite, 2030 Wilshire Blvd. 7:30 p.m. FREE! (310)829-2382. Poetry N Go Club, 8 pm. UnUrban Coffeehouse. 3301 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, (310)315-0056.

Calendar items are printed free of charge as a service to our readers. Please submit your items to todaypaper@smdp.com for consideration. Calendar events are limited by space, and will be run at the discretion of the Calendar Editor. The Daily Press cannot be held responsible for errors.

KEEP YOUR DATE STRAIGHT

Promote your event in the Santa Monica Daily Press Calendar section.

Fax all information to our Calendar Editor: Attention Angela @ 310.576.9913

BACK PAGE



28-toed cat goes for record

By The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Maine — Mooch the cat has nine lives and 28 toes.

Bob and Becky Duval say the large, yellow feline has more toes than any other cat in the world. The Duvals have submitted evidence they hope will earn Mooch a place in the Guinness Book of Records.

"This is your 15 minutes — suck it up," Bob DuVal said to Mooch as the feline struggled out of Becky Duval's lap.

At the couple's home, a nervous Mooch padded defensively across the kitchen floor, avoiding visitors and the clicking camera.

Those who manage to catch a glimpse of the cat before he dashes off are stunned when they see his toes.

"Usually, their first remark is, 'Oh, my God, look at that cat's feet — what's wrong with him?'" Becky DuVal said.

DuVal said he was listening to the radio last week and heard about the world record for most toes on a cat, currently held by Paddles, a black cat in Ennismore, Ontario, who has 27.

"Mooch has 28 claws," Becky DuVal said Friday. "He has 28 pads, but two of the pads are partially fused."

Mooch's big feet have an advantage in Maine.

"They're good snowshoes," Bob DuVal said.

Cornfield, Elvis style

By The Associated Press

WEST MEMPHIS, Ark. — Here's one more Elvis impersonator making a corny impression.

Elvis Presley's image appears in a new cornfield maze across the state line from Memphis, Tenn. It was designed by friends Justin Taylor and Chris Taylor, who last year attracted 8,000 visitors to a seven-foot tall, two-mile corn maze designed to resemble the Memphis skyline.

The design invites customers to "Get Lost Memphis Style" in a three-mile maze patterned after Presley.

Two other new mazes, one near Munford, Tenn., and the other in Jackson, Tenn., depict the Statue of Liberty.

The maze fields are designed and mapped on scaled graph paper, in some cases with computers. Corn is planted at about twice the normal density to create the visual effect of a wall.

Visitors wander through the twists, turns, and dead-ends of five-foot-wide paths.

All three mazes are affiliated with The Maize, a Utah-based maze franchise that has attracted more than two million maze-goers in nearly 400 mazes throughout the world since its inception in 1996.

Luxury pet resort upgrades facilities

By The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Some pet owners will go to any length to spoil a pooch, as Caryl Scrimpscher can attest.

Scrimpscher runs the Rob Cary Pet Resort, which opened in 1976 and recently underwent a \$750,000 expansion that doubled the number of indoor-outdoor suites — some with heated floors, televisions and miniature four-poster beds.

"People are getting pickier. Dogs are a part of the family now, and people are able to indulge in things that they couldn't do as a kid," Scrimpscher said last week.

At Scrimpscher's resort, lodging in the suites ranges from \$19 to \$41 a night. There's also day care for up to \$39 a day. Massages — for the pets, not their owners — are \$25 for 30 minutes.

Some kennels have piped-in music and phone jacks so guests can hear their masters. Separate areas are available for "special-needs" pets, cats and birds. Pet psychiatrists are on duty to handle behavior problems.

A meeting of the 'New Castles'

By The Associated Press

NEW CASTLE, Pa. — A New Castle by any other name — even Neuchatel or Neuburg an der Donau — is still a New Castle.

For the third time in six years, representatives from towns and cities around the world called New Castle or Newcastle will converge. This year's International New Castle Summit of the World begins Sept. 29 in the New Castle about 50 miles northwest of Pittsburgh.

Representatives from about 75 New Castles will share ideas about government, products and tourism. Participants include Newcastle, South Africa; Neuchatel, Switzerland; Neuburg an der Donau, Germany; and two English cities, Newcastle-under-Lyme and Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

New Castle Mayor Tim Fulkerson, who has participated in the biennial celebration since it began in Shinshiro (New Castle), Japan in 1998, promises a good time "like the biggest wedding we're going to have in the city."

After spending four days in Pennsylvania, the New Castle-ites will finish up the weeklong celebration by spending three days in New Castle, Ind.

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One FREE Bar Appetizer

with the purchase of any beverage during Happy Hour, Monday-Friday. One coupon per guest. Not valid with any other offer. Offer does not include tax or tip. Only valid at Wolfgang Puck Cafe - Montana Avenue location. Expires 10/31/02

3

One FREE Dessert on Jazz Night

during Tuesday Jazz Night hours. No purchase necessary. One coupon per guest. Not valid with any other offer. Offer does not include tax or tip. Only valid at Wolfgang Puck Cafe - Montana Avenue location. Expires 10/29/02

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