

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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SUPER LOTTO PLUS

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Megamember: 19

Jackpot: \$46 million

FANTASY 5

18, 27, 17, 23, 22

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 4, 4, 4

Evening picks: 8, 0, 0

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 03, Hot Shot

2nd Place: 01, Gold Rush

3rd Place: 12, Lucky Charms

Race Time: 1:40:93



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

A July Associated Press article from Jerusalem reported that a 32-year-old woman accidentally swallowed a cockroach and then, after trying to dig it out with a fork, swallowed the fork. Dr. Nikola Adid of the Poria Hospital in Tiberias, Israel, had to remove both items.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"There is no pleasure in having nothing to do. The fun is having lots to do and not doing it."

— John W. Raper



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Bustamante quietly backs away from 'no on recall' position

Recall campaigns heat up in Santa Monica

By staff and wire reports

Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante abruptly shifted strategy Sunday, moving away from his previous position that his campaign was simply a fallback in case Gov. Gray Davis is recalled.

At a rally of 2,500 Bustamante supporters in Fresno, the lieutenant governor made little mention of "No on recall."

During his 30-minute speech, Bustamante told the crowd at least five times, "I need your vote for governor" and made only one mention of Davis.

Meanwhile, democrats and republicans are rigorously campaigning for their candidates and positions in Santa Monica.

A group of local democratic groups have rallied together and set up a campaign office at 408 Wilshire Blvd. in an effort to convince people to vote "no on the recall" but to also vote for Bustamante as a back up in case Davis is ousted from office.

And Arnold Schwarzenegger, the leading Republican in the race, continues to have hundreds of people come through his volunteer campaign headquarters on

Fourth Street, between Arizona Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard. Schwarzenegger officially opened the headquarters on Friday amid hundreds of protesters who made their displeasure with the actor known.

"It's an indication that he wants to be governor and he can't be governor if the recall goes down."

— JACK PITNEY
Government professor,
Claremont McKenna College

Jack Pitney, a government professor at Claremont McKenna College, said Bustamante's shift was inevitable.

"It's an indication that he wants to be governor and he can't be governor if the recall goes down," Pitney said. "Cruz Bustamante is on automatic

See RECALL, page 5



Josh Salkovitz/Special to the Daily Press

Santa Monica High School student David Litwak and Hector Aranda position the Deus Ex Machina Team 1115 robot "Ingenium" during the 2003 Los Angeles robotics regional competition. Samohi is organizing a robotics team for this season's competition.

Samohi goes robotic

By Daily Press staff

Santa Monica High School is hoping to produce at least one robot this year.

The goal is to design and build a functional robot within six weeks so it will be ready to compete in a game that pits machines against each other.

A group of Samohi students are organizing a team to help them design and build a 130-pound robot to compete in the FIRST Robotics Competition in January.

The Samohi team, along with hundreds of other students from around the world, will get the same kit of parts and manual of game rules. Last year, the Samohi team came in sixth out of 58 teams that competed in the game known as the "Super Bowl of Smarts."

The FIRST Robotics Competition, funded partially by NASA, provides high school students the opportunity to work along side professional engineers to design, build and test their own machines, as well as to entice teenagers to pursue careers in science, technology and engineering.

This year's game, "Stack Attack" requires robots to collect and stack plastic storage containers on their opponent's side of the playing field. The location of the containers and the height of the stacks determine each team's score for each round. Two-team alliances must work together to get their robots to move the 29

containers in the center to the opposite ends of the field.

The team includes mechanical, electrical and robotics engineer mentors to work with students to brainstorm, construct, program and test their robot so it's capable of playing in the competition, which changes each year.

"The idea is to get kids excited about technology," said Tiin Lukk, whose son, David Litwak, was the team captain last year. "The objective is not just to build the robot but to get them out there working with professionals and have fun."

Last year's team included four mechanical engineers, a physics teacher, four electrical engineers, a set designer, a computer programmer and a UCLA student. Team members also included 10 Samohi kids and two from New Roads School.

This year, Lukk is recruiting students from other high schools to join them in the competition. The team also needs a location to build the robot and another group of mentors from the private sector to help in the project.

"It's a very specialized thing to do this because it involves geometry, calculus and engineering skills and high schools don't have the resources to teach that," Lukk said. "All of the robots look different and function differently ... it's amazing to see what these kids have done."

Anyone interested in the project should call Lukk at (310) 450-8208.



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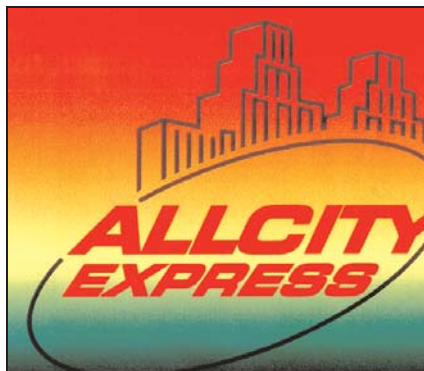
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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, September 8, 2003:

Examine what is going on around you. Your biggest error might be being too quiet and not verbalizing more often. Others find you unusually desirable. You present yourself in an effective yet undemanding way. As a result, frequently you will draw a strong response, surprising even you. Your ability to work and develop new, more effective ways marks your uniqueness. You easily could be drawn to innovative techniques, at work and within the health field. If you are single, a relationship will bloom in your life this year. Your popularity marks your life, allowing you to broaden your horizons. If attached, your mate could find you particularly adorable. As a result, caring flows between you in a new, dynamic way. AQUARIUS always pitches in.



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Focus on what you want to accomplish rather than getting caught up on what could have been. Think about what your goals for the end of the summer, and go for it. If need be, revamp your goals for the next few months. Claim your power. Tonight: Let it all hang out.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Others put you at the head of the class, symbolically or literally. You deliver, and associates know that that means quality. You can and will make a difference. Grab the limelight. Tonight: A must show.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Investigate different possibilities, which might involve a seminar, lecture or trip. Realize that you might not have all the answers; flow with opportunities as they happen. Don't say "no"; simply explore options. Tonight: Hop on the Net.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ A dear partner or associate might share news with you until the wee hours. Realize just what needs to happen to open up a new option. Allow others to make their propositions. Recognize that everything is possible if you work as a team. Tonight: Togetherness.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Defer to someone close who means a lot to you. You have the ability to get past an immediate problem with a lively and direct comment. You often do more for others than you realize through a strong insight conveyed with humor. Tonight: Go along with others' plans.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Even yourself out and take your time with those around you. Not everything has to happen yesterday. Use your gift for planning, and utilize a relaxed pace. Having a game plan earmarks success. Share this ability. Tonight: Head to the gym.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Your very playful nature emerges when dealing with those in your immediate circle. Your friendly ways help someone close open up. Talk to a child; listen to a loved one. Others appreciate your time and consideration. Tonight: So what if it is Monday?



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You might want to take charge of a situation that involves your personal life. Now is the time to handle it, not later. Others want to talk and share what is going on with them. Your instincts come out with others. Tonight: Happy at home.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Reach out to others. You can and will incorporate an unusual amount of information. As a result, you might head in a new direction. What you say and how you say it make a difference. In some way, you feel like a Telestar, transmitting so much information. Tonight: Go for togetherness.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Treat yourself well for a change. You often play miser with yourself — don't. Indulge and buy that object or decide to go for that special experience. You don't always need to be frugal. Focus on clearing out work in the interim! Tonight: Remember to treat yourself, too.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Examine the possibilities that surround a project or a special event. Your helpful personality mixed with your friendly way will make all the difference. Laugh and enjoy yourself, even if you are at work. Tonight: Flow with your innate spontaneity.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★ Take your time making a decision that involves a personal matter. Not everyone feels the same way about a situation as you do. Loosen up through some exercise or by having a talk with a trusted associate. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

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LOCAL



A new sign of 'graffiti'



Unclear of its meaning or intention, this sign recently appeared in the alley at Michigan Avenue and 20th Street.

Richard Tuttle/Special to the Daily Press

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Vigil planned for Sept. 11 anniversary

By Daily Press staff

A silent candlelight vigil is planned in downtown Santa Monica on Thursday to remember the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

The circles of hope healing memorial is scheduled for 6 p.m. at the Center Court of the 1300 block on the Third Street Promenade, located between Arizona Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard. All community members are invited to attend.

Spiritual and musical reflections will begin at 6 p.m. with a candlelight vigil following at 6:30 p.m.

The evening event is coordinated by the Santa Monica Bay Interfaith Council and the September 11 Families for Peaceful Tomorrows. The council is a multi-religious group that provides community services and interfaith outreach. The Peaceful Tomorrows group is an advocacy organization founded by family members of Sept. 11 victims who united to turn their grief into action for peace. The group's mission is to seek effective, nonviolent solutions to terrorism.

Farmers Market heroes to be honored

By Daily Press staff

Local heroes will be honored on Tuesday for their involvement in the July 16 Farmers Market accident in which an 86-year-old man drove his car through a crowded Arizona Avenue, killing 10 and injuring close to 80 people.

The Chamber of Commerce will hold a ceremony from 11:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., during its monthly luncheon. The chamber and the board of the Santa Monica Farmers Market Victims Assistance Fund will be honoring individuals and corporations who made a difference in the tragedy. The Santa Monica community came together to aid those in need, and more than \$130,000 has been raised for victims and their families. Tickets are \$25 pre-paid and \$30 with reservation (pay at the door). Call (310) 393-9825, ext. 10.



Red tide and a building SE to S swell from the tropics made the weekend surfing average, but with no crowds. Look for warmer water temps and decent waves to build this week.

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:

65°

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

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	1:32	-0.4	12:59	2.7	8:21	4.2	7:02	6.1
SUNDAY	2:16	-0.6	1:50	2.3	8:52	4.5	7:52	6.3
MONDAY	2:54	-0.7	2:33	1.9	9:21	4.7	8:36	6.3
TUESDAY	3:27	-0.6	3:12	1.6	9:48	4.9	9:15	6.2
WEDNESDAY	3:56	-0.3	3:49	1.3	12:13	5.0	9:51	6.0
THURSDAY	4:23	0.0	4:24	1.2	10:37	5.1	10:27	5.6
FRIDAY	4:48	0.5	5:01	1.1	11:01	5.2	11:02	5.1

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And now that the NFL season has officially begun, thousands of Los Angeles residents are spending their Sunday afternoons at neighborhood watering holes to watch their favorite teams. There has been discussion in the past about building a football stadium in LA and buying a team.

So this week, Q-Line wants to know, "Should LA have a football team? If so, where should the stadium be built and who should pay for it?"

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



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LETTERS

No short cuts on becoming a citizen

Editor:

Regarding Pro Se's opinion letter (SMDP, Sept. 5, page 4) requesting that "all legal immigrants in California need to demonstrate English language skills to gain citizenship," I agree. Like Pro Se's grandparents, my grandmother was born in Norway and she immigrated to America when she was 2 years old with my great grandparents and their other children. There was no question that she must learn English and not a word of Norwegian was spoken in our home except on holidays when she and my grandmother recited a Norwegian prayer of Thanksgiving. The memory of this is still fresh in my mind, but, quite frankly, none of the rest of our family knew what in the heck they were saying. I am not sure that my mother knew what she was saying and perhaps even my grandmother did not know either.

The point is that they did everything legal to become American citizens, as did my great grandfather who immigrated to America from Ireland. There was never any question in our minds that we were Americans and we spoke only English. We did not refer to ourselves as either Norwegian Americans, or Irish Americans, or even German Americans. We were just plain Americans, and we were proud of it, and still are. There was no special exception for people of Norwegian descent to the degree that you could pick the language of your choice when filling out forms, speaking to agencies on the telephone, or in any other way. There was only one acceptable language and that was English.

To carry this one step further, I do not believe that illegal immigrants should be granted driver's licenses until such time as they become citizens, speaking and reading English so they know the rules of the road, understand signs, etc. Our forefathers worked long and hard to build this country, and established themselves as American citizens with the pride and honor that was associated with that. No short cuts, please.

Julia Reeves
Santa Monica

Davis doesn't deserve the office

Editor:

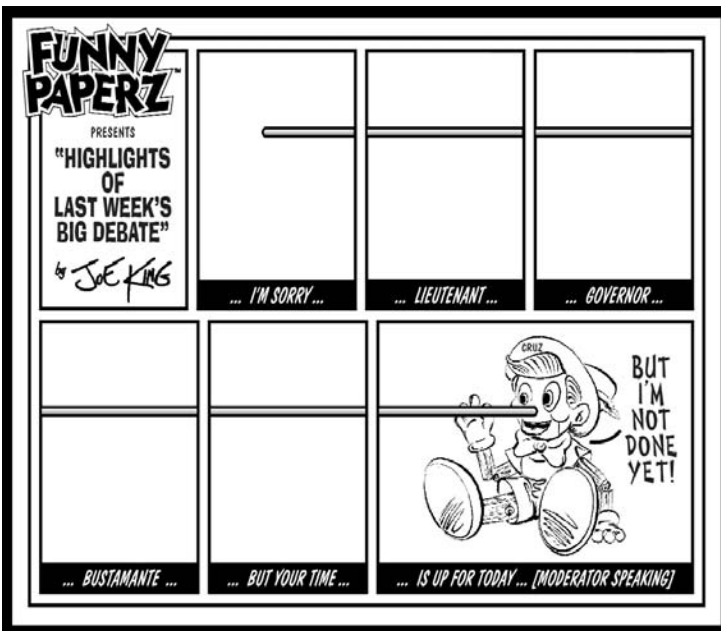
There's much ado about nothing on the absence of the moderate Republican front-runner, Arnold Schwarzenegger, from the first debate among candidates for the top slot in California.

By the time of the late-September debate, McClintock's and Ueberroth's insignificance in the race should be a fait accompli. The former's conservatism guarantees his non-electability in California; the latter's place in the sun will be confirmed sometime about 10 years prior. And with Friday's signature by Gray Davis of the bill allowing

illegal immigrants the right to obtain a California driver's license, the voters who were ready to vote "no" on the recall believing it to be an assault on the democratic process have an in-their-face reason to vote "yes." Thus, Davis' slap in the face to the 60 percent of California's population that did not support SB 60 should doom a Democratic win.

That leaves at month's end — after just-the-right seasoning from weeks on the campaign trail — the populist candidate, Schwarzenegger, to make a strong showing and win in October.

Maria Fotopoulos
West Los Angeles



Member: AAEC, NCS, SCSS

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Santa Monica landlords should drop their prices for the homeless



There were 16,000 vacancies registered with Westside Rentals this summer. I wonder how many vacancies are available in all of Los Angeles County as opposed to the amount of homeless who want to get off the streets.

Ever since our "appointed" leader in the White House took office, I have seen the number of homeless almost quadruple while the number of jobs and housing opportunities have shrunk. How can anyone be so blind as to not see that this country has for the past two decades been in a decline?

When I was growing up I remember Nixon taking us off the gold standard and the private sector replacing this monetary standard with various economic "bubbles" to replace gold for the amount of money being printed. In other words, the money all of us spend is only worth as much as these bubbles are.

Well, let's see ... the dot.com bubble has burst, the stock market is in havoc and the real estate bubble is deflating with all of these rental vacancies. And you can't convince me that this is not a bad sign for the "bubble." Common sense tells me otherwise. And now, as the economy continues to fail at producing jobs, how long will this bubble that makes the American dollar worth anything remain viable?

As far as the real estate market is concerned I have a really outrageous solution. Why not take some of these vacancies and fill them with the working homeless by kicking back the rents to rent control

prices? The homeless would be from the shelters, have jobs to pay the rent and have some time to get clean and sober.

This would serve a two-fold purpose. First, it would unlock the bottle neck of filled beds caused by the lifting of rent control and the raising of rental prices which makes it harder for people to get housing. Then, some of us who want off the streets would get beds faster and keep the cycle going. Secondly, anyone who is into this cash flow thinking would agree that if you have a building with vacancies that have stood empty for more than six months to a year, there is NO cash flow. So if you put in some low income prices and let these sheltered homeless pay you rent, you have some kind of cash flow, which is better than nothing. This might even be construed as a charitable act for tax purposes if enough people push our leaders for it to be so.

I would also set up a watchdog com-

mittee of both the housed and unhoused to have some say in the actions of these shelters and the owners they deal with so no hanky panky goes on. The committee would also ensure that the ones renting the apartments are on the up and up to protect both parties.

This solution also has a benefit for the community as a whole because there would be little need for further building and over-development would slow down in the residential areas of the city. And the population of homeless who want to exercise their rights to live on the streets would be far less than it is now.

This is just one of the solutions that could be worked out to help stem the tide of homelessness in Santa Monica.

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

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



LOCAL



Bustamante vows to spend campaign cash to fight Prop 54

RECALL, from page 1

transmission, the gears shift and you can't hear it, meaning he's done it smoothly and without a sudden jolt. He simply and quietly drops the 'no on recall' message," Pitney added.

The Oct. 7 ballot will contain two questions: Should the governor be recalled and who should replace him?

After the rally, Bustamante told reporters "the governor is focused on the first question and I've got to be focused on the second."

He said he did urge the crowd to vote no on the recall.

"You didn't hear it over the roar of the crowd, but at the end of the speech, I said, 'No on recall, Yes on Bustamante,' the Democratic lieutenant governor said.

It was one of the few times the "no on recall" part of the equation was mentioned during the rally that started with Assemblywoman Sarah Reyes, D-Fresno, bringing the crowd to its feet in welcoming Bustamante to the Central Valley as "our favorite son."

"The best person to represent us is Cruz Bustamante," Reyes said. "It is going to be Bustamante for governor."

Sen. Joe Dunn, D-Santa Ana, also warmed up the crowd before Bustamante's entrance.

"Guess who Orange County wants to be governor? Cruz Bustamante!" yelled Dunn, who is also a longtime client of

"He's just trading one loophole for another. In the end, he still owes his contributors just as much as he did before."

— JACK PITNEY

Government professor,
Claremont McKenna College

Richie Ross, Bustamante's campaign adviser.

Neither Dunn nor Reyes asked the crowd to vote no the recall.

Bustamante also announced he would transfer \$3.8 million received from Indian tribes and unions to a committee established to fight Proposition 54, the Oct. 7 ballot initiative that would restrict public agencies from collecting racial data.

The lieutenant governor has been criticized by Republicans and even the state Democratic Party chairman for accepting millions from Indian tribes. He skirted the \$21,200 individual contribution limit by accepting multimillion-dollar donations to his 2002 campaign committee for lieutenant governor.

Because that committee was created before California's new campaign finance law took effect, it is not subject to the contribution caps imposed on newer cam-

paign accounts. The money was then transferred into his recall committee account.

Bustamante said Sunday he would spend all money raised above the contribution cap to fight the passage of Proposition 54 by appearing in television ads, the first of which was filmed during his Fresno rally.

However, he said he would not stop accepting large contributions to his 2002 committee.

"We will do whatever the rules allow

us to do," Bustamante said.

Sen. Ross Johnson, a Republican from Irvine and supporter of Schwarzenegger, has filed a lawsuit asking a judge to forbid Bustamante from collecting donations that exceed the limit.

Bustamante said he hopes the Proposition 54 ads will spur more donations to his recall committee so he can afford to air his own campaign ads.

While Bustamante defended the money transfer as legal and logical, analysts and critics said it was nothing more than a shell game.

"He's just trading one loophole for another," Pitney said. "In the end, he still owes his contributors just as much as he did before."

State Democratic Party Chairman Art Torres, who had said the tribe's donation didn't "pass the smell test," called Bustamante's latest decision "a good move."

"Returning it wouldn't have had a purpose," Torres said, acknowledging that the Proposition 54 ads would also serve Bustamante's campaign.



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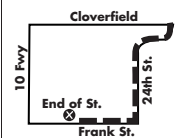
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STATE □ NATIONAL

Wildfire breaks out in San Bernardino Forest

From The Associated Press

HIGHLAND — Aided by relatively mild weather, hundreds of firefighters made slow but steady progress Sunday against a wildfire feeding on an area of dense brush and timber that hadn't burned in nearly 50 years.

Hundreds of evacuees remained out of their homes because of that and other wildfires in the West.

The fire in the San Bernardino National Forest about 60 miles east of Los Angeles was 30 percent contained Sunday after charring some 1,350 acres, said Georgia Smith, a fire information officer with the U.S. Forest Service.

Temperatures were only in the upper 50s before dawn Saturday, following highs in the 90s Saturday, while humidity rose to above 50 percent, fire information officer Marc Stamer said. He said firefighters were racing to try to get as much of a perimeter line around the fire as they could before hot, dry weather returned.

At one point, the fire had threatened as many as 1,500 homes, prompting the evacuation of the 400 closest to the flames. Many of the residents forced to leave likely wouldn't be allowed to return before Monday, Stamer said.

"We're mentally prepared for at least two days," said one evacuee, Woody Andrews of Running Springs. In all, about 1,000 people were displaced, Stamer said.

The fire started Friday about four miles from Highland, in an area where thousands

of trees had been killed by Western pine bark beetles, said Karen Terrill, fire information officer for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

"The last time this area burned was 1956, so this is a lot of very dead, very dry material that's burning now, in addition to the bug kill area," she said.

In Oregon, the town of Camp Sherman remained evacuated as two fires that had merged into an 89,000-acre complex burned nearby. Cooler weather and drizzling rain Sunday helped fire crews hold off the fire for the second day.

In north-central Washington state, residents of about 75 buildings in the Methow Valley were evacuated as a wildfire grew to about 15,000 acres in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests. Flames had gotten to within about two miles of buildings. It was not clear how many people were evacuated. The fire was only 5 percent contained, but it had started moving away from the roughly 250 structures that were threatened, said Greg Thayer, a U.S. Forest Service spokesman.

Firefighters in Montana faced strong wind and low humidity as they battled some 80 wildfires, most in the northwestern part of the state.

The largest fire had burned more than 52,500 acres as it moved north into Glacier National Park. Wildfires have blackened 2.9 million acres so far this year, compared to 6.4 million at the same time last year, according to the National Interagency Fire Center at Boise, Idaho.

Voters to decide on 10-cent tax on all espresso drinks

TAX, from page 1

of her iced coconut mocha.

On Sept. 16, Seattle voters will face a ballot question asking them to add a dime-a-cup tax to their espresso drinks. This "luxury" tax, as Initiative 77 calls it, would pay for preschool and day care programs.

Seattle has earned a reputation as the tree-hugging, whale-saving, WTO-protesting, tax-friendly bastion of liberalism in Washington state. But scratch a lefty espresso addict, and you get Rush Limbaugh.

"Here I am, forced to pay more for my basic necessity to fund irresponsibility," said Marker, warming to the topic. "I believe people have kids without considering it. I take issue with the greater issue of public funding for child care. Yes, it's needed, but it also feeds irresponsibility."

Initiative 77 would tax only espresso drinks, such as lattes and cappuccinos, not drip coffee — even proponents understand that caffeine is a basic food group here. But people who pay \$2 to \$5 for fancy espresso drinks can afford an extra dime for kids, argues initiative sponsor John Burbank, executive director of the non-profit Economic Opportunity Institute.

"The tax on espresso is progressive. Seattle is the coffee Mecca of the world," said Burbank, who drinks tall double mochas. What's more, he said, given the city's love for lattes, "It is completely recession-proof."

He expects the espresso tax to raise more than \$6.5 million a year. A City Council staff estimate puts the benefit at between \$1.8 million and \$3.5 million annually.

A coalition of business owners led by Seattle-based coffee behemoth Starbucks is fighting the tax.

"A single industry should not have to carry the burden," said Wanda Herndon, Starbucks' senior vice president for worldwide public affairs. She hastened to add that Starbucks contributes to children's groups and supports the idea of improving early childhood education. Just not with an espresso tax.

"Children are our future," said Herndon, whose drink of choice is a tall, decaf, non-fat latte. "We all need to contribute."

The Coffee Messiah faithful generally scorn Starbucks as a soulless corporate demon. But on this issue, they agree.

"It's nice to put a label on it and say it's for child care, but they should be taxing the people affected by it," said Opus, Coffee Messiah's owner and barista. Like Madonna or Cher, he goes by only one name.

Opus, whose current drink of choice is the classic, plain latte, said he fails to see the connection between Seattle's jones for espresso and the need for better child care.

Opponents also point out that espresso, like most things in this city, is already taxed. Espresso drinks are subject to the 8.8 percent sales tax (about 25 cents on a \$3 latte), and coffee shops and other businesses pay a .00215 percent "business and occupation" tax on their gross receipts.

So far, the campaigns have been low-key, grass roots and fairly evenly matched. Supporters of the espresso tax have raised about \$125,000, while opponents have raised about \$124,000.

NATIONAL



Audit finds workers misused government credit cards

BY EMILY GERSEMA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Forest Service workers used government credit cards to buy a DVD player, a billiard table and a \$2,900 aquarium, and even used one at a bingo casino, a congressional audit says.

In a sample of 230 purchases, the General Accounting Office said Friday it found Forest Service workers made \$1.6 million in improper purchases from Oct. 1, 2000, through Sept. 30, 2001. Based on that, the auditors estimate that overall improper charges at the agency reached \$2.7 million.

During the audit, 14,000 of 30,000 Forest Service workers held government credit cards.

"The Forest Service lacks certain basic internal controls over its purchase card program, and thus it is susceptible to waste, fraud and abuse," the auditors wrote.

The GAO deemed an additional \$1 million in purchases questionable and wasteful. Those 644 purchases included digital cameras, \$34,950 in hotel cancellation fees, costumes and a tent. Workers also made questionable purchases at businesses such as Have Party Will Travel and Mick's Scuba Inc.

The auditors said that although those seemed fraudulent and wasteful, the Forest Service didn't provide enough records for them to make any conclusions.

Also during the review, auditors found the Forest Service failed to keep an inventory of \$439,789 in purchases. Those items included equipment that workers use for monitoring forests — all-terrain vehicles, motorcycles, snowmobiles, night-vision goggles, video cameras and binoculars.

"Without proper recording and accounting for these vulnerable assets, there is an increased risk of misappropriation of these items," auditors wrote.

In some cases, workers who left the agency still had active cards, the audit said.

Over the past four years, the Forest Service has been under scrutiny for its spending. In 1999, the GAO designated the agency's financial management as a high-risk area because of poor accounting and financial problems. A 2001 audit by the Agriculture Department's inspector general said the Forest Service was failing to adequately monitor workers' credit card charges and check purchases.

In Friday's report, the GAO recommended the Forest Service improve its tracking of spending and keep an inventory. The agency also should make sure cards are canceled when workers suspect

The GAO deemed an additional \$1 million in purchases questionable and wasteful. Those 644 purchases included digital cameras, \$34,950 in hotel cancellation fees, costumes and a tent.

the cards are lost or stolen, and when workers leave the agency.

Heidi Valetkevich, a Forest Service spokeswoman, said the agency has been working to improve oversight since the investigations began.

The expense records GAO reviewed are 2 years old, Valetkevich said. "We think that we have better program controls now."

The agency has in place a system that alerts management when a worker makes an illegal or questionable purchase, and supervisors now review expenses and give monthly updates on spending to their managers, she said.

The GAO report was prompted by Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, and Rep. Jan Schakowsky, D-Ill., who wrote a letter to Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman.

Credit card abuse has been found in several departments. Last year, Grassley and Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., led an effort to include provisions in the Defense Department's budget to prevent such problems after GAO audits showed federal workers had used cards at brothels and sporting events and to buy jewelry.

The findings prompted the Bush administration in October to cancel thousands of credit cards at the Defense Department. Also, the Education Department blocked payments to thousands of businesses, and paychecks were docked to collect unpaid bills.

The Agriculture Department, which oversees the Forest Service, also was reviewed recently by the department's inspector general. Auditors told it to increase oversight of credit cards.

The department has tried to block payments on certain purchases. Nevertheless, the Agriculture inspector general's office still is finding instances where the cards were used to buy such items as liquor and cigarettes.



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WORLD BRIEFLY

Militiamen patrol holy city after killing

By The Associated Press

NAJAF, Iraq — Militiamen carrying assault rifles and wearing arm bands of a once-outlawed Islamic group patrolled in the holy city of Najaf over the weekend, a week after a key Shiite cleric was killed in a bombing followers blamed on the failure of U.S. security efforts.

In a major — if temporary — policy shift, the top U.S. civilian administrator in Iraq, L. Paul Bremer, said the armed Iraqis have the blessing of the American occupation force.

"The militias ... on the streets of Najaf ... were there with the full authority of the Coalition Provisional Authority and in full cooperation with the coalition forces. That is to say, they were licensed in accordance with our existing programs," Bremer said Saturday at a joint news conference in Baghdad with Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld.

When asked to name which militias had coalition approval, Bremer seemed to backtrack.

"They were not militias. They were members of various groups. There was no one militia," he said.

Russian drama wins best picture award

By The Associated Press

VENICE, Italy — An intense Russian father-and-son drama, "The Return," won the Venice Film Festival's Golden Lion for best picture Saturday, though

first-time director Andrey Zvyagintsev remained shaken by the death of the 15-year-old star of the movie.

Teenage actor Vladimir Girin drowned shortly after the end of shooting in the same lake where several of the picture's scenes were filmed.

"You see only two actors up on the stage tonight. Those who saw the film know there were three main actors," Zvyagintsev said at the awards ceremony, clearly moved by the occasion. "The fact is that the actor who played Andrey died tragically two months ago. We would like to dedicate this award to him."

Other winners included Sean Penn for best actor in Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's "21 Grams," about three people thrown together by an accident.

Best actress went to Katja Riemann for Margarethe von Trotta's "Rosenstrasse," which deals with a deportation of Jews in 1943 Berlin.

Aircraft carrier named after President Bush

By The Associated Press

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — Former President Bush wrote his initials in chalk on a metal plate Saturday to literally mark the first milestone in the construction of a \$4 billion aircraft carrier that will bear his name.

A welder then etched the initials into the plate with a torch during a ceremony at Northrop Grumman's Newport News shipyard, the nation's only builder of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers.

"I hereby declare the keel of this ... U.S. Navy air-

craft carrier true and fairly laid," Bush, a decorated World War II Navy pilot, told the 3,000 invited guests.

Bush started to write his initials, GHWB, on the plate, then wiped them off and rewrote them in larger script. He said he thought the letters in his first effort were too small for the welder.

"A lot of nice things happen to you when you become a former president. People are for you, you know what I mean?" Bush said. "The naming of this carrier has got to be exceptionally special."

President focuses his attention on education

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As developments in Iraq and the Middle East dominated President Bush's attention, he tried to change the focus to his domestic agenda Saturday, saying the education law he championed is raising the bar for student achievement.

"The law sets a clear goal for American education: Every child, in every school, must perform at grade level in reading and math, which are the keys to all learning," Bush said in his weekly radio address.

Bush was working at Camp David on a draft of his Sunday evening speech from the White House to update Americans on the situation in Iraq and the fight against terrorism.

The school initiative, a centerpiece of Bush's domestic agenda, seeks to improve achievement, particularly among poor students, through expanded testing, tougher quality requirements for teachers, yearly monitoring of student progress and sanctions for schools that fail to improve.

Critics have attacked it, largely because schools contend it demands too much without providing the money necessary to do it.

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Pitt of "Fight Club"
 - 5 Pointy learning
 - 10 Folk gadgets
 - 13 On the ocean
 - 14 Domestic study, for short
 - 15 Lashes
 - 17 Baton Rouge sch.
 - 18 Atlantic fish
 - 19 Cry loudly
 - 20 Golfer Ernie
 - 21 Sorvino of "Mimic"
 - 22 Enormous
 - 25 Air outlets
 - 26 Remainder
 - 27 Repair workers
 - 29 Hotel room feature
 - 33 Lamb's mom
 - 34 Green shade
 - 35 This evening, in ads
 - 37 Served perfectly

- DOWN**
- 38 World Cup activity
 - 39 Easy gait
 - 40 Title papers
 - 41 Division word

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Saturday's answer

- DOWN**
- 1 Spills the beans
 - 2 TV's O'Donnell
 - 3 Place of action
 - 4 Loafer
 - 5 Ski with speed
 - 6 Court pastime
 - 7 Sleeve filler
 - 8 Catches
 - 9 Ready mail for a lower rate
 - 12 Enjoys the reef
 - 16 Pretzel additive
 - 21 City of Baja California
 - 22 Waves to, perhaps
 - 23 Tall tree
 - 24 Perfume
 - 25 Asti export
 - 27 Change for sawbucks
 - 29 Beat at chess
 - 30 Rumaki wrapper
 - 31 Skilled
 - 32 Western contest
 - 36 Drink cooler

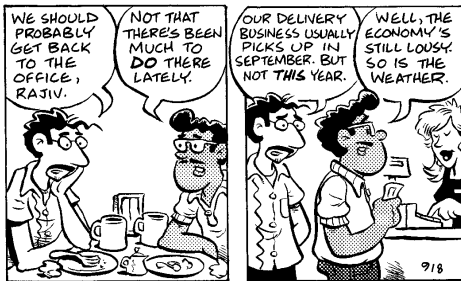
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Tony Blair is booed and heckled by crowd at Royal Pavilion

By The Associated Press

BRAEMAR, Scotland — Police arrested a man who shouted obscenities as he approached an area where Prime Minister Tony Blair and his wife, Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip were watching a Scottish Highland games event.

Police Superintendent Peter Clark said the 35-year-old man was moving at a jogging or fast-walking pace as he approached the Royal Pavilion at the track and field games Saturday, and was stopped by two officers. Clark could not say to whom the obscenities were directed.

The man was not immediately charged and was expected to appear in court Monday.

The royals, who spend their summer vacation at Balmoral Castle six miles away, received loud applause when they arrived at the annual Braemar Gathering — although a section of the crowd booed Blair.

"I was in the arena at the time and I heard the booing. It was such bad manners," said Willie Meston, secretary of the Braemar Gathering.

NEW YORK — Jenna Elfman, star of TV sitcom "Dharma and Greg," joins the cast of the Tony-winning Broadway revival of "Nine" on Oct. 7.

Elfman replaces Jane Krakowski in the role of Carla, the insecure actress in love with womanizing Italian film director Guido Contini. Both Krakowski and Antonio Banderas, who stars as Contini, depart the musical on Oct. 5. John Stamos will take over Banderas' role.

Mary Stuart Masterson, who plays Contini's long-suffering wife in the show, has extended her contract in "Nine" through early January.

The musical is based on Federico Fellini's 1963 film "8 1/2."

Elfman appeared as the free-spirited Dharma married to uptight lawyer Greg (Thomas Gibson) on the ABC comedy series from 1997 until it was canceled in 2002.

DELLWOOD, Minn. — Former Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura and his family have moved into a \$1.9 million lake-side estate in one of Minnesota's wealthiest communities.

Real estate agent Karla Blomberg said the Venturas bought a 10-year-old house on the shore of White Bear Lake featuring five bedrooms, eight bathrooms, an exercise room, hot tub, home theater and six-car garage.

"They're very pleased with how they have fit into the area," said Blomberg, who helped the family with their search and disclosed the sale price. "People have treated them well and have been kind, without bothering them."

According to the real estate listing, the Venturas' new home has 8,212 finished square feet and about 1,000 feet of shoreline.

Dellwood is about 20 miles northeast of Minneapolis.

GRETN, La. — The brother of rap mogul Master P faces trial Monday in the shooting death of a 16-year-old nightclub patron.

Corey Miller, 30 — a rapper who goes by the name C-Murder — was indicted in March in the slaying of Steve Thomas, who was killed after an argument at the Platinum Club on Jan. 12.

Authorities said Miller, the younger brother of rapper Percy Miller, was out on bail on an attempted murder charge in a separate case when he allegedly shot Thomas in the chest.

Corey Miller denied involvement in the shooting. His lawyer, Ronald Rakosky, said the Louisiana

Supreme Court was scheduled to hear arguments Monday in a related case in which the rapper is accused of bribing two Jefferson Parish sheriff's deputies to smuggle a cell phone into jail for him.

Prosecutors said Miller allegedly used the phone to call friends and instruct them to harm or influence witnesses. The defense has said there is no evidence Miller even used the phone.

NEW YORK — Former First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy told a priest she was contemplating suicide after her husband was assassinated, according to a new book about the Kennedy family.

According to "The Kennedys: America's Emerald Kings" by Thomas Maier, the first lady also told the Rev. Richard McSorley "I don't know how God could take him away," and expressed guilt that she had not been able to shield President Kennedy from the assassination in 1963.

The book says Kennedy asked McSorley to pray that she would die.

"McSorley looked Jackie in the eyes. He felt compelled to dissuade her from thoughts of suicide, but he would not try to stop her from wishing for death itself," Maier writes.

The book is being excerpted in the October issue of Redbook magazine. It will be released by publisher Basic Books next month.

Maier interviewed McSorley in 2000 and received permission to review McSorley's private journals in which he recorded his talks with the first lady.

McSorley, a Jesuit who taught at Georgetown University, died last year. He provided counseling to Jacqueline Kennedy while giving her tennis lessons arranged by Robert Kennedy in 1964.

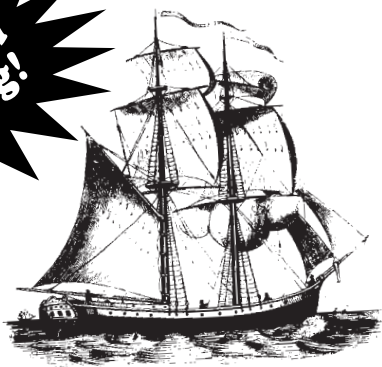
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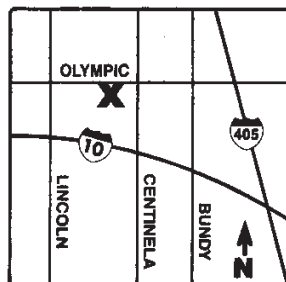
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