

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

10, 25, 28, 29, 30

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 9, 4, 2

Evening picks: 4, 7, 9

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 12, Lucky Charms

2nd Place: 3, Hot Shot

3rd Place: 2, Lucky Star

Race Time: 1:40.87



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

In August, St. Louis, Mo., school board member Rochell Moore sent Mayor Francis Slay an open letter, criticizing his school-closing management reforms and advising him that because of his obstinacy, she had placed a curse on him. According to a report in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Moore's curse was modeled after Deuteronomy 28:21, in which Moses told the Israelites what would happen if they strayed from God, e.g., "The Lord shall make the pestilence cleave unto Francis Slay ..." (When a former city comptroller later told reporters he thought Moore had "mental problems," Moore allegedly threatened to kill him.)



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If life were fair, Elvis would be alive and all the impersonators would be dead."

— Johnny Carson



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John Wood/Daily Press

Alex Livenson launches his skateboard over a cardboard box after school on Monday. Livenson, a sophomore at Santa Monica High School, was joined by friends and fellow skaters Brandon Read, Nicholas Escasany and Michael Barshak.

Homeless find comfort in year-round shelters

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Year-round emergency shelters are a hit with the homeless.

An experiment to keep the city-funded shelters open throughout the year instead of winter-only operations exceeded expectations. All seven shelters have been full and dozens of people are being turned away each night.

The emergency shelters for use in cold and wet weather in the past were usually open Dec. 1 through March 15. But with \$4.5 million from the city of Los Angeles, some shelters in the program were extended for the first time through summer and fall.

Officials are working to secure money to make the project per-

manent and expand it to other areas of Los Angeles County.

Brenda S. Wilson, executive director of the New Image Shelter on South Broadway said capacity is 365 people but they have been housing an average 430 a night.

The response to the summer program suggests that the majority of the homeless would choose to get off the streets if enough shelters were available, said Mitchell Netburn, executive director of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, the city-county agency that administers the program.

"This summer program is a real breakthrough," he said. "It's a dream a lot of people have had for a long time, but there's been no political will until now."

Suspect arrested in last week's homicide

District Attorney and police will review evidence today

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Santa Monica Police have arrested a Santa Monica man for allegedly killing a 19-year-old last week in an eastside neighborhood.

Arthur Archuleta, 21, who is on parole for an unknown drug conviction, was arrested at his Michigan Avenue home on Friday.

He's accused of fatally shooting Jalonnie Carter last Tuesday in the alley east of 20th Street, between Michigan and Delaware avenues.

Archuleta, who is being held in Santa Monica Jail for murder and a parole violation, hasn't appeared in court. No charges have been filed against him.

"We will be meeting with the

"He's being accused of a horrible crime and I know he didn't do it — I know for a fact."

— TERRY ARCHULETTA
Mother of suspect

DA's office today to determine what charges will be filed," said SMPD Lt. Frank Fabrega on Monday. Police are looking for additional suspects in the homicide, which was the first in Santa Monica this year.

The circumstances surrounding the shooting are unclear, but many area residents wonder if it was gang related. The area, known as the Pico neighborhood, is a hotbed for gang activity, mostly between

See HOMICIDE, page 5

\$24 million to flow out of City Hall tonight

'Zero consumption urinals,' new buses and traffic light system included in pricetag

(Editor's note: This is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures which appear on the upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agenda. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the City Council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past).

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

More than \$24 million in local government spending tonight will fund new BMW motorcycles for the cops, new natural gas buses and a host of other amenities designed to improve life for Santa Monicans.

The biggest expenditure the Santa Monica City Council is

The biggest expenditure the Santa Monica City Council is expected to approve is \$22 million for 52 natural gas buses, at \$400,000 a piece.

expected to approve is \$22 million for 52 natural gas buses, at \$400,000 a piece. Last year, 22 buses were scheduled to be replaced and 30 more will have exceeded their useful life this year, according to city staff.

The Federal Transit Administration set the useful life of buses at 12 years. City staff said buses older than 12 years are more costly to maintain, especially in Santa Monica because salt from the ocean air causes corrosion. The bid also includes an option to buy

See PLANS, page 6

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Christina S. Porter
Senior Associate



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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, September 9, 2003:

Around your birthday, take stock of your goals and what you want. Examine your direction with the knowledge that this is a "super" year, where you can make what you want happen. Sometimes others challenge you. You can count on the fact that you will hold your own. You seem to have that special touch to create exactly what you want. Your finances will increase, especially next summer. If you want a promotion, that will also become a possibility this year. If you are single, you will meet someone quite special who inspires you to give up your status. If you're attached, your relationship will develop to another level. Remain as sensitive to your mate as possible. Don't become too dominant of a force. PISCES plays devil's advocate.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Slow down and take your time, especially with a decision involving a risk. If an option seems too good to be true, it just might be. You might want to take a stand. Think carefully before launching into action. Tonight: Do something ultimately relaxing.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ A meeting could make an enormous difference in your choices. Reveal only what you think is necessary, especially in the face of an aggressive associate. Extremes force you to juggle a bit more than you anticipated. Tonight: Follow your friends.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Take charge of what is happening on the professional front. A boss might lose it when you least expect it. Recognize that where your influence stops might define success or failure. Someone might offer you an opportunity on a silver platter. Tonight: Work as late as necessary.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Reach out for someone at a distance. A strong stand from an associate or dear friend could make all the difference in what happens. You need to understand all the options involved in a decision. Find experts if need be. Tonight: Watch a movie.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Use your instincts with a partnership that needs to move forward. Financially, others need to declare what they want. Pay attention to a decision that involves you. Make sure you don't commit to something that doesn't feel comfortable. Tonight: Be a duo.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Review an issue that's close to home. How you deal with someone close could change substantially. This person often is unpredictable and volatile. You might wonder if you ever really knew him or her. Truth be told, much more is happening here than the obvious. Tonight: Say "yes."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Cut back if your work is taking a toll on you. Understanding your limits could be instrumental to your well-being. You see things that many don't. Be sensitive to someone you really care about. Discussions are animated. Tonight: Go for a stress-buster.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Plug your creativity into your work, and you'll gain on a major level. Others need an extra push. Start up a brainstorming session. Toss ideas around freely without worrying about someone else's judgment. Tonight: Make time for a family member.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Domestic and familial issues come first in your dealings. Somehow, you read between the lines with others. If you're willing to reveal your feelings in a diplomatic manner, so will others, even at work. Tonight: Remember, you're setting an example.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Take a risk and move past a problem. You have the strength and respect to resolve a prime issue. Return calls and sleuth through another's most indirect request. Ask questions more frequently. Tonight: Catch up on a friend's news.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Take a hard look at your finances, knowing what needs to be done. Know when you need to say "enough." Some self-discipline could go a long way in making what you want happen. Take a hard look at your budget. Tonight: Pay bills.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ You can pull rabbits out of black hats. Others want some of your magic. Use your power right now to get past a limitation or problem. You might also want to patch up a problem involving someone close to you. Tonight: Keep on smiling.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Published Monday through Saturday

Phone: 310.458.PRESS(7737) • Fax: 310.576.9913

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LOCAL

Child beggars are the hardest hit during war

Commentary



BY KELLY HAYES-RAITT
Special to the Daily Press

Baghdad — The one I wanted to wrap in my arms and bring home was Nebras.

I didn't even know her name when I went to Iraq in July. I was armed only with a photo of a beggar touching her nose with her tongue.

I had met Nebras in February when I traveled to Baghdad just five weeks before the U.S. bombed and invaded the country. Unfazed by impending disaster, Nebras begged for handouts in a popular market. We teased — clearly she wasn't used to an adult making faces at her and delighting in her company. She followed me around the souk nearly swallowing her tongue in laughter as she imitated my nose-touching stunt.

She was cold. The dirty scarf wrapped loosely around her neck neither protected her from the chill nor hid her calculating ability to work the shoppers.

Without a translator, the most I gathered from her was a photo of a gleeful girl with laughing eyes.

In July, translators were reluctant to take me to the souk where I first met Nebras. The mood was shifting in Baghdad — gunfire was heard nightly and no one wanted to be responsible for my harm. The day before I was supposed to leave, I finally convinced a friendly driver to take me "shopping." I canvassed the cluttered shops, flashing Nebras' photo.

I was heartened by the positive responses I received. "Yes, that's Nebras," shopkeepers agreed. After more than an hour, one said, "but I haven't seen her in a while." "Not since before the war," said another.

My breath stopped. I had been lucky in my return trip to Iraq — although I could not find everyone I had befriended in February, I hadn't "lost" anyone, either. I had just learned Nebras' name. Could she be one of the 8,000 Iraqis who died?

During our morning in the souk, incessant gunfire across the river rattled us. As rumors spread, I felt increasingly uneasy



Kelly Hayes-Raitt/Special to the Daily Press

Above: Nebras, a beggar in a Baghdad market, shares ice cream with Kelly Hayes-Raitt.

Right: Nebras learned to touch her nose with her tongue from Kelly Hayes-Raitt.



in the crowded narrow alleys. We decided to leave.

I turned toward a commotion behind me to see several men moving in my direction. This did not look good. As they parted, I saw the terrified eyes of a sweet, familiar elfish girl wondering why she was being dragged by the scruff of her T-shirt.

Nebras didn't recognize me at first. Not until I showed her photos of herself did she smile. Backed against a shop facing crowds of curious men, Nebras stood shyly studying her photo intently. I shooed away the men who had treated this beggar only as a nuisance. I asked the interpreter to tell her I had come from America to see her.

Without warning, the overwhelmed girl lunged forward and kissed me on the lips.

We bought ice cream from a passing vendor. She opened it and held it out to me. My defenses melted.

After two weeks of rigorous attention to all food and water that passed my lips, I licked the sweet streetfare, sacrificing my intestines to this little girl's pleasure at hosting an American with all that she could offer.

She's an only child who couldn't tell me her age. It was particularly ironic that we met outside the Al Mustanserria

See BACK TO BAGHDAD, page 5

BACK FROM
BAGHDAD

surf report

The water is getting warmer but the surf is dropping off. Expect waist-high sets at the best spots from a combination of rising NW wind swell, leftover tropical S and a new S.

OUTLOOK: Pretty slow this week with some possibilities for the weekend. Mostly wind swell for now.

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

Today the water is:

69°

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

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	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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The QLine

Without a team to call their own, many LA residents are football orphans.

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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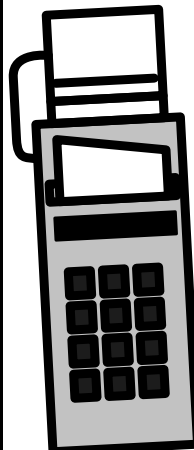
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OPINION

LETTERS

What's with the Hummers on Wilshire?

Editor:

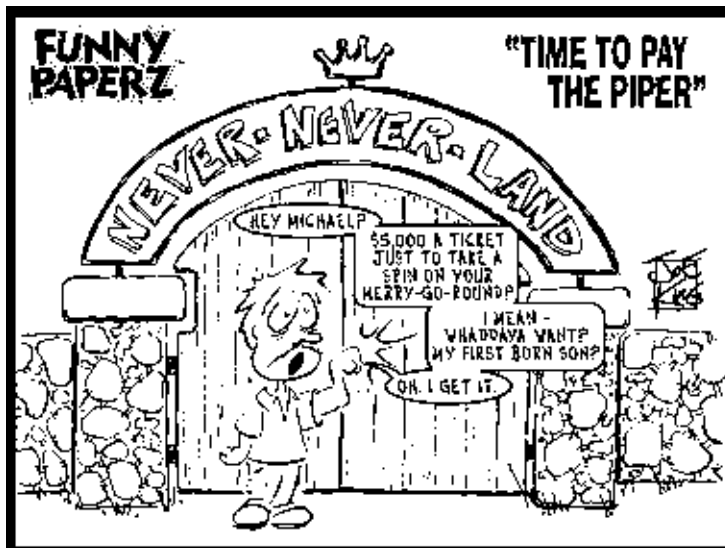
Are Hummers illegal on Wilshire Boulevard? Will we ever see enforcement?

This summer, Santa Monica placed signs on Wilshire banning trucks weighing three tons or more. The Hummer H2 armored personnel carrier, I mean SUV, sports a curb weight (empty of cargo, people and gasoline) of more than three tons. When you consider the gross vehicle weight rating (loaded), several other vehicles also top 6,000 pounds, including the Ford Excursion and Expedition, Cadillac Escalade, Chevrolet Suburban and Tahoe, and Toyota Land Cruiser.

What's the purpose of the city's ban on trucks on Wilshire anyway? Is it that these vehicles impede traffic because of their girth? Is it because their weight busts the asphalt? Should there be a city "pavement tax" on excessive vehicles?

Mark Shepherd

Santa Monica



Member: AEG # , NCS # , SCS #

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THINK
twiceCalifornians must decide the state's future
by making an informed decision in recall

Evelyn Jerome

■ The other day I found myself in a room with about 40 gubernatorial candidates. It wasn't a private event but you probably didn't hear about it on the news. The media, when they acknowledge them at all, calls these folks "fringe candidates," all one hundred and thirty-something of them.

They are mostly men, mostly white and one wore an Uncle Sam getup. Some took themselves seriously as candidates — one said on a San Diego radio talk show that he "is confident that he will be elected Governor on October 7th." I'd never heard of him until right then.

They went around the table and discussed a variety of issues ("For thirty-

five hundred bucks," one candidate said, "I'm going to have my say!") A wide range of ideologies was represented — some candidates oppose the recall of Gov. Gray Davis, though most support it. One candidate asked the not-so-rhetorical question of whether receiving \$10 million in "special-interest money" from California Indian tribes makes one more qualified than the others to serve as governor, an unsavory dig at Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante.

One candidate referred to himself as the first openly-gay candidate to run for governor, though there were at least two gay candidates in the room. One candidate saw himself as the "smokers' rights" candidate. Davis' signing the bill allowing illegal immigrants to obtain driver's licenses came up frequently.

The one thing these folks had in com-

mon, however far-fetched their candidates may be, is their desire to see real issues discussed in this campaign. They are frustrated that the issues will be drowned out by the traditional politicians' glossy, but solution-free, campaigns.

This roomful of normal people — lawyers, doctors, teachers, little league coaches, businesspeople — all believe that our state government is broken, and that it's up to you, Joe and Jane Californian, to fix it. In a way, these candidates better represent the average California voter, and average California citizen, than the "top tier" candidates, whose faces will soon be splashed across our televisions to the extent that we will dread the opening of the fall TV season.

I didn't ask how many of these one hundred thirty-something normal people

voted in last November's election. If more people had participated in the last election, if more California voters had some feeling of ownership of our state government, we may not have found ourselves 28 days away from our first-ever gubernatorial recall election.

You may not like how we got here, but we're here. There are several ways to look at this election — you can make a "statement" with your vote, or you can think about California's future.

(Evelyn Jerome is the founder and principal of Strategic Communications, a communications consulting firm. She is a past president of the Los Angeles County Young Democrats and a Santa Monica homeowner. To respond or to reach her, e-mail evelyn_thinktwice@yahoo.com.)



Todd Flora

■ I have a lot of respect for Bob Stern, president of the local Center for Governmental Studies and a recognized authority on political reform.

Several weeks ago, as the recall election was building steam, Stern wrote an opinion piece in the L.A. Times optimistic about a campaign filled with a noticeably higher level of "free media" for candidates. This new trend, Stern argued, would be a welcome change from the money-driven campaigns of the past, where local news outlets have all but ignored political campaign coverage. A bounty of print and TV news coverage would mean that the informed voter

rather than special interests would determine the recall outcome.

Well, sorry Bob. It looks like several top candidates have fallen into all too familiar habits, including stretching the law, double standards and running the kinds of campaigns they earlier swore off. Will the media fall into their old habits as well?

Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamante has not only taken exorbitant sums from Native American tribes to support their gambling interests, but also is using a sketchy loophole in the all too flawed Proposition 34 campaign finance law to do it. A murky provision allows preexisting candidate accounts to continue accepting donations outside the new contribution limits. Legal? Maybe. Right? No. And no authority will rule on it until after the

election. Go figure.

State law also allows Governor Gray Davis, as the subject of the recall, to raise what he needs to defend himself. But this is like giving a drug addict the keys to the evidence room.

And of course, there's Arnold. Here's a guy who took plenty of special interest money to help pass his education initiative (and statewide "warm up"), Proposition 49, in 2002. This time, Arnold originally said he wouldn't take special interest donations and implied he would self fund the campaign. Now? He's taking plenty of corporate dollars, but apparently in Republican land, those aren't "special interests." They're just golfing buddies.

The TV ad blitz is coming. I hope the media will continue to grant generous

coverage to the substance of the campaign once this onslaught begins. This costly recall is wrong and a distortion of the democracy it was intended to protect. But the ship has sailed, leaving our best hope to the public at large. Voters must continue to demand the high level of news coverage we've enjoyed over the last several weeks. Without your call to do so, the media may slip off the wagon, and money will once again rule elections.

(Todd Flora is the former state director of the California Clean Money Campaign and the former western regional director of the Concord Coalition, a fiscal watchdog organization. To respond or to reach Todd, e-mail him at junkfood6@aol.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.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

Send your letters to Santa Monica Daily Press Attn. Editor:

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LOCAL

Funeral for Jalonnice Carter to be held Friday

HOMICIDE, from page 1

Latinos and blacks. Five separate shootings took place in the neighborhood between May and June, although no one was injured.

Archuleta went to Olympic High School with Carter, who was fatally shot in the back by a .22-caliber bullet that struck his heart. He died more than an hour later at a local hospital.

Family members on Monday said Archuleta is innocent.

"I'm so sick over this I can't think straight," said his mother, Terry Archuleta. "He's being accused of a horrible crime and I know he didn't do it — I know for a fact."

Terry Archuleta wouldn't say how she knows that her son is innocent but did offer a message to Carter's family.

"To the mother, I feel very much for her loss, for the loss of her son," she said. "I truly hope they find whoever did this to their son, to the young man. My heart and prayers go out to them. It's not fair, it's not right for anyone to take another life and I have been praying for them."

Shirley Joseph, Carter's mother, said she doesn't know Archuleta. She, and Carter's stepfather Larry Joseph, said they are relieved by the arrest and hope that police found the right suspect.

"At least we know he's not going to do it to someone else," said Larry Joseph.

Arthur Archuleta was raised and lives with his family in a small house at the end of an alley on Michigan Avenue that abuts Interstate 10, just two blocks from where the shooting took place and three blocks away from Carter's home on 20th Street.

Family members describe Arthur Archuleta as an athletic man who worked and went to school, but they wouldn't say where.

One neighbor and former gang member who moved to Santa Monica from Watts more than 25 years ago, said Carter, who was black, and Arthur Archuleta, a Latino, used to hang out together as friends.

The resident, who asked not to be identified for fear of being drawn into the conflict, said young men in the Pico neighborhood have to try especially hard to keep themselves out of trouble.

"There's been a race war going on here

for years," the resident said. Asked if Arthur Archuleta was involved in gangs, the neighbor said, "I'm not going to lie. I'm not saying he was an angel. But he was a good kid. It's hard ... I just wish the violence would stop."

The resident didn't know if Carter had been involved in gangs either.

Several Pico neighborhood parents said something needs to be done about the gang problem that has plagued the area for decades. They accused police of making the situation worse by treating a majority of residents there as criminals.

Chris Bogle, a Santa Monica High School sophomore who lives in the Pico neighborhood, said the gang problem doesn't seem to be getting better or worse since the shootings earlier this summer. Though he has never been involved in the violence himself, Bogle said he and almost every one else has either been caught in the middle or knows

someone who has. While officials decide what charges, if any, to press against Arthur Archuleta, Carter's family have made arrangements for his funeral, which will be held on Friday. The funeral will be held at 1 p.m. at the Church of Christ, located at 15th Street and Michigan Avenue. Carter's body will be buried at the adjacent Woodlawn Cemetery.

In the meantime, those that knew Carter expressed dismay over the situation. They said he was not affiliated with gangs but targeted because of his appearance. Both Carter and his best friend, Paul Thompson, had been shot before.

Many minority young adults who live in the neighborhood are often pegged as gang members based on their race, residents say.

Thompson is now even more fearful as a result of his friend's murder, his mother, Sandra Thompson said, adding she doesn't understand why it happened.

"Why would somebody pick on this kid?" she said. "He had the sweetest manners, you wouldn't believe."

"I'm so appalled," she added. "I just want to know why. Why Jalonnice? This kid has never been arrested, never been to jail. Just sweet as the day is long."

"I know kind of what (Shirley Joseph) feels, but not exactly. God forbid I ever do."



Jalonnice Carter

Remnants of war a reminder

BACK TO BAGHDAD, from page 3

University, the world's oldest science school built in 1233. This schoolless girl's only education is learned navigating the streets adjacent to this university.

U.S. helicopters overhead, and rumors that the Americans had closed bridges and jammed traffic made us all jittery. Nebras escorted me out of the souk, grabbing my hand and expertly keeping my skirt from being snagged by the ubiquitous wartime razor wire. I emptied my purse of dinars. She bought another ice cream to share with me.

As we passed a store being repainted, she mentioned it had been hit during the war. She had spent the war in a nearby

mosque.

I hugged her harder than I intended. I felt her wiry hair against my lips, her grungy T-shirt against my shoulder, her warm, open heart so willing to accept mine.

I left feeling guilty. Last time, I'd taught her how to touch her tongue to her nose. This time, the only thing I could do was accept her ice cream.

(Kelly Hayes-Raitt visited Iraq in February and July. She is president of Coast-to-Coast Community Campaigns, specializing in public relations campaigns. She has been speaking throughout California about the Iraqis she met. To schedule a presentation, please call (310) 581-4421 or e-mail C2CCampaigns@aol.com.)

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LOCAL

Low flush toilets part of the \$30K plan for city

PLANS, from page 1

20 more buses next year.

The Santa Monica Police Department has eight BMW motorcycles that were bought in 2000 and have reached their 60,000-mile buy-back limit. They will be returned to A & S BMW Motorcycles and replaced with eight 2004 models for \$159,329. City Hall could be refunded as much as \$9,258 per motorcycle, depending on their condition when they are returned. Similarly, the new models will qualify for a guaranteed buy-back of up to \$9,433 after three years, or 60,000 miles, whichever comes first.

Dial-a-Ride service = \$1.7M

Another multi-million expenditure expected to be approved tonight is for the city's Dial-a-Ride service, which offers rides anywhere in the city for 50 cents to Santa Monica residents who are at least 60 years old, or have a disability.

The City Council is being asked to approve \$1.7 million to pay for a three-year contract with Transportation Concepts to provide the service. The transit service picks up residents at their door and takes them where ever they want to go in Santa Monica. On designated days, trips are offered to medical facilities outside of Santa Monica. Evening service and monthly shopping excursions also are offered. City Hall currently contracts with the company, but the agreement ends on Sept. 30.

Traffic light system = \$286K

Another \$286,000 may be spent on a new traffic signal system that will auto-

Known in City Hall as the "Medical Facility Water Efficiency Retrofit Program," it provides the city's top water consuming medical facilities with a turnkey program. The city has a goal to reduce its daily water use by 20 percent by 2010, which is a 2.6 million gallon a day reduction.

matically synchronize 48 lights throughout Santa Monica.

The system, which would be installed for the lights bounded by Wilshire Boulevard, Ocean Avenue, and Pico and Lincoln boulevards, is designed to manage traffic automatically instead of manually, as it's done now.

Traffic signals are currently coordinated by time, but the clock in each controller operates independently and has to be set manually at each location, city staff said.

The city's transportation engineer will be able to use information gathered by the system to monitor traffic and signals to optimize timing plans for a variety of patterns that occur on weekends and holidays without city employees having to do it.

City Hall plans to eventually put all 150 traffic lights in Santa Monica on the system. The cost of the expansion will be about \$1,100 per intersection, city staff said. The initial purchase comes with a one-year warranty that includes the set-up, training, hardware and software support. After the warranty expires, a yearly maintenance contract is estimated to cost \$8,000 a year.

The company expected to be hired, Econolite Control Products, set up the system in Salt Lake City before the Winter Olympics, as well as in all cities in Arizona.

Big Blue Bus service analysis = \$144K

Along with the new buses, a service improvement program that will cost Santa Monica taxpayers \$143,973 is expected to be approved.

The City Council is asked to execute a contract with Perteet Engineering, Inc. to prepare an analysis of the Big Blue Bus' services. It includes passenger counts at every stop for every trip on every route, as well as the number of passengers who ride each segment of each route, a transfer count by route and whether the drivers are maintaining their schedules.

Passengers will be surveyed with a questionnaire to determine the type of fare they paid, where they got on the bus and where they got off, as well as their feelings on how the service could be improved. The analysis is expected to be completed in April.

The analysis is done every three years to

obtain data which is required for a short range development plan and allows the Big Blue Bus to get federal and state funding.

Water savings plan = \$30K

Finally, the City Council is expected to spend \$30,000 on a contractor that will be hired to help medical facilities in Santa Monica reduce their water consumption.

Known in City Hall as the "Medical Facility Water Efficiency Retrofit Program," it provides the city's top water consuming medical facilities with a turnkey program.

The city has a goal to reduce its daily water use by 20 percent by 2010, which is a 2.6 million gallon a day reduction.

There are two hospitals, 19 board and care facilities, and 60 medical office buildings in Santa Monica. Those institutions consume more than 20 percent of the city's commercial water demand, city staff said. The goal is to get one hospital, 12 board and care facilities, and 10 medical office buildings on the program.

City staff estimate that 512,472,000 gallons will be saved as a result of the program, which is 20.5 million gallons a year, or 56,160 gallons a day.

The contractor will be responsible for giving the facilities a water audit, a list of recommendations, as well as installing water efficient products and training employees on how to use them. The products include flow control valves for faucets, "ultra-low flush toilets," "zero-water consumption urinals" and water recycling systems.



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CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

Cockroach bomb blows up apartment

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — An explosion blew out windows and splintered kitchen cabinets after three bug bomb canisters activated to rid an apartment of cockroaches were ignited by a stove pilot light.

Investigators said the family used too many insect foggers.

There were no injuries, but the explosion Sunday morning took apart kitchen cabinets and blew out windows in the two-story apartment building, Fire Department spokesman Brian Humphrey said.

Despite warnings on the package, the family activated the three foggers without turning off the pilot light on their stove, Humphrey said.

Family members left the apartment and returned after about an hour. When they opened the door, the rush of air caused the explosion.

Wealthy surfers want the love to be spread around

By The Associated Press

LAGUNA BEACH — Wealthy surfers formed the Surfing Heritage Foundation with dreams of an Orange County shrine dedicated to their sport, but plans for the museum are troubling for operators of three existing facilities.

The foundation already boasts a \$1 million endowment, the donation of a world-class surfboard collection and a board of directors that can attract many more gifts.

Foundation members include Steve Pezman, the longtime Surfer magazine editor who now publishes the Surfer's Journal, surfboard collector Spencer Croul, former Hobie sunglasses owner Bill Blackburn and surfing legend Hobie Alter's former business partner, Dick Metz.

The museum plans were detailed during a recent Laguna Beach art gallery coming out party of sorts. It may be constructed in Irvine in the Great Park on the former El Toro Marine base.

There are fears, however, that those surf culture heavyweights could hurt the fund-raising efforts of the other museums at Santa Cruz, Oceanside and Huntington Beach.

Tom Glenn of the California Surf Museum in Oceanside called the new group "elitists" because some of the supporters became wealthy riding surfing's wave of popularity with clothing and retail businesses but "rarely do anything for the small museums like us."

"If they want to come down and share their stuff with our museum, we'd be happy to do that," Glenn said. "But so far the phone hasn't rung yet."

SS Catalina's days are numbered

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The clock is ticking for the SS Catalina, the Great White Steamer that ferried generations of tourists to Santa Catalina Island.

Preservationists have until the end of the month to salvage the rusty 310-foot ship, which has been partially sunk in Ensenada Harbor for five years. Mexico authorities want the ship moved or it will be demolished to make way for a \$50 million Ensenada marina development.

"It's a large piece of history and it means a lot to a lot of people," said David Engholm who began the Catalina salvage attempts in 1997. "I'm hoping and praying that she's going to be saved."

From 1924 to 1975, the SS Catalina ferried more than 20 million passengers back and forth between Los Angeles Harbor and Avalon. The ship, built at Los Angeles Shipbuilding and Drydock Co. in San Pedro at a cost of more than \$1 million in 1923, also transported soldiers across San Francisco Bay during World War II.

Preservationists had hoped the ship would be docked as a tourist attraction in Los Angeles Harbor.

"Even though she may never run again, it would be nice to have her set up somewhere as a museum," Engholm said.

Phil Dockery, president of the Catalina Preservation Association, said his group is working with a new sponsor to help raise the ship out of the water. He wouldn't identify the sponsor.

"It looks really good," Dockery said. "We've gone the professional route this time."

It would cost at least \$2 million to raise the ship and put it in dry dock.

LA Unified has more teachers than openings

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — After years of complaints about a teacher shortage, the school district now has a teacher glut.

An aggressive recruitment campaign, coupled with tough economic times forcing many districts to lay off teachers, has the Los Angeles Unified School District coping with more applicants than openings.

And for the first time in years, nearly all of them rate as highly qualified, meaning they are fully credentialed or have passed subject competency tests and are pursuing credentials.

"Unlike any other year, we were able to fill most of our classrooms with credentialed teachers," said Mary Lewis, director of the teacher certification unit.

Ninety-five percent of the 1,634 teachers hired by the district this year met the criteria of being highly qualified, compared with 68.2 percent in 2002.

As a result, a few hundred people who joined the District Intern Program and Los Angeles Teaching Fellows are without jobs because openings go first to credentialed teachers. Of about 840 aspiring teachers, some 300 have yet to land jobs in the classroom.

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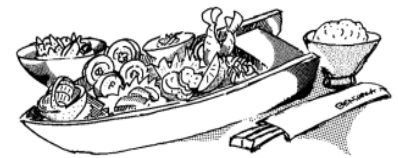
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REGISTRATION IS UNDERWAY FOR MANY FALL PROGRAMS IN SANTA MONICA.

Santa Monica YMCA – Parent/Child Gym and Water Enrichment – 3 months and up. Registration is underway for the fall session beginning September 20th - December 13th. Call 310-393-2721 for information or pick up a registration form at the YMCA at 1332 Sixth St.

City of Santa Monica – the city offers a number of classes for parents and children together, kids and adults including Baby/Toddler classes, dancing, yoga, art and a variety of sports. Registration begins August 28, most classes begin the week of October 6. Class details and registration forms can be found in the current fall issue of Seascope (in the Recscape insert) or online at www.santa-monica.org then follow Recscape and registration links.

Music Together – a music and movement program for infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers. For ages birth to 4 years. Pre-registration deadline for returning families is August 23rd. New families registration begins September 1st until full. Classes begin September 15. Free demonstration classes are being held on September 3rd, 6th and 13th. Classes are held in downtown Santa Monica, the Santa Monica Airport and Pacific Palisades. Call 310-396-4436 for info.

Santa Monica Swim Center – Community Aquatics Program. Registration began August 18, classes begin the week of September 15. The Swim Center offers a variety of classes including Parent and Me (ages 6 months to 3 years), swim instruction, diving, life-guarding and water polo. Pick up a brochure and registration form at the pool on the campus of SMC at 2225 16th Street.

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Santa Monica

A weekly look at events and programs

Bearing children later in life poses no real risks

Guest Commentary

By Jon S. Matsunaga, M.D.

Question: I'm over 35 and am now ready to start a family. Should I worry that I am too old?

Answer: Today, more and more couples are starting families later in life. Although there is no set age that is unsafe for women to become pregnant, women in their 30s and 40s tend to have concerns about whether their age will affect their ability to become pregnant, their health and the health of their babies.

The most common concern is fertility. Although ovulation — the release of an egg from one of the ovaries — continues until menopause, the quality of the eggs decreases with age. Since these eggs are older and less viable, they are more difficult to fertilize than those of a younger woman.

According to the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, for a woman under 30, the chance of becoming pregnant in any one month is estimated to be about 20 percent. In women ages 30 to 40, that number drops to 5 percent. After the age of 35, we see a significant decline in fertility. Once a woman turns 40, her fertility drops even further. It is estimated that only 10 percent of women over the age of 40 will be able to conceive.

Of course, these are statistics. Every woman — and her ability to get pregnant — is different. Many women in their late 30s and early 40s

conceive and bear children either naturally or with the help of fertility treatment.

Once a woman over the age of 35 becomes pregnant (and holds on to the pregnancy past 12 weeks), it should be reassuring to know that she runs about the same risk as a younger pregnant woman in terms of developing medical/obstetric conditions such as gestational diabetes or high blood pressure. And her chance of needing a Cesarean delivery or having a low birth weight baby is about the same as it is for a younger woman.

... Women in their 30s and 40s tend to have concerns about whether their age will affect their ability to become pregnant, their health and the health of their babies.

Miscarriage (the loss of pregnancy before 12 weeks), however, is slightly more common in women over the age of 35, where it occurs in 20 to 25 percent of pregnancies, as compared to about 15 to 20 percent of all pregnancies.

Being prepared for pregnancy is the best way for couples of all ages to improve their chances of having a healthy baby. Regular and early prenatal care is important as your doctor can closely monitor and treat potential problems early on.

Genetic counseling is advised for women who will be 35 or older when their baby is due as chromosomal abnormalities are more common in this age group. Couples who already

have had a child with a birth defect, or couples with a family history of genetic problems or birth defects, should also receive counseling.

A number of tests are offered to pregnant women over the age of 35. The tests, which include amniocentesis and chorionic villus sampling (CVS), can help diagnose genetic disorders or chromosome problems during pregnancy. Your doctor can provide you with more information on these tests.

A woman having her first child in her mid-30s or older may have other issues to be concerned with as she tries to become pregnant. It may take longer to become pregnant than she had hoped or fertility treatments may be needed, both of which can be stressful. On the other hand, an older woman may feel more emotionally mature and ready to have a child, which can make her feel more relaxed and in control during pregnancy.

If you are over the age of 35 and considering getting pregnant, there is no need to panic. You should, however, make an appointment with your Ob/Gyn to discuss how to maximize your chances of becoming a parent. He or she can best advise you on an individual basis.

Research shows that most women have healthy pregnancies and normal babies, so age in of itself should not be a barrier when considering pregnancy. Generally, most women in their 30s and 40s show no greater signs of problems once they are pregnant than their younger counterparts, a fact that should be reassuring to women considering having a child later in life.

(Dr. Jon Matsunaga is an Ob/Gyn in Santa Monica and chair of Saint John's Health Center's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. For more information, contact the health center at (310) 829-5511 or visit the hospital's Web site at www.stjohns.org.)



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1101 W. McKinley Ave., Pomona. 909-623-3111; www.lacountyfair.com. A 17-day funfest for the entire family combining horticulture, agriculture, education, art, livestock and many forms of entertainment. Major attractions include a carnival with 72 rides, and an End of the Summer Concert Series featuring a range of classic and contemporary performers such as the B-52s and Willie Nelson. Many Kid's activities are offered including this year's special event "America's Kids Road Trip," a large "highway" that follows the historic Route 66, educating kids on the nation's history and culture while taking them on an exciting, interactive road-trip experience. There is also a petting zoo, pony rides and a "Dairy Barn." The fair is fun for all ages.

Hours: 11a.m. to 10 p.m. Mon–Thurs; 11 a.m. to midnight Fri; 10 a.m. to midnight Sat; 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sun. Kids under 5 are free, prices range from \$5 to \$14 for all others.

NEW TO OUR CALENDAR!

MOVIES FOR MOMS AND BABIES
Loews Broadway – Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m., 1441 3rd St. Promenade
Yes, you can go to the movies! Thanks to Reel Moms and Loews Cineplex Entertainment, you can now enjoy a matinee with your baby. Tickets go on sale the day of the show and doors open early for socializing and getting comfortable. The lights are dimmed (never completely dark), the sound is monitored so that it is not too loud, nursing, baby talk and strolling the aisles are all okay, and stroller check is free. Adults pay regular movie price and babies are free. The event is geared towards parents/caregivers with babies newborn thru one year old.

This week's film is a free advanced screening of "Secondhand Lions," starring Michael Caine, Robert Duvall and Haley Joel Osment. Check our calendar weekly for detailed listings.

Fridays, September 12 and 19

Night Sky Show at Santa Monica College's Digistar II Planetarium is followed by the presentation "California Stars," exploring how California has been the land of opportunity for astronomers for centuries. 7:00 p.m.; John Drescher Planetarium on the SMC Main Campus, 1900 Pico

Bld., 310-434-3000.

TUESDAY

Movies

11:00 a.m., Loews Broadway, 1441 3rd St. Promenade – for Moms and babies newborn – 1 year old. This week's feature is a free advanced screening of "Secondhand Lions," starring Michael Caine, Robert Duvall and Haley Joel Osment.

Storytelling

Main Library - Toddler Story Time at 10:00 and 10:30 a.m., begins September 16, at Reed Park, 7th and Wilshire – 2 year olds with parents, 310-458-8600.
Fairview Branch – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443
Lap Time – 11:00 a.m., September 9 – October 14, a six-week series for babies 0-24 months.

Twilight Story Time – 7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds. Cuentos Para Pequenos – 10:00 a.m., September 9–October 14, a six-week series in Spanish for children 24-36 months with adult.

Montana Avenue Branch – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081
Family Story Time – 7:00 p.m., all ages.

Ocean Park Branch – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804
Toddler Story Time – September 16 – October 21 (registration required). Music, rhymes and stories for 24 – 36 months with adult.

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga – 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) – 10-11am, \$9
Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 0-4months, 1:00 – 2:30pm

WEDNESDAY

Storytelling

Ocean Park Branch – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804
Twilight Story Time – 7:00 to 7:30pm – for parents with 3-5 year olds.

Montana Avenue Branch – 1704 Montana Avenue – 310-829-7081

Lap Time – 10:00 and 10:30 a.m. – Next series begins September 24 for six weeks, for 0-24 months, no registration required.

Toddler Story Time – next series begins September 24 for six weeks, for two year olds with adult, no registration required.

Fairview Branch – 2101 Ocean Park

Bld – 310-450-0443

Preschool Story Time – 10:30 a.m., September 10 – October 16, a six-week series for 3-5 year olds.

Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 2 pm – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144

Border's, Westwood – 11am – 310-475-3444.

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga – 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) – 10-11am, \$9

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45 p.m., \$15.

Breastfeeding Group

The Pump Station, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 0-4months, 1:00 – 2:30pm

Other

Puppetolio – 1:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

THURSDAY

Storytelling

Main Library – Toddler Story Time – 10:00 a.m. – Reed Park, for 2 year olds. Begins Sept. 11.

Preschool Story Time – 10:30am – Reed Park. Begins Sept. 11. Stories for ages 3-5. 310-458-8922 for info.

Montana Avenue Branch – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081

Toddler Story Time – 10:15 a.m. – Begins September 25 for six weeks, for 2 year olds with adult, no registration required.

Preschool Story Time – 11:15 a.m., for 3-5 year olds.

Fairview Branch – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443

Toddler Story Time – 10:30 a.m., September 11 – October 16, a six-week series for children 24-36 months.

La Hora del Cuento – 7:00 p.m., Spanish stories, songs and rhymes for all ages.

Ocean Park Branch – 2601 Main Street, 310-392-3804
Lap Time – 9:20 and 10:20 a.m., September 4 – October 9. Six-week series for 0-24 months with adult.

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga – 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) – 10-11am, \$9

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:40 p.m., \$15. Mommy and Me – 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

Breastfeeding Group
The Pump Station, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class,

first class free. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00-2:30pm

FRIDAY

Puppet Show – at Miles Playhouse in Reed Park – 4:00 p.m. Join the fun with Woody and his friend Lester. Ages 4 and up. FREE!

Night Sky Show at Santa Monica College's Digistar II Planetarium

(September 5, 12 and 19) is followed by the presentation "California Stars," exploring how California has been the land of opportunity for astronomers for centuries. First show begins at 7:00 p.m.; John Drescher Planetarium on the SMC Main Campus, 1900 Pico Blvd., 310-434-3000.

"Cinderella" – (thru Sept. 14) 6 p.m., Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St., Admission: Adults \$12, kids 12 and under \$10

Call 310-394-9779 for info.

Magiopolis – 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20

Call 310-451-2241 for info.

Yoga

Yoga Works – 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150; Pre/postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45 p.m., \$15.

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga – 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) – 10-11am, \$9

SATURDAY

Storytelling

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WORLD BRIEFLY

Guerrillas attack U.S. troops, injure two

By The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraqi guerrillas broke a period of relative calm Monday, striking at an American patrol in Baghdad with explosives as soldiers were driving out of a tunnel in the center of the city. Two soldiers were wounded, the military said.

The attack damaged two Humvees, one of which turned over and caught fire, according to a military spokesman.

Sunday afternoon the new military spokesman, Lt. Col. George Krivo, said the U.S. military had completed a 24-hour period in which no American soldiers had been killed or wounded.

Before dawn Monday, more than 100 U.S. troops stormed houses in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, searching for Saddam loyalists accused of financing or coordinating attacks on American soldiers. Four wanted men were arrested, the military said.

Palestinian leader wants assurances

By The Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Palestinian parliament speaker Ahmed Qureia said Monday he will only accept his nomination as prime minister if Washington guarantees Israeli compliance with a U.S.-backed peace plan, including a halt to military strikes.

Qureia told The Associated Press that he does not want to set himself up for failure, an apparent reference to outgoing Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, who resigned over the weekend after just four months in office that were marred by wrangling with veteran leader Yasser Arafat.

However, sources close to Qureia said he has already agreed in principle to take the job offered him by Arafat, and that his formal acceptance is expected to be announced in the coming days.

It remains unclear if Israel will agree to deal with Qureia. Israeli leaders have not commented publicly on Qureia's nomination, but have said they will not negotiate with any new government controlled or hand-picked by Arafat.

Sen. John Edwards will do another term

By The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — John Edwards said he'll stick to

one term in the U.S. Senate, convinced his presidential campaign is going well enough to bow out of the 2004 race for his seat.

Sunday's decision shows Edwards, a Democrat elected in 1998, is ready to take the next step as a White House hopeful eight months after hitting the campaign trail.

"I will not seek re-election to the United States Senate, in order to devote all of my energy to running for president," Edwards wrote to North Carolina Democratic Party chairwoman Barbara Allen.

North Carolina law allowed him to run for president and Senate simultaneously, and state Democratic officials grew restless in recent months while Edwards considered whether to run for one or both.

Jennifer Palmieri, an Edwards spokeswoman, said the letter signifies that the exploratory phase of his campaign is over. "He is ready and eager to move on to the next phase," she said.

A timely decision became critical as U.S. Rep. Richard Burr, R-N.C., announced he would seek the GOP nomination for the Senate and began campaigning, while potential Democratic candidates cooled their heels in deference to Edwards.

Terrorism on the minds of New Yorkers

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Two-thirds of New Yorkers are more concerned now about another terrorist attack in New York City than they were on the first anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, a poll has found.

Two-thirds of the 976 adults polled last week said they were very concerned about another attack, slightly more than felt that way a year ago, according to a New York Times and CBS News poll published Monday in the newspaper.

In their routine moments, New Yorkers said they are thinking and talking less often about the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks than they were a year ago, but that the discomfort is every bit as intense.

Nearly one-third of those questioned said that their lives have still not returned to normal. When asked if the changes wrought by the attacks have had a permanent effect on New York, about 60 percent felt there would be an enduring impact.

The telephone poll conducted from Aug. 31 to Sept. 4 has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Bush: Education a priority, but so is war

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush is visiting a struggling Tennessee elementary school to chalk up points for his education initiative, one that he doesn't want voters to forget about amid problems the United States is facing abroad.

Bush scheduled a visit Monday afternoon to Kirkpatrick Elementary School in Nashville, followed by a \$2,000-a-ticket fund-raiser that will help pad his re-election campaign account, already flush with more than \$58 million.

Under the No Child Left Behind law, students attending schools that need improvement must be given the opportunity to transfer to a better-performing public school in the school district or to a high-quality charter school in the area.

In addition, supplemental educational services, such as after-school tutoring or academic summer camps, must be made available to students from low-income families who attend schools that have been in need of improvement for more than a year.

Kirkpatrick Elementary has failed to make adequate progress toward state goals for several years and is required to offer special assistance to pupils.

NASA to launch shuttles next year

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — NASA has developed a "return to flight" plan for future shuttle missions — one that aims for a resumption of flights as early as next March.

The 78-page report offers a look at the steps the space agency has been taking, or is considering, in order to comply with recommendations by the Columbia Accident Investigation Board.

Columbia's seven astronauts were killed Feb. 1 when the shuttle broke apart as it re-entered the atmosphere from space.

The NASA plan, being released officially Monday, lists a return to a flight schedule with a March 11 "launch date," but agency spokesman Allard Beutel said the date is simply a planning date and not a foregone conclusion.

Beutel said officials are looking at a March-to-April launch window, but that could easily slip if the agency isn't able to meet all of its targeted safety steps.

The report, obtained by The Associated Press on Sunday, makes no mention of cost estimates for the return to flight.

House Democrats line up for 'special order' speeches

BY LAURENCE ARNOLD

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Taking a page from the opposition play book, Democratic lawmakers fed up with their minority status are airing their grievances in hourlong, made-for-television speeches that often keep the House active late into the night.

The speeches, known as "special orders," allow House members to speak for up to an hour on any topic.

As the majority in the 1980s, House Democrats tried to limit lengthy special orders then popular among Republican insurgents, including a congressman from Georgia named Newt Gingrich.

Now Democrats are the ones who find special orders most useful. Unhappy with limits on their time to debate, they converge on the House floor after the close of daily business to deliver discourses and dialogues in prime time and late night.

Though lawmakers address their comments to the presiding officer, there is no question whom they are trying to reach: viewers of C-SPAN, the public affairs network.

"The Republicans constantly limit our ability to speak, to offer amendments, to offer substitutes," said Rep. Frank Pallone, D-N.J., communications chairman of the House Democratic Policy Committee. "For many of us, it's the only opportunity we have to talk for five minutes or longer."

From May 1 through July 26, when the House

adjourned for recess, Democrats took the floor for 44 hourlong special orders, compared with 39 by Republicans.

"The Republicans constantly limit our ability to speak, to offer amendments, to offer substitutes."

— FRANK PALLONE

House Democratic Policy Committee chairman

"If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, the contemporary Democrats are trying to do to the Republicans what they did to (Democrats)," said Steve Frantziach, a political science professor at the U.S. Naval Academy and co-author of "The C-SPAN Revolution."

While lawmakers often devote shorter speeches to bits of constituent service, hourlong special orders are frequently the forum for impassioned battles over domestic and international issues.

Special orders existed long before C-SPAN, but they took on added significance after the network's arrival in 1979. Lawmakers step before a near-empty chamber, gesture as though addressing a rapt audience and lecture

without interruption to folks back home. C-SPAN's reach has grown from 3.5 million households in 1979 to 85 million today.

Gingrich, an early master of the televised special order, began using them to assail the Democratic majority in 1984. The speaker, Massachusetts Democrat Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, responded by ordering that the mounted cameras pan the chamber at regular intervals to show the lecturers were addressing an empty room.

In 1994, both sides agreed to allow special orders to run until midnight, with the two parties alternating hours and cameras remaining on the speaker.

Gingrich, who left Congress in 1999, said in an e-mail interview that special orders "are excellent both for pointing out where your opponents have weaknesses or are wrong, and also in giving you a venue with enough time to develop new ideas."

By keeping the House in session, special orders boost the congressional electricity bill, extend work days and increase the printing costs of the Congressional Record. Lawmakers have estimated the speeches cost \$4,000 to \$6,000 per hour.

Just as Democrats have come to embrace special orders, Republicans have joined the effort to limit them.

Rep. Clay Shaw, R-Fla., urged the House Rules Committee in 2000 to limit hour-long special orders to one per member each month, with additional hours costing \$3,000 from a member's budget. The House rejected the idea.

SPORTS

SPORTS IN BRIEF

By The Associated Press

FOOTBALL

■ **KANSAS CITY, Mo.** — Priest Holmes ended any doubts about his recovery from an injured hip. The Kansas City Chiefs' running back is just fine, thank you.

Showing no ill effects from offseason hip surgery, Holmes rushed for two touchdowns and had 183 yards in total offense Sunday to lead the Chiefs past the Chargers 27-14.

"Priest got us," San Diego linebacker Ben Leber said. "We did a poor job of tackling him. But he had a lot to do with that."

Holmes had TD runs of 5 and 24 yards and 159 total yards in the first half alone as the Chiefs built a 24-0 lead against their AFC West rivals.

"Nothing Priest does surprises me," Chiefs guard Brian Waters said. "I heard the rumors last winter like everybody else that Priest might be done for. But when I talked to the man himself and he told me he was going to be OK, I believed him. Now I bet everybody else will believe him, too."

Holmes, who has led the NFL in yards from scrimmage each of the past two years, seemed confident from the beginning, showing his full repertoire of moves. He was the offensive player of the year for 2002 despite missing the final two games because of the hip injury.

Holmes refused to speak with reporters, but everybody else was talking about him.

"If there's any questions about Priest Holmes' hip, then I think that has been dispelled," San Diego coach Marty Schottenheimer said.

■ **SAN FRANCISCO** — As Ahmed Plummer raced downfield for his game-breaking interception return, a white-haired man with a headset ran right along with him.

Dennis Erickson promised more aggression and enthusiasm when he took charge of the San Francisco 49ers. The new coach backed up those words with a joyful sideline sprint that was one of countless high points in his 49-7 debut victory Sunday over the bumbling Chicago Bears.

Erickson admitted to a serious case of butterflies before the game, but his team showed no nerves while flattening the Bears for their biggest victory since 1989. San Francisco forced five turnovers, outgained Chicago 391 yards to 127 and filled a highlight reel with big plays on offense, defense and special teams.

The 49ers scored 23 points during an impressive rally in the final 6:01 of the first half, turning it into a blowout. In the locker room afterward, Terrell Owens and defensive coordinator Jim Mora presented Erickson with the game ball.

"To be honest, you can't ask for a better start," Erickson said. "We blitzed a lot, we came after them ... and everybody did their job. It was a great team effort."

BASEBALL

■ **ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.** — Victor Zambrano and the Tampa Bay Devil Rays had it all over the reigning AL Cy Young Award winner.

Zambrano pitched his first career complete game and the Devil Rays once again roughed up Barry Zito, beating the Oakland Athletics 11-2 Sunday.

Zambrano (10-8) gave up nine hits, walked none and struck out eight in his 35th major league start. He became just the fourth Tampa Bay pitcher ever to win 10 or more games in a season.

"I'm not really thinking about what team I'm going to face," Zambrano said. "I'm only thinking about what I'm going to do that day and how I feel. Just go in and do my job."

Zito (11-12) was tagged for seven runs, six hits and three walks over 5 1-3 innings. "Getting behind guys is frustrating," said Zito, who threw 100 pitches.

On July 8, the Devil Rays battered Zito for seven runs and 15 hits in 5 1-3 innings during a 9-3 win at Oakland.

Rocco Baldelli drove in three runs as Tampa Bay took two of three from the AL West-leading Athletics. The Devil Rays also won two of three from wild-card contender Seattle during their six-game homestand.

"First of all, we're trying to win as many games as we can," Devil Rays manager Lou Piniella said. "Second of all, a little pride factor involved when you're playing those teams with postseason aspirations. Go do your work someplace else ... not at our expense."

■ **SAN FRANCISCO** — Steve Finley is back in an accustomed role, and he's giving the Arizona Diamondbacks a much-needed boost as they desperately cling to hopes of capturing the NL wild-card spot.

Finley, back in the leadoff spot after a two-year absence, had four hits for the second straight game to help the Diamondbacks to a 9-6 win Sunday over the San Francisco Giants.

Finley's two-run double tied the game and pinch-hitter Danny Bautista followed with a two-run single to highlight a five-run eighth inning.

Since moving back to the leadoff spot on Thursday for the first time since May 2001, Finley has hit .474 in four games.

"He's just desert-hot right now. He's hitting fastballs, hitting changeups, finding spots," said Arizona manager Bob Brenly. "He can be as hot as any hitter on the planet."

Brenly said he put Finley back into the leadoff spot "by default" because he needed a spark at the top of the lineup. The Diamondbacks have tried six others in that spot this season.

"I did it for my first six years, so it's nothing new. I know how to do it, and I enjoy it," Finley said.

"No-nonsense spot where the A-list goes to eat in peace."

-Vanity Fair, April 2002



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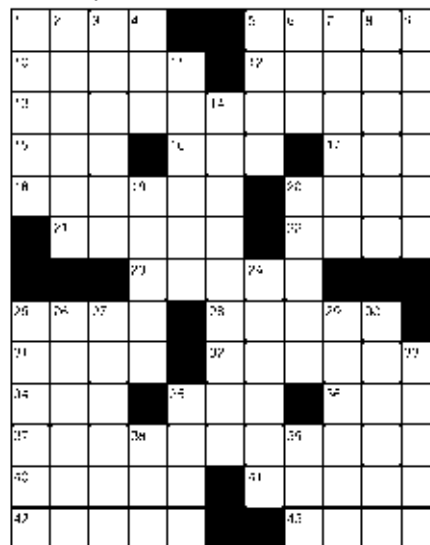
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 - 10 Spry
 - 12 Make addresses
 - 13 Partisan act
 - 15 Had lunch spot
 - 16 Bunion
 - 17 Alley prowler
 - 18 Famed monster
 - 20 Foundation
 - 21 Flies like an eagle
 - 22 Copied
 - 23 Top roles
 - 25 Uses a laser gun on
 - 28 "— pray" (pastor's words)
 - 31 Opera bit
 - 32 First game
 - 34 TV watchdog
 - 35 Music's Yoko
 - 36 — chi
 - 37 Being a good sport, in a way
- DOWN**
- 40 Dancer Castle
 - 41 Strip corn
 - 42 Skirt inserts
 - 43 Pro charges
 - 1 The Evil One
 - 2 Playing marbles
 - 3 In this fashion
 - 4 Inventor Whitney
 - 5 Finish last
 - 6 Tycoon Onassis
 - 7 Zany
 - 8 Relaxed jockey
 - 9 Relaxed
 - 11 Whole worker
 - 14 Is agreeable
 - 19 Party dip session
 - 20 Prepare the turkey
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Suit: Heidi Fleiss' ex demanded sex from his assistant

By The Associated Press

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Tom Sizemore's former personal assistant has filed a lawsuit accusing the actor of harassment and sexual battery.

Paulina Briones says in her lawsuit, filed Friday in Los Angeles Superior Court, that the co-star of films including "Black Hawk Down" and "Saving Private Ryan" repeatedly propositioned her for sex.

The lawsuit also names Sizemore's holding company, Bare Knuckles Productions; Forward Pass, which produced Sizemore's defunct television show "Robbery Homicide Division;" Universal Television Network, the series' production company; and CBS Television, which licensed the show.

Briones says in the lawsuit that she was hired in July 2002 for \$1,500 a week to handle such personal tasks as ensuring Sizemore was awake in time to arrive at the set of his show, fielding phone calls and getting him soft drinks.

Sizemore soon "made his needs and true intentions apparent," the lawsuit claims.

Briones alleges the 41-year-old actor once greeted her naked when she arrived at his home and asked her several times to perform a sex act in return for \$5,000.

The lawsuit alleges that Sizemore's demands escalated to a daily demand for sex, and that he once tried to force her to perform a sex act. She also alleges that he asked her to ask her friends to have sex with him for money and to prepare dosages of methamphetamine and Vicodin for his consumption.

An attorney for Briones did not return a call for comment. A telephone call to Sizemore's lawyer was not returned.

The actor was convicted in August of six misdemeanor counts of harassing, annoying and physically abusing his former girlfriend, ex-Hollywood madam Heidi Fleiss. He's scheduled to be sentenced Oct. 2 and could face up to four years in prison.

■ **LOS ANGELES** — In the land that launched the Beach Boys, the Doors and the Red Hot Chili Peppers, who would have thought that people would line up around the block for tickets to a Mahler concert?

That's what they did Sunday, and many of them weren't even classical music fans.

"I'm not a music person but a building person," said Russ Leland, 62, of Silver Lake, who waited five hours for tickets to Mahler's "Resurrection."

What he really wanted to see was the inside of the new Walt Disney Concert Hall, designed by renowned architect Frank Gehry. After he does, Leland said, he'll probably fall asleep during the concert.

He wasn't alone in wanting to be among the first to check out the new 2,265-seat hall when it opens next month. The Los Angeles Philharmonic reported selling 4,135 tickets Sunday, about four times the usual amount for first-day sales for a new music season. Several series, including the Jazz and First Night programs, sold out completely, with tickets going for as much as \$120.

Among the buyers were some serious music fans. Haydn fans Kulilay and Jennifer Uner of North Hollywood paid \$864 for five nights of music.

"Now let's take these to the safe deposit box," Kulilay Uner said as they left, clutching their tickets.

■ **STOCKHOLM, Sweden** — The last time the Dixie Chicks were in Europe, their politics got them in trouble with radio stations back in the United States.

At the start of their European concert tour in Stockholm, the Texas trio said their focus would be on the music.

"This is our first time back in Europe since the 'incident,'" lead singer Natalie Maines told the sold-out crowd of 2,200 Saturday at the Globe Arena Annex.

"But you never know what we might say," she added, laughing.

The country stars endured criticism after Maines said

she and her bandmates were ashamed that President Bush was from Texas. She made the remark in London shortly before the Iraq war.

Some radio stations in the United States stopped playing the band's music, but album sales and concert attendance remained strong. So far, the Dixie Chicks have made more than \$1.2 million on their current tour.

The mostly Swedish crowd cheered the band through a nearly two-hour set that included the hits "Travelin' Soldier," "Long Time Gone" and "Goodbye Earl."

The band is touring Europe through Sept. 22, playing 10 shows in Sweden, Germany, Britain, Ireland and Scotland, including a two-night stand at the Royal Albert Hall in London. Then they're scheduled to visit Australia for three shows from Sept. 28-Oct. 4.

■ **DEAUVILLE, France** — Roman Polanski finally took home his Academy Award statue for best director this weekend, nearly six months after winning for "The Pianist."

Harrison Ford, a friend of Polanski and the star of his 1988 movie "Frantic," handed the director the prize Sunday at the Deauville film festival. Ford also had announced Polanski's win at the March 23 ceremony in Los Angeles, which the director didn't attend.

Polanski faces arrest in the United States since pleading guilty to having sex with a 13-year-old girl. He was charged with rape and five other felonies in 1977.

As part of a deal with prosecutors, Polanski pleaded guilty to having unlawful sex with a minor, then fled Los Angeles for Paris in 1978 to evade sentencing.

The 70-year-old is presiding over the jury at Deauville, on the Normandy coast.

"The Pianist" won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival, and also earned Oscars for best adapted screenplay and best actor. Adrien Brody starred as Polish Jewish pianist Wladyslaw Szpilman, who eluded the Nazis in the Warsaw ghetto.



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