

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

13, 19, 33, 20, 21

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 0, 7, 0

Evening picks: 4, 1, 9

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 5, California Classic

2nd Place: 9, Winning Spirit

3rd Place: 4, Big Ben

Race Time: 1:43.04



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

In McNairy County, Tenn., in August, father Steven Joseph Yurick, 33, was convicted of producing child pornography on the Web site he runs in order to promote the modeling career of his 13-year-old daughter; authorities found no explicitly erotic photos on the site, and the girl said she enthusiastically posed wearing scanty clothing because she so earnestly wants to be a fashion model.

■



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Do you know why they call it 'PMS'? Because 'Mad Cow Disease' was taken."

— Unknown (presumed dead)



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SMC board offer a smokescreen, employees say

Eighteen employees will likely be laid off

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Local college workers on Tuesday balked at an offer from school officials meant to spare the jobs of 18 employees.

They said the offer comes at too high a price because Santa Monica College officials would retain the right to lay off those workers if the state's financial outlook worsens.

Under the proposed plan, which was discussed Monday night by the SMC board of trustees, workers would limit their hours and wages in order to keep the 18

See OFFER, page 5

Looking for fame, or a job



Del Pastrana/Daily Press

Hundreds of people line up in front of Yankee Doodles on the Third Street Promenade to audition for ESPN's 'dream job' that offered a one-year contract with the network's SportsCenter program.

Ueberroth, McClintock swing through town



John Wood/Daily Press

Sen. Tom McClintock and Peter Ueberroth hold a press conference in Santa Monica Tuesday. Ueberroth, who dropped out of the governor recall race last week, is expected to give an endorsement for one of the remaining candidates soon.

Sen. Tom McClintock and Arnold Schwarzenegger meet with former gubernatorial candidate in SM

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Former gubernatorial candidate Peter Ueberroth swept through Santa Monica on Tuesday, meeting with Republicans Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sen. Tom McClintock, but failed to endorse either one in their respective bids to replace Gov. Gray Davis in the recall election.

Ueberroth, who pulled out of the race for Sacramento's top job last Wednesday, said he will meet with Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante next before announcing which candidate he supports in the statewide recall election.

"I've found two terrific individuals and I still

have further meetings," he said during a joint press conference with Sen. McClintock of Ventura County at the Doubletree Guest Suites Hotel, located at 1707 Fourth St. in Santa Monica.

Though a federal court threw the scheduled Oct. 7 date of the recall election into question earlier this week, Ueberroth, the former commissioner of Major League Baseball and head of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, said he is not considering rejoining the race.

Meanwhile, Sen. McClintock said his campaign has not slowed down.

"Punch card ballots reflected Gray Davis less than a year ago and there was no objection then," Sen. McClintock said, adding that he is confident the ruling by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals will be overturned. "The punch card ballot has been used in California without incident for over a generation."

See RECALL, page 5

City allowed entertainment chief to spend wildly

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Former Mayor Richard Riordan, City Council members and county supervisors told a criminal grand jury they failed to properly oversee the free-spending Entertainment Industry Development Corp. and its chief Cody Cluff.

They unwittingly allowed Cluff to spend more than \$150,000 on a country club membership, strip clubs and donations to his children's high school, the elected offi-

cials testified.

Although they sat on the board of directors for the Entertainment Industry Development Corp., most testified that they never attended meetings or monitored spending by the quasi-governmental agency formed to streamline filming permits and keep production in Hollywood.

Some 1,628 pages of grand jury transcripts, made public Monday, reveal new details of heavy spending by Cluff, including \$7,000 for a baseball camp in the Dominican

Republic and \$8,000 to attend strip clubs in Arizona.

Cluff was indicted by the county grand jury on Aug. 20 for alleged misappropriation of public funds and embezzlement. Cluff, 44, and EIDC General Manager Darryl Seif, 37, were also charged with forging a letter from the mayor's office and using a counterfeit city seal to obtain city badges.

Cluff and Seif pleaded innocent and they are scheduled to return to court Sept. 24.

The elected officials' lack of

oversight resulted in Cluff approving a \$10,000 bonus for himself and making a total of \$167,800 in political donations, prosecutors told the grand jurors.

During 11 days of testimony, Riordan, 17 current and former council members, and the entire Board of Supervisors testified about the role of the agency and what they knew of its finances.

Cluff attorney Mark Werksman said the transcripts provide only part of the story.



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 ★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, September 17, 2003:

You develop a better sense of what you want than in previous years. You also find that you can pull white rabbits out of black hats. Your ability to get through problems and see them instead as challenges earmarks your dynamic thinking. Others will want you to take a stronger hand in your personal life, though your focus will be on your work. Your creativity grows in many new ways. If you are single, romance will knock on your door. Others simply delight in your presence. If you are attached, a loved one needs to be more of a part of your work and public life. Share your ideas, desires and goals more openly. You become a strong team. GEMINI pushes you.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 ★★★★★ Once you determine that you want something your way, you'll be impossible to stop. You won't give up; you could talk until you are blue in the face. Know when to let go and allow a partner or associate to put in his or her two cents. Tonight: As you like it.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★★★ Get an early start on the day, pushing hard to achieve your aims. You could find someone a bit contrary, though this might be a passing phase. Rethink an emotional issue more carefully that involves a friendship. Tonight: Pay bills.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★★★ Use the morning to formalize your ideas. Try out concepts on someone you can trust before you present them to the group. You could be overwhelmed by someone's opinion or a boss's reaction. Work with what others offer. Tonight: Do whatever makes you happy.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★★★ What someone says might have a lot to do with your plans. Information that comes forward might have very little to do with reality but could contain some wonderful seeds of office gossip. Know when to put a halt to it. Tonight: Take some time to yourself.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★★★ You maintain your prestige despite someone's challenge. You could feel a bit out of sorts with someone you care about. Investigate possibilities that emerge at a key meeting. You might find unusual potential in them. Tonight: Where your friends are.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★★★ Others often challenge you. How you handle these confrontations could make all the difference in what comes down the pike. Your perspective could change if you relax more. A boss demands greater productivity. You can do it. Tonight: Work late.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ Venus' entry into your sign adds to your popularity and sense of well-being. Many might believe that you have pushed way too hard; now it's time to lie back a little. Your ideas prove as worthwhile as your physical energy. Tonight: Make a long-distance call to a friend.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★★★ You might want to think through a decision more carefully. Investigate what needs to happen, especially concerning a partnership. Someone might challenge your thinking. Rather than react, work with what is said. Tonight: Make special time for a loved one.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★★★ You get the most work done possible in the morning. By the afternoon, you encounter way too much activity that lures you out of the office. Even a boss might find it better than working. Tonight: Why not go along for the ride?

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★★★ Your ability to please those in charge comes through for you once more. Your ingenuity clearly impresses others, drawing the results you ultimately want. Dig into work knowing that you need to carry an idea through. Tonight: Soak away stress in a hot tub.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★★★ News from a distance might have you floating on cloud nine with no hope of anchoring. What you see and what actually happens could be substantially different. With your ingenuity, you can find answers to nearly anything right now. Tonight: Make time for a child or new sweetie.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★★★ Say what you think. Don't leave anything to guesswork. You could be pleased by what comes forward if you just free-associate. Someone close to you shares much more than he or she has in the past. Obviously you can trust this person. Tonight: Happily relax at home.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Tennis tournament kicks off this weekend

By Daily Press staff

The Santa Monica Tennis Club, which the Evening Outlook once described as "like the street light down at the corner, the leak in the kitchen sink, and the stain in a seldom noticed part of the den couch," wants to restore heightened visibility to the sport by hosting its 75th anniversary Club Championships starting this weekend.

The annual club championships take place over the weekends of Sept. 20-21 and Sept. 27-28. Players must be available on all four days in order to participate in the tournament.

Players will compete in five events: Men's and women's singles, men's and women's doubles and mixed doubles. It's everyone's chance to test their mettle, challenge past winners, or defend winning positions, at the most competitive tournament the club offers. All events will be single elimination, best of three sets. Trophies will be awarded to all champions and runners-up.

Now headquartered at Reed Park located at Seventh Street and Wilshire Boulevard, the Santa Monica Tennis Club has 300 members. The club sponsors tournaments and tennis weekends, and is affiliated with the city of Santa Monica.

The club's history — and tennis in Santa Monica — go back almost to the sport's invention in 1874 by Major Winfield in England. Soon afterwards, the kings of France, Germany and England reportedly picked up on the new game. Still, tennis never really became popular until a member of the royal family reportedly caught a cold and died after playing.

The city of Santa Monica was only 12 years old when the first Southern California championship was held here in 1919. Santa Monica resident May Carter captured the women's single title three years in a row, to be followed by Marion Jones, who won the Southern California championship five consecutive times.

The city's first courts and clubhouse, located at Third Street and Washington Avenue, were used by such notables as Sen. John P. Jones, Venice founder Abbott Kinney, and H. G. Wilshire, who lent his name to Los Angeles's most famous boulevard.

Santa Monica resident Elizabeth "Bunny" Ryan, also honed her skills at the club before going on to win more championships than anyone else at Wimbledon, winning 12 women's doubles tournaments and seven in mixed doubles.

"Glamorous Gussie" Moran, who ranked No. 4 nationally in 1949, also helped promote the sport — and Santa Monica — when the lace panties she wore to Wimbledon were pictured in newspapers around the world.

Anyone 18 or older is welcome to participate in the tournament. For further information, call (310) 281-3196.

School district's fine arts program to be discussed

By Daily Press staff

If you have something to say about the local school district's fine arts programs, you'll have a chance next week.

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Advisory Committee on the Fine Arts will have its first meeting of the school year on Sept. 23 from 7:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. The meeting will be held in the board room on the second floor of the district offices, located at 1651 16th Street.

Parents, teachers, students and community members interested in arts education in the school district (dance, drama, music, and visual arts) are invited to attend. Participants will include Tom Whaley, district fine arts coordinator, and Dr. Jose Escarce, the board of education liaison to the committee. There will be an opportunity for public comment at the beginning of the meeting.

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The swell from former Hurricane Linda will have the good SE breaks stocked with some fun waves this morning before quickly dropping off in the afternoon.

OUTLOOK: There are two chest-high swells headed our way from the south. Expect No. 1 swell to hit Friday and No. 2 swell to hit us Sunday. Happy wave riding.

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.

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SATURDAY	5:11	1.0	5:39	1.2	11:25	5.2	11:39	4.5
SUNDAY	5:32	1.5	6:22	1.3	11:49	5.1	N/A	N/A
MONDAY	5:51	2.0	7:14	1.5	12:22	3.9	12:15	5.0
TUESDAY	6:04	2.5	8:29	1.6	1:19	3.4	12:47	4.8
WEDNESDAY	5:55	2.9	10:18	1.5	3:18	3.0	1:33	4.6
THURSDAY	N/A	N/A	11:50	1.2	N/A	N/A	2:55	4.5
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The Q-Line

The 50-year-old Boathouse restaurant was booted off the Santa Monica Pier last year to make way for Bubba Gump Shrimp. Despite that the Santa Monica City Council and Pier Restoration Corp., which manages the pier, maintains that they prefer locally-owned, independent businesses, the movie-themed chain restaurant will enter the Santa Monica scene next summer.

This week, Q-Line wants to know, **"Do the city's politicians do enough to keep locally-owned business here? What should be done?"**

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LOCAL



Union unlikely to accept Santa Monica College deal

OFFER, from page 1

jobs from being eliminated. The positions vary from athletic trainer to gardener to clerical assistant to personnel technician.

More than 250 people attended the meeting in the campus business building and dozens addressed the board, asking it to reconsider laying off employees. The action is expected to save the school \$842,536 in salaries and be the final step in balancing SMC's \$208 million budget this year.

SMC workers now have until Oct. 6 to make a decision on the offer. But Phil Hendricks, president of the California School Employees Association, an SMC union, said Tuesday the offer isn't acceptable.

"What they offered last night was nothing new," said Hendricks, who during the meeting shouted "Liar! Liar!" at SMC president Piedad Robertson and was forced out by campus police. "They want us to give them money and they want to retain the right to lay us off. That's not an offer that our members would benefit from."

Hendricks said the union has offered as much as \$2 million in cut hours and wages, but in return they want a guarantee that no workers will be laid off for six months or a year. He added that the board's refusal to give that assurance indicates that it would not hesitate to eliminate the positions.

"If they had no intention of doing that, they would say 'No layoffs within a short period of time,'" said Hendricks, echoing the opinion of fellow workers who vocally questioned the board's reluctance to do so at the emotionally charged meeting.

Robert Sammis, SMC's vice president of human resources, said the offer to reduce hours and wages, called "work-share," would save the school nearly \$1 million every six months and thereby cover the remaining budget deficit. But Sammis said the board of trustees needs to retain its right to lay off workers because no one knows how the state's economic situation will evolve.

"No one on the board, no employer, none of us want to see people laid off," he said. "So if there is a legitimate alternative that would generate the savings necessary to this year's budget, what the board is saying is, 'We're willing to look at that.'"

"They have extended a significant olive branch to the union and the ball's kind of in their court now, to see if they're serious about workshare."

Meanwhile, SMC's school year has begun, however it's not business as usual.

Enrollment is down from 31,000 to 25,000 this fall, classes have been cut by 26 percent, five programs are no longer offered, and hundreds of jobs for teachers, workers, administrators and students are gone.

"I'm very ashamed to see them sitting there, just to see the blank look on their faces."

— PETRA WOLFE

Former automotive department worker, Santa Monica College

SMC officials, since February, have cut \$10 million in a successful effort to bridge the shortfall in state funding and balance its budget. The school has \$1.8 million in reserve funds and Tom Donner, SMC's executive vice president, said he expects that money will be used to offset further shortcomings from Sacramento.

The cuts have stirred unrest on the small campus and many of the school staff say the way Robertson is dealing with the budget crisis is shortsighted. In separate votes earlier this year, campus workers and teachers voted overwhelmingly in votes of no confidence in her leadership. Hendricks said even with the most recent cuts factored in, SMC still has more administrators and managers per student than any other community college in the state.

SMC workers said at the meeting that the entire situation has left a sour taste in their mouths.

Petra Wolfe, a tool room attendant in SMC's automotive department for 15 years before it was dropped from the college's roster in May, told the board through tears how SMC officials botched her layoff, sending her final papers to an address she hadn't used in eight years.

After addressing the board, Wolfe said she would like to see the disparate campus groups work together to solve the budget problem, but that SMC officials seem to walk into the meetings with their minds already made up.

"We have the right to want no layoffs," said Wolfe, dabbing her eyes with a tissue. "It's very frustrating to see that everybody is not pitching in. I'm very ashamed to see them sitting there, just to see the blank look on their faces. They have a responsibility to this community."

Ueberroth will meet with Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante

RECALL, from page 1

During his 90-minute, one-on-one meetings with the two candidates, Ueberroth said he discussed creating more jobs in California while saving the ones that already exist. Though he said he gave Schwarzenegger and McClintock specific policy suggestions, Ueberroth declined to say what they were.

McClintock described Ueberroth's insights as brilliant and said receiving Ueberroth's endorsement would be a huge boost to his campaign.

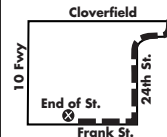
A panel of three judges on Monday postponed the Oct. 7 recall, saying old punch card voting equipment still used in some California counties could disenfranchise thousands of voters. That equipment was scheduled to be replaced before the next election in March but would be used if the recall election is held on its original date. On Tuesday, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals announced it may hold an extended hearing on the matter and ordered parties from both sides to file briefs by 2 p.m. today.

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STATE

Vineyards face troubled market for wine grapes

BY JERRY HIRSCH
Associated Press Writer

PASO ROBLES — Dana Merrill looked out over 10 acres of ripening cabernet sauvignon grapes outside Paso Robles and worried: Would anyone buy them?

"I think we might have a couple of hundred acres of cab (cabernet) and another several hundred of syrah that we will just drop on the ground this year," said Merrill, who manages a total of 6,000 acres of Central Coast wine grape plantings for 15 clients.

At best, he may get \$300 a ton on the spot market for the cabernet by the time the luscious purple fruit is picked in late September. That would cover about half his costs. If Merrill had contracts to sell those grapes to wineries, he might have earned as much as \$1,200 a ton for the same fruit.

California wine grape growers from Temecula in the south to Mendocino in the north are scrambling to lock in eleventh-hour contracts for their crops.

"We are calling the wine brokers, we are following up every lead in every local region," said Merrill, president of Mesa Vineyard Management Inc. "And we are following up on any rumor we hear at all. Most of the time they are dead ends. Every other grower is doing the same."

With the harvest under way, an unprecedented amount of fruit hasn't been spoken for, even though the yield projected at 2.9 million to 3 million tons will be less than last year's 3.05 million.

Some California wine grape growers say they will end up selling a third to half of their vintage at the last minute on the spot market, and in many cases at a loss. Experts say most of the spot grapes will find its way onto store shelves in \$2- to \$5-bottles of wine.

"It has been at least 10 years since I have seen this much fruit on the spot market," said Andy Hoxsey, managing partner of Yount Mill Vineyards, a Napa grower.

There are a lot of reasons for their predicament. For one thing, because there has been a surfeit of fruit-producing vines throughout the state for three seasons, wineries have more leeway than they did in the late 1990s, when there was a shortage. And winemakers are under pressure to cut costs, to compete with popular imports from Australia, Italy and other countries.

Yet many also blame what they say is California's archaic method for setting contract grape prices. Critics say that it works to maintain higher prices at times of surplus and makes the state's \$14 billion wine industry less competitive worldwide.

"There is no question that we have a failing, dysfunctional system for determining price," said Bill Turrentine, president of Turrentine Wine Brokerage in San Anselmo.

Wineries own only 30 percent of the vineyards in California, estimates Rich Cartiere, editor of the Wine Market Report, an industry newsletter.

For most of the premium grapes they need, wineries rely on a cadre of independent growers who typically have sold their fruit under long-term contract at what is based upon a district average reference price, calculated by the California Department of Food and Agriculture. That price is figured by averaging what the same variety from the same region fetched the previous year.

"They just didn't want the fruit. Most of the wineries are not even returning my phone calls this year."

— **JOE RAMAZZOTTI**
Vineyard owner

The widespread reliance on the district average reference system has worked, in effect, to help regulate prices, giving growers and lenders some certainty about the per-ton value of their crop each year.

But as the industry recently has learned, Turrentine said, the system "has no mechanism to adjust contract prices to real-time supply and demand."

Some major wine producers, including makers of the Fetzer, Mondavi and Kendall-Jackson brands, are asking the growers with whom they have contracts for a 15 percent cut in either the amount or price of grapes grown outside the prestigious regions of Napa and Sonoma, wine industry sources say.

Nearly half of the 132 growers who responded to a recent survey by the Wine Market Report said they have held price renegotiations with wineries. Growers realize that they don't have much room to maneuver: If they had refused to renegotiate, it would only hurt the industry in California, which produces more wine than any other state.

In Sonoma's Alexander Valley, one of the state's premier vineyard regions, many growers find themselves in the same shoes as Joe Ramazzotti, who lost a longtime client this year when Benziger Family Winery canceled its contract with him, ending a 15-year business relationship.

"They just didn't want the fruit," said Ramazzotti, owner of Ramazzotti Vineyard. "Most of the wineries are not even returning my phone calls this year."

Rather than let his grapes rot on the vine, Ramazzotti is considering harvesting his surplus fruit and having it crushed and fermented into wine. For varietals such as chardonnay and syrah, he's working on a deal with several small grocery chains that would retail his wine for \$9 to \$11 a bottle.

"If I can get \$3 or \$4 a bottle for it, I will almost make my money back," he said.

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page 2



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A 1031 exchange can enrich your life, bank account



DAYS ON THE MARKET

By Jodi Summers

Carlton Hartz never suspected his rental property in the Silverlake would allow him to upgrade to a new, larger property closer to the westside without paying a dime in capital gains taxes this year. Then again, he never imagined the Internal Revenue Service would help him pay for it, either.

Hartz bought the property through a 1031 exchange — a little-used tax shelter for investment real estate owners. The term “1031” is the number of the IRS code that allows for the tax-deferred exchange of any type of business or investment property for a similar property.

“This has been part of the tax code for 80 years and yet so many people still don’t know about it,” said Margaret McDonnell, president of 1031 Corp, a qualified intermediary. “And the worst part is that they’re selling property, putting the money in the bank and buying a new property so they’re doing everything they need to do for a 1031 exchange, but they’re not getting the benefit because they didn’t structure it that way.”

By taking advantage of the 1031 exchange option, Hartz managed to sell

“This has been part of the tax code for 80 years and yet so many people still don’t know about it.”

— MARGARET MCDONNELL
President,
1031 Corp.

his highly appreciated rental property on the eastside and upgrade to a westside property that might someday become his retirement home. And in the meantime, it’ll generate substantial income.

“The area where our old four-plex was located had become very popular and the value had really gone up. I was able to cash in without paying taxes, plus we got to keep that money in property,” Hartz stated, noting that the use of a 1031 exchange allowed him to defer “tens of thousands of dollars” in capital gains. “I would highly recommend this to anyone.”

The 1031 exchanges allow individuals and corporations to trade in existing business and investment property for new property and defer the capital gains tax along the way. Traditionally, 1031 exchanges were used mostly by owners of large commercial real estate properties, including shopping malls and golf courses. But they’re starting to catch on among smaller investors as well, especially those who own vacation rental properties and undeveloped land.

“This is one of the last goodies in real

estate,” said Kelly Yates, an attorney and house counsel to the Exchange Facilitator Corp. “Our typical customer is the mom and pop who maybe inherited land many years ago and want to move unproductive land into income-producing property. We also see the phenomenon of people in their 40s and 50s looking ahead to retirement and looking to sell a property to buy a home in Florida that they can rent and maybe retire to someday.”

Advocates of 1031 exchanges say the best part about them is that you’re able to reinvest the money you would otherwise have spent in capital gains taxes.

To qualify for the tax deferred status, the proceeds from your sale must go back into your replacement property, but those are pre-tax dollars you’re putting to work for you.

According to Tim Egan, executive director of the Federation of Exchange Accommodators, exchanges have been going strong for the past decade, when the Treasury Department adopted new guidelines for executing a tax-deferred exchange.

“The feedback we are getting from our members is that the preponderance of business these days is coming from small, mom-and-pop investors. They are the ones who benefit from this the most,” Egan said.

Any serious 1031 exchange prospect begins the process with a visit to a qualified intermediary, a firm approved by the IRS to facilitate 1031 exchanges.

“I would have never done this without the help of an expert,” Hartz said. “I had to buy and sell our properties ourselves, but they told us every regulation and every rule.”

A proper 1031 exchange will see that you don’t pay taxes on the transaction until you sell the replacement property. By that time, most investors are well into their retirement years and fall into a lower tax bracket. If you have a smart team offering investment advice, you may be able to avoid paying taxes altogether. That’s because the capital gains tax you owe on replacement properties are forgiven upon your death ... meaning your heirs won’t get hit for taxes either.

“This can be a great estate planning tool,” McDonnell said.

As with all investments, consult a tax professional to make sure this option is right for you.

(If you would like more information of interest to property owners, e-mail Jodi Summers at jodis@boardwalkrealty.com, or call (310) 309-4219).

SANTA MONICA RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

SOLD	610 CALIFORNIA AVE	SANTA MONICA	90403	SOLD	1252 11TH ST #105	SANTA MONICA	90401	SOLD	101 CALIFORNIA AVE #405	SANTA MONICA	
Sold Date	SqFt: 1,001	List Price: \$749,000	Bed: 2	Sold Date	SqFt: 1,427	List Price: \$469,000	Bed: 4	Sold Date	SqFt: 690	List Price: \$459,000	Bed: 1
09/12/2003	Lot Size: 0	Sold Price: \$667,500	Bath: 1	09/09/2003	HOD: \$246	Sold Price: \$462,500	Bath: 1.75	09/08/2003	HOD: \$420	Sold Price: \$447,000 Pool	Bath: 1
SOLD	445 25TH ST	SANTA MONICA	90402	SOLD	201 OCEAN AVE #PH4-5	SANTA MONICA	90402	SOLD	1440 23RD ST #105	SANTA MONICA	90404
Sold Date	SqFt: 4,146	List Price: \$2,195,000	Bed: 5	Sold Date	SqFt: 2,400	List Price: \$1,050,000	Bed: 3	Sold Date	SqFt: 919	List Price: \$361,989	Bed: 2
09/12/2003	Lot Size: 8,700	Sold Price: \$2,075,000	Bath: 4.5	09/11/2003	HOD: \$1,167	Sold Price: \$900,000 Pool	Bath: 3.5	09/09/2003	HOD: \$225	Sold Price: \$380,000	Bath: 2
SOLD	210 14TH ST	SANTA MONICA	90402	SOLD	940 7TH ST #5	SANTA MONICA	90403	SOLD	933 21ST ST #3	SANTA MONICA	90403
Sold Date	SqFt: 3,878	List Price: \$1,895,000	Bed: 4	Sold Date	SqFt: 715	List Price: \$330,000	Bed: 1	Sold Date	SqFt: 1,395	List Price: \$559,000	Bed: 2
09/11/2003	Lot Size: 7,496	Sold Price: \$1,882,093	Bath: 3.75	09/10/2003	HOD: \$165	Sold Price: \$336,000	Bath: 1	09/10/2003	HOD: \$260	Sold Price: \$535,275	Bath: 2.5
SOLD	420 OCEAN PARK BLVD	SANTA MONICA	90405	SOLD	1325 ARIZONA AVE #101	SANTA MONICA	90404	SOLD	2628 KANSAS AVE #11	SANTA MONICA	90404
Sold Date	SqFt: 2,288	List Price: \$980,000	Bed: 3	Sold Date	SqFt: 1,517	List Price: \$549,000	Bed: 2	Sold Date	SqFt: 955	List Price: \$299,000	Bed: 2
09/08/2003	Lot Size: 2,631	Sold Price: \$960,000	Bath: 2.75	09/10/2003	HOD: \$300	Sold Price: \$562,000	Bath: 2.5	09/08/2003	HOD: \$199	Sold Price: \$305,000	Bath: 1.5
SOLD	619 EUCLID ST	SANTA MONICA	90402	SOLD	1305 23RD ST #3	SANTA MONICA	90404	SOLD	2000 WASHINGTON AVE #2006	SANTA MONICA	90403
Sold Date	SqFt: N/A	List Price: \$2,050,000	Bed: 4	Sold Date	SqFt: 1,535	List Price: \$449,000	Bed: 4	Sold Date	SqFt: 583	List Price: \$399,000	Bed: 1
09/11/2003	Lot Size: 7,496	Sold Price: \$2,050,000	Bath: 4.5	09/08/2003	HOD: \$150	Sold Price: \$455,000	Bath: 2.75	09/11/2003	HOD: \$198	Sold Price: \$385,000	Bath: 1
SOLD	2410 33RD ST	SANTA MONICA	90405	SOLD	515 OCEAN AVE #408S	SANTA MONICA	90402	SOLD	1133 18TH ST	SANTA MONICA	90403
Sold Date	SqFt: N/A	List Price: \$849,000	Bed: 3	Sold Date	SqFt: 1,900	List Price: \$1,295,000	Bed: 2	Sold Date	SqFt: 2,439	List Price: \$1,195,000	#Units: 3
09/12/2003	Lot Size: 9,600	Sold Price: \$980,000	Bath: 2	09/10/2003	HOD: \$934	Sold Price: \$1,200,000 PoolBath: 2.5		09/12/2003	Lot Size: 7,997	Sold Price: \$1,200,000	GRM: 0.00
SOLD	924 15TH ST #3	SANTA MONICA	90403	SOLD	521 PIER AVE #5	SANTA MONICA	90405				
Sold Date	SqFt: 1,774	List Price: \$699,000	Bed: 3	Sold Date	SqFt: N/A	List Price: \$594,000	Bed: 3				
09/08/2003	HOD: \$169	Sold Price: \$732,000	Bath: 3	09/10/2003	HOD: \$225	Sold Price: \$592,000	Bath: 1.75				
SOLD	520 MONTANA AVE #103	SANTA MONICA	90403	SOLD	201 OCEAN AVE #710B	SANTA MONICA	90402				
Sold Date	SqFt: 954	List Price: \$359,000	Bed: 1	Sold Date	SqFt: 1,216	List Price: \$347,000	Bed: 2				
09/09/2003	HOD: \$178	Sold Price: \$375,000	Bath: 1.75	09/10/2003	HOD: \$609	Sold Price: \$347,000 Pool	Bath: 2				



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REAL ESTATE

What is a 'load factor' and what it means in your lease



IN YOUR SPACE

By Christina S. Porter

Hopefully most of you will not have to negotiate more than a few leases in your business career. A commercial real estate broker conducts lease negotiations regularly and grasps the many components that should come into play during the process. Understanding the different types of leases is a very important part of an effective negotiation, and renegotiation of the terms and conditions in a lease. One of the more prominent lease structures is the "full service gross" lease.

A full service gross lease is primarily used in larger, "A" class office buildings, which include most of the larger office buildings in Westwood, Brentwood and West Los Angeles. But that doesn't mean that smaller buildings do not offer full service gross leases, just less frequent.

When you agree to a lease with a full service gross specification it should include the following general terms:

■ The landlord pays all building expenses, including electricity and janitorial.

■ You pay for parking and your "prorata," the share of any increase in operating expenses over the "base year," which is usually the first year of your lease term.

■ You are usually on your own as far as "after hours" heating ventilating and air conditioning. Most "A" class office buildings charge as much as \$100 per hour and certainly not less than \$35 for after hours air conditioning. The hours that most buildings offer HVAC vary, but you can expect 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. If you consistently need "off hours" HVAC, it is possible

to have a "package unit" installed in your suite.

■ Be sure to ask if the parking rates include the city.

Another important factor used primarily in a full service gross lease is the "load factor." What is your rentable square feet and how much do you actually occupy? Do you know what the amount of "usable" square footage is in your office suite?

In all office buildings there is a "common area" the size of which, during the life of a building, may change from remodel to remodel. The common area consists of the hallways, lobby areas, bathrooms and any area of the office that is not for your exclusive use. The "usable" square footage is how many square feet you actually occupy.

The "rentable" square footage is calculated by the percentage of the office project's square footage that is common area, added to the actual amount of square footage that you occupy in your suite.

Example: If you occupy 10,000 square feet and the "load factor" is 15 percent, then your "rentable" square footage amount (and the basis from which your base rent is calculated) is 11,500 square feet.

Even though you do not have exclusive use of the common areas you are still paying for it via the load factor.

Most owners add a load factor close to 15 percent to be competitive, notwithstanding the fact that their building's actual common area percentage may be much higher and occasionally lower. It is rare to find an owner that does not add a percentage to the amount of square feet that you actually occupy to compensate for the load factor.

When comparing lease opportunities, the "load factor" is certainly an important component.

(Christina S. Porter is a senior associate at NAI Capital Commercial Real Estate, specializing in leasing, and selling office and industrial buildings.)

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8/04/03	2716 Ocean Blvd.	\$2.10 FS	3,346
7/29/03	2450 Broadway	\$3.10 FS	3,081
8/20/03	501 Colorado	\$2.00 FS	1,258
7/17/03	3015 Main Street	\$2.76 FS	3,712
7/10/03	12300 Wilshire Blvd	\$2.45 FS	2,056

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STATE

CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

Jury awards \$2M to man shot by cop

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A federal jury decided a Fillmore man shot by a Ventura County sheriff's deputy during a wedding reception should get more than \$2 million to compensate him for medical bills, pain, lost wages and other hardships.

The U.S. District Court panel, which deliberated only one day, was unable to reach a decision Monday on punitive damages and the judge declared a mistrial on that portion of the damages phase of trial.

The five-man, two-woman jury said Tony Morales, 54, should receive \$2,073,000.

"This is a big award. There are very few seven-figure awards coming out of this federal courthouse in police misconduct cases and this was a nonfatal shooting," said Morales' attorney, John Burton.

In August, the same federal jury determined Ventura County rookie Deputy Tonya Herbst, 31, acted negligently and violated his civil rights. The Sheriff's Department and district attorney's office ruled the shooting was justified.

On May 20, 2000, Morales' son Chad became drunk and combative during a wedding reception. He left and later returned with a handgun and deputies were called.

Herbst, who later said she feared for her safety, fired at Chad Morales. The bullet missed and struck the elder Morales.

Judge rules against residents who sue over high gas bills

By The Associated Press

LONG BEACH — A judge ruled against residents who sued the city over inflated natural gas prices during winter 2000-2001.

Superior Court Judge Charles McCoy, in a ruling released Monday, said the city didn't violate charter provisions specifying that gas rates must be comparable to surrounding utilities.

"It is in my estimation a victory for the city, but also a victory for the taxpayers," City Attorney Bob Shannon said.

Resident John Donaldson, the additional plaintiffs and Long Beach Citizens for Utility Reform sued for more than \$38 million in refunds for the city's gas customers based on gas bills from 2000 and 2001.

The suit also said the city spent more than \$250 million in gas profits since the 1980s instead of reserving the money for emergencies.

Customers saw their rates jump more than 600 percent during winter 2000-2001. The city purchased gas on a monthly basis at the California border and there were serious price spikes. Long Beach rates were double those charged by Southern California Gas Co. because Edison had space on interstate transmission lines, avoiding perilous prices at the border, the city said.

Horse operators guilty of animal cruelty

By The Associated Press

RIVERSIDE — The operators of a San Jacinto horse rehabilitation facility pleaded guilty to one count each of animal cruelty and horse theft and were placed on three years' probation and ordered to stay away from horses.

James and Loren Hardie, who ran California Horse Protection, had each been charged with 13 counts of animal cruelty. James Hardie also received 120 days in a sheriff's work-release program and Mrs. Hardie got a 360-day suspended sentence.

Their horse facility was raided Oct. 4, and animal control officers euthanized 10 horses at the site and seized 69 other horses, three burros and a mule. The Hardies said the raid came at a time when they had taken in too many neglected horses at once.

Some of those who owned horses that died or were euthanized at California Horse Protection were upset by last week's plea deal.

"She didn't get any jail time? For killing 10 horses? She needs to be in jail thinking about this," Rita Babb said. The Moreno Valley resident owned P.S. I Love You, one of the first horses to be euthanized in the Oct. 4 raid.

Blood donations going bad in Red Cross fridges

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Malfunctioning refrigerators may force the Southern California region of the American Red Cross to destroy blood donations from up to 3,500 people, including blood collected during Sept. 11 blood drives.

Officials said Monday that refrigerators kept the blood too cold.

"It's just devastating to us. You know how perilous the blood supply is," regional Red Cross spokeswoman Julie Juliusson said Monday. A national review board of the Red Cross will decide the fate of the blood, which has been quarantined.

The Red Cross supplies at least half of the blood used in the Southern California region. The quarantined blood is enough to cover about three days' worth of the amount the local Red Cross typically distributes.

The Red Cross told hospitals it would greatly restrict the amount of blood it can provide, and suggested it may be necessary to delay elective surgeries.

Juliusson of the Red Cross traced the problems to the malfunctioning of two new refrigerators at the organization's Irvine facility. For six hours Friday morning, the blood was stored several degrees below the recommended range.

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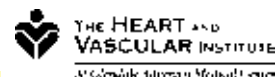
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Thousands more told to evacuate as Hurricane Isabel charges toward East Coast

BY EMERY P. DALESIO
Associated Press Writer

MANTEO, N.C. — Traffic surged off the Outer Banks island chain Tuesday as more than 100,000 people were urged to evacuate the North Carolina coast before the arrival of Hurricane Isabel, which had weakened but remained a dangerous storm on a track toward land.

The National Hurricane Center posted a hurricane watch from Little River Inlet, S.C., to Chincoteague, Va., including Pamlico and Albemarle Sounds and a large part of Chesapeake Bay.

On tiny, low-lying Tangier Island in Chesapeake Bay, Wallace Pruitt stored outdoor furniture at the bed-and-breakfast inn he runs with his wife, Shirley.

"I don't usually get too excited about something like this, but this one has so much force I've been preparing for two days," said Pruitt, 63.

Forecasters said Isabel appeared to be on a course to hit Thursday on the North Carolina coast and move northward through eastern Virginia. Large swells and dangerous surf already were being felt along the coast.

The storm's maximum sustained wind had decreased to about 105 mph. More weakening was possible but the storm could strengthen again before landfall, the National Hurricane Center said in Miami.

The latest evacuation orders were for the low-lying Outer Banks islands, including an estimated 75,000 people from Hatteras to Duck in Dare County, plus 15,000 to 20,000 in Currituck County north to the Virginia state line and 13,000 along beaches near Morehead City in Carteret County. A day earlier, hundreds of residents of vulnerable Ocracoke and Bald Head islands were ordered to evacuate.

Thousands of vacationers and residents left Outer Banks on Tuesday but traffic was moving smoothly. With the storm weakening, many residents appeared ready to stay put.

On Hatteras Island, Margie and Joe Brecker screwed plywood onto the door and windows of their Christmas gift shop in Rodanthe, but left up the colored holiday lights. They planned to stay.

"That way, we are right here when it's time to clean up, and we're able to help others," Margie Brecker said.

Despite the order, Dare County spokeswoman Dorothy Toolan said no one would be forced to leave.

On Tuesday, Isabel's maximum sustained wind had slowed to near 105 mph, down from about 125 mph at 5 p.m. Monday, making it a Category 2 storm. On Sunday, Isabel's wind had hit 160 mph, making it a Category 5 storm.

The storm was moving north-northwest at around 7 mph and was about 595 miles southeast of North Carolina's Cape Hatteras, the hurricane center reported.

Hurricane center meteorologist Eric Blake said people should not let their guard down even though the storm was weakening.

"Hurricanes are notorious for gaining strength as they cross the Gulf Stream," he said. Even at a Category 2, he added, "there's still a lot of potential for danger."

"I don't usually get too excited about something like this, but this one has so much force I've been preparing for two days."

— WALLACE PRUITT
Resident

North of Manteo in Virginia, ships from the Navy's Atlantic Fleet started heading out to sea Tuesday from Norfolk, Va., and Earle, N.J., to sail out of the hurricane's direct path and avoid being battered against their piers. The Air Force had started flying airplanes from coastal bases to fields inland.

Moving the ships, manned by some 13,000 sailors, costs "in the millions" but the expense would be far greater if the ships were battered in port, said Adm. Robert J. Natter, commander of the Norfolk-based Atlantic Fleet. "We cannot afford to have these very expensive, valuable national assets caught in port in a storm like this."

Isabel hadn't veered from its expected track, said Lt. Dave Roberts, a Navy meteorologist at the hurricane center. After landfall it could spread heavy rain from North Carolina all the way to the New England states, he said.

Emergency officials in Maryland and Pennsylvania, where the ground already is saturated in places by a wet summer, had started planning for the possibility of high wind and heavy rain by Friday morning.

The storm could enter Pennsylvania with wind just below the hurricane-strength threshold of 74 mph, said weather service meteorologist John LaCorte in State College, Pa.

New Jersey officials started preparations in areas where Isabel could cause flooding, including Bound Brook, where the Raritan River peaked at 20 feet over flood stage when Hurricane Floyd struck in 1999, and two people died.

Virginia Gov. Mark R. Warner had already declared a state of emergency, putting National Guardsmen, state police and transportation crews on full alert and activating about 500 National Guard troops.

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NATIONAL



Utah rescue teams continue search for missing hikers

BY CHRISTIE L. HILL
Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — Horse-mounted rescue teams and volunteers led by bloodhound dogs probed the Wall Lake and Long Lake areas of the Uinta Mountains Tuesday as the search for a missing mother and daughter entered its third day.

Carole Wetherton, 58, of Panama, Fla., and Kimberly Beverly, 39, of Tucker, Ga., were on a hiking trip in Utah's tallest mountain range when they disappeared last week — about the same time a snow storm hit the area and as overnight temperatures were routinely dropping to the 20s.

A map found inside the women's rented vehicle, found near the Crystal Lake trailhead, showed they had circled two

lakes on the map, including Wall Lake, suggesting to authorities that the pair may have wanted to hike there.

Besides the map, the two left behind bottled water, protein bars and hiking material.

Wherever the two were headed in the Uintas, they likely did so in cold conditions and without clothes sufficient to protect them from the elements, officials said.

A storm moved into the mountains the night of Sept. 8, and dropped between 4 and 6 inches of snow.

"All week they've had below-freezing temperatures," said Dave Booth, chief deputy with the Summit County Sheriff's Department. "Once the sun goes down, it gets extremely cold. It snows in July at times."

Family members were alarmed and

called police when the two failed to make their flights back home last Saturday.

The women were told by a U.S. Forest Service ranger in the Uintas on Sept. 7 that they were not dressed properly for hiking, Booth said. Authorities believe the pair then left the area before returning and getting lost.

At some point, the two spent \$99 at a nearby Wal-Mart, Booth said. It's not known if the purchase was made before or after the ranger's warning, Booth said. The two were staying at a time-share condominium in the ski resort town of Park City.

Foul play is not suspected, Summit County officials say.

Wall Lake and Long Lake — two of dozens of lakes in the immediate area of where the two disappeared — are located

about 50 miles east of Salt Lake City.

Rescue crews from five counties maintained the intense search Tuesday, though their numbers were down slightly from the more than 100 searchers who combed the Crystal Lake area Monday.

Booth said the search will continue until the end of the week before authorities re-evaluate the effort.

Relatives of the women arrived earlier this week to aid the investigation. They told police that Wetherton and Beverly were experienced hikers and were in excellent physical condition.

Search crews are routinely called to the Uintas to look for missing hikers, anglers and hunters, a grim testament to the region's rugged terrain.

Jensen family goes public again with treatment gripes

BY RICH VOSEPKA
Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — The parents of a boy with cancer publicly aired their gripes about their son's medical treatment again on Tuesday, but declined to say what they would do if an Idaho doctor — the fourth — tells them the boy needs chemotherapy.

Barbara and Daren Jensen aren't convinced that their 12-year-old son Parker still has any cancer cells in his body, and they don't want him to get chemotherapy, as doctors have advised. They think the treatment will do more harm than good.

Their refusal led a Utah judge to order the treatment — and prompted the Jensens to flee the state last month. Kidnapping charges against the parents and an order transferring Parker into state custody followed.

The custody order was lifted when the Jensens, who are staying with relatives in Pocatello, Idaho, agreed to abide by whatever Boise physician Martin Johnston, the fourth doctor to examine the boy, recommended.

Last week, Johnson indicated the boy likely needs chemotherapy, but more tests would be performed before he made a final recommendation.

Daren Jensen saw it as this latest doctor rubber-stamping the findings of the earlier doctors. And in an interview on the CBS "Early Show" Tuesday, Jensen declined

to say if he would refuse the treatment if the doctor recommended it, calling it hypothetical. He said he remained confident the tests would show that Parker has no cancer cells in his body.

McDonald said if the Jensens refuse to comply with the agreement, they could be held in contempt of court, and her office could get the warrant placing the boy in protective custody reissued.

Jensen did not immediately return calls from The Associated Press seeking comment.

Mollie McDonald, a guardian appointed by 3rd District Juvenile Court to look out for Parker's interests, said Tuesday she had heard no indication that the Jensens planned to back out of their agreement to follow Johnston's advice. She said the tests are scheduled for next week, and tissue samples from the boy's mouth, where a small malignant tumor was found, were being

shipped to Boise for evaluation.

McDonald said if the Jensens refuse to comply with the agreement, they could be held in contempt of court, and her office could get the warrant placing the boy in protective custody reissued.

The court agreement doesn't contain a specific list of tests to be performed, McDonald said, but it does contain a provision requiring the parties to negotiate if the Jensens don't think they're getting the information they want.

The kidnapping charges are still pending. The Salt Lake district attorney's office has said it is working to resolve that case. The parents surrendered to the county last week and were released on their own recognizance.

Jensen also faulted Primary Children's Medical Center in Salt Lake City for "bullying" him into chemotherapy. Daren Jensen said he started asking for more tests, and the doctors said the boy would need chemotherapy no matter what.

A spokeswoman for Primary Children's said she could not respond because of patient confidentiality laws. Bonnie Midget said the Jensens have refused to sign consent forms that would allow the hospital to discuss the case.

Voters deciding fate of espresso tax

BY REBECCA COOK
Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE — Voters in this caffeine-fueled city on Tuesday were deciding the fate of a proposed 10-cent tax on espresso drinks, a ballot initiative that has jolted an otherwise sleepy, off-year primary election with a double shot of controversy.

The 10-cent tax on Seattle's beloved espresso drinks would pay for preschool and day care programs. Initiative sponsor John Burbank says people who spend \$3 to \$5 on coconut mochas and iced vanilla lattes can afford an extra dime for kids.

"People will be very happy to purchase their tall double latte and know 10 cents is going to the children of Seattle," said an optimistic Burbank on Tuesday morning.

Besides being progressive,

Burbank said, Seattle's steadfast devotion to espresso drinks means the tax is also recession-proof.

But coffee shop owners, including Seattle-based behemoth Starbucks, have been fighting the tax.

Jeff Babcock, owner of Zoka Coffee and Roasters, staged a Boston Tea Party-style protest earlier this month, throwing burlap coffee bags into Seattle's Green Lake.

The bags were filled with balloons, both to aid their recovery and because even the most ardent Seattle political protest doesn't warrant wasting perfectly good espresso beans.

"It's not a luxury item as far as the culture here," Babcock said Tuesday, objecting to the initiative's categorization of espresso drinks as a luxury. "It's a cold, wet, damp environment. Coffee's big, and everyone loves their lattes."

Most of his customers are the sort of Seattle liberals who dutifully vote for every school bond levy, Babcock said, but they're not going for the espresso tax: "They just think it's a crazy tax."

The ballot measure, Initiative 77, would not tax regular drip coffee, only espresso drinks.

Proponents say it would raise at least \$6.5 million a year, while a more conservative City Council estimate says the revenue would likely top out at \$3.5 million annually.

If the tax passes, the money would pay for local preschool programs modeled on Head Start, grants to help poor families pay for child care, and raises for child care workers with advanced training. Many of these programs are hurting for money after several rounds of state and local budget cuts.

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NATIONAL

Company to begin tracking meat from farm to table

BY EMILY GERSEMA
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Restaurants and supermarkets will be able to trace beef suspected in food poisoning cases back to the farm where the cow was raised through a new database endorsed by meatpackers and fast food companies.

The database and tracking system was developed by VeriPrime Inc., a company based in Wichita, Kan. The company is expected to introduce the new program at a Washington press conference Wednesday.

John Lawrence, a VeriPrime vice president, said meatpacker Swift & Co. and fast food giant Burger King are among some of the food companies that have signed on. The National Cattlemen's Beef Association also is supportive.

Lawrence said VeriPrime will be able to track herds of cattle from birth to slaughter by labeling each newborn calf with a coded, metal tag.

"We know what lot it came from and what herd it came from," said Lawrence. "Once it gets packed and sent out we can track it back to a specific herd. That will help in recalls."

Supermarkets and restaurants can check with VeriPrime to find out where meat linked to a food-poisoning outbreak came from, he said.

Keeping tabs on food from farm to fork can also help investigations into animal disease outbreaks.

Lawrence said the database was developed because meat industry officials were concerned that cattle could become infected with disease like foot-and-mouth, an illness that is harmless to humans but can devastate livestock.

Mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy, has also worried meatpackers and farmers since Canada found a cow infected with the brain-wasting illness earlier this year. Scientists declared it an isolated incident.

The Agriculture Department stopped short of endorsing VeriPrime. Still, the department is urging the entire meat industry to participate in a national system to track all meat from farms to packing plants to stores, said Chuck Lambert, the department's deputy undersecretary of marketing programs.

The information that companies collect on livestock will improve the security and safety of the nation's food supply, Lambert said.

"A lot of these data systems have a lot more information involved in them — cattle quality growth rates, meat quality and all that — but we don't anticipate that being a portion of the national database," Lambert said. "It's just the ability to track

location and movement of livestock."

Unlike the Food and Drug Administration, the Agriculture Department isn't requiring food companies to track foods as they move from suppliers to supermarkets. Still, Lambert said he anticipates most companies will participate in the voluntary animal-tracking system.

Swift & Co., which operates the giant beef plant in Greeley, Colo., that was blamed for a food-poisoning outbreak last year, is backing VeriPrime.

"Once it gets packed and sent out we can track it back to a specific herd. That will help in recalls."

— JOHN LAWRENCE
Vice president,
VeriPrime

Jim Herlihy, a spokesman, said Swift wants to help get better control over E. coli, a deadly bacteria found in feces that can contaminate meat and cause consumers to get sick. In some cases, it is deadly.

Such a program also offers retailers and consumers some assurance that the meat has been carefully tracked before it ends up in stores or in restaurant dishes, he said.

"We envision that VeriPrime will be like a 'Good Housekeeping' seal to show that the process has been reviewed from start to finish," Herlihy said.

Money collected from retailers will also help cover research on food-borne illness, he said.

Lawrence said the cost of keeping records and tagging animals will be paid for by retailers that subscribe to VeriPrime for its tracking services — about 5 cents for every pound of meat. He declined to estimate how much it will cost per year to operate, saying it will depend on how many other restaurants and supermarkets sign on for the service.

Right now, VeriPrime will just track U.S. beef. The company plans to expand and cover hogs, chickens, turkeys and fish. Lawrence also said VeriPrime is working on a similar system to track animals imported from Canada and Mexico and raised in the United States.

The Agriculture Department is expected to require retailers to tell consumers where meat comes from on the label by fall 2004. Lawrence said retailers could use VeriPrime to comply.

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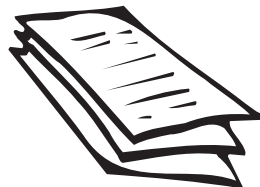
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NATIONAL □ INTERNATIONAL



WORLD BRIEFLY

Arafat's olive branch rejected

By The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Yasser Arafat wants to reach a truce with Israel, his national security adviser said yesterday, but Israeli officials brushed off the offer and instead called on the Palestinian Authority crackdown on militant groups.

The offer came a day after the Palestinian premier-designate, Ahmed Qureia, handed Arafat the authority to appoint a new Cabinet, setting up a new confrontation with Israel, which has said it will not deal with an Arafat-dominated government.

In New York, the U.N. Security Council debated a Palestinian resolution to halt an Israeli decision to "remove" Arafat and was expected to vote on it this week.

Arafat's national security adviser, Brig. Gen. Jibril Rajoub, said the new ceasefire offer was meant to end all Palestinian acts of violence in exchange for an Israeli commitment to stop its military operations, including an end to blockades on Palestinian towns and villages.

African nation keeps military might

By The Associated Press

BISSAU, Guinea-Bissau — Guinea-Bissau's army chief of staff, who overthrew the West African nation's president, has won an agreement from political leaders to have presidential powers until new elections are held.

The capital was calm this week after Verissimo Correia Seabra and fellow senior officers arrested the elected president, Kumba Yala.

Although Yala was in military custody, junta leaders said he would eventually be free to leave Guinea-Bissau or to stay if he chose.

Seabra, a top leader in a junta that ruled Guinea-Bissau for 11 months in 1998-99, assembled heads of the country's political parties, as well as church and

union officials and other civilian leaders for consultations on a transition government.

The army chief secured an agreement from political party leaders granting him presidential powers in the impoverished former Portuguese colony until elections can be held.

Guerrillas ambush, kill top cop

By The Associated Press

FALLUJAH, Iraq — The police chief in the dangerous "Sunni Triangle" town of Khaldiya was killed this week in a roadside ambush as he was returning to his home in Fallujah, scene of rising criminal violence and guerrilla resistance to the American occupation of Iraq.

The attack was sure to further complicate U.S. efforts to build local police and militia structures to take over security in the region, where support for Saddam Hussein remains strong.

The killing of Col. Khedair Mekhalef Ali also came on the heels of the mistaken killing of eight Iraqi policemen by U.S. forces in the worst friendly fire incident since major fighting ended.

In central Baghdad, a 1st Armored Division soldier died of his wounds in a military field hospital this week after a pre-dawn rocket-propelled attack on his patrol.

He was the 157th American soldier to die in Iraq since President Bush declared an end to major combat on May 1. In heavy fighting before that date, 138 soldiers lost their lives.

Iraq, al-Qaida link on trial

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration's claims of ties between Saddam Hussein's regime and al-Qaida terrorists are being tested in federal court, where the family of the FBI's late counterterrorism chief has sued Iraq over the Sept. 11 suicide hijackings.

The wife and children of John O'Neill, who died in the attack on the World Trade Center, allege that Iraq began communicating with al-Qaida as early as 1992, provided training to Osama bin Laden's warriors and sent intelligence agents to work with the terror network in Afghanistan.

The suit accuses Iraq of complicity in the Sept. 11 attacks by providing support to terrorists, and seeks \$1 billion in damages.

The Associated Press reported over the weekend, based on interviews with intelligence officials, that the Bush administration has evidence of contacts between Iraqi intelligence and al-Qaida but no proof of direct Iraqi sponsorship of al-Qaida attacks.

The evidence, the sources said, includes statements by Iraqi defectors and al-Qaida prisoners that Iraqi intelligence provided al-Qaida with training in document forgery and chemical and biological weapons in a series of contacts that spiked in 1996, and again after 1998.

Fed leaving well enough alone

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Amid signs the economy finally has shaken its lethargy and is perking up, Federal Reserve policy-makers are likely to keep a major short-term interest rate at near rock-bottom levels through the rest of this year and probably into part of next year as well, economists say.

The Fed's main lever for influencing economic activity, the federal funds rate, stands at a 45-year low of 1 percent.

And commercial banks' prime lending rate, which is affected by changes in the funds rate, is at 4 percent, the lowest level since 1959. The prime rate is the benchmark for many short-term consumer and business loans.

Those super-low short-term interest rates, along with President Bush's third round of tax cuts, have helped get the economy's anticipated rebound in the second half of this year off to a good start, economists said.

The National Association for Business Economics predicts the economy will grow at a rate of 4.5 percent in the current quarter and at a 4 percent pace in the final quarter of this year. If that bears out, it would mark the economy's strongest back-to-back quarterly growth rates since the final half of 1999.

Anti-immigrant backlash fuels desire for citizenship

BY DANIEL GONZALEZ

Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX — Jose de la Cruz has lived in the United States for more than half of his life, but the 39-year-old native of Guatemala, like millions of other foreign-born Latinos, has never become a U.S. citizen.

What has held him back?

Not his immigration status. De la Cruz has been a legal permanent resident since 1988, one of the requirements for applying for citizenship.

Not his language skills. De la Cruz speaks English well enough to pass the citizenship test.

And not his family.

"My mom is always asking me, 'When are you going to become a citizen?'" said de la Cruz, a driver for Airborne Express who finally has decided to apply for citizenship.

The reason for his resistance was simple: He always dreamed of returning to Guatemala someday and didn't want to give up his Guatemalan citizenship.

His sentiment is heard often among foreign-born Latinos, who historically have tended to cling to their homelands more than other immigrant groups, primarily because of Latin America's proximity to the United States.

"I think that happens a lot," said Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-Ariz. The attitude among many foreign-born Latinos, Grijalva said, is "I came here to work hard, raise my family and save some money and go back."

But Grijalva and others said they are trying to encourage more qualified

"It's important to show the rest of the state that the people who we are talking about, who are legally here, that they want to be fully part of the society."

— REP. RAUL GRIJALVA

D-Ariz.

Latinos to seek citizenship, in part, to counter an anti-immigrant backlash that followed the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and gained steam with the downturn in the economy.

"There is a lot of immigrant-bashing going on," Grijalva said. "It's important to show the rest of the state that the people who we are talking about, who are legally here, that they want to be fully part of the society."

In June, Grijalva joined a group of Hispanic Democrats who launched a national campaign to encourage millions of foreign-born Latinos to become U.S. citizens. The citizenship campaign is aimed at boosting the political clout of the nation's largest minority group by helping immigrants "take that extra step to become citizens," Grijalva said.

"The value of citizenship is viewed as a form of security and empowerment," Grijalva said.

Rep. Ed Pastor, D-Ariz., rejects the notion that foreign-born Latinos resist applying for U.S. citizenship out of a sense of allegiance to their homeland.

"In the past, the allegiance to their country was an issue, but in many cases it's (applying for citizenship) just an

inconvenience," said Pastor, who has held a citizenship workshop in Phoenix.

Among the registrants was Perla Meza, a 27-year-old administrative assistant and Phoenix resident. Born in Chihuahua, Mexico, Meza said she came to the United States as a young girl with her parents and has had her green card almost 20 years.

Meza said an increase in immigrant bashing prompted her to register for the workshop, but she admitted she put off applying for citizenship for years out of "pure laziness."

As part of the campaign, leaders hope 100 members of Congress will sponsor citizenship workshops in 100 congressional districts around the country.

"A lot of new policies have been passed since 9-11 that are anti-immigrant," said Michele Waslin, senior immigration policy analyst for the Washington, D.C.-based National Council of La Raza, a Latino advocacy and civil rights organization.

"President Bush has not fulfilled his promises to the Latino community in the areas of immigration, health, education, public benefits, housing. And in order to make positive changes, Latinos need to show their strength and vote."

In Arizona, a grassroots group backed

by state Reps. Russell Pearce, R-Mesa, and Randy Graf, R-Green Valley, is trying to get an initiative on the 2004 ballot that would impose new requirements to provide evidence of citizenship to register to vote, cast ballots at polling places and obtain government services not mandated by the federal government.

Of course, many foreign-born Latinos are embracing U.S. citizenship. In 2002, 76,000 immigrants from Mexico became naturalized U.S. citizens, more than twice as many as from any other country, according to the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Still, the Census Bureau estimates that more than 11 million Latinos, about 30 percent of Hispanics in the United States, are not citizens.

Waslin said there are many reasons why so many foreign-born Latinos aren't citizens. Some are ineligible because they are either living in the United States without documents, or they are still waiting for their permanent resident visas, so-called green cards.

The \$310 application fee or the cost of hiring a lawyer to help fill out the paperwork thwarts some, she said. Others are intimidated by the application process itself, which includes tests in English and civics, as well as a criminal background check. The length of the process also is a turnoff, Waslin said.

The Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services said there are currently 640,000 naturalization applications pending nationwide, with an average processing time of 12 months.

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BACK PAGE

Sean P. Diddy Combs can't snuff 'Bad Boy' images

By The Associated Press

■ **MIAMI** — Sean "P. Diddy" Combs' love of cigars has put him in a cloud of legal trouble.

A boutique cigar maker claims a cameraman trespassed at its Miami factory and filmed its "secret process" in June, and the footage wound up in Combs' music video for the movie "Bad Boys II," starring Will Smith and Martin Lawrence.

The lawsuit, which Moore & Bode Cigars filed earlier this month in Miami-Dade Circuit Court, seeks at least \$15,000 in damages from the rapper-producer, Bad Boys Entertainment Inc. and the unknown camera operator.

Dan Klores, a spokesman for Combs, said, "We'll investigate and gather all the accurate information before we make any comment publicly."

The lawsuit claims the company's "unique method of rolling the cigars" was taped for the "Shake Ya Tailfeather" video while the owners were out, after the cameraman was told to leave and without company permission.

■ **LONDON** — So far, only Andrew Lloyd Webber's houseguests have had a chance to enjoy them, but now the composer's art treasures, including works by Canaletto and Picasso, are being shown to a wider audience.

Around 300 works from Lloyd Webber's country home Sydmonton, west of London, will go on display today at the Royal Academy of Arts in London for three months.

The 58-year-old fell in love with Victorian and Pre-Raphaelite art while still a teenager and has been collecting ever since. He expanded his horizons to take in works from later periods, including an outstanding set of oils by the British artist Stanley Spencer.

Lloyd Webber said Tuesday he can't put a value on the paintings in the exhibit. But Picasso's portrait of a male friend, entitled "Angel Fernandez de Soto," alone is reported to be worth around \$29 million.

The composer made his fortune from stage hits including "Cats," "The Phantom of the Opera" and "Evita."

Besides the paintings, there are also books and tapes from Edward Burne-Jones, William Morris and other designers.

Lloyd Webber stepped in with his exhibition after plans for another display fell through.

The composer wants his collection to go on permanent display after his death. But he said, "I'm not going to leave it to the nation — it'd go to a museum where they never hang half the stuff and it will go into a basement somewhere. I want my own gallery where it is available for everyone to come and see it."

■ **INDEPENDENCE, Mo.** — The suburban Kansas City birthplace of dancer and film star Ginger Rogers has been designated a historic landmark.

The Independence City Council has voted unanimously to make the home where Rogers was born a local landmark, qualifying it for historic preservation.

The owners of the home, which was built around 1900, applied for historic status in July 2002.

Rogers, best known as Fred Astaire's dance partner in 10 popular films beginning with "Flying Down to Rio" in 1933, was born in the home on July 16, 1911, as Virginia Katherine McMath. She began performing on the theater circuit after winning a state Charleston championship in Texas when she was 14, eventually making it to Broadway and then Hollywood, where she'd made 19 films before co-starring with Astaire.

The entertainer, who died in 1995, had returned to visit the home several times after she became famous.

"I think this is long overdue," Independence Mayor Ron Stewart said. "I am very happy we are finally getting around to this designation."

■ **NEW YORK** — Being a "Survivor" once doesn't mean a little lobbying is beneath you.

Host Jeff Probst says he's been getting tapes from past contestants on the CBS reality show who hope to com-

pete again. Casting for the alumni edition of "Survivor" is happening soon and the series will air early next year.

Some of the game's indelible personalities may be in for a surprise, Probst said.

"The notion of 'just because you won entitles you to a shot' is, from my point of view, baloney," he said.

Meanwhile, the seventh edition of the show, from Pearl Islands, debuts at 5 p.m. Thursday. It features the biggest whopper of a lie told by a "Survivor" contestant and a near drowning.

When a contestant started struggling during a water-based challenge, Probst was on shore telling antsy rescuers to wait and see if the person's teammates would come to the rescue.

"I was on the beach saying, 'Hold off, hold off,'" he said.

■ **HONOLULU** — Veteran film and television stars including Ernest Borgnine, June Lockhart and Jean Simmons are expected to be in Hawaii early next year to shoot an independent film about finding love late in life.

The romantic comedy, "Madam, The Grass is High," is to be shot on Oahu and Maui for three months starting in January, according to author Dennis H. Christen, who adapted his novel for the screenplay and will direct.

Christen hasn't named his leading man or leading lady, but has lined up such veterans as Borgnine, who won the Academy Award for best actor for "Marty" and starred in "McHale's Navy" on television; Lockhart, who starred in "Lassie" and "Lost in Space" on TV; and Simmons, who starred in such films as "Elmer Gantry," "Guys and Dolls" and the TV mini-series "The Thorn Birds."

"We're planning several cameos, too," Christen said — from actor Red Buttons, country singer and part-time Maui resident Willie Nelson and veteran TV actor Carl Reiner. "And they've all said yes."

Hawaii will star as Hawaii, Christen said.

"We had looked at several places in the U.S., from Florida to California, even Australia," he said. "But I fell in love with Hawaii. It's the perfect place for our story."

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