

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

SUPER LOTTO PLUS

38-26-47-7-4

Megamember: 23
Jackpot: \$10 million

FANTASY 5

8, 17, 12, 36, 3

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 3, 4, 4

Evening picks: 4, 8, 9

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 8, Gorgeous George

2nd Place: 3, Eureka

3rd Place: 6, Whirl Win

Race Time: 1:40.12



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

"The patient is not likely to recover who makes the doctor his heir."

— Thomas Fuller



INDEX

Horoscopes

Rent a movie, Libra 2

Local

SMC looking for a leader 3

Opinion

News on the edge 4

State

Absentee ballots and the recall ... 8

National

Missing hikers search delayed ... 10

International

U.N. vetoes Arafat's protection ... 12

People in the News

Spielberg to take on mob 16

Setting the stage



Del Pastrana/Daily Press

The stage has been set for a private concert at the Jonathan Club that features classical composer and trombone soloist Chris Brubeck and the Pasadena Pops Orchestra. The Friday and Saturday events, which begin at 8 p.m., are not open to the public, but music lovers should be able to hear the sounds from the beach, just south of the parking lot off Pacific Coast Highway, near the Montana Avenue pedestrian ramp.

White House 'live' online

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Need a recipe to spice up your marriage? Wonder what became of Amy Carter's tree house? Curious to know whether the White House really is haunted?

Just "Ask the White House" — a 5-month-old effort to connect regular folks directly with top Bush administration officials through live online chat sessions on the White House Web site.

The forums provide another way for the White House to sell and defend President Bush's policies. Responding to questions that voice both skepticism and support, officials supply answers that keep

to the administration line on issues ranging from tax cuts and environmental actions to Medicare and judicial nominations.

The exchanges are not without lighter moments.

Someone going by the name "King Bloop Zed" asked Housing Secretary Mel Martinez if the government might offer incentives to those considering "Mars as an ideal location for a vacation home or just a place to get away from it all."

"Dear King," replied Martinez, "Your problem is one that does not appear to be housing. I think you are doing great at promoting tourism, but affordable housing in America is more of my concern."

Hotel workers call for union election

They say a majority of workers don't want to be unionized at Sheraton

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Despite the recent consent to unionize workers at the Four Points Sheraton, many staffers say they don't want to join Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Local 11 and are calling for an election to prove it.

"We want official votes," said Raul Morales, a bell captain at the hotel for nine years. "We don't want to cheat anyone. If (workers) want the union here, we will respect that."

Many hotel employees said that despite requests to be left alone, HERE organizers showed up at

"They're like roaches on your plate."

— VIVIAN VELASQUEZ

Phone operator,
Four Points Sheraton

their homes and second jobs in a bid to sway them to organize. Earlier this month, HERE announced that a majority of workers signed cards saying the hotel was ready to join the union.

Some Sheraton Four Points workers questioned whether the union really had majority support and produced a petition that appears to have signatures from

See UNION, page 5

Meter mangled: A tale of three parking spaces

City Hall shuts down valet parking at dealership

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

Three metered parking spaces in front of the Mitsubishi dealership on Santa Monica Boulevard will remain vacant indefinitely.

A dispute over the spaces, recently leased to the dealership as valet parking, came to a head this week and City Hall shut down the valet stand.

"It's kind of the worst thing," Santa Monica Mitsubishi owner Michael Korman said. "Because now I can't use them either."

City Hall earlier this year rented the three spots between 15th

and 16th streets to Mitsubishi for \$6,750 a year, plus a \$1,750 annual licensing fee. The valet parking was needed, Korman said, for prospective buyers who typically spend more than two hours talking over deals with salespeople.

But workers next door at Busy Bee Hardware at 1521 Santa Monica Blvd. said their customers are suffering, because the dealership lock on the spaces leaves fewer for hardware store customers. Workers complained that their customers, who might need only a handful of nails or a pair of pliers, will sometimes park illegally and get stuck with \$30-plus tickets.

Korman, who bought the

See PARKING, page 6

Powell finally gets to see the places he's fretted over

BY GEORGE GEDDA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The subject matter at city council meeting was fairly routine — street crime, youth programs, education and how to get women more engaged in politics. But this

was Baghdad and there, of all people, sat the American secretary of state — taking it all in.

The Baghdad City Council is the product of the United States' post-Saddam Hussein efforts to promote democracy in the country, which the Bush administration says is neces-

sarily a slow process. Secretary of State Colin Powell hopes the result will be full democratic development at all levels in Iraq.

The outcome is of surpassing importance to Powell; no issue has dominated his attention

See POWELL, page 11

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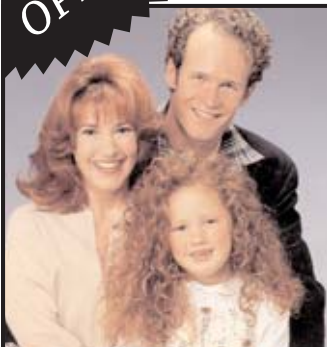
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, September 18, 2003:

You experience a lot of fast changes from others. You might wonder what is workable, but you will learn to adjust. You are inordinately attractive to others, drawing them toward you. Be careful, as jealousy could become a problem. Many around you will become unusually dynamic and unpredictable, though you do need to support these changes. You will gain through flex, especially around the workplace, but also personally. You will quickly learn that you have no control over others. You ultimately gain, because next spring you enter a new 11-year life cycle, where luck marks the first year. If you are single, a relationship will bloom this year that could be quite special. You can only evaluate where this tie is going. If you are attached, your relationship will bloom as long as you are willing to give each other his or her freedom. GEMINI pushes you hard.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Tension continues in the workplace, but your instincts will help you alleviate the pressure. You gain through conversations and resulting insights. Keep extending yourself, even if you experience enormous frustration. Tonight: Talk turkey with a loved one.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★ You might not understand what is going on with a loved one or a friend. Pressure builds around a creative endeavor or new flirtation. A child also might go awry. Unexpected happenings in a meeting force you to regroup. Tonight: Pay bills.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Your smile alleviates some of the tension around a personal matter. Avoid making any financial investments that could backfire. Investigate what a boss is really offering you. Be sure you want it. Tonight: Be spontaneous.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★ You might not want to consider what is motivating another you care a lot about. Still, you experience unexpected developments through conversations that force you to take a hard look. Could you be giving off mixed messages? Tonight: Take an overview.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ You might want to think through someone's suggestion, especially if it impacts your wallet. You need to know when to say "no." Your humor helps you get past an immediate liability and eliminates pressure. Tonight: Zoom in on what you want.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ You can say what you wish, but getting through to someone could take a considerable amount of talent and understanding. A boss makes demands to an extent that you could be upset by the pressure. You also might need to take time away from your personal life. Tonight: A must show.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Reach out to someone you care about. Your intuition helps you establish what's what. The unexpected occurs in the workplace, but you have the ingenuity to nail what is happening. Use your ability to flex. Tonight: Rent a movie on the way home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Dealing with another clearly takes you down a new path. You might easily shake your head at the present uproar. Finding solutions comes from working with another on a one-on-one level. Use your imagination in problem-solving. Tonight: A night with that special person.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Others seek you out. Finding the right answer could make a big difference in what goes on. How you see a situation and/or what develops changes because of a personal insight or the insight of a family member. You might want to rethink a decision. Tonight: Go along with another's wishes.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Rethink a personal matter if you're not comfortable with information coming through the grapevine. At the present moment, any efforts to gather more information could be frustrating. Tonight: A talk reveals surprising insight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Listen to a loved one who cares a lot about you. You might not get what is on his or her mind, but you do find out that a lot could happen quickly. Be careful with spending, as you could have a runaway checkbook! Tonight: Play away.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Your family becomes your highest priority. You might discover that the unexpected occurs. Keep your priorities in mind when dealing with family. You don't want to shake up the boss. Put this energy elsewhere. Tonight: Spend an easy night at home.

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LOCAL

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

College board needs to fill seat

By Daily Press staff

Facing one of its most challenging years in decades because of the budget crisis, the local community college needs another decision maker on its board of trustees.

The Santa Monica Community College District is seeking applications from qualified residents interested in being appointed to a vacant seat on the Board of Trustees until the next regularly scheduled board election in November 2004.

The seven-member Board of Trustees, elected by voters in the community college district, is the governing body for Santa Monica College, which serves about 25,000 students and provides vital educational services to communities in the region. The Santa Monica Community College District encompasses Santa Monica and Malibu.

The vacancy on the board is a result of Trustee Patrick Nicholson resigning, which becomes effective Sept. 30. An appointment to fill Nicholson's unexpired term will be made at the board's Nov. 3 meeting.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old, a resident of the Santa Monica Community College District, a registered voter and must not be disqualified from holding civil office by the Constitution or any law of the state.

The board is seeking candidates who have the ability and time to fulfill the responsibilities of being a trustee, which includes:

- Attending all meetings and some college events, studying issues and agenda items, and participating in trustee education programs.
- Being knowledgeable about the communities served by the college and be willing to act on behalf of and for the benefit of those communities.
- Being committed to community colleges and their missions, as well as understanding educational, social and economic policy issues.
- Engaging in balancing the needs of a variety of diverse groups and being able to build consensus.

The board generally meets at 7 p.m. the first Monday of the month, but frequently convenes at 5:30 p.m. if a closed session is required, and reserves the third Monday for special meetings and workshops, as needed.

For information and applications, contact the SMC office of the Board of Trustees at (310) 434-4241. Information is available at <http://www.smc.edu/admin.html>.

Applications must be submitted by Oct. 6 to the office of the Board of Trustees, Santa Monica College, 1900 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, 90405.

The board will interview finalists on Nov. 3 and make the appointment the same day.

Property owners must comply with disabled access law

By Daily Press staff

Property owners who don't comply with the state's disabled access laws will soon be forced to, or pay hefty fines.

A bill written by Santa Monica resident and Sen. Sheila Kuehl to address widespread non-compliance with California's disabled access laws by strengthening enforcement was passed by the Legislature last week by a vote of 24-14.

The bill will now go to Gov. Gray Davis to sign. The measure would allow public prosecutors to pursue civil penalties against building owners who fail to comply with the state's laws. If the property owner doesn't correct the violation within a reasonable period of time, the court will be allowed to assess daily penalties.

The bill also allows the state architect's office to create a "disabled access specialist" certification program to provide better training regarding access standards and to help building owners understand the law.

"I thank my legislative colleagues for passing this bill to put some muscle behind California's law mandating that public facilities be accessible to all persons regardless of physical ability," Kuehl said. "This bill is tough but fair."



Today expect another slow morning of leftovers since Hurricane Linda bailed on us. We will have a mix of fading tropical SSE swell and minor local wind swell.

OUTLOOK: Friday and Sunday. Two swells from the S, each with a little punch. More info tomorrow..

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:

67°

Sunrise: 6:45 a.m.
Sunset: 7:03 p.m.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
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
FRIDAY	10:26	3.5	N/A	N/A	8:18	3.6	4:40	4.6

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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?"

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.

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

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

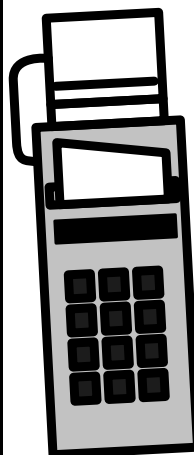
She will be speaking about the people she met – and met – in Baghdad, Hillah, Babylon, Fallouja, Basra and Umm Qasr.

Friday, September 19

7:30 pm Topanga Peace Alliance, Christian Fellowship Church
269 Old Topanga Canyon Road in Topanga

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

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



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LETTERS

Kudos to the new kid on the block

Editor:

As a freelancer who has written extensively for both the New York Times and the Los Angeles Times, a quick note to tell you how consistently and pleasantly surprised I have been with your paper.

Because of my work, I've glanced at a number of small publications, looking for leads. At the Times' former Westside metro office, we subscribed to about half a dozen such local papers.

Your paper, though, most often registers as a read — not a glance through. Somehow, you've consistently made small town news interesting, an especially difficult task since being in frequent contact with newsmakers makes it harder to maintain the necessary distance from those you are covering, which often results in boring, overly flattering coverage. You, on the other hand, don't seem to beat the drum for one party or another, but rather manage to glom onto issues of interest and bring in a dispassionate, third party perspective.

A difficult task, for sure, but you're doing it. So, a welcome to the new paper on the block and keep up the good work.

Joseph Hanania
Santa Monica

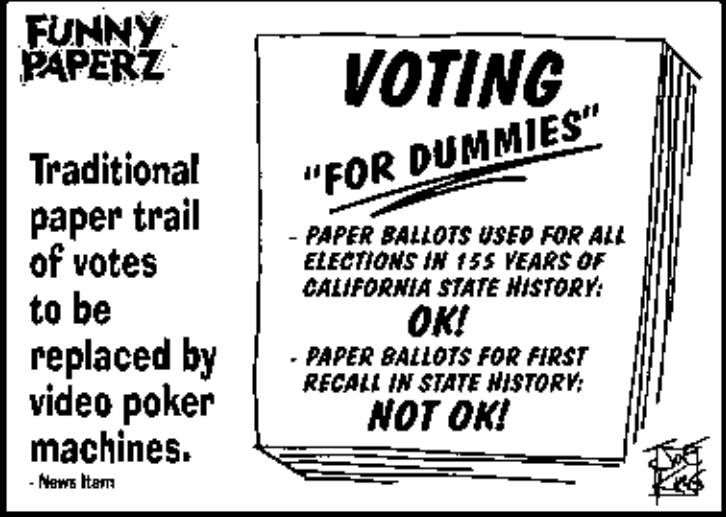
City working toward year-round shelters

Editor:

There was a misperception in Kenneth McCrae's letter (SMDP, Sept. 15, page 4) about the City of Santa Monica opting out of the Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority's (LAHSA) regional year-round shelter pilot program. In fact, Santa Monica has been working actively with LAHSA's executive director, Mitchell Netburn, to extend the regional year-round shelter program to include the westside. The addition of more year-round county-funded shelter beds in our region is critical

to better address homelessness — and to match the Santa Monica's year-round efforts to get homeless people housed and permanently off the streets.

Julie Rusk
Human services manager
City of Santa Monica



Member: AAEF, NCS, SCS, SCS

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From mouth's of babes: Get a clue, 'Kalleefawnyuh'

EDGE of the WEST

By Ron Scott Smith



(Editor's note: After a several-month hiatus, columnist Ron Scott Smith has returned ... he could no longer sit back and idly watch the news unfold without some commentary. So while the bizarreness of it all may be on the edge of the West, his weekly series on events from the around the world is more like "news on the edge.")

■ I'm not making this up: The Pentagon has OK'd the production of an automatic bugle that plays taps on its own as the faux-bugler holds it to his lips, pushes the "play" button and pretends to blow. They OK'd it because there's a shortage of musicians joining the Army and a sudden over-abundance of military funerals. The game of 52 pick up they're playing in Iraq with that deck of cards they came up with to identify the villains in our new 51st state is sadly bringing home more fallen warriors than they have horn-players to honor them with. So they had to do something.

■ You won't see the Dixie Chicks enlisting any time soon to offer their musical expertise to the cause. It's not that they don't love their country — it's just

that they have no bugle chops. Still, they continue to be flogged by Bushamerica for insulting the president during his bull-headed rush to war way back then.

■ Well, the Chicks are at it again. But this time the embattled, but not defeated lead singer, Natalie, is off the hook, as her partner in high treason, Emily, the banjo player, has stepped up to take on the big boys. We're talking Mr. Universe-big here. "I find his idea to run for governor absolutely insane," she told a German newspaper last week when asked about Arnold running away from his celluloid home to join the recall circus. "America should be governed by people who have a clue."

■ Somebody who has a clue — in fact all the clues — for the desperadoes so intent upon overthrowing the governor in this California uprising, is state Sen. Tom McClintock, R-Thousand Oaks. Here's a guy who stands straight and true for everything the GOP believes in, who offers a clear and thoughtful plan to fix what the party is so sure is broken in this state. He's forthright, honest and experienced. I'd vote for him in a second if it weren't for one small problem. He's extreme right ... and dead wrong on every meaningful issue. Too bad, I like this guy. But the strange thing is that his party doesn't. State GOP leaders are scurrying away from him like rats off a sinking ship in the mad rush to get behind who they feel is the electable. They don't seem to mind that Arnold is pro-choice, pro-gun control, was anti-war on Iraq, and supports continuing social services for illegal immigrants. I'd vote for him in a second if

it weren't for his one small problem. As the banjo player suggested — he doesn't have a clue. Since when does playing Terminators for \$20 million a pop qualify you to run a large portion of the world? We've all had a hunch that power is up for sale and his election would seem to seal that notion. And as Gov. Gray Davis said, "California should be governed by somebody who can pronounce its name." Ouch. But it is slightly unnerving to hear the possible governor-to-be stumbling over a language that he's going to need every nuance of while attempting to dismantle the brick wall he's likely to run into in Sacramento.

■ Except for the word "nuclear" — of all things — the president has the language down, especially the language of fear and war and fund-raising. "We will do what is necessary, we will spend what is necessary to achieve this essential victory in the war on terror," he told us last week, again, while trying to drum up an additional \$87 billion that clearly does not exist. "Iraq is now the central front in the war on terror," he seemed to brag. Sir, how about just a couple billion to stay right here at home in the central front of the "war on joblessness?" I know, don't ask.

■ We're fighting the "war on terror" over there, so we don't have to fight it in St. Louis or Santa Monica, is what Bush argues. But there's some twisted logic here. The reason we went there was because of the weapons of mass destruction, which he insists are still there, somewhere. And now we're told that "here come all the terrorists into Iraq from

everywhere." He said, "Bring 'em on," and it looks like they said, "OK we're here." So now, by Bush's own reckoning, you have the all-world terrorists right in the heart of the weapons of mass destruction in the central front of the "war on terror." That would appear to be a nasty combination if they find them before we do and he might be a little less gleeful that this is the situation at hand.

■ They've come up with a new name for the "war on terror" in right wing media circles, perhaps fearful that it's wearing thin. So, led by "fair and balanced" Bill O'Reilly on Fox, they have officially begun to call whatever it is we're in "World War III." Anybody remember that "knock knock" World War III joke from your childhood? It goes "Knock, knock ..." That's it.

■ Yes, 9/11 was enough to change everything. We said it in full American chorus. It was enough to turn everyone to the right, if only on the way to doing the full 180 to see who is lurking behind us. It was enough to unleash raw American military power into two foreign lands, where the casualties continue to mount to such an extent that push-button bugles will soon be playing taps at their funerals. And as public opinion polls continue to document a striking descent in this president's popularity and job approval ratings, Americans may be starting to say this in chorus too: Enough is enough.

(Ron Scott Smith is a freelance writer living in Santa Monica. To reach him, e-mail to EdgeoftheWest@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:

1427 Third Street Promenade Suite 202 Santa Monica • 90401 • sack@smdp.com

LOCAL

Labor group may look into union's role at hotel

UNION, from page 1

two-thirds of the union-eligible workers at the hotel.

Kurt Petersen, HERE's organizing director, dismissed those claims as the remnants of an anti-union campaign waged by a Sheraton manager before they agreed to allow the card-check process this summer. The process gives union organizers two years or more to persuade workers into unionizing without an election — they simply sign authorization cards.

In recent years, the union has established footholds at Loew's Santa Monica Beach Hotel, The Fairmont Miramar and the Viceroy, among others. At least six other large Santa Monica hotels have no union presence.

"It was a difficult, contentious fight — no question about it," Petersen said, adding that he hadn't seen the anti-union petition. "But despite their hard feelings, people will come together around this. It's not a perfect workplace, but it's better than what they had before."

Many hotel workers said they were turned off by the aggressive tactics used by organizers. And they said they don't trust promises of better wages and reduced workloads. Plus, they don't want to pay union dues. Some told stories of relatives who had bad experiences working in unionized hotels.

The workers resisting HERE said they have had no response from the National Labor Relations Board to their demands for a secret-ballot election. The NLRB, a national labor law watchdog, sets up and monitors such elections. The workers also are looking for help from the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation Inc., a nonprofit that gives free legal aid to workers who claim they've been strong-armed into unionizing.

Attorney John Scully of the Virginia-based foundation said he is reviewing stacks of documents from Sheraton workers, after having them translated from Spanish to English, and expects to take on their case in coming weeks.

"I do not think there was probably a majority of employees who signed to give their support," said Scully, adding that he is still investigating claims of illegal behavior by labor organizers. Scully declined to specify the allegations, but promised to have more to say soon.

HERE's Petersen characterized the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, which has 300 cases pending nationwide, as a pro-business, far right-wing organization.

"They make (City Councilman) Bob Holbrook look pro-union," Petersen said. "They're out to hurt workers ... but this is a community that won't tolerate it, I can tell you that."

Holbrook campaigned against the living wage ordinance on last fall's ballot. The failed measure would have required businesses in downtown Santa Monica and along the coast to pay workers between \$10.50 and \$12.25 an hour, depending on whether they were afforded company-paid health insurance. Businesses grossing less than \$5 million per year and those with unions would have been exempted, giving Santa Monica's

large hotels an incentive to organize.

The battle at the Sheraton, 530 Pico Blvd., is part of HERE's overall strategy to organize all of Santa Monica's large hotels. Union officials have waged campaigns to conduct a card-check process.

Sheraton managers agreed to the process in July, but Petersen said union officials had been gathering signatures there for months. Once the union decides to "call" the process, signatures are counted by a neutral, third party arbitrator.

"But despite their hard feelings, people will come together around this. It's not a perfect workplace, but it's better than what they had before."

— KURT PETERSEN
Organizing director,
HERE

The signatures were counted by Sandie Richards, pastor of the Church in Ocean Park who regularly attends pro-union rallies, and Laurie Newman, deputy to State Sen. Sheila Kuehl, D-Santa Monica, also a union supporter. They determined that most workers signed union authorization cards, according to a letter signed by Michael D'Amodio, general manager of the Sheraton.

Good-faith contract negotiations with Sheraton management are expected to begin soon, Petersen said.

While negotiations get under way and Scully investigates complaints from workers, NLRB attorney Laurel Spillane said that even if a majority of workers at the Sheraton decide they don't want to be organized, they may face some legal challenges. Because the card-check process is a private agreement, it is sometimes protected legally.

But that hasn't deterred Jose Yanez, who has worked in the hotel's engineering department for four years, or Federico Lorgulescu, a new bartender, or several other Sheraton workers.

"They're like roaches on your plate," said Vivian Velasquez, a telephone operator for the past six years. "They're really pushy against people. They take their appetites away. Because of what I've seen, I refuse to go into the union. I don't want it, I don't want it here."

Velasquez said she doesn't trust union promises and pointed to her husband's experience. She said he was laid off by the unionized Beverly Wilshire Hotel after an on-the-job finger injury that temporarily cost him the use of his hand.

Petersen countered that the overwhelming majority of workers favor the union. Housekeepers at the Beverly Wilshire clean eight rooms a day, while at the Sheraton they clean 16, he said.

"If some people want to live in the past, it's too bad," he said. "We're looking forward, not backward."



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Mitsubishi dealer needs new permits for valet zone

PARKING, from page 1

dealership in February, compromised Tuesday with Busy Bee owner Don Kidson after being made aware of the situation.

"I had no idea that we even had an impact on the neighbor," he said. "I called him up and I said, 'Hey, what's going on? If there is a problem with the parking, let's discuss it.'"

Korman agreed to share his valet area with Kidson's customers for free, saying most car shoppers come in the evenings or on weekends when business at the hardware store is slower.

But within hours of resolving the dispute with Kidson, parking officials descended on the dealership and fined it \$250.

Korman, whose valets supposedly illegally drove in reverse in the roadway and left cars in spots for longer than stipulated in the agreement, was blindsided.

"How about let's call me up and say, 'Hey Mr.

Korman, we understand there's an issue and we have concerns,'" he said. "There's a way to do things not to leave me in the dark, and all of a sudden I come to work and the parking is gone."

"I had no idea that we even had an impact on the neighbor."

— **MICHAEL KORMAN**
Owner,
Santa Monica Mitsubishi

With the \$250 citation pending, parking coordinator Bill Bortfeld said the dealership now must hire a new valet operator. The service also needs a new business license for the location, as well as police permits and

other paperwork, a process that typically take weeks.

Bortfeld said City Hall is considering ways to provide more parking for Busy Bee, but declined to discuss them.

Santa Monica Mitsubishi, among the top dealers in the city, grossed about \$50 million in revenue last year and is projected to pull in \$60 million this year, Korman said. The 40-year-old owner, who recently bought a home in Santa Monica, also owns dealerships in Modesto and Tracy. He said he was trying to be a good corporate citizen, noting his charitable giving to local groups, but he was baffled by the parking debacle and the lack of notice from City Hall.

Veronica Portillo, manager of Busy Bee, which opened in Santa Monica in 1914, said she is grateful for Korman's offer to share the spaces. But she added that Korman is partly to blame for the situation.

"We wish that he would have come and talked to us, instead of getting the valet parking first," Portillo said. "So we're in the same boat too."

Ailing California condor chick brought in from wild

BY ANDREW BRIDGES

AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES — Biologists snatched an ailing California condor chick from its nest in the wild and flew it by helicopter to the Los Angeles Zoo for treatment, possibly saving the rare bird's life, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials said Tuesday.

The 4-month-old chick was taken from its cave nest in Los Padres National Forest on Sept. 9 after biologists discovered it was underweight, undersize and had various objects lodged in its crop. They had gone to vaccinate the bird against West Nile virus and affix tags and transmitters to its wings.

Veterinarians soon discovered the chick had shed its tail and secondary feathers, apparently to conserve energy. It also showed signs of pneumonia-like symptoms.

"We did the right thing by entering into the nest and getting this bird — there is no doubt in our mind this bird would not have survived," Fish and Wildlife biologist Mike Stockton said.

At the zoo, the bird regurgitated an electrical clip; bits of plastic, glass and bark; a leaf; three pop-tops from cans and a shotgun wad, Fish and Wildlife spokeswoman Denise Stockton said.

Veterinarians decided the chick was too unhealthy to return to its nest. The bird, whose sex has not been determined,

could be released in the spring, however.

The chick may have mistaken the objects for bone fragments, which the endangered birds swallow to boost their calcium intake and perhaps aid in digestion, Denise Stockton said.

All three condor chicks hatched in the wild last year died, one of them after ingesting a similar hodgepodge assortment of objects.

Since then, biologists have made a concerted effort to sift nest sites for garbage.

The condor chick's nest had been cleaned twice, leading biologists to believe the objects had been brought to the newborn by its parents over the last two months, Denise Stockton said.

Biologists have tried to prevent condors from snacking on garbage by including dead rats and rabbits, which have bones that are easily fragmented, with the stillborn calves that traditionally have been left out for the scavengers to feast upon, Mike Stockton said.

The population of North America's largest bird sank to 22 in 1982, prompting officials to embark on an aggressive breeding program to restore its ranks.

Today, there are 222 California condors alive, in wild and captive populations in Arizona, California, Idaho and Mexico.

A second condor chick, hatched this year in the Grand Canyon, remains healthy, biologists said.

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STATE



CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

CHP head denies calling employee 'boy'

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The head of the California Highway Patrol, testifying in a federal class-action case, denied calling a black subordinate "boy" and said he doesn't tolerate discrimination in his department.

Commissioner Dwight "Spike" Helmick Jr. testified Tuesday in federal court that he never used the word to refer to Assistant Chief Greg Manuel.

"I am very aware of the derogatory nature of that term," Helmick said. "I do not use those terms, those racial slurs."

Helmick testified in a lawsuit filed against the CHP in 1995 by retired Lt. Jeff Paige, 60, of Diamond Bar.

Paige claims he put up with decades of racial remarks from officers and was denied promotions because he is black.

Because the suit has class-action status, it automatically covers at least 1,000 CHP officers who are minorities, most of them blacks and Hispanics.

In 1994, the year before the lawsuit was filed, 21.4 percent of CHP officers were minorities, but nonwhites comprised only about 11 percent of the ranks of sergeant or higher.

This year, 28.9 percent of CHP officers are nonwhites as well as 21 percent of sergeants, 26.2 percent of lieutenants, 22.8 percent of captains, 23.7 percent of assistant chiefs and 33.6 percent of deputy chiefs.

New downtown LA would create thousands of jobs

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A \$1.2 billion project to transform downtown's core with a park, hotel, condominiums and shopping areas could create 16,400 permanent jobs, officials said.

The Grand Avenue Project, to be funded mostly by the private sector, was hailed this week as details were unveiled.

About \$300 million in public money will be needed, mainly to create parking.

The civic center project, stretching from the Department of Water and Power building to City Hall, envisions a 400-room hotel, 16-acre park, restaurants, bookstores and entertainment venues. It would be built in several phases.

"Every great city today and in world history has had a vibrant center," said Eli Broad, who co-chairs the Grand Avenue Committee that pushed city and Los Angeles County officials to agree to a joint-powers authority to carry out the plan.

"Paris has its Champs-Elysees. New York has Rockefeller Center, Times Square and Central Park. Now Los Angeles will have at its center a grand boulevard and urban park."

Trash, sewer fees to generate millions for LA

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The City Council approved hikes in residential trash and sewer fees to bring in an additional \$30 million a year.

The increases approved Tuesday would take effect next month.

The sanitation equipment fee would increase from \$6 to \$10 per month for single-family homes, and from \$4 to \$6.60 for apartments and condominiums.

Sewer service charges would go from \$2.26 to \$2.33 per 100 cubic feet of water used. The additional money will help pay for overhauling the sewer system.

"No one likes to increase any fee, but given the needs to provide public safety and environmental protection in the city, and given the budget chaos in Sacramento, it was appropriate," Councilman Jack Weiss said.

Cheerleader protests short skirts, gets suspended

By The Associated Press

NORCO — A cheerleader who protested wearing a revealing cheer skirt to class by taping the school dress code to the uniform was suspended for one game.

Norco High School varsity cheerleader Lynsey Stanfield, 16, was prohibited from cheering in last Friday's game. School officials said her protest violated a policy against modifying the uniform.

Stanfield said she felt uncomfortable having to wear the revealing skirt in the classroom on game days. Two slits in the blue and white skirt expose the thigh up to a brief-like undergarment.

"It's like sitting in class with your underwear showing," Stanfield said.

After unsuccessfully complaining to cheer advisers, she tried wearing the district's skirt policy that states: "No undergarments or posteriors shall show."

The school has since spent \$500 to order less revealing clothing. But on Tuesday, Stanfield asked the Corona Norco Unified School District to apologize for her suspension.

"It violated my right to free speech," she said.

"It wasn't a free-speech issue for us," district spokesman Bob Brew said. "It revolved around altering the uniform."

Board members said they could not publicly respond to her comments because it is a student discipline issue.

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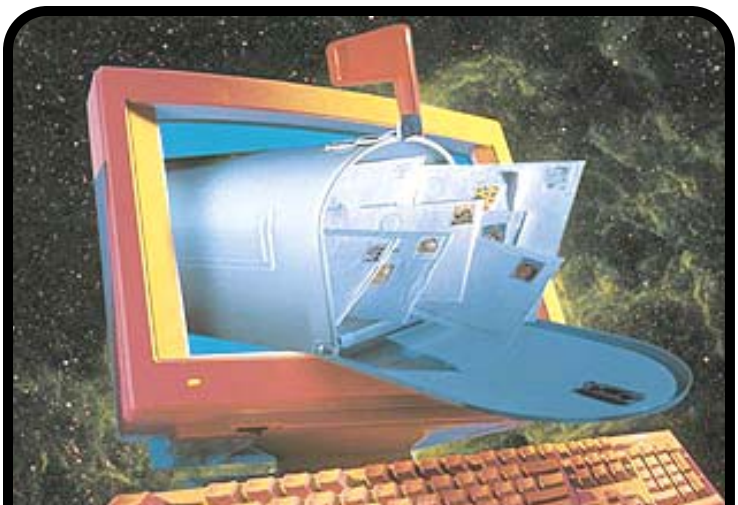
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STATE

Nearly 400,000 have voted in election that may be delayed

BY JIM WASSERMAN
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — With fewer than three weeks until a scheduled Oct. 7 election, state elections officials report nearly 400,000 Californians have already voted, although the election may be put off until March.

That growing mountain of absentee ballots could be tossed out at an estimated cost of \$30 million, if the election is delayed, it may have already helped determine the outcome of the Oct. 7 race by locking in votes that might have been changed later.

Along the thousands of ballots already in, voter registrars say each of the state's 58 counties are receiving requests for more each day. It's happening even as a three-judge panel of the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has ordered a delay in the election the full court may reconsider this week.

"As a matter of fact, I think we've had even more requests," said Alma Rosas, spokeswoman for the Santa Clara County elections department. "We haven't seen a slowdown of it."

"We're swamped," added Tehama County Registrar of Voters Mary Alice George, where one in every 27 voters have already spoken through absentee ballots.

County and state officials say that even

"As a matter of fact, I think we've had even more requests. We haven't seen a slowdown of it."

— ALMA ROSAS

Spokeswoman,
Santa Clara County elections department

as the courts decide if there will be an Oct. 7 election, much of it is being settled now on kitchen tables from Mount Shasta to Chula Vista.

Counties also report thousands more votes are being faxed from overseas military bases and field posts, where approximately 7,000 Californians in uniform are registered to vote absentee. The state is allowing counties to fax and e-mail absentee applications overseas to meet deadlines already impossible by mail.

All this interest in absentee voting in what could be a tight race worries both Democrat and Republican operatives, who fret about thousands of voters who won't be able to change their minds to meet late-changing circumstances.

For Democrats, the concern is that some voters who might be persuaded to keep Gov. Gray Davis in office have already cast absentee ballots to oust him. For some Republicans, particularly those who believe actor Arnold Schwarzenegger is the party's

most electable candidate, the fear is that supporters of Sen. Tom McClintock have already voted and aren't able to vote for Schwarzenegger if McClintock drops out.

"We talked about that at the (Republican) convention last week," said Kern County Republican chairwoman Karen DeWalt.

Once a voter has turned in a ballot, "they don't get to get it back," said Sacramento County elections manager Alice Jarboe. "But if they vote for a candidate who pulls out of the race and they haven't turned their ballot in, they can call our office and we will issue a replacement."

On Wednesday, the secretary of state's office reported 379,273 marked absentee ballots had already arrived at county elections departments, with thousands more in the mail. Statewide, more than 2 million voters are signed up to vote absentee, said spokeswoman Shirley Washington.

The deadline for applying is Sept. 30, and absentee ballots must be returned by

election day.

The statewide tally of returned ballots so far included 40,000 in San Diego County, more than 30,000 in Los Angeles County, 15,000 in Contra Costa County and 7,000 in Placer County. Santa Clara County reported getting 15,000 absentee ballots — 2,000 of them Tuesday.

Sacramento County reported 16,000 people have already voted.

"It's incredible. We don't normally get 16,000 voting ballots back in our offices one week after we mail them out," said Jarboe. She said the returns and applications seem equally split between Republicans encouraged by Schwarzenegger's recall campaign and Democrats pressed by the state's labor unions to keep Davis in office.

Contra Costa County Clerk Stephen Weir, a spokesman for the state's 58 voter registrars, said Republicans typically make up a slight majority of absentee voters.

In Placer County, a growing suburban area east of Sacramento that has the state's highest percentage of registered Republicans, 52 percent, nearly half use absentee ballots, said county Republican chairman Ken Campbell. Among his friends, he says, many are still holding theirs, waiting to see what shakes out between McClintock and Schwarzenegger — or if there is an election at all.

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NATIONAL



Hurricane Isabel charges toward the East Coast

BY ALLEN G. BREED
Associated Press Writer

MOREHEAD CITY, N.C. — Traffic streamed inland from the vulnerable Outer Banks on Wednesday as thousands of residents and visitors alike headed for higher ground ahead of approaching Hurricane Isabel. Thousands more were ordered to evacuate in Virginia.

By midday Wednesday, more than 200,000 people in North Carolina and Virginia had been told to evacuate, with orders stretching beyond the coast into low-lying inland areas and islands deep inside Chesapeake Bay.

Isabel was a Category 2 storm Wednesday, although sustained wind had eased slightly to about 105 mph. During the weekend, the storm had 160 mph wind and held the top Category 5 rating on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale.

Forecasters predicted little change in strength before Isabel, the biggest storm to hit the region since Hurricane Floyd in 1999, makes landfall sometime Thursday morning along the Outer Banks, the thin, 120-mile-long chain of islands.

"Right now, the forecast calls for it to maintain the intensity it's at currently," meteorologist Bill Read said at the National Hurricane Center.

A 7- to 11-foot storm surge was expected near the area where the center strikes the North Carolina coast, with a 7-foot surge likely inside southern Chesapeake Bay in Virginia, the hurricane center said.

About 120,000 people along the North Carolina coast and on the mainland had been told to evacuate.

"Even a lot of old salts are bailing out," Brian Simmons said as he placed plywood across the window of Stoney's Seafood in Avon. "I don't know if it's some vibe they feel or something."

The evacuation had been steady and orderly but authorities said that was because many people were waiting to see later forecasts before heading out.

About 180 miles up the coast, people busily boarded up windows on Virginia's Chincoteague Island.

"I love storms, and people are just freaking out," said Carol Patton, manager of Don's Seafood Restaurant at Chincoteague. "They're panicking, saying we're going to get it really bad. I've never seen the town boarded up like it is today."

Virginia Gov. Mark R. Warner on Wednesday authorized local mandatory evacuations of vulnerable low-lying areas. By early afternoon, evacuation orders had been issued in Virginia Beach, Hampton and several other cities and towns, affecting more than 85,000 people.

"People recognize this is the real deal. This is, in terms of predictions, perhaps the worst storm we've seen in decades," Warner told reporters Wednesday.

Governors of Delaware, West Virginia, North Carolina and Maryland also declared states of emergency. Officials in several states were concerned about the threat of flooding after a wet summer as the storm plows northward.

More than nine inches of rain was fore-

cast for parts of Pennsylvania, and hurricane center director Max Mayfield said heavy rain could extend all the way to New England.

Officials were "very fearful" of the storm's potential rainfall in West Virginia's hilly and already saturated Eastern Panhandle. Up to 12 inches is possible in Morgan County, said county emergency service director Dave Michael. He planned to recommend that schools be closed Friday.

"There's just nowhere to put the water," said Ed McDonough, a spokesman for the Maryland Emergency Management Agency. Municipal workers filled sandbags in Washington, D.C.

"I love storms, and people are just freaking out. They're panicking, saying we're going to get it really bad. I've never seen the town boarded up like it is today."

— CAROL PATTON
Manager,
Don's Seafood Restaurant

On Wednesday afternoon Isabel was centered about 350 miles south-southeast of Cape Hatteras and was moving toward the north-northwest at about 11 mph, the hurricane center said. Some increase in forward speed was expected during the next 24 hours, it said.

A hurricane warning was in effect from Cape Fear in southern North Carolina northward to the Virginia-Maryland state line, including much of Chesapeake Bay. Tropical storm warnings extended northward to Sandy Hook, N.J., and southward along the South Carolina coast to South Santee River.

In the middle of Chesapeake Bay, most of the 295 residents of Maryland's Smith Island packed up and left for the mainland, but 50 to 60 stayed behind. Four state troopers went to the island to try to persuade the holdouts to leave.

"I've been here 65 years, I've never left for one yet. I was here for Hazel when the eye came right over the island," said waterman Eddie Evans, 65, sitting on a dock Wednesday after tying down his crab pots.

Seventy-eight patients were evacuated from a nursing home at tiny Sealevel, N.C., which is literally at sea level on Core Sound north of Cape Lookout. Many of the patients at the Carteret General Hospital home are in early stages of Alzheimer's, and the staff's preparations included taking along movies that the residents are accustomed to watching.

"We're just going on a little vacation," nursing assistant Michelle Sanderling reassured 80-year-old Jane Condon. "Everything's going to be all right."

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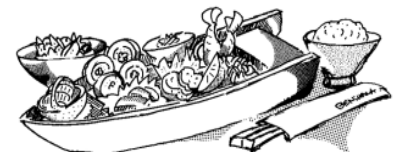
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Search for two missing women in Uintas may hit weather roadblocks

BY CHRISTIE L. HILL
Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — A new storm threatened search efforts Wednesday for two women who disappeared on a hiking trip in the Uinta Mountains.

Search teams and specially trained dogs got an early start Wednesday, though they were fewer in number and without air support.

A helicopter that aided the search Monday and Tuesday was grounded Wednesday because of high winds. A storm was expected to drop rain and snow over portions of the mountain range, Utah’s tallest and located about 50 miles east of Salt Lake City.

“We’re watching the weather, once it looks like it’s coming in and settling in we’ll just pull out,” said Chief Deputy Dave Booth of the Summit County Sheriff’s Department.

Search and rescue teams have been searching the area around Crystal Lake, where police believe Carole Wetherton, 58, of Panacea, Fla., and Kimberly Beverly, 39, of Tucker, Ga., were hiking when they got lost last week.

Booth said relatives who flew to Utah to help investigators are trying to stay positive.

“They seem to be doing OK. There’s a lot of emotion there,” Booth said. “There’s a lot of anxiety, the feeling of the unknown.”

Family members became alarmed and called police when the women missed their flights home Saturday. The two were vacationing in Park City and police believe they were on a hiking trip in the mountains as early as Sept. 8 when they

got lost.

Later that evening, a storm dropped between 4 and 6 inches of snow in the mountains, with overnight temperatures dipping below freezing, conditions the hikers might not have been prepared for. 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.

“We’re watching the weather, once it looks like it’s coming in and settling in we’ll just pull out.”

— **CHIEF DEPUTY DAVE BOOTH**
Summit County Sheriff’s Department

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. Authorities believe the pair then left the area before returning and beginning their hike.

Their rented SUV was found at the Crystal Lake trailhead Sunday, with maps, bottled water and energy bars inside the vehicle. Several areas on the map were circled, suggesting an area where the two may have trekked.

There were no plans Wednesday to call off the search, though each day may find a smaller group combing the area.

“There comes a point when you stop but I don’t know when that point’s going to be just yet,” Booth said.

Drought conference attendees told to prepare for dry times

By The Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Drought in the Southwest is not a short-term phenomenon, and could last for decades, a conference at the University of New Mexico was told Tuesday.

“Drought is something that we need to start factoring into the way we live our lives,” said Joanna Prukop, the state’s secretary of energy, minerals and natural resources.

Keynote speaker Julio Betancourt, a drought researcher at the U.S. Geological Survey’s Desert Laboratory in Tucson, said the current climate pattern is similar to the drought of the 1950s and other dry periods.

Long-term drought in the region is not just a matter of bad luck stringing together a few dry years in a row. Large-scale climate patterns conspire to push rain and snow away from the region, Betancourt explained.

Those patterns, driven by warm waters in the North Atlantic and cool waters in the Northeast Pacific, occurred during the drought of the ‘50s, and appear to be happening again, Betancourt said.

Scientists have been watching the drought coming since the late 1990s, but they do not know enough to predict its extent or duration, Betancourt said.

“If I were a betting man,” he said, “I’d

say I’d be very conservative about water resources.”

Steve Hansen, assistant area manager for the Bureau of Reclamation in Albuquerque, used a series of charts to show the extended period of time it takes to recover from long-term droughts.

“This is our history, folks,” Hansen said. “Basically, we don’t live in a very wet area.”

Reservoirs around the state now are at just 40 percent of normal levels. Groundwater levels are dropping. Fertile topsoil is blowing away. And bark beetles have killed thousands of pinons.

Aerial surveys last week put the total number of acres of dead pinons at more than 770,000, said U.S. Forest Service entomologist Terry Rogers.

Drought threatens 69 rare animals and 42 rare plants in the state, said Esteban Muldavin, ecology coordinator at UNM’s Museum of Southwestern Biology.

Residents of the region need to come to grips with the fact that drought is the norm in New Mexico, not the exception, according to Charlie Liles, head of the National Weather Service Albuquerque office. He said some parts of New Mexico has been in drought during 60 of the last 108 years.



NATIONAL □ INTERNATIONAL



WORLD BRIEFLY

Swedes take suspect's DNA

By The Associated Press

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Swedish police interrogated and took DNA samples from the suspected killer of Foreign Minister Anna Lindh early Wednesday, following his capture in a Stockholm suburb, authorities said.

The suspect — a Swedish man described by a television station as a 35-year-old drifter — was detained Tuesday night near a restaurant in Solna, police spokeswoman Stina Wessling said. He was not identified further. "We had a short interrogation and did some other checkups. He has been examined by medical examiners and forensic laboratory technicians," Wessling told Swedish television. "We cannot right now say what he is saying, whether he confesses or denies, it is far too early for that."

Police spokesman Leif Jennekvist said the suspect looks similar to the man in a picture circulated in a nationwide alert.

The suspect's DNA will be tested to see if it matches genetic material recovered from a baseball cap found near the scene. Police also recovered DNA from the knife used by the attacker, but the amount was too small for immediate use.

Lindh — a prominent proponent of her nation adopt-

ing the euro — was stabbed several times in the stomach, chest and arm in an upscale Stockholm department store on Sept. 10, and died the next day after several hours of surgery. Her death cast a shadow over a weekend referendum in which Swedes rejected the European currency.

African coup forces president at home

By The Associated Press

BISSAU, Guinea-Bissau — Like so many coups in Africa, the news came over state radio after dawn: A military junta overthrew the president and put him under house arrest.

Sunday's ouster of Guinea-Bissau President Kumba Yala was condemned by governments around the world for what it was: An affront to democracy, and a bad precedent for a continent struggling to shake off decades of instability.

But in the languid, leafy streets of this tiny Atlantic Coast country's tropical capital, most residents reveled in the change.

"Nobody is sad to see him go," said Fernando George, a 45-year-old painter walking along one of Bissau's crumbling boulevards. "The country was sinking. He was bringing us down."

Footage broadcast on state-run television showed

army chief of staff Gen. Verissimo Correia Seabra — who later declared himself interim president — arriving at the aging yellow presidential mansion and shaking hands with his boss.

Seabra informed Yala he was being deposed. Yala was shown laughing — in apparent disbelief.

Clark makes 10

By The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Retired Gen. Wesley Clark enters a wide-open presidential race with no experience in elective office and no history on domestic policy. But he offers Democrats one thing they crave: New hope of undercutting President Bush's wartime popularity.

"The most important issue in America today is our security at home and abroad. And that's what Americans seek," Clark said as he prepared to announce his candidacy at a boys and girls club here Wednesday. "I'm the best among any of the prospective candidates in terms of being able to work for America's security."

Clark, 58, will become the 10th candidate in a Democratic race that is up for grabs. Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean is the front-runner, but a solid majority of voters remain undecided and some party leaders believe the current field has underperformed.

Clark's resume is made to order — a Rhodes scholar, first in his 1966 class at West Point, White House fellow and head of the U.S. Southern Command and NATO commander during the 1999 campaign in Kosovo.

But the retired general has never held political office — not even a student council election to his credit — and he has never been pressed to produce a domestic agenda.

U.S. vetoes resolution asking U.N. protection for Arafat

BY RANJAN ROY

Associated Press Writer

UNITED NATIONS — Yasser Arafat dismissed the United States' veto of a U.N. resolution against Israel's threats to expel him, saying Wednesday that the step will not "shake us." Arafat expressed anger, saying Israel may see the veto as a green light to move against the Palestinian leader.

Washington says it opposes expelling Arafat from the West Bank. But it said the U.N. resolution calling for Israel to halt its threats was "lopsided" and didn't condemn terrorist groups attacking Israel.

Arabs were dismayed by the veto, with some saying the vote showed the United States had lost its credibility as an honest broker in the Middle East. Amr Moussa, secretary-general of the Arab League, said he hoped the veto doesn't mean the United States supports Israeli policies "which are opposed by the whole world."

Arafat, speaking to supporters at his West Bank headquarters in Ramallah, dismissed the American move. "No decision here or there will shake us," he said. "We are bigger than all decisions."

Nabil Shaath, the Palestinian foreign minister, said U.S. officials "informed us officially" that the veto "is not in any way a green light for Israel."

But that did not reassure many in the Arab world.

"The pretext saying that the draft resolution was unbalanced is baseless," Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher said Wednesday.

Maher echoed concern Israel might see the vote as a license to go after Arafat. He said that if nations don't pressure Israel to desist from its "provocative and aggressive" policies, it would show the international community's "powerlessness."

Syria's U.N. Ambassador Fayssal Mekdad expressed regret at the veto, calling it "extremely regrettable" and warning that it "will antagonize the feeling of Arabs in the region."

Syria, the only Arab nation on the Security Council, had pressed for a vote since last week's decision by Israel's security Cabinet to "remove" Arafat in a manner and time to be decided. Israel blames Arafat for sabotaging the peace process and doing nothing to prevent terrorist attacks.

The Palestinians had generated wide global support for the resolution. Of the 15 Security Council members, 11 voted Tuesday in favor of the resolution. Britain, Germany and Bulgaria abstained.

U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte said the resolution did not contain a con-

demnation of terrorist groups such as Hamas and the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, blamed for several suicide attacks against Israel.

He said, "It was lopsided and ... it didn't take into account the elements we thought it ought to take into account, including a robust criticism of Palestinian terrorism."

But Arabs warned the U.S. blocking of the resolution undermined its positions in the Middle East, where many see Washington as favoring Israel.

"Clearly this is not a neutral position," Ziad Abu Amr, a member of the outgoing Palestinian Cabinet, said.

Senior Arafat adviser Nabil Abu Rdenah told reporters the veto could jeopardize the U.S.-backed "road map" for Mideast peace. The vote "is a real encouragement for the Israelis to continue their escalation," he said.

Nasser Al-Kidwa, the Palestinian U.N. observer, said the United States lost its credibility as an honest broker and warned that "serious consequences may follow."

In Jordan, the opposition Muslim Brotherhood said it was not surprised at the U.S. veto because "the Zionist lobby ... controls the American policy in the Middle East."

The Israeli threats against Arafat brought criticism from around the world — and warnings not to carry out the move. Criticism against Israel mounted after Vice Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said Sunday that killing Arafat was an option, although the foreign minister later backtracked on the remark.

Last Friday, the 15 council members — including the United States — agreed on a press statement expressing "the view that the removal of chairman Arafat would be unhelpful and should not be implemented."

The rejected draft resolution would have demanded "that Israel, the occupying power, desist from any act of deportation and to cease any threat to the safety of the elected president of the Palestinian Authority."

It would have condemned Israel's targeted assassinations of militant leaders and Palestinian suicide bombings, "all of which caused enormous suffering and many innocent victims." It would also have called for a cessation of "all acts of terrorism, provocation, incitement and destruction."

France said it regretted that the U.N. resolution on Israel didn't pass. The resolution "had a balanced message that we believed could bring a consensus," Cecile Pozzo di Borgo, the French Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, said in Paris.

'Democratization' and reconstruction of Iraq not easy

POWELL, from page 1

for the past 32 months more than Iraq. History will treat him and his administration colleagues kindly if the United States manages to help Iraq become stable and prosperous. The treatment will be less kind if past patterns in Iraq resurface.

No one is arguing — at least in the postwar phase — that the reconstruction and democratization of Iraq will be easy. In the mid-1960s a distinguished academic, Dr. Abdul Rachman al-Bazzaz, was named premier and attempted to establish civilian rule and representative government there. He was overthrown by the military after just a few months.

Under Saddam, violence was the tool of choice for dealing with dissent. Powell, who traveled to Iraq over the

weekend for the first time since the U.S.-led war deposed Saddam, got an eyeful Monday when he visited Halabja, scene of perhaps the worst massacre of Saddam's rule.

On March 16, 1988, Saddam's forces dropped sarin gas, VX and other deadly chemicals on Halabja, killing 5,000 people. Black-clad women who are widows because of Saddam's leave-no-prisoners policy wept with joy when Powell mingled with them.

But as Powell knows, the invasion of Iraq has limited backing internationally. Madeleine Albright, Powell's predecessor, writes in the current edition of Foreign Affairs magazine that "much of the world sees the invasion not as a way to put muscle into accepted rules but as the inauguration of a new set of rules, written and applied solely by the United States."

Albright also called attention to a poll conducted in May

by the Pew Global Attitudes Project. She noted that significant majorities in Russia and seven of eight Muslim countries said they were worried or very worried about the potential threat to their societies posed by the U.S. military.

Powell has fought hard to reverse these perceptions, defending the war against Iraq as consistent with U.N. Security Council resolutions and maintaining that the United States does not gratuitously threaten countries or peoples but instead protects them — as it did with majority Muslim populations in Bosnia (1995) and Kosovo (1999).

Powell seems to be a lot more popular than his policies. These days, it's easy to find critics opining about the Bush administration's diplomatic failures. But seldom is the criticism directed at Powell. Such was the case with Albright's long essay; she was tough on the administration but Powell barely received a mention.

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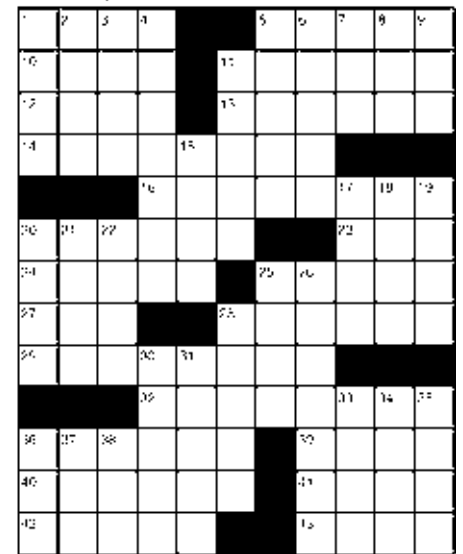
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- 18 Candidate of 2000
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Spielberg studio buys rights to produce mob movie

By The Associated Press

■ **BOSTON** — Steven Spielberg's DreamWorks movie studio has bought the rights to produce a film about Joseph Salvati, who spent 30 years in prison after being wrongfully convicted in a 1965 gangland slaying.

Salvati was convicted after an FBI informant told authorities he was involved in the murder of Edward "Teddy" Deegan in 1965, even though the FBI had evidence of Salvati's innocence. His sentence was commuted in 1997 and he was exonerated in 2001.

Walter Parkes, the DreamWorks producer who will lead the project, told WBZ-TV Tuesday he was struck by the relationship between Salvati and his lawyer, Victor Garo.

"What really got us was ... when we saw first of all the intensity of the friendship between the two men and the passion that Victor (Garo) had in terms of this case. And suddenly it wasn't just a court case, but it was really a story of extraordinary friendship," Parkes said.

Salvati filed a lawsuit in July seeking \$300 million in damages from the government, former FBI agents and a former Boston police officer.

The lawsuit cites recently discovered evidence that the FBI knew Deegan had been killed by the Winter Hill Gang, led by fugitive mobster James "Whitey" Bulger, but suppressed the evidence to protect the FBI's mob informants.

■ **LONDON** — "In the Cut," a thriller about a serial killer in Manhattan starring Meg Ryan and directed by Oscar-winner Jane Campion, will open the London Film Festival on Oct. 22.

Organizers said Wednesday that another film by a female director from New Zealand — "Sylvia," starring Gwyneth Paltrow as doomed poet Sylvia Plath and directed by Christine Jeffs — will be the closing night film on Nov. 6.

Both films are due for a commercial release in the

United States next month. "In the Cut" already generated attention, and some controversy, at the recent Toronto Film Festival, both for its subject matter and Ryan's daring performance.

Over the course of the two weeks, the 47th London Film Festival will showcase some 330 films in what remains one of the largest noncompetitive festivals on an ever-expanding film festival circuit.

The LFF is always an important showcase for British launches of Oscar- and Bafta-award hopefuls.

This year, those films include Sofia Coppola's "Lost In Translation," with Bill Murray and Scarlett Johansson; "Girl With a Pearl Earring," the period adaptation of Tracy Chevalier's best-selling novel, also starring Johansson; "21 Grams," which has generated Oscar buzz for stars Sean Penn and Naomi Watts; and "The Human Stain," adapted from the Philip Roth novel and starring Anthony Hopkins and Nicole Kidman.

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Vic Mizzy, best known for writing the melodies for television shows including "The Addams Family" and "Mister Ed" and hits for Dean Martin, Doris Day and Perry Como, has recorded his first solo CD, at 81.

Mizzy's "Songs for the Jogging Crowd" is set for release next month. The Brooklyn, N.Y., native learned to play the piano at age 4 by mimicking the songs he heard on the family's \$200 player piano, he said Tuesday.

"Because you had some damned good pianists playing on those rolls, including George Gershwin, I fell into that and learned how to play," he said.

Hearing his talent, his parents got him piano and accordion lessons and Mizzy became a professional musician at 14, winning a pair of radio contests.

In the Navy Chaplain Corps during World War II, Mizzy played the organ and composed popular music, including "No Bout About It," "My Dreams Are Getting Better All The Time" and "The Whole World Is Singing My Song," sung by artists including Billie Holiday and

the Andrews Sisters.

Why'd he wait so long to record his own tunes?

"The business has changed so much over the years that a lot of good songwriters can't get anything recorded," Mizzy said. "Somebody said that my voice has natural distortion and I can sing just as good as they can, so I figured that I might as well get in the studio and record my own material."

Mizzy, vice president of The Songwriters Guild of America, said 10 songs on the CD are new, along with "The Addams Family" and "Green Acres" themes.

"My songs are different," Mizzy added. "One, the words rhyme. Two, I use more than three chords for my melodies, and three, the ideas are all great."

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Jonathan Adams, who plays a blue-collar dad during the tumultuous 1960s on the NBC series "American Dreams," says he's still a stage actor at heart.

"I never thought of acting as a career choice," Adams said Tuesday. "It's more like a bug that you can't get rid of. You have to do it, and I can't think of anything else that would make me happier than being on stage and working with good people."

Adams started his stage career in eighth grade because the girl he had a crush on was in the after-school drama club. He showed up to talk with her and was handed a script to fill in for an absent actor.

The Pittsburgh native is the youngest of five children. He's acted in regional theater in Seattle, Kansas City, Milwaukee, Houston, Chicago, Tucson, Ariz., and Pittsburgh. He was discovered at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and since has appeared in TV shows including "Frasier."

He, his wife and two daughters now live in Los Angeles after moving from Ashland, Ore. Adams, meanwhile, still finds time to act on stage. Last year, he appeared in the La Jolla Playhouse production of "Tartuffe."



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