

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

SUPER LOTTO PLUS

25, 40, 27, 7, 44

Megamember: 17

Jackpot: \$13 million

FANTASY 5

7, 8, 2, 17, 31

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 2, 4, 1

Evening picks: 0, 7, 5

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 4, Big Ben

2nd Place: 11, Money Bags

3rd Place: 8, Gorgeous George

Race Time: 1:45.94



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Between June and August, high school dropout Jonathan Harris, 34, acted as his own lawyer in three Philadelphia felony cases and won them all, including a murder trial that could have sent him to death row. At press time, he had scheduled two more for himself, on a 2001 gun charge and at a new trial on several lesser charges related to the murder (although he had taunted a prosecutor in court about taking him on again). The prosecutor blamed the murder verdict on unreliable and no-show witnesses.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Our bombs are smarter than the average high school student. At least they can find Afghanistan."

— Whitney Brown



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A wet landing



John Wood/Daily Press

An estimated 50,000 people watch Red Bull's 'Flühtag' event on Saturday at the Santa Monica Pier. Pilots launched their man-made flying machines into the Pacific Ocean, and were judged on time in the air and distance. Inset: Hooters' 'Hot Wing 1' takes a nose dive straight into the water.

Man caught at SM airport smuggling illegals in plane

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

In what appears to be a lucky case, an unidentified man was taken into custody at the Santa Monica Airport for allegedly smuggling two illegal aliens into the United States from Mexico.

The man was detained Sept. 10 by Immigration and Naturalization Service agents only because he didn't obey a basic airport rule requiring cars to stop momentarily after passing through a security gate.

Officials said the man was found with two Mexican citizens in his car while attempting to leave the airport. Just minutes before, the man flew his airplane into Santa Monica after returning from a short trip to San Diego.

Francisco Arcaute, spokesman for the Los Angeles INS office, wouldn't confirm or deny the incident occurred on the grounds that the probe is still underway. Now that the INS is a branch of the Homeland Security Office, it has the ability to keep what used to be public information under wraps. Arcaute said he expects to make an announcement about the investigation early this week.

It's unknown if the pilot was released, or if the illegal aliens were deported.

The man, who keeps his airplane at Santa

Monica Airport, reportedly flew back with two passengers. Airport security officers halted him because he failed to stop after passing through the security gate, which requires an access card to open and close.

Once he opened the gate with the card, he kept driving instead of letting the gate close behind him, which prevents anyone else from entering the airport area.

"You have to wait so no other cars follow you in," said Santa Monica Airport Manager Bob Trimborn. "So security stopped him and they somehow ascertained that the two passengers were illegals. They were pretty nervous. Wouldn't you be?"

Airport security officers detained the group and immediately called INS. Agents reportedly took the man into custody and impounded both his plane and car.

While the card access system was installed in August to make the airport more secure, security officers only stopped the pilot because he failed to wait for the gate to close completely before driving away.

"I guess it was just one of those things," Trimborn said, adding that Santa Monica Airport is much more secure than most general aviation airports in Southern California.

"It's pretty risky to do that at this airport," he said.

Boy's playhouse center of lawsuit against City Hall

Is Jacob's backyard hideaway one story or two? A judge will decide

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON

Daily Press Staff Writer

A bitter three-year legal dispute, which began over an 8-year-old boy's playhouse, is headed to trial this fall.

The case has Santa Monica attorneys squaring off against Beth and David Levy, who sued the city in September 2000 after a neighbor complained the playhouse they built for their son, Jacob, was intrusive. Shortly after, City Hall ordered the structure to be torn down.

Land use attorney Chris Harding, who has taken on City Hall several times, represents the Levys. He will argue the case before a Ventura County judge in the next few months.

The Levy family, who live in the Sunset Park neighborhood, sued City Hall after building inspectors reversed their decision that the backyard playhouse was a legal one-story structure after neighbor Tunde Garai complained to then mayor Ken Genser.

The Levys claim Genser directed building inspectors to declare the playhouse illegal. City Hall did this by deeming it a two-story structure, with the first story as open space beneath the playhouse.

Genser disputes the Levys' claim. He said he merely asked about the legality of the playhouse and passed along a citizen complaint to city staff via e-mails after they failed to respond to Garai's repeated complaint that the structure was too tall.

City law prohibits elected officials from ordering a city employee to carry out any action. It requires that all inquiries go through the city manager first, the Levys argue. The law exists so city employees don't feel their jobs are on the line if they differ with an elected official.

The Levys say City Hall's flip-flop from legal to illegal cost thousands of dollars and forced them to choose between

See PLAYHOUSE, page 5



File photo
An 8-year-old's playhouse in Santa Monica is the center of a legal dispute between City Hall and his parents.

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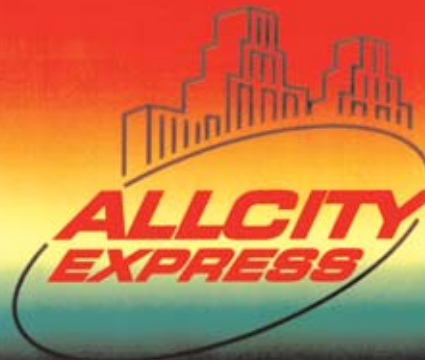
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★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, September 22, 2003:

More than ever, you could be attracted to the unusual, especially regarding your work and health. Your need to dedicate yourself to a cause is evident in your work choice. You won't feel comfortable working for money alone. You need a greater commitment. Be careful how extreme you become with your health. Though New Age medical procedures interest you, check in with the traditional medical community more often. If you are single, you might want to make some changes on the home front. What worked for you before might no longer be attractive. You're likely to meet someone after winter. This person could be key to your well-being. If you are attached, you might see major changes in the next year. Be open with your sweetie about your needs. You could be quite pleased by how much understanding you'll receive. LEO reads you cold.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Loosen up and do a mental freefall to find a solution. You might not be surprised at what emerges if you just let it all hang out. You revise your thinking because you've suddenly removed the cobwebs from your mind. Tonight: So what if it is Monday?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Stay anchored, and you could be amazed at what you do get done. Investigate the possibilities, with an eye to greater comfort around your work. Sometimes you are overwhelmed by what a partner offers. Right now, thank goodness, it is clarity. Tonight: Happy at home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You might not be sure what another is thinking. Rather than guess, you might try a direct question. Investigate new possibilities with an eye to potential change. Others express considerable diversity in their ideas. Tonight: At your favorite spot.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You might want to weigh the pros and cons of a personal situation that involves finances. You could change your job in some way, shape or form. You might need to update your thinking on a deep partnership issue. Tonight: Pay bills.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You might want to carefully rethink a project or two that involve a key association. You might feel inspired by this person, but on the other hand, he or she might not have anchored ideas. Use your creative touch. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★ Understanding when you must step back might be as crucial as doing something just for yourself. You know what your limits are within a certain perimeter, though you might need to revise your thinking. Get into "fall" thinking. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You might want to rethink a personal matter more completely. Though you might not be in agreement on a certain detail or two, you do see eye to eye with associates. A meeting surrounds a long-term project. Tonight: Follow your friends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Assume greater leadership at work. You will notice that others do what they need to do in order to follow through on what is important. Your imagination plays a vital role in an upcoming decision. Tonight: A must appearance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Reach out for someone unusual or someone with the ability to think outside of the box. Break patterns and learn to use your instincts more frequently. Investigate possibilities. Use your imagination with communications. You'll get responses. Tonight: Keep on smiling.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Working with others financially could be confusing at best and deceptive at worst. You might not want to respond just yet. Your creativity and an ability to go within for answers will save the day. Test out your ideas on others. Tonight: Accept a partner's suggestion.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Defer to others. What someone says triggers many ideas. Know what you want, and you'll come up with unusual and dynamic solutions. Your ability to read the unusual comes out. Your goals might be changing. Take in and assess the future. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★ Dig into solutions at work. What comes through like a sixth sense or an intuitive idea helps you zero in on what you want. Transform and work with a boss or a changing work situation. Be willing to do your homework. Tonight: A must show.

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LOCAL



A taste of Santa Monica



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press

Michael Guerin (left) and Blue Forest Bakery owner Andrea Coppola serve up the restaurant's speciality sandwiches and desserts on Sunday. Blue Forest, which opened this year on the south side of the Santa Monica Place Mall, facing Colorado Avenue, was one of dozens of restaurants that showcased their food during the second annual 'Taste of Santa Monica.' The event, hosted by the Chamber of Commerce, was held at the Santa Monica Pier.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Santa Monica schools focus on the arts

By Daily Press staff

The local school district will adopt an arts education policy, which will be funded by entertainment mogul Sony Pictures and the National Endowment for the Arts.

"ARTS FOR ALL," Los Angeles County's program for Arts Education, calls for five of the 82 school districts in Los Angeles to adopt an arts education policy, plan and budget each year. The goal is to lay the foundation of a meaningful arts education program. The first five districts to receive technical assistance are: Culver City Unified (Dr. Laura McGaughey, Superintendent), Norwalk-La Mirada Unified (Dr. Ginger Shattuck, Superintendent), Pasadena Unified (Dr. Percy Clark, Jr., Superintendent), Rosemead School District (Dr. Amy Enomoto-Perez, Superintendent), and Santa Monica-Malibu Unified (Dr. John Deasy, Superintendent). The districts, one in each county supervisorial district, represent varying sizes and levels of readiness.

Grants will support the work in these districts during the 2003-2004 school year. A team of consultants has been brought in to support the work of the district's arts team in assessing the status of arts education in the district.

The program outlines a massive effort to realize the vision of arts education for every Los Angeles County public school student, K-12.

ARTS FOR ALL can be downloaded at www.lacountyarts.org. Copies also may be obtained from the Arts Commission, 374 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple St., Los Angeles, CA 90012, (213) 974-1343.

surf report

The SW pulse has been strengthening slowly and will peak today with surf in the 3-5' range. Topanga and Sunset both had great rollers over the weekend and more of that is expected this week. Although it's small out there, there are still plenty of fun waves to catch.

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

Today the water is:

66°

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 Q Line

It's no secret that Santa Monica residents aren't satisfied when it comes to customer service in City Hall — especially in the planning department. The department has been criticized for being overly bureaucratic and taking too long in approving building permits, business licenses and other vital elements that allow merchants to set up shop here.

Both the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce and the Planning Commission are doing separate audits of the department's operations, particularly

now that fees have increased. In addition to listening to the advice of expensive consultants, perhaps city officials will listen to its residents ...

This week, Q-Line wants to know, "What should be done, if anything, to improve customer service in City Hall?"

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

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LETTERS

The other face of homelessness

Editor:

Last year the City Council considered two new ordinances that would impact the homeless population in this community. One of the proposed ordinances regulate public feeding programs and the other prohibits outdoor sleeping in front of businesses.

I attended the City Council meeting and listened to hours of public testimony on these proposals. I listened as scores of local residents and business owners talked about their fear of taking their children to the parks, of how their businesses were being jeopardized by the homeless menace, and of how the social service system was failing. The general picture that was painted of the homeless population was that they were a drunken, addicted, mentally ill, derelict, and purposeless group of people.

As I listened to these comments, it occurred to me that the entire homeless population of Santa Monica was being judged by the actions of a very small percentage of their actual population, and that such a judgment is the very essence of discrimination.

Unfortunately, that small percentage of the homeless population that does engage in aggressive panhandling, public intoxication, etc. is also the most visible part of the population. The vast majority of homeless are not so visible. They live in programs like Salvation Army Santa Monica Shelter (Samoshel) — going to jobs everyday and working hard to change the conditions of their lives.

I decided that it was very important to show the community the less visible face of the homeless, the face of the homeless who genuinely care about their community, and by doing so begin to heal some of the hurtful stereotypes about the homeless. Thus was born the Samoshel Community Care Program.

The Community Care Program is comprised exclusively of staff and residents of the shelter who volunteer their time to go out into local parks and business areas and do clean up projects. Currently the program provides cleaning services to Palisades Park, Reed Park, the Third Street Promenade, and Seventh St. between Colorado Avenue and Olympic Boulevard. We receive no compensation for our work, nor do we want any. We only want to be of service to our community.

There are many benefits that come from this program. I believe the original purpose of healing the negative imagery surrounding the homeless is happening slowly, but other benefits are more immediate and tangible.

The first is that the residents who participate in this program have the opportunity to become service providers rather than just service recipients — and there is tremendous empowerment and therapy in that. The second is that, while cleaning the parks and streets, the Samoshel residents do outreach to the chronically homeless — this has been particularly productive. It seems that one homeless person extending a hand to another homeless person can be more effective than a professional social worker

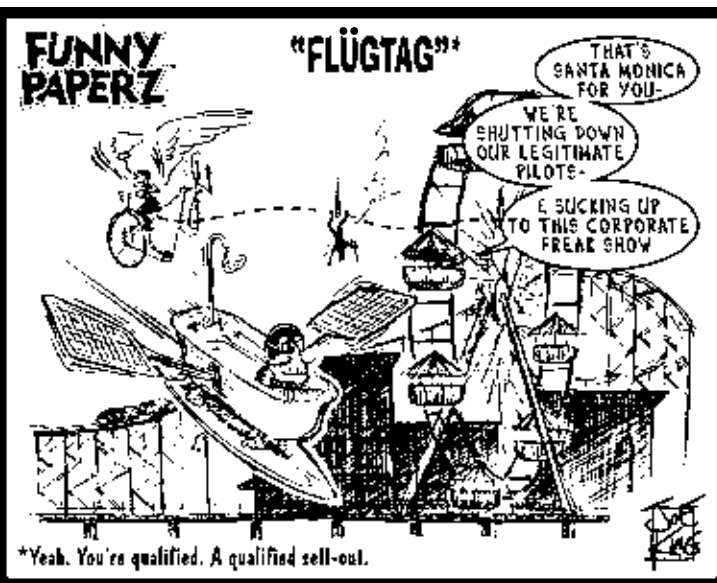
offering referrals and services.

Lastly, the City of Santa Monica enjoys cleaner parks and streets with no expenditure on the city's part, and the residents of Samoshel who provide this service feel a closer connection to the community — a critical benefit since homelessness is often a long and painful process of disconnection from community.

My vision for the future of the Community Care Program is that it continue to grow and that we can someday respond to specific calls from local residents and businesses to provide clean-up of messes left by chronically homeless individuals and be able to respond to outreach calls from local police or residents.

Theodore M. Dues

Executive director, Salvation Army Samoshel



Member: AARC, NCS, SCS, SCS, SCS

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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@smnp.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.

Despite America's military prowess, she is not winning the war

Although American forces impressively deposed the tyrannical regime of Saddam Hussein, the nearly two-year-long war on terrorism is, in fact, going badly.

The tragedy is that we lack not weapons, nor military prowess, nor bravery — our military is the most powerful in the history of the world. The problem lies not with our armed forces, but with the ideas guiding our military campaign. Consider how we fought the two major battles of the war so far: Afghanistan and Iraq.

In Afghanistan we exposed our self-crippling ambivalence about the purpose of the war. If our goal was to wipe out al Qaeda terrorists and their Taliban hosts as a step toward eliminating militant Islam, we should have attacked ruthlessly. But we were tentative. As we dropped bombs, we also showered the country with food and medicines, some of which doubtless made it into the hands of the Taliban.

Early on President Bush had promised: "I will not yield, I will not rest, I will not relent in waging this struggle for freedom and security for the American people." Yet in Afghanistan, on orders from Washington, our military did yield refraining from bombing mosques. It did rest calling for needless cease-fires during the Tora Bora siege. It did relent catering to the wishes of our coalition "allies," who demanded that we limit the number of American ground forces. In deference to the wishes of such "allies"

as Saudi Arabia, a known financier of terrorism, our military had to rely largely on proxy soldiers led by venal warlords, who let the enemy flee.

By hampering our military operations, Washington subverted them. The forces of al Qaeda, scattered rather than eradicated, continue to plot against us. American soldiers die almost daily in skirmishes with lingering Taliban and al Qaeda forces.

In the war against Iraq, the timidity of the Administration was obvious. Though President Bush had explained the threat of Iraqi weapons and expertise falling into the hands of terrorists — and our urgent need

to act — he dithered, groveling abjectly before the United Nations for approval. The battle plans he finally issued were seemingly calculated to thwart the efforts of our military. Even as we sought to wipe out Hussein's regime, our goal, apparently, was to avoid upsetting Iraqis. As was true in Afghanistan, high-priority targets such as power stations were to be spared, and our military was ordered methodically to pull their punches. It is much to the credit of our soldiers that they succeeded while bearing only minor casualties, despite Washington's contradictory injunctions.

The Iraq war, however, has done nothing to quell Islamic terrorism. Whereas Afghanistan, the stronghold of al Qaeda, was a plausible first target, Iraq was not a major base of terrorists, nor the most significant supporter of them. We have let the arch-sponsors of Islamic terrorism — Syria, Saudi Arabia and Iran — believe that they are untouchable.

Observe that terrorism against American and Western interests — from Indonesia to Kenya to Morocco — continues unabated. The American people, urged by Washington to believe that Iraq was a success, cannot fathom why more of our soldiers are dying there now than during the hostilities. We should not be surprised if our resolve to fight is diminishing.

To defend American lives properly, we should target not terrorism, a tactic, but militant Islam, the ideology that motivates the terrorists. But we have been flailing in unpredictable directions, unsure of where to go next, because the war lacks a clear purpose.

Why? The Bush Administration lacks moral confidence. At every turn we blushingly pretended that we are fighting to liberate the oppressed Afghans or tyrannized Iraqis — anything but confess what we should proclaim loudly: that we

value and seek to protect American lives. Facing the prospect of civilian casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Administration quailed. It should have asserted that, though such casualties are regrettable, they are the responsibility of the regime that initiated force against us. Instead, America was guilt-ridden, apologetic and appeasing.

We are not winning the war, but we could be.

Our founding fathers did not have even one hundredth of America's present military power, but they were armed with the conviction that political freedom is an ideal worth fighting for. Their moral certainty gave them the courage necessary to fight for their independence from England, the 18th century's lone superpower. We are at war with militant Islamists who lust for our annihilation. Our survival depends, not only on having a more powerful military, but on the courage to use our might — to act on what is morally proper — to act on our urgent need of ferocious self-defense.

(Dr. Yaron Brook is executive director of the Ayn Rand Institute. Elan Journo is a senior writer for ARI in Irvine, Calif. The Institute (www.aynrand.org/medialink) promotes the philosophy of Ayn Rand, author of *Atlas Shrugged* and *The Fountainhead*.)

Guest Commentary

By Elan Journo and Yaron Brook

LOCAL



Free expression and city law at crux of playhouse suit

PLAYHOUSE, from page 1

tearing down the playhouse or face criminal charges. Instead, they sued City Hall.

Tangling legal matters, City Hall eventually softened. It said Jacob's playhouse could stay as a "non-conforming use." But the decision left the family open to any other complaints about the structure.

Both City Hall and the Levys believe the other side is delaying the case. David Levy, a psychologist, said he's frustrated that the dispute has taken so long.

"This started when Jacob was 4 and a half. He is now 8," Levy said, adding Jacob still uses the playhouse. "It's an issue of fairness. I wasn't treated fairly and neither was my family. I don't want that to happen again."

The Levys rejected City Hall's offer, and instead are seeking a public forum where they, as well as others, can appeal building inspectors' decisions. The current law provides no appeals process. The suit also seeks to make the playhouse legal, with no restrictions.

"All I got was a series of conflicting statements," Levy said. "I had no right to appeal. This all could have been avoided four and a half years ago. We are not going to back down."

At the center of the suit is Levys' claim that when Genser sent his e-mails, he was pressuring city staff to change the original approval.

In an attempt to throw out the suit, the city invoked a legal maneuver claiming neighbors, in this case, can't be punished

for complaining to City Hall.

To do this, they cited an anti SLAPP-suit initiative, named for "Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation" suits. These are usually decoy lawsuits often used by big developers to chill the public's freedom of speech when speaking out against a project.

In response to those suits, the Legislature enacted California's anti-SLAPP law, to protect people who want to speak out.

But West Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Cesar Sarimento denied the city's motion to dismiss in March 2002, saying the Levys had proven the merits of their case well enough to go to trial.

The city has appealed the decision, moving the case to Ventura County due to a backlog of cases in Los Angeles Superior Court.

Nine other cities have filed briefs backing Santa Monica's position. They argue that public officials shouldn't be prevented from responding to legitimate requests from constituents and citizens shouldn't be impaired in their right to free expression. The cities also argue that if the court upholds Judge Sarimento's decision, it

will set a precedent that would limit city officials throughout California from adequately responding to their constituents.

The Levys say their lawsuit has nothing to do with free speech. The crux of the suit is that City Hall broke its own rules. They say that Genser's communications were tantamount to influencing city staff to change its mind and make Jacob's playhouse illegal under zoning codes.

"It's inherently intimidating when a council member comes in requesting something even if it's done politely," Harding said.

The Levys also argue that the city charter gives public officials plenty of room to advocate for their constituents — through the city manager, city attorney and public hearings — none of which Genser used.

"A councilor can help a constituent, but our argument is how you help a constituent," Harding said. "They are making a first amendment argument and we have some concerns that the city attorney is not upholding the city charter. If you don't like your charter, then change it but we're comfortable that they've violated it."

Showing his mussel



Carolyn Sackariason/Daily Press
iCugini restaurant had lines from noon on at the 'Taste of Santa Monica' on Sunday. Managing partner Matt Stein dishes out mussels to seafood lovers.

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STATE

Men guarding pot fields shot and killed by cops

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Police killed two men allegedly guarding a marijuana garden that ended a week of violent confrontations that left four suspected marijuana guards dead.

The killings came as the multibillion dollar marijuana industry increasingly uses armed sentries to guard plots often found on public lands, said Attorney General Bill Lockyer. He urged hunters and hikers to be particularly wary as the clandestine harvest enters its final weeks.

Butte County special weapons teams crawled into a large marijuana plot in the Feather Falls area early Friday, said Sheriff Perry Reniff.

Officers called out in Spanish and English for three guards to surrender. As Deputy James Dimmitt took one man's automatic AK-47 rifle during a struggle, other officers opened fire on a second suspect who rose to firing position.

The man, also armed with an AK-47, was shot to death by deputies Todd Boothe, Jason Dodd and Neil Simpson, and a third guard holding a revolver was killed when he ran into the field of fire, Reniff said.

None fired a shot, Reniff said: "They did not have the opportunity."

The survivor was a Mexican national who was not immediately identified. The two dead men also were believed to be Mexican nationals brought to the Sierra Nevada foothills to guard more than 10,000 marijuana plants.

None of the roughly 40 local, state and federal law enforcement agents and National Guardsmen were injured during the raid. The three sheriff's deputies who

fired the fatal shots are on routine administrative leave pending a multiagency investigation.

On Tuesday, two men allegedly guarding an even larger marijuana garden in Shasta County were killed when deputies said they were fired upon. Three camouflaged suspects fled into the steep foothills in the Mantion and Shingletown areas.

Also Tuesday, San Luis Obispo County sheriff's deputies were shot at as they entered a pot grove about five miles from Lopez Lake outside the city of Arroyo Grande. The suspected shooter was caught, but several other men fled through the brush.

In Southern California last weekend, a hunter walking near a marijuana grove in Los Padres National Forest north of Ojai was shot at by three men armed with automatic weapons, officials said. The hunter encountered two more armed men as he left the area.

And pot growers in Ventura County shot at a backcountry hunter as they guarded a 7,000 plant garden there.

"We're extremely concerned with hunters and hikers coming into these gardens," said Reniff.

Last year, 56 percent of marijuana plantings were discovered on public lands such as state and national parks and forests. Pot gardens are usually in remote areas far from established trails and campgrounds, authorities said. But they urged those who suspect they've stumbled on a garden to immediately leave and call police.

The state's Campaign Against Marijuana Planting has so far destroyed 325,000 plants, made 11 arrests and seized 27 weapons this harvest season, Lockyer said.

Suspect in doctor's shooting kills himself outside restaurant

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A man suspected of shooting and wounding a doctor at a hospital in suburban Baldwin Park killed himself Sunday outside a restaurant, police said.

Firefighters responded to a call shortly before 1:45 p.m. in Echo Park about a man threatening to commit suicide, police officer Don Cox said. When firefighters and police arrived, the man had already shot himself once in the stomach. The man also shot himself in the head and was taken to Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center where he died.

No one else was injured. It wasn't immediately known whether the man had threatened anyone.

Police later identified the man as Eugene Guevara, 73, of El Monte. Guevara was being sought for investigation of attempted murder in the Friday afternoon shooting of Dr. Reynaldo Hernandez, a urologist at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center where Guevara was once a patient, police said.

Authorities said Guevara shot Hernandez, who was in the hospital's third-floor urology department, three times. Hernandez was in stable condition at the hospital Sunday, said Kaiser Permanente spokeswoman Reyna del Haro.

Investigators still don't know why

Guevara shot the doctor, but a suicide note was left behind by Guevara, Cox said. The contents of the note were not immediately disclosed.

The gun recovered outside the restaurant was the same caliber as the weapon used in the Baldwin Park hospital shooting.

Police locked down the hospital immediately after the shooting and spent hours searching for Guevara, who was identified by hospital employees from a surveillance tape. The intensive care unit and some other departments continued operating while doctors, nurses, patients and others were evacuated from other sections of the sprawling six-story facility in this suburb 17 miles east of Los Angeles.

The hospital, which employs 230 physicians and nearly 2,300 support staff, was fully functioning Saturday, said del Haro, with all departments open.

Police had searched Guevara's home on Saturday, but authorities did not say if any evidence had been found.

Neighbors of Guevara said the retired widower, whom they said suffered from diabetes and prostate cancer, was a quiet man who kept to himself.

It wasn't immediately known when Guevara had last been admitted to the hospital or whether he was a patient of the doctor.

NATIONAL



'Talk Like a Pirate Day' takes on the world

BY JOSEPH B. FRAZIER
Associated Press Writer

PORTLAND, Ore. — A-r-r-r, piracy be hard work, matey, harder if you are the founders of "Talk Like a Pirate Day," which buccaneer wannabes celebrated a-r-r-r-round the nation for the second year.

In Portland a man walked into an espresso bar. "Do you want a small, medium or la-a-a-rge?" asked the barista.

In schools, on the street and around the world on Friday, the buccaneer badinage was in vogue again, thanks to two Albany men who got the idea for "Talk Like A Pirate Day" while playing racquetball last year.

"One of us reached for a shot he shouldn't have and said, 'a-r-r-r-r-,' and we started talking like pirates, as guys will do," said John Baur, who in real life is an education writer with an outreach project for marine environments at Oregon State University.

Baur spoke by telephone from the home of cohort Mark Summers, a behavior management consultant for an education district.

They got the idea of "Talk Like a Pirate Day" last year, pitched it to humor columnist Dave Barry in Miami and it mush-r-roomed.

So far this month their Web site has had 5 million hits, Baur said.

Dozens of teachers called the pair over the past week to say they were using the day to teach pupils the difference between port and starboard, or fore and aft. One had students make spyglasses.

A teacher in the Ivory Coast e-mailed to say that the government had declared a holiday to mark some recent political development, but that the school decided to celebrate "Talk Like a Pirate Day" instead.

The pair has been interviewed by

broadcasters and newspapers from around the world — and of course, they had to talk like pirates.

"It's been a marathon," Baur said. "Geneva, Switzerland, called, and then we went to the BBC, got a couple hours of sleep, then Fargo, N.D., called at 4 a.m."

Summers says putting on a pirate's growl for a week is tough on the vocal cords.

"It's not that you get tired of it, but physically, you just can't do it all day long. But when you get called by a morning radio station, the energy is infectious, and it's hard to stop," Summers said.

Their Web site gives instruction in how to talk like a pirate. For those who have the basics already, the site also has "advanced pirate lingo."

Others have also gotten into the act on the Internet, where you can find Web sites selling "Talk Like a Pirate" T-shirts and hats, "Saucy Wench" camisoles and "Shiver Me Timbers" sweat shirts.

Summers and Baur have an agent shopping three books around New York, including one on "Talk Like A Pirate Day" and the story behind it.

The second one Baur described as "The Pirate Guys' Guide to Running for President."

"That's our look at American politics. The third one is the 'Pirate Guys' Guide to Fixing Everything That's Wrong with You.' It's a self-help book," Baur said.

Summers picked Sept. 19 because it was the birthday of his ex-wife, Rhonda. She called Baur and asked him to relay a message to Summers.

"I've never been more proud to be his ex-wife," she told Baur.

Baur said he and Summers will keep it up as long as it's fun and the world continues to play along.

Bush vows to end frivolous lawsuits through tort reform

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush has renewed his campaign against what he considers abuses of the legal system, returning to a longtime interest that remained mostly sidelined during the first two years of his presidency.

In his weekly radio address, Bush pushed for Congress to limit damage awards in medical malpractice cases, arguing that lawsuits are sending malpractice insurance costs soaring so that shortages of doctors are occurring in many places.

"I have proposed reasonable limits on the lawsuits that are raising health care costs for everyone," Bush said.

The subject, known as "tort reform," has been a common theme for Bush in speeches around the country for more than a year. But he followed it by arguing also for more comprehensive changes to the nation's legal system.

"We need to address the broader problems of frivolous litigation," Bush said. "We need effective legal reforms that will make sure that settlement money from class actions and other litigation goes to those harmed and not to trial lawyers."

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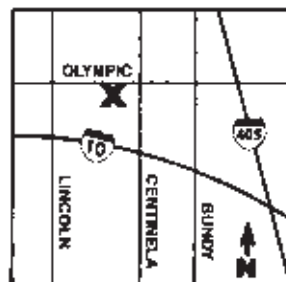
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NATIONAL

Baylor professors compile missing immigrant database

BY T.A. BADGER
Associated Press Writer

WACO, Texas — The sun-bleached bones are kept in a cardboard box in a locked cabinet — a skull, a femur, several ribs and vertebrae, pieces of a pelvis.

To Lori Baker's trained eye, the remains found in a lonely corner of South Texas near the Rio Grande tell of a young boy, about 13, most likely with American Indian heritage. Some of his clothing was homemade, and he carried a dark cloth knapsack bearing the name of a Mexican university.

Baker, a forensic scientist at Baylor University, is sure the boy died while trying to enter the United States illegally, one of hundreds who perish annually along the hot, dry U.S.-Mexico border.

"They are people, too," she said of the undocumented immigrants, many of whom end up in poorly marked graves in pauper cemeteries. "They deserve to be buried and have their families know what happened to them."

Baker is beginning an ambitious project to try to match unidentified remains found along the border with Mexican and Central America families who have not heard from relatives since they left home for the United States.

Nearly 1,400 supposed illegal immigrants died along the nation's southern border in the past four years, according to the federal Bureau of Customs and Border Protection. Of that number, 470 were found in Texas.

More than 600 bodies found since 1999 remain unidentified.

Baker's husband Erich, a computer science professor at Baylor, will assist the project. She will extract DNA from the body — from bones, tissue, hair or other sources — and other physical clues, and he will compile the information into a searchable, online database.

The database will list information on the unidentified immigrant, such as approximate age, height and weight, any distinguishing marks on the body, dental work, where body was found and if any clothing or jewelry was with it.

Families of the missing will be able to complete an online form asking them to provide a detailed physical description of their relative, as well as what the person likely wore, where they were last seen and their possible destination.

If a promising match turns up, Baker will send the family a do-it-yourself DNA swab kit to provide the samples she needs to compare with genetic material from the body.

It's important to keep the process simple and inexpensive because families conducting the searches will most likely be poor, Erich Baker said.

"The Internet is just as free in Mexico as it is here," he said.

The Bakers envision that Mexican families without computers will work through their local and federal government agencies. They also plan to get the word out in U.S. communities with large immigrant populations and through advocacy groups.

The Bakers' work will be useful even if only a small percentage of bodies are identified, said Nestor Rodriguez, co-director of the Center for Immigration at the University of Houston.

"There's almost nothing as difficult and painful for a family than not knowing what happened," he said. "I've spoken to moth-

"There's almost nothing as difficult and painful for a family than not knowing what happened. I've spoken to mothers who haven't heard anything for more than a decade and they're still looking."

NESTOR RODRIGUEZ
Co-director,

Center for Immigration, University of Houston

ers who haven't heard anything for more than a decade and they're still looking."

Baker's first success involved the skeleton of a young woman found in the Arizona desert near Tucson last December. A Mexican voter card was discovered close to the remains, which gave Baker a name and a lead on finding family for the DNA needed to make a match. The woman was eventually identified as Rosita Cano, from a small town on the Yucatan Peninsula.

Cano's mother told the Arizona Republic newspaper of her relief when learning of her daughter's fate. "It feels awful at first, but I am at peace now that it has been confirmed," she said.

Bruce Anderson, an anthropologist for the Pima (Ariz.) County medical examiner in Tucson, said the county is considering sending Baker about 100 DNA samples of suspected undocumented immigrants for inclusion in her database.

Southern Arizona is one of the busiest regions for illegal immigrant traffic — last year nearly 150 people died from heat and thirst on their northward journey. So far this year, more than 100 bodies have been found, with nearly 40 of them remaining unidentified.

Anderson and others say U.S. efforts to tighten the border following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks drive desperate immigrants to attempt ever-riskier crossings.

"We need to present a unified front if we going to try to identify these people," Anderson said. "Irrespective of what (U.S. immigration agencies) are doing, the border is not closed — people are getting through and they're dying."

Baylor, the world's largest Baptist University, agreed to provide limited funding of Baker's work, which she does when she's not teaching, doing academic research or performing DNA tests on homicide and accident victims for law enforcement agencies.

She will, however, seek money from private foundations to support the project. She estimates she will need \$800,000 for the first few years.

"It's going to take a lot of time and effort and lots of samples from families before we start seeing success," she said.

NATIONAL



Funeral home adds that special Las Vegas touch

BY ADAM GOLDMAN
Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — One Las Vegas funeral home is selling more than somber silver caskets and gladiolas.

Palm Mortuary has begun offering giant playing cards, oversized dice and a towering slot machine to memorialize the dearly departed in the gambling capital of the world. Gargantuan casino chips and the signature "Fabulous Las Vegas" sign also are available to give gamblers a special send-off.

"Each life is unique," Palm Vice President Ned Phillips said. "We plan the events of our lives. Why not plan this, too?"

Even in death, Viva Las Vegas.

Themed funerals have taken hold across the country, and Las Vegas has jumped into the lucrative fray, upping the local ante with customized backdrops and an almost anything-goes attitude.

The attraction of personalized funerals stretches from Los Angeles to Florida to Boston as the \$10 billion industry looks for new revenue sources. Mourners can make videos to help remember those who have died or play Hawaiian music in place of a sorrowful organ.

Ashes can be launched into space for those whose death is the beginning of another exploration, or stuffed into a decoy duck for hunters who have fired their final shot.

The Wade Funeral Home in St. Louis offers the Big Mama's Kitchen setting that boasts Crisco, Wonder Bread and real fried chicken in a tribute to Sunday meals and the women — or men in a couple of instances — who prepare them.

"We've even had to replenish the chicken," said Aaron Grimes, a Wade branch manager. "We don't encourage (eating) it."

Palm Mortuary executives said they conjured up the ceremonial props earlier this year and began marketing them about two months ago.

A local outfit designed 11 custom-made sets for the funeral home. So far, six of the "celebration of life funerals" have been purchased. The backdrops rent from about \$1,000 to \$3,000.

Grieving customers can flip through a photo album of backdrops and select one that best suits their deceased relative or departed friend.

For rodeo types, there's a plastic horse, bales of hay, wagon wheels, cacti and a cowboy boot that could fit Paul Bunyan.

Garden, military and kitchen settings are available, too.

Others have chosen the golf package, complete with course scenery, towering irons and regular club bags.

After her 67-year-old mother died in August, Lyssa Zwart of Las Vegas went to Palm Mortuary to handle arrangements. Soon her notion of saying goodbye forever changed forever.

Zwart said she found the perfect fit for her mother, Shelby Myers, a lifelong golfer who racked up scores in the high 70s and low 80s.

"It was the first time I'd ever seen something like that before. It was awesome. This is mom all the way. This is exactly what mom would have wanted."

— LYSSA ZWART
Las Vegas resident

Zwart bought the golfscape.

"It was the first time I'd ever seen something like that before," she said. "It was awesome. This is mom all the way. This is exactly what mom would have wanted."

Zwart, 39, briefly considered the Vegas funeral but decided against it, even though her mom gambled occasionally. It might have been inappropriate, she said.

Palm officials said the Vegas theme isn't for everybody.

"We have a lot of people associated here in Las Vegas with the gaming industry," Phillips said. "Many of them enjoy what the gaming industry has to offer. I think it's something that would appeal to a certain segment of those people."

Other funeral homes are beginning to take notice.

"This is definitely the future," said Jean Hites, owner of Hites Funeral Home in Henderson. "This is what we are planning to do. Themes are catching on because baby boomers are getting older."

Kyle West of Bunkers Mortuary in Las Vegas said it all comes down to "who can provide the most personalized service. Everybody is using that as a competitive edge."

Bunkers offers coffins with dice and playing cards embroidered in the lid, tame by Palm standards.

There is nothing wrong with Las Vegas funeral homes proffering the city's unique image at a very somber time in a person's life, said David Walkinshaw, a spokesman for the National Funeral Directors Association.

"That's Vegas," Walkinshaw, a funeral director in Arlington, Mass., said. "It fits."

At least one local clergyman said the displays were unseemly.

"I don't like it," Rabbi Felipe Goodman of Temple Beth Shalom said. "It feels fake. I think that there are other ways to honor people than doing this."

Palm officials said they are sensitive to preserving some decorum. Don't expect people to deliver a eulogy from a blackjack table, beginning the oration with "Life is a craps shoot."

"I don't think that's going to happen," Palm President Ken Knauss said.

But what about a "Fabulous Las Vegas" tombstone?

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NATIONAL

Woman in 'Bonnie and Clyde' case remains in jail

DENVER — A woman suspected in a series of armed bank robberies across the West was ordered held without bail last week on charges of bank robbery and conspiracy.

Nova Ester Guthrie, 28, and her boyfriend, Craig Pritchert, are suspected of robberies in Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Texas and Oregon in the 1990s.

The couple, dubbed a modern "Bonnie and Clyde," were found recently in South Africa, where federal authorities said they had been living since 2000.

Guthrie appeared in U.S. District Court in Denver on Thursday after being transported to Colorado from Oklahoma City.

She also faces charges of aiding and

abetting. Each of the 18 counts carries a sentence of up to 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.

Another hearing was scheduled for Sept. 23.

Pritchert, a former Arizona State University baseball player, is accused of entering the banks with a semiautomatic handgun and using duct tape, cheap handcuffs or plastic ties to bind bank employees.

Guthrie, who once lived in tiny Boone, Colo., drove the getaway car, authorities said.

Pritchert, 41, pleaded innocent recently to charges in the 1997 theft of \$32,000 from a Scottsdale, Ariz., bank. His trial is scheduled for Oct. 28.

'Shovel Brigade' feuding with U.S. Forest Service

BY SCOTT SONNER

Associated Press Writer

RENO, Nev. — Call them the "Outhouse Brigade."

A group of northeast Nevadans feuding with the U.S. Forest Service over control of a remote national forest road near a trout stream is vowing to defy the agency and drive up the road to clean out a public outhouse.

The Forest Service, concerned about the effects on the threatened bull trout, has forbidden vehicles from using South Canyon Road since the Jarbidge River flooded and washed out most of it in 1995.

A coalition of anti-federal activists and a local citizens group in Elko County dubbed the "Shovel Brigade" began trying to reopen the road near the Idaho state line three years ago.

This summer, Idaho members of a four-wheel-drive truck club succeeded in negotiating the entire 1.5-mile stretch to the campground outhouse that has become an unusual symbol in the ongoing public lands dispute over property rights and environmental protection.

Forest Service officials considered sending a helicopter to the remote mountain area bordering federal wilderness near Jarbidge to empty the outhouse before they learned it would cost \$10,000.

Bob Vaught, Forest Service supervisor of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, said the citizens group has no authority to use the road and that he plans to meet with its members and Elko County commissioners to try get the planned cleanup canceled.

Activists said they're intent on carrying out their plan Oct. 18 to keep the toilet vault from leaking sewage into the river.

"When the Forest Service said they were going up there with a helicopter at a cost of \$10,000, we told them we'd do it and it won't cost the taxpayers a nickel," said O.Q. "Chris" Johnson, a member of the Shovel Brigade.

"The road is open. It's a county road," said Johnson, who argues the federal government has no jurisdiction because the road existed before the national forest was established in the early 1900s.

"They have nothing to say about it," he told The Associated Press.

The Forest Service thinks otherwise.

"It is a Forest Service issue, it is not a county issue," Vaught told AP. "It is not for the 'Shovel Brigade' or any other third

"It's a sealed vault toilet. While it is relatively full, it is not currently causing a problem as far as we know."

— BOB VAUGHT
Forest Service Supervisor

party to figure out. We don't currently have an interest in having a volunteer group do this work."

Vaught said that in addition to potential violations to the Endangered Species Act, there are "considerable risks" if untrained volunteers handle the sewage.

"There's the potential of spills right in the river environment," he said.

Vaught said agency scientists recently took water samples from the river near the outhouse and that a state lab found no sign of leakage. He said weekly monitoring would continue.

"It's a sealed vault toilet. While it is relatively full, it is not currently causing a problem as far as we know," Vaught said.

"If we find leakage, we will take immediate action. If we continue to find no leakage, then that gives us more flexibility in finding the most reasonable and most cost-effective approach to remove the effluent," he said.

John Eickhof, the head of the group of vintage Dodge power wagon collectors — the Idaho Trail Ride — that intends to help with the project, said it took them nearly four hours to drive the 1.5 miles of "very rough road" in June.

"We became heroes in the town because they have been wanting to get back up there for years," Eickhof said by telephone from his hometown of Wendell, Idaho.

"We're not doing it for money or anything. We're just doing it to help the area. Our goal is to get the road open. It's a really beautiful area," he said.

Eickhof said his group plans to bring a 200-gallon tank on the back of a pickup truck to haul out the waste.

"I don't see there being any real problem going up there as long as we don't cause any damage ... The whole stink, so to speak, is unfounded."

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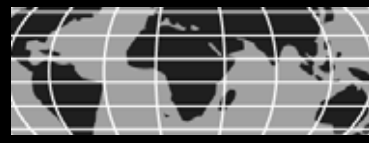
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WORLD BRIEFLY

Arafat: U.N. vote a sign of support for Palestine

By The Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Yasser Arafat told hundreds of supporters over the weekend that a United Nations vote condemning an Israeli decision to remove him is of the "utmost importance" as a sign of international support for the Palestinians.

Israel dismissed the U.N. General Assembly resolution, which passed 133-4 with 15 abstentions Friday, and said the Palestinians should focus their energy on fighting terrorism. Israel also insisted that a new government being formed by incoming Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia cut links to Arafat. Israel says Arafat is tainted by terrorism.

In Tel Aviv, several thousand Israelis marched to the Defense Ministry, protesting their government's tough policies in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and calling for an end to occupation. In the past three years of fighting against Palestinian militants, Israeli troops have reoccupied most West Bank towns, enforced stringent travel bans on civilians and carried out frequent arrest raids.

Isabel peaks frustrations

By The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Waiting lines lengthened and frustration mounted this past weekend, as people living along the hundreds of miles damaged in Hurricane Isabel's floods and winds realized that it could be days before their next hot bath or home cooked meal.

The huge storm knocked out electrical service for about 6 million homes and businesses from North Carolina's Outer Banks north to New York, and the extent

of damage combined with debris-blocked streets overwhelmed utility crews. An estimated 2.8 million were still blacked out Saturday.

At least 29 deaths had been blamed on the storm, 16 of them in hard-hit Virginia. North Carolina, Virginia Maryland and Delaware were declared federal disaster areas.

Virginia was hit hardest by the loss of electricity. The state's dominant provider, Dominion Virginia Power, still had about 1.2 million homes and businesses in the dark Saturday, said Jimmy Staton, a company vice president.

Clark's approval rating climbs in national polls

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Retired Gen. Wesley Clark already appears to be very competitive in a new national poll released Saturday just days after he became the 10th Democratic presidential candidate.

Clark was among the leaders of the Democratic candidates in the Newsweek Poll and was not far behind President Bush in a head-to-head matchup in the poll taken only days after entering the race.

Clark, with 14 percent, was grouped among the leaders, along with former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean and Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut, both at 12 percent, and Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry at 10 percent.

Other candidates were in single digits. Clark has a lot of work to do, however, in states with early contests, which will likely be key to winning the nomination.

The survey by Newsweek magazine also suggested Bush may be increasingly vulnerable on issues from Iraq to domestic concerns.

African leader dies

By The Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe — Vice President Simon Muzenda, a longtime loyal aide of Zimbabwe's autocratic leader, died Saturday, state radio reported. He was 81.

The report said Muzenda died at the main Parirenyatwa hospital in Harare. It gave no cause of death.

Muzenda had become increasingly frail in the past year and all but withdrew from public life. He attended few state functions but seldom appeared in public. He carried out his official duties as the senior of two vice presidents.

Though it left President Robert Mugabe without the most trusted political associate in his "old guard," Muzenda's death was not expected to change the political landscape in the troubled southern African country. Zimbabwe is in the middle of its worst economic crisis since independence from Britain in 1980.

Muzenda had been receiving medical treatment in China but returned home in July, when he was admitted to the coronary care unit for the critically ill at the hospital.

European countries look for alliance and consensus

By The Associated Press

BERLIN — Germany, France and Britain sought to project a new European consensus Saturday before this week's U.N. General Assembly meeting on Iraq's future, agreeing broadly on a significant role for the United Nations and a transfer of power to Iraqis. But they were still divided on how quickly that should happen.

There was no sign of movement from French President Jacques Chirac, who

insisted again that power should be transferred to the Iraqis within months, despite U.S. insistence, shared by British Prime Minister Tony Blair, that it's too early to establish a timetable.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder sought to act as intermediary at the hastily called summit, the first to bring together the leaders of anti-war France and Germany with Blair, the United States' closest ally, since Europe split over the Iraq war.

Still smarting over the Iraq war's damage to European attempts at formulating a common foreign policy, the leaders emphasized their willingness to negotiate a U.S. draft proposal seeking to include countries that did not participate in the war in postwar security and reconstruction.

Suspected rapist in custody

By The Associated Press

MIAMI — A man was arrested in a string of rapes in this city's Little Havana neighborhood, police chief John Timoney said Saturday.

Reynaldo Elias Rapalo, 32, a Honduran citizen whose visa had expired, was arrested Friday night and his DNA sample matched forensic evidence taken from the rape scenes, Timoney said. His fingerprints also matched and an eyewitness identified him as the rapist, he said.

Detectives patrolling the streets of Little Havana saw a car that matched the description of the rapist's vehicle, Timoney said.

"He was driving slowly down the block and kind of checking out the alleyways," Timoney said. The driver ran two stop signs before police pulled him over and arrested him.

"It's very hard to articulate a cop's gut, but when their eyes met and he averted them, he knew there was something wrong here," Timoney said.

Rapalo volunteered to give a saliva sample for the DNA test, Timoney said.

Bush shuns 'Patriot Act' name in seeking new anti-terrorism powers

BY JESSE J. HOLLAND

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The White House won't say it, the Justice Department denies it and opponents salivate at every opportunity to use it.

"The USA Patriot Act" is a phrase that Bush administration officials shun when questioned about the new anti-terrorism powers the president is asking lawmakers to give police and prosecutors.

Among the measures President Bush is seeking are expanded use of the federal death penalty, tougher bail restrictions and FBI power to subpoena records and witnesses without having to go to a judge or grand jury.

The new authority would be in addition to the broad powers for searches, wiretaps, electronic and computer eavesdropping, and access to personal and business information Bush got from Congress six weeks after the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

In the fervor of the time, the bills were dubbed by sponsors as the Uniting and Strengthening America — or USA — Act in the Senate and the Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism — or PATRIOT

— Act in the House. They were combined to become the USA Patriot Act.

"This is the work of a couple of smart staffers in Congress," said Mark Corallo, a spokesman for the Justice Department.

Since then, however, the Patriot Act has become a very sore point for powerful liberals and conservatives alike. Both sides object to the law's intrusiveness into Americans' lives in the name of anti-terrorism.

The House already has voted to negate part of it — the use of federal funds on "sneak and peek" searches without the property owners' or residents' knowledge and with warrants delivered afterward.

This week Attorney General John Ashcroft was forced to reveal that the FBI hadn't yet used its Patriot Act power to investigate library records after critics expressed outrage the government would compel the disclosure of what people read.

When Bush unveiled the new measures he wants the day before the two-year anniversary of Sept. 11, critics immediately slapped the name "Patriot Act II" on them.

"The administration now has decided to push a sequel, without calling it a sequel," said Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, senior Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Asked if there was a connection between Bush's latest initiative and the 2001 law, White House spokesman Scott McClellan said, "I don't know if I'd view it that way."

The Justice Department says there is no omnibus Patriot Act II in the works.

"I don't think that anybody is thinking about what to name any legislation," said Corallo. "What we're concentrating on here, as we go about our business every day, is to find ways that we can better debilitate the terrorists."

Lawmakers often name bills after themselves, or come up with catchy names or acronyms to give legislation a boost. A popular name can help a bill, but a controversial or unpopular name can hurt it.

"Some lawmakers will vote against legislation just because of the name," Senate Historian Don Ritchie said.

Opponents of Bush's new proposals say the administration is unwilling to describe them in terms of the Patriot Act because the name itself generates hostility from civil libertarians.

"There is a large national movement that questions elements of the USA Patriot Act," said Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., the only senator to vote against it. "I think

all of that has led to the name USA Patriot Act not being what the administration hoped it would be. They shouldn't have used that name in the first place."

About half the people questioned in a recent poll said the Bush administration has been about right in using new laws to fight terrorism, while 24 percent said the government has gone too far and 18 percent said it hasn't gone far enough. The poll was conducted for The Associated Press by ICR/International Communications Research of Media, Pa.

"The American people overwhelmingly support not just the Patriot Act but this administration's effort to defeat the terrorists and keep America safe," Corallo said. "They expect us to promote these changes."

A name — even if it's Patriot Act II — won't really matter, said Sen. George Allen, R-Va., who questions a provision being used now to hold suspects while denying them access to a lawyer.

"I try to get past the name," said Allen. "What will probably happen is that most of us, Republican and Democrat, will want to examine how those laws have been used and ask for changes we think are needed."

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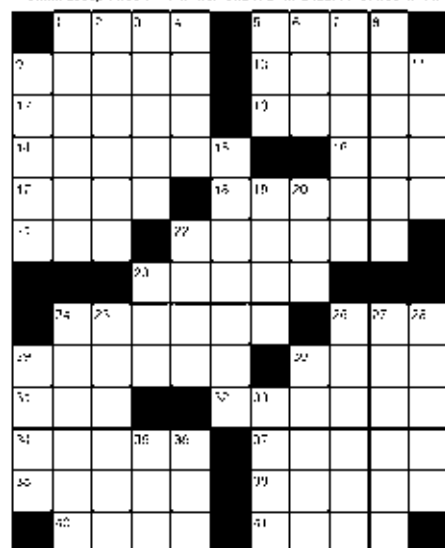
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 - Gaze
 - Snack in a shell
 - Small bills
 - More recent
 - Swiftly
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 - Part of fiction
 - Chiding sound
 - Spigot
 - Gorilla for one
 - Quick snooze
 - Map areas
 - gritty
 - Therefore
 - Patella
 - Pinnacle
 - Abounds
 - Acropolis setting
 - Rep.'s counterpart
 - Starr of the comics
 - City car
 - Act the bandit
 - Kind of income
 - In the know
 - Banish
 - Lesson giver
- DOWN**
- Scottish monster
 - Come to
 - Chairs
 - Circle parts
 - Spigot
 - Gorilla for one
 - Quick snooze
 - Map areas
 - gritty
 - Therefore
 - Patella
 - Pinnacle
 - Abounds
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 - Starr of the comics
 - City car
 - Act the bandit
 - Kind of income
 - In the know
 - Banish
 - Lesson giver

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Recall circus comes to Leno; no booster seat needed for Coleman

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — There'll be an appreciative audience today for Jay Leno's jokes about the California recall — 90 candidates will join the TV talk-show host.

On "The Tonight Show With Jay Leno" in August, the host issued an invitation to all those vying to replace Gov. Gray Davis. Ninety of the 135 candidates confirmed they'll be on hand, NBC said Friday.

"And Gary Coleman, don't worry — we will have a booster seat," Leno said in August, joking about the diminutive actor who's among those running.

There was no indication any of the front-runners would appear. Arnold Schwarzenegger announced his candidacy to Leno on the show this summer.

Monday's show also will feature actor Robert Downey Jr., comedian Tess Drake and a performance by Blue Man Group.

On Friday, a federal appeals court announced it will reconsider a three-judge panel's postponement of the recall election.

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — The NBC television affiliate owned by the University of Notre Dame will not air the new sitcom "Coupling" because the sexual jokes "push the envelope well beyond the boundaries of our community's standards."

Station management of WNDU and its

board of directors were "disappointed and uncomfortable" with the content, the station said in a news release. The show is to premiere Thursday.

The affiliate said it would replace the premiere of "Coupling" with "Roastin' the Golden Boy, Part I," a television version of the Life Treatment Centers' roast of Notre Dame Heisman Trophy winner Paul Hornung.

One other affiliate, KSL in Salt Lake City, also has decided against airing the show.

NBC said the show was appropriate for network broadcasting.

"Coupling," a British Broadcasting Corp. sitcom, has been described in England as a frank and funny account of love and lust among a group of thirtysomethings. NBC bought the show and is remaking it with American actors.

MILWAUKEE — "The West Wing" actor Martin Sheen said the cast "felt like orphans" when the show's creator Aaron Sorkin walked off the team at the end of last season.

But Sheen, who plays President Josiah "Jed" Bartlet on the show, said Wednesday's premiere will prove the NBC show, now in its fifth season, has rebounded from the loss.

"Honestly, it's one of the best episodes we've done," the actor said. "I suggest watching it with a lot of Kleenex."

The three-time Emmy winner for best drama lost some of its strong ratings and

critical praise in its fourth season, but still managed to snag 15 Emmy nominations.

Sheen's comments were made in Milwaukee, where he received an honorary degree from Marquette University.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A week after his death, Johnny Cash was honored with artist, song and album of the year awards at the Americana music awards show.

Friday's show was the second for the Americana Music Association, a group that promotes more traditional country music than much of the contemporary pop-oriented sounds of Nashville.

Cash won song of the year for "Hurt," a stirring anti-drug song written by Trent Reznor of the rock group Nine Inch Nails, and album of the Year for "American IV: The Man Comes Around," the latest in a series produced by rock-rap producer Rick Rubin.

Cash was selected artist of the year for his work on the song and album.

Kris Kristofferson, a singer-songwriter and actor who was Cash's friend for 30 years and co-wrote his hit "Sunday Morning Coming Down," received the Spirit of Americana Free Speech Award, presented by the First Amendment Center along with the AMA.

Kristofferson, who also wrote "Me and Bobby McGee," is a longtime activist for social justice and human rights.

Other 2003 winners were dobro player Jerry Douglas, instrumentalist; the Band

singer Levon Helm, lifetime achievement award for performer; country rock pioneer Gram Parsons, president's award; producer and Sun Records founder Sam Phillips, lifetime achievement for executive; and singer-songwriter John Prine, lifetime achievement for songwriter.

LOS ANGELES — A judge dismissed two parts of pop star Michael Jackson's lawsuit against Universal Music Group that claims the world's largest record company owes him royalties for the rerelease of songs he made in the 1970s.

The lawsuit, filed in May, accuses Universal of violating a 1980 agreement to pay Jackson royalties from recordings he made with the Jackson 5 and as a solo artist from 1969 to 1976 for Motown Records, which was acquired by the company.

Judge Emilie Elias tossed out Jackson's claim that Universal had a fiduciary duty to make sure he received the best financial deal possible. She also dismissed his conversion claim, which argued that Universal had improperly used the music in licensing.

Eight of Jackson's claims remain in the lawsuit, including breach of contract.

Universal's attorney declined to comment. Jackson's lawyer, Brian Wolf, said he is considering filing an appeal about the fiduciary duty claim and plans to amend the conversion claim and present it again to the court.

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