

Senate OKs new bill to fly POW-MIA flag

The POW-MIA flag would fly each year on public buildings under a bill passed by the Senate Tuesday.

The flag has the white silhouette of a prisoner of war on a black background and the inscription, "You are not forgotten."

It would fly or be displayed on "POW/MIA Recognition Day" in September each year at state buildings, except the Statehouse, if flags are provided. Other flags at public buildings, except the Statehouse, would be flown at half-staff at least until noon on that day.

Court upholds ruling on abortion plates

The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has upheld a ruling that South Carolina's anti-abortion license plates are unconstitutional.

A three-judge panel unanimously ruled Monday that the plates, which bear the slogan "Choose Life" violate the First Amendment by giving anti-abortion advocates a forum to express their beliefs without giving abortion rights supporters a similar forum.

Nation

Cable industry offers free blocking tools

WASHINGTON — The cable television industry said Tuesday it will provide free equipment to allow subscribers to block unwanted channels, a reaction to efforts on Capitol Hill to curb indecent programming.

The offer is directed to about half the nation's 70.5 million cable subscribers who don't have cable boxes that can be programmed to block certain channels or programs. The companies agreeing to the plan include the 10 largest in the country and reach 85 percent of all cable subscribers.

Black pastors oppose same-sex marriages

ATLANTA — More than two dozen black pastors added their voice to the critics of same-sex marriage, attempting to distance the civil rights struggle from the gay rights movement and defending marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

Thirty pastors rallied late Monday with their supporters at an Atlanta-area church where they signed a declaration outlining their beliefs on marriage and religion.

The declaration is meant to pressure state representatives to approve a constitutional ban on gay marriages, which will be considered again by the Georgia House of Representatives as soon as this week.

World

Israeli threats loom over Hamas militants

GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP — Israel threatened to kill the entire leadership of the Islamic militant group Hamas after assassinating its founder and hinted Tuesday that Yasser Arafat could wind up on the hit list in the future.

The accelerated strikes at Hamas are part of an attempt to score a decisive victory ahead of an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. Israel does not want to be seen as being driven out of the strip by militants, who already are claiming victory.

U.S. special forces stiffen al-Qaida hunt

ON THE AFGHAN BORDER — Using bulldozers to slice bunkers and a helicopter landing pad out of a mountainside, U.S. special operations forces dug in Tuesday on a peak overlooking Pakistan — fortifying the area for the intensifying battle against al-Qaida and Taliban forces.

Special operations forces—who include Green Berets, Navy SEALs, and CIA operatives—are playing a secretive but leading role in the battle against al-Qaida and Taliban suspects believed to be hiding out in the mountains of Pakistan's tribal areas.



1898: First automobile sold.
1964: Kennedy half dollar issued.

Extended Forecast



Today
HI: 69
LO: 48



Thursday
HI: 76
LO: 49



Friday
HI: 75
LO: 52



Saturday
HI: 76
LO: 52



Sunday
HI: 79
LO: 51

Coming Up @ USC

Today
"CAROLINA DAY AT THE STATEHOUSE": S.C. Statehouse, 10 a.m.
EDUCATION RECRUITMENT DAY: Carolina Coliseum, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., 1-5 p.m.
EPIDEMIOLOGY SEMINAR, "CHRONOEPIDEMIOLOGY": Bill Hrushesky of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Health Sciences Building 103, 12:30 p.m.
ADAM ESTES, SID TYNER AND JENNIFER FORET CONCERTO RECITAL: School of Music 206, 6 p.m.
BRIAN MCNAMARA JUNIOR GUITAR RECITAL: School of Music 206, 7 p.m.
USC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA FEATURING VADIM GLUZMNA: Koger Center for the Arts, Gonzalez Hall, 7:30 p.m.
ORPHAN FILM SYMPOSIUM: Russell House Theater, 8 p.m.
BEST CLASS FOOD DRIVE: USC Law School.

Thursday
SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE ACADEMIC ARENA: Computer Services 309, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
ORPHAN FILM SYMPOSIUM: Russell House Theater, 9 a.m.-10 p.m.
COLLOQUIUM: Michael Daniels of the University of Florida, LeConte 210A, 2 p.m., Refreshments 3 p.m.
COLLOQUIUM, "COSMIC RAY MUON RADIOGRAPHY": Jones Physical Science Center 409, Refreshments 3:45 p.m., Colloquium 4 p.m.
CLASS OF 2004 SOCIAL HOUR: Salty Nut Cafe, 4-7 p.m.
RAPHAEL RADA VOCAL RECITAL: School of Music 206, 4:30 p.m.
THE MUSE'S WHISPER: WRITING WITH ZELDA: McKissick Museum, 2nd floor, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
CHRISTOPHER BERG GUITAR RECITAL: School of Music 206, 7:30 p.m.
BEST CLASS FOOD DRIVE: USC Law School.

Friday
ORPHAN FILM SYMPOSIUM: Russell House Theater, 9 a.m.-10 p.m.
SEMINAR, "SOME NEW ASPECTS OF MOLECULAR ENGINEERING OF HEME PROTEINS TO MANIPULATE THEIR FUNCTIONS: LIGAND BINDING, CATALYSIS AND INTERPROTEIN RECOGNITION": Isao Morishima of Kyoto University, Japan, Jones Physical Science Center 712, Refreshments 3:45 p.m., Seminar 4 p.m.
BEST CLASS FOOD DRIVE: USC Law School.

Saturday
JOURNEY INTO SELF: LESSONS FROM ZELDA: McKissick Museum, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Thornton says he never cheated on Jolie

NEW YORK — Billy Bob Thornton says he and ex-wife Angelina Jolie had "a great relationship" but different ideas about how they wanted to live their lives.

"It was a great relationship," Thornton tells GQ magazine in its April issue. "For the time we were together, we loved each other and we did it all the way. We didn't leave any stone unturned. But we had different ideas about how we wanted to live our lives — that's all it was."

The couple married in May 2000. They divorced in 2003.

On whether he cheated on Jolie, Thornton told the magazine: "No, no, no. That was the rumor but that was never it."

Jolie is now a U.N. goodwill ambassador and proud mom of Maddox, whom she adopted from Cambodia. Her new film, "Taking Lives," opened in theaters Friday.

Thornton plays Davy Crockett in "The Alamo," which opens April 9.

Lachey, Simpson star in ABC variety show

NEW YORK — Nick Lachey and Jessica Simpson will star in "The Nick & Jessica Variety Hour," scheduled to air April 11 on ABC.

The special will feature a series of sketches and musical performances, the network said. Guests will include Jewel, Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds, Kenny Rogers, baseball hall of famer Johnny Bench, Mr. T and The Muppets stars Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy.

Lachey and Edmonds will sing a duet of Stevie Wonder's "For Once in My Life," and Simpson and Jewel will sing "Who Will Save Your Soul."

Breakup was not an inspiration to Usher

NEW YORK — Although his latest album is titled "Confessions" and features songs about a painful breakup and infidelity, Usher swears that it's not a reflection on his recent split with TLC member Rozonda "Chilli" Thomas.

"This album is not specifically



Angelina Jolie plays an FBI profiler in "Taking Lives" with Ethan Hawke.

about us," Usher said. "It isn't an autobiography about my life. (Although) I did pull from some of my personal experiences from my life."

In a bitter radio interview, Chilli accused Usher of being unfaithful. Now the seemingly personal tone of Usher's disc has tongues wagging—especially the song "Confessions," about a man who gets another woman pregnant.

"Confessions," Usher's fourth album, came out Tuesday. The album already has spawned the No. 1 hit single, "Yeah!"

Tribeca Film Festival opens with 'Helen'

NEW YORK — "Raising Helen," starring Kate Hudson and John Corbett, will premiere on opening night of the Tribeca Film Festival.

The movie features Hudson as a modeling agency assistant who must raise her sister's three children after her sister and brother-in-law die in a car accident. Corbett plays a pastor who helps her and ends up falling in love with her.

The film's director, Garry Marshall is expected to attend the May 1 premiere, along with sever-

al cast members. "Raising Helen" opens in theaters May 28.

"This is a terrific film to open the third annual Tribeca Film Festival," festival co-founder Jane Rosenthal said. "It is a movie that is uplifting and funny, involves New York and was partially filmed in New York. It will be a great start to a great third year."

Rosenthal and her business partner, Robert De Niro, created the Tribeca Film Festival to help lower Manhattan recover from the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

BRIEFS FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS WIRE

USC Briefly

Strides for Strength race begins Sunday

The Columbia Chapter of Hadassah will be holding the 8th annual Strides for Strength 5K race Sunday starting at 2 p.m. The race begins and ends at the Columbia Jewish Community Center, 4540 Trenholm Road. Registration is \$18 beforehand and \$20 the day of the race, and online registration can be completed at www.strictlyrunning.com. The

race begins at 2 p.m., but late registration/packet pickup is at 12:30 p.m. A one-mile fitness walk will take place at 2:15 p.m. For more information, contact Lisa Arnold at 919-0442 or Lori Lapin at 699-5077.

Media professionals to lecture at USC

Fox News correspondent and USC alumnae Rita Cosby is among a number of journalism and mass media professionals scheduled to

present at "I-Comm Week: Information, Communications and Ethics-Implications for a Global Society" Monday through April 2. The events, sponsored by USC's College of Mass Communications and Information Studies, include a lectures by Rita Cosby, George Boyd of The New York Times and Stephen Almagno of the University of Pittsburgh as well as presentations on "Making an Effective Super Bowl Ad" and "Ethics in Contemporary Society." For more information, contact Lee Bugay at 413-8419 or LeeBugay@aol.com.

Local Baptist church to hold nightly revival

The Convent Baptist Church, 787 Convent Church Road, will hold revival services Sunday through March 31 at 7 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. each night. The event includes presentations by guest speaker Rob White as well as musical guests Levon Stack, Purpose and Scott Clark, among others. For more information, call 894-3959.

Police Report



Each number on the map stands for a crime corresponding with numbered descriptions in the list below.

DAY CRIMES (6 a.m.-6 p.m.)
□ Violent
○ Nonviolent

NIGHT CRIMES (6 p.m.-6 a.m.)
■ Violent
● Nonviolent

CRIMES AT UNKNOWN HOURS
■ Violent
● Nonviolent

These reports are taken directly from the USC Police Department.

Saturday, March 20

1 **SIMPLE ASSAULT, COLONIAL CENTER, 801 LINCOLN ST.** The victim said Christy Truss grabbed her right arm and shoved her with both hands. The victim has bruises where she indicated Truss pushed her. Reporting officer: S. Alexander.

2 **ATTEMPTED CAR JACKING, BULL STREET GARAGE, 611 BULL ST.** The victim said two unknown males approached his vehicle and struck the driver's window with a black semi-automatic weapon, motioning for him to get out. Reporting officer S. Alexander gave chase.

3 **LARCENY OF MEDICINE, 507 LINCOLN ST.** The victim

said someone took approximately 55 Adderall tablets from him. The medication was prescribed to the victim. Estimated value: \$25. Reporting officer: M. Denard.

Sunday, March 21

4 **HOUSING VIOLATION, MCBRYDE QUADRANGLE B, 613 MARION ST.** Reporting officer J.M. Simmons responded to a fire alarm and entered the subjects' room. There was a strong odor of marijuana smoke and a large multi-colored water bong in plain view. There appeared to be fresh resin in the wire filter of the device. Subjects Donald

Taylor and Hutton Raszgowski did not return to the room after the alarm was reset.

5 **MALICIOUS INJURY TO REAL PROPERTY, MCBRYDE QUADRANGLE E, 618 SUMTER ST.** The complainant said someone broke out the window to the lounge by throwing a bedpost through the window. Estimated damage: \$200. Reporting officer: D.W. Friels.

