

S.C. election panel plans to obtain new machines

Advocates want the State Election Commission to purchase new electronic voting machines that produce paper receipts allowing voters to confirm their ballot.

The commission soon will spend \$36 million to buy new voting machines for the state. The first machines will replace punch cards in 10 counties.

Researchers study sand deposits along coastline

CHARLESTON — In many ways, South Carolina's \$15 billion tourism industry, the state's largest, is built on a foundation of sand — the sand along the miles of beaches that draw millions of visitors each year.

When those beaches erode, as all will eventually, more sand will be needed to rebuild them. Scientists are working to understand ocean processes that redistribute sand once it has been poured on the beaches.

Folly Beach, which had an \$11 million renourishment project in the '90s, is due for a second project under a 50-year federal authorization.

Nation

Ohio highway shootings suspect faces charges

COLUMBUS, OHIO — The man arrested in the deadly string of highway shootings that terrorized Ohio drivers for months was indicted Thursday on a murder charge that could bring the death penalty.

Charles A. McCoy Jr., 28, was also charged with numerous other offenses, including attempted murder, assault and vandalism, in half of the 24 shootings.

Police and relatives have said McCoy is mentally ill, and one of his attorneys has said McCoy's mental health could become a part of the case.

FBI warns that terrorists might try to obtain visas

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials have received intelligence indicating terrorists might attempt to slip into the United States using cultural, arts or sports visas, according to the FBI.

The bureau issued a bulletin to 18,000 state and local law enforcement agencies nationwide warning about the potential misuse of P-visas, one of several types granted by the State Department for people visiting the United States for artistic, cultural or athletic purposes.

Some people granted these U.S. entry visas have even sold them to others.

World

OPEC decides to go on with reduced oil output

VIENNA, AUSTRIA — OPEC's decision to cut its oil output target by 4 percent starting Thursday will cause prices to rise from their already high levels, analysts predicted.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries hopes the cut will prevent a price drop this spring, when the global demand for oil usually slips to a seasonal low.

OPEC agreed in talks at its headquarters in Vienna to reduce its output target by 1 million barrels per day. Although it had announced plans for the cut when its members met last month in Algiers, Algeria, a subsequent surge in prices led a few of the group's 11 members to suggest postponing the decrease.

Alliance with Washington is South Korea's top goal

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA — Acting President Goh Kun said Thursday that strengthening the alliance with the United States is South Korea's top priority.

Goh has pledged to boost South Korea's cooperation with Washington since he took over the government as an interim head of state, following the March 12 parliamentary impeachment of President Roh Moo-hyun.



This day in History

1877: First Easter egg roll on the White House lawn.
1978: Velcro is first put on the market.

Extended Forecast



Today
HI: 64
LO: 42



Tomorrow
HI: 70
LO: 42



Sunday
HI: 71
LO: 43



Monday
HI: 69
LO: 40



Tuesday
HI: 69
LO: 46

Coming Up @ USC

Today

I-COMM WEEK: "ETHICS IN SOCIETY: WHO CARES?": Gambrell Hall 153, 2 p.m.

COLLOQUIUM, "TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCE: THE EMERGING SCIENCE OF THE TOP QUARK": Jones Physical Science Center 409, Refreshments 3:45 p.m., Colloquium 4 p.m.

BEREA COLLEGE CONCERT CHOIR AND CHAMBER SINGERS: St. Joseph Catholic Church, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday

FREE MIDLANDS ELECTRONICS RECYCLING COLLECTION: Colonial Center Parking Lot, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

USC SHOWCASE: The Horseshoe, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

ETON COLLEGE CHOIR PERFORMANCE: Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1301 Richland St., 7 p.m.

CAROLINA ALIVE SPRING SHOW: School of Music 206, 7:30 p.m.

PALMETTO FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION: Colonial Center

Sunday

USC BANDS SPRING CONCERT: Koger Center for the Arts, Gonzalez Hall, 3 p.m.

"GOD'S HOLY LAMB" PERFORMED BY THE CONVENT BAPTIST CHURCH ADULT CHOIR: Convent Baptist Church, 787 Convent Church Road, 7 p.m.

HELEN TINTES-SHUERMANN FACULTY VOICE RECITAL: School of Music 206, 7:30 p.m.

Monday

"SIMPLE MATH IS ENOUGH: TWO EXAMPLES OF INFERRING FUNCTIONAL ASSOCIATIONS FROM GENOMIC DATA": Shoudan Liang of NASA Ames Research Center, Swearingen Engineering Center 1A03, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

SPRING TROMBONE NIGHT: School of Music 206, 6 p.m.

SAXAPHONE QUARTET RECITAL: School of Music 206, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday

"BLACK PROTEST AND THE AMERICAN RADICAL TRADITION": Timothy McCarthy of UNC-Chapel Hill, Gambrell Hall 429, 4 p.m.

JAZZ COMBOS: School of Music 206, 7:30 p.m.

Prankster Kutcher set to prolong 'Punk'd'

LOS ANGELES — Curse you, Ashton Kutcher, for your lying, cheating, punk-ing ways!

On Thursday, MTV announced that Kutcher and his celebrity prank show "Punk'd" will return to the network with a new season. In December, Kutcher swore the program was finished.

"This is not an April Fools joke," MTV spokeswoman Vanessa Reyes said.

But, but ... what about a few months ago, when Kutcher promised the world he was all punk'd out? Was he just lying to everybody?

"Yes, he was," Reyes said. The new season starts Sunday, April 25.

Tabloid breached royal agreement with photos

LONDON — A tabloid on Thursday published paparazzi pictures of Prince William on the ski slopes with a young woman described as his girlfriend, earning the displeasure of royal aides who barred the newspaper from future official photo opportunities.

The pictures of William and Kate Middleton, spread across five pages of The Sun, are the first major breach of an agreement struck between the royal family and the press to leave Prince Charles's sons out of the limelight.

After the death of William's mother Princess Diana in a 1997 car crash, newspapers had agreed only to publish photographs of William and his brother Harry taken during official photo opportunities — arranged twice a year by Charles's office.

Parker to receive fashion award at June ceremony

NEW YORK — Sarah Jessica Parker will receive a Fashion Icon award at the 2004 CFDA Fashion Awards to be presented June 7 at The New York Public Library.

Parker, star of HBO's "Sex and the City," was selected for her "personal and professional commitment to fashion, and for her quintessentially New York style," the Council of Fashion Designers of America announced Tuesday.

Donna Karan will receive a lifetime achievement award, and Tom Ford will be honored with the board of directors' special tribute.

Nominees for womenswear designer of the year are Carolina Herrera, Marc Jacobs, Michael Kors and Ralph Rucci. Kors, Sean Combs and Ralph Lauren are nominated for the menswear designer of the year award.

Tyler gets first-hand look at 'Bennifer' madhouse

NEW YORK — Liv Tyler had a front-row seat for the start of the "Bennifer" craze while she and Ben Affleck were filming "Jersey Girl" — and couldn't believe her eyes.

They were shooting the film

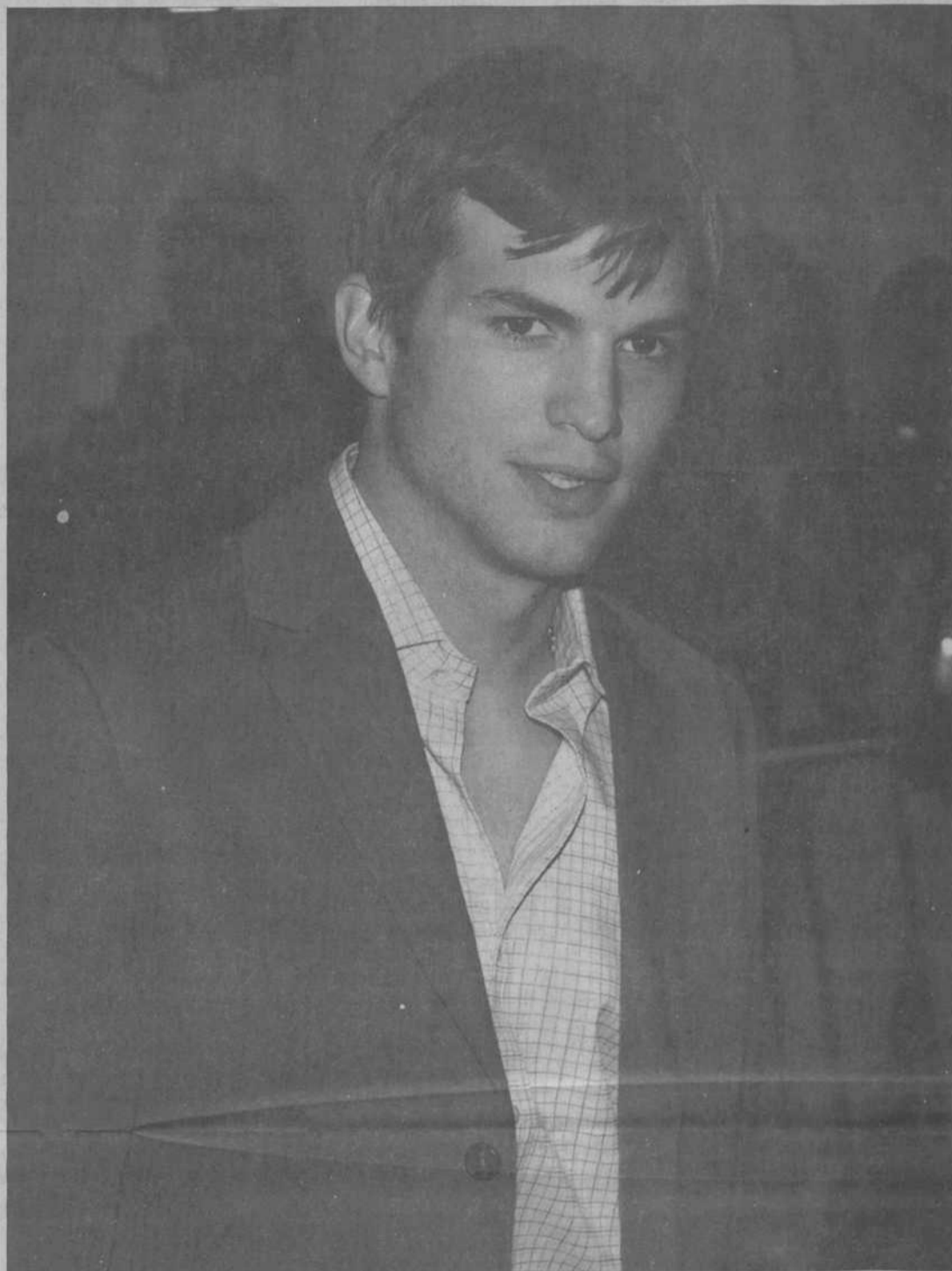


PHOTO COURTESY OF KRT CAMPUS

Ashton Kutcher has agreed to return to MTV for another season of "Punk'd" starting April 25. Kutcher had previously stated that he was finished with his prankster ways.

when media attention over Affleck's relationship with Jennifer Lopez exploded.

Tyler said there were about 500 people waiting when they arrived early in the morning, and by evening, some 1,000 fans, news vans and photographers had gathered.

"I couldn't believe it. I was like, 'Benji, you're like the Beatles! This is crazy! I didn't know you were so famous,'" she said.

Tyler, who starred in "The Lord of the Rings" movies, is the daughter of Aerosmith lead singer Steven Tyler. She's married to Royston Langdon of the band Spacehog.

'Sunshine' makes lighter acting burden for Wood

LOS ANGELES — For Elijah Wood, making "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" was easier than "The Lord of the Rings" films because the challenges were different.

"Directly after an experience like that, it seems like everything's a lot easier," he said.

"You're not in one place for 16 months working on a giant epic in various odd weather conditions and big hobbit feet to apply every day."

Kate Winslet and Jim Carrey star in "Eternal Sunshine" as Clementine and Joel, an unhappy couple trying to erase one another from their minds. Wood's character, Patrick, tries to woo Clementine, using underhanded

tactics. "The heart of Patrick is this kind of sad, pathetic guy. He doesn't have any confidence really in himself. He doesn't really know how to go about getting a girlfriend in any kind of normal sense," the 23-year-old actor said. "I find him to be more endearing than kind of creepy."

BRIEFS FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS WIRE

USC Briefly

Scholarship workshop available to students

The office of Fellowships and Scholar Programs will hold the Fulbright Scholarship Workshop Wednesday at 4 p.m. The scholarship is available to interested graduating seniors and graduate students. The workshop will take place in the Gressette Room, 3rd floor Harper College.

For more information, contact the Fellowships and Scholar

Programs Office at 777-0958 or USC Fellowships@gwm.sc.edu.

Women's basketball releases camp details

Information is now available regarding the S.C. Women's Basketball Summer Camps at <http://www.uscsports.ocsn.com> (under "Women's Basketball" link). Online registration is available at this site.

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

Tuesday, March 30

① **LARCENY OF WALLET, 2 RICHLAND MEDICAL PARK DRIVE (OFF MAP)** The victim said someone took her wallet and its contents, including two credit cards, two ATM cards and an S.C. driver's license. Estimated value: \$35. Reporting officer: R.B. Baker.

② **LARCENY OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS, CAROLINA GARDENS, 101 PICKENS ST.** The complainant said that between Feb. 10 and March 30

four fire extinguishers were taken from the 1st and 2nd floors. Estimated value: \$105. Reporting officer: J.L. Meador.

Wednesday, March 31

③ **AUTO BREAK-IN, LARCENY OF CDS, 1300 BARNWELL ST.** The victim said someone removed one anatomy book, one Gameboy and 45 CDs from her vehicle. Estimated value: \$667. Reporting officer: R.B. Baker.

④ **DRIVING UNDER SUSPENSION, 600 BLOCK BULL ST.** Reporting officer G. Kerwin saw Fletcher Battle traveling up a one-way street. Kerwin performed a traffic stop. When Battle's license was run through the DMV, the file indicated it was suspended. Battle was arrested.
⑤ **FTC FRAUD, BATES HOUSE, 1423 WHALEY ST.** The victim said someone took her ATM card and got money from her account. Estimated value: \$1. Reporting officer: D. Pardue.

These reports are taken directly from the USC Police Department.

The Gamecock Nobody covers USC better.