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The San Diego Union-Tribune.

COUNTY FINAL
50¢
PLUS TAX

DREAM SEASON



Special section on Rancho Buena Vista's run, which captivated fans and nearly ended with a Little League World Series championship.

Voting on charter is a dilemma for Sunnis

By Robert H. Reid
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Rebuffed in the constitution deliberations, Sunni Arabs now face a dilemma: boycott the Oct. 15 referendum on a new charter and hand the Shiites a landslide victory, or take part in a vote that demographics suggest they'll lose.

But the Shiite community itself is divided over the constitution, and interviews on Baghdad streets indicate the federalism proposal may be a hard sell to many on both sides.

About 2,000 people, mostly Sunnis, marched yesterday against the constitution in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit. Some carried pictures of Hussein and repeated chants heard in countless stage-managed protests during his regime: "We sacrifice our souls and blood for you, Saddam."

Others carried pictures of radical Shiite clerics Muqtada al-Sadr and Jawad al-Khalisi, who have joined the Sunnis in opposing the constitutional draft because of federalism — which critics fear will lead to the disintegration of Iraq.

In Tal Afar, an insurgent-ridden city in northern Iraq with a

SEE Iraq, A2

'LIKE A TON OF BRICKS'



Dozens of residents sought higher ground yesterday in New Orleans as rising waters brought on by Hurricane Katrina flooded neighborhoods. Douglas Clifford / Associated Press

Storm swipes New Orleans, rips Mississippi

By Joseph B. Treaster and Kate Zernike
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

NEW ORLEANS — Hurricane Katrina pounded the Gulf Coast with devastating force at daybreak yesterday, sparing New Orleans the catastrophic hit that had been feared but inundating parts of the city and heaping damage on neighboring Mississippi, where it tossed boats, ripped away scores of rooftops and left many of the major coastal roadways impassable.

Packing 145-mph winds as it made landfall, Katrina left more than 1 million people in three states without power and submerged highways even hundreds of miles from the center of the storm.

Officials reported at least 55 deaths, with 50 alone in Harrison County, Miss., which includes Gulfport and Biloxi. Emergency workers feared they would find more dead among people trapped in their homes and in collapsed buildings.

Jim Pollard, a spokesman for the Harrison County emergency operations center, said a number of people were found dead in an apartment complex in Biloxi. Seven others were found in the Industrial Seaway.

While Katrina proved to be less fearsome

SEE Katrina, A8

Torrent's wake may keep price of gasoline high

By Dean Calbreath
STAFF WRITER

Even before Hurricane Katrina walloped into the oil rigs and refineries along the Gulf Coast, the price of regular unleaded gasoline had nudged above \$3 per gallon at some stations in San Diego County and was likely to rise even higher through Labor Day.

But by disrupting gasoline production and supply lines in one of the nation's richest oil centers, Katrina could push the price of gas to its highest levels since the oil crises of the late 1970s and early 1980s, oil experts said yesterday.

Unlike most years, when gas prices dip sharply after the Labor Day weekend, the aftereffects of Katrina's devastation could keep prices high over the next month.

"This market has the potential for a lot of

SEE Gas, A9

Astronomers pursue parabolic perfection

Mirror will be first segment of Giant Magellan telescope

By Dennis Overbye
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

TUCSON — In the cavernous bowels of the University of Arizona's football stadium, Roger Angel's mirror furnace was spinning like a captured flying saucer at a stately five revolutions per minute.

It was a contrivance that Monty Python might have designed — 30 feet across and 10 feet high, carapaced with red boxes, cables, flashing lights and metal ducts snaking from its body like octopus arms.

An orange glow, from 18 tons of molten glass heated to 2,100 degrees Fahrenheit, was peeking through openings around the ducts as they flashed by.

That glass was on its way to being part of the heart of what could be the largest

SEE Telescope, A10



Jim Bracken of the Steward Observatory Mirror Laboratory placed glass into the mold for casting one of Giant Magellan's mirrors. New York Times News Service

World's poor are crippled by corruption, study finds

By Celia W. Dugger
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

BANGALORE, India — The grand thefts of rulers may be more infamous, but the bitter experience of petty corruption, less apparent but no less invidious, is an everyday trial for millions of poor people across Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Increasingly, it is being recognized as a major obstacle to economic development, robbing the impoverished of already meagly incomes and corroding the public services they desperately need.

The bribes vary from place to place and in the services affected, but stretch from cradle to grave, according to surveys and anti-corruption investigators. People pay to give birth, and to

collect their loved ones' bodies from mortuaries, and for everything in between: garbage collection, clean water, medicines, admission to public schools. Even policemen double as shakedown artists.

For Nesam Velankanni, the Bangalore maternity hospital's ritual of extortion began right after the painful ordeal of childbirth ended.

Before she even glimpsed her baby, she said, a nurse whisked the infant away and an attendant demanded a bribe. If you want to see your child, families are told, the price is \$12 for a boy and \$7 for a girl, a lot of money for slum dwellers scraping by on a dollar a day. The practice is common here in the

SEE Corruption, A10

Bad tax havens

Eight former executives indicted; KPMG admits it set up fraudulent shelters to help rich clients dodge billions of dollars in taxes. **Business, C1**



Fluid situation

What you need to know to quench your thirst for information about water. **Currents Health, E1**

Nice campus

Resembling a Tuscan village, county's newest Catholic high school has up-to-date art and athletic facilities — along with coffee and cappuccino. **Local, B1**



Tough loss

Padres come up short against Arizona in NL West showdown. **Sports, D1**

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