

NEWS IN BRIEF

A QUICK GLANCE AT EVENTS AROUND THE GLOBE

Experts disagree on cause of trash imports

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Experts agree that Pennsylvania imports more trash than any other state in the nation. They just don't agree on the reasons.

The garbage industry says it's just a matter of changing economics: Some day, Pennsylvania might become a net garbage exporter. But critics of the industry say Pennsylvania has weaker environmental laws than its neighbors, making the state a dumping ground that won't improve until lawmakers tighten regulations.

"Garbage is everybody's problem and it moves in interstate commerce in different directions at different times," said Allen Blakey, a spokesman for the National Solid Wastes Management Association, an industry group based in Washington, D.C.

In 1978, the U.S. Supreme Court decided that trash going over state lines is interstate commerce and can therefore only be regulated by Congress. The decision came from an attempt by New Jersey to keep Philadelphia's garbage out of their state.

"How fortunate for New Jersey that they lost," Blakey said, because today, New Jersey sends a lot of its garbage into Pennsylvania.

Santorum to propose Social Security legislation

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum said yesterday he will introduce legislation to allow workers to take a percentage of the money they pay in Social Security taxes and invest it in the stock market.

Santorum, R-Pa., said he's working on a bill with several Democrats, whom he did not name, to prevent the Social Security system from going bankrupt through the creation of personal retirement accounts, which would take advantage of the effects of compounding and thus reduce the amount of money the system would have to pay to future retirees.

Santorum told a gathering of financial consultants yesterday that Social Security is "probably the most important issue" Congress will face next year. He said he will introduce his bill late this year or early next year.

The program would be modeled after the Federal Thrift Savings Plan, the retirement plan offered to federal employees. Workers would choose how their money is to be invested — in stock or bond funds or some other investment vehicle — and their assets would be managed by a government-approved professional money manager. Retirees or people nearing retirement age would be permitted to stay in the current system.



Two Navy planes collide on aircraft carrier

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — A Navy plane conducting night landing exercises collided with another plane Sunday night on the flight deck of the USS Enterprise. The Navy recovered one body, rescued two fliers and continued searching for three crew members.

The collision set off a small fire on the deck, but it was quickly contained, said Capt. Joe Gradisher, a Navy spokesman for the Atlantic Fleet air force. Both air crews ejected.

The two planes involved were an EA6B Prowler and an S-3 Viking. The Prowler had a crew of four, and the Viking had a crew of two, Gradisher said.

"From all indications, they collided somehow or other on deck," said Mike Maus, another Navy spokesman. "We don't know exactly how."

He said a search continued through the night in the Atlantic for the three missing crew members.

The Prowler was returning to the Enterprise for a night landing and the Viking was sitting on the flight deck when the planes collided, Gradisher said.

The two survivors were the crew members of the Viking, Gradisher said. He did not know if they were found in the water or landed on the ship.

The body was one of the crew members of the Prowler. Gradisher said all four Prowler crew members were believed to have landed in the water.

Zookeeper hospitalized after attack by elephant

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — An elephant bludgeoned a zookeeper with its trunk, breaking the woman's ribs. Leslie Mackie, 28, was in fair condition yesterday.

She was bathing four elephants at the Indianapolis Zoo on Sunday when Cita, a 29-year-old female that has been aggressive toward other elephants, raised her head in a threatening manner toward another of the animals.

When Mackie told Cita, "No," the animal turned and struck the woman several times with her trunk, zoo spokeswoman Judith Gagen said.

Mackie lost consciousness briefly, and when she came to she called for help to other keepers.



U.S. envoy views bodies of two Serb policemen

MALISEVO, Yugoslavia (AP) — A visiting U.S. war crimes envoy saw first-hand evidence yesterday of the ongoing violence in Kosovo — the bodies of two Serb policemen who were apparently executed.

David Scheffer, the roving U.S. ambassador on war crimes issues, viewed the corpses in the devastated central village of Malisevo as he toured Kosovo with the Kosovo Diplomatic Observer Mission (KDOM).

"This represents one of the problems that is being experienced here with the cease-fire, and that is that there are violations of the cease-fire by both sides," Scheffer said, adding that there is evidence of "war crimes."

The policemen disappeared Friday, the same day that Serb police shot to death five ethnic Albanian guerrillas, including a commander of two divisions. Both of the slain policemen had gunshot wounds to the head, indicating they had been killed execution-style. U.S. observers found the bodies yesterday, Serb media said.

It was unclear if their deaths were intended as retribution for the killing of the five Kosovo Liberation Army members. The rebels say police ambushed the five as they drove in two vehicles from Opetrusa village, while police claim the guerrillas fired first on a police patrol.

Israel to delay withdrawal despite U.S. pressure

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israel likely will miss the new Mideast peace accord's Nov. 16 date for beginning a phased withdrawal of its soldiers from 13 percent of the West Bank, a key adviser to the prime minister said yesterday.

The peace accord was to have taken effect Nov. 2 and be implemented over 12 weeks. It has been held up by Israel, which seeks to clarify the Palestinians' obligations. After a suicide-bombing in Jerusalem on Friday, Israel's Cabinet suspended debate on the deal until the Palestinians do more to fight Islamic militants.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's senior adviser, David Bar-Ilan, said yesterday that Israel likely will not begin withdrawing from the West Bank on schedule.

"We would like to proceed with the agreement as soon as we have assurances that the spate of terrorist bombings have been taken care of by systematic comprehensive action by the Palestinians," Netanyahu said.

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