



Top Stories

Adventurer Steve Fossett missing

Adventurer Steve Fossett has gone missing over western Nevada. He took off in a single engine plane Monday morning, planning to return around noon, and has not been seen since.



Drunk coach driver arrested after crash injures at least 30

The driver of a British National Express coach has been arrested on suspicion of Drunk Driving and Dangerous Driving after his coach clipped the curb and overturned, hitting a lamp post and tree.



Featured story

"Island Man" spends a night on 162 Scottish islands

On many of the islands, he slept alone, accompanied only by his teddy bear, Clyde: Andy Strangeway, 42, a painter and decorator from Yorkshire, United Kingdom completed his four year quest to sleep on every Scottish island with an area of over 40 hectares.



Wikipedia Current Events

In a ceremony at Christ the Savior Cathedral in Moscow, priests chanted prayers in honor of the Russian Defense Ministry's 12th Main Directorate, which is responsible for the storage and maintenance of Russia's nuclear arsenal.

- German authorities arrest three people for planning attacks on Frankfurt and a United States military base in Ramstein.
- A spokesman for Idaho Senator Larry Craig indicates that the Senator is rethinking his decision to resign following his plea of guilty to "disorderly conduct" charges in Minneapolis.
- Mattel and the Consumer Product Safety Commission in the United States announces that it is recalling 700,000 Chinese made toys on the grounds of excessive lead paint making it the third recall in the past month.
- The Klaxons win the Mercury Prize for their album Myths of the Near Future beating favourites Amy Winehouse and the Arctic Monkeys.
- A week long heatwave in Southern California results in the death of 13 people and 500,000 people losing power in outages.
- Hurricane Felix makes landfall on the Miskito Coast of Nicaragua as a Category 5 hurricane.
- Four people are killed as Hurricane Felix makes landfall but it is downgraded to Category 1 later in the day.

Police discover five bodies in Victoria, Canada home

Police in Oak Bay, British Columbia, a suburb of the provincial capital Victoria, report that five bodies were found in a home after having been summoned there on a 911 emergency call.

The 911 call came in at approximately 3 a.m. local time, but police were not able to enter the home until 9 a.m. as they believed "there was a barricaded suspect in the home and information possibly that there may be a firearm associated [with] the home." Police later revealed that no gunshots were involved in the crime.

Five bodies have been discovered: a six-year-old child and four adults. Saanich Police stated that one of the dead may have been responsible for the deaths. "At this stage we're not looking for anyone outside the home," said Sgt. John Price, Saanich Police. In a press release Tuesday, Saanich Police stated they believe that the crime "was not a random attack and that the suspect and the victims were known to each other."

Rose Stanton, Regional Coroner for the Vancouver Island area, indicated that other crime scene investigators, including blood spatter experts, had been summoned. Stanton also said that the bodies would not be removed from the house until sometime on Wednesday. Commenting on the question of why blood spatter

experts have been called in, Stanton told reporters, "Use your imagination...it's bad, for 30 years of doing this, it's bad."

There was some indication that an accelerant was found at the crime scene. "There may have been an attempt to set fire to the residence," said Regional Coroner Stanton. "There was some flammable material involved."

Neighbours in Oak Bay say that the family that lived in the home consisted of a couple in their thirties, two young children, and a mother-in-law who recently arrived from Korea.

Large scale gene transfer between single-celled and multicellular organisms reported

Wolbachia has on some occasions inserted almost its entire genome into species that it infects reported scientists at the J. Craig Venter Institute and the University of Rochester. This is the first example of large-scale horizontal gene transfer between single-celled and multicellular organisms. Although horizontal gene transmission is common among single-celled organisms, it is rare among multicellular organisms, and large scale transfer like that of an entire genome had previously not been suspected.

The scientists found that in addition to Wolbachia engaging in almost complete genome transfer into *Drosophila ananassae*, it also had made significant transfer in 3 other insects species and 4 species of nematodes. The researchers found candidate species by scanning genetic databases for sequences found in Wolbachia. The scientists also found that these added sections were conserved by reproduction; that is the added

sections stayed in the genomes after multiple generations. Moreover, there is evidence that suggests that the segments of Wolbachia's genome increased the reproductive fitness of the insect species.

The transfers likely occurred during attempts at DNA repair in which the repair mechanisms incorporated Wolbachia DNA (available since the cells were infected with Wolbachia) into the genomes. These results could have major implications for understanding of evolution. The research also has implications for various forms of sequencing research, since when sequencing species, bacteria sequences are frequently ignored as they are generally assumed to be contaminants rather than good data.

Wolbachia, a genus of bacteria that normally infects arthropods, especially insects, is already known for its odd behavior that can affect species in strange ways. For example, Wolbachia has been shown to be correlated with fast evolution among species it infects and is suspected for being responsible for a variety of speciation events as a side effect of Wolbachia creating reproductive barriers. Wolbachia by some estimates infects more than half of all arthropods and is already thought to play a major role in the evolution and speciation of many invertebrates.

Since Wolbachia can generally only reproduce through females, it has adopted a number of strategies that treat males and females of species differently that can result in reproductive barriers. These strategies include killing of males, forced parthenogenesis, and preventing infected males from

reproducing with uninfected females.

Major League Baseball roundup: September 3, 2007

Padres crush Diamondbacks, pulling 1 game ahead

- Padres 10, Diamondbacks 2: Going into this game, the first of a three-game series, the Padres and Diamondbacks were in a virtual tie, each team sitting at 14 games above .500. The Padres were led by Brian Giles, who hit two of the five homers scored by the Padres (9, 10), and a strong showing by Greg Maddux (11-9), who gave up two runs in 6 1/3 innings for the win. Micah Owings (6-8) gave up five runs in 3 innings for the loss. The Padres now lead the Diamondbacks by 1 game in the NL West. The Diamondbacks lead the NL Wild Card by 3 games over the Dodgers and the Phillies.

Martinez reaches 3,000 strikeouts

- Mets 10, Reds 4: In his first start of the year, Pedro Martinez (1-0) reached 3,000 strikeouts in the second inning, becoming only the 15th major league player to reach the milestone. He threw four strikeouts altogether, giving up five hits and three runs (two earned) in five innings of work, getting the win. David Wright had 3 RBI, including a two-run homer (26). Aaron Harang (14-4) pitched 5 2/3 innings, giving up six runs and ten hits. The Mets have a five-game lead over the Phillies in the NL East.

Other games

- Red Sox 13, Blue Jays 10: After five innings, the Red Sox held a commanding 10-1 lead, but the Blue Jays scored 8 runs in the sixth inning to narrow the lead to one run, before the Red Sox were able to hold them off. Daisuke Matsuzaka pitched 5 1/3 innings, giving up seven runs for the win, while Jays pitcher Jesse Litsch pitched 3 1/3 innings, allowing seven in the loss. Jonathan Papelbon pitched a perfect ninth for his 32nd save.
- Mariners 7, Yankees 1: The Mariners narrowed the Yankees' lead in the AL Wild Card race to one game, stopping their nine-game losing streak Monday. Yuniesky Betancourt hit two doubles, driving in three runs and scoring once. Felix Hernandez (11-7) pitched seven innings, allowing one run and five hits. Roger Clemens (6-6) pitched four innings, giving up five runs for the loss.
- Dodgers 11, Cubs 3: Esteban Loaiza (1-0) pitched seven innings, allowing three runs in his first start since joining the Dodgers on Wednesday. Loaiza also knocked in the winning runs with a two-run single in the fourth inning. Carlos Zambrano (14-12) pitched 4 1/3 innings, walking five and allowing eight runs in the loss. The Cubs lead the Brewers by 1.5 games, and the Cardinals by 2 games, in the NL Central; all three teams lost Monday. The Dodgers are 3 games back in the NL Wild Card race.
- Astros 9, Brewers 7: The Brewers bullpen gave up six runs in three innings to blow a 7-4 lead. Hunter Pence went 3-4, a home run short of the cycle, with a two-run triple in the eighth and two runs scored. Greg Aquino (0-1) got the loss, though the only run he gave up was unearned, scoring on a passed ball. Dave Borkowski (4-3) picked up the win, pitching 2/3 of an inning. Chad Qualls picked up his 4th save on the season. The Brewers remain 1.5 games back of the Cubs in the NL Central.
- Pirates 11, Cardinals 0: The Pirates scored all eleven runs in the first five innings of the game, led by Jack Wilson, who went 4-5 with 3 RBI, 2 runs, a double and a homer (8). Ian Snell (9-11) picked up the win, while Kip Wells (6-16) picked up the loss, giving up six runs in 3 1/3 innings. The Cardinals remain 2 games back of the Cubs in the NL Central.
- Indians 5, Twins 0: Ryan Garko hit a solo homer and went 2-4. The Twins' Alexi Casilla went 4-4, but was unable to score or drive in any runs. C.C. Sabathia (16-7) pitched eight strong innings for the win, while Johan Santana (14-11) gave up four runs in six innings for the loss. The Indians increase their AL Central lead to six games over the Tigers, who did not play on Monday.
- Braves 5, Phillies 1: Brian McCann knocked in the Braves' first two runs on a 4th inning double. Lance Cormier (2-4) pitched 5 2/3 innings, giving up one run for the win. Jamie Moyer (12-11) gave up four runs and nine hits in 5 2/3 for the loss. The Phillies are five games behind the Mets in the NL East; the Braves are 7.5 games back.
- Rockies 7, Giants 4: All seven Rockies runs were scored in the third inning; Chris Iannetta drove in two runs for the Rockies off a triple near the end of the inning. Jeff Francis (15-6) pitched 5 2/3 innings, giving up three runs for the win. Matt Cain (7-14) left the game in the third inning, giving up six of the seven runs. Manny Corpas pitched a perfect ninth inning for his 13th save.
- Nationals 6, Marlins 3: Ryan Zimmerman's only hit of the game, a two-run double, put the Nationals in the lead in the second inning. Jason Bergmann (3-5) gave up four hits and one run in seven innings, striking out nine batters against one walk, while Rick Vandenhurk (4-5) gave up six runs in 5 1/3 innings for the loss. Chad Cordero picked up his 30th save.
- Devil Rays 9, Orioles 7: Akinori Iwamura went 3-5, with a two-run homer in the 8th inning, and picked up a stolen base in the win. James Shields (11-8) pitched seven innings, giving up one earned run (four total) for the win. Jim Hoey (1-4) walked three and gave up three runs in one inning of work for the loss.
- Angels 9, Athletics 5: The Angels were ahead 9-0, but a late rally by the Athletics closed the gap. Gary Matthews Jr., Jeff Mathis, and Garret Anderson all hit

homers, but the Athletics scored four runs in the 8th inning and one in the 9th, led by Mike Piazza, who went 3-4 in the game, and had a two-run homer in the 8th, and a sacrifice fly for the only run in the 9th. Ervin Santana (6-12) pitched 6 1/3 innings of two-hit, scoreless ball for the win, while Chad Gaudin (10-10) gave up seven runs, six earned, in five innings of work. The Angels have a 6.5 game lead on the Mariners, and own the best record in baseball at 81-56.

- Royals 8, Rangers 1: Alex Gordon went 3-6 with 4 RBI, as the Royals picked up the win. Zack Greinke (6-5) pitched five scoreless innings for the win, while Kameron Loe (6-11) left after the third inning, giving up two runs and five hits for the loss.

Adventurer Steve Fossett missing

Adventurer Steve Fossett has gone missing over western Nevada. He took off in a single engine plane Monday morning, planning to return around noon, and has not been seen since. Reports say that Fossett was flying to look for a suitable site for his planned land speed record attempt.

Fossett took off at around 9 a.m. local time Monday (16:00 UTC) and was to return around noon. When he failed to return, his family alerted the authorities, and a search was started about 6 p.m. local time (01:00 UTC Tuesday), involving the Nevada and California Highway Patrols and the Nevada Air National Guard. Fossett only had enough fuel for five hours of flight, at the most, but was also

carrying a cellphone and communication equipment in his aircraft.

The search has been impeded by high winds and the fact that rescuers have no idea where Fossett's destination is, since Fossett did not file a flight plan prior to takeoff. Fossett was in a single-engine Bellanca Super Decathlon.

Fossett is most famous for gliding around the world in a hot-air balloon in 2002, becoming the first person to fly a balloon solo around the world. He also became the first person to fly around the world without stopping in 2005.

In a statement to the press, his former crewmate and rival, Sir Richard Branson remained confident he will be found: "Steve is a tough old boot. I suspect he is waiting by his plane right now for someone to pick him up."

Band manager Daniel Biechele shown parole support by families of victims of the Station nightclub fire

Families of victims of the Station nightclub fire, which killed 100 people on Rhode Island in 2003, have expressed their support for the parole of Great White band manager Daniel Biechele, currently 16 months into a four year jail sentence for his role in the disaster.

Biechele admitted to illegally setting off the pyrotechnics that started the fire, and broke down as he told victims' relatives that he couldn't expect their forgiveness. He has been jailed since May 2006.

The pyrotechnics ignited highly flammable soundproofing foam in the nightclub, and the ensuing

rapid conflagration trapped people in the building. Many families have expressed their belief that venue owners Jeffrey and Michael Derderian maintained the building in an unsafe state. Michael received another four-year sentence but is not yet eligible for parole, while Jeffrey avoided prison time.

Leland Hoisington, whose 28-year-old daughter Abbie was killed in the fire, told reporters "I think they should not even bother with a hearing _ just let Biechele out... I just don't find him as guilty of anything." The state parole board received approximately 20 letters, the majority of which expressed their sympathy and support for Daniel, some going as far as describing him as a "scapegoat" of limited responsibility.

Board chairwoman Lisa Holley told journalists of her surprise at the forgiving of the families, saying "I think the most overwhelming part of it for me was the depth of forgiveness of many of these families that have sustained such a loss,".

A letter written by Dave Kane and Joanne O'Neill, parents of youngest victim Nicholas O'Neill, released their letter to the board to reporters. "In the period following this tragedy, it was Mr. Biechele, alone, who stood up and admitted responsibility for his part in this horrible event... "He apologized to the families of the victims and made no attempt to mitigate his guilt," it said.

Others pointed out that he sent a handwritten letter to the families of each of the hundred victims and that he has a work release position in a local charity.

Woman suffers heart attack at cardiology summit

At the annual European Society of Cardiology Summit in Vienna, Austria, the wife of a cardiologist suffered a heart attack while queueing with her husband to register for the congress.

46-year-old Silvia Celeste from Italy, the wife of Dr. Fabrizio Celeste, collapsed on Sunday and was immediately revived using a defibrillator. The woman was transferred to the general hospital in Vienna, where she was operated upon. She died later that night.

Reinhard Krepler, chief doctor of the hospital, stated that her death was due to an underlying congenital heart disease.

At this year's meeting of the European heart society, some 25000 cardiologists have gathered. A central topic at the summit is heart attack prevention.

Hualien warm-up of 2007 ING Taipei Marathon kicked off

This is the 4th year as ING Antai titled for sponsoring Taipei International Marathon, as "ING Running Club" in some area still continued, the first warming up competition kicked off on September 1 at Meilun Stadium in Hualien County. More than 3000 people participated in this event including 400 professional runners.

ING Antai not only sponsored winning prize for winners of Blind Group, but also donated charity running shoes for disadvantaged minorities and poverty kids. And the event supervisor - Chinese Taipei Road Running Association invited runners become charity ambassadors of marathon by participating this event. For welcoming Armed Forces Day, main organizer Hualien County

Government invited 41 soldiers from Air Forces in Taiwan participated this event.

Due to the absence of some professional runners, it has another brand new line-up as Men's and Women's groups has new champions. Wen-chien Wu broke the game record with 31 mins and 7 seconds at Men's Group; Nien-tsu Lin from National College of Physical Education and Sports won Women's Group Champion with 37 mins and 30 seconds; and Kun-ming Li won Blind Group with 50 mins and 59 seconds.

Belgian justice prosecutes Scientology

The federal prosecution in Belgium has finished an investigation into the activities of the Scientology Church in the country, and is planning to file a lawsuit against the Belgian and European sections of the religious movement, and 14 individual members.

The inquiry began in 1999 after some former members accused Scientology of swindling. Now, the prosecutor has finished the inquiry. The accounts against Scientology and some of its members include blackmailing, swindling of its members, breaking trade and privacy laws, unlawfully practicing medicine, and forming a criminal organisation.

If it comes to a trial, it would be the first time the movement is prosecuted on this scale. In some countries Scientology is recognised as an official religion, and Scientology has celebrities such as Tom Cruise and John Travolta as followers.

Members follow expensive trainings for their spiritual development, but some accuse

Scientology of manipulation and brainwashing. The Church has come under controversy before with a wide variety of accusations, including a variety of criminal charges such as in 1978 when prominent members were caught engaging in wiretapping, and stealing documents from United States Internal Revenue Service. Yesterday, the European bureau could not give a reaction to the Belgian news reports. In the past however, the movement has repeatedly denied allegations against it.

Wikipedia Current Events

Hurricane Felix is downgraded to a tropical storm but still threatens mudslides and floods in Honduras and Guatemala.

- Adventurer Steve Fossett is reported missing over the Nevada desert.

- Bangladesh Nationalist Party Chairperson Khaleda Zia expels party Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Joint Secretary General Ashraf Hossain accusing breaching party discipline.

- Former President of Iran, Hashemi Rafsanjani is elected the chairman of the Assembly of Experts

- The Iraqi Supreme Court confirms the death sentence passed on Ali Hassan al-Majid, Sultan Hashim al-Tai and Hussein Rashid al-Tikriti.

- 2007 Lebanon conflict: Lebanon's Defense Minister Elias al-Murr claims that at least 222 Fatah al-Islam militants were killed during the struggle.

- 2007 Pacific Hurricane season: Tropical Storm Henriette becomes Hurricane Henriette on its way to Baja California.

Wikipedia Current Events

- The United States Navy, Royal Australian Navy, Indian Navy, the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force and Republic of Singapore Navy conduct exercises in the Bay of Bengal
- Israel threatens to cut off electricity, water and fuel supplies to the Gaza Strip for hours if Hamas launches rocket attacks.
- The strike by Rail Maritime and Transport Union employees on the London Underground continued but the strike was called off later in the day after lengthy talks with Transport for London.
- Australian company Zinifex and Belgian company Umicore merge their zinc smelting operations to form Nyrstar, the largest zinc smelting company.
- Denmark's intelligence service arrests several people on suspicion of plotting a bomb attack.
- The Iranian military bombs villages in northern Iraq, targeting PEJAK militants.
- A bomb explodes on a bus carrying employees of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission destroying the bus in Rawalpindi, Pakistan while a second bomb on a motorbike explodes in a bazaar.
- The death toll from the two bombings reaches at least 24 with 66 injured.
- Security is raised in many areas of Pakistan.
- The New South Wales Police Force arrests 11 climate-change activists who attach themselves to coal-loading equipment at Carrington in Newcastle, New South Wales.

Wikipedia Current Events

- President George W. Bush arrives in Sydney to attend the APEC summit.
- Singapore and Peru conclude negotiations for a free trade agreement.
- The New South Wales Police Force takes legal action to deter demonstrations near the Sydney Opera House where the APEC summit is taking place.
- Jamaica election: With all the votes counted, the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) is headed to victory with 31 seats compared to the incumbent People's National Party (PNP) with 29 seats. The current Prime Minister, Portia Simpson-Miller, is calling for a recount in marginal seats.
- A Eurostar train sets a new record of 2 hours, 3 minutes and 39 seconds for rail travel between Paris and London, on the inaugural journey from Gare du Nord to St Pancras International on the new High Speed 1 line.

Today in History

- 1774 – In response to the British Parliament enacting the Intolerable Acts, representatives from twelve of Britain's North American colonies convened the First Continental Congress at Carpenters' Hall in Philadelphia.
- 1793 – French Revolution: The National Convention began "The Reign of Terror", a ten-month period of systematic repression and mass executions by guillotine of perceived enemies within the country.
- 1905 – Under the mediation of U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt, the Russo-Japanese War officially ended with the signing of the Treaty of Portsmouth at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard near Portsmouth, New Hampshire, USA.
- 1972 – Munich massacre: A

Palestinian terrorist group called "Black September" took hostage eleven Israeli athletes and coaches at the Olympic Summer Games in Munich, West Germany; all of the hostages were killed less than 24 hours later.

1977 – NASA launched the robotic space probe Voyager 1, currently the man-made object most distant from Earth.

September 05 is Teachers' Day in India.

Quote of the Day

A harbor, even if it is a little harbor, is a good thing, since adventurers come into it as well as go out, and the life in it grows strong, because it takes something from the world, and has something to give in return. ~ Sarah Orne Jewett

Word of the Day

turquoise; n

1. A sky-blue, greenish-blue, or greenish-gray semi-precious gemstone.
2. A pale greenish-blue colour, like that of the gemstone.

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