



Tracy, San Joaquin County, California

WEATHER



ANGELINA HOWELLS
Jacobson School

A bit bearable

If the summer nights stay as cool as they will tonight, triple-digit days wouldn't be so tough to handle. According to the National Weather Service, today will be sunny with highs around 90. Winds will be out of the northwest from 5 to 15 mph. Tonight will be clear with lows in the mid-50s and northwest winds up to 15 mph. Saturday should be sunny with highs in the mid- to upper 80s. Winds should be out of the west from 10 to 20 mph. The high in Tracy on Thursday was 82 with a low of 54. For complete weather data, see **Page A10**.

ENTERTAINMENT



Great America appeals to all

Everyone knows that amusement parks are a great place to take the kids, but Paramount's Great America has plenty of attractions to entertain and amuse the kid in all of us. From KidZville to Invertigo to the 7th Theatre, Great America is a place that thrills the whole family.

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SJCOG works to promote telecommuting

Paul Lohse
The Tracy Press

San Joaquin County planners are hoping to detour Tracy commuters off Interstate 580 and on the Information Superhighway.

In an effort to help keep vehicle emissions down and loosen the usual morning gridlock, San Joaquin Council of Government planners are working on a telecommuting program.

"We think that we are going to make

telecommuting even more successful than it has been," said council planner Kurt Overmeyer.

Telecommuters work at home and visit the office either occasionally or for a few days each week. They stay in touch with their work via phone, e-mail, file sharing and a host of other technologies.

Last March, the council received a \$120,000 grant from the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District to help businesses learn about and start telecommuting programs.

Over the past few months, Overmeyer said he has met with people who design and understand the technology and those who know how a company can logistically put it all together, making sure the right people are at the office at the right times.

He said that he is now looking for five companies where San Joaquin Valley commuters work to establish telecommuting. The information from the first trials will be used to create a telecommuting program.

Telecommuting, he said, benefits both

employers and employees.

Businesses benefit from greater productivity. At home, workers are about 25 percent more efficient, he said.

Besides getting to start their work days in slippers if they want, employees get to skip the morning commute, which from the valley to the Bay Area can often be as long as three hours, he said.

"When people telecommute, they work harder; they are more productive," he said.

See **TELECOMMUTE**, page A10

Helping to find a cure



Enrique Gutierrez/Tracy Press

Carol Smith (from left), Katie Crooks and Susan Corbin walk around Lincoln Park as they prepare for the 60-mile Avon Breast Cancer 3-Day, a charity walk from San Jose to San Francisco, which will be July 27 to 29.

Breast-cancer survivors walk in charity event

Marcus Bivens
The Tracy Press

Katie Crooks participated in last year's Avon Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk to raise awareness about the disease she beat thanks to early diagnosis 10 years ago.

It must have worked. The breast-cancer survivor said she was one of two participants from Tracy last year and that this year, seven residents are preparing to join her and more than 3,000 others for the 60-mile walk from San Jose to San Francisco.

"It's fantastic," Crooks said. "It means the word is getting out more — we can reach more people and make more of a difference."

During the July 27 to 29 event, participants will celebrate their health and remember those who have died as they strive to raise money to promote breast cancer research and education.

Crooks, 39, has good reason outside her own battle with the

disease to support such a cause.

Her mother died of breast cancer in 1992.

"Not only did my mother die of cancer, so did my father," she said. "He died in '85 — it wasn't breast cancer, but cancer is still cancer."

Crooks has raised \$3,500 for the event — well above the \$1,900 each person must raise in order to participate.

She said that \$1,000 of her total came from a yard sale where neighbors donated their unwanted goods to help her reach her goal.

Another breast-cancer survivor walking this year is Carol Smith, who happened to meet Crooks at this year's American Cancer Society 24-Hour Relay for Life.

Smith was diagnosed in 1996 and, like Crooks, has been cancer free since her initial surgery.

"One particular reason why I'm walking is because this is my five-year anniversary," said the 39-year-old. "Back when I was first

diagnosed, both myself and my doctor didn't know if I was even going to make five years."

Smith doesn't consider herself cancer free just yet. She is a big advocate of educating the public on cancer's ability to linger after treatment and possibly come back.

"This isn't the common cold," she said. "You can't just take your medicine and with that, it goes away."

Smith said that in the United States there are 500 new cases of breast cancer diagnosed everyday — or 182,500 each year. Of those, some 41,000 will die. Cancer in general claims about 565,000 people a year.

Smith is also driven by the hope that her daughter will never have to battle breast cancer — just another factor that has motivated her to raise almost \$3,900 and walk in the event.

Susan Corbin has also faced

See **WALK**, page A10

Planners OK cold-storage warehouse expansion

Bob Brownne
The Tracy Press

The proposed expansion of U.S. Cold Storage gained unanimous approval from the Tracy Planning Commission on Wednesday evening.

The 68,000-square-foot warehouse on MacArthur Drive, just north of 11th Street, will add another 68,000 square feet. It's the second phase of a four-phase buildout on the 12-acre site.

"We're hoping to break ground in a week or two," said Dean Garcia of The Stellar Group, developer of the warehouse.

The Stellar Group, based in Jacksonville, Fla., includes cold storage warehouses among its specialties and has built similar projects for U.S. Storage in Bakersfield and Tulare.

U.S. Storage officials in Tracy were not available for comment Thursday.

Garcia said U.S. Storage's facility on MacArthur Drive was one of the first buildings added when the area started development in 1992.

He said that the new addition, just like the first phase, will have a refrigerated warehouse and loading dock, though the technology for both insulation and refrigeration has advanced in the past 10 years.

The warehouse, which features an industrial ammonia refrigeration system, is capable of keeping temperatures as low as -20°F.

Garcia said the type of product moved through

See **STORAGE**, page A10

New faces join youth commission

Ben van der Meer
The Tracy Press

Tracy's youngest public commission is looking to appeal to an even more youthful crowd as it enters its fourth year.

The Youth Advisory Commission will meet next Thursday with several new faces aboard.

"It's time for new ideas," said Kim Scarlata, a recreation supervisor with the city's Department of Parks and Community Services who helps oversee commission activities. "Now is the time to start building on what's been established."

The commission, which started in 1998, was created with a goal of providing activities for and input from Tracy's teen population.

Parks officials selected six new commissioners last month to replace outgoing members, and also re-appointed two members.

All eight commissioners will serve a two-year term, expiring in 2003. Another commissioner, Brandi Hollingsworth, has a term that expires next

See **YAC**, page A10

Fire officials warn buyers of dangers with generators

Denise Ellen Rizzo
The Tracy Press

The threat of rolling blackouts in California has prompted some residents to buy generators for a backup power source, but fire officials warn that the devices can cause trouble.

"It provides a minimum energy," said fire prevention Battalion Chief Dave Barboza, "but there is a right and wrong way to do it."

Generator owners — most looking for something to keep their refrigerator and television going — must go through a series of checks before installing the devices, Barboza said.

Homeowners must provide a basic plan to the building department and apply for the proper permits.

Barboza suggested prospective buyers discuss their plans with someone in the city building department before making any purchases.

He said this step will confirm whether a generator can be legally installed.

"We're starting to see some (generators) in

Tracy," said Barboza, but buyers need to be aware of all the conditions.

"I've seen people buy them and find out things such as the diesel fuel it uses can't be stored at their house," he said.

Those with the electrical know-how can do their own installation, but improper installation can cause big problems.

A generator running without a switch to stop electricity from leaving the house is connected to can energize utility lines, endangering equipment and workers.

Another problem with generators directly affects fire departments.

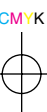
Firefighters responding to a fire typically shut off utilities to the structure right away. A generator, however, will consider this a power failure and kick on.

"We're now requiring new generator permits to have a notice on the utility box warning about a standby utility," Barboza said. "This is being

See **GENERATORS**, page A10

Steve Nelson checks his new generator that will be powered by propane gas. The generator will power his home in the event of a power failure.

Glenn Moore/
Tracy Press



D.C. police use cadaver dogs in intern search

Deborah Zabarenko

Reuters

WASHINGTON — Police and cadaver-sniffing dogs searched vacant buildings on Thursday for clues to missing intern Chandra Levy and analyzed evidence from the apartment of Rep. Gary Condit, with whom family members say she had a romantic relationship.

A team of seven police officers moved through Washington's gritty but gentrifying Shaw neighborhood, entering one padlocked and boarded-up three-story apartment house through a broken rear window. The Shaw district is just to the east of Levy's apartment.

At another vacant home a few blocks away, officers checking under a porch called for cadaver-sniffing dogs after they noticed the earth was slightly disturbed, but found no sign of the missing intern.

These properties were among 19 abandoned buildings in Shaw where officers were looking for "anything and everything" that might lead them to Levy, the 24-year-old intern from California last seen at her Washington health club April 30.

Another team searched vacant structures in Levy's Dupont Circle neighborhood, an area of upscale restaurants, shops and bars, about a mile away.

Police Commander Mark Beach said the search teams were seeking "anything and everything, from the condition of the building all the way to someone or something is discovered."

Beach said the searches began late on Wednesday and would continue at least through the weekend.

No traces so far

"From an investigative standpoint, we are going under the premise that she's still missing, until we have evidence of any foul play or anything else," Beach said.

He refused to answer a question about whether these buildings might be a good place to dump a body, but said, "We are assuming that these dwellings are open, that a number of people may have access. We would be

remiss in our responsibilities if we didn't search each and every one of these."

At the apartment house in Shaw, investigators said they found no trace of Levy, just some drug paraphernalia and mattresses from squatters living in the building.

Other officers, meanwhile, were analyzing evidence collected at Condit's apartment early on Wednesday.

Levy had just finished an internship with the U.S. Bureau of Prisons and had planned to return to California, her family said. Her last communication with them was an e-mail discussing bargain air fares to California.

Condit, a 53-year-old married father of two, has been interviewed by law enforcement officials three times about Levy's disappearance.

In the first two interviews, Condit said Levy was a friend, but The Washington Post and other media reported that in the third interview with police he acknowledged a romantic relationship.

Levy's aunt, Linda Zamsky, said last week that Levy told her she was having an "intimate" relationship with Condit.

At their home in Modesto, California, Levy's parents spoke briefly with reporters, but offered no details on the investigation. Levy's father, Bob, acknowledged reports in The Washington Post and the Modesto Bee newspaper alleging Condit had had a relationship with the daughter of a local minister.

"I know there's things reported and it's in the paper and right now we can't really comment more on that," said Bob Levy.

Levy's mother, Susan, said simply, "We appreciate anyone coming forward to helping us get my daughter home."

Condit's lawyer Abbe Lowell has offered to help with the investigation. He has questioned the usefulness of having Condit take a lie-detector test, but has not ruled it out.

Washington Police Chief Charles Ramsey has said that for a polygraph test to be effectively administered, it would need to be "wide-ranging" but repeated that Condit is not a suspect.

flushing toilets, no showers and no washing dishes, he said. Most homes in that situation, however, do have five or six gallons of drinking water available in a reserve pressure tank.

He said power outages forced him and his family to take action, which included the installation of both propane-fueled a wind-powered generators.

"We have an 86-year-old grandmother with us and she likes to have heat in the winter," he said. "I'm looking to not necessarily be PG&E free, but I'm also not in their strangle hold, either."

From a fire department perspective, Barboza doesn't condemn or promote the use of generators, but he said he does want people to take the proper steps if they buy a generator.

"We're just trying to get people to do it safely," he said.

For information: Tracy Fire Prevention Department, 831-4707.

WALK: Avon 3-Day

(Continued from page A1) breast cancer and, like Smith, said she believes that there are no guarantees. She has been diagnosed with the disease twice.

Between both her diagnosis, in 1994 and again in 1995, the 47-year-old mother of two and recent grandmother has undergone chemotherapy, radiation therapy and two surgeries.

"I was so sick when I came out of my treatments, and now I feel good," Corbin said. "I want other people to see me (walking) and say, 'Wow, look how good she's doing now,' and be inspired themselves."

Corbin has raised \$4,300 for the event, and since meeting Smith in a support group at St. Joseph's Medical Center in

Stockton, the two have become good friends and training partners.

They have been walking five to seven miles three times a week and 15 to 20 miles twice a week to prepare for the event.

"It will be inspirational to see everybody coming together for a common cause," Corbin said. "Whether we raise money or not, the awareness is the most important thing."

To sponsor a participant: Avon Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk, San Francisco, c/o Lasalle Bank, 135 S. Lasalle Dept. 3955, Chicago, IL 60674. Include the walker's number with each donation. To volunteer with walk: (888) 3-Day Avon.

AccuWeather® 10-Day Forecast for Tracy

All maps, forecasts and data provided by AccuWeather, Inc. © 2001 AccuWeather.com

Today	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
									
Sunny; breezy later in the day.	Sunny and nice; breezy later.	Sunny and windy.	Windy with sunshine.	Sunny; windy in the afternoon.	Sunshine and windy.	Sunny and windy.	Windy with abundant sunshine.	Sunny and windy.	Sunny; windy in the afternoon.
87/58	86/56	84/57	82/56	83/56	85/57	86/51	90/51	90/50	90/49

National Summary

Thunderstorms will once again cover the Rockies and Intermountain West today, while a stationary front stretching from the southern Rockies into the Southeast will be the focal point for strong thunderstorms. Farther north, a large area of high pressure will provide sunshine from the Midwest to the Northeast.

Times/Tides/Rainfall

Sunrise today5:56 a.m.
Sunset today8:31 p.m.
Low tides8:15 a.m., 7:54 p.m.
High tides1:54 a.m., 12:49 p.m.
Thursday's rainfall0.00 in.
Season to date0.00 in.
Last year to date0.00 in.
Normal to date0.00 in.

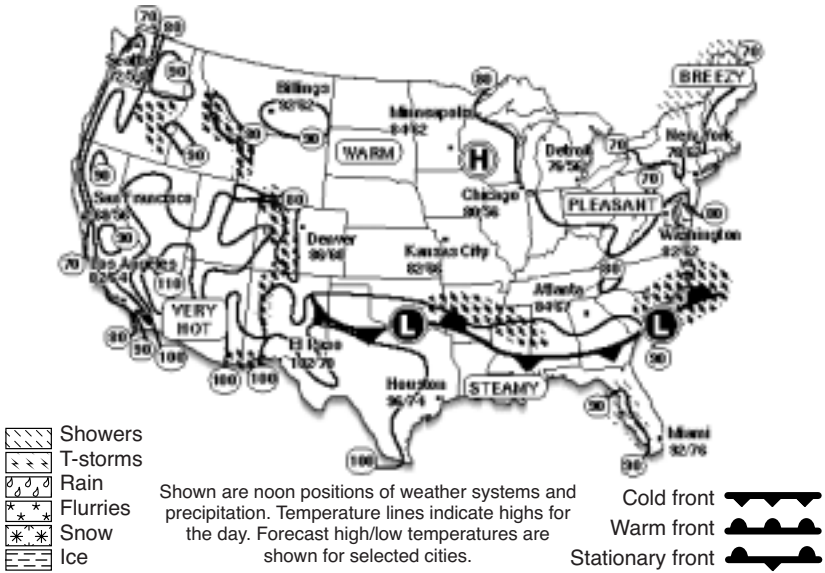
Moon Phases

Last July 13	New July 20	First July 27	Full Aug. 3
			

U.S. Cities

City	Today	Saturday
Albuquerque	96 66 t	93 65 c
Anchorage	61 54 sh	64 53 sh
Asheville	79 55 pc	81 54 s
Atlanta	84 67 pc	87 66 s
Baltimore	80 60 s	81 60 s
Bismarck	85 65 t	88 64 t
Boston	76 63 pc	77 61 pc
Buffalo	68 56 c	72 56 s
Chicago	80 56 s	84 60 s
Cleveland	72 56 s	76 58 s
Dallas	98 74 t	92 72 pc
Denver	86 60 t	85 60 t

National Forecast for Friday, July 13



City	Today	Saturday
Helena	88 56 t	86 54 t
Houston	96 74 s	94 74 pc
Kansas City	82 66 pc	83 64 s
Las Vegas	107 78 s	105 76 s
Los Angeles	82 64 s	80 64 s
Louisville	84 61 s	85 64 s
Miami	92 76 t	92 76 sh
Millwaukee	75 59 s	78 63 s
Nashville	86 62 s	85 64 s
New Orleans	94 76 pc	92 76 pc
New York	78 62 pc	80 64 s
Oklahoma City	88 66 t	86 65 pc

World Cities

City	Today	Saturday
Amsterdam	64 52 sh	64 50 pc
Athens	91 72 s	93 73 s
Auckland	53 43 pc	54 46 sh
Beijing	102 70 s	100 72 s
Belgrade	89 66 pc	92 66 pc
Berlin	72 57 pc	70 57 c
Budapest	84 64 pc	91 68 s
Buenos Aires	59 46 c	59 46 c
Cairo	100 69 s	100 71 s
Calgary	80 52 pc	82 49 pc
Damascus	100 54 s	103 56 s
Edmonton	82 58 sh	84 54 pc
Frankfurt	68 54 pc	66 60 r
Geneva	66 61 r	70 60 r
Havana	90 74 s	89 75 pc
Helsinki	70 55 pc	66 52 c
Hong Kong	86 79 r	85 78 r
Istanbul	86 70 s	88 68 s
Jerusalem	83 58 s	86 60 s
Johannesburg	68 42 s	65 41 s
Lisbon	83 61 s	73 62 sh
London	63 52 sh	61 50 sh
Mexico City	77 52 sh	75 55 sh
Moscow	82 62 t	84 64 t
New Delhi	95 80 sh	97 79 r
Riyadh	103 77 s	97 76 pc
Manila	88 75 r	86 75 r
Paris	68 49 pc	66 52 sh
Rome	84 63 s	86 66 pc
Seoul	90 74 r	92 70 pc
Shanghai	94 79 r	89 82 sh
Singapore	88 78 pc	88 78 pc
Sydney	66 52 sh	64 50 pc
Tokyo	89 77 pc	86 76 sh
Vienna	81 63 pc	85 65 pc
Warsaw	72 59 c	79 61 pc

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

Marked variations found in human DNA

Will Dunham

Reuters

WASHINGTON — The notion of a uniform genetic blueprint for human beings took a tumble on Thursday, as the most detailed examination yet of variations in the genetic makeup of people detected unexpectedly large individual differences.

Researchers with Geniaissance Pharmaceuticals Inc. of New Haven, Connecticut, found astonishing variance at the genetic level in 82 unrelated people primarily from four racial backgrounds — white, black, Asian and Hispanic.

In studying 313 genes — out of the 30,000 identified by human genome scientists — the Geniaissance researchers found that for each gene, there actually are on average 14 versions that can be inherited by a given person from parents.

The researchers said their findings should cause scientists to rethink the definition of the human genome, or genetic map.

"We've looked at the largest number of individuals and diverse populations that's ever been

done," said Gerald Vovis, Geniaissance chief technology officer and senior vice president and an author of the study appearing in the journal Science.

"The most surprising finding that came out of here was the fact that we found an enormous amount of variation within these genes which had not been known before," Vovis said in an interview.

Vovis said the genetic differences may help explain why people respond differently to various medications. Whether a patient possesses a certain version of a given gene could determine whether a particular drug would be beneficial, do nothing or even harm the patient, the researchers said.

The hope is to be able to harness the knowledge of an individual's unique genetic makeup in order to tailor disease treatments to that specific person, Vovis added.

Vovis said he foresaw a day when patients would provide a blood sample to their doctor to allow for a genetic examination that could guide treatment decisions. He acknowledged some patients might fear this private

genetic information could be misused or exploited.

"We have concerns about it," Vovis said. "We are very well aware of the fact that in order for people to take benefit from this, they are going to have to feel that their genetic information is being treated in a confidential manner."

Dr. Francis Collins, director of the National Human Genome Research Institute, part of the U.S. government's National Institutes of Health, told Reuters the study adds "considerable optimism" to using a gene-variation strategy to find hereditary contributions to diseases.

"We have been talking a lot about how similar all of our genomes are, that we're 99.9 percent the same. That might tend to create an impression that it's a very static situation. But that 0.1 percent is still an awful lot of nucleotides (genetic building blocks)," Collins added.

The scientists who in February unveiled the sequencing of the entire human genome — a human being's complete allotment of genes — said it took 30,000 genes to make a person.

Geniaissance researcher J.

Claiborne Stephens, lead author of the new study, said if that is accurate then "the functional complement of the human genome is going to be a repertoire of something like 400,000 to 500,000 gene versions."

The researchers studied the genetic makeup of 21 whites, 20 blacks, 20 people of Asian descent, 18 Latinos and three American Indians. The groups proved to have a certain degree of genetic idiosyncrasies, likely because their ancestors had a common history in a geographical region over thousands of years, whether in Africa, Asia, Europe or the Americas.

The two groups that shared the highest number of rare genetic variants with one another were the blacks and Latinos. The Asians shared comparatively little with the other groups.

"What we didn't see was any variation that really defined what might be considered to be an ethnic group," Vovis said. "What we did see, however, was that different versions of a gene may be present at higher frequencies in one group of a geographical origin over another."

YAC: Commissioners focus on younger set

(Continued from page A1)

year.

The new commission comes with a new mission, Scarlata said. Commissioners are now more focused on middle-school-aged teens.

She explained that it's easier to get younger students involved in something like the commission, or the Teen Center on East Street.

By the time students get to high school, they're not as likely to take on something new, she said.

"We're developing a culture," she said. "If we cultivate their interest when they're sixth-graders, they're more likely to stay involved as they get older."

TELECOMMUTE: SJCOG

(Continued from page A1)

Jeff Findley, a senior air quality planner with the air pollution control district, said that a committee selected the council's proposal because they believed it will help limit automobile emissions, which is the leading contributor to poor air quality in the Valley.

"It looked like a good project that will help to further reduce vehicle emissions," he said.

David Redman, the president of Tracy Federal Bank said he has worked at banks where managers have considered telecommuting programs. Telecommuting, however, wouldn't work for Tracy Federal.

"For a small community bank, there's not too many job positions that would really fit," he said.

Telecommuting technology has advanced over the past few

years, said Iahan McGraw, a systems consultant who is working with Overmeyer on the council's program. Today, managers can closely monitor and track the work an employee does at home.

He said the greatest barrier to telecommuting isn't the technology, but rather getting people to change the way that they view work.

"It's a matter of getting people to use it more," he said.

He said that Siemens Enterprise Network Services, the company he works for, has experienced success with telecommuting. Instead of in a central office, its internal support group is scattered throughout the country. One caller might be talking to someone in California and the other to someone in New York.

"We use it," he said. "It allows us to have support people all over the nation."

joined because she felt giving back is important for teens. She is also a West High cheerleader and involved in leadership.

Jenny Dantanavatanawong, a sophomore at Tracy High School. Dantanavatanawong said she'd like to solicit teen input at commission meetings. She is a member of Tracy High's swimming and water polo teams and is also part of Trouble Inc., a music and dancing group. She joined the commission in January.

Desmond Fitzpatrick, who will be in seventh grade. Fitzpatrick's mom, he said, suggested he join, and he thought it would be a good experience. Fitzpatrick plays baseball, basketball and football.

Marissa Hall, a seventh-grader at Saint Bernard's Catholic School. Her ideas include a fashion show fund-raiser. She enjoys soccer and takes tennis lessons.

Romeo Newman, a junior at

STORAGE: Planners

(Continued from page A1)

this type of warehouse can vary.

"It could be anything from carrot juice to macaroni and cheese," he said. "It depends on who the client is.

"Usually where ever it's processed they'll freeze it," Garcia added, noting that products often need to remain frozen until they reach the retailer.

Planning commission approval of the warehouse addition was an exception to the routine. Usually planning staff can process this type of application, but in this case the warehouse is 52 feet high, instead of the 45-foot standard outlined in the Industrial Areas Specific Plan.

Planning staff recommended approval because the new design fits well with the design of other buildings in the area, and commissioners agreed.

"They're really improving the appearance of it," said commissioner Rollee Swingle.

CORRECTION

A story on Page A1 of Thursday's Tracy Press titled, "Locals criticize Condit's behavior" should have referred to Congressman Richard Pombo as a Republican.

The Press regrets the error.

CMYK