

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues



NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

■ Convicted underwear thief Ronald Ernst (whose record includes 16 previous lewdness-related charges), filed a lawsuit against a police detective and two attorneys for calling too much attention to his case (Fargo, N.D.).

■ Australia's Federal Court rebuffed the Tax Office and ruled that convicted heroin dealer Francesco Dominico La Rosa could reduce his 1995 taxable income to allow for \$224,000 that he said had been stolen from him in a drug deal gone bad.

■ Officials in Berryville, Ark., were perplexed at a wave of finely crafted counterfeit money passed around town but only bills in the seldom-seen denomination (for bogus bills) of \$1.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Wise men make proverbs, but fools repeat them."

— Samuel Palmer

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Busy beach day



Jason Auslander/Daily Press

LA County lifeguard Alex Vicente monitors hordes of swimmers near the Santa Monica Pier on Friday.

Vegas magazine debuts

BY CHRISTINA ALMEIDA
Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS — Vegas is a city of sin and showgirls, dreams and jackpots, glitter and glitz — a life without limits. It's that devil-may-care attitude combined with a recent leap into luxury that some say makes the city ready for a magazine to call its own.

"Vegas is an attitude, a hormone," said Michael Carr, former executive vice president of Playboy Enterprises and president of Playboy's publishing division. "It's a level of energy, mystique, sensuality that lives in a person's heart no matter where they are."

Carr has teamed up with the publisher of the hip Miami magazine, Ocean Drive, to create Vegas, a glossy magazine that hits newsstands this month in seven major U.S. cities, including New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Dallas.

Part New York magazine and a sexy slice of Maxim, Vegas is devoted to the best the city of neon has to offer, from designer shopping and five-star restaurants to celebrity-watching and must-see clubs on the Strip. You won't find hard-hitting journalism but you will get an occasionally naughty peek at the beautiful people.

The inaugural edition features supermodel Heidi Klum wearing Versace on the cover and a not-so-pricey price tag of \$4.95.

The magazine is a joint venture by the Greenspun Media Group, which publishes the Las Vegas Sun, Las Vegas Weekly and Showbiz Weekly, and SoBe News Inc., which publishes Ocean Drive.

With 196 pages dotted with advertisements for Louis Vuitton, Van Huesen and Donald J. Pliner, the magazine is marketed toward

See MAGAZINE, page 7

Deadline for senior tax exemption approaches

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

Senior citizens have less than one month to exempt themselves from a new \$225 parcel tax on all properties in Santa Monica and Malibu.

If residents over 65 years old do not apply by 5 p.m. on July 31, the flat \$225 fee will appear on their October property tax bill.

Called Measure S on a special June 3 ballot, the parcel tax was passed to help lift local schools out of a multi-million dollar deficit for next year.

By levying the flat \$225 tax on all 32,413 parcels in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, school officials expect to

generate \$6.5 million annually for six years.

Seniors who want to take advantage of the exemption must send copies of their official identification and tax bills to the school district every year for the next six years.

Application forms can be downloaded from the district's Web site at www.smmusd.org, or obtained from public libraries in either city.

Fourteen percent of Santa Monica and Malibu residents are over the age of 65. But parcel tax supporters say it's difficult to determine exactly how much of an impact seniors will have on the

See TAX, page 5

Number of jobless rises in Santa Monica

BY PATRICK KINMARTIN
Special to the Daily Press

The rate of economically disadvantaged and homeless people seeking employment in Santa Monica has increased as a result of a depressed local economy, according to one official.

Chrysalis, a non-profit organization that works to help the unemployed become self-sufficient by providing them with monthly maintenance jobs for the city, estimates that about 350 clients have applied to its Santa Monica office this year through June.

That number represents a sharp rise in Santa Monica's traditional midyear total and a higher rate of incoming applicants than its offices in Los Angeles and Pacoima have received, said Emily Newman, Chrysalis' chief development officer.

"It's becoming very noticeable that our Santa Monica office has been directly affected by the surrounding economy," Newman said. "It's tending to be where most frequently people are coming in having recently lost their jobs."

In addition, Newman said it is taking longer for Chrysalis clients to find work in Santa Monica.

"Now, as opposed to the past where it would take just five or six weeks for them to find something, it is taking up to 15 weeks," she said. "In most cases, the time it is taking has more than doubled."

"Chrysalis was founded on the premise of changing lives through jobs, and we plan on continuing to do that while helping the community thrive ..."

— EMILY NEWMAN
Chrysalis chief development officer

"It's a little concerning when you look at it."

Still, Chrysalis boasts a 93 percent success rate in helping nearly 600 clients a year find work and become self-sufficient.

See CHRYSALIS, page 5

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HOROSCOPE

Be playful tonight, Taurus



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average
★★-So-so ★-Difficult

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, July 5, 2003:

You have the potential and available resources to create a very special year. Others let you know how appealing you are, whether it is verbally or emotionally. You might wonder which way to go with an unpredictable element in your life that could involve travel or education. Stay focused on the here and now, and you will succeed. You could be unduly serious this year, expecting others to respond just as solemnly. If you are single, during the second part of the year you could meet someone quite unique and special. If you are attached, your relationship will grow through strong communication. Try not to be overly judgmental or difficult. You will have more funds available this summer. VIRGO keys in to you.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You could be distracted by what goes on this morning, but by the afternoon, you'll feel the need to settle down and get the job done. The unexpected occurs when you least expect it. You might understand something new about yourself that sets you back several paces. Tonight: Go for a new health and exercise program — after this weekend!

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You come from a steady, secure point of view. Tap in to some creativity and associates' ideas. You come up with quite an unusual combination of fun and work. You get what you want, but in the most unexpected way. Pick and choose your words. Tonight: Be ever playful.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Use the a.m. to return calls and messages. Others will be more responsive during this time slot. In the afternoon, you might want to close your door, as disruptions seem to occur far too easily. Use care financially. Tonight: Order in, but remember, tomorrow's the Fourth!

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Juggle your budget and pay your bills. Others might be more responsive this afternoon than in the future. Get on the phone and plead your case if you need to. Find the expert that the occasion demands. This person could really open your eyes. Tonight: Out and about at a favorite spot.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Use the morning well, when your happy-go-lucky style takes you to a new realm. You seem to draw others like honey attracts bees. Unexpected developments occur either financially or with a partner. You might feel like taking some time off. Tonight: Establish your weekend budget.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You might start the day slowly, but you will pick up the pace eventually. You find that uproar happens just by being with other people. Emphasize what is positive within a friendship as opposed to what is difficult. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Slow down, knowing what works. You could be a little clearer about what needs to happen. Take a stand where it will make a difference. Investigate new information with care, as not everything is as it seems. Tonight: Know when to call it quits.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Emphasize what is good rather than what might be a problem. Friends and associates rally around a cause, making nearly everything and anything possible. Someone might be denying you important information. Tonight: So what if you get into the weekend spirit a little early?

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Take charge at work. At first you might think an associate is greasing the wheels of the system for you. Still, don't be taken aback by a surprise or two on the way. Don't try to predict, but rather go with the flow. Tonight: Visit with friends.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Explore and get more information, if possible. Unexpected developments occur. You might want to consider options as they appear. Listen to the rumor mill, but don't take others' words as 100 percent accurate until you do your own investigating. Tonight: Try something new.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Build on a relationship rather than causing yourself a problem. You find working together with an associate to be unusually successful. You can both prosper as long as you maintain a stable stance, especially financially. Tonight: Opt for togetherness.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Do and say what you want, but understand that others have their expectations. You could inadvertently put off someone when you least intend to. Eye the long term; think "success." Creativity needs a solid form of self-expression. Tonight: Say "yes" to a loved one.

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Screenwriters Group to hold seminars

By Daily Press staff

Do you want to write a screenplay but aren't sure how to start?

The Screenwriters Group will be holding two free screenwriting seminars on Monday, July 14 and Wednesday, July 16 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at its school, located near the LA County Museum of Art.

The seminars will feature Dan Decker, the author of "Anatomy of a Screenplay" and winner of the American Film Institute scriptwriting competition.

The professional writing classes will teach techniques for developing a storyline and give reviews for each student's script to help make it more professional. The Screenwriters Group also has a management company that helps sell and/or produce student scripts.

"Having no idea to start or how to write a screenplay, the Screenwriters Group got me from an idea, to a script, to a sale," said Alan Anderson, screenwriter of "Thin Ice" and "Souled Out." "The company that bought my script was so impressed, they hired me to write another."

The upcoming seminars will focus on how to develop an idea and turn it into a marketable script, which is usually the toughest step for aspiring writers.

To reserve your space for the free screenwriting seminar or for more information, call the Screenwriters Group at (866) 665-8500.

LA Sparks help Santa Monica Beach community

By Daily Press staff

The entire WNBA L.A. Sparks team last week came to the Santa Monica Beach to help out Heal The Bay, a group whose mission is to promote a clean and safe environment.

All of the players, along with coach Michael Cooper, seemed excited while pacing up and down the beach on the heavily overcast day. They got down and dirty, carrying large bags while picking up trash, talking, laughing and signing autographs for eager fans, many of whom came from as far away as Anaheim and West Covina.

"I think it's an important cause," said Sparks Gurad Tamecka Dixon. "And anytime we can be in the community to help, I think it's tremendous."



Photo taken by Pat Hendricks

From left: DeLisha Milton, Lisa Leslie and Nikki Teasley help Heal The Bay at the Santa Monica Beach.

Scheer will speak at Palisades Women's Club

By Daily Press staff

Columnist Robert Scheer will speak about "The Role of Dissent in a Free Society" at the summer luncheon of the Pacific Palisades Democratic Club on Saturday, July 12. The event which starts at 11:30 a.m., is open to the community and will be located at the Palisades Women's Club.

Scheer is a renowned journalist with 30 years of experience. He was a Vietnam correspondent and editor of Ramparts magazine, and a national correspondent for the LA Times. Currently, Scheer writes a weekly column for The Times, is a contributing editor for The Nation magazine and teaches a course on media and society at USC's Annenberg School for Communications. He also speaks on KCRW's "Left and Right Center" with Matt Miller, David Fromm and Arianna Huffington

surf report

Straight S swell fades while NW wind swell boosts up a bit more and new SW swell slowly starts to build. For the better exposed summer breaks of northern LA County expect surf in the knee-to-waist high range, with some occasional chest-high sets at best spots. The South Bay will pick up mainly wind swell with surf generally in 2'-3' range with a few chest-high sets at best breaks. New SW swell slowly fills in by the afternoon.

Today the water is:

70°

Sunrise: 5:54 a.m.
Sunset: 8:15 p.m.

Get stoked on an epic sesh? Get burned by a bad report? Write us at wood@smdp.com and tell us what the surf is doing at your local break.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	3:50	-0.5	2:34	2.5	10:26	3.5	8:55	6.1
SUNDAY	4:24	-0.6	3:08	2.5	11:04	3.6	9:29	6.1
MONDAY	4:59	-0.7	3:45	2.6	11:42	3.6	10:04	6.1
TUESDAY	5:35	-0.7	4:25	2.7	(12:22)	3.6	10:41	6.0
WEDNESDAY	6:12	-0.6	5:11	2.7	(1:04)	3.7	11:21	5.7
THURSDAY	6:51	-0.4	6:09	2.8	N/A	N/A	1:48	3.8
FRIDAY	7:32	-0.1	7:23	2.8	12:07	5.3	2:32	4.1

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Scheer is an author and has written six books. His three most famous are, "Thinking Tuna Fish, Talking Death: Essays on the Pornography of Power," "With Enough Shovels: Reagan, Bush and Nuclear War" and "America After Nixon: The Age of Multinationals."

Reservations for the luncheon are required. The event costs \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. Reservations can be made by calling Marge Zifferblatt at (310) 454-0174.

The Q Line

We want to hear what you have to say. Look for the new question of the week on Monday and call us back with your response.

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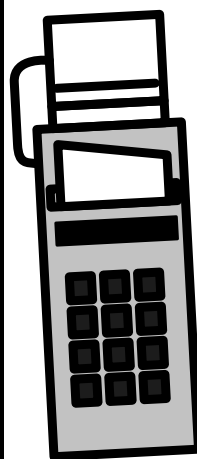
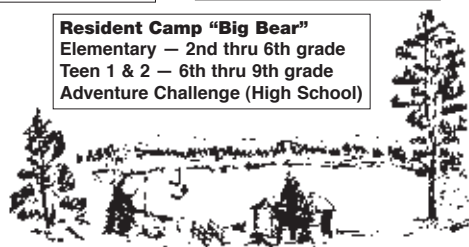
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OPINION

LETTERS

Turn down the volume

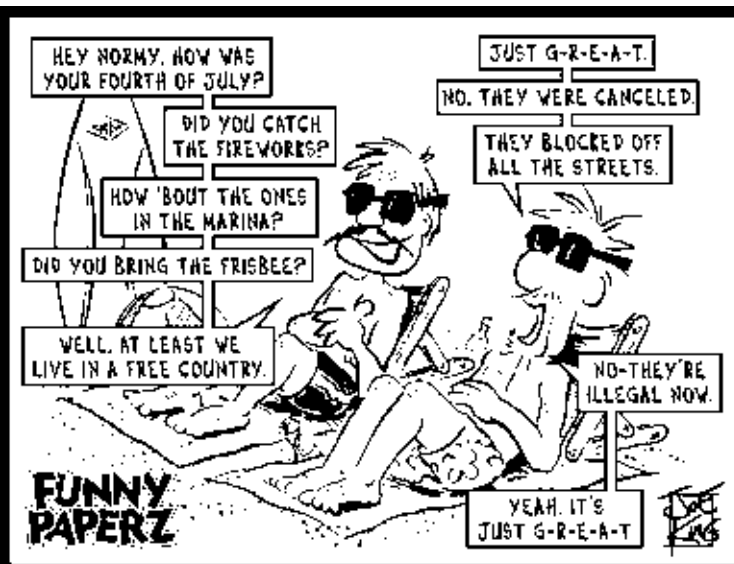
Editor:

With one exception, the "Celebrate America" Independence Day Festival at Santa Monica College was a wonderful, uplifting family event of which the citizens of Santa Monica can be proud.

The exception was the two hour "musical" torture session by the J.D. Hall Band leading up to the fireworks. The problem was that the speakers were set at an inhumanly high, deafening volume. This stopped all conversation, family activities and social communication dead in its tracks. All fun ceased. All one could do was sit quietly as the band (whose lead singer sang flat) dominated the proceedings and wait for the fireworks to begin. I noticed several people with fingers or tissue in their ears. I also believe that volumes of that magnitude can damage the hearing of children. Furthermore, the appropriateness of performing numbers like "Sex Machine" with children present was questionable.

To the organizers next year: Please, please, can the volume be turned down?

Richard Johnson
Santa Monica



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Republican nudism is getting more popular every day



MODERN TIMES

By Lloyd Garver

Nudism is getting bigger and bigger in the United States today. And according to market research, suburban Republicans tend to be the group of nudists who stand out the most. So, unlike the image that many of you may have, these people are not irresponsible, wild, hippies. These conservative clothesless citizens favor tax reform and enjoy reading "Golf Magazine." They just do their politicking and reading in the nude. It's interesting that when there is so much secrecy and subterfuge in politics, this particular group is for full disclosure.

Why are there approximately 25 percent more nudists today than 10 years ago and why are so many of them Republicans? Have they become the political party with nothing to hide, or is this just a reflection of the sagging economy?

When you think about it, nudity is quite conservative. It certainly goes along with the concept of "back to basics." Benjamin Franklin liked to sit naked in front of an open window each day taking what he called, "air baths." George Washington and Thomas Jefferson regularly went swimming without clothes. Apparently, they weren't just anxious to be freed from the chains of tyranny, but from the seams of their britches as well.

Clothing has traditionally been used to demonstrate status. Kings and queens wore outfits that cost more than the homes of an entire village. Nudity is a living statement of egalitarianism, where nobody shows off their latest designer clothes. So, our founding fathers would agree that nudity is definitely democratic. But why is going without clothes becoming so popular today? Maybe people are troubled by the world that the business suit, the military uniform and the cocktail dress represent. So, they rid themselves of these clothes and relax — temporarily forgetting about their responsibilities and troubles.

Nudism is big business — an estimated \$400 million a year. That's an awful lot of

money for a business without pockets. In addition to resorts, there are clothing-optional cruises, as well as summer camps for children and adults. So, there's no indication that the nudist industry is going to go bust.

Although it's hard to know the exact statistics, experts believe that the state with the most nudists and the most naked tourists is Florida. That's right, the site of so much political wrangling in the last presidential election is also the home of the greatest concentration of unclothed voters. Now that we know how important Florida is politically and now that there are even more naked voters there than a few years ago, we're bound to see a lot of campaigning for their votes. Obviously, the Republicans have an edge right now with nudist voters, but I think we can expect the Democrats to be standing right behind them (well, maybe not right behind them).

American politics being what it is, the Democrats will do their best to narrow the nudist gap. Don't be surprised to see candidates on both sides adopting "pro-nature" platforms. We'll probably hear speakers talk about how confining cloth-

ing is and how we all have to accept each other for who we really are. If it's a close election, it's possible that at least one desperate candidate will doff his or her clothes and join in the volleyball game.

Citing national security, Attorney General John Ashcroft will probably propose that all airline passengers fly in the nude. That will make it much more difficult to conceal weapons. It may also do wonders for travelers' morale, reviving the spirit of "the friendly skies."

And is a clothing-optional presidential debate anymore preposterous than what happened in Florida last time? Going after the naked vote is completely consistent with American politics. After all, we certainly have a tradition of politicians getting caught with their pants down.

(Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com.)

Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

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LOCAL



Seniors have until July 31 to sign up for exemption

TAX, from page 1

potential \$7.3 million in revenue from the parcel tax. Although officials estimate the tax will generate \$6.5 million, \$7.3 million is what could be collected based on the number of parcels in Santa Monica and Malibu.

If all of the 13,840 senior citizens in Santa Monica and Malibu's total population of 96,659 were homeowners and opted to utilize the exemption, that would mean \$3.1 million in missed revenue for the schools. But in reality, many of those seniors are renters and some have volunteered to pay the fee even though they don't have to, supporters said.

Ken Bailey, the school district's director of finance, said when all the exemptions have been counted, local schools

"There should be some pro-activeness on the part of the school board. But people really ought to stay informed themselves."

— HERB KATZ

Santa Monica City Councilman

still anticipate \$6.5 million in revenue.

The school district is in an area with an assessed value of \$20,913,965,574, said Dennis Lucido, a spokesman for the LA County Auditor-Controller's office. That area includes the cities of Santa Monica and Malibu, as well as a few unincorporated areas in the county.

Santa Monica's assessed property value is \$14,674,294,217 from a total of

22,710 parcels. Single-family residences account for 16,167 of those parcels, 4,222 are residential income properties and 2,321 are commercial properties.

Malibu has 6,765 parcels with a total assessed property value of \$5,447,008,449. Single-family homes make up 6,157 of those, while 207 are residential income properties and 401 are commercial, Lucido said.

The parcel tax revenue has allowed school officials to rehire dozens of teachers who were laid off in March when the district was facing a \$13.7 million shortfall for next year.

Officials were able to bring back even more workers when the cities of Santa Monica and Malibu agreed last month to add to their usual funding of \$3 million and \$110,000, respectively, with one-time additional contributions of \$2.25 million and \$380,000.

Community leaders said last week most local seniors still don't know about the exemption.

"There should be some pro-activeness on the part of the school board," said Santa Monica City Councilman Herb Katz. "But people really ought to stay informed themselves."

Non-profit provides maintenance jobs for needy

CHRYSLIS, from page 1

"It's a number we're really proud of," she said. "Chrysalis was founded on the premise of changing lives through jobs, and we plan on continuing to do that while helping the community thrive — even in the face of economic difficulties."

Chrysalis, which was founded in 1984, entered into a partnership with Santa Monica in 1994, giving the city a cost-effective outside vendor that could help with main-

tenance service for the wastewater division of the Environmental and Public Works Management Department.

Since then, Chrysalis employees have cleaned and treated litter-filled gutters on a monthly basis as part of the organization's "street works" program.

"The city's partnership with Chrysalis has been highly beneficial," said Joel Schwartz, Santa Monica's senior administrative analyst of homeless services. "In addition to helping clean-up, Chrysalis has helped many who are

homeless or unemployed in the area."

The city pays Chrysalis about \$8,300 a month for the services it provides. Chrysalis refused to release the amount individual workers are paid to do street work in Santa Monica, citing its policy of protecting the anonymity of some of its clients.

The city renewed its contract with Chrysalis in June for \$100,000 a year for three years.

"We are confident the partnership will continue to excel," Schwartz said.

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—The Press Advisor

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Health regulators unveil nurse-to-patient ratios

BY JENNIFER COLEMAN
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO —California hospitals will be required to meet new nurse-to-patient staffing ratios starting at the end of this year, including strict requirements for burn and post-surgery patients, under regulations unveiled Tuesday by state health regulators.

The regulations stem from a 1999 law that made California the first in the nation to mandate nurse-to-patient ratios for hospitals. The Department of Health Services will take public comment on the regulations until July 17.

Nurses said the regulations, which will be phased in starting in 2004, are a sensible way to improve patient care and working conditions for nurses. But hospital officials say the ratios will worsen the state's current nursing shortage and warn it will cost hundreds of millions to implement.

"Hospitals are going to comply with them, but there could be unintended consequences of hospitals either turning away patients and complying with the ratios, or violating the ratios and providing patient care," said Jan Emerson, vice president of external affairs for the California Healthcare Association.

The DHS estimates the new ratios will cost hospitals \$422 million in 2004, \$652 million in 2005, and more than \$956 million in 2008, when all of the ratios have been put in place.

Currently, the state sets nurse-to-patient ratios for intensive and critical care units, operating rooms, nurseries and acute respiratory care wards. The new regulations will expand the required ratios to the rest of the hospital as well.

For burn, post-anesthesia care and labor and delivery units, the ratio will be one nurse to every two patients. For pediatric units, emergency rooms and "step down" wards — the level of care between intensive care and a regular hospital room — the ratio will be one to four.

Oncology and telemetry wards will have a one-to-five ratio, and medical-surgery units, psychiatric and mixed units will require a one-to-six ratio.

In 2008, the ratios for step-down units will change to a one-to-three ratio, telemetry to one to four, and medical-surgery and mixed units to one to five.

Though many nurses said the ratios are an improvement, they questioned why the Department of Health Services would delay the lower ratios until 2008.

"It's a slight improvement, but we don't want to just improve a little bit, we want to save lives," said Ingela Dahlgren, a nurse at Northridge Hospital Medical Center. "In the most important areas, we need safe staffing now, not in 2008."

"For nurses, it's always going to come down to the working conditions."

— JILL FURILLO
Director of national affairs
California Nurses Association

But some hospitals are alarmed the mandate for even more nurses will come when the state is expected to have a shortage of 109,000 nurses, said Dorel Harms, of the California Healthcare Association.

"Statistics say that the nurse shortage is going to be more critical than it is now," she said. "We don't know where we're going to get the nurses."

The state Employment Development Department estimates an additional 30,000 registered nurses will be needed in the next three years.

Even without the ratio requirement, hospitals increasingly looking to other states and overseas for enough nurses, and are often hiring traveling nurses, Harms said.

Kaiser Permanente hospitals have already started implementing the nurse-to-patient ratios, two years ahead of the state's requirement, and has been "heavily recruiting" nurses in order to comply with the new rules, said Kathleen McKenna, spokeswoman for the nonprofit health care system.

"That's one of the benefits I think the nurses are seeing in coming to work for us is that we've moved to implement the improved staffing ratios," said McKenna.

Jill Furillo, director of national affairs for the California Nurses Association, which represents 11,000 nurses at 30 Kaiser hospitals, said hospitals won't have a problem recruiting nurses if they improve working conditions, such as Kaiser did.

Recall campaign moves forward

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Organizers of a drive to recall Gov. Gray Davis declared they have collected more than 1 million signatures — enough to put the issue before voters.

But opponents were skeptical and state officials had yet to validate the milestone. A total of 897,158 signatures of registered voters are needed to place the recall on the ballot. Ted Costa, coordinator of the Republican-led signature drive, said Thursday that just over 1 million signatures had been turned over to counties for validation.

The campaign expects to reach its goal of 1.2 million by a mid-July deadline, which could result in a special election in the fall.

Anti-recall forces called the figure exaggerated and noted that just last month advocates claimed to have turned in 53,000 signatures more than the secretary of state confirmed.

"The rhetoric has yet to match the reality," said Carroll Wills, spokesman for Taxpayers Against the Governor's Recall.

At a press conference Thursday, the group claimed it had obtained 1.1 million signatures on petitions opposing the recall, although the petitions have no legal effect.

"These 1.1 million Californians are saying, every one loud and clear, to stop the recall," said Dan Terry, head of the California Professional Firefighters union and chairman of the anti-recall group.

NATIONAL



Famed white sand beaches disappearing in Waikiki

BY MATT SEDENSKY

Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU — Millions of tourists have voyaged across the Pacific just to spread their beach towel on a patch of Waikiki's warm, inviting sand.

Trouble is, there's not as much of it as there used to be.

Waikiki's world-famous white sand beaches have been eroding an average of one foot a year since 1985, experts say. And as the shoreline shrinks and reefs fill with the sand moving offshore, many say it's time to protect the key asset of Hawaii's famed tourist strip.

"The fundamental problem is that we haven't maintained the resource," said Chip Fletcher, a professor of coastal geology at the University of Hawaii. "If we're going to insist on having a beach there, we've got to keep putting a fresh coat of paint on it."

Famed for its luxury hotels and carefree surfers, Waikiki — the prized stretch of sand between Diamond Head, Honolulu's most recognizable natural feature, and the public boat harbor — is, without fail, crowded with locals and visitors alike. It was artificially widened three generations ago in anticipation of such popularity, but officials have done little over the years to maintain its plus-size status.

Now, after years of wrangling, state lawmakers included \$700,000 in the state budget that took effect Tuesday to widen a sun-soaked expanse of Waikiki called Kuhio Beach. But even taking into account an estimated \$1 million allocated by the federal government over the last three years, the funds will hardly put a dent in the cost of full sand replenishment along Waikiki.

Samuel Lemmo, senior planner of the state Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands, says the pricetag is up to \$25 million to fix the entire length of Waikiki.

"It's way overdue," said Republican state Rep. Galen Fox, whose district includes Waikiki. "We very much need sand."

Originally a narrow sandy strip, Waikiki grew from less than a half-mile long in 1925 to about 1.5 miles long today, according to Fletcher.

Magazine sells glitz, glamour, sex

MAGAZINE, from page 1

high-rollers and those with A-list aspirations.

"People who have either made it or on their way to making it," said Jerry Powers, publisher of Ocean Drive. "We want to cover the Leonardo DiCaprios who go there on the weekend."

The launch of the magazine comes at a time when the Strip is shedding its buffet, family-friendly image and opting for a reputation as a sexy playground to the stars.

"It's so the right time. There are more five-star restaurants in Las Vegas than New York and L.A.," Powers said.

With features like "Celebs Who Play Here," the magazine draws in those who follow Hollywood's movers and shakers. Other stories focus on Vegas hotspots. In the premiere edition, articles chronicle the lives of George Maloof, who along with his family owns the ultra-hip Palms hotel and casino and the Sacramento Kings basketball team, and Donna Baldwin, the beautiful socialite wife of Bobby Baldwin, CEO of Mirage Resorts.

The magazine also exudes sex appeal, with a photo essay of models in provocative lingerie and a racy feature on the women of X, a topless revue at the Aladdin hotel-casino.

"Vegas is real hot copy these days," said Anthony Curtis, editor of Las Vegas Advisor, a consumer newsletter that tracks casino promotions and gambling trends. "This new super sexy Vegas is very hot right now and they'll get up on this trend."

Some industry analysts say the target audience might be too specific.

"It's a niche, of a niche, of a niche," said Candace Corlett, a principal at WSL Strategic Retail, a New York market research firm. "It doesn't have the gambling interest. It's just about the lifestyle in Vegas, the lifestyle in Vegas for the very wealthy."

Powers and Carr are not worried. The magazine debuts in the black and sold out all of its advertising space, more than \$600,000, for the first edition, they said.

Over the years, truckloads of sand were brought in, though rumors are rampant on its origin, from Australia to Molokai. Sand importation — common at beaches throughout the world — largely stopped in the early 70s.

And for all the sand brought in, Fletcher estimates some 100,000 cubic yards has receded into the Pacific

since 1951 — filling in reefs, creating shallower water and changing the way the surf breaks.

"It's very disappointing to see the small amount of sand left," said Robert Finley, chairman of the Waikiki Neighborhood Board, which has lobbied for sand replenishment.

Canadian border patrol to increase agents

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Border Patrol will increase the number of agents patrolling the border with Canada by more than half to help keep out terrorist weapons, drugs and illegal immigrants, the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection announced Wednesday.

"We were clearly understaffed on the northern border," said the bureau's commissioner, Robert Bonner. "This is an important step in increasing security along

our northern border and is necessary given the continuing threat of terrorism."

About 375 veteran agents will be shifted — on a voluntary basis — from current assignments along the southwestern border to the northern border by the end of this year, said spokesman Mario Villarreal, bringing the total to 1,000 permanently assigned agents.

Most of the Border Patrol's more than 10,000 agents are assigned to the southwestern border.



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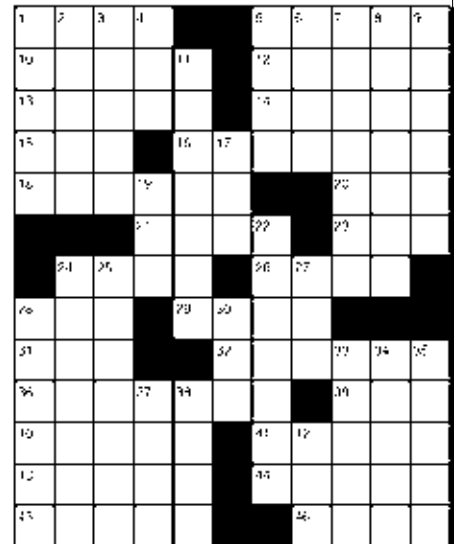
- ACROSS**
- 1 Takes in
 - 5 Tolerate
 - 10 Burning
 - 12 Sorceress of myth
 - 13 Invader of England
 - 14 Convenes
 - 15 Conceit
 - 16 Like some miniseries
 - 18 Lady of Spain
 - 20 Curly cohort
 - 21 Hind's mate
 - 23 Ventilate
 - 24 Advantage
 - 26 Search
 - 28 Have a late meal
 - 29 Search
 - 31 Meringue ingredient
 - 32 Sneaker features
 - 36 Caribbean island
 - 39 Took the title
 - 40 Texas landmark
 - 41 Fad
 - 43 Candidate of 2000
 - 44 Asian peninsula
 - 45 Direction
- DOWN**
- 1 Jobs for a gumshoe
 - 2 No longer a minor
 - 3 Ford fore-runner
 - 4 Hit letters
 - 5 BBs, e.g.
 - 6 Horn sound
 - 7 Company thinker
 - 8 "Motor City"
 - 9 Spring Sunday
 - 11 Snares
 - 17 Conflict
 - 19 Resis-
 - 22 "The Scorpion King"
 - 24 Neck vein
 - 25 Software buy
 - 27 Island strings
 - 28 Cosine's reciprocal
 - 30 Greek vowel
 - 33 Knowing
 - 34 Gets some shut-eye
 - 35 Be furtive
 - 37 Prayer ender
 - 38 Appliance part
 - 42 Fishing pole

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SMURD	KIN
TELLIES	ACT
ADDON	SSIS
UNTRUE	
JAKE	ONLOAN
OVAL	SIMILE
EASY	STALE

Yesterday's answer

- 19 Resis-
- 22 "The Scorpion King"
- 24 Neck vein
- 25 Software buy
- 27 Island strings
- 28 Cosine's reciprocal
- 30 Greek vowel
- 33 Knowing
- 34 Gets some shut-eye
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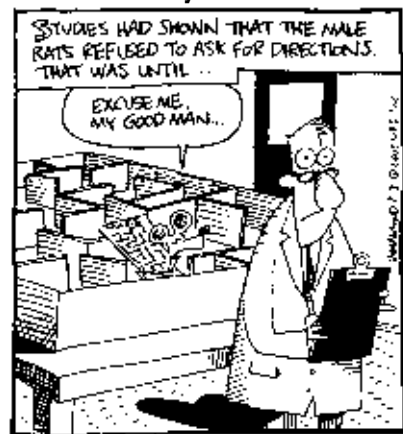


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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Twisted Sister won't play R music at G rated venue

By The Associated Press

■ **NEWARK, N.J.** — In the '80s, Al and Tipper Gore accused them of endangering the morals of America's youth and undermining parental authority.

Two decades later, Twisted Sister is playing New Jersey's two most family-friendly venues — the Meadowlands State Fair and Six Flags Great Adventure — and the "F" word is off-limits, by mutual agreement.

Lead singer Dee Snider says the band — known for hits such as "We're Not Gonna Take It" and "I Wanna Rock" — had balked at playing the G-rated parks.

"The minute we heard those offers, we said, 'No,'" Snider said. "They said, 'What do you mean, no?' We said, 'We want to play for our fans! We don't want to play to people in an amusement park!'"

"And they said, 'Dee, your fans are in their 30s; where do you think they are on the Fourth of July weekend? They're out with their families at the amusement parks or the Jersey shore.' And that was like a real rude awakening."

Despite their well-publicized stand against censorship during a 1985 Senate hearing in which the Gores were pushing for content warning labels on records (the industry adopted a voluntary system shortly after the hearing), Twisted Sister will tone it down this week in New Jersey.

"You assume you have to play to your audience and deal with the restrictions," said guitarist Jay Jay French.

Twisted Sister will play Thursday at the fair next to

Giants Stadium in East Rutherford and Saturday at Great Adventure in Jackson. The only other U.S. dates are scheduled July 18-19 in Wisconsin, although a fall headlining tour is possible.

"There are older fans who want to see it one more time, and there's younger fans who want to see it once, what it was like," Snider said. "We won't disappoint. There's bad news and good news. The bad news is we look like aging transvestites. The good news is we've always looked like aging transvestites."

■ **COLUMBUS, Ohio** — Farm Aid, a concert that raises money to keep families on their farms, will hold its annual show Sept. 7 at the Germain Amphitheater.

The lineup includes Willie Nelson, John Mellencamp and Neil Young, who organized the first Farm Aid in 1985, and Dave Matthews, who joined the board of directors in 2001.

Sheryl Crow, Brooks & Dunn and Trick Pony will also perform.

"We salute these generous artists lined up for Farm Aid 2003," said Farm Aid communications director Mark Smith in a statement. "The Farm Aid concert is an inspiration to Farm Aid's year-round work to keep family farmers on the land. Ohio music fans will have a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see all these artists on the same stage."

Nelson plans to be on the road doing concerts to help raise money for the presidential run of Rep. Dennis

Kucinich of Ohio.

The 70-year-old singer said he's endorsing Kucinich because the Cleveland Democrat has a history of standing up for heartland Americans who are overlooked.

"I will be doing all I can to raise his profile with voters," Nelson said Wednesday.

■ **NEW YORK** — Neil Patrick Harris starred as a boy genius for four seasons on the ABC sitcom "Doogie Howser, M.D."

The series ended in 1993. Since then, Harris has taken on an array of anti-Doogie roles in films such as "Starship Troopers" and "The Next Best Thing." He's also the voice of Peter Parker in MTV's new animated version of "Spider-Man."

Harris, 30, tells TV Guide in its July 5 issue that it isn't tedious to record the superhero crying out "Ow!" and "Umph!" when he's in pain.

"That's when you get to use your imagination, because we don't see the animation," Harris says. "We just hear the director say, 'At line 154, Spidey is electrocuted and shot through the window and falls down the stairs and lands with a grunt. And go!'"

Does he wish his "Doogie Howser" character hadn't been saddled with such a goofball name?

"Yeah, it would have been awesome if it was 'Thomas Smith, M.D.,'" he said with a laugh. "I wouldn't carry quite such an albatross. ... I feel for Urkel."

"Spider-Man" premieres July 11 on MTV at 7 p.m.

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