

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

LOTTO

FANTASY 5

33, 31, 30, 12, 34

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 9, 6, 5

Evening picks: 2, 8, 1

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 02, Lucky Star

2nd Place: 01, Gold Rush

3rd Place: 05, California Classic

Race Time: 1:49.82



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

British shock artist Damien Hirst, chronicled several times in News of the Weird (e.g., skinned dead cattle in copulating positions), told The Guardian newspaper in June that he had discovered a new refinement after giving up drinking. Said Hirst: "I can drink, I can take drugs, and I can produce art. But the art starts looking stupid." Once, he said, he wanted to cover a pig in vibrators to look like a hedgehog and call it Pork-u-Pine. His new installation, set for London in the fall, features Jesus and the apostles as 13 Ping-Pong balls bobbing on fountains of red wine, and another piece on the disciples features several pickled bull's heads.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If you aren't fired with enthusiasm, you will be fired with enthusiasm."

— Vince Lombardi



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Chicks rock!



Nina Furukawa/Special to the Daily Press
Dixie Chicks Emily Robison, Natalie Maines and Martie Maguire, along with Rock the Vote's executive director Jehmu Greene, were in Santa Monica on Monday to announce a new partnership called "Chicks Rock, Chicks Vote!" It is a campaign to get young people to register to vote on the web at rock-thevote.com. The first goal for the campaign is to register 100,000 young voters in 2003.

Agenda includes \$400K for beach club demolition

BY PATRICK KINMARTIN
Special to the Daily Press

Parts of the Marion Davies Estate with no historic value will become history tonight when the Santa Monica City Council approves its consent agenda during tonight's meeting.

Council members are expected to approve \$400,000 to demolish many structures on the estate at 415 Pacific Coast Highway, which was formerly a city-funded beach club called Sea and Sand. The

structures do not contribute to the property's historic value, officials say, and their removal is the council's first major step toward plans to reopen the estate in the future.

The property has been closed to the public since it suffered structural damage from the 1994 Northridge earthquake. The structures being demolished include the former banquet building, cabana buildings and portions of the locker building — areas that were

See AGENDA, page 6

New money man takes helm during lean, stormy times

BY JOHN WOOD
Daily Press Staff Writer

Steve Stark will likely find the challenge he sought when he left an 11-year post as the finance director of Santa Clarita last month to take the helm in Santa Monica.

While Santa Clarita is a booming city of 160,000 with plenty of room to grow, Santa Monica is an older city of 84,000 that's almost entirely built out.

With the city facing a multi-million dollar deficit for at least the next two years, Stark will have to work hard to balance the city's \$380 million budget.

"In times of recession, you really have to focus on capital improvements and their budgets," said Stark, adding that the first priority will be to sustain as many of the city's services as possible. "Older cities have to look harder to make things work."

Stark, a Texas native who lives with his wife in Santa Clarita, is in his fourth week as the city's director of finance, a position that oversees 45 in City Hall and earns a base salary of \$133,044. He took over for Mike Dennis, who retired last month after more than 30 years with the city.

The first step toward fiscal balance, Stark said, is to look for efficiencies. Next is to boost revenues, though Stark said that doesn't necessarily entail creating new fees, but rather revising long-unchanged fees to reflect the cost



John Wood/Daily Press
Steve Stark, the city's new finance director, will streamline his own department first.

of doing business today.

Finally come services. "Can the city continue to provide?" Stark said. "First we look at if we are providing services efficiently and then we have to ask, 'Are we providing services that local governments provide?'"

Stark said it is still too early for him to make any specific observations or suggestions. He said he has spent the first few weeks on the job talking with department heads and employees in City Hall and will start by streamlining his own department.

He said the chamber will meet Aug. 4 to discuss where Santa

See DIRECTOR, page 6

Announcement in market crash scheduled for today

Russell Weller says he is 'distracted' and heartbroken

BY JEREMY KUTNER
Special to the Daily Press

Police officials have scheduled a press conference for this afternoon to make an announcement relating to the farmers market accident last week that left 10 dead and dozens wounded.

Further details about the substance of the announcement were not available Monday. The press conference, which will be jointly held by officials from the Santa Monica Police Department and the California Highway Patrol, will take place at 4 p.m. at City Hall.

Meanwhile, Russell Weller, the man who drove his car at high speed through the crowded farmers market in downtown Santa Monica last week, expressed sadness over the conse-

quences of the tragic accident in a statement read by his pastor Sunday.

"There are no words to express the feelings my family and I have for those who have suffered loss and pain as a result of Wednesday's devastating accident," Weller said in the statement. "I am so very distraught and my heart is broken over the extent of the tragedy."

Weller said he was grieving for the dead along with the victims' families.

See MARKET, page 6

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HOROSCOPE

Be playful tonight, Capricorn



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, July 22, 2003:

Never lose sight of your goal this year, and you will succeed. Often, major distractions surround you, though they vary in what they are. Don't be a victim of overthinking or becoming too analytical, except with funds. Finances could be a major concern, but do know that you can tame your spending if you so choose. You will make more money, but the key to your success is spending less. Also use a care within partnerships. What seems too good to believe probably is. If you are single, you will meet someone late in the year. This person could be quite special, encouraging you to settle down. If you are attached, your relationship will develop because of your willingness to team up and go for what you want. Refuse to create even more money issues. TAURUS helps you get what you want.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Though you might need to sort through a lot of information this morning, by the afternoon, you will have the full picture. You might not always act in sync with those around you. Be open to the brainstorming process, and your views could change considerably. Tonight: Your treat.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Investigate what needs to happen to help others understand better and to have a more effective work situation. Talk to each individual, and you'll get a lot more feedback than you expected. Confusion surrounds a personal matter. Tonight: Act like the world is your oyster, because it is right now.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Sit back on your haunches before taking a strong action. You might need some extra time to sort through an opportunity. Everything might not be as clear as you would like it. Your discussions draw forth interesting information. Tonight: Take your time. Sort through a problem.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Though a partner could make a situation more than nebulous, trust yourself to get down to the very basics. You will need to focus on your goals and not settle for anything less. A work associate helps you along. Tonight: Where the gang is, but hold on to your wallet.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Continue to assume a leadership position at work, even if you might not like what comes your way. What you need to realize is that everyone has different priorities, so stay mellow and direct. Let differences of opinion exist. Tonight: A must show, which might have you grumbling.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Think out of the box. You might want to break a pattern or try something quite different. Observe a tendency to go to extremes, and this might not be you, but someone else. Detach, and you can keep a project on target. Tonight: Try a new vista.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Work with each individual with the idea of getting key matters managed. You could find certain issues difficult to resolve. Spin that extra creative touch on a problem, and you'll find a solution. An associate or friend might be the source of incorrect information. Tonight: Make nice.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Others make strong demands. You could find a superior more confused than he or she realizes. You might need to work with this individual carefully to make sure that both of you are speaking the same language. Tonight: Say "yes."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Bite the bullet and decide to get the job done. Others have a distracting manner, and you might need to screen out distractions. You could be a lot happier if you flow with opportunities as they appear. Tonight: Easy does it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ A partner has a unique style of expressing him- or herself. Think deeply about your response. You could be overwhelmed by someone's disorganization. Try to steer clear and tap into your imagination. Tonight: Ever playful.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Basics do count, but you might need to sort through a substantial amount of confusion. A friend attempts to put clarity into an interpersonal matter, and he or she will succeed. Still, you might have difficulty sorting through what others really mean. Tonight: Be direct, especially with family.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Reach out for others, allowing for a greater sense of direction and opening up new pathways for communication. A boss has a strong sense of what is possible. Evaluate a decision more carefully. Tonight: Tell it like it is, especially involving a day-to-day matter.

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LOCAL

Young skater dreams of Kings as Montana watches

BY PATRICK KINMARTIN
Special to the Daily Press

Four-year-old Quintin Baker is too small to ride a rollercoaster, swim in the deep end of a pool or even see over the dinner table without sitting on phone books.

Yet the Santa Monica resident often seems bigger than most anything else on evenings he skates around Montana Avenue.

Every time Baker darts up and down the shopping strip on his rollerblades, locals stop and watch in awe as he gracefully performs difficult tricks and tirelessly chases around a rolling ball.

"He's very popular around here," said Oscar Morel, a manager at Spumoni's, an Italian restaurant on Montana. "I don't know what it is, there's just something about his energy — it's magnetic."

It is energy Quintin has used to achieve many things in his short life so far. As a roller and ice hockey player, he has won several trophies and certificates, including individual excellence awards for his play against kids two and three years older.

Quintin also has been offered small parts in movies by producers and talent agents impressed with his showmanship when being watched by large groups of people.

"I like when people watch me," Baker said. "It's fun. People look at me whenever I skate around with my dad."

"I don't know what it is, there's just something about his energy — it's magnetic."

— OSCAR MOREL
Manager, Spumoni's restaurant

Quintin's father, Matt, has been there from the very first day Quintin's talent began to develop. After suffering severe head injuries from a car accident in May of 1999, Matt was kept away from his job as an optician specialist for months, forcing him to stay home to watch Quintin while his wife, Annette, worked full time.

Because of the injuries, Matt's movement was limited and the only way he could interact with Quintin, then six months old, was to throw him a small ball. Not only could Quintin catch the ball, Matt noticed, but he could throw it back with surprising strength.

"He would fire it at me with amazing force," Matt Baker said. "It was then I began to wonder if he had some special abilities for someone so young."

Matt wouldn't have to wonder much longer. After bringing out his old hockey sticks to play around with Quintin on the carpet inside the family's home, he observed that Quintin quickly picked up the game.

By the time his first birthday rolled around, he was walking through the house in small skates Matt had custom-made. He removed the wheels from the skates so Quintin could get comfortable wearing them.

Quintin soon not only became comfortable, he became antsy. He raced around



Patrick Kinmartin/Special to the Daily Press
Four-year-old Quintin Baker displays his skating and hockey prowess outside his Montana-area house recently.

the house with the wheel-less skates on his feet and a hockey stick in hand, endlessly fetching rolling pucks.

"Once he would get going, we couldn't stop him," Annette Baker said. "Matt and I kinda looked at each other and said, 'Let's get him skating so he can go outside the house.'"

Although he was just eight months old and could barely talk, Quintin quickly picked up the basics and soon began skating on his own power.

Just before his first birthday, he began taking ice-skating lessons at the Healthsouth Center in El Segundo. By the time he turned two, Matt said he was ready to start playing hockey competitively.

"It was tough at first because there was no league for kids that young," Matt said. "There was a division for kids who were four, but coaches were apprehensive to let him in. Eventually, they let him play and he proved quickly his age wouldn't be a factor."

Quintin became one of the top players in Healthsouth's "termite" division — a league for four-year olds. Since then, he has progressed to higher levels where he now plays on teams with six- and seven-year olds.

Ralph Barahona, a former NHL player who coaches at the Healthsouth Center, said he's impressed with Quintin's feel for the game at a young age.

"He is obviously naturally gifted," Barahona said. "At this point, it is too early to tell exactly how far he can actually go as a hockey player. But for four years old, he is talented beyond his years as a skater."

Quintin's skating ability has become his claim to fame around Santa Monica. When Matt takes him to skate up Montana Avenue on evenings, shop owners often call Quintin over and ask him to perform.

Others who are shopping, eating or just visiting the area have also taken notice. Matt said Quintin has already received offers to appear on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" and "The New Tom Green Show."

The Bakers, however, are reluctant to expose Quintin to the rigors of working in the entertainment business at such a young age. Quintin said he would like to be on television, but his fantasy is to play for the Los Angeles Kings.

But when asked what he would do if he had the chance to fulfill that fantasy right now, he giggled and said, "No way. I'm too small."

surf report

There are some fun waves today as a new SW fills in. Expect waist-to-chest high waves, with better conditions in the morning.

The north county has been getting some pretty epic waves.

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.

Today the water is:

73°

Sunrise: 5:50 a.m.
Sunset: 8:15 p.m.

	LOW TIDE				HIGH TIDE			
	Morning	Height	Evening	Height	Morning	Height	Evening	Height
SATURDAY	3:23	-1.3	2:24	2.3	9:59	3.9	8:45	7.0
SUNDAY	4:08	-1.5	3:14	2.3	10:45	4.1	9:31	7.0
MONDAY	4:52	-1.4	4:03	2.3	11:28	4.1	10:16	6.8
TUESDAY	5:34	-1.2	4:52	2.3	(12:11)	4.2	11:00	6.4
WEDNESDAY	6:14	-0.8	5:43	2.4	(12:54)	4.2	11:44	5.8
THURSDAY	6:54	-0.3	6:40	2.5	N/A	N/A	1:38	4.3
FRIDAY	7:32	0.2	7:47	2.5	12:29	5.1	2:23	4.4

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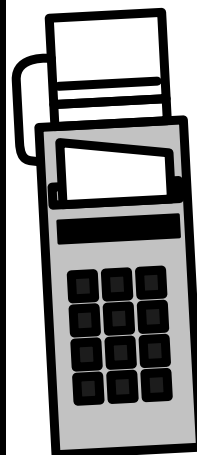
The Q Line

As most residents of Santa Monica — and, indeed, the entire country — know by now, 86-year-old Russell Weller plowed through the farmers market on Arizona Avenue on Wednesday, killing 10 and injuring nearly 50.

It is one of the worst tragedies ever to befall this city. The grief process and reality of the situation likely is just beginning to sink in for residents.

Therefore, the Daily Press invites anyone who wants to share their feelings, experiences or thoughts about this horrific incident to call our Q-Line.

Dial (310) 285-8106 and we'll print your response in tomorrow's paper. Please limit your call to one minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.



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LETTERS

Send gangs after intimidating homeless

Editor:

Santa Monicans have two serious problems: gang violence and putrid by-products of an increasing homeless population. I suggest that the gangs should direct their intimidating antics not towards each other, but at the homeless and those who attract them to our city by feeding them like pigeons in Trafalgar Square.

This solution would achieve several objectives: get the crusaders and the homeless out of our city and create an opportunity for the gang members to have positive influence on the community. Recently, Officer Sky from SMPD responded to a call from me about a violent homeless trespasser in our neighborhood. I witnessed Officer Sky's professional and firm handling of the trespasser (who was a convicted burglar and on probation!). Young men seeking to prove their manhood should follow Officer Sky's example and help rid our streets of filth like this burglar! Don't fight with rival gangs, guys, fight back the freeloaders who have invaded your turf!

So, gang members of Santa Monica, rally! Retake the streets! Make them safe for your mothers and fathers and girlfriends and wives and children! Boot out the invaders from Burbank and Glendale and Pacoima who feed and attract the vagrants and bums! Frighten the burglars out of our city! Use your muscle, use your anger! Rise up and cure us from this scourge!

John Zarchen
Santa Monica

Constructive suggestions from store's staff

Editor:

The people at Jurassic would like to join the rest of our community in expressing our grief and sadness over the tragic events of Wednesday, July 16 at the farmers market. Our condolences to all those who lost family, friends and neighbors, and a swift

recovery to all those injured, whether their pain be physical, emotional, or spiritual. As a business in the community for over 20 years, we frequent the Promenade, as

See LETTERS, page 5



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Should there be a maximum driving age?



Evelyn Jerome

■ Ten people died last week because George Russell Weller shouldn't have been driving.

Ten people joined a 15-year-old Santa Monica girl killed five years ago by a 96-year-old driver who didn't see her in the crosswalk.

Ten people died because after the 1998 accident, then-State Sen. Tom Hayden put in a bill to require an annual driving test for people over 75, but the AARP lobbied until the bill was gutted.

There's a minimum driving age because we can't rely upon the reflexes and decision-making ability of those

under the age of 16. There should be a maximum driving age as well, for the exact same reasons.

It took George Russell Weller two blocks to realize that he had hit the accelerator instead of the brake. The last time he took a driving test was in 2000, and it was only a written test. Any other day, any non-farmers market day, he would probably have hit a light pole and we could have continued to ignore the problem.

But as baby boomers, the largest age group in the nation, head toward 60, we must face this problem now.

(A side note: The City of Santa Monica isn't free from blame in this horrible tragedy. There is no excuse for the fact that the street was closed by flimsy wooden barricades. There should have

been cement pylons or other temporary but sturdy objects blocking the street.)

The head of the ER at St. John's Medical Center expressed no surprise at all. "We see an alarming number of older drivers losing control," Dr. Russ Kino said last Wednesday.

There is a process for adults to report their aging parents' incapacity to drive, but the DMV's massive bureaucracy stops the reporting process from being effective, with requests being lost in the paperwork for months. But this haphazard, piecemeal approach ignores the fact that drivers over 75 pose a danger to others on the road.

"What about exceptions?" you ask. "My 80-year old aunt is fine behind the wheel." I know a 15-year-old with the maturity to drive, but rules are rules.

There's no shame in an 86-year-old in having their child or grandchild drive them places, or in taking the bus. It beats being let out of a police station. Or causing a funeral.

It's going to take leadership and backbone and improved public transit. The legislature should encode a maximum driving age. This truly is homeland security — protecting California's citizenry at home. It can't be voluntary. It's too late.

(Evelyn Jerome is the founder and principal of Strategic Communications, a communications consulting firm. She is a past president of the Los Angeles County Young Democrats and a Santa Monica homeowner. To respond or to reach her, e-mail evelyn_thinktwice@yahoo.com.)



Todd Flora

■ Last week's farmers market tragedy has America asking, "How old is too old?"

My answer: it depends, and we should NOT set a strict age cut-off for seniors being behind the wheel.

Those who argue that some seniors are past their driving prime ARE correct. As the Los Angeles Times opined, we should exhume a four-year-old bill sponsored by then State Sen. Tom Hayden. The bill would have required a behind-the-wheel exam for those 75 and older as well as shortened license renewal periods requiring more frequent driving tests for older drivers.

Currently, the law merely mandates written and eye exams for those 70 and older.

But mandating a strict, across-the-board cut-off age as a reaction to this tragedy will surely penalize many capable drivers. Worse, it will further stigmatize seniors as citizens who have less to offer society.

Look at Social Security. What was once (and is still most accurately) an eligibility age for benefits was suddenly accepted as a forced "retirement age." A worker's worth was seen as less at 65 and Americans began to submit to this perception by ending their careers.

Further, a public debate over what the cut-off age should be would set off a political firestorm. You think the AARP buried the original Hayden bill? Watch their machine go into overdrive to kill a

mandatory age limit!

Rather, it is going to "take a village" to solve this issue. The legislature should re-open and pass the spirit of Sen. Hayden's bill. The AARP should get with the program. The DMV should be empowered to make strong recommendations to families of seniors despite passage of driving exams and families themselves should have a healthy discussion with older relatives if driving ability is becoming an issue.

Let us also remember that not every senior is unwilling to give up the keys. Many are doing so themselves.

Quite frankly, I'm more leery of many newly licensed high school sophomores than someone who has been driving for 50-60 years. What happened to the law

increasing the minimum driving age to 18? Why isn't a driver's license a reward for a high school diploma or GED, to serve as an incentive to stay in school (with exemptions for those responsible for driving family members with special needs)?

I would argue for balance. Yes, let's pass some measures. But if we're going to take the time to do so, let's ensure safe driving at all ages, and make driving truly a privilege.

(Todd Flora is a professional communications and issues manager in Santa Monica. To comment or reach Todd, email him at: junkfood6@aol.com. Todd encourages readers to contact him and Evelyn with suggestions for weekly writing topics.)

OPINION



The Q-Line

Residents offer opinions on city's tragedy

(Editor's note: The Santa Monica Daily Press has opened Q-Line this week to give an opportunity to community members to share their feelings and thoughts about last week's tragedy at the farmers market. We'll run your responses daily throughout the week.)

■ "Certainly the blame has to be put on the senior citizen who was driving the car that went through the barrier, or so-called barrier, at the farmers market. But the blame also has to be put on the City of Santa Monica because the city should have provided a better obstruction for cars to go into that farmers market. There were no barriers there. The only thing is a flimsy sign that anybody could knock over with their hand and this is reprehensible. The whole incident was an accident looking for a place to happen and it did happen and you can't blame all old people who drive, although there are a lot that are bad. I think the Santa Monica Council and all the city planners needs to look at this accident very closely because after they get finished being sued by everyone that was injured in this accident, the city is going to go bankrupt. And it is their own blasted fault. They should have had barriers there or had it in a place where people couldn't drive through it. The city needs to take a closer look at providing security for people that go to that farmers market. They're going to loose business on this because people are going to be very afraid to go there."

■ "It's incredibly sad that many people in the media are upset that the police department did not arrest Mr. Weller. Many of them, it is quite obvious, know nothing about the Constitution of the United States. Before you can charge someone with a crime, you have to have completed the majority of your investigation. The police department did a phenomenal job considering the magnitude of what they found. The fire department also did a fantastic job. We should salute those men and women who risked their lives and in the safety of the community, do it on a daily basis without complaint."

■ "I just hope that they find enough evidence to keep him from ever getting back behind the wheel of another car again. I'm just wondering if we know of any other accidents. We know of two, one major and one minor, that he has had with this acceleration of this gas pedal. How many others don't we know about? Maybe if he's bargained so that others don't find out about them, I don't know. Has anybody thought that he was possibly using his cane to push the accelerator and he got rattled and couldn't retrieve it? I'm just putting it out there."

LETTERS

LETTERS, from page 4

do our friends and family. We are looking forward to future good times there, a place where good food, music, shopping, street performers and a unique sense of community exists.

Jeff Marshall, Jurassic's founder, was there within seconds of the accident and had this to say: "I personally witnessed an indescribable scene. I did what I could. I comforted a few people who were injured. But I could not escape this feeling of almost complete helplessness and regret that I could not do more, as I'm sure all of us felt, whether we assisted, witnessed or only heard about the accident."

And so Jurassic would like to do something in addition to our expression of grief. We have two goals that we'd like to accomplish in the next two months. First, we are in the process of putting together a low cost Emergency First Aid Kit that will be available to businesses on the Promenade. Secondly, we would like to organize an effort for First Aid and CPR classes to be made available to Promenade employees. If you're a business on or near the Promenade, please contact us to participate in this effort.

Recent events in our country and in the world have demonstrated that no place is immune to tragedy. One way to live without fear is to be prepared. Rather than react with pessimism to these difficult times, we prefer to strengthen our community and our belief in the human spirit both individually and collectively. As citizens of this community, and the world community, it is our duty and our privilege to do what we can to help.

The owners and staff at Jurassic
Santa Monica

Use old buses as barriers

Editor:

I read with interest an article in your paper which claims that erecting barrier would be expensive. Well, here's a solution: get SM buslines to bring up some junker buses and park them on the end streets sideways. If they can't do that, call the MTA. We have plenty of buses for that occasion and even some are for sale to the public. I am sure the City of Santa Monica can somehow arrange for this.

As an MTA employee and a graduate of SMHS ('66), I bring you this idea.

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Santa Monica



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Christina S. Porter
Senior Associate

LOCAL

New finance director came from Santa Clarita

DIRECTOR, from page 1

Monica's budget can be trimmed.

Community leaders familiar with the city's expenditures said they are looking forward to working with Stark.

"We're hoping that the city will look at its budget like a business looks at theirs," said Kathy Dodson, executive director of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. "Over the past several years, businesses have had to cut their budgets significantly."

Dodson said Santa Monica spends far more on its citizens than comparable cities.

"I don't think there are many citizens out there that would say, 'Oh yeah, I get twice as much services here as I would in Pasadena or Burbank,'" she said.

Mayor Richard Bloom said Stark has big shoes to fill from the retired Dennis, but refused making any specific comment on how best to deal with the city's budget deficit until after the situation in Sacramento becomes more clear.

"We continue to be in a position of great uncertainty," he said. "The thing that

"The citizen's perception is based on what they see when they walk through the door. If the employees are wearing jeans and sandals with a T-shirt that says, 'Surf's Up,' that could be a problem."

— STEVE STARK

Santa Monica's new finance director

we have to look to first is the state's resolution of (the budget deficit) and to do so not on the backs of local government."

Though Stark officially began July 1, he spent time in City Hall before that and even watched the city's budget sessions on the Internet. He said he was impressed with the way the City Council plugged this year's \$16 million deficit.

"They had a room full of people that wanted more and more money and they pretty much held the line," he said. "I was pleased by that."

As for his previous experience, Stark said he is especially proud of two projects in Santa Clarita that brought together different agencies for the greater good of the community.

One is the \$300 million Golden Valley Road, which connects the 5 and 14 highways. Local businesses and the school district, which will have a new school on the thoroughfare, partnered with the city on the project.

The other project is a large, modern library the city spearheaded after the county refused to pay for it. City officials were able to bring the local junior college on board by overbuilding the library — and the county has agreed to operate it once it is built.

Stark was born in Amarillo, Texas in

1951. He graduated from West Texas University and took his first city job as the internal auditor for the City of Amarillo. Since then, he has worked as finance director in Fontana and, most recently, Santa Clarita.

The married father of two makes the commute to Santa Monica at 5:30 a.m. each day, leaving time to jog or go the gym before work, while avoiding the often burdensome traffic.

"It's my time to think and be alone," said Stark, who has completed eight marathons and participated in a handful of other runs. "I come up with some great financial ideas."

Stark earned a reputation for having a conservative nature when he first started in Santa Clarita by requesting that his employees not dress down on Fridays. After 11 years there, Stark said he relaxed that suggestion, but still considers himself an old-fashioned guy that places a high value on professionalism.

"That's my belief," he said. "The citizen's perception is based on what they see when they walk through the door. If the employees are wearing jeans and sandals with a T-shirt that says, 'Surf's Up,' that could be a problem."

Driver in market crash says he's 'heart broken'

MARKET, from page 1

"After the accident, I called Pastor Lien to ask for prayers that might help bring comfort and solace to all who have been touched by this horrible event, and I continue my own prayers for all those who are suffering and grieving during this very difficult time."

Weller was too distraught to speak in public, according to a press release issued by the Brentwood Presbyterian Church, where Weller and his family have worshipped for more than 30 years.

As of Sunday, at least 11 victims remained hospitalized, with three people in critical condition. However, there was good news from St. John's Medical Center in Santa Monica, where only one crash victim remained hospitalized. The elderly man is in good condition and should be released in the next few days, said St. John's Emergency Room Director Russ Kino.

At the Santa Monica UCLA Medical Center, one patient is currently listed in serious condition. Two others are listed in fair condition and one patient was released last Friday. Ted Braun, hospital spokesman, did not speculate as to the approximate dates of release.

"Each of the patients has shown signs of improvement," Braun said.

Though many patients continued to improve, Sunday also served as a reminder of the extent of last week's tragedy.

Two of the victims, Molok Ghoulani Nabatian, 63, and Brendon Davidi Esfahani, her 7-month-old grandson, were buried at a memorial park in Mission Hills, where friends and family members gathered to share memories of the victims.

"[Nabatian] taught me to love every-

one, no matter what ... She also loved Brendon," Stella Ahdoot, 17, said. "She would hug and kiss him a hundred times and her eyes would light up. It's horrible they had to go so soon. I'll always keep them in my memory."

"Each of the patients has shown signs of improvement."

— TED BRAUN

St. John's Hospital spokesman

Dr. Stephen Lien, pastor of the Brentwood Presbyterian Church, said Sunday that Weller is beloved at the church for his caring and gentle nature.

"I'm here today as the pastor of a congregation that, along with the rest of the community, is devastated and confused," Lien said. "A congregation that numbers among the faithful Russ and Harriet Weller, beloved members for over 30 years."

"But I'm also here as a person of faith, a child of God, a Christian, who believes somehow, even in his deep darkness, in an eternal God of love and mercy, and hope. I join all the people of the Brentwood Presbyterian Church, and all people of faith, in an outpouring of love and compassion toward all the victims of Wednesday's disaster, praying that each of us will feel the presence, comfort and hope of God's everlasting arms around and underneath us."

"Our prayers are with you."

City plans to revamp, reopen the Sea and Sand beach club

AGENDA, from page 1

repeatedly targets for vandals.

"There really is nothing we can use those parts of the property for anymore," said Councilman Bob Holbrook. "They have no historic significance and they were whacked so hard by the quake in '94 that they really have been nothing more than dead space."

The estate's property contains a restaurant, pool and guest house that Holbrook described as being "larger than most normal homes." The house and pool will be preserved during the demolition as part of federal rules that prohibit tampering with historic structures.

The city assumed ownership of the estate in 1989 and opened the club in

1990. Before the Northridge earthquake hit, television shows were regularly filmed at the estate while the city made efforts to make several improvements.

Although the quake was a major reason the estate is no longer used, many other undamaged parts still did not meet Santa Monica Fire Department standards, said Councilman Herb Katz.

"We're hoping in time we can get everything back to code," Katz said. "There are many steps we need to take to get the estate running again and this selective demolition process is one of them."

The council is also being asked by city staff to spend \$55,000 to construct facilities on Montana Avenue and Wilshire Boulevard that will remove and divert debris from storm drains.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

Please send letters to:

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DID YOU KNOW?: The only guy without a beard in ZZTOP surname (last name) is Beard.

STATE



CALIFORNIA BRIEFS

Medi-Cal paying retail for wheelchairs

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Medi-Cal is paying manufacturer suggested retail prices for high-tech wheelchairs to help disabled, elderly and needy Californians — some come with price tags over \$36,000.

The cost of supplying wheelchairs has more than doubled in the past five years, and in the last year alone the California Medical Assistance Program bought 16,723 chairs for \$66.1 million.

State officials, however, have made only sporadic and mostly futile efforts to control what they spend on the most expensive piece of medical equipment Medi-Cal buys.

While the federal government and smaller programs in other states cut better deals, the \$29 billion Medi-Cal system failed to use its enormous buying power to bring down wheelchair spending.

California may be the only big state to consistently pay manufacturers' suggested retail prices for chairs, experts said.

Efforts to tighten spending are now taking on new urgency because of the \$38 billion state budget crisis.

"Medi-Cal never pays retail and shouldn't here," said Stan Rosenstein, deputy state health director for medical services.

But efforts by Medi-Cal officials to reduce wheelchair costs face a vocal lobby of advocates who claim changes could threaten the mobility and independence of the disabled.

"There will be a battle over those kinds of cuts," said Assemblywoman Barbara Matthews D-Tracy, who asked for a state audit last year that found inadequate oversight of wheelchair costs. "We don't want to cut benefits but want to make sure people are not taking advantage of a system that is too loose."

Clergy unite against Indian casino

By The Associated Press

BARSTOW — Fearing a moral breakdown, the clergy is moving in to fight plans for an Indian casino in the city.

"Gambling doesn't put anything into the community; it only removes wealth from the community," the Rev. Jerry Winders said. "It is like letting the fox into the henhouse."

The Rev. Joe Green said he was floored when he got word of the casino plan, adding he feared a criminal element as well as financial and moral breakdown in the city.

The City Council has approved a development agreement with the Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeno Indians and BarWest development group for a 180-room hotel casino.

Green and his Barstow Christian Ministerial Association are now stepping up their campaign against the casino project. The association and the Barstow Coalition for Responsible Growth are hosting a forum Tuesday to discuss the project.

"There is a lot being made about the jobs being brought, which is a wonderful thing," said Green, who is pastor at New Life Fellowship Church. "But there are a lot of additional costs that are not being discussed."

The casino project is still on the drawing board. Land hasn't been acquired yet, and Gov. Gray Davis and federal officials haven't given the required approvals.

The Chemehuevi Indian Tribe near Lake Havasu also announced recently that it would go forward with plans to build a casino in Barstow. The tribe was making a presentation to the City Council this week.

Hospitals trying to attract nurses

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — Hospitals throughout Ventura County are scrambling to meet new California nursing ratios that take effect on New Year's Day.

Minimum nurse-to-patient ratios taking effect Jan. 1 have local hospitals doing everything they can to attract and retain nurses, including scholarships, bonuses and pay raises. The California Health Care Association estimates that the state will need 30,000 more nurses to comply with the new rules.

"Every single hospital in California is struggling with the same issue," said Cheryl Nance, vice president and chief executive nurse of Simi Valley Hospital. "The rules are coming down, and we are making every effort so we can be in compliance by Jan. 1."

Among other things, the regulations require one nurse for every trauma patient and one nurse for every five patients in the medical and surgical wards. They also require the same number of nurses at night as during the day.

To meet those ratios, all area hospitals, except Los Robles and Ojai Valley Community Hospital, expect to hire more nurses, officials said. Community Memorial Hospital, St. John's Regional Medical Center and St. John's Pleasant Valley Hospital will have to beef up staff on night shifts, a time when fewer nurses are traditionally on the floor.

In the past, nurse-to-patient minimum ratios were mandated in only a few departments, such as the intensive care unit and the operating room. Local hospitals based their nurse staffing on the severity and nature of the patients' illnesses.

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SANTA MONICA RELAY FOR LIFE

The 2nd Annual American Cancer Society's Relay for Life is a unique 24-hour event to increase cancer awareness in Santa Monica while raising much needed funds for the American Cancer Society.

**Where: Santa Monica College, Corsair Field
1900 Pico Boulevard in Santa Monica**

**When: Saturday and Sunday, July 26th and 27th
from 9 a.m. to 9 a.m.**

The power of this Relay allows our community to grieve for those we have lost to cancer and to celebrate the lives of those who have successfully survived. It gives everyone, from the newly diagnosed patient to the caregivers of those who have struggled with the disease, an opportunity to be with others who have been touched by cancer. Further, it builds our community by rallying around a common cause while having fun at the same time.

Participants form teams of 12-24 people who walk or run around the track in shifts. Teams can be made up of friends, relatives, local businesses, hospitals, schools, churches and other organizations. Each team is asked to keep one member on the track at all times. Team registration fee is \$150.00 and each team member is encouraged to raise a minimum of \$100.00.

All cancer survivors, from those beginning their journeys to those who have emerged victorious, are encouraged to walk our opening lap and inspire everyone through their participation!

**For more information please call TRACEY MAYER at the
American Cancer Society: (310) 348-0356 option 3/ext. 246 or
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Santa Monica

A weekly look at events and program

New services for women, children at Saint John's

QUESTION: When is the new women's health center scheduled to open at Saint John's, and will it offer special labor and delivery services?

ANSWER: The highly anticipated women's health center at Saint John's is part of the hospital's new four-story inpatient pavilion now under construction and scheduled to open in early 2004.

Designed as an all-in-one resource covering a wide range of women's health needs, the women's health center places special emphasis on the labor and delivery services for which Saint John's is renowned.

One of the major features of the center, which comprises the entire fourth floor of the inpatient pavilion, is the perinatal center. The prenatal center is devoted to the special care of pregnant women and the safe delivery of their babies. It includes 12 multi-purpose patient rooms, known as the labor, delivery, recovery and post-partum rooms, which will be used for normal deliveries where expectant mothers can experience labor, delivery, recovery and post-partum all in a single room.

Another outstanding feature is the 10-bed

women's health services unit, which will provide special care for pregnant women at higher risk before, during and after delivery. Four of the 10 patient care rooms are dedicated to high-risk ante-partum patients. The remainder is devoted to the recovery of women with scheduled cesarean sections.

Additional features of the women's health center are two cesarean-section delivery rooms, the newborn nursery, neonatal intensive care unit, breast feeding room and a maternal health resource center.

Women at risk during pregnancy or for delivery complications are referred to perinatology services at approximately 20 weeks of pregnancy. Women requiring this extra level of supervision during pregnancy will receive their care in special exam rooms and labor-monitoring rooms.

In addition, the perinatal center offers a comfortable family waiting room with a small kitchenette and a patient lounge for larger family visits, allowing for family and friends to gather together and enjoy special amenities. There are also conference rooms and classrooms for patient education and staff training. The perinatal center is located adjacent to the newborn nursery and viewing areas, as well as the neonatal

intensive care unit for added convenience.

To enhance patient care and comfort, a parent's apartment and sleep rooms are available and all patient rooms are located on the exterior of the building to provide natural light and views of the Saint John's Gardens.

Each room is designed as a private room for one patient and every room is large enough to house the most advanced patient monitoring systems, which can be brought to the bedside as needed. In addition, each room has its own private bathroom and features an extra-long window seat that may be used for overnight stays by a visiting family member. Flat screen televisions are wall-mounted and can be used jointly for television viewing and Internet access.

Multiple nurse stations are located at strategic points throughout the center to ensure optimum staffing and access for each patient room. The nurse stations also are designed with lowered-profile counters to make it easier for patients to communicate with members of the nursing staff.

(For more information about the new women's health center at Saint John's, call (310) 829-8731 or visit www.stjohns.org.)

A listing of some summer recreational programs offered for children

The City of Santa Monica offers children of all ages a variety of recreational activities including Aikido, dance, gymnastics, art and in-line skating. Programs meet once a week beginning the week of July 14 - 19 and ending the first week of September. For information call Joslyn Park at 310-458-2239 or pick up a brochure at your local library.

SUMMER CAMPS presented by the City of Santa Monica

Camp Santa Monica - for youth ages 8-12.
10 weeks: June 23 - August 28th; Monday - Friday, 7:00a.m. - 6:00p.m.
This camp offers exciting, new enrichment courses, field trips and non-conventional programming. Camp Santa Monica will be based at designated elementary schools. Registration forms are available at the Reed Park Youth Office, 1133 7th St., Santa Monica. Call 310-458-8540 for more info. The fee is \$170 weekly, scholarships are available.

ROSIE'S GIRLS - for girls ages 11-13.
Two 3-week sessions: Session 1 - June 30 - July 18, Session 2 - July 28 - August 15. Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

An award winning program where participants build self-esteem, physical confidence, interpersonal cooperation and leadership abilities through learning and applying basic skills in carpentry and other trades. Sessions include self-defense, welding and firefighting. Field trips include ropes courses, rock climbing and swimming.

Rosie's Girls will be based at Miles Playhouse at Reed Park and the City Yards. Call 310-458-8540 for more info. The fee is \$325 per week for three weeks plus a \$75 materials fee.

SPORTS CAMPS

Santa Monica Sports Experience - a unique camp for girls and boys ages 10-14, who would like to concentrate their energy on sports activities and innovative theme weeks.

Four two-week sessions beginning June 23, Monday - Friday, 12:30 - 5:00 p.m. Fee is \$210 per session. Call 310-458-8540 for more info or register at the Youth office at Reed Park, 1133 7th St.

SOCCERPOLIS SUMMER SOCCER CAMP - for boys and girls ages 4-10 at Clover Park. A 9 week session beginning June

23, 9:00 a.m. - noon. Fees are \$150 per week for residents, \$155 per week for non-residents. Call 310-458-2239 for more info.

SKYHAWKS SPORTS ACADEMY

- A one-week day camp for boys and girls ages 4-14 tailored specifically for baseball or basketball. Call 310-458-2239 for more info.

Week 1 - Basketball, July 21-25, 9:00a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Marine Park, ages 7-14.
Fees are \$123 per week for residents, \$128 for non-residents
Week 2 - Baseball, August 4-8, 9:00 a.m. - noon, Steward Park, ages 5-8.
Fees are \$105 per week for residents, \$110 for non-residents

MINI HAWKS - Sports Camp for boys and girls ages 4-7. Half-day program introducing children to soccer, baseball and basketball. Call 310-458-2239 for more info.

Week 1 - July 21-25, 9:00a.m. - noon, Marine Park.
Week 2 - August 11-15, 9:00a.m. - noon, Marine Park.
Fees are \$105 per week for residents, \$110 for non-residents

5 STAR BEACH VOLLEYBALL CAMP - ages 10-18, all levels. July 21-25, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00

p.m., 2030 Barnard Way. Call 310-458-2239 for more info. Fees are \$225 per week for residents, \$230 for non-residents

BEACH KIDS BODYBOARDING CAMP

- for boys and girls ages 5 - 7 who want to learn to ride the waves in a fun and supervised environment. BZ Bodyboards and wetsuits provided. Call 310-458-2239 for more info.

Eleven one-week sessions beginning June 16. Half-day or full-day sessions available. Fees: Half-day resident - \$135 per week, non-resident - \$140 Full-day resident - \$235 per week, non-resident - \$240

SURF ACADEMY - for boys and girls ages 7 - 17. Soft surfboards and Body Glove wetsuits are provided. June 16 - August 29, half-day and full-day sessions available.

Call 310-458-2239 for more info, including details on the Wahine Surf Camp for girls only and the Kanaka Surf Camp just for boys. Fees: Half-day resident - \$135 per week, non-resident - \$140 Full-day resident - \$235 per week, non-resident - \$240

PAL

The Police Activities League - provides educational, cultural

and recreational programs for youth ages 6-17. Summer programs include Arts and Crafts, Bicycle Club, Computer Lab, Dance, Family Nights, Fitness Classes, Hiking, Karate, Needlework and Outdoor Adventures. Teen Activities include 3-on-3 Basketball, Cooking, Friday Night Out, Midnight Broomball, SAT Prep, Sports and Trips. Class size is limited and on a first-come, first-serve basis. All PAL activities are free. Sign-ups are accepted at the PAL office, 1401 Olympic Blvd., Santa Monica. Call 310-392-7673 for info.

PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Santa Monica Public Library has Summer Reading programs for all ages. Sign ups start June 16. Swing by your local branch for detailed info. They also offer Activity Programs and storytelling throughout the summer.

YMCA

Registration is underway for the YMCA Summer Programs including Parent & Child Classes, Youth Programs and Swim Lessons. The program dates are June 28th - September 3rd. Call 310-393-2721 for more info or pick up a brochure at the YMCA at 1332 Sixth St.

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SCHEDULES:

The Santa Swim Center has extended hours for recreational swimming thru August 24. The "Splash Pool" is great for kids of all ages (with their parents of course). The water temperature averages about 85 degrees, life-guards are always on duty and the price is very reasonable. Located at Santa Monica College, 2225 16th St. (corner of Pico and 16th). Call 310-458-8700 for more info.

Summer Hours – June 23 thru August 24
Monday-Friday – 10:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Saturday – 10:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Sunday – 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Fees
Children – \$1.00 for residents, \$2.00 for non-residents
Adults – \$2.50 for residents, \$5.00 for non-residents
Family Weekend Pass – \$5.00 for two adults and two children
Discounted multiple day passes are also available.

SPECIAL EVENTS

THURSDAY, JULY 24

Planning your family's financial future? Ron Davis of Jackson Federal Bank will present the first of two free workshops to assist you. The topic this week is "Risk Management – Protect and Create Family Wealth", with an emphasis on proper life insurance coverage. It is designed for families with children of all ages. The second workshop on the topic of "Saving for College" takes place August 21st. Seating is limited so please RSVP by phone to 310-451-2012, ext. 541, by fax to 310-394-6338, or by e-mail to Ronald.davis@investfinancial.com.
5:00 – 6:30 p.m., Jackson Federal Bank, 1101 Montana Avenue

SATURDAY, JULY 26-27

Relay for Life (an American Cancer Society activity) – Opening ceremony - 9:00 a.m. at the Santa Monica College, Corsair Track, 1900 Pico Blvd. Bring the entire family out to walk, run and raise money for the fight against cancer. Visit cancer.org on the web for more information or contact Tracey Mayer at 310-348-0356.

TUESDAY

Storytelling

Main Library – Toddler Story Time at 10:00 and 10:30am – Reed Park/West Auditorium/7th and Wilshire – 2 yr. olds with parent. 310-458-8922
Fairview Branch – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443
Lap Time – 11:00am, June 24 - July 29, for 0-24 month olds
Twilight Story Time – 7pm – an ongoing program for 3-5 year olds.
Cuentos Para Pequeños – 10am – June 24 – July 29 – a 6-wk program of stories in Spanish for 2-3 years old.
Montana Avenue Branch – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081
NEW – Summer Activity Program – Tuesdays thru August 5, 2:30 p.m. –

ages 3 and up.
Ocean Park Branch – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804
NEW – Summer Activity Program – Tuesdays thru August 5, 2:30 p.m. & 3:30 p.m. Ages 3 to 7.
Toddler Storytime – July 22-August 26 at 10:00 and 10:30 a.m. For 24 – 36 months with parents. Registration is underway.

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga – 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) – 10-11am, \$9

Breastfeeding Group
The Pump Station, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 0-4months, 1:00 – 2:30pm

Other

July 22 – Nature Walk (Children's Nature Institute) – Temescal Canyon (Pacific Palisades) – 10am
Reservations required – 310-998-1151 or www.childrensnatureinstitute.org

WEDNESDAY

Storytelling

Fairview Branch – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443, Preschool Story Time – 10:30am – June 25 – July 30, 3-5 year olds able to be on their own
Ocean Park Branch – 2601 Main St. – 310-392-3804
Twilight Story Time – 7:00 to 7:30pm – for parents with 3-5 year olds.

Montana Avenue Branch – 1704 Montana Avenue – 310-829-7081
Lap Time – 10:00 and 10:30 a.m. – July 23 – Aug. 27, for 0-24 month olds.
Toddler Story Time – 11:15 a.m. – July 23 – Aug. 27, for two year olds with parents
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 2 pm – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144
Border's, Westwood – 11am – 310-475-3444.

Yoga
Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga – 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) – 10-11am, \$9

Breastfeeding Group
The Pump Station, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 0-4months, 1:00 – 2:30pm

Other
Puppetolio – 1:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

July 23 – Nature Walk (Children's Nature Institute) – Solstice Canyon (Malibu) – 10am. Reservations required – 310-998-1151 or www.childrensnatureinstitute.org

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tureinstitute.org

THURSDAY

Storytelling

Main Library – Preschool Story Time – 10:30am – Reed Park. Stories for ages 3-5. 310-458-8922 for info.
Fairview Branch – 2101 Ocean Park Blvd – 310-450-0443
NEW – Summer Activity Program – Thursdays June 26 thru July 31, 2:30 p.m., ages 3 and up.

Toddler Story Time – 10:30am – June 26 – July 31. 5 – 6 week series for 2-3 year olds with adult.
La Hora Del Cuento – 7:00pm – Stories in Spanish for all ages.
Montana Avenue Branch – 1704 Montana Ave – 310-829-7081
Toddler Story Time – 10:15 a.m. – July 24 – Aug. 28

NEW – Craft Program for 6th – 12th graders – July 3, 17 and 31 at 2:30 p.m.
Teen Activity Program – 2:30 p.m. July 17 and 31. For 6th to 12th graders.

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga – 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) – 10-11am, \$9

Breastfeeding Group
The Pump Station, 310-826-5774, no pre-reg required, \$10 per class, first class free. Moms/babies 4-8 months, 1:00-2:30pm

Other

Free Workshop – 5:00 – 6:30p.m., Jackson Federal Bank, 1101 Montana Avenue. INVEST Financial, an affiliate of Jackson Federal Bank invites you to "Set a Plan for Your Financial Future." More details in the Special Event section at the top of the calendar.

Yoga
Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga – 11:15am – 12:30pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) – 10-11am, Mommy and me (infants) 1-2pm, \$9
Yoga Works, 2215 Montana Ave, 310-393-5150, Pre/Postnatal – 12:15 – 1:45pm, \$15

SATURDAY
Storytelling
Barnes and Noble, 3rd St. Promenade – Kid's Story Time – 10am – 310-260-9110
Barnes and Noble, Westside Pavilion – 10:30am – ages 2-5 – 310-475-4144
Children's Book World, 10580 – W.

FRIDAY

"Cinderella" – 6 p.m., Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St., Admission: Adults \$12, kids 12 and under \$10
Call 310-394-9779 for info.
Magicalopolis – 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20
Call 310-451-2241 for info.

Yoga
Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga – 11:15am – 12:30pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) – 10-11am, Mommy and me (infants) 1-2pm, \$9
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Children's Book World, 10580 – W.

Pico Blvd, LA, 310-559-800K, 10:30 am, ages 3-8

Yoga

Yoga Baby (Venice) – 310-306-9381, Prenatal yoga – 7:00-8:15pm, \$13, Mommy and Me (ages 0-5) – 10-11am, \$9

Other

Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

"Cinderella" – 6 p.m., Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St., Admission: Adults \$12, kids 12 and under \$10
Call 310-394-9779 for info.

"Mary, Mary Quite Contrary" – 12:30 and 3 p.m., Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St. Admission: \$10, under 12 years \$9. Call 310-394-9779 for info.

Magicalopolis – 2 and 8 p.m., 1418 4th St., Admission is \$20 for evening, \$15 for matinee. Call 310-451-2241 for info.

July 26 - 27
Relay for Life (an American Cancer Society activity) – Opening ceremony - 9:00 a.m. Santa Monica College, Corsair Track, 1900 Pico Blvd. More details in the Special Event section at the top of the calendar.

SUNDAY

Puppetolio – 1:00 and 3:00pm, 310-656-0483, 1255 2nd St., ages 3 & up, reservations suggested

"Cinderella" – 6 p.m., Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St., Admission: Adults \$12, kids 12 and under \$10
Call 310-394-9779 for info.

"Mary, Mary Quite Contrary" – 12:30 and 3 p.m., Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St. Admission: \$10, under 12 years \$9. Call 310-394-9779 for info.

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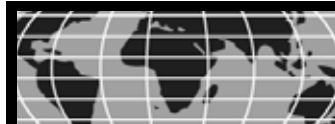
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Lynch homecoming an economic boon

By The Associated Press

ELIZABETH, W.Va. — Foodland can't keep its \$5 Jessica Lynch T-shirts in stock. Subway is adding an extra sandwich maker for the week. And lines are already forming at this town's only gas station.

Tuesday's homecoming of the former POW is providing a brief economic boom for Wirt County, which has the dubious distinction of having West Virginia's highest unemployment rate — 15.1 percent.

Hundreds of out-of-towners, many of them journalists, have brought cash, along with unprecedented traffic, to this county seat of about 1,000 for Lynch's first public comments since her wounding, capture and rescue in Iraq.

Much of the benefit has washed over to neighboring Wood County, which has the hotels closest to the Lynch celebration. Rooms in Parkersburg, about 20 miles away, are booked solid Monday night.

Lynch, still recuperating from multiple broken bones and other injuries, and family members will be flown to Elizabeth by helicopter from Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

She's scheduled to make a brief statement before traveling in a military motorcade to her home in Palestine, a town of about 300 residents some five miles away.

Lightning strikes parents in front of kids

By The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Richard and Lisa Goff and their three children were under a tree taking shelter from a storm when lightning struck, killing the couple instantly — right before the youngsters' eyes.

The children, aged 18 months to 9, suffered injuries that can be expected to heal faster than the emotional trauma.

"The kids were basically incoherent" when rescuers arrived, said Summit County Sheriff Dave Edmunds said. "They had just seen their parents killed. They were in shock."

The family took cover when a thunderstorm hit near the shore of Crystal Lake, about 60 miles east of Salt Lake City in the Uinta mountain range.

The parents, both 34, were sitting on metal chairs when the bolt came down, the woman's sister, Lori Ostler, told KUTV-TV of Salt Lake City.

For 9-year-old Dakota Goff and his sisters Makenzie, 5, and Megan, 18 months, the loss started to sink in Sunday.

"The little girl said several times that she wished her mother was there, but knew she couldn't be," said the family's clerical leader, Bishop Walter Ewell of the Westbrook

First Ward of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It wasn't clear which girl he was referring to.

Abuse victims unhappy with decision

By The Associated Press

BOSTON — Top officials in Boston's Roman Catholic Archdiocese will not face criminal charges for keeping abusive priests in church parishes, a spokesman for the attorney general said — a major blow for alleged victims who hoped church leaders would be held accountable.

Mitchell Garabedian, an attorney for more than 100 alleged abuse victims, expressed disappointment upon hearing word that a state attorney general's report to be released this week would rule out charges.

"Given the number of tragedies that have occurred by these sexual molestations and the allowance of these sexual molestations, many of my clients were hoping that there would be indictments so church leaders and individuals would be held responsible," he said.

Attorney General Thomas F. Reilly's report, based in part on an investigation by the state grand jury he convened, suggests changes to prevent future abuse but stopped short of charges, according to WBZ-TV of Boston, which cited an unidentified source who has reviewed the document.

Saddam Hussein believed to be alive

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — He's believed to be alive and probably hiding in Iraq, but Saddam Hussein is not orchestrating the daily attacks on American troops, says the top U.S. administrator in the occupied country.

L. Paul Bremer also said Americans should prepare for a long stay in Iraq.

"It's clear that, given the size of the task, we're going to be there for a while," he said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press." "I don't know how many years."

A Pentagon advisory panel suggested last week that coalition troops will need to remain in Iraq for at least two to five years to back up fledgling, postwar Iraqi police and military organizations.

Not long before Bremer made the rounds of TV talk shows, two soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division were killed Sunday in an ambush in northern Iraq. That followed the death Saturday of an American soldier who was shot while guarding a bank in Baghdad.

The deaths brought to more than 150 the number of U.S. soldiers killed in action since the March 20 start of the war.

Blair meets with new Chinese leaders

By The Associated Press

BEIJING — Prime Minister Tony Blair discussed North Korea's nuclear ambitions, rebuilding Iraq and trade in talks with China's new leaders Monday, as he focused on business instead of a crisis at home over the suicide of a military adviser.

It wasn't clear whether Blair would discuss the uproar in Hong Kong over a proposed national security law demanded by Beijing.

Britain says it has a political and moral responsibility to its former colony. But Blair could risk straining relations with China if he talks about the sensitive issue at a time when he is trying to ease tensions over the war in Iraq.

"The relationship between Britain and China has strengthened enormously over these past few years," said Blair following talks with Premier Wen Jiabao at the Great Hall of the People. He added that political ties would strengthen as they worked together "resolving some of the critical issues that face our world."

Wen said he was "very much ready to join hands to further expand our relations" and briefly mentioned Chinese-British cooperation over Hong Kong — though not its current political crisis.

Investigators reach Mt. Kenya crash site

By The Associated Press

MOUNT KENYA, Kenya — A team of Kenyan investigators reached the site Monday where a chartered aircraft slammed into Mount Kenya, killing three generations of an American family and two South African pilots, officials said.

The twin-engine Fairchild turboprop was carrying the 12 U.S. tourists to a game reserve when it hit Point Lenana, a peak of Africa's second-highest mountain, as a cloudy sky was beginning to clear before sunset Saturday, said Bongo Woodley, senior Kenya Wildlife Service warden in charge of Mount Kenya National Park.

The 21-member team of police investigators and Kenyan Wildlife Services recovery workers on Monday began sifting through the wreckage that was scattered over a large area at around 16,000 feet, said Kubai Severino, a police official. The cause of the crash was still not known.

Rangers based below the crash site reportedly found no survivors when they visited the site late Saturday but recovered eight American passports.

In Atlanta, the Rev. P.C. Ennis Jr. at Trinity Presbyterian Church, where many of the victims worshipped, said he had spent much of the day Sunday with the victims' relatives.

"They're just in total shock, as everyone in the church family is," Ennis said. "These people were the heart of Trinity Presbyterian Church as much as anybody else. They were involved in every mission, every governing decision, everything."

Bush accuses Syria, Iran of continuing to harbor terrorists

BY WILL LESTER

Associated Press Writer

CRAWFORD, Texas — President Bush on Monday said he had sent a contingent of U.S. forces to protect the American embassy and U.S. interests in the war-torn west African nation of Liberia and would work with the United Nations to help restore a cease fire.

"We're concerned about our people," Bush said.

At the same time, Bush indicated that he had not yet made up his mind on the size of a U.S. force that might be sent to help, along with a proposed force of peacekeepers from west African nations.

"We continue to monitor the situation very closely," Bush said during a joint news conference on his Texas ranch with Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi.

Bush spoke as heavy fighting engulfed the Liberian capital on Monrovia on Monday, killing at least 60 people in an all-out battle between rebels and forces of President Charles Taylor.

A shell hit an American diplomatic compound across the street from the U.S. embassy, where at least 10,000 refugees have taken refuge. Some 4,500 more American sailors and Marines have been ordered to position themselves closer to Liberia to be ready for possible duty in the embattled West African nation, U.S. officials in Washington said.

On another subject, Bush accused the governments of Syria and Iran of continuing to harbor terrorists.

"This behavior is completely unacceptable," Bush said. "States that continue to harbor terrorists will be held completely accountable."

Bush also urged allies to act under U.N. authority to help rebuild Iraq. "The more people involved in Iraq the better off we will be," he said. "A free Iraq is a crucial part of winning the war on terror."

He thanked Berlusconi for Italy's support for the U.S.-led war in Iraq.

Bush called Berlusconi a "good friend and a strong ally."

"Defending freedom requires cost and sacrifice. The United States is grateful for Italy's willingness to bear the burdens with us," Bush said.

For his part, Berlusconi talked of the importance of healing the rift between the United States and many European nations that the war caused.

"We really need to support and develop a culture of union and cohesion and certainly not nurture the culture of division," he said. "Selfishness, narcissism and division shall never win."

Italy holds the current rotating presidency of the 15-nation European Union.

Bush reiterated his view that China, South Korea and other U.S. allies need to pressure North Korea to drop its nuclear ambitions and return to the negotiating table.

"I believe we can solve this issue diplomatically by encouraging the neighborhood ... to tell Kim Jong Il that a decision to develop a nuclear arsenal is one that will alienate you from the rest of the world," he said.

North Korea told U.S. officials in early July that it had completed reprocessing 8,000 reactor fuel rods, enough weapons-grade plutonium for about five or six nuclear bombs in addition to the one or two U.S. officials believe Pyongyang may already have.

On Iraq, Bush urged allies to act under U.N. authority to help rebuild the country. "The more people involved in Iraq the better off we will be," he said. "A free Iraq is a crucial part of winning the war on terror."

Bush and Berlusconi answered reporters' questions after giving their statements.

On the increasing violence in Liberia, Bush said, "We just sent a group of troops in to protect our interests. And we're concerned about our people in Liberia. We'll continue to monitor the situation very closely."

"We're working with the United Nations to affect policy necessary to get the cease-fire back in place," he added.

He said his administration was also working with a bloc of West African nations that is preparing to send peacekeepers into Liberia.

SPORTS



No bad news as Lakers welcome Malone, Payton

BY JOHN NADEL
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — Mitch Kupchak was told he had an important telephone call, and the first words he heard were rather upsetting.

"Mitch, it's Karl. I've got good news and bad news. Which do you want first?"

After a brief silence, the Los Angeles Lakers' general manager sighed and replied: "The bad news."

"He said, 'Ha, ha, there is no bad news,'" Kupchak recalled with a smile Thursday at a news conference introducing the Lakers' free-agent signees Karl Malone and Gary Payton.

The Lakers hope that by lining up Malone and Payton with younger stars Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant, the joke will be on the rest of the NBA.

"We've got a mission," said Malone, the second-leading scorer in league history. "Anything less than a championship is going to be a disappointment for a lot of people."

"From our first preseason game, we want to crush people."

The Lakers won three straight championships before losing to eventual champion San Antonio in the Western Conference semifinals.

Malone, 40 next week, and Payton, five years younger, signed at discount prices Tuesday — minutes after the free-agent signing period officially began.

Last week, the two veterans announced plans to play with the Lakers and turn down more money elsewhere. Kupchak took nothing for granted, but it turned out he didn't have to worry.

"When we gave our word, we gave our word," Payton said. "Everybody was coming with everything. We didn't listen."

Both said they spoke with former Lakers star Magic Johnson, now a member of the team's front office, and that influenced their decisions.

"What really made me say it was OK was when Karl made his statement, that he would sign if I would sign," Payton said.

He will be paid the midlevel exception of \$4.917 million next year, while Malone gets the veteran's exception of \$1.5 million.

Both could leave after next season but made it clear that wasn't likely.

"If we can get the championship, I don't think we are going to go anywhere," Payton said. "We did this to get a championship. We've done a lot of things in our

career. To get a ring would be bigger."

Both spoke with O'Neal; neither has spoken with recently Bryant.

"From the start, Mitch was honest," Malone said. "Then I got a call from Magic. I got a call from Shaquille in maybe a couple of hours. That was it for me."

Malone then broke into a terrific impersonation of O'Neal:

"You need me, I need you. You come to L.A., we rule that world," Malone said. "That's what he told me."

Malone scored 36,374 points, an average of 25.4, during 18 seasons with the Utah Jazz. He averaged 10.2 rebounds and 3.5 assists.

Last season, he averaged 20.6 points, 7.8 rebounds and 4.7 assists.

"I have no ill feelings for the Jazz at all," said Malone, who earned \$19 million last season. "I wish them the best. When I come back to Salt Lake, I hope they're ready."

Former Lakers star Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is the career leader with 38,387 points.

"If I go out and do my job, the record will happen," Malone said. "It's kind of ironic it would happen in a Laker uniform."

It will probably take most of two seasons for Malone to break the record.

Johnson told Malone he could wear his No. 32, which the Lakers retired, and Malone had said he would. But Malone changed his mind Thursday.

"I don't think 32 should be taken out of the rafters," Malone said. He didn't say which number he will wear.

Both players said they will fit in with O'Neal and Bryant.

"This is their team. We're coming here to help," Payton said. "I'm glad to be here, I'm glad to play with this guy (Malone). I'm going to have fun."

Payton, who played 12 1/2 seasons with Seattle before being traded to Milwaukee during last season, averaged 20.4 points and 8.3 assists in 80 games with the two teams.

He has career averages of 18.3 points and 7.4 assists.

"I always wanted to play with a dominant center; now I'm playing with a dominant center," Payton said. "I'm going to be playing with a dominant forward, I'm going to be playing with a dominant '2' guard. I want to lead the league in assists."

"Karl's going to be out there running. I'm going to be like a John Stockton Jr."

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Dodger Stadium becomes homerun haven for one night

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — For one night, Dodger Stadium was a home run haven instead of a pitcher's park. Even St. Louis right-hander Woody Williams got into the act.

Williams surrendered four home runs to his first 14 batters, but hit a tiebreaking solo shot in the fourth inning as the Cardinals beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 10-7 on Sunday night.

Williams gave St. Louis a 5-4 lead with his third career homer in 293 at-bats, sending a 3-2 pitch from Odalis Perez into the left-field seats.

"I work hard on my hitting and I take pride in it," said Williams, who last homered July 1, 2002, off San Diego's Oliver Perez. "In a game like this, it makes all the difference in the world. The ball was flying early. It was a freak thing."

Rickey Henderson extended his record for leadoff home runs to 81 and Jeromy Burnitz hit two of the Dodgers season-high five homers. Albert Pujols became the fourth player to hit 100 home runs in his first three major league seasons as the teams set a record for home runs by two teams at Dodger Stadium, which opened in 1962.

The previous record was established on May 25, 1979, when Los Angeles out-homered Cincinnati 7-1.

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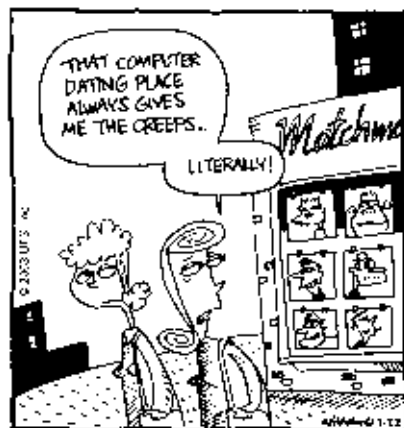
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ACROSS

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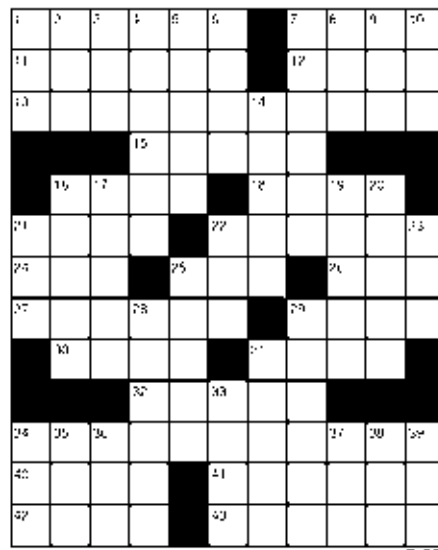
DOWN

- 1 TV's Danson
- 2 Metal source
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- 8 That lady
- 9 Work unit
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MOVING SALE: 3 bdrm house, fully furnished. All oak and pine for sale. (310)828-5310 .

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Obituaries

IN THE early morning of Sunday, July 20th, Mary Litvak passed away at the age of 91. In 1944, she and her husband Norman co-founded Santa Monica Homeopathic Pharmacy. Today, this same store, is one of the largest homeopathic pharmacies in the country. Mary's contribution to the health community and to the city of Santa Monica was enormous. Her radiant smile, her glowing skin and her tenacious spirit will be sorely missed. She is survived by her two sons, Donald and Robert Litvak and her grandchildren; Steven, Debbie, Dusty and Shira Litvak. A memorial service will be held at Mount Sinai Memorial Park, 5950 Forest Lawn Dr., LA, on Wednesday, July 23rd at 11:00am. Open ceremony, all are welcome to attend.

Classified Advertising Conditions : **REGULAR RATE:** \$2.50 a day. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. Ad must run a minimum of twelve consecutive days. **PREMIUMS:** First two words caps no charge. Bold words, italics, centered lines, etc. cost extra. Please call for rates. **TYPOS:** Check your ad the first day of publication. Sorry, we do not issue credit after an ad has run more than once. **DEADLINES:** 4:00 p.m. prior the day of publication except for Monday's paper when the deadline is Friday at 4:00 p.m. **PAYMENT:** All private party ads must be pre-paid. We accept checks, credit cards, and of course cash. **CORRESPONDENCE:** To place your ad call our offices 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (310)458-7737; send a check or money order with ad copy to The Santa Monica Daily Press, P.O. Box 1380, Santa Monica, CA 90406 or stop in at our office located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. 202. **OTHER RATES:** For information about the professional services directory or classified display ads, please call our office at (310)458-7737.

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SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

THURSDAY, JULY 22 Compiled by Natalia Aivazova

EVENTS

Write Away

Writers "share their work and write new pieces" during today's Write Away. This is perfect for those who are interested in writing, or just want to unwind and meet interesting people.

12:00p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
2601 Ocean Park Blvd.
(310) 450-0443

Summer Activity Programs

2:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.
Stories, activities and crafts for ages 3 and up.
Programs last 45 minutes.
Montana Library Branch
1704 Montana Ave., Santa Monica
(310) 829-7081

CULTURE

Chef Shares Recipes

You can enjoy a casual dinner while Kimball Jones, executive chef of Wente Vineyard, explains recipes from his new book, "The Casual Vineyard Table".
6:30 p.m. Sur La Table, 301 Wilshire Blvd.
(866) 328-5412

Santa Monica Museum of Art

Located at the Historical Bergamot Station this museum offers a variety of exhibits. Currently on display is Rosamond Purcell's "Two Rooms". This collection of photographs and installations focuses on the beauty of the most common objects "Two Rooms is Purcell's first major installation of her work in the United States. The collection showcases both historical and contemporary pieces, including a recreation of the artist's own studio.
Bergamot Station G1

If you know of an upcoming event which may be included in the calendar please send the information to calendar@smdp.com or fax it to (310) 576 9913

2525 Michigan Ave., Santa Monica
310.586.6488 fax: 310.586.6487
Tues-Sat, 11 am-6 pm. Closed Sunday, Monday, and all legal holidays
The museum is wheelchair accessible. For more information call: (310) 586-6488

ENTERTAINMENT

Club Sugar

A fun place for those who enjoy the night life. Tonight is "Two Dollar Tuesday" which means that moontribe DJs and their guests will spin breaks, techno & trance for crowds of party-goers. You can go dancing or just enjoy drinks at the bar. All persons must be 21 and over.
9:30pm - 2:00am
Admission is \$2
814 Broadway (@ Lincoln) Santa Monica, CA 90401
310.899.1989

Britannia Pub

This old style English pub has everything: food, drinks, and pool. The pub serves good old-fashioned food like potato skins, buffalo wings and shepherd's pie. But Britannia can also offer dishes like Quesadillas, flour tortilla filled with Monterey Jack cheese and chicken served with salsa and sour cream. The food is also affordable; most items are under \$10. As any good pub Britannia has a large selection of drinks, including a variety of beers. Tonight the pub also offers everybody's favorite, Karaoke! You can come and strut your stuff starting at 9:30p.m. But for those of you who just want to shoot some pool, the Britannia Pub offers pool tables at only 75 cents per game.
318 Santa Monica Blvd.
(310) 458-5350

MOVIE °GUIDE

LAEMMLE'S MONICA 4-PLEX

1332 2nd Street
Whale Rider PG-13 — 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15,
Spellbound G — 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 9:55,
I Captured the Castle — 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:40
Garage Days — 12:45, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:15
Baby Face — Sat&Sun only 11:45 a.m.

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd
Northfork PG-13 — 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
Swimming Pool R — 1:45, 4:15, 7:30, 10:00

LOEWS CINEPLEX BROADWAY CINEMAS

1441 Third Street Promenade
28 Days Later R — 11:15, 1:55, 4:35, 7:15, 10:00
Terminator 3 R — 11:00, 1:30, 4:05, 6:45, 9:25,
also: 11:45, 2:20, 5:00, 7:35, 10:15
The Italian Job PG-13 — 11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 7:05, 9:45

AMC SANTA MONICA 7

1310 Third Street Promenade
Bad Boys II R 11:30, 12:15, 2:55, 3:45, 6:25, 7:20,
9:55, 10:45, 11:30
Freaky Friday PG — 7:00p.m.
Bend It Like Beckham PG-13 — 1:00, 4:00, 7:30, 10:15
Bruce Almighty PG-13 — 7:45, 10:10
Finding Nemo G — 11:45, 2:15, 4:40, 9:35
Legally Blonde 2: Red, White, & Blonde PG-13 — 11:40, 2:20, 4:30, 7:10, 9:20
Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas PG — noon, 2:30, 5:10
How to Deal PG-13 — 11:50, 2:20, 5:00, 7:55, 10:30

MANN CRITERION 6 THEATERS

1313 Third Street Promenade
Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle PG-13 — 10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7:05, 9:40
Johnny English PG — 11:15, 1:45, 4:30, 7:10, 9:35, 11:50
The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen PG-13 — 10:30, 11:30, 1:15, 2:15, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 7:45, 9:45, 10:30, 12:20
Pirates of the Caribbean PG-13 11:45, 12:00, 3:15, 3:45, 6:45, 7:15, 10:05, 10:35



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Actor Russell Crowe and wife expecting first child

By The Associated Press

■ **SYDNEY, Australia** — “Gladiator” star Russell Crowe has a new empire to conquer: fatherhood.

The actor announced Monday that his wife, Danielle Spencer, is pregnant with their first child, which is due in January.

“Danni is 14 weeks and three days. So it is a lot of fun and she is feeling all the effects of it,” Crowe told Australia’s Channel Nine television.

The 39-year-old actor married Spencer, 32, on April 7 at his sprawling rural property of Nana Glen near the east Australian beach resort town of Coff’s Harbour. Rumors had circulated since June 11 that the couple was expecting a baby.

Crowe won a best-actor Oscar for 2000’s “Gladiator,” that year’s best-picture winner. He also starred in the Academy Award winner for best picture the following year, “A Beautiful Mind.”

■ **NEW YORK** — John le Carre, author of such classic Cold War thrillers as “The Spy Who Came In From the Cold,” is basing part of his next novel on the recent war against Iraq.

“Absolute Friends,” to be published early next year by Little, Brown and Company, is the story of rival spies during the Cold War who become “caught up in the fallout of the American war against Iraq,” according to a

recent statement from Little, Brown.

While numerous nonfiction books have come out about the U.S.-led attack, le Carre’s novel is a rare fictional take on the conflict, which the British author has criticized as “one of its (the United States’) periods of historical madness.”

Le Carre’s other books include “The Honourable Schoolboy” and “Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy.”

■ **NEW YORK** — Kate Hudson loves to shop, so naturally she’s looking forward to buying maternity clothes now that she’s pregnant.

“I’ve been waiting for this moment,” the actress tells InStyle magazine for its August issue. “I can’t wait until it’s time to find fun and stylish maternity wear. I’m actually more excited about dressing as a pregnant woman. You get to present something so completely female.”

Hudson, 24, and her husband, former Black Crowes lead singer Chris Robinson, announced in June that they’re expecting their first child. The baby is due sometime early next year.

“I can’t wait to bring a little human being onto this planet!” Hudson tells the magazine. “When it happens, it will be the most beautiful thing in the world.”

But before it happens, Hudson will co-star with Naomi Watts in “Le Divorce,” a Merchant Ivory film that opens Aug. 8 in New York and Los Angeles.

So far this year, she’s also appeared in the romantic

comedies “Alex & Emma” with Luke Wilson and “How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days” with Matthew McConaughey.

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Democratic Party stalwart Barbra Streisand will be welcoming a Republican president home.

Her husband, actor James Brolin, has been cast as Ronald Reagan in a four-hour CBS miniseries titled “The Reagans,” set to air during the November sweeps period.

The network hasn’t asked Streisand her opinion of the casting, “but we’ll have to live with that,” CBS Chairman Leslie Moonves joked Sunday in remarks to the Television Critics Association.

Brolin, who starred in the TV series “Marcus Welby, M.D.,” “Hotel” and “Pensacola: Wings of Gold,” will play Reagan as he moves from his film career to California governor to president.

Australian actress Judy Davis will play Nancy Reagan.

Asked about Brolin’s casting, Moonves said he is relying on the track record of veteran producers Craig Zadan and Neil Meron (“Chicago,” TV’s “Life with Judy Garland: Me and My Shadows.”).

“It took us a minute to digest it,” Moonves said, but “they were convinced that he was the right guy for it, and we back them.”

Last September, Streisand headlined a Hollywood gala that raised about \$6 million for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

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