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Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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42, 44, 31, 36, 35

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Jackpot: \$12 million

FANTASY 5

33, 24, 5, 18, 32

DAILY 3

Afternoon picks: 0, 8, 0

Evening picks: 7, 9, 8

DAILY DERBY

1st Place: 10, Solid Gold

2nd Place: 09, Winning Spirit

3rd Place: 12, Lucky Charms

Race Time: 1:44.18



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

by Chuck Shepard

Illinois became the latest state to propose a ban on having one's tongue aesthetically split, reptile-like (unless done by a doctor or dentist). But the move is unpopular among devotees. "When I first saw it, I thought tongue-splitting was the most beautiful thing I've seen in my life," said satisfied splittee James Keen, who spoke to an Associated Press reporter, who observed that Keen "now speaks with a slight lisp." Said another splittee, who said he could now do party tricks like picking up a pencil with the two halves, "It's done to better yourself."

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It's alright letting yourself go as long as you can let yourself back."

— Mick Jagger

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MARKET CARNAGE



Associated Press

A body lies in front of the Buick Le Sabre driven by Santa Monica resident Russell Weller, 86, who plowed through the farmer's market on Arizona Avenue near the Third Street Promenade. The car came to a stop after a person hit the windshield.

Nine dead, dozens injured as car plows into shoppers

BY JOHN WOOD

Daily Press Staff Writer

At least nine people died and dozens were injured Wednesday afternoon when an elderly man drove through a crowded farmer's market in downtown Santa Monica.

The driver has been identified as Russell Weller, 86, of Santa Monica.

One of the dead was a 3-year-old girl, whose mother shrieked as emergency workers struggled to save her daughter's life.

"My baby!" she cried, shaking her head, putting her hands to her face. "My baby!"

Finally, unsuccessful, the workers laid a yellow tarp over the young girl's body. Police con-

soled the mother, who huddled in a nearby doorway, as officials helped the other victims.

In addition to the child, the dead included five women and two men, said Los Angeles Coroner's official Juan Jimenez. The ninth victim's gender was unknown at press time. Fifteen people were in critical condition Wednesday night and close to 40 were treated at area hospitals for light and moderate injuries, officials said.

At 1:47 p.m., Weller drove his 1992 Buick through a crowded portion of Arizona Avenue that was roped off for the twice-weekly market, which attracts thousands. It is unknown why Weller drove through the

See related story on page 3.

See MARKET, page 5

Chaos, eerie rainstorm descend on downtown

BY JASON AUSLANDER

Daily Press Staff Writer

In a matter of seconds early Wednesday afternoon, downtown Santa Monica was transformed into a dark, eerie and unrecognizable place.

Chaos reigned along Arizona Avenue as by-standers rushed to help the wounded, sirens blared the arrival of emergency personnel and hordes of news helicopters began a buzzing vigil in the skies above that would last until after nightfall.

Then, as the dead were covered and the depth of the tragedy started to sink in, the skies suddenly opened and a rare summer downpour added another layer of sorrow that

See SCENE, page 6

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HOROSCOPE

Be playful tonight, Scorpio



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, July 17, 2003:

You'll express unusual charm and talent this year if you don't hold yourself back. Grab an opportunity to travel and perhaps see new vistas. If you want or feel the need, schedule a seminar or two, or take a special class. You will want to keep your mind active and increase your expertise in your chosen field. Avoid participating in office gossip. Know what you want. Funds flourish through early fall. Your communication style warms up in 2004, adding to your relating skills. If you are single, others clearly are attracted to you. After summer, the possibilities to meet "the one" increase. You might meet this person traveling or in a place involving some type of higher learning. If you are attached, your relationship will flourish. Schedule a trip together. Develop a new hobby together. PISCES reads you cold.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Though you continue to choose to do more behind the scenes, you still might have your hands full. Your actions draw strong applause from those who count. Events might force you to reschedule an especially fun happening. Tonight: Make yourself No. 1.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ With the support of your associates, you have what it takes to hit a home run. Your perspective helps someone you care about relax. Use your given charm, and many will respond positively. Do be careful with a loved one. Tonight: Is someone jealous?

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Take charge right now. You need to head down a new path, and you have the command and self-discipline to do just that. You'll come out on top with a possible financial gain if you use an inborn talent. A partner could be touchy. Tonight: A must appearance.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Reach out to those at a distance, making sure others understand where you're coming from. You'll gain much more insight if you listen to the perspective of someone close. Pace yourself. Your energy could be limited. Tonight: Wind down slowly.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ You might not be sure of what others want. Stop and listen. Avoid a tendency to take things personally. Work with a trusted associate, and you'll gain the type of results you want. Creativity flourishes but could get you in trouble. Tonight: Work as a team.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Be smart; let someone else make the first move. You understand what few do. Sometimes the smartest action is no action at all. Be ready to make a change in your life's direction. Exchange different points of view. Tonight: Avoid a very difficult person.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ You might not feel as if you have enough energy to meet a problem. Stop and consider what you might need to eliminate. A boss appreciates your efforts and lets you know it. Realize that you have the support you require right now. Tonight: Put your feet up. Veg out.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Dig into your magic bag of tricks. Now that's more like it! Recognize an obstacle when you see it. Understand what you cannot change. Accept an invitation that might involve some travel and breaking new ground. Tonight: Ever playful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Your mood could impact nearly whatever you do right now. Please note a partner's or associate's efforts to indulge you. If you need to make a life change, stop snarling about it and just do it. Don't push a family member. Tonight: Do some self-accounting.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Recognize what must be done and don't veer off course. Though you might have a clear understanding of what someone needs, you could have a harsh manner of communicating that fact. Stop and think about what is going on here. Tonight: Favorite spot, favorite people.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Cut spending, even if you think you have funds coming in. A tendency to be bit overindulgent could take a toll on you. Revise your thinking with the help of a friend or trusted associate. Recognize your limits here. Tonight: Pay bills.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ A new relationship builds. A present bond becomes far warmer. A flirtation could develop into more. Keep your eye on the relationship picture today, but at the same time, don't blow off work. Do what you must. Tonight: Don't get into a tug of war with a "friend or associate."

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LOCAL



John Wood/Daily Press

Emergency workers carry a victim to the triage area Wednesday after the tragedy struck the Farmer's Market.

Emergency workers respond

In one of the largest tragedies in city's history, response teams establish plan quickly

By CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

More than 300 emergency workers from nearly a dozen agencies responded to Wednesday's tragic scene at the Farmer's Market on the Third Street Promenade where at least nine people died and dozens were injured.

The Santa Monica Police and Fire departments arrived on scene first, along

with countless civilians who began treating the injured and helping emergency workers separate the most critical cases from those who had minor injuries.

Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts Jr. said his department immediately deployed 45 people to respond to a call that an elderly man had plowed through two blocks of a crowded farmer's market in downtown Santa Monica with his car.

Police began interviewing witnesses to determine what had occurred and to find a suspect, if there was one.

"We start it as a criminal matter, then

See RESPONSE, page 7

Folk music on tap at SM Pier

By Daily Press staff

Tonight's free concert at the Santa Monica Pier will feature Australian folk pop, traditional and acoustic music.

The surprise hit of last year's folk festivals, the WaiFS are a folk act that play acoustic songs and tight harmonies.

The trio is comprised of sisters Vicki and Donna Simpson and Josh Cunningham. All three are primarily self-taught singers and guitarists who have managed themselves independently for more than 10 years.

The music is about living and loving,

accented with close harmonies. The trio has released four albums including, "Up at Night," in 2002, "The WaiFS," "Shelter Me" and "Sink or Swim."

The show will open with Laurie Lewis who is a fiddler/guitarist/bassist/singer/songwriter, who performs traditional acoustic music that includes bluegrass, country and folk.

Lewis is a Grammy-nominated artist who recently published "Earth and Sky: the Laurie Lewis Songbook."

The concert runs from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on the parking deck of the pier as part of the Twilight Dance Series.

surf report

Weak and steeply angled NW wind swell will mix with minor background SW swell on Thursday. Northern LA spots see 2'-3' waves at most spots. South bay spots see the wind swell primarily for 2'-3' surf at many breaks and chest high sets at best spots.

Today the water is:

74°

Sunrise: 5:50 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	3:23	-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

Three years ago, an effort to relocate Santa Monica's largest homeless services provider was thwarted by resident objections.

Now, officials at Ocean Park Community Center have announced plans to buy a building at the intersection of Cloverfield Boulevard and Michigan Avenue. If all goes according to plan, the \$5 million building would undergo a \$4 million renovation and be ready for use in one year once the escrow period ends in about three months.

OPCC — which has a \$7 million annual budget — currently rents space from the city in the Big Blue Bus building, located at 612 Colorado Ave. It must move because the bus operation needs more space.

OPCC officials said last week that they plan to meet with neighbors and include them in discussions about the property, where plans call for beds for 55 people and daytime services for as many as 250.

So this week Q-Line wants to know: "Is Cloverfield Boulevard and Michigan Avenue an appropriate location for the city's largest homeless services provider? Why or why not? If not, where else should it go?"

Call (310) 285-8106 before Thursday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your response in Friday'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

The cement conspiracy

Editor:

Hello. I've never written to a paper before, but this one's pretty cool and let's face it, I am your local and you are my paper. So why not write a letter to the "newspaper with issues" and say: HERE'S MINE!

Cement.

Can you please tell me if anyone on the Santa Monica Board of Whoever Gets To Spend Our Money owns a cement factory, because the city seems to be spreading it on a little thick lately and I know you know what I mean.

It all started with those stupid roundabouts. I thought the city put those in to make all the British tourists feel more at home. They can't possibly serve any other purpose except perhaps to irritate me. Thanks a lot Santa Monica, let me just drive around this obstacle you have made for me. What was the problem with the stop sign that was there before? Why are you making circles in places where there are lines? I shouldn't have to turn to go straight and if I had a truck I'd be one of those people who runs over them like the little cement bitches that they are. But I abide by the rules of the road so around the roundabouts I turn and such is life.

But then all of the sudden, they're putting two wheelchair ramps on every corner of every intersection. What? Were there little wheelchair traffic jams all over the city and I missed them? And then of course they started to just make the corners bigger. They just started to extend the corners out into the street. What, they weren't cornery enough before? What could the purpose of that possibly be except to simply use cement?

And now The Cement Conspiracy is putting those damned islands in the middle of Wilshire and Santa Monica boulevards. I'm talking about our tax dollars paying for needless obstacles on major thoroughfares. What is that about? Why are they putting cement things in the middle of the street that was just fine? I don't understand. It makes absolutely no sense to me. Someone is going to lose their life because of one of those islands and you and I will have paid for it.

The city of Santa Monica is so broke they have to raise the price of parking tickets (again), but somehow there's always money for cement. We're cutting funding to education and social services but it's OK because we're tearing up the streets in the middle of the day so that we can erect little life-threatening altars to appease the terrible bloodlust of Curb, the god of concrete.

And then of course there's the painfully obvious fact that, when used in this manner, the natural by-products of cement are more traffic and everybody's favorite, moving violations. Cement breeds tickets. More concrete obstacles in the road means there's more of a chance of us getting in a crash or getting busted for no reason, which increases the money the city gets for tickets, which is then spent on concrete that is

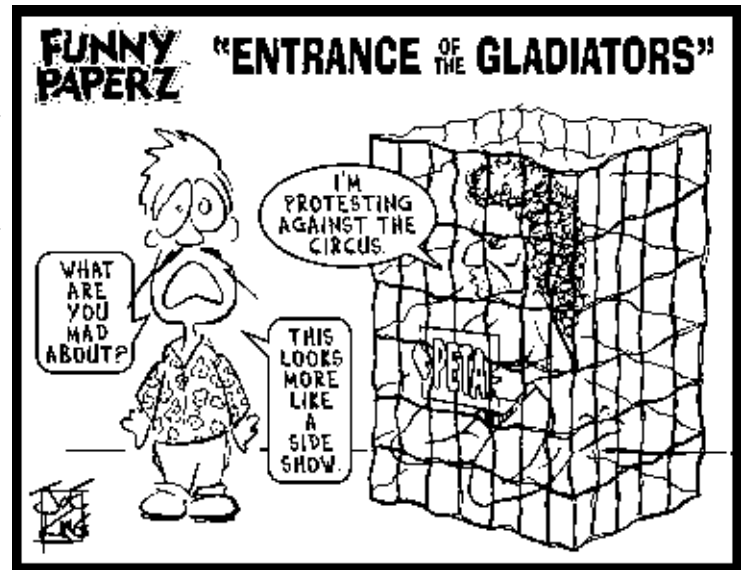
then used to build more accidents waiting to happen ... and so on.

Does someone in city planning happen to own a cement company? Or is this some council person's dirty gray fetish? Or are there perhaps more sinister forces at work here?

Personally, I can't help thinking it is the work of The Devil every time I have to go around a roundabout, or swerve to miss a concrete island in the middle of the street, but thanks for all those ramps at every corner or every intersection! They've made all the difference in the world! Now there are no more lines of people waiting to cross the street! The system works.

And it's all thanks to cement, which is just one of the many issues that I have and look forward to sharing with you.

Morgan Bennett
Santa Monica



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Gaining wisdom from far below the mountaintop



TITTINGER'S TAKE

By Michael J. Tittinger

Lying prostrate on the concrete in the throes of heat exhaustion, one tends to have a revelation or two.

One, a healthy portion of Miller Genuine Draft pounders, a piece of rapidly melting carrot cake and more Marlboro Lights than you can shake a cereal spoon at did not contain any of the nine essential vitamins and minerals touted on my box of Honey Bunches of Oats in the back of my cupboard.

Two, exhibiting a few choice semi-conscious convulsions, speaking out of general delirium and attracting half the security staff in the middle of the line for admittance to Six Flags Magic Mountain is probably not the best way to impress a date.

Three, I am not 18 anymore.

The third point was driven home with a thud last Friday, when the knees buckled and the water bottle I was holding (not drinking) rolled down the pavement before I could even get to a single "You must be this tall to ride this ride" sign inside the park. Barely made it out of the parking lot. No, it didn't help that ther-

mometers up in Valencia were topping out in the triple digits. Nor did it help that I drank no water, no juice, no milk with my cereal that I skipped the morning we hit the 405 towards the 5 towards the magic Mountain Parkway.

Note to self: I live in a desert.

Recently emerging from a long-term relationship, and long-term breakup, it seemed an appropriate time to kick back and have a little fun for awhile. At 32, I was enjoying myself again, even if it killed me. I was dating a college student. I was drinking beer for breakfast. I was blowing off the working world to ride roller coasters. Call it a third-life crisis if you like.

But somebody forgot to tell me the rules had changed. I was playing and partying like I was 22. My body was giving me the impression that I was 52, sprawled out on the pavement like a sun-dried tomato.

Yeah, I've heard the warnings for years, even edited stories for various newspapers, about the dangers of heat exposure, dehydration, heat stroke. Yadda, yadda, yadda. That was advice for my grandfather, or my father, or at most, an aging aunt, not me. I take care of myself, running a few times a week, working out and playing full-court basketball. I'll grab a Gatorade later. The heat ain't getting' me.

On Friday, it got me.

I've unwittingly entered the age group where there must be greater thought put into my diet. A group where liquids must be drunk throughout the day, especially the hot summer months — before workouts, in the morning, in the evening. A group where we dress for the weather and not the object of our affection (how else to explain the choice of a wool baseball cap on a 100-degree day?).

Hell, I'm feeling like I might as well get my prostate checked while I'm at it.

But that's OK. I'm not 18 anymore and that's fine. I take heart recalling a line my brother Brian used, most likely in jest, when he turned 35 and people were asking him if he got hung up about birthdays and accelerating ages.

"Hey, I've done 34, let's do 35!"

Still, I'm not sure I like what I'm seeing, staring down the barrel of 33 next month. I thought wisdom was supposed to accompany age. I felt very stupid and naive last Friday.

"Hey, I run. I work out. I take care of myself, but I'm not gonna stop smoking or anything," a friend told me this week, after I had relayed my amusing-from-afar stop at the amusement park. "Maybe 35 is the age when you start thinking about that stuff."

"I think it might be 32," I responded.

But, in reality, it's well before that. I should have known better. We do know better, yet we still need to be reminded

from time to time that life is a journey and it's best to be prepared, for we know not where that journey will lead.

Determined, and more than likely, a little embarrassed, I was determined to get back onto my feet and back into that amusement park last Friday. After being evacuated by my date to a nearby El Torito restaurant, I sat back in the air-conditioned lounge and guzzled pitcher after pitcher of water. My body couldn't absorb it fast enough, but in the end I toughed it out and made it back for some jaunts on Goliath, Colossus, Riddler's Revenge and the like. By the end of the day I think I had more energy than my younger friend did.

I wasn't gonna let the heat beat me, but there's no guarantees it won't next time if I don't see fit to take care of myself.

Note to self: Don't let there be a next time.

Sometimes life's lessons are indirect and undetectable, sometimes they pull the pavement right out from underneath of you. No one said gaining wisdom was sitting on a mountaintop. Now with some time to reflect and remove myself from that perilous day at the park, I can feel fine about my age and my health, for now I am smarter as well.

Hey, I've done 32. Let's do 33!

(Mike Tittinger is a freelance writer living in Santa Monica. E-mail him at TooRoam@aol.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.

LOCAL



Priest gives last rites to dying

MARKET, from page 1

crowd, however there has been speculation that he may have blacked out or lost control of his vehicle.

"He just kept going, kept going," said Abraham Tachjian, a visitor from Montreal who was standing in front of Wells Fargo Bank on Arizona Avenue as Weller's car sped past. "It was like a plow, people were flying everywhere."

Weller drove west on Arizona Avenue where it crosses Fourth Street, through the market barricades and down the center of the street before stopping west of the intersection with Second Street.

"It is the single most devastating accident scene I have ever seen in over 30 years on the force," said Santa Monica Police Department Chief James T. Butts, Jr. "The vehicle finally came to a rest after a pedestrian was flown through the air, landing on the windshield, cracking it."

Police did not say how fast Weller was driving. Witnesses estimated his speed at anywhere from 40 to 70 miles per hour.

"I thought an airplane was crashing," said Helen Kohamin, who was shopping at the market when Weller drove past. "Things were flying everywhere and people were screaming. I've never seen anything like this in my life. If I die tomorrow, I'll just be thankful I made it through today."

While police didn't identify the driver, the man's neighbors identified him as Weller, one of the car's registered owners in the Department of Motor Vehicle records.

Chief Butts said Weller told investigators he tried to stop but may have hit the gas instead of the brake.

Weller was taken into custody, questioned and released. Police said he was not intoxicated at the time of the event and they are deciding whether to pursue criminal charges. Though Weller does possess a valid driver's license, Chief Butts said investigators are also examining his ability to drive.

Weller, who declined comment, was not seriously injured in the crash.

Bob Moini, who owns Dee's Diner on Santa Monica Boulevard, said Weller was a regular in his coffee shop. Moini said Weller came in for a meal every couple of weeks and liked to tell stories.

"He was very pleasant," he said. "He was a very positive person. I get shocked



Associated Press
The mother of the 3-year-old girl who died after a car drove through the Farmer's Market weeps as a police officer attempts to comfort her.

when I see his picture."

Herb Roney, chair of the board of trustees at Santa Monica College, has for 35 years lived two doors down from Weller and his wife on the 600 block of 25th Street. He described Weller as an interesting and caring man who, despite a hip replacement a few years ago, seemed in excellent health.

"Russ is articulate, very bright," said Roney, who added that Weller retired decades ago from a career as a wholesale grocer. "He's the kind of person you would want for a neighbor."

"All I know is the man and the family are beautiful people," he added. "They are the kind of people that you would want to live next to you."

Shocked witnesses described the scene as total chaos.

Penny Tremper, a worker at Jojoba Farmer in San Luis Obispo, said she could see both of Weller's hands on the steering wheel as he drove by.

"People were being dragged under his car," she said. "You could see the body parts dangling out. The whole thing was like a scene out of 'Dante's Inferno.' I first heard an explosion and then I saw a body fly up in the air."

Thousands of onlookers gathered as hundreds of emergency workers set up a makeshift medical sta-

tion and pulled victims from the more than two blocks of destruction.

Some of the witnesses pitched in to help carry the injured to the triage area and others sat with the injured while they were treated by emergency workers.

Minutes after the accident, rain clouds moved in and drenched downtown with a heavy downpour. Within two hours, the clouds retreated and the sun emerged.

Father Maurice Chase, 84, known as "Father Dollar" for giving dollars to homeless people throughout LA, happened to be passing by and ended up reading last rites to many of the dead.

"I've seen all kinds of crazy things as a priest throughout my lifetime, but none could compare to this," he said. "This was horrendous. When I was blessing the bodies, I saw all kinds of things out there. It was difficult for me. It's as if I lost my own children. The only thing I could do was console and bless them."

"I always come through here before I go to the park and I guess I wish I hadn't come through today," he added. "All I heard was 'Thud! Thud! Thud!' and that was it."

(Daily Press Staff Writer Patrick Kinmartin and The Associated Press contributed to this report.)

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Dennis C. Hardin, M.F.T., Ph.D., is a licensed psychotherapist and marriage counselor specializing in personal growth and goal achievement. He is the author of THE ETHICS OF PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT. He has also been certified by the Albert Ellis Institute in the techniques of rational-emotive behavioral therapy. His specialty is developing self-help methods which enable clients to retake control of their lives and remake their own destiny.

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Witnesses help treat victims during chaos

SCENE, from page 1

seemed to magnify the pall of the afternoon.

The combination of noise from the sirens, people shouting and helicopters above was nearly deafening.

Some witnesses to the carnage were shaking, crying and swearing while others were in shock and couldn't speak at all.

Fourth and Arizona.

The carnage began at 1:47 p.m., less than 15 minutes before the market was scheduled to close.

"It was like a storm coming through," said Charity Culpert, information director at the Farmers Market. "I had to dive away. Stuff was flying

"We lost her vitals. Her eyes weren't responsive. When her eyes went stone cold, she was still squeezing my hand."

— **ROB PIUBENI**
Santa Monica resident

All along Arizona, from Fourth Street where the elderly man first entered the twice-weekly farmer's market to west of Second Street where the battered 1992 Buick Le Sabre finally came to rest, was littered with debris. A mangled baby stroller lay near the car, while behind it stood a wide trough of destruction that included smashed fruit, crushed bouquets of flowers, bloody gloves and towels, splintered wooden tables and green and white tents blasted askew.

Downtown Santa Monica ground to a standstill as the area was cordoned off with yellow police tape and crowds formed around the periphery.

Police officers attempted to interview dazed witnesses and spray-paint circles around pieces of evidence — from car parts to body parts — strewn along the speeding car's path.

A Red Cross helicopter swooped between buildings ferrying the most critically ill to area hospitals. Witnesses and onlookers near the makeshift triage area at Fourth and Arizona seemed to be moving in slow-motion while a hurricane of action swirled around them.

Members of the city's clergy were on scene too, blessing the wounded and administering last rites to the dead.

Santa Monica officials, including Mayor Richard Bloom, City Manager Susan McCarthy and City Attorney Marsha Moutrie, watched the scene with the rest of the awed crowd at

everywhere.

"I thought for sure the car was going to hit me. I dove over a table at the last second and to this second, I have been thanking God I'm still alive."

Said Karen Hernandez, a shopper at the market, "I was standing there and all of a sudden a fruit stand came flying at me. I was like 'What the (f---)!?' And the next thing I know I am in this pile of people on top of each other. As I got up, I saw a fatality just a few feet away. My son hurt his head, but thankfully it looks like he'll be OK."

"It's good to know he's alive because a lot of other people can't say that about their loved ones out here."

Cayman Hernandez-Slis, 10, Karen's son, was shaken up.

"Things were flying everywhere," he said. "I still don't know what I was hit by."

Rob Piubeni, an advertising account manager at the Daily Press and a trained emergency medical technician, arrived on the scene minutes after the accident occurred.

"The first thing I saw was a DOA," he said.

Piubeni began performing triage on three or four of the victims. Then he discovered a woman in her late 30s or early 40s who was lying between Third and Second streets with severe head injuries, bleeding from her eyes and ears, with brain matter in her mouth and her legs folded underneath her.

After he was able to clear the woman's airway, a paramedic met up with



A police detective looks over a dead body at the scene.

Associated Press

him. Together, they moved her to the triage area and Piubeni continued to hold her hand and talk to her.

However, the woman died.

"We lost her vitals. Her eyes weren't responsive," he said later, glancing at his bloodstained pants. "When her eyes went stone cold, she was still squeezing my hand."

Joe Legler of the Winchester Cheese Co., a regular merchant at the market, was also affected by the accident.

"I'm quite upset right now," he said. "This is the worst disaster in the area I can think of in 20 or 30 years. What can I compare it to? I don't know right now."

Jorge Uranga, who works in the building across from where the car came to rest couldn't believe the scene either.

"I had just come in from lunch and someone told me there was something serious happening outside," he said. "To me it seemed impossible. I was out there five minutes before and everyone was having a good time."

Two hours after the tragedy, the clouds drifted away and the sun came out again. But many who happened to be in downtown Santa Monica on Wednesday afternoon barely noticed.

(Daily Press Staff Writer Patrick Kinmartin contributed to this report.)



John Wood/Daily Press

ABOVE: Civilians assist local police and community service officers carrying a victim to the triage area near Fourth Street and Arizona Avenue.

BELOW: A police detective talks to a witness with the carnage in the back.



LOCAL



Carolyn Sackaraison/Daily Press

Santa Monica Police Chief James T. Butts Jr. is swarmed by media during a press conference Wednesday afternoon.

Emergency workers will be provided with counseling

RESPONSE, from page 3

make a determination," Butts said. "Police response is immediate and designed to stabilize the situation."

Santa Monica Fire Department personnel, who are responsible for treating the wounded, immediately began assessing the situation through triage and working with civilians on the scene.

Fire departments have certain procedures set up for specific emergency situations in order to respond most efficiently. Wednesday's scene was classified as a "Multi-Casualty Incident" and all units of the SMFD responded to the scene within minutes.

Because of the enormity of the situation, emergency personnel realized that many more resources were needed and began calling outside agencies to help.

"We have a saying in the fire department, 'If you do it strong, you'll never be wrong,'" said SMFD Chief Ettore Berardinelli.

At least two helicopters were brought into the downtown area to transport victims to six different hospitals.

Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center Hospital spokesman Ted Braun received 12 of the victims including one critically injured infant, three seriously injured adults and eight people with minor injuries.

The Red Cross can also be called at (310) 394-3773 for information relating to the victims.

"It was unending carnage, it didn't end," Berardinelli said. "The further you walked, the more you saw."

Emergency workers immediately began assessing victims' injuries, tagged them, moved them to the treatment area and set up teams to handle their treatment.

"As the event becomes more clear, you can respond," Berardinelli said. "With a scene like this, organization is the key to success ...

"An incident like this you practice for but the real thing is never quite the same," he added. "But they just went to work and did a great job. I believe our personnel did every-

thing they could to save people's lives."

The American Red Cross was on scene within a matter of minutes to provide support. A feeding station for victims, police and fire crews and relatives of victims was set up almost immediately, according to John Pacheco, interim executive director American Red Cross in Santa Monica.

"It was the worst event I've seen in my 31 years."

— ETTORE BERARDINELLI
SMFD chief

Personnel from the Red Cross handled the thousands of phone calls from people seeking information about the situation. They'll set up a Bloodmobile today to replenish blood supplies that were used to treat people on Wednesday. Pacheco didn't know where that would be but said people who want to donate blood can call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE to find out where the Bloodmobile will be.

By most emergency workers' accounts, they have never responded to a scene as tragic or as enormous as what occurred on Wednesday.

"It was the worst event I've seen in my 31 years," Berardinelli said. "It was terrible, there are no other words to describe it."

Chief Butts agreed. "This is the worst thing I've seen in my 30 years of law enforcement," he said, adding that the severity of the scene hit home when he saw the body of a toddler lying in the street. "Seeing the 3-year-old was just devastating to me."

Police and fire personnel were debriefed Wednesday night and multiple mental health counselors will be on hand to help them with their own grief from what they encountered.

"Nothing like this has happened before," Berardinelli said. "We will have professional help for anyone who needs it."

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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 email: tracey.mayer@cancer.org

Relay For Life
A Team Event to Fight Cancer

NATIONAL

Residents face mess Hurricane Claudette left behind

BY MARK BABINECK
Associated Press Writer

VICTORIA, Texas — The rainy, windy weather system left over from Hurricane Claudette hurried across South Texas into Mexico on Wednesday after spreading damage along the coast and killing two people.

Roofs were peeled away, trailers were flattened, building facades collapsed and gas station canopies were twisted along the path the storm followed from its landfall on the Gulf Coast, the first hurricane to hit Texas in four years.

Claudette arrived Tuesday as a Category 1 hurricane with maximum sustained wind of 85 mph. By Wednesday morning, it had been downgraded to a tropical depression, with sustained wind speed down to 30 mph. Radar showed it roughly centered along the border in the Del Rio area.

American Red Cross workers were assessing the damage along the 261 miles of affected coastline, spokeswoman Suzanne Hogan said Wednesday.

"Today is going to reveal a much better picture of what disaster assistance will be needed," Hogan said in Port Lavaca.

Gov. Rick Perry signed a disaster relief proclamation to help speed state and federal response and authorized the National Guard to help with recovery. He also asked President Bush for a federal disaster declaration for 15 counties.

Despite warnings that tropical storm tracks are hard to pinpoint in advance, Claudette caught many Texans off-guard with its changing speed and direction. As late as Sunday, the National Hurricane Center had said landfall was along the Texas-Mexico border. Then, as it turned and headed toward the Port O'Connor and Matagorda Bay area about 210 miles up the coast, meteorologists said it was likely to hit land late Tuesday. Instead, the eye crossed the coast around midday Tuesday.

Residents and vacationers complained forecasters didn't allow enough time to prepare.

In Victoria, Bertha Ramirez said her 74-year-old aunt might not have known to batten down the hatches by

"Today is going to reveal a much better picture of what disaster assistance will be needed."

— SUZANNE HOGAN
American Red Cross spokesperson

midday had she not called her earlier in the morning to warn that the storm had unexpectedly accelerated and was headed toward the city 40 miles inland from Port O'Connor.

"She didn't think it was coming until this evening," said Ramirez, who listened to Claudette howl and wail outside the generator-powered Target store where she worked.

"It's called the unpredictability of tropical storms," said Gene Hafele, a Houston-based National Weather

Service meteorologist.

The storm dumped several inches of rain, flooding some low-lying areas, and wind gusted to nearly 100 mph.

In Jourdanton, about 35 miles south of San Antonio, 13-year-old Clayton Dojahn was killed when a mesquite tree fell on him in his front yard, police said. A 33-year-old woman was killed in Victoria by a falling tree limb, authorities said.

Claudette also toppled radio and television towers in Victoria, knocking stations off the air.

Stacy Martin, a dispatcher with the Karnes County sheriff's office, said Claudette continued damaging shingles and downing power lines as it pushed inland through the area south of San Antonio.

"We've had a small twister in Kenedy, but it just knocked down a couple of buildings. There's no injuries to report of so far," Martin said.

Claudette's wind and punishing tides likely caused severe beach erosion along the coast. The first row of beach houses in Galveston and Brazoria counties could face condemnation if the state's General Land Office decides they intrude on beaches newly narrowed by Claudette.

Injured hiker kills himself in despair

By The Associated Press

CRIPPLE CREEK, Colo. — A man whose body was found in a 24-foot-deep mine shaft near Mount Pisgah last week apparently was injured in a fall and committed suicide rather than wait for rescue or death, Teller County authorities said.

A hiker found the body of Lance Rezac, 46, on July 6. An autopsy concluded he died of a gunshot wound sometime last fall.

Rezac's mother, Donna Rezac of

Monument, said authorities might never know how long her son waited for help to come.

She said authorities found a broken rope and believe her son was trying to rappel into the shaft when the rope broke. He fell to the bottom and broke several ribs.

"It would be awful to think of someone just suffering down there," Donna Rezac said Tuesday.

Teller County Undersheriff Marcus Woodward said the coroner was unable to determine how long

Rezac was in the shaft before he shot himself with a .32-caliber pistol.

But he said it was unlikely that Rezac could have survived long. No water bottles were found with him.

It also was unlikely that other hikers would have passed by the shaft, about three-quarters of a mile from a county road.

"It was well off the beaten path," Woodward said.

Donna Rezac said her son had always loved to hike alone in the woods.

SANTA MONICA SCENE °CALENDAR EDITION

THURSDAY, 17, 2003

EVENTS

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The Santa Monica public library offers a crafts programs for 6th-12th graders. Kids can interact, while learning something new. 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sign-ups required.

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CULTURE

G-nome Opens

Brooklyn-born playwright Murry Mednick stars in his new play "G-nome", a fictionalized autobiography about an elderly writer looking back on the difficulties of his life. Mednick, two Rockefeller Foundation grants, a Guggenheim Fellowship and an Obie Award has previously written powerfully and prolifically about the American Jewish experience in the 20th century. Thu.-Sat. 8 p.m. Sun. 3p.m. The Powerhouse Theatre 3116 Second St. (310) 396-3680

Bruce McNall: Fun While it Lasted

Listen to coin collector, mogul and now author Bruce McNall talk about his new book "Fun While it " as he describes his jet-setting lifestyle, and his fall from grace when imprisoned for defrauding investors. 7:30p.m.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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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,

Banged Up — 11:45 (a.m.)

I Captured the Castle — 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:40

The Housekeeper — 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:25

LANDMARK NU-WILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd

Northfork PG-13 — 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

Winged Migration G — 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:45

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, 10:20

The Hulk PG-13 — 11:35, 2:50, 6:05, 9:15

AMC SANTA MONICA 7

1310 Third Street Promenade

Bend It Like Beckham PG-13 — 2:00, 4:40, 7:25, 10:05

Bruce Almighty PG-13 — 11:55, 2:10, 4:35, 7:05, 9:55

Finding Nemo G — 12:05, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 9:55

Legally Blonde 2: Red, White, & Blonde PG-13 —

11:30, 12:10, 2:00, 2:45, 4:30, 5:15, 7:00, 7:45, 10:10

Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas PG — 11:35,

12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 9:35

Washington Heights R — 11:50, 2:05, 4:20, 7:10, 9:30

MANN CRITERION 6 THEATERS

1313 Third Street Promenade

Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle PG-13 — 10:45, 1:30,

4:15, 5:00, 7:05, 8:30, 9:40,

The Italian Job PG-13 — 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:30,

10:15

The League of Extraordinary Gentleman 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

NATIONAL



Teen survives plunge down two waterfalls in Washington

By The Associated Press

LONGVIEW, Wash. — Jacob Brown tried jumping a 3-foot gap on a trail along the Muddy River near Mount St. Helens. Next thing he knew, he was in cold, fast-moving water that sent him over a 65-foot waterfall, and then over a 25-foot drop.

"I really should have died," said Brown, 19, of Springfield, Ore., from his bed at Legacy Emanuel Hospital in Portland, Ore. "I think it was my gymnastics training that saved me because I'm really limber. That's what saved me, knowing how to roll."

Five people have died along Lava Canyon trail since 1995. Scoured clean by the eruption of Mount St. Helens in 1980, the canyon offers the hazardous combination of slick rock and swift water.

Brown's misstep occurred as he hiked with his brother Toby, 16, and five friends and co-workers from a gymnastics club in Eugene, Ore.

The group was taking an early afternoon break when Brown decided to venture upstream, said Kennedy Fung, Brown's boss at the club.

The jump over a little stretch of water looked like a snap. But something went wrong.

Brown likely landed on basalt, slick from river spray, and went tumbling into the river. He looked for something to grab onto, but there was nothing but rushing water and smooth rocks.

Brown says he didn't have time to be scared.

"I just remember thinking, 'Here I go,' then whack, whack, whack," he said. "It was

like real time stopped. While I was falling, it was sort of like a dream. It was surreal."

He plunged down two waterfalls — a total of about 90 feet — his back slamming into rocks and outcroppings before he landed in a shallow pool and pulled himself onto a rock in the river.

"It was like real time stopped. While I was falling, it was sort of like a dream. It was surreal."

— JACOB BROWN
Victim

He had two cuts on his head, an aching back — magnetic resonance imaging later revealed a small chip in his spine — and a broken ankle.

At first, the other hikers thought Toby Brown was joking when he told them he'd seen his brother swept past.

Then, "I feared the worst," Fung said. "I've seen how tall this waterfall is."

He rushed to look over the falls and saw Brown pull himself onto the rock.

"I realized, thank God, it wasn't his time," Fung said.

Fifteen minutes later, two members of the group had climbed down to the pool and helped Brown to shore. But it took five hours to summon an Army rescue helicopter from Fort Lewis, which airlifted Brown to medical care.

Thousands evacuated in Arizona, Colorado park closed

BY SARA THORSON
Associated Press Writer

WHITERIVER, Ariz. — Firefighters made advances Wednesday on one side of a forest fire that has forced as many as 5,000 people from their homes, but wind and lightning could threaten their progress.

The fire on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation was 10 percent contained after blackening 14,000 to 16,000 acres and leading to several thousand evacuations in Whiteriver and other reservation communities in eastern Arizona.

"We're not doing as well as we'd like to but we're doing OK," said Larry Humphrey, commander of the firefighting team.

Crews made headway on the side of the wildfire closest to the evacuated communities and were evaluating when residents might be able to return, Humphrey said.

Elsewhere in the Southwest, Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado was closed after lightning started six blazes Tuesday. Officials initially feared the fires would threaten ruins there, but later said there was no significant danger.

"We hadn't even put our bags in our room when the rangers came up saying 'get in your car and get out,'" William McLoughlin of New York said of his arrival at Mesa Verde.

Three of the fires were contained, but two others on the park boundary had merged.

The fire on the Apache reservation was within about a third of a mile of homes

around Whiteriver, the tribal headquarters. It also had gotten to within three miles of a mountain where the arrival of flames would trigger evacuations in Pinetop-Lakeside and other mountain communities, where the population swells to 30,000 in the summer.

The fire was started by lightning Sunday east of the starting point of last year's Rodeo-Chediski fire, the largest wildfire in Arizona history, which charred 469,000 acres and destroyed 491 homes.

Carrie Templin, a spokeswoman for the firefighters, said there was a potential for wind that could drive the fire and for thunderstorms that could produce more lightning but little rain.

In northern Washington, at least six homes were destroyed in Okanogan by a wildfire Wednesday, and the 150-acre fire was threatening dozens more, authorities said.

In western Wyoming, the Snake River was reopened to recreational use Wednesday after being closed for three days because of fire. The 3,200-acre fire was 20 percent contained, said Jay Kriss, Bridger-Teton National Forest spokesman.

A wildfire in Montana forced the evacuation of about 150 rural homes and cabins near the town of Cascade on Wednesday. Fire managers said the blaze grew rapidly to 150 acres during the morning.

Fires also were active in Idaho, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah and Oregon, the National Interagency Fire Center said.

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WORLD BRIEFLY

American soldier killed in bombing

By The Associated Press

ABU GHRAIB, Iraq — A powerful bomb, apparently hidden in an abandoned vehicle, blasted a truck in a U.S. supply convoy west of Baghdad Wednesday, killing a soldier who was hurled from his vehicle and wounding two others, soldiers at the scene said.

The explosion occurred as the 20-vehicle military convoy was passing a wrecked truck on the side of the road, Spc. Jose Colon told The Associated Press. Soldiers believe a bomb was hidden in the wreckage and remotely detonated as the convoy passed.

U.S. soldiers have come under increasingly ferocious attacks by suspected Saddam Hussein loyalists in recent weeks.

The soldier, who was not immediately identified, was the 33rd to die in hostile action since President Bush declared an end to major hostilities on May 1.

After the explosion, soldiers began house-to-house searches in nearby villages. A resident, Mohammed al-Qazi, said the bombing was the work of men from the tense cities of Fallujah and Ramadi, farther down the road.

Also Wednesday, a U.S. Marine died in the southern city of Hilla when he fell off a building he was guarding, the military said.

Paramilitary group agrees to peace talks

By The Associated Press

ARAUCA, Colombia — An outlawed Colombian paramilitary group agreed to peace talks and promised to lay down its weapons by 2005, while the president symbolically moved the capital to a war zone to show that his government, not leftist rebels, controls the country.

The right-wing United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia, or AUC, promised Tuesday to start demobilizing its 10,000 troops by the end of the year. The official peace negotiations come after a December cease-fire and six months of exploratory talks.

"I believe that this can contribute to the country laying down the foundation for peace," President Alvaro Uribe said from the city of Arauca, where he moved the capital for three days.

There was no immediate comment from the leftist rebels, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC. The FARC has said it would join peace talks, but has demanded a safe haven and other preconditions the government refuses to accept.

Officials said peace with the paramilitaries would take one important player out of the violence that have

tormented Colombia's people since the civil war began. The United States has labeled both the AUC and the FARC terrorist organizations.

'Freedom Tower' will have its centerpiece

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The architect who designed the plan for the rebuilt World Trade Center site and representatives of the developer who holds the lease agreed early Wednesday on details for its 1,776-foot centerpiece.

The agreement between architect Daniel Libeskind and representatives of developer Larry Silverstein gives architect David Childs the lead role in developing the "Freedom Tower."

It was unclear what effect the deal will have on Libeskind's design for the tower, which was part of a proposal for the site chosen over eight others. The agreement has yet to be signed, and no terms were disclosed.

The agreement appeared to resolve at least some of the conflicts between Libeskind and Silverstein, who have clashed over Libeskind's vision for the site. Childs has done extensive work with Silverstein.

Libeskind's had envisioned an off-center spire at the top of the tower, while Silverstein said such a spire would increase construction costs. It was not clear whether that aspect of the tower's design would be altered as a result of the deal.

Automakers' deal less than congenial

By The Associated Press

DETROIT — National contract talks between the United Auto Workers and Detroit automakers are expected to begin with handshakes and smiles, but pressure for profits and market share could make negotiations less than congenial.

The UAW and Detroit's Big Three — General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. and DaimlerChrysler AG's Chrysler Group — will spend several weeks after the launch of talks Wednesday hammering out contracts covering wages and benefits for more than 300,000 hourly workers.

The current contracts, negotiated in 1999, expire Sept. 14.

Observers say a strike is unlikely, but talks are expected to be difficult given an industry landscape that includes increasing competition from foreign automakers, unprecedented levels of profit-eroding incentives and rising health care costs.

Union leaders have said they're confident the parties

can reach an equitable agreement, but they also have made clear they're not prepared to make concessions on health care benefits and wages.

Meantime, the auto companies are under intense pressure from Wall Street and investors to trim expenses and boost profitability.

Interest rates will remain the same

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve, after pushing interest rates to levels not seen since Dwight Eisenhower was president, is letting Congress know they will stay there for some time and may even go lower.

That was the message Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan was delivering to Congress as part of his twice-a-year testimony on the Fed's updated economic forecast.

Greenspan, who was scheduled to wrap up his testimony Wednesday with an appearance before the Senate Banking Committee, told a House panel Tuesday that the Fed was prepared to leave interest rates low "for as long as it takes" to revive the sluggish economy.

Private analysts predicted that the federal funds rate, the rate banks use for overnight loans to each other, will stay at its current 1 percent or even go lower if necessary. The next rate cut could come Aug. 12 at the next meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee.

Greenspan expressed hope that the economy will pick up momentum in the second half of this year as low interest rates and President Bush's latest round of tax cuts take hold, telling the House Financial Services Committee, "We could very well be embarking on a period of extended growth."

Gephardt still in presidential running

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Dick Gephardt sought to reassure party leaders that he's still a serious presidential contender despite his fifth-place showing in the Democratic race for cash. Early fund-raising leader John Edwards saw his donations slow as he headed into the summer.

President Bush led the 2004 field with \$34.4 million and took the unprecedented step of identifying all his major fund-raisers.

Gephardt, the former House minority leader, raised \$3.87 million in the second fund-raising quarter, about \$1 million less than his campaign had hoped. That put him behind John Kerry, Edwards, Howard Dean and Joe Lieberman in money raised so far this year.

Gephardt was talking to party leaders and constituency groups, urging them not to give up on his campaign.

The presidential campaigns detailed their finances in reports Tuesday.

U.S. condemns Cuba for jamming satellite signals to Iran

BY SANDRA MARQUEZ

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — A U.S. government agency on Tuesday echoed what Los Angeles-based satellite television station providers who transmit news to Iran have been saying for days: Cuba appears to be jamming their signals into Iran, where pro-democracy protests have been raging.

While Cuban authorities have long jammed U.S. government programming to their own country just off the coast of Florida, blocking transmissions to a third country in a distant hemisphere would be unprecedented, said Kenneth Tomlinson, who oversees the Voice of America as chairman of the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

"This has ominous implications for the future of international satellite broadcasting," Tomlinson said by telephone from Washington, D.C.

The Broadcasting Board of Governors issued a resolution Tuesday calling on the State Department and Federal Communications Commission to lodge a formal protest with the Cuban government for "this unwarranted and wrongful interference."

A Cuban government spokesman in Havana did not return a call for comment from The Associated Press.

Iran's Islamic government has accused U.S.-based satellite stations of stoking unrest by providing unfiltered

information into a country that does not otherwise have a free press.

Iran itself can't block the programming because the signals must be jammed over the Atlantic Ocean, where the satellites are positioned.

"They don't want our programs to be watched by the Iranian people. Everything we say is against the Iranian government and that is not good for them."

— REZA ANSARI
Marketing manager, Pars Television

U.S. officials believe Iran contracted with Cuba to do the job this month, on the eve of the four-year anniversary of large-scale student protests, "to block the flow of news in a period of time when they obviously thought they were going to lose control of their own people," Tomlinson said.

He said an interference signal jamming the satellites has

been tracked to a facility near Havana — a claim based on information provided by the satellite service providers.

"This putting together networks to block international communication is wrong and I think in the long run will mark these states as outlaw states," Tomlinson said.

Azadi Television is one of four Los Angeles-based satellite television stations whose broadcasts into Iran were reduced to black static for days from July 6-13. The jamming continues on an intermittent basis.

Kayvan Abbassi, whose family opened the station six months ago, said operators have tried several times to avoid the jamming by changing their signal, but to no avail.

"The first time it took them five hours to jam it," said Abbassi, whose station's name means "freedom" in Farsi. "Yesterday, it took them minutes."

Another station, Pars Television, transmits to Iran on the same satellite as Azadi, but on a different transponder. As a result, Iranian viewers can still see its programs in some cities — or at least hear the audio portion, said Reza Ansari, the station's marketing manager.

As a show of solidarity, Pars recently allowed Azadi to beam some of its programming on Pars' signal. Ansari said both stations share the goal of opposing the Iranian government.

"They don't want our programs to be watched by the Iranian people," Ansari said. "Everything we say is against the Iranian government and that is not good for them."

SPORTS



LA Lakers sign Malone, Payton to contracts

BY JOHN NADEL
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — True to their word, future Hall of Famers Karl Malone and Gary Payton signed contracts with the Los Angeles Lakers. And they did so at just about the earliest possible moment.

Team spokesman John Black said Malone and Payton, who verbally committed to join the Lakers at discount prices last week, signed shortly after midnight EDT on Wednesday.

A moratorium on free agent signings expired Tuesday night. Beginning at 12:01 a.m., free agents were allowed to sign contracts.

Malone, the second-leading scorer in NBA history who is considered perhaps the greatest power forward ever, signed a two-year contract worth just over \$3 million, Black said.

Malone, who earned \$19 million last season in his 18th and final season with the Utah Jazz, will earn the veteran's exception of \$1.5 million next season.

He turns 40 later this month.

Payton, five years younger, also signed a multiyear contract. He established himself as one of the NBA's finest point guards in Seattle, where he played for nearly 12 seasons before being traded to Milwaukee this past season.

The players will be introduced Thursday morning at a news conference at Staples Center.

Payton, who earned \$12 million last season, will make \$4.9 million in his first year with the Lakers.

Black and Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak had dinner at a West Los Angeles restaurant Tuesday night with Payton and his agent, Aaron Goodwin, and Malone's agent, Dwight Manley.

Lakers front office employees Ronnie Lester and Bill Bertka were also present.

Malone faxed in his contract from Arkansas shortly after it was allowed to be signed.

"We drank a toast and Mitch went home to get some sleep for probably the first time in at least a week," Black said.

Malone and Payton will join Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant in a star-studded Lakers lineup.

Other Los Angeles returnees next season are Derek Fisher, Devean George, Rick Fox, Slava Medvedenko, Kareem Rush and Jannero Pargo.

The Lakers won three straight NBA championships before being eliminated in six games in the Western Conference semifinals by the eventual champion San Antonio Spurs two months ago.

Kupchak made it clear in the aftermath that major changes were in store.

Neither Malone nor Payton have played on a championship team. Payton and the Sonics played in the NBA Finals once and the Jazz reached the Finals twice during Malone's time there — all during the 1990s.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

By The Associated Press

BASEBALL

■ **CHICAGO** — Garret Anderson started the American League comeback with a two-run homer and was voted the first Ted Williams Most Valuable Player of the All-Star game after getting three hits in the AL's 7-6 victory. Anderson also won the Home Run Derby on Monday.

Hank Blalock connected for a two-run, pinch-hit homer off Eric Gagne in the eighth inning to rally the Americans.

CYCLING

■ **MARSEILLE, France** — Lance Armstrong kept his overall lead in the Tour de France despite losing time after being stuck in a pack of riders blocked by street protesters.

Armstrong finished in a group that completed the 136-mile, 10th stage more than 20 minutes behind the winner, Jakob Piil of Team CSC.

All of Armstrong's key rivals were in the main pack with him, meaning they did not gain time on him.

Alexandre Vinokourov, a Kazakh rider for Team Telekom, remains second overall, 21 seconds behind Armstrong.

The protest forced riders to stop after supporters of radical farmer Jose Bove ran into the road and blocked cyclists near Pourrieres, about 91 miles into the race.

OLYMPICS

■ **COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** — U.S. weightlifter Edris Gonzales was suspended for six years after testing positive for testosterone use.

Gonzales showed elevated ratios of testosterone-epitestosterone at an out-of-competition test Feb. 21. He accepted the suspension, the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency said.

BASKETBALL

■ **DETROIT** — Prosecutors formally dropped their case against the father of Chris Webber, who was accused of lying to a grand jury investigating the dealings of a former Michigan basketball booster.

U.S. District Judge Nancy Edmunds signed an order dismissing the indictments against Mayce Webber Jr., which included three counts of making false statements to the grand jury.

The reason for the dismissal, as noted in the order, was: "Weak or inadmissible sufficient evidence."



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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

ESPY Awards should get some laughs over athletes

By The Associated Press

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Tiger Woods and Sammy Sosa, watch out. Jamie Foxx doesn't plan to spare egos when it comes to cracking jokes about the world's best athletes at the ESPY Awards.

Foxx, a self-described sports fan, will host the 11th annual show Wednesday night from the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood.

Woods, Annika Sorenstam, LeBron James and Venus and Serena Williams are among the nominees in 33 categories honoring the year's top performances and sporting moments.

The 35-year-old comedian wants it to be a fun, laid-back evening.

"Something dangerous is going to happen. We want the water cooler to be hot the next day," said Foxx, who taped some comedy bits for the show, including a character that will be introduced as "Ingle Woods."

"He's the long-lost cousin of Tiger Woods and all he wants is a 'shout out' and it's absolutely hysterical," said Foxx, who had roles in the sports movies "Ali" and "Any Given Sunday."

Sosa's corked bat is going to get a mention. "Sammy is cool with it, too," Foxx said.

Winners in 17 sport-specific categories will be decided for the first time through Internet voting. A panel of athletes, coaches and journalists voted for the cross-cutter awards, which pit athletes from different sports against each other.

The Arthur Ashe Courage award will be presented to brothers Pat and Kevin Tillman, who gave up professional sports careers to enlist in the Army. Both served in Iraq during the war.

Pat Tillman played four seasons for the Arizona Cardinals, while Kevin was a minor league prospect in the Cleveland Indians' organization. Their younger brother, Richard, will accept the award.

■ **LONDON** — Kenyan author Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor has won the Caine Prize for African Writing for her story "Weight of Whispers."

The author, who was born in Nairobi and is executive director of the Zanzibar International Film Festival, collected the award Monday night for her tale of a Rwandan refugee after the 1994 genocide.

The \$15,000 Caine Prize is given annually for a short story published in English by an African writer. Writers born anywhere on the African continent whose work reflects that cultural background are eligible.

■ **ST. PAUL, Minn.** — Surprising but not shocking. That's how the artist who painted former Gov. Jesse Ventura's official Capitol portrait describes the much-anticipated work.

"This is a dignified, loving portrait of a statesman," said Steven Cepello, aka Steve Strong, aka the California Terminator. A tag-team partner of Ventura's in the late 1970s, Cepello was smearing paint on canvas in his spare time, even as he did the same to opponents in the ring.

The portrait contains some references to Ventura's wrestling career, his marriage and family, and his time as a Navy frogman. But Cepello didn't detail which aspects of Ventura are portrayed in what way.

"It is outdoors because Jesse loves the outdoors," said the Los Angeles-based artist. "His instruction to me was, 'Just do a dignified portrait of me.'"

That might mean he's not wearing a stuffy suit and tie, but Cepello assured: "He is not on a diving board, no sleeves are ripped out and he's not in a pink boa."

Although the painting has arrived at the Minnesota Historical Society, it's hidden in storage until its fall unveiling.

The 36-by-48-inch portrait has a gilt, hand-carved frame, which marries nearly perfectly to the painting, Cepello said. It's a three-quarter pose.

In 2001, Cepello used a Las Vegas wrestlers' confer-

ence to unveil a portrait of Ventura designed to hang in the Governor's Residence. In that image, Ventura is wearing a suit of armor, sitting on a white horse and holding an American flag.

■ **LOS ANGELES** — Patricia Heaton and Jeff Daniels relived their salad days as struggling actors while filming a TV remake of "The Goodbye Girl" in New York.

"Believe me, Jeff gave us his heartbreak tour around New York City and every location. 'Oh and that's where I lived when I couldn't get a job.' It was very pathetic," Heaton told the Television Critics Association last week.

"Yeah, it took two days," Daniels said, laughing.

Heaton said she lived in eight different apartments during her nine years in New York after moving from her native Ohio.

"I came right from Delta Gamma sorority to the Chelsea Hotel," she said. "I really didn't get any work at all as an actor. I couldn't get arrested. So it's kind of thrilling to come back ... and get to play it in a movie."

Heaton, 45, plays the Marsha Mason role and Daniels, 48, plays the part that earned Richard Dreyfuss a best-actor Oscar for the 1977 film. He serves as executive producer of the upcoming Turner Network movie.

Heaton was recognized while filming on New York streets by fans of her CBS sitcom, "Everybody Loves Raymond."

"So much to Jeff's chagrin, I'm being mobbed by fans," she said. "They keep mistaking Jeff for Bill Pullman. Or Jeff Bridges."

Springsteen, a native of Freehold, started the show with a solo acoustic version of "Born in the U.S.A." There was no opening act.

Other attractions included carnival games, two sand volleyball courts, a Ferris wheel and a boardwalk.



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Toyota mufflers, exhaust pipes, shocks and strut cartridges are guaranteed to the original purchaser for the life of the vehicle when installed by an authorized Toyota dealer. See us for full details.

801 Santa Monica Blvd.
In Santa Monica, On Santa Monica
800-923-2397

LAcarGUY.com

TOYOTA
quality service.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY!



\$24.95 + TAX

Recommended every 3 months or 3,750 miles, whichever comes first

INCLUDES:

- Replace engine oil
- Replace oil filter with genuine Toyota oil filter
- Top-off all fluids
- 21-point inspection

Genuine Toyota Parts

Must present this coupon when order is written. One to a customer. One per transaction. TOYOTA ONLY. Valid only at Toyota Santa Monica. Expires 8/30/03



Levi's

MOVING OUT SALE!!

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