

Commerce Department reports investment boom

The state brought in \$1.1 billion in investments and 8,700 jobs in 2003, the Commerce Department reported Thursday.

Data for 2003 included only jobs and investment the department assisted with, representing what investments and jobs the department is actually responsible for.

The Commerce Department is hopeful for 2004. The annual report said investments are at \$745 million so far this year, almost three times what it was in the same period last year.

Wildlife agencies facing more budget reductions

State Natural Resources Department officials say they could have to make deeper cuts, including getting rid of 86 jobs, if its proposed budget goes through.

The spending plan before the state Senate reduces the agency's budget by an additional \$3.2 million. The department says 17 more law enforcement conservation officers would be let go.

Since 2000, DNR has lost 277 employees whose vacant positions cannot be filled. Eighty of those were in the agency's law enforcement division.

Nation

Senate approves larger railway security spending

WASHINGTON — Spurred by the railway bombings in Madrid last month, the Senate Commerce Committee on Thursday unanimously approved spending more than \$1 billion to protect railroads and mass transit systems from terrorist attacks.

The bill requires the Homeland Security Department to develop a plan within 180 days to improve rail security throughout the country. It calls for tightening security at railroad stations and tunnels and for railcars that carry hazardous materials.

6 people got West Nile virus from blood donors

ATLANTA — At least six people became infected with the West Nile virus through blood transfusions last year despite the screening of donations, the government said Thursday.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said a small risk of infection still exists despite the screenings.

Last year was the first full year in which all donor blood was screened for West Nile, and as a result, 818 donations were removed from the blood supply.

World

Iraq interior minister announces resignation

BAGHDAD, IRAQ — Iraq's interior minister, in charge of police and security forces, announced he was resigning Thursday at the request of top U.S. administrator L. Paul Bremer to maintain the Shiite-Sunni balance in the government.

Nuri al-Badran, a Shiite Muslim, indicated he resigned because the U.S.-led administration wanted a Sunni Muslim in the position; the other security portfolio — the defense ministry — is also held by a Shiite.

The resignation comes as U.S.-led coalition forces are battling an uprising across the south by a Shiite militia led by a radical cleric.

Terrorists had planned to bomb shopping center

MADRID, SPAIN — Suspected terrorists who blew themselves up last weekend as police moved in to arrest them over the March 11 bombings had been plotting an attack on a shopping center outside Madrid, a newspaper reported Thursday.

Police searching the apartment found maps of Parquesur, a retail and leisure complex, at least two backpacks and a belt, all packed with dynamite and wired to detonators, El Mundo said, quoting police.

A court official said the suspects had planned another major attack in Madrid, possibly during this week's Easter celebrations, but did not give more details.

THE GAMECOCK ♦ Friday, April 9, 2004



This day in History

1667: First public art exhibition is held at the Palais Royal in Paris.
1953: "Television Guide" publishes its first issue.

Extended Forecast

Today	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
HI: 80 LO: 50	HI: 78 LO: 58	HI: 81 LO: 66	HI: 72 LO: 56	HI: 60 LO: 41

Coming Up @ USC

Today
JESSICA WALSH CLARINET CONCERTO RECITAL: School of Music 206, 6 p.m.
SUN-YOO OH DMA VOICE RECITAL: School of Music 206, 7:30 p.m.
UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE APPLICATION DUE GOOD FRIDAY

Sunday

EASTER

Monday

STUDY ABROAD INFORMATION SESSION: Business Administration Building, sixth floor, 4 p.m.
MUSLIM AWARENESS WEEK, "ROLE OF WOMEN IN ISLAM": Gambrell Hall 153, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
2004 CASKEY LECTURE, "DECIPHERING LIFE AND CHANGING MEDICINE": Dr. Leroy Hood, Law School Auditorium, 6:45-8 p.m.
ROBERT SMALLS LECTURE: Henry Louis Gates Jr. of Harvard University, Belk Auditorium, 7 p.m.
JOHN WILLIAMS PIANO RECITAL: School of Music 206, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday

MUSLIM AWARENESS WEEK, DAWAH AND CALLIGRAPHY TABLES: 1400 Greene St., 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
ROBERT SMALLS LECTURE: Henry Louis Gates Jr. of Harvard University, Business Administration Building, Belk Auditorium, 7 p.m.
MUSLIM AWARENESS WEEK, QURANIC RECITATION AND TARTEEL: Russell House 303, 7-8 p.m.
USC CHAMBER WINDS: School of Music 206, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday

EPIDEMIOLOGY SEMINAR, "EFFECTS OF DIABETES ON HEALTH AND LIFE EXPECTANCY: USING DYNAMIC MICRO-SIMULATION TO ESTIMATE DIFFERENCES BY EDUCATION, SEX AND RACE": Dr. Jim Laditka of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Health Sciences Building 103, 12:30 p.m.
LAUREN MECCIA SAXOPHONE RECITAL: School of Music 206, 6 p.m.
MUSLIM AWARENESS WEEK, "STEREOTYPES IN RELIGIONS MULTIFAITH PANEL": Gambrell Hall 153, 7-9 p.m.
LYNN KOMPASS FACULTY PIANO/VOCAL RECITAL: School of Music 206, 8 p.m.

Thursday

MUSLIM AWARENESS WEEK, DAWAH AND CALLIGRAPHY TABLES: 1400 Greene St., 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

'Passion' continues ascent to box-office glory

Can Mel Gibson sink "Titanic" and become the new king of the box office?

"The Passion of the Christ" has already earned \$330 million in U.S. and Canadian ticket sales since it opened six weeks ago, breaking all sorts of box-office records along the way.

The total showings of "Passion" has reached 3,408, a huge number for a movie well into the second month of its run.

Now some experts are even saying that it's possible the blockbuster religious epic could eventually replace James Cameron's "Titanic" as the most popular movie of all time.

"Titanic's" \$600.8 million domestic box-office record is still a distant target — and its \$1.8 billion worldwide mark seems insurmountable, even with divine intervention.

But after "Passion's" astonishing first several weeks of business, one would be tempting fate to bet against it. Consider:

During its first five days in release, "Passion" grossed \$125.2 million, edging ahead of Oscar-winner "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" for the five-day opening record.

A day later, it raced past the \$128.1 million record for subtitled films set by martial-arts feature "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon."

Two weeks later, it eclipsed "My Big Fat Greek Wedding's" \$241.4 million record for an independent film.

By the end of March, it had knocked off "The Matrix: Reloaded" (\$281.5 million) as the most popular R-rated movie released in the U.S.

Last weekend, "Passion" elbowed gentle "Forrest Gump" (\$329.4 million) out of the No. 10 spot on the all-time list of movie blockbusters, and seems destined to end up somewhere in the top five.

Will & Grace's Messing welcomes newborn son

LOS ANGELES — Now it's "Will & Grace" — and baby.

Debra Messing, co-star of the NBC sitcom, gave birth to a son



PHOTO COURTESY OF KRT CAMPUS

Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" has grossed more than \$330 million in just six weeks.

Wednesday. The baby weighed 5 pounds and 14 ounces and was 19 inches long, publicist Annett Wolf said Thursday. It's the first child for Messing and her husband, screenwriter Daniel Zelman.

Messing, 35, was unable to appear in this season's final four episodes of "Will & Grace." She stars opposite Eric McCormack in the show about a straight woman and her gay best friend.

Last week, NBC announced that Messing's doctor had asked her to stay off her feet for the remainder of her pregnancy, which led to her absence from the season's final installments.

Wolf said Messing would return in the summer in time to start shooting episodes for next season.

Pitt to record narration for Drake documentary

LONDON — Brad Pitt will narrate a British Broadcasting Corp. radio series about one of his musical idols, Nick Drake.

The BBC said the actor had recorded a two-part documentary about Drake, which will air on music station Radio 2 next month.

The plaintive singer-songwriter recorded three albums before his death from a drug overdose in 1974

at 26. Although a commercial failure during his lifetime, he has been cited as a major influence by many bands, from R.E.M. to The Cure.

"I was introduced to Nick Drake's music about five years ago, and am a huge admirer of his records," Pitt said. "When Radio 2 approached me to get involved in this project, I was delighted to be asked and pleased that I was able to fit it into my schedule."

"Lost Boy — In Search of Nick Drake" is scheduled to air May 22.

Turner presented his own star on Hollywood's walk

LOS ANGELES — Cable News Network founder, yacht racer, restaurant owner and philanthropist Ted Turner now has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

The cable television pioneer was feted most Wednesday for his devotion to classic films by a group of veteran but still glamorous actresses who thanked Turner for keeping them in the public eye.

"I am deeply indebted to Ted Turner for making my golden years platinum," said Ann Rutherford, who appeared in more than 60 films, including "Gone With the Wind" and a series of

"Hardy Boys" movies.

Turner founded his Turner Classic Movies cable network 10 years ago. The channel fed off hundreds of movies in the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer library and other film libraries Turner bought over the years.

Thornton expects fourth child sometime this fall

LOS ANGELES — Billy Bob Thornton is going to be a father — again.

The 48-year-old actor, already celebrating this weekend's debut of his latest film, "The Alamo," announced Thursday that he and girlfriend, Connie Angland, are expecting a child this fall.

Angland, 39, doesn't work in the entertainment business. There were no other details about the couple.

Thornton, who has three children from two previous marriages, divorced actress Angelina Jolie in May 2003.

Thornton plays Davy Crockett in "The Alamo," which also stars Jason Patric and Dennis Quaid. His other films include "Sling Blade" and "A Simple Plan."

BRIEFS FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS WIRE

USC Briefly

Columbia offices will close on Good Friday

Columbia offices will close today in observance of Good Friday. They will re-open on Monday. Garbage and recyclables will be collected Friday on their regular schedule.

Service program accepts volunteers until April 16

Applications for the Dobson Volunteer Service Program for this summer will be accepted through Friday, April 16.

Participants in the Dobson Volunteer Service Program take part in service internships and may be undergraduate students, graduate students and faculty who meet the selection criteria. To learn more about the program and download an application form, visit the website at: <http://www.sa.sc.edu/stlife/dobson.htm>. For more information, call 777-688 or e-mail csoehl@gwm.sc.edu.

University Awards Day to be held on Horseshoe

The annual University Awards

Day ceremony will be held Thursday at 2 p.m. on the Horseshoe. Departmental awards for undergraduates will be presented. Recipients of Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities will be recognized, as well as USC Outstanding Seniors. Several students with national honors and awards will also be recognized. USC President Andrew Sorensen will present the Algernon Sydney Sullivan award to one female and one male Carolina undergraduate, and the Steven N. Swanger award will also be presented by Sorensen on behalf of Omicron Delta Kappa.

All faculty and staff are invited

to attend. For more information, contact the Department of Student Life at 777-6688.

Islamic Awareness Week at USC starts Monday

The Muslim Students Association at USC will be holding its annual Islamic Awareness Week Monday through April 16. Included in the week's activities are lectures, Quranic recitation and a calligraphy table on Greene Street. For more information, contact organization President Fozail Alvi at cavs108@aol.com.

Police Report



Each number on the map stands for a crime corresponding with numbered descriptions in the list below.

- DAY CRIMES (6 a.m.-6 p.m.)**
- Violent
- Nonviolent
- NIGHT CRIMES (5 p.m.-6 a.m.)**
- Violent
- Nonviolent
- CRIMES AT UNKNOWN HOURS**
- Violent
- Nonviolent

Monday, April 5

① **LARCENY OF SOFA, COMPUTER SERVICES, LOADING DOCK, 122 BLOSSOM ST.** The complainant said that between April 4 and April 5 someone took a pink sofa from the unsecured location. Estimated value: \$250. Reporting officer: C. Taylor.

Tuesday, April 6

② **LARCENY OF BICYCLE, MAXCY COLLEGE, 1312 PENDLETON ST.** The victim said that between April 2 and April 6 someone removed her bicycle from the bicycle rack in front of Maxcy College. She

said her bike was secured with a lock. Estimated value: \$50. Reporting officer: J.D. Rosier.

Thursday, April 8

③ **MALICIOUS INJURY TO REAL PROPERTY, ASSAULT, ASSAULT AND BATTERY, MCBRYDE QUADRANGLE A, 1309 BLOSSOM ST.** William Poulson began a verbal altercation with victim No. 3. Victim No. 2 became involved in the altercation and said Poulson grabbed him by his shirt and hit him twice in the back of the head. Victim No. 2 and No. 3 said that after they locked themselves in a room where Poulson threatened each with bodily harm or

death while kicking the doorknob off the door. Victim No. 2 said Poulson also pulled a "divider" off the bathroom wall, property of victim No. 1. Estimated damage: \$150. Reporting officer: N. DeHaai.

Check it out
www.dailygamecock.com