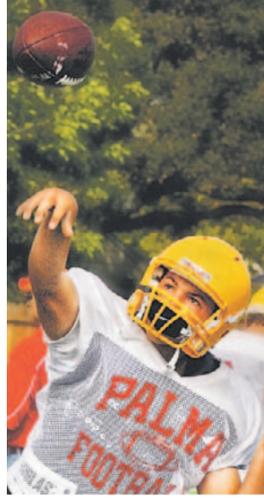


INK: D'Anna Thai Kitchen takes curries to new heights

T-CAL RIFE WITH RIVALRIES/SPORTS, 1C



Today's forecast/6B

79 high 56 low

The Salinas Californian

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2007 LARGE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Salinas man fights for life



Former Rosita's Café owner injured in hit and run

By MARIA INES ZAMUDIO
The Salinas Californian

A well-known Salinas business owner is fighting

for his life in a local hospital after he was injured in a hit-and-run collision Monday morning.

Jaime Juarez, 57, former owner of Jaime's Lounge and Rosita's Armory Café, popular stops in downtown Salinas, sustained life-threatening injuries when a delivery truck rear-ended his motorcycle after

he had stopped at a red light at North Sanborn Road and Acosta Plaza, police said.

The truck's impact threw him 25 feet across the intersection at around 6:30 a.m., police said.

Juarez was taken to the hospital with critical head



Luciano Acevedo

See INJURED, Page 3A

Salinas card room ready to deal 'em

Police chief signs off on 60-day permit

By DAWN WITHERS
The Salinas Californian

Gamblers can start betting on poker games today at the new Banker's Casino card room in downtown Salinas. But the privilege may not last long.

After months of negotiations between the business owners and city officials, Salinas Police Chief Dan Ortega signed off Wednesday on an interim card room permit that allows Banker's Casino on Monterey Street to open for business for about 60 days.

Ortega's approval was the remaining requirement before the card room could open, and he

THE BIG QUESTION

The Big Question, an informal daily poll at **TheCalifornian.com**, today asks: Should a card room be allowed to operate in downtown Salinas?

- Yes, great revenue
- No, wrong location
- Gambling is wrong

said the interim permit is good until he completes a background investigation of business owners, Sal Jimenez, who owns C&J Collision, and Hector Campos, who owns San Juanita Tostada Factory, both in Salinas. "We haven't seen anything glaring," Ortega said. "Obviously, these are two businessmen that are known in the community."

See CARD, Page 3A

Felines find fun in Salinas shelter's new Romper Room



BRITTANY DURGIN/THE SALINAS CALIFORNIAN

A kitten reaches out with its paw in the new Romper Room at the Salinas Animal Services on Wednesday in Salinas. To view more photos of the kittens available at Salinas Animal Shelter, go to TheCalifornian.com. Click 'News' in the top blue bar, then 'Staff galleries.' To share photos of your own pets, go to TheCalifornian.com/Pets.

SVMH takes stock of options

Failure of Measure W focus of meeting

By DAWN WITHERS
The Salinas Californian

The failure of Measure W has left Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital executives looking for options to meet a 2013 deadline to make mandated seismic upgrades to the 55-year-old structure.

Voters living in the SVMH district from Moss Landing to Gonzales on Tuesday voted down a \$392 million bond in a by-mail-only election. About 52 percent voted in favor, well short of the 67 percent needed to pass the measure.

Though between 2,000 and 3,000 ballots are left to be counted, the campaign for Measure W and SVMH executives said the outstanding votes are unlikely to bring the bond to the

See SVMH, Page 3A

Obama backers await his speech

Local democrats to convene at pizzeria on Main

By SUNITA VIJAYAN
The Salinas Californian

How about a big slice of history with that pizza?

Salinas Democrats unable to attend their party's national convention in Denver will gather locally today to watch Barack Obama's historic speech as he, presumably, accepts the Democratic presidential nomination.

Obama, the U.S. Senator from Illinois, is the first African American in our nation's history to be nominated for the presidency.

A Demo-clutch to watch the speech via television in Monterey sold out days ago, so the Salinas Valley Democratic Club is hosting a second venue here on south Main Street.

Obama will deliver his address at Mile High Stadium in Denver. It is expected to draw 75,000 people.

The Democratic National Convention began Monday and ends tonight. Bettye Piña, president of

Election2008



Barack Obama

the Salinas Valley Democratic Club, said Wednesday they are expecting about 200 people to come and watch the speech at 4:30 p.m. today at the Pizza Factory on South Main Street in Salinas.

"It sounds like it's going to be really good," Piña

See SPEECH, Page 3A



BRITTANY DURGIN/THE SALINAS CALIFORNIAN

A young female great white shark swims in a tank at the Monterey Bay Aquarium on Wednesday. The shark was caught in Santa Monica Bay on Aug. 16. She is the fourth great white shark to ever be on exhibit at the aquarium, and Monterey is the only aquarium to have exhibited a white shark for longer than 16 days. The shark is expected to remain on exhibit for several months. Online: www.montereybayaquarium.org

Female great white shark joins aquarium exhibits



SCOTT MACDONALD/THE SALINAS CALIFORNIAN

Chips are stacked up Wednesday at Banker's Casino in Salinas.

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