



SPLASH OF COLOR

The Flower Fields in Carlsbad prepares for visitors. Page E1

HOMEGROWN
Sprouts, Henry's markets have strong local ties. Page D1



MOSTLY SUNNY
High 50s, low 30s
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NORTH COUNTY TIMES

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SUNDAY | February 27, 2011

NCTIMES.COM

Volume 127 | Number 58

Governors plead for support

State leaders warn Congress that shutdown would be disaster

INSIDE
Potential Republican presidential nominees speak at summit for tea party supporters. **A8**

BY LIZ SIDOTI
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Their states on the brink of financial catastrophe, governors pleaded Saturday for the divided federal government to avoid doing anything that would hamper the tenuous economic recovery back home.

Their message to Washington:

Prevent a government shutdown, abstain from spending cuts that dramatically will affect states and end even preliminary discussions about allowing states to declare bankruptcy.

"Anything that Congress does that will undermine our recovery is quite troublesome to us," said Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire, head of the National Governors Association, as she

opened the bipartisan group's winter meeting. "We're asking for cooperation."

"We don't need a hiccup now in our recovery," she added. "We are fragile."

States have made \$75 billion in budget cuts and raised taxes by \$33 billion over the past two years to make up for budget shortfalls

See **Governors, A8**

BYU BLASTS PAST AZTECS

Jimmer Fredette and No. 7 BYU play keep-away from No. 6 San Diego State, handing the Aztecs an 80-67 loss.



SEE SPORTS, PAGE C1

CAMP PENDLETON | WOUNDED WARRIORS FACE CHALLENGE OF RECOVERY



Above: Marine Lt. Cameron West works out on a weight machine at a gym at the Naval Medical Center in San Diego last week. The 25-year-old lost a leg and suffered injuries to his hand, head and eye in an explosion in Afghanistan last October. Inset: Physical therapist Adrianna Gaeta helps West with exercises to increase mobility in his right hand. Below: West, highlighted at far right, stands with his unit, Camp Pendleton's 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment. More than 150 from the battalion have been wounded since arriving in Afghanistan in September.

Change at top to affect panel

Under new leadership, immigration committee likely to switch focus

BY CASSIE MYERS
California News Service

The upheaval of the 2010 midterm elections shifted the chairmanship of the immigration committee in the House of Representatives from Silicon Valley's Zoe Lofgren to Simi Valley's Elton Gallegly.

Although both representatives hail from the same state, the committee's direction will be strikingly different.

Under Gallegly, a Republican, the House Judiciary Committee's immigration panel is likely to focus on enforcement issues — cracking down on immigrants illegally crossing the border, penalizing employers who hire illegal immigrants and preserving jobs for American workers.

Gallegly also has been a strong proponent of a controversial plan to eliminate automatic citizenship for American-born children of illegal immigrants.

Lofgren, a Democrat, focused on reforming the immigration system — reducing the backlog of citizenship applications, speeding up the visa process and offering citizenship to immigrant children.

The shift diminishes expectations that comprehensive immigration reform — once a top priority of President Barack Obama — will be enacted in the current Congress.

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NEW BATTLEGROUND

After losing a leg, Marine from Pendleton's 3/5 strives to adjust to new life

By staff writer **MARK WALKER** | Photos by **BILL WECHTER**

The war in Afghanistan ended in less than three weeks for Marine Lt. Cameron "Big Country" West.

The battle to rebuild his life — after a roadside bomb tore apart his body — will go on for years.

"I got lucky, to tell you the truth, 'cuz I still got one leg," said the 25-year-old West. Many of the Marines he's surrounded by at his daily rehabilitation sessions are missing both legs — and arms.

Most of the rugged young men once belonged to the highly decorated 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, which is bearing the brunt of the vicious fighting.

Now they're assigned to another unit: the Wounded Warrior Battalion, created for troops whose injuries require months of care.

For West, and many other injured Marines, life changed with a footstep.

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ESCONDIDO

'INNER CIRCLE' AIMS TO BOOST ARTS CENTER

BY DAN BENNETT
For the North County Times

Several dozen donors, volunteers and city officials met Saturday to discuss ways to revitalize the long-struggling California Center for the Arts, Escondido.

Adding programs and promoting awareness of the facility among young people and among Latinos were some of the ideas presented at the forum, held in chairs on the stage of the Center Theater.

"The focus is on the future," said Carina Courtright, now leading the center's board of trustees. "There have been changes in the economy and in the arts, so we need to discuss how we should spend our energy and dollars."

Courtright and interim chief

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OCEANSIDE

City could sell Sunshine Brooks Theater

BY RAY HUARD
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\$3.6 million budget deficit in the coming fiscal year.

"We're entertaining all options right now," Parks and Recreation Director Eileen Turk said Friday.

The City Council this week agreed to call for proposals to buy or lease the 75-year-old downtown theater at 217 N. Coast Highway and an adjacent storefront at 219 N. Coast Highway.

The vote was 4-0 with Mayor Jim Wood absent.

Councilwoman Esther Sanchez said she was reluctant to sell city assets in what is a depressed real estate

market. Nevertheless, she said it was appropriate to see what offers the city might get.

Selling the theater would probably raise

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