

The Salinas Californian

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Today's forecast/6B

59 high 48 low



50¢ □

2007 LARGE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

SCHOOLS

Conflict of interest raised in Lagunita

Contract awarded to school board member's firm

By SUNITA VIJAYAN
The Salinas Californian

Monterey County contractor Don Chapin pleaded ignorance Tuesday along with his fellow Lagunita School District board members to allegations that they broke state laws in awarding a district construction contract.

A state audit team has found that Chapin, the board's president, may have violated conflict-of-interest and bidding practice laws when his company was awarded the district's water project contract in 2006.

"We never knew, because of the lack of information," said board member Chuck Shearn, a comment both Chapin and the third board member, Ernest Howard, later agreed with. "I'm troubled at how we arrived at this."

The three-member board governs a single school serving about 90 students

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ONLINE EXTRA

STATE AUDIT: View the auditors' full report at TheCalifornian.com.



SCOTT MACDONALD/THE SALINAS CALIFORNIAN

Don Chapin, president of the Lagunita School Board, speaks during Tuesday's special board meeting at the school.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Scholarships coming

S.F. foundation to award five to Hartnell students

By SUNITA VIJAYAN
The Salinas Californian

At least five students at Hartnell College in Salinas will share in a historic \$70 million gift for student scholarships at California's community colleges, state officials announced Tuesday.

The money, pledged by the San Francisco-based Bernard Osher Foundation, will be divided among the system's 109 schools based on enrollment, said system Chancellor Diane Woodruff during a news conference at the Capitol.

"This is the single largest gift ever given to community colleges in the history of this country," said Woodruff, who was joined by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in Sacramento.

The system serves more than 2.6 million students

AT A GLANCE

The San Francisco-based Osher Foundation will provide \$1,000 scholarships to low-income students at each of California's 109 community colleges starting this fall. Information: www.supporttheendowment.org.

and is the largest higher-education organization in the country.

"The Oshers' action will lift up so many of our students who are struggling to get by," the governor said. Earlier this year, Schwarzenegger has proposed the state's largest-ever cuts to public school funding — \$4.8 billion — to address the state's fiscal crisis.

The Osher gift will be divided equally into two funds. The first \$25 million will be given outright as \$1,000 scholarships to students in fall 2009. A second \$25 million will be given if the community college system can raise a two-to-one match of \$50 million within three years. The remaining \$20

Three vie for Hartnell presidency

Staff report

The Hartnell College Board of Trustees announced the finalists for the Salinas school's superintendent/president at Tuesday's board meeting.

The final candidates are:

■ **Cecelia Cervantes**, president of the College of Alameda in Alameda

■ **Phoebe Helm**, Hartnell's interim superintendent/president

■ **Santos Martinez Jr.**, vice-president for student services at Coastal Bend College in Beeville, Texas. Cervantes and Martinez



Phoebe Helm

will visit Hartnell's main campus for one day next week, and they and Helm will participate in a series

of public meetings hosted May 12 to 14 by various college constituents.

A community and campus forum will be held at 4:30 p.m. each day at a location to be determined, followed by closed-session interviews of each candidate by the Board of Trustees.

Information: www.hartnell.edu/president/search.

million will go to transfer students to the state's college and university systems.

The scholarships will help low-income students pay for items such as textbooks, equipment and other instructional supplies.

At least five \$1,000 schol-

arships will be given to each campus, Scofield said, with additional scholarships being distributed based on enrollment for a total 1,250. That number is expected to grow to 5,000 annually by 2011.

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MONTEREY COUNTY

Snoop Dogg cleared to rap

County board votes 4-1 to OK concert permit

By DAWN WITHERS
The Salinas Californian

Snoop Dogg can come out and play at Laguna Seca on May 31, but he and concertgoers will be on a tight leash.

The Monterey Music Summit, now in its second year, has come under fire from the public and county officials for choosing former Crips gang member and gangsta rapper Snoop Dogg as its main attraction. Officials say they're concerned the artist's performance could spur more gang-related violence in the Salinas area.

But with free-speech issues at stake, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 Tuesday to approve an agreement with music summit organizer, Joe Fletcher of Joe Fletcher Presents, Inc., and issued a permit for the concert.

But the permit requires that a number of security conditions be met, including having concertgoers checked by metal detectors at the venue's entrance, the presence of undercover Monterey County Sheriff's deputies at the event, a ban on all firearms at the site except for those of on-duty law enforcement, and extra security searches of Snoop Dogg, his entourage and vehicles.

The event, expected to

TO ATTEND

The all-ages Monterey Music Summit runs May 30 to June 1 at Laguna Seca off Highway 68.

Tickets are \$169 for three days; single-day tickets are available. Purchase at www.inticketing.com, 866-TICKETS or (415) 256-8499, and one tree will be planted for every ticket sold. Information: www.montereymusic-summit.com/2008, www.myspace.com/montereymusicsummit.

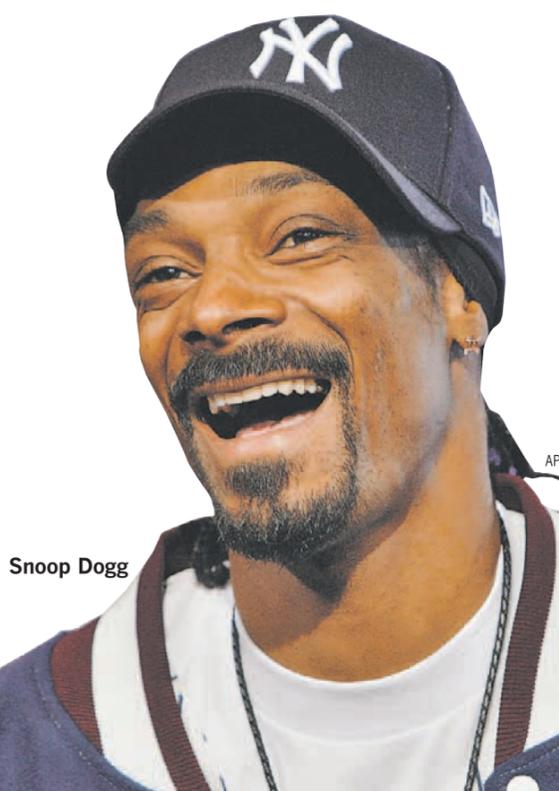
attract between 3,000 and 5,000 people, will run from May 30 to June 1 at Laguna Seca. The music and art event will feature performances of music genres including pop, rock, surf punk, hip hop, folk and world beat.

Supervisor Ila Mettee-McCutcheon voted against the agreement, saying she doesn't approve of Snoop Dogg's lyrics, which she said glorifies violence against law enforcement and debases women. Mettee-McCutcheon said she is concerned the lyrics could cause outbreaks of violence during the event.

"The lyrics do advocate breaking the law," she said.

But Supervisor Simon Salinas said free speech is a constitutionally protected right, and not one the county should be eager to infringe upon. "We can't throw out constitutional rights because of fear," Salinas said.

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Snoop Dogg

ELSEWHERE IN THE NEWS

WORLD
Help starts to arrive
Aid began to trickle

into Myanmar following a deadly cyclone that killed at least 22,000. Page 1B

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