



RATHER SUES CBS

NATION: Former national news icon suing CBS for allegedly making him a 'scapegoat.' **Page 1B**



Jammin' in Salinas

INK: Local rock band, Mystery Lights, prepares for gigs in Big Sur and Santa Cruz. **Inside**

The Salinas Californian

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Today's forecast/6B
Cloudy, a shower or two, cool
68 high **50** low



Serving Monterey County since 1871

www.thecalifornian.com

50 CENTS

SOLEDAD

Police arrest man in bathroom tapings

Child molestation also is alleged

By **SUNITA VIJAYAN**
The Salinas Californian

A Soledad man is in Monterey County Jail on \$1 million bail after investigators said they found a camera hidden behind a bathroom mirror in his residence and

videotapes depicting several people using the bathroom — including minors.

The Monterey County Sheriff's Office said they arrested 33-year-old laborer Alberto Gonzalez, a.k.a. Gelver Gonzalez, on Aug. 31 on suspicion of child molestation and developing obscene matter. He remains behind bars on \$1 million bail.

The arrest came one week after someone at Gonzalez's

WHAT'S NEXT

Monterey County Sheriff's deputies will continue their investigation into the secret filming of people, including minors, at a home outside Soledad. Gelver Gonzalez, 33, a laborer suspected in the case, will appear in court Oct. 2.

residence tipped off the Monterey County Department of Social Services and Family

Services, saying they had discovered a camera hidden behind the mirror in a common bathroom at the home.

Sgt. John Pellerin said Wednesday Gonzalez was taken into custody following a search of his home on county land outside Soledad city limits, which Gonzalez shares with a number of people.

Pellerin said deputies using a search warrant found two cameras in the common bath-

room and several bags of videocassettes filmed from the hidden cameras. A loaded firearm, video cameras and computers were also seized.

It's too early in the investigation, Pellerin said, to know why the cameras were in place.

However, he said, investigators have "no reason to believe that the videos were uploaded to the Internet."

The case has been turned

over to the sheriff's investigation unit. Upon further investigation, deputies said they learned that Gonzalez molested two minors almost 10 years ago. They're now investigating whether he may have repeated the crime.

"It's possible that he molested additional victims (since then), but that's still under investigation," Pellerin said.

Contact Sunita Vijayan at svijayan@thecalifornian.com.

Salinas scholar wins prestigious state academic award



SCOTT MACDONALD/THE SALINAS CALIFORNIAN

Marcela Vargas, 20, pictured Wednesday at CSU, Monterey Bay, is a recipient of the 2007 William Randolph Hearst Scholarship.

HIGHER EDUCATION

CSUMB student a Hearst recipient

By **BRIAN SEALS**
The Salinas Californian

When Marcela Vargas came to Salinas at age 16 from Mexico, she had a challenge on her hands.

Vargas wanted to go to college someday and had to learn English.

Quickly. "It was really frustrating for me," she said. "I couldn't

MARCELA VARGAS

■ **AGE:** 20

■ **EDUCATION:** Graduate of Alisal High School with a 3.5 GPA; sophomore at California State University, Monterey Bay.

■ **WORK:** Works at Sears while taking classes.

■ **PERSONAL:** Lives in Salinas with parents Serafin and Enriqueta Vargas; has three brothers.

learn in my other classes, because I didn't know enough English."

Vargas persevered, though. The daughter of migrant workers took English classes

after school at Alisal High before coming home to do the cooking for the family.

"I spent almost every single afternoon studying," she said.

In little more than three years, Vargas became proficient enough in her second language to graduate from high school with a 3.5 grade point average.

See **SCHOLAR**, Page 3A

WEATHER

Growers: Rain, rain go away

Early-season showers can wreak havoc for crops, vineyards

By **VICTOR CALDERON**
The Salinas Californian

A forecast of rain today has Monterey County wine grape growers feeling pressed.

"Rain at this time of year doesn't do any good, because you can get mold on the grapes," said Butch Lindley, a partner at Lockwood Vineyard in San Lucas. "Even a little bit of rain causes some deterioration in the crop."

Today's forecast for the Salinas Valley calls for a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, with a high near 66 and a nighttime low of 52, forecasters with the National Weather Service in Monterey said Wednesday.

A chance of rain will linger through Saturday, they said.

The calendar says fall begins Sunday with the

FORECAST

Today's forecast in the Salinas area calls for a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms with a high temperature near 66 and an evening low of 52, according to the National Weather Service office in Monterey. A chance of rain remains through Saturday, with highs in the mid-60s and lows in the mid-50s. More weather/6B



THE SALINAS CALIFORNIAN FILE PHOTO

Artichoke harvesters in Castroville work in a driving rain that drenched the Central Coast in December 2001.

See **RAIN**, Page 3A

Index

Business	6B	Lotto	2A
Calendar	4A	Movies	INK
Classifieds	1D	Nation/World	1B
Comics	8C	Obituaries	6A
Community	4A	Sports	1C
Crossword	2D	State	6A
Editorials	4B	TV	4B
Legals	4D	Weather	6B
Local	2A		

NATION

Tribes battle bureaucracy

Feds' recognition slow in coming, native groups find

By **DIANA MARRERO**
The Salinas Californian Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Kenneth Woodrow, a real estate investor in Salinas, has been seeking federal recognition for his American Indian tribe, the Eshom Valley Band

ONLINE

■ **THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS:** www.doi.gov/bureau-indian-affairs.html

of Michahai and Wuksachi, for two years.

"We just want to keep our culture," said Woodrow, the tribe's chairman.

He could be in for a lengthy, bureaucratic ride unless the Bureau of Indian Affairs speeds up its applica-

tion process.

The agency's system for evaluating which tribes should be granted federal recognition was the subject of a congressional hearing Wednesday by the Senate Indian Affairs Committee.

The agency is supposed to take about two years to complete a case for federal recognition, but agency backlogs have meant the process could take 15 years,

See **TRIBES**, Page 3A

ELSEWHERE IN THE NEWS

WASHINGTON

Outsourcing the war

The United States has assembled an imposing industrial army of private contractors in Iraq larger than its uniformed fighting force. **Page 1B**

WORLD

Taliban tactics

Taliban fighters used



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A private security officer in Basra covers from dust.

children as human shields during a battle in southern Afghanistan on Wednesday, forcing U.S.-led coalition soldiers to hold their fire for a time, the coalition said.

Page 1B



your health expo

FREE ADMISSION

Saturday, September 22nd • 11AM – 3PM
Salinas Community Center/Sherwood Hall • 940 N. Main St.

Document: 092007_ca_a_1_cmyk.eps:Page: 1;Trim size: (11.125 x 21.000 ");Plate: Composite;Date: 20 Sep, 2007 00:14:29;FOR WEB ONLY