



FRIDAY
April 18, 2008

The Desert Sun

SERVING THE COACHELLA VALLEY SINCE 1927



Indio High School's Jessie Magdaleno

50¢

mydesert.com/news updated throughout the day

Pope meets clergy abuse victims

Each has individual time with pontiff

BY VICTOR L. SIMPSON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
VATICAN — Pope Benedict XVI prayed with fearful victims of clergy sex abuse in a chapel Thursday, an extraordinary and likely unprecedented gesture from a pontiff who has made atoning for the great shame of the U.S. church the cornerstone of his first papal trip to America.

Benedict's third day in the U.S. began with a packed open-air Mass celebrated in 10 languages at a baseball stadium, and it included a speech to Roman Catholic college and university presidents. But the real drama happened privately, in the chapel of the papal embassy between events. The Rev. Federico Lombardi, a papal spokesman, said Benedict

■ The pope says the Catholic church in America and society as a whole are at a crossroads and calls on Catholics to do more to teach youth true Catholicism. **A7**
and Boston Cardinal Sean O'Malley met with a group of five or six clergy sex abuse victims for about 25 minutes, offering them encouragement and hope. "They prayed together. Also, each of them had their own individual time with the Holy Father," Please see **POPE, A15**

Meeting pope was like seeing a long-lost friend

Laura Lopez stood in a line for nearly two hours to see Pope Benedict XVI and when she finally took her seat in the White House garden for the welcoming ceremony, she said: "I had the perfect view."
Lopez of Bermuda Dunes was the only Coachella Valley resident to make the trip to see the pontiff, according to an official with the Diocese of San Bernardino. "You know how you react when you see a friend or loved one you haven't seen in a long time? That's how I felt," she said over the phone at her hotel room in Washington, D.C. "It was amazing."
— **MARIECAR MENDOZA**

Are the Chargers coming to Los Angeles?

Billionaire developer Edward P. Roski Jr. is ready to build an \$800 million stadium in Los Angeles in hopes that an NFL team will want to call it home. The stadium would be built on a site near the southern intersection of the 57 and 60 freeways, about 20 miles east of L.A. Read what teams Roski thinks would be interested and who will pay for the stadium on **C1**. Then weigh in on our poll at **mydesert.com**

For all your garage floor needs

776-6897

Good Morning!
TODAY'S VALLEY HIGH, LOW

90° 58°

Sunny day

TODAY'S NEWS

Troops returning to face depression

Roughly one in five U.S. military personnel returning from wars in Iraq and Afghanistan suffers from major depression or post-traumatic stress, according to a new study. **A6**



No name calling allowed

Fifth-graders at Benjamin Elementary School have drawn national attention to their "No Name-Calling" week. **B3**

Insurers told to restore policies on Thursday

California regulators on Thursday ordered health insurers to reinstate some canceled policyholders and pay their medical bills. **A4**

IN TODAY'S PAPER

Bridge **D8** Obituaries **B5**
Classified **D1-14** IN WEEKEND
Crossword **D5** Advice **W21**
Horoscope **D4** Comics **W22-23**
Lottery **B4** TV listings **W24**

To subscribe call (800) 834-6052 or subscribe@thedesertsun.com

CATCHING UP WITH RICHARD MILANOVICH

Chairman of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

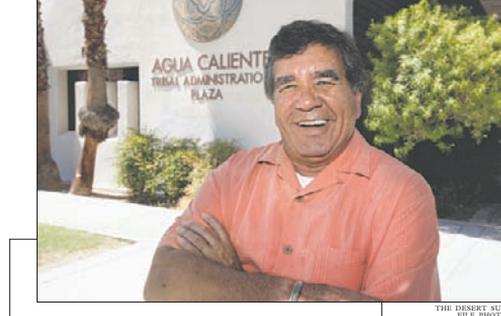
Tribe making desert history

BY DEBRA GRUSZECKI
THE DESERT SUN
As the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians rolls out the red carpet for tonight's invitation-only gala celebrating Indian culture and the vibrant \$300 million, 16-story hotel, Tribal Chairman Richard Milanovich shared his thoughts about this pivotal moment in tribal history:

QUESTION: What's the feeling of the tribe as they prepare for the grand opening?
ANSWER: Relieved. It's been a two-year process with the construction phase. On a project of this size, it's much longer than that. There has been three to five years of prior talk and discussion stages with tribal members and consultants. And it's been in the works much longer. Even when we were planning for the casino in 1999 we talked about building this. We designed it with a hotel attached, but not one of this magnitude. Now, finally, we will have this casino hotel resort open. It's a \$220 million hotel project (on its own) and something that will take its place with great grandeur in the Coachella Valley.

It's something other hoteliers in the valley will look at with envy, and say, I wish we had it in our jurisdiction just because it is such a beautiful facility. We didn't spare any expense. It's something that will take its place with great grandeur in the Coachella Valley. We've done it right. And I'm so relieved that it's here.

What will the new hotel bring to the tribe and the community?
It will establish a solid footing for the Agua Caliente Casino. The hotel resort is something we didn't have before, and was needed to truly give our players and the visitors coming in and the community overall, solid footing within the valley. We have it to the degree of the Spa



THE DESERT SUN FILE PHOTO

"We didn't spare any expense. It's something that will take its place with great grandeur in the Coachella Valley. We've done it right. And I'm so relieved that it's here."
Richard Milanovich

hotel, but the Agua Caliente casino always needed that ancillary use of the hotel. In this instance, it is such a grand, grand facility. People will come to it in wonderment initially, and it is our hope they will come back because they truly do appreciate what is there — how it's put together, the personnel that will be serving their needs and their marvelous experience. For the tribe, it gives them the added satisfaction of knowing they got something done that is

first-class. It'll give us another proverbial feather in our hat. **What will this do for tourism?** It can be said there will be increased traffic to the valley, and it can spill into the community. The valley has a lot to offer, but you've got to get them here first. This gives them a great reason to come to the Palm Springs destination. There hasn't been a ground-to-sky level project like we've developed in a few years; and I'm Please see **MILANOVICH, A15**

DHS puts out call for more police

Officer worked 27 days straight due to shortage

BY MARIECAR MENDOZA
THE DESERT SUN

The Desert Hot Springs Police Department is on a mission to restore staffing levels to 31 police officers, the number on the force before citywide layoffs in 2006. Since that time, the department has operated with a slim — and often exhausted — police force, officials say. And there is no way to tell whether the decrease in of-

ficers has led to an increase in crime. Officials are quick to add that, given available resources, the department is doing the best it can to serve and protect the public.

Daniels While administrators are moving forward with plans to hire additional officers, the strain caused by the existing officer shortage is showing.

"In all industries there is attrition," City Manager Rick Daniels said. "As a result, city staff has had to adjust the budget several times in the past year to cover overtime costs, which have already reached more than \$350,000."

"I'm concerned with the long-term health of the organization," Williams said. "I need to make sure our officers have the proper rest and that they stay healthy and alert." As of March 10, the police department employs 22 full-time officers, including its newest addition, officer Nestor Olivos.

Please see **POLICE, A14**

Read what a day at work is like for one officer. **A15**

Poll: McCain's popularity growing

GOP presidential hopeful making a race of White House contest

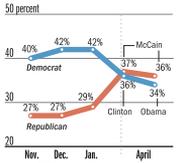
BY ALAN FRAM
AND TREVOR TOMPSON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON — Growing numbers of people like what they see in John McCain, vaulting him into a tie with the two Democratic presidential contenders just a few months after Republicans faced a steep disadvantage. The Arizona senator has made a race of the White House contest by attracting disgruntled GOP voters, independents and even some moderate Democrats who snubbed his party last fall, according to an Associated Press-Yahoo News poll released Thursday. About two-thirds of them have

grown disenchanted with President Bush despite voting for him in 2004, including many GOP-leaning independents, while the remaining third usually support Democrats but like McCain anyway. While McCain's image with voters has progressed since November, it is far from overwhelmingly strong. Yet he has done better than his two rivals: Opinions of Hillary Rodham Clinton have soured slightly since the fall, while views of Barack Obama have improved though less impressively than McCain's. "I'm left with McCain as the best of a weak field," said David Chojnacki, 68, a retired judge from West Seneca, N.Y., in a follow-up interview. By tracking the same group of roughly 2,000 people throughout Please see **POLL, A15**

Switching sides

In November 2007, more people preferred a Democrat as president over a Republican by 13 percent. Now, John McCain is about tied with both Democratic rivals.

If the 2008 general election for president were being held today, would you vote for ...



KAREN HARLOW
for the home

The Perfect Balance of Function and Form

Madeline Weirich Aly Hatch
Diane James John Robshaw Lee Upholstery

Uncommon Luxuries that Transform Everyday Life

Design Services

Store Hours: Mon - Sat 10 - 6
73-131 Country Club Dr.
In the Bristol Farms Shopping Center
760.674.4663