



THE SACRAMENTO BEE



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TOP STORIES

OUR REGION

State Assemblyman Ted Gaines is trying to block the expansion of troubled Sierra Vista Hospital...

Sacramento County officials hire a firm to review the county's Child Protective Services agency...

Colusa County removes a depiction of "Waldo Watermelon Seed" from its State Fair exhibit...

CAPITOL & CALIFORNIA

All but one state Republican lawmaker has signed a pledge promising to "oppose and vote against any and all efforts to increase taxes..."

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger rips the \$577,000 in contributions from the state correctional officers union to a political committee...

NATION

Ted Stevens, the Senate's longest-serving Republican who is under indictment for allegedly failing to report gifts, breezes to victory in Alaska's primary.

A woman is rescued in North Carolina after being trapped for five days in her mangled pickup truck hidden under vines in a ravine...

Sea ice in the Arctic Ocean is at its second-lowest level in about 30 years, a "tipping point" in global warming, some scientists say.

WORLD

Demonstrators occupying the grounds of the Thailand prime minister's office form human chains around their leaders...

The United States changes its plan to sail humanitarian aid into Georgia's main seaport, avoiding a potential confrontation with Moscow in the tense Black Sea.

A disabled woman and her adult brother are discovered in the West Bank after being locked away for decades because their parents feared they would ruin the marriage prospects of a non-disabled brother.

BUSINESS

Couples are still marching down the aisle, but they're spending less on ceremonies and electing to have destination weddings closer to home.

For \$30, Best Buy will rid your new PC of its free pre-loaded software, but the simple cleanup service is threatening the economics of the industry.

STATE DROUGHT | Voluntary conservation fails

Folsom cracks down to cut water use 20%

CITY TAKES DRASTIC ACTION TO COPE WITH REDUCED DELIVERY FROM LAKE

By MATT WEISER mweiser@sacbee.com

Folsom on Wednesday ordered the Sacramento region's toughest water conservation yet to deal with a worsening drought: mandatory rules to cut water use by 20 percent.

The measures are the most drastic Folsom has adopted since at least the last statewide drought, in the early 1990s, and perhaps even longer.

Folsom has about 19,500 customers and is entirely dependent on water stored in Folsom Lake. On July 25, city officials learned that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation would cut deliveries from the shrinking lake by 25 percent.

And since Folsom water customers did not respond well to calls this summer for voluntary conservation, "we clearly need to step it up" with mandatory action, City Manager Kerry Miller said.

WATER | Back page, A26

RACE FOR '08 Democratic convention



BRIAN BAER bbaer@sacbee.com

Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama joins running mate Joe Biden onstage.

Obama victory makes history

Barack Obama stepped triumphantly into history Wednesday night, the first black American to win a major party presidential nomination.

Former President Bill Clinton forcefully endorsed Obama's bid for the White House, declaring that he is "ready to lead America and restore American leadership in the world."

Delaware Sen. Joe Biden, nominated for vice president, said the challenges America faces require "more than a good soldier" in the White House.

TONIGHT: Obama accepts the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination during the 7 to 8 p.m. national network broadcast.

BEIJING 2008 Gold medalist comes home

Galt throws party for discus champ



Bryan Patrick bpatrik@sacbee.com

Olympic gold medalist Stephanie Brown Trafton demonstrates that her throwing ability isn't limited to the discus as she pitches candy to the huge crowd that welcomed her home to Galt on Wednesday.

TRAFTON'S FEAT SPARKS AWE, INSPIRATION

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VIDEO Scenes from Galt's celebration honoring Stephanie Brown Trafton, the Olympic gold medalist in the women's discus throw.

BEIJING 2008 Trafton's Olympic Diary Read about Trafton and other Olympians with ties to Sacramento and the surrounding region

By JOHN SCHUMACHER jschumacher@sacbee.com

As a scorching sun crept closer to the western horizon, Galt's golden light savored a hero's welcome home.

Stephanie Brown Trafton entered Galt Community Park on Wednesday evening with a police escort, sitting on top of the back seat of a convertible as her small town celebrated its Olympic gold medalist.

A huge crowd roared her arrival, chanting "USA, USA." Cheerleaders sang, "We are proud of you, we are proud of you." Hundreds of American flags waved as a smiling Trafton

made several short loops around a banner displaying the five Olympic rings.

As the celebration moved to the center of the park, children sat on their parents' shoulders trying to get a good look at the woman who won the discus throw at the Olympic Games in Beijing.

After receiving a number of proclamations, the key to the city and a special American flag from her neighbor, Air Force Reserve Technical Sgt. George Kirbyson, Trafton told everyone how her Olympic dream started.

She was 4, watching the Olympics, TRAFTON | Back page, A26

SCIENCE | Possible stem cell alternative

Cell makeover stuns experts

DISCOVERY MAY PAVE WAY FOR CURING DISEASES

By ROB STEIN Washington Post

WASHINGTON - Scientists have transformed one type of fully developed adult cell directly into another inside a living animal, a startling advance that could lead to cures for many illnesses and sidestep the political and ethical quagmires that have plagued embryonic stem cell research.

Through a series of painstaking experiments involving mice, the Harvard biologists pinpointed three crucial molecular switches that, when flipped, completely convert a common cell in the pancreas into the more precious insulin-producing ones that diabetics need to survive.

many other ailments could eventually have some of their cells reprogrammed to cure their afflictions without the need for drugs, transplants or other therapies. "It's kind of an extreme makeover of a cell," said Douglas Melton, co-director of the Harvard Stem Cell Institute, who led the research.

CONVERTING CELLS' DUTIES IN MICE

Scientists have succeeded in transforming one kind of mouse pancreas cell into another. The process: Mice are injected with a virus containing three genes to encourage insulin-making cells to form.

By PETER HECHT phecht@sacbee.com

DENVER - The master of ceremonies in the theater auditorium at Denver's Westin Hotel stalled for time before a restless audience Wednesday.

"Elvis is in the building," he insisted an hour into a "Better Tomorrow Forum" featuring authors, economists, venture capitalists and other political deep thinkers.

But it was one rare appearance that this Elvis of the Democratic National Convention wouldn't make.

San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom - the most sought-after of six would-be 2010 California gubernatorial candidates now preening in Denver - was NEWSOM | Page A19

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