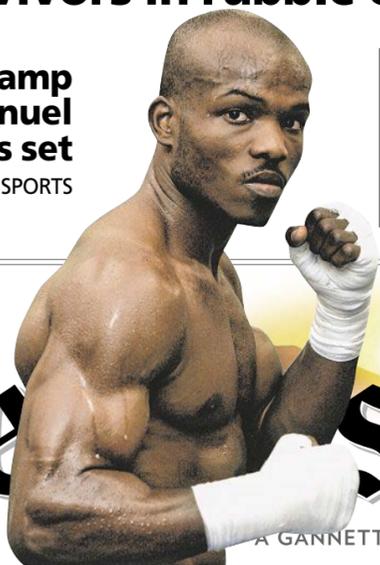


Tim Bradley camp denies Juan Manuel Marquez fight is set

SPORTS



The NFL releases its full schedule; look inside to plot your fall viewing

SPORTS

The Desert Sun

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2013

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SERVING THE COACHELLA VALLEY SINCE 1927

2014 political campaigns rev up

Millions expected to be spent on hard-fought races

By Erica Felci
The Desert Sun

With the last election barely in the rear-view mirror, some of the Coachella Valley's most notable politicians are already laying the groundwork for 2014 ballots.

Democratic Assemblyman V. Manuel Pérez later this month is expected to

formally kick off a campaign to unseat Riverside County Supervisor John Benoit, a Bermuda Dunes Republican.

Besides being a battle for a position with regional influence, the campaign will create political foes out of two leaders who have traditionally worked well together.

"It's going to be a respectful race, but it's going to be a hard-fought one," predicted Elle Kurpiewski, who manages the Democrats' headquarters in Cathedral City.

Benoit and Pérez are not alone in

launching what will be a pricey 2014 campaign cycle:

» Former state Assemblywoman Bonnie Garcia and Indio Councilman Glenn Miller — both Republicans — already are securing endorsements in the race for the new 28th Senate seat.

The district, which covers the entire Coachella Valley, is a friendly battleground for GOP candidates. As of February, the last time voter registration was compiled statewide, Republicans

Please see RACES, A2

POLICE SWARM TWO SCENES

Officers swarm the scene of a fatal shooting at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; reportedly make an arrest later a short distance away. A6

MARATHON BOMBING



"Suspect 2," left, wearing a white hat and holding a backpack, and "Suspect 1," right, with a black hat, Boston on Monday before the explosions at the Boston Marathon. AP

COACHELLA VALLEY MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL

MAKING A MUSIC MECCA

City, promoter work closely in putting on show

By Xochitl Peña
The Desert Sun

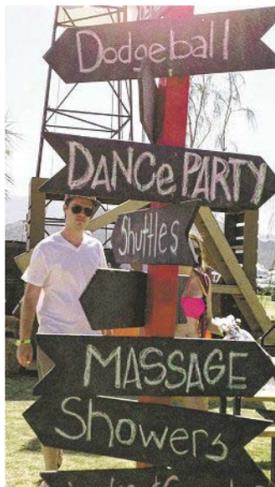
For three weekends a year, Indio is the music capital of the country.

Every April, hundreds of thousands of fans descend on a 600-acre piece of land in the east valley normally used for polo to hear great music and be part of a cultural phenomenon.

But large-scale events like the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival, which kicks off its second weekend today at the Empire Polo Club, takes planning.

Lots of planning, in fact. Indio special events coordinator Jim Curtis spends the three event weekends — including that of Stagecoach: California's Country Music Festival — in and around the concert venue with a phone attached to his hip ready to answer residents' questions, address complaints or help out in other ways.

He answers the "concert



The campground at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival has been a source of complaints from nearby residents in the past, but a new emphasis on keeping problems to a minimum has eased concerns. PHOTO AT TOP LEFT: Jim Curtis, who is in charge of special events for the city of Indio, answers a call as he works the festival on April 12. PHOTO AT TOP RIGHT: Fest-goers walk through the campground. PHOTOS BY JAY CALDERON AND XOCHITL PEÑA/THE DESERT SUN

Please see FEST, A12

KEEP UP WITH THE FESTIVAL AT MYCOACHELLA.COM

Help sought in ID'ing suspects

'No bit of information is too small for us to see,' official says

By Kevin Johnson
USA Today

Federal investigators issued an urgent appeal Thursday for the public's assistance in identifying two "suspects" in the Boston Marathon attacks who were seen on local surveillance camera video carrying backpacks near the sites just before devices were detonated.

Boston FBI chief Richard DesLauriers said the young men with backpacks — identified as "Suspect 1" wearing a black cap and "Suspect 2" wearing a white cap — were the only people authorities were seeking in connection

Please see BOSTON, A6

COACHELLA VALLEY TOURISM

March busiest month ever for Palm Springs airport

By Skip Descant
The Desert Sun

If the long lines at Palm Springs International Airport stretching from the security screening area down to the baggage carousels last month seemed unusual, it's because this March was unique.

An average of nearly 8,500 passengers a day made their way through the Palm Springs

terminal, making March the busiest month in the airport's 49-year history.

Some 263,057 fliers filed through the airport, a 6.4 percent increase from same month last year, according to airport statistics released Wednesday.

Passenger-count growth at Palm Springs International is up 3.4 percent for the first three months of this year.

"March has continually been

the highest month of the year based on all of the historical data I've seen," said Mark Kiehl, a deputy director at Palm Springs International Airport. "March 2012 finally beat the previous record set in 2007 — before the recession — and this March we beat that again by a nice margin."

The growth came as domestic airline ticket sales slid 3.7 percent in the first quarter,

Kiehl told the Palm Springs Airport Commission Wednesday.

"So you can see a pretty wide gap, and pretty positive margin," said Kiehl, though he added that many passengers purchase tickets for travel months in advance.

"It wasn't clear if the ticket sales were only for the first quarter travel alone, but it's a good indicator," he said of the ticket-sales data.

Passenger-growth trends like those seen at Palm Springs International are closely watched by the airlines, Kiehl also pointed out, and are part of the reason the Palm Springs airport has seen increased air service in the last year.

The airport commission also approved the airport's 2013-14 budget with projected revenues of \$16.4 million and expenses of \$16.1 million.

GOOD MORNING

Coachella weekend ahead

89° 64°

Abby **WE13** Obits **B7,8**
 Bridge **D5** Opinion **B9**
 Comics **WE16** Puzzles **D4**
 The Deuce **C2** Starwatch **B4**
 Lottery **B7** Today in History **B4**
 Movies **WE6** Weather **B10**

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INSIDE TODAY'S PAPER

SENATE GOES FIRST

Border security remains a big question as a compromise immigration bill is filed in the Senate. **A10**

DISARMING FELONS

The state Assembly OKs more funding for efforts to seize felons' guns. **A4**

YOUNG ARTISTS RECOGNIZED

Some Coachella Valley students were honored for their depictions of the Forever Marilyn statue in downtown Palm Springs. **B1**

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