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SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS



OUR 153RD YEAR

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Congressmen push for more water for state's farmers

Seek emergency exception to endangered species act

By KEVIN FREKING
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Displaying a bowl of minnows and pictures of unemployed farm workers and their families, California congressmen pleaded with their colleagues Tuesday to make an emergency exception to the federal Endangered Species Act.

The lawmakers said efforts to protect a 3-inch-long fish, the delta smelt, have led to court-ordered reductions in the amount of water pumped to some farmers in the San Joaquin Valley, leading to fallowed fields and skyrocketing unemployment.

They said even as a drought enters its third year, there is enough water in California to share with the valley's thousands of farms. Their proposal would increase the diversion of water for those farms.

In 2007, a federal judge ordered federal and state water authorities to reduce the amount of water they pump through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in a bid to protect the delta smelt. The finger-length fish is considered a bellwether for the health of the delta, the heart of California's water-delivery system.

Speaking before the House Natural Resources Committee, several of the state's lawmakers discounted the drought as the reason for the San Joaquin Valley's lack of water.

Rather, they said it was a matter of priorities, with the government valuing fish over families.

Rep. Dennis Cardoza, D-Atwater, said thousands of families were moving out of his district. He called the exodus the "Dust Bowl migration in reverse."

Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Visalia, said the unemployment rate in his district is nearly 20 percent and is nearing 50 percent in some communities.

"We're not asking for a billion-dollar bailout. We're aren't even asking for one single dollar," Mr. Nunes said. "All we need is for this committee to move emergency legislation which would allow the delta pumps to return to historic

Please see **WATER** on **A10**

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Statewide 1 percent sales tax hike goes into effect today



THOMAS KELSEY / NEWS-PRESS

A Porsche is shown at a dealership in Santa Barbara. The cost of a new car will increase thanks to a 1 percent, statewide sales tax hike that goes into effect today.

Hike will affect a host of consumer goods

By MATT BLOISE
NEWS-PRESS CORRESPONDENT

Beginning today, the sales tax in California will be increased by 1 percent, or an additional cent of tax for every dollar spent.

In Santa Barbara County, the increase will be from 7.75 percent to 8.75 percent. The hike will be in effect until July of 2011 or 2012, depending on whether voters approve Proposition 1A, the Budget Stabilization Act, in a statewide election on May 19.

Assemblyman Roger Niello, R-Sacramento, an author of the legislation, said the measure will restore the budget. "The measure is essential," he said. "When we do

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recover—which we will eventually, I have no doubt — we will not go back to the feast-and-famine cycle. I think it works very well."

According to Mr. Niello, Prop 1A would impose a spending cap for the state government, which would not be allowed to outspend revenue. A reserve fund will be built into the budget, so that any revenue source that the state receives would go into a "Rainy Day" fund, that would not exceed 12½ percent of the general fund. If there is more money

than the mandatory cap for the fund, it would be used to pay off state debt, or given back to taxpayers in the form of a rebate.

Mr. Niello said this is one measure that will help California regain its economic grounding.

"The fact that we don't do as much as we could to support new businesses has probably hurt us," he said. "Our personal and

Please see **TAX** on **A7**

Research holds promise for diabetics

By ANGEL PACHECO
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

Researchers from UCSB and the Sansum Diabetes Research Institute have assisted in making a key step in creating artificial pancreases for diabetes patients.

Working with the Stanford Medical Center, researchers created a computer-simulated system for evaluating an investigational artificial pancreas, according to a news release. The research was published in the Diabetes Technology & Therapeutics journal.

"This achievement is vital," Dr. Eyal Dassau, lead author and UCSB Diabetes Team Research manager, said in a statement. "We now have a way, prior to patient trials, to fully verify and validate that an artificial pancreas can efficiently operate in the variety of conditions reflective of a large group of patients with this disease."

The system will help streamline preclinical trials, according to Dr. Howard Zisser, director of Clinical Research and Diabetes Technology at the Sansum Diabetes Research Institute.

Dr. Zisser described the system as a platform that would allow an insulin pump, glucose sensors and an algorithm that communicates between the two to all be working and tested at the same time. While the pumps and sensors are working well, he told the News-Press what's really missing is the "brain," which the algorithm will act as.

"We plan to begin using it in the next several months," he said in a statement.

The research is part of project that is being funded by the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and its first goal is replicate a healthy pancreas for patients with type 1 diabetes, according to the news release. Patients with type 1 diabetes have pancreases that no longer produce insulin, which the body uses to control blood glucose levels.

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RAFAEL MALDONADO / NEWS-PRESS

Chase Bank, which bought Washington Mutual Bank, has requested approval to place six new signs in front of its building in the 1300 block of State Street, above, and four more at its branch at 3768 State St.

Local businesses apply for new building signs

Pinkberry, Chase Bank, Apple among those seeking approval

By MARCI WORMSER
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

The Santa Barbara Board of Architectural Review will be reviewing six applications from local businesses for new signs at

a special board meeting Thursday at 8:30 a.m. at the David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden St.

The six businesses that are

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SCOTT STEEPLTON / NEWS-PRESS PHOTOS

Aaron Luna, 9, placed a rose at the makeshift memorial on Monday night near the spot where Adrianna Bachan was struck and killed and her friend seriously injured by a hit-and-run driver.

\$85,000 reward offered for suspects in fatal hit-and-run

Santa Barbaran was struck down near USC campus

By ANGEL PACHECO
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

With the suspects in a Los Angeles hit-and-run that killed a University of Southern California student from Santa Barbara still at large, officials are set to offer \$85,000 for information that leads to the capture and conviction of the culprits. \$10,000 is from the Los Angeles County Board of supervisors, \$75,000 from the Los Angeles city council.

Two days after Adrianna Bachan, 18, was struck while in a marked crosswalk near the school, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved of the reward for information leading to the responsible parties who fled the scene, according to a news release. The request for the cash was made by Second District Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas.

"The perpetrators of this heinous crime have eluded capture and LAPD detectives are asking those who may have any information on their possible identity and whereabouts to come forward, so that they may be



COURTESY PHOTO

Adrianna Bachan

Please see **ADRIANNA** on **A10**



Passersby visit the memorial for Adrianna Bachan and Marcus Garfinkle near the campus of USC.

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