



TUESDAY
April 29, 2008

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Good Morning!
TODAY'S VALLEY HIGH, LOW

94° 62°

Case o' the vapors

TODAY'S NEWS

TOO MUCH MILEY?

Fifteen-year-old pop star says she's "embarrassed" by spread in Vanity Fair; did mag shoot too much skin? **Desert Today**



Miley Cyrus

STEVE GRANITZ, WIREIMAGE

Carding at the ballot?

The Supreme Court says it's OK for states to check voters' ID at the polling place. **A3**

Duroville deadline

A federal judge tells mobile home park's owner to clean up his act — or else. **B1**

Got yours yet?

Tax rebates start landing in bank accounts: How will we spend? **E1**

DAILY LIFE



She's not dead yet

Madonna's new album "Hard Candy," out today, features Justin Timberlake. **D1**

Battle on the track

Field events contested during DVL track meet. **C1**

COMING TOMORROW

What's cooking

Richard Perez of Bing Crosby's in Rancho Mirage shares his scallops. **Food and Drink**

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IN TODAY'S PAPER

Advice	D2	Movies	D2
Bridge	F5	Obituaries	B5
Classified	F1-8	Opinion	B6-7
Comics	D4	Scoreboard	C7
Crossword	F4	Stocks	E3-4
Entertainer	D3	Sudoku	F4
Horoscope	F3	Television	D5
Lottery	B4	Weather	E6



Spam from the sky litters Indio lawns



JAY CALDERON, THE DESERT SUN

Thousands of pieces of confetti promoting presidential candidate Barack Obama litter the properties at Sunnyside Estates in Indio on Monday.

Residents vent over flier drop

BY MARCEL HONORÉ, ANGELA FRANZER AND XOCHITL PEÑA
THE DESERT SUN

INDIO — In a strange ending to this year's Coachella Music and Arts Festival, hundreds of Indio residents awoke Monday to find thousands of small political fliers scattered like snow across their lawns, pools and backyards.

A stream of tiny fliers endorsing presidential candidate Barack Obama was released from a plane flying over the Empire Polo Field during Roger Waters' Coachella-ending set late Sunday evening, Indio officials said.

But the plane missed its target. Instead, fliers drifted over a two-mile radius area north-west of the field, according to

Indio Police Department spokesman Ben Guitron. Some 18 neighborhoods plus various businesses were showered with the pro-Obama leaflets, he said.

"I don't think they calculated the wind currents," Guitron said of the plane's pilots. "You can't believe the phone calls I've received on this, it's unreal." Police and city officials received 100 phone calls Monday, he added.

Indio City Manager Glenn Southard said Waters had asked if he could shower the confetti-like fliers — and was told no by the city staff, police and concert promoters.

"He did it anyway. We are not happy about it and apologize," Southard wrote in an e-mail.

Please see FLIERS, A7

Who do you think should be held accountable for cleanup of pro-Obama leaflets?
Vote now at mydesert.com



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pig on the loose!

A school-bus sized swine that hovered over the crowd Sunday night while Roger Waters played a version of "Pigs" from 1977's capitalism critique "Animals" has flown the coop.

A \$10,000 reward plus four Coachella tickets for life is being offered for the return of their pig, according to Marcee Rondan, spokeswoman for Coachella Music and Arts Festival promoter Goldenvoice.

Anyone with information is asked to e-mail lostpig@coachella.com.

Poll: Clinton beats McCain

Hillary up by 9 points, doing better than Obama against GOP candidate

BY LIZ SIDOTI
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON — Hillary Rodham Clinton now leads John McCain by 9 points in a head-to-head presidential matchup, according to an Associated Press-Ipsos poll that bolsters her argument that she is more electable than Democratic rival Barack Obama.

Obama and Republican McCain are running about even.

The survey released Monday gives the New York senator and former first lady a fresh talking point as she works to raise much-needed campaign cash and persuade pivotal undecided super-delegates to side with her in the drawn-out Democratic primary fight.

Helped by independents, young people and seniors, Clinton gained ground this month in a hypothetical match with Sen. McCain, the GOP nominee-in-waiting. She now leads McCain 50 percent to 41 percent, while Obama remains virtually tied with him, 46 percent to 44 percent.

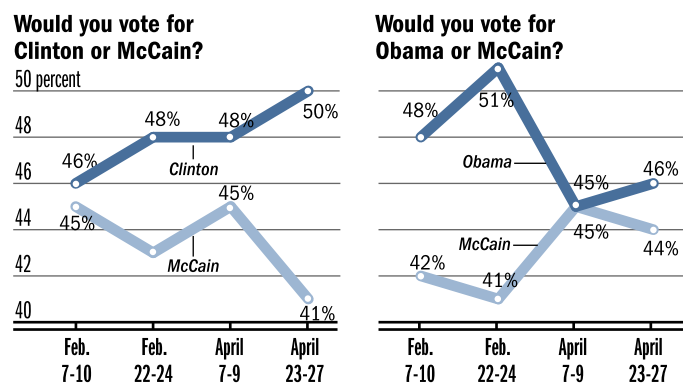
Both Democrats were roughly even with McCain in the previous poll about three weeks ago.

Since then, Clinton won the Pennsylvania primary, raising questions anew about whether Obama can attract broad swaths of voters needed to triumph in such big states come the fall when the Democratic nominee will go up against McCain. At the same time,

Please see CLINTON, A7

Clinton better chance of edging McCain

In a head-to-head matchup, Hillary Clinton leads John McCain, 50 percent to 41 percent, while Barack Obama remains nearly tied with McCain.



How much do you trust these candidates to ...

... handle the economy	... handle Iraq	... understand the problems that I face
Clinton: 48% Completely/quite a bit, 50% Only a little/not at all	Obama: 44% Completely/quite a bit, 53% Only a little/not at all	McCain: 38% Completely/quite a bit, 59% Only a little/not at all

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

State \$20B short, warns governor

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOD
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LOS ANGELES — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said Monday that California faces a budget gap that could approach \$20 billion through June 2009, a dizzying projection that adds further confusion to the depth of California's financial crisis.

"Right now, we have approximately, altogether, \$20 billion of deficit," the Republican governor told business leaders in Orange County. "It's going to be a big challenge."

The estimated gap for the fiscal year that begins July 1 already has prompted talk in Sacramento of tax increases and spending cuts

that could hit classrooms, law enforcement and health care.

The new figure essentially doubles the Republican governor's deficit projection from just days ago. California's economy has been hammered by the slumping housing market, while soaring gas prices have cut into consumer spending.

Just last week, the governor said the state would face a potential \$10 billion deficit in the next fiscal year. His spokesman, Matt David, said Schwarzenegger misspoke at that time.

The governor's announcement appears to be setting the stage for more grim news when he submits revisions to his budget next month.

Valley restaurants feeling rice crunch

Price hikes may be passed along to customers

BY ANGELA FRANZER
THE DESERT SUN

A tiny grain is causing panic around the world — and the Coachella Valley is starting to see the effects.

Certain varieties of long-grain rice, which have skyrocketed in price recently as demand soars, are being snatched up by local residents fearing a shortage.

Restaurants that serve rice are feeling a price pinch that may raise

the price of meals for diners. "Yesterday, someone bought 10 50-pound bags, and a restaurant owner from Palm Desert bought 15," said Aurelio Juan, owner of AJ Oriental Liquor & Market in Palm Springs. Long-grain jasmine rice was most in demand at the store, followed by other varieties.

Shirley Mendoza, owner of Fil-Am Oriental Mart in Cathedral City said she was sold out of long-grain rice last week.

Her son went to Los Angeles to replenish the store's supply.

Costco and Sam's Club stores in Palm Desert are now restricting how much rice customers can buy.

Please see RICE, A7

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