

## HEART: Rx for children

Continued from A1

Several of these drugs are approved for use in children and data show that increasing numbers are using them.

"If we are more aggressive about this in childhood, I think we can have an impact on what happens later in life ... and avoid some of these heart attacks and strokes in adulthood," Daniels said. He has worked as a consultant to Abbott Laboratories and Merck & Co., but not on matters involving their cholesterol drugs.

Drug treatment would generally be targeted for kids at least 8 years old who have too much LDL, the "bad" cholesterol, along with other risky conditions, including obesity and high blood pressure. For overweight children with too little HDL, the "good" cholesterol, the first course of action should be weight loss, more physical activity and nutritional counseling, the academy says. Pediatricians should routinely check the cholesterol of children with a family history of inherited cholesterol disease or with parents or grandparents who developed heart disease at an early age, the recommendations say. Screening also is advised for kids whose family history isn't known and those who are overweight, obese or have other heart disease risk factors.

Screening is recommended sometime after age 2 but no later than age 10, at routine checkups.

The academy's earlier advice said cholesterol drugs should only be considered in children older than 10 after they fail to lose weight.

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## MISSION: Group seeking donations, volunteers

Continued from A1

proved plans for the new facility last month, acknowledged the growing need for services.

"I think it's about time," Planning Commissioner Glenn Miller said. "It's definitely something that's needed."

Rescue Mission officials are trying to raise money for construction and two years of operating costs.

So far, they have pulled together \$2 million of the \$12 million needed. Officials plan to fund the rest with private donations and grants.

Burkett said the planning commission's approval for the project will help fundraising efforts and clear the way for the Rescue Mission to file an application for federal funding.

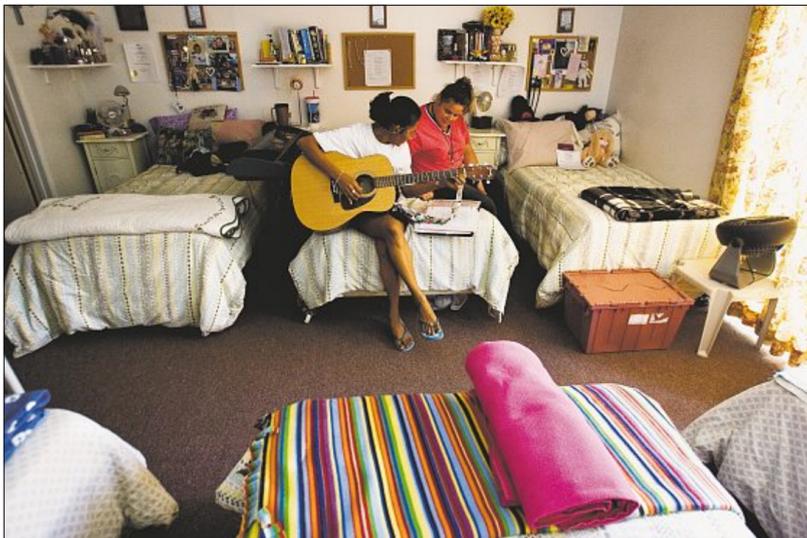
### David Bentley's story

Rescue Mission resident and kitchen supervisor David Bentley said the new facility will be a blessing.

"It means we'll be able to take care of more people, touching more people in the community so they can turn their lives around, too," he said.

Bentley, 47, came to the shelter in July 2007, three weeks after he had been released from prison. He had served time for using drugs.

"I was messing up," he said. "I wanted to change my life and



Joy Cloud (left) and Kelly Castanon rehearse a song at the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission on June 27. A new, five-acre, \$6 million site will increase the Mission's bed capacity from 80 to 150.

start doing things right."

Bentley has been participating in the Rescue Mission's year-long faith-based counseling and education program. It's designed to prepare residents for returning to the workforce and mainstream society.

Bentley will graduate in August. He's in the process of looking for a place to live, but will

continue working as a staff member at the Rescue Mission.

Beyond the need to raise money for a new facility, Bentley said the Rescue Mission has everyday needs to worry about.

"We're running low on canned goods, dry goods, rice, beans, cereal, oatmeal, dry milk and peanut butter and jelly," he said.

The economic downturn is

putting an extra burden on the mission, Burkett said. Even people with jobs are coming in on a regular basis asking for everything from food to baby items to gas money. And nobody is turned away.

### An issue for entire valley

Last year, the Coachella Valley Association of Governments ap-

proved its homeless committee's strategic plan to end homelessness in the valley.

The three-year strategy includes establishing service centers in the western and eastern portions of the valley that would provide food, showers, emergency shelter, and mental health, health and employment services.

The plan is to have all desert cities pay for the centers.

"We want to see all cities chip in for the east and west valley multi-service centers," said Aurora Wilson, director of community resources for the Coachella Valley Association of Governments.

The homeless aren't fixed in one location, Wilson said. They travel throughout the desert community.

"The homeless are mobile; they go from one end of the valley to the other," Wilson said.

The east valley has historically borne the burden of caring for the valley's homeless population.

The Rescue Mission's new facility — with an additional 70-plus beds — will help close some of the gap in the valley's emergency housing needs, Wilson said.

He said the Rescue Mission "continues to meet the needs for homeless shelter services that are badly needed all over the valley."

## POWER: Line unnecessary, some say

Continued from A1

Officials at SDG&E said the 150-mile power line would be part of the long-term energy resource plan that would derive 20 percent of California's energy from renewable resources by 2010.

The power line will cost about \$1.5 billion to build, while the cost of solar panels to produce the same amount of energy will run about \$20 billion, said Jennifer Briscoe, spokesperson for SDG&E.

"We have to fit the least cost, best fit," Briscoe explained, adding that it now runs about \$30,000 to install solar panels on a single-family home.

But David Hogan, a San Diego-based conservation manager at the Center for Biological Diversity, questions SDG&E's math.

"The Utility Conservation Action Network has shown SDG&E has wildly under-represented the cost. It's going to be much more than \$1.5 billion and much less for (installation) of rooftop solar," Hogan said.

April Sall, preserve manager for the California Desert Coalition, a nonprofit advocacy group organized as an advisory committee of the Mojave Desert Land Trust, agrees.

"There's been very little discussion of conservation strategies within the cities," Sall said recently. "There's a way to do this better for the long-term."

Defenders of Wildlife also opposes the Powerlink Project going through the state park, although the group primarily deals with the Mojave Desert.

Hogan said the green in this project are the dollars SDG&E has its eyes on.

"The main reason SDG&E wants this project is that it's ex-

### Sunrise Power Link route

The proposed route of San Diego Gas and Electric's 150-mile Sunrise Powerlink will cut 23 miles through the middle of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.



SOURCE: WWW.SDGE.COM

THE DESERT SUN

tremely profitable. It has nothing to do with serving people's needs," he said, adding that the power line will probably end up transporting "polluting fossil fuels," not renewable energy, calling SDG&E's green spin on the project a "public relations game."

Critics such as the Center for Biological Diversity also claim Sempra, an energy group that includes SDG&E, built the plants in Mexico to skirt more rigorous environmental reviews in the U.S.

They suggest SDG&E's proposed power line, which would start near the Mexican border, is part of a disguised effort to get electricity into the U.S. from

Mexico, where Sempra has an electricity plant and the first liquefied natural gas terminal on the West Coast.

SDG&E dismisses those claims as a conspiracy theory.

Briscoe says SDG&E actively seeks out a mix of resources, including natural gas, transmission lines and energy-efficiency measures to meet the needs of customers.

The California Public Utilities Commission will vote on the project sometime in late November and a final decision should be reached by the end of the year.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

## NYC church prays for singing pastor

By SAMANTHA GROSS  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**NEW YORK** — The congregation led by gospel singer Timothy Wright gathered for praise and remembrance Sunday, praying for their pastor's recovery from a head-on car crash that killed his wife and grandson.

The Friday crash with a driver going the wrong way on a Pennsylvania interstate critically in-

jured the Grammy-nominated Wright and killed co-pastor Betty Wright. Their 14-year-old grandson, D.J. Wright, died Saturday at the hospital.

Congregants at the Grace Tabernacle Christian Center refused to be bowed by sorrow following the crash. Women dressed in Sunday white and men in dark suits pounded their feet and sang joyful gospel tunes, forgoing

solemnity to praise God and share memories of the Wright family.

"We honor the Lord for his goodness and his kindness. We say, in spite of everything: God is still good," the Rev. Frank Williams told the crowd.

The crash also killed John Pick, 44, of Lewisburg, Pa., who drove the wrong way on eastbound Interstate 80 into the Wrights' vehicle, police said.

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## BRIEFLY

### NBC Universal in deal to buy Weather Channel

**NEW YORK** — NBC Universal and two partners said Sunday they have reached a deal to buy The Weather Channel from Landmark Communications Inc., ending a drawn-out process that had attracted interest from several major media companies.

Financial terms weren't disclosed, but a person familiar with the matter who insisted on anonymity said the purchase price was \$3.5 billion in cash. NBC was joined in the deal by the private equity firms The Blackstone Group LP and Bain Capital LLC.

In addition to The Weather Channel, which can be seen by 97 percent of U.S. cable subscribers, the deal also includes several related assets such as weather services for newspapers and radio stations and the widely used Web site Weather.com.

NBC Universal, a unit of General Electric Co., became the sole bidder for The Weather Channel last month after Time Warner Inc. dropped out. CBS Corp. and cable industry leader Comcast Corp. had also expressed interest earlier.

NBC already operates a digital weather and news service called NBC Weather Plus that was launched in 2004 and would make a logical fit with The Weather Channel. NBC Weather Plus is owned by NBC and its affiliated TV stations and can be seen on digital cable services and digital subchannels operated by NBC stations.

### Rail car leak prompts warning in South Dakota

**MITCHELL, S.D.** — Officials in a southeastern South Dakota city have asked residents near a leaking rail car to keep their windows closed and stay indoors.

Mitchell Police Lieutenant Don Everson said Sunday night that a parked freight car began leaking fumes from an aluminum smelting byproduct, but the fumes were quickly contained. He says there's no danger to residents.

Mayor Lou Sebert says no evacuations have been ordered in the city of about 15,000 near Interstate 90. Instead, officials asked neighbors within one block of the leak to close their windows and stay indoors. BNSF Railway spokesman Gus Melonas says crews hauled the rail car outside of city limits to an unpopulated area and planned to monitor it until Monday morning as it smoldered out.

### Feds target Yellowstone elk to wipe out disease

**BILLINGS, Mont.** — Federal officials are considering a tentative proposal that calls for capturing or killing infected elk in Yellowstone National Park to eliminate a serious livestock disease carried by animals in the area.

Government agencies have killed more than 6,000 wild bison leaving Yellowstone over the last two decades in an attempt to

### contain brucellosis, which causes pregnant cattle to abort their young.

Cattle in parts of Wyoming and Montana where bison haven't roamed for decades are being infected, and livestock officials in both states are now targeting elk as the cause.

"We've got way too many elk," said John Scully, a rancher living in Montana's Madison Valley. "Clearly with so many elk, the risk rises. We need to reduce their numbers."

A tentative proposal, drafted by federal officials, sets a goal of eliminating the disease — not just controlling it in bison and in elk.

### Tropical Storm Bertha may become hurricane

**MIAMI** — Forecasters say Tropical Storm Bertha likely will become the Atlantic season's first hurricane on Monday.

At 11 p.m. EDT Sunday, Bertha was centered about 930 miles east of the northern Leeward Islands in the Caribbean.

Maximum sustained winds have increased to about 65 mph with some higher gusting.

The storm is moving toward the west-northwest at about 20 mph. It's still too early to say if or where Bertha will hit land.

The first named storm this year, Arthur, formed in the Atlantic the day before the season officially started June 1 and soaked the Yucatan Peninsula.

### Man out-spits father, claims pit-spitting title

**EAU CLAIRE, Mich.** — Brian "Young Gun" Krause has out-spit his father to claim his seventh championship at the International Cherry Pit Spitting Championship.

Krause's winning spit on Saturday was 56 feet, 7 1/2 inches.

That's 6 1/2 inches better than his father, the second-place finisher and defending champion, 54-year-old Rick "Pellet Gun" Krause of Tuba City, Ariz., who spit 56 feet, 1 inch.

Thirty-year-old Brian Krause, of Dimondale, currently holds the Guinness World Record after spitting a pit 93 feet, 6 1/2 inches in 2003.

Amanda Jennings of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, the first woman to place in the top three, did not qualify for championship competition but retained her title as women's champion with a spit of 43 feet, 11 inches.

### Bob Ackles dies at 69; rose to lead B.C. Lions

**VANCOUVER, British Columbia** — Bob Ackles, the B.C. Lions' first water boy who went on to become the Canadian Football League team's president and chief executive officer, died Sunday after having a heart attack. He was 69.

Ackles also worked in the NFL and CFL.

He was inducted into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame in 2002 and the B.C. Sports Hall of Fame in 2004.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS