



# The Desert Sun



THURSDAY  
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Olmert

## ISRAEL'S PRIME MINISTER TO RESIGN

Facing burgeoning corruption allegations and plummeting popularity, Israel Prime Minister Ehud Olmert says he will resign in September. **A3**

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Good Morning!

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### TODAY'S NEWS

#### Solar industry setback

The solar industry suffered a setback Wednesday when Republicans in the U.S. Senate blocked a vote on legislation that included an extension of renewable energy tax credits set to expire in December. **E1**

### DAILY LIFE

#### Council OKs signs

Palm Springs City Council members voted Wednesday to allow downtown and uptown merchants to put portable signs in front of their shops — with some conditions. **B3**

#### It's not LaBeouf's fault



Investigators say "Indiana Jones" actor Shia LaBeouf was not at fault for the two-car crash in Hollywood on Sunday night that ended with LaBeouf's arrest on suspicion of DUI. **D5**

#### Soboba, Sniff disagree

Soboba tribal Chairman Robert Salgado says he and the Riverside County Sheriff Stanley Sniff Jr. interpret the federal law that applies to reservation law enforcement differently. **B1**

#### Housing bill signed

President Bush kept his promise and signed a massive housing bill intended to provide mortgage relief for 400,000 struggling homeowners. **E1**

#### One last victory sought



Annika Sorenstam is hoping to make the Women's British Open her 11th major win before taking her final bow. **C1**

### IN TODAY'S PAPER

Advice	D2	Movies	D2
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### TRIBAL GAMING

# Tribes feed state coffers millions

## Casino checks arrive in Sacramento as lawmakers struggle to get a budget

By DEBRA GRUSZECKI  
THE DESERT SUN

The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians joined several other tribes in giving millions of dollars to the state of California on Wednesday as part of their funding commitment for additional slot machines.

The Coachella Valley tribe did not disclose how much it gave, however the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians publicly disclosed that it handed the state \$30.8 million for more slots at its Temecula casino.

The checks arrived in Sacramento amid state budgetary turmoil.

With a \$15.2 billion state budget deficit looming, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is poised today to sign an executive order to lay off about 22,000 temporary, part-time and contract state workers and pay 200,000 regular state employees the federal minimum wage.

"I am sure the voters of California are happy to hear they got exactly what they voted for: more state revenue without raising taxes," Pechanga chairman Mark

Macarro said of the check that's more than the tribe paid the state in all of 2007.

"The state now has the flexibility to use this additional funding for education, public safety, health care and other vital services."

Aaron McLear, the governor's press secretary, said the revenue from the new Indian gaming deals is already included in the state budget assumptions.

### Inside

Thousands of state workers brace for layoff notices. **A2**

the state is a benefit to the state, so this is a benefit," said Anna Carr, a spokeswoman for the California Gambling Control Commission.

"We always negotiate compacts that are beneficial and fair to the state, and to the tribe," she said.

"The governor lobbied hard for  
**Please see MONEY, A4**

## LG SKINS' ALL-STAR HOLIDAY LINEUP



# Meetin' on the green

By LARRY BOHANNAN  
THE DESERT SUN

**INDIAN WELLS** — Rocco Mediate, who pushed Tiger Woods to 91 holes before falling in the U.S. Open last month, and seven-time PGA Tour winner K.J. Choi will complete the field for the LG Skins Game Thanksgiving weekend.

As reported Wednesday on mydesert.com, Mediate and Choi join defending champion Stephen Ames and Phil Mickelson, the No. 2 ranked player in the world, in the field of the \$1 million event at the Indian Wells Golf Resort. An official announcement of the field is expected as early as this week.

### Why care?

Larry Bohannon tells us why we should care about this year's event. **C1**

### FIND MORE

See photos from last year's LG Skins Game at [mydesert.com](http://mydesert.com)

The event will be played Nov. 29 and 30 at the Celebrity Course at the golf resort. A pro-am will be played Nov. 28.

"I think we've got an all-star cast and I think it's going to make everyone's

Thanksgiving weekend a treat watching Phil and Rocco and Stephen and K.J. over the holiday weekend here in Indian Wells," said Greg Johnson, city manager for Indian Wells. The city owns the Indian Wells Golf Resort that will host the tournament for the second time this year.

Mediate, a five-time winner on the PGA Tour, saw his popularity soar at June's U.S. Open at Torrey Pines Golf Course in San Diego. Mediate's easy-going personality and strong game were on display for the 72 regulation holes, an 18-hole playoff and a one-

**Please see SKINS, A4**

## Can pets sense oncoming quake?

### Restless behavior often precedes temblors

By ANGELA FRANZER  
THE DESERT SUN

Dogs howled all morning. Normally lethargic ponies tittered.

A parrot fluttered to the bottom of its cage.

Did they somehow know about Tuesday's earthquake before everyone else in the Coachella Valley?

"It's like he's being attacked, but he doesn't know by what and he squawks in fear," Desert Hot Springs resident Cindy Scott said of her parrot's actions just before Tuesday morning's magnitude 5.4 temblor.

The belief that animals can predict earthquakes has been around for centuries, according to a 2003 National Geographic article. In 373 B.C., historians said rats, snakes and weasels deserted days before an earthquake destroyed the Greek city of Helice.

In 1975, officials ordered the Chinese city of Haicheng evacuated days before a 7.3-magnitude quake, partially because the animals were acting strangely.

But is it true? Shelley Hettig, registered vet-



OMAR ORNELAS, THE DESERT SUN

Barb Grans, volunteer with The Pet Rescue Center in Coachella, believes dogs and other animals can perceive earthquakes by using their acute hearing.

### Securing your pets

Tips for you and your pets in anticipation of earthquakes. **A4**  
For more one earthquake preparedness tips visit [mydesert.com/earthquakes](http://mydesert.com/earthquakes)

erinary technician at Desert Dunes Animal Hospital in Palm Springs, said she firmly believes they have a "sixth sense."  
"They're on the ground in bare feet and they can feel these things. Their senses are so much more alive than ours," Hettig said.

"The birds get really quiet;

even the horses have this terrified look in their eyes. It's like the calm before the storm," Hettig said.  
According to the U.S. Geological Survey, more studies are needed to determine if animals can predict earthquakes days or weeks beforehand.

**Please see PETS, A4**

## Texters: Beware of walls, moving cars

Emergency room doctors say cell phone users aren't paying attention to what they're doing while texting and are walking into walls and lampposts or, worse, stepping off curbs in front of oncoming traffic. Not only do they advise against walking and texting at the same time, but say driving, rollerblading or any activity requiring concentration should be avoided when texting. **A8**

## WINDOW TINTING

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