MORE **LOCAL**

Good cause, good time

The Queen of Hearts Therapeutic Riding Center, a Mira Loma nonprofit, will be celebrating a decade of providing services to disabled people. C4

NAIUN&WURLD



Governor races are threat to Obama

BY CHARLES BABINGTON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Republicans are poised to topple at least a dozen Democratic governors next month, and that could cause President Barack Obama and his party major headaches far beyond this year's

A cadre of new GOP governors, including some in battleground states that Obama won two years ago, could complicate his efforts to deliver benefits to voters and campaign effectively in 2012. They could also help create Republicanfriendly House seats in next year's once-a-decade redistricting pro-

In the final weeks of this year's contest, Obama is campaigning hard for Democrats coast to coast, well aware of the worrisome signs for the future. So far, his results seem mixed, and some candidates seem wary of him.

Democrats are at risk of surrendering governorships in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Oregon, New Mexico and Maine, among others. Obama carried all those states under Democratic governors in 2008. And all will be competitive in a 2012 re-election contest except, presumably, his home state of

Republican governors already have replaced Democrats in New Jersey and Virginia, states that Obama also carried two years

Elsewhere, Democrats are struggling to win a once-promising gubernatorial race in Florida, another swing state that has proven crucial in presidential races. Democrats might replace GOP governors in California — where Meg Whitman is facing former Gov. Jerry Brown — as well as Hawaii and a few others states this fall. But Minnesota is the only state in that category that seems likely to be seriously contested in the 2012 presidential race.

As Obama tries to help Democratic congressional and gubernatorial candidates, he often visits states that will be vital to his re-election hopes. This year he has traveled four times each to Florida, Michigan and Wisconsin, five times to Pennsylvania, and six times to Ohio, where he plans to campaign again this weekend in Cleveland and Columbus.

The president's schedule "is driven entirely by how to best help Democrats in 2010," said White House communications director Dan Pfeiffer. He said it's not surprising that competitive states this year will also be competitive in

Next month's governors' races also have big implications for U.S. House elections from 2012 through 2020. The House's 435 seats are reapportioned every decade, after each census. States will redraw their districts next year in a process that often is intensely political, with borders crafted to help or hurt a party, or even a particular

Most governors have extensive power to influence the process, including the right to veto plans they dislike. That means Obama in a news conference. could face a more Republicanleaning House in 2013 if he wins re-election.

Health revamp faces trial

JUDGE: He says decisions are needed on penalizing those who don't buy insurance, and requiring states to expand Medicaid.

BY MELISSA NELSON

PENSACOLA, FLA. — Crucial pieces of a lawsuit challenging the Obama administration's health care overhaul can go to trial, with a judge ruling Thursday he wants to hear more arguments over whether it's constitutional to force citizens to buy health insurance.

In a written ruling, U.S. District Judge Roger

it's constitutional to penalize people who do not something — not buying health insurance. buy insurance with taxes and to require states to expand their Medicaid programs. Another federal judge in Michigan threw out a similar lawsuit last week.

will likely wind up before the U.S. Supreme

In his 65-page ruling, Vinson largely agreed with the 20 states, saying Congress was in the legislation. The states have argued that Congress is overstepping its constitutional

Vinson said it also needs to be decided whether authority by penalizing people for not doing

The penalties for those who do not buy insurance are never referred to as taxes in the 2,700-page act, Vinson wrote. Attorneys for the Obama administration argued at a September Vinson set a hearing for Dec. 16. The lawsuits hearing that the penalties should be considered a tax levied by Congress — as allowed by its constitutional power to regulate interstate commerce.

"One could reasonably infer that Congress intentionally unclear when it created penalties proceeded as it did specifically because it did not want the penalty to be 'scrutinized' as a

SEE **HEALTH**/C2



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The 35.4-mile Gotthard Base rail tunnel, a \$10 billion project, was OK'd two decades ago and is still several years from opening for traffic.

Swiss build world's longest tunnel

RAIL PROJECT: The goal is to ease the damage caused by heavy trucks hauling loads through the pristine Alps.

BY FRANK JORDANS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

of rock standing in the way of the Alpine landscape. creation of the world's longest

environmental triumph as much to wait several more before it is of the tunnel's opening.

as an unprecedented engineering ready for rail traffic.

of a larger project to shift the ern Europe and Italy. haulage of goods from roads to

The \$10 billion tube bores ey was worth spending even if there or go there on holiday," said through the Gotthard massif, in- after 23 years of construction it Brolli. cluding the 8,200-foot Piz Vatgira, will only shave one hour off the along the route to Italy. It's part time trains travel between north-rently thunder through Switzer-

GENEVA — A massive drilling rails, spurred mainly by a contains," said Thomas Brolli. The and animals while adding to the machine called Sissi is about to cern that heavy trucks were former journalist is a campaigner erosion that is the Alps' worst chew through the last few inches destroying Switzerland's pristine with the group Alpen-Initiative, which claimed a surprise victory Swiss voters, who are paying in 1994 with a referendum to limit over \$1,300 each to fund the the number of heavy goods The expected completion today project, approved its constructrucks allowed to cross the Alps of the 35.4-mile Gotthard Base tion in a series of referendums each year to 650,000—halving the through the country they would rail tunnel is being hailed as an almost 20 years ago and will have current load — within two years put their tunnel-building exper-

"Every Swiss has a link to the Conservationists say the mon- Alps, whether they were born

Some 1.2 million trucks curland's mountainous countryside "The Swiss love their moun- every year, harming rare plants

> With their beloved mountains crumbling, the Swiss decided that instead of simply stopping foreign trucks from passing SEE TÜNNEL/C3

Assault on bus called hate crime

BY ZACHARY R. DOWDY

hate-crime charges after a assault, a misdemeanor, and sec-14-year-old's daily school bus ride ond-degree aggravated harassescalated from a commute filled with anti-gay taunts to a ride of terror, with the teens assaulting him two days in a row and calling him an anti-gay slur, Nassau police said Thursday.

The name-calling during the attacks this week as well as the teens' "ongoing course of conduct" over several weeks or months prompted officers to charge the teens with hate crimes, police said

in Hempstead.

MELVILLE, N.Y. — Nassau teens face each charged with third-degree what they believed was his sexual Wilson, 16, was charged with thirddegree assault, police said.

The bias crime distinction upgrades the charges one degree, making the defendants eligible for stiffer penalties.

"We felt this was bias-related," detective Lt. John MacEwen said at night. a news conference with Nassau Police Commissioner Lawrence Mulvey at police headquarters.

David Spencer, 18, and Chase 2:15 p.m., the suspects "stomped trying to determine whether the Morrison, 16, were arrested and and kicked" the victim on the arms, bus driver knew of the attacks or

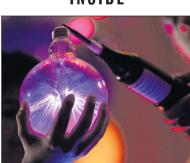
leaving Hicksville, and Spencer Spencer and Morrison were and Morrison taunted him about orientation.

Then, on Wednesday police said ment, a felony. A third teen, Roy Spencer and Morrison slapped the victim on the head and in the face on a bus and again made remarks about sexual orientation.

The victim reported the incidents to school authorities Wednesday afternoon. Police arrested the suspects Wednesday

The victim, whose name police are withholding, suffered bruises and "substantial pain throughout Police said on Tuesday at his body." Police said they were scheduled to be arraigned in court legs, stomach and thighs on a bus tried to stop or report them.

INSIDE



About 3,500 Inland students attended the two-day Science and Technology Education Partnership, designed to inspire them to pursue careers in math, technology and science. **C5**

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STAN LIM/THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

education to

our young

students," he

said. "But al-

so to provide

a forum for

us to all

work togeth-

er — stu-

Students from Columbia Elementary School in Perris play with a plasma ball while attending the 11th annual Science and Technology Education Partnership, or STEP, event at the Riverside Convention Center on Thursday.

Event gives science a lift

RIVERSIDE: A former **UCR** chancellor highlights the need for private and public partnerships.

BY JENNIFER DEAN

Former UC Riverside chancellor Raymond Orbach was honored at the STEP 11 luncheon at the Riverside Convention Center on Wednesday.

STEP, or Science and Technology Education Partnership, holds a conference each year designed to inspire students to pursue careers in mathematics, these students now in col- the exception, not the rule," technology and science. The lege for a science and tech- he said. "We need to reach nonprofit corporation was nology degree," he said. "I out and say this village founded by Rep. Ken Calvert, R-Corona.

This year's 11th annual San Bernardino counties, an educators program led vert, who thanked all of the 1992 to 2002, is currently the by Pamela Clute, executive educators, volunteers and Director of the Energy Indirector of UCR's ALPHA supporters who work to- stitute at University of Tex-Center, and a luncheon for gether for the STEP confer- as, Austin. sponsors, technology part- ence each year. He then sponsors, technology part- ence each year. He then "The primary focus of the ners, and community and presented Clute with an annual STEP Conference is 951-368-9336, jdean@PE.com or business leaders.

STEP student and current spiring teachers." ies at the luncheon.

"I'm standing here today global economy. as an example of one of

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Students appear in front of an infrared camera from NAVSEA Corona Surface Warfare Center Division.

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Keynote speaker Orbach

Orbach, chancellor from

"The primary focus of the

in the

want to thank all of you for really cares about education helping students like me."

At a STEP luncheon two ment, economy and securitwo-day conference saw years ago, Edwards was giv-ty." about 3,500 students from en a full scholarship by UCR schools in Riverside and Chancellor Timothy White. took the stage next.

Edwards introduced Calaward for the "countless not only to reinforce the http://blogs.inlandsocal.com/ Shay Edwards, a former hours she has spent in-importance of mathematics moms.

UCR bioengineering major, White talked about the was the master of ceremon- importance of programs such as STEP to the nation's

"Programs like this are



Raymond **Orbach**

dents, teachers, school administrators, community and business leaders, and high technology companies.'

These groups must work together, he said, toward the common goal of ensuring the next generation fulfills their potential in math, technology and scientific discovery.

'This is why we are here, to stimulate in our youth the search for exploring mathematics, technology and science," Orbach said. "If we are successful, our children and our country will prosper economically and intellectually. This is the future for which you are laying the foundation through STEP."

MY FAVORITE THINGS PROCESS ART, MORE AT PECOMANYFAVORITETHINGS



MY PHOTO MAYE SPURBECK | RIVERSIDE

Maye Spurbeck, of Riverside, sent in this photo taken in 1999 of her cat Tiger playing with the computer mouse. Well of course! What else would a cat play with? Check out more about pets of all kinds on inlandsocal.com/pets/. And share all your other photos at **PE.com**, too!

Teen leads walk team in diabetes fundraiser

BY JENNIFER WHITAKER

Riverside resident Kyla Clark, a 13-year-old Amelia Earhart Middle School student, is team captain for the Carb Busters, a team participating in the American Diabetes Association's Step Out: Walk to Fight Diabetes Saturday.

far raised more than \$2,400 a.m. for the cause and are the top earning family/friend team for the walk.

8 with type 1 diabetes and is 951-368-9282 or jwhitaker@PE.com



Kyla Clark

ADA youth ambassador for the area.

The walk is at White Park, on the corner of Market and

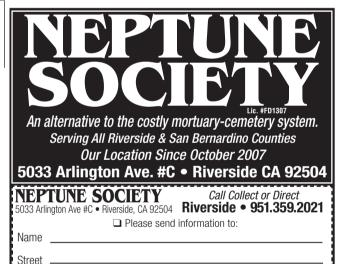
Ninth streets in Riverside. Registration begins at 7:30 The Carb Busters have so a.m. and the walk starts at 9

Information:

1-888-342-2383, ext 7432, or www.diabetes.org/stepout. Kyla was diagnosed at age Reach Jennifer Whitaker at







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