

NATION & WORLD

SECTION



SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 12, 2011

MORE LOCAL
Warmer days ahead

This week's master gardener column looks at when frost season typically ends, and when the best time is to prune acacia trees. **C3**

Pakistanis: Shooting by American is 'murder'

TENSIONS HIGH: The U.S. Embassy worker says it was self-defense. Relations with a prickly ally are said in danger.

BY ALEX RODRIGUEZ
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LAHORE, PAKISTAN — The fatal shooting of two Pakistani men by a U.S. Embassy official last month was “cold-blooded murder,” not self-defense, police investigators in Pakistan’s second largest city said Friday, escalating a diplomatic crisis that threatens to rupture relations between the U.S. and a vital ally in the war on terror.

With Pakistani law enforcement authorities set on a course to try Raymond Davis on murder charges, the 36-year-old American’s best hope now lies with his claim of diplomatic immunity — an assertion that so far the federal government has avoided affirming.

Already perceived by Pakistanis as weak and corrupt, the government, led by President Asif Ali Zardari, risks igniting massive waves of unrest if it grants Davis immunity and allows his release. Hardline clerics and Islamist religious parties have promised to organize throngs of demonstrators if Davis is freed, and Zardari’s government may not be able to survive a major uprising.

But Davis’ continued incarceration has incensed the Obama administration, which has signaled to Pakistani authorities that diplomatic dialogue between the two countries could be curbed by the ongoing row. Davis has spent 16 days in custody as of Friday, and a judge has ordered him detained for 14 more days while prosecutors build a case.

Members of Congress have also suggested that billions of dollars in economic and military aid that the U.S. has pledged to Pakistan could be suspended.

Progress in the U.S.-Pakistani relationship has been impeded by the negative image many Pakistanis have of the U.S., which sees America as an arrogant superpower bent on exploiting their country to suit Washington’s interests.

Davis, described by U.S. authorities as a member of the U.S. Embassy staff, was driving through a heavily congested Lahore avenue Jan. 27 when he encountered two Pakistani men on a motorcycle. Davis has told police the men were trying to rob him, and that one of them pointed a pistol at him.

Investigators have dismissed Davis’ claim of self-defense, said Lahore police chief Aslam Tareen. The two men were in possession of handguns and bullets were found in the firearms’ magazines, but neither of them had a bullet in the chamber of their pistols, Tareen said. Moreover, after Davis began firing and one man darted down the street to flee, Davis shot him in the back, according to the police chief.

“We have proved this was a cold-blooded murder,” Tareen said at a news conference in Lahore.

GOP freshmen add to cuts

POLITICS: They claim victory in getting their party to widen the range of spending reductions ahead of debate on the House floor.

BY DAVID ESPO
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — First-term Republican conservatives claimed victory Friday after forcing their own leadership to expand a package of spending cuts headed for debate on the House floor next week.

“\$100 billion is \$100 billion is \$100 billion,” said Rep. Tim Scott R-S.C., referring to the amount the revised package would cut from

President Barack Obama’s budget request of a year ago.

That was the amount contained in the Republican “Pledge to America” in last fall’s campaign, and when party leaders initially suggested a smaller package of cuts this week, many of the 87-member freshman class who have links to the tea party rebelled.

No details were immediately available. The earlier draft legisla-

tion had called for termination of at least 60 federal programs and cuts in hundreds more.

While Republicans rejoiced, Democrats attacked.

“If we’re trying to improve the economy and get people back to work, this will be counterproductive,” said Rep. Norman Dicks of Washington, the senior Democrat on the Appropriations Committee.

The cuts will become part of a spending bill that is needed to keep the government in operation through the Sept. 30 end of the

fiscal year. The current funding authority expires on March 4.

Passage in the Republican-controlled House would send the bill to the Senate, where Democrats control a majority and are certain to support more funding.

Barring a pre-March 4 compromise, the two houses must agree on a short-term bill to keep the federal government operating.

Even that could prove difficult, though, and Democrats assert that Republicans will resort to a government shutdown.

GOP: THOUSANDS HEAR FROM LIKELY WHITE HOUSE CANDIDATES



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thune: “The only thing more alarming than these threats is the president’s weak response. We can’t win a peace with apologies and reset buttons.”

Conservatives test 2012 waters

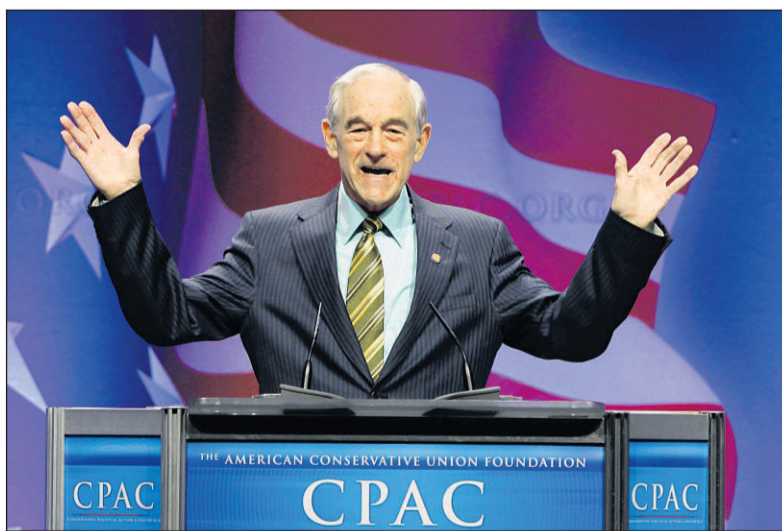
REPUBLICANS: The themes among would-be contenders to unseat Obama range from the economy to foreign policy.

BY PHILIP ELLIOTT
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Appearing before conservatives who hold huge sway in the GOP presidential nomination fight, a stream of would-be Republican candidates called President Barack Obama weak and suggested they alone possess the talents needed to beat him and lead a country in crisis.

In unrelenting attacks on Obama, the lineup of potential contenders took on the president’s economic team, his advisers and even the first lady’s vegetable garden. They did little to hide their disdain for the man they hope to replace.

“Two years ago, this new president faced an economic crisis and an increasingly uncertain world;



Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, addresses the conservative audience at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington on Friday.

an uncertain world has been made more dangerous by the lack of clear direction from a weak president,” former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney said.

Sen. John Thune of South Dako-

ta said concerns about a nuclear-armed Iran and Islamic extremists are overshadowed by worries about Obama’s handling of those threats.

“The only thing more alarming

than these threats is the president’s weak response. We can’t win a peace with apologies and reset buttons,” said Thune, who is contemplating a presidential bid but has yet to lay the groundwork to start a full-fledged campaign.

Former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, his voice hoarse and rising, questioned Obama’s foreign policy credentials.

“Mr. President, with bullies, might makes right,” Pawlenty said, drawing the crowd to its feet. “Strength makes them submit. Get tough on our enemies — not our friends.”

The annual gathering of more than 11,000 conservatives marked the unofficial start of the GOP presidential nomination fight. Not a single Republican has announced his or her candidacy, and there is no clear front-runner among the potential candidates to take on the Democratic incumbent.

But many of the speakers are

SEE **REPUBLICANS/C2**

Stroke rehab need not be high-tech to help

BY ALICIA CHANG
AND MARILYNN MARCHIONE
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — The largest study ever on stroke rehabilitation found that doing physical therapy at home improved walking just as well as a high-tech treadmill program.

More surprising, patients who started rehab late — six months after their strokes — still improved. It’s long been thought that there was little to gain from rehab after half a year.

“We now have evidence, for the first time, that a prolonged course of therapy will have benefits,” said Dr. Jeffrey Saver, director of the stroke center at UCLA.

He had no role in the federally

funded study, which was led by Duke University researchers and discussed Friday at an American Stroke Association conference in Los Angeles.

Each year, nearly 800,000 Americans suffer a stroke, and up to two-thirds of survivors have problems walking. Sophisticated machines like robots and weight-supporting treadmills increasingly are being used.

The new study included 408 stroke survivors who had trouble walking. On average, they took 1,700 steps a day; normal is 10,000 steps a day. They either traveled to a facility to get high-tech rehab or received physical therapy at home. Some began therapy two months after a stroke; others started six

months after the stroke.

In high-tech rehab, patients exercised on a treadmill while their weight was supported by an overhead harness. As they gained speed and endurance, they could practice walking on their own.

In the home program, a physical therapist helped patients do exercises to improve strength and balance, and to walk every day.

After a year, both groups made similar improvements in how far and how fast they could walk. However, the treadmill exercisers were more likely to feel dizzy or faint during training and had a higher risk of falling.

What’s more, fewer patients dropped out of the home therapy — 3 percent compared to 13 percent

in high-tech rehab.

“There’s a tendency in our country to go to high-tech machines,” but this study shows they’re not always better, said Dr. Walter Koroshetz, deputy director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, the study’s main sponsor.

The bigger message, said study leader Pamela Duncan of Duke University, is that longer treatment and more treatment is best. She said many insurance companies allow 20 visits, while this study gave 36.

The care that stroke victims usually get now — less intense therapy for three to six months — “does not get them to the point where they could be,” Koroshetz said.

INSIDE



Through a pilot’s eyes

Retired Rear Adm. Allen “Boot” Hill, of Riverside, witnessed more than half of the Navy’s 100 years of aviation from the cockpit during two wars and from the Pentagon. **C3**

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SPECIAL TO THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

If you are anxious to plant warm season crops, such as tomatoes and peppers, then you should provide some sort of cold protection for them until the end of March, just to be safe.

End of frost season is close

Q: When is the last frost date for the Riverside area? We want to get our garden planted as soon as possible.

A: The average last frost dates for the Riverside area are Feb. 1-10. You must keep in mind that these dates are only averages and there is always the possibility of a late-season frost. I live in Mira Loma and last year we had several mornings with frost all the way into March.

There are a number of vegetables that you can plant early in the season and not have to worry about frosty weather. For example carrots, radishes, beets, peas and lettuce, among others, can be planted when the weather is chilly. Remember that the time it takes for a seed to sprout is dependent upon the soil temperature, so you must be patient if the soil is cold.

If you are anxious to plant warm season crops, such as



OTTILLIA 'TOOTS' BIER
Master Gardener

tomatoes and peppers, then you should provide some sort of cold protection for them until the end of March, just to be safe. There are many types of hot caps, tunnels and cold frames that can do the job.

In the case of warm-season row crops that can tolerate some chilly weather and are direct-sowed to the garden from seed, such as green beans, I am always willing to take a chance and plant a little early. If the weather stays nice, I am rewarded with an extra-early crop. If a late frost kills the seedlings, I am only out the cost of the

seeds and a little extra effort on my part. To me, the reward is worth the risk.

Q: We have several acacia trees that need pruning. When is the best time to do it?

A: Acacia may be pruned at any time of year but the best time to do it is while the tree is in bloom or immediately afterward. As with all tree pruning, first trim any broken branches and correct any branches that are rubbing or crossing. Next, you should thin interior branches to reduce wind damage and dieback from excessive shading. This thinning should be accomplished by removing entire branches to the trunk. Finally, trim to shape or reduce size. By following these basic steps, you should have an attractive and healthy acacia tree.

Ottillia "Toots" Bier has been a master gardener since 1980.



GREG VOJTOK/SPECIAL TO THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Retired Rear Adm. Allen "Boot" Hill, 82, of Riverside, visits the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Corona Division to mark Centennial of Naval Aviation.

Noting local stamp on naval aviation

SPECIAL TO THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

A retired U.S. Navy fighter pilot who left a lasting mark on naval aviation, first from the cockpit during two wars and then from the Pentagon, visited the Inland Empire's Navy base to look back at the first century of naval aviation.

Retired Rear Adm. Allen E. "Boot" Hill, 82, of Riverside, visited the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Corona

Division, on Monday to share his story, one of many stories aviators will recount this year as the Navy celebrates its centennial of naval aviation at 32 major events nationwide. The year-long celebration takes off today with the Parade of Flight at the official "Birthplace of Naval Aviation," Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego.

observing its own 70th anniversary in December, has played an integral role in naval aviation through research and development, analysis of weapon systems, and by providing critical technical support to Navy and Marine Corps aviators.

Hill grew up about 15 miles from the base that first opened as a naval hospital after the U.S. en-

The Norco Navy base,

SEE HILL/C4

The future according to Disney

BY TIMOTHY GUY
THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Tomorrowland at the Disney theme parks have always given children (and adults) a sense of the future. Whether it be flying around in space ships or gliding around on the monorail, the parks have tried to look toward the future.

That was one of the topics discussed at the 2011 Eaton Science Fiction Conference in Riverside on Friday. The conference has brought together science fiction scholars since 1979.

Held at the Mission Inn, the program "Fantastic Architectures: Theme Parks, World's Fairs and The Mission Inn" looked at ways man has imagined the future.

Jeremiah B.C. Axelrod, adjunct assistant professor at Occidental College in Los Angeles, and Craig Svonkin, assistant professor at Metropolitan State College of Denver, delivered a lecture

called "Future's Past: The Erosion of Possibility in Disney Theme Park Science Fiction Discourse."

Axelrod, who grew up in Riverside, talked about how in 1955 Walt Disney and the other makers of Disneyland were really unable to articulate the vision of the future. When the park opened, it was not full of ambitious exhibitions, but more contemporary ones.

He cited the Monsanto House of the Future that looked a lot like a house of the present, though included an ultrasonic dishwasher we're still waiting for.

One of the more futuristic aspects of Disneyland, according to the scholars, is its monorail system, which was the first of its kind in North America. At the time it was considered the future of transportation in our everyday lives. Axelrod said government officials in 1959 thought it might be a solu-

tion to freeway problems, but Disney "imagineer" Bob Gurr once said the monorail "looks modern, but it's inefficient." He said that the design made it impractical for public transportation.

Svonkin, who earned his doctorate from UC Riverside, said the opening of 1987's "Star Tours" changed the view of the future at Disney parks.

In the now-defunct "Alien Encounter" ride (replaced by "Stitch's Great Escape") in Walt Disney World, guests were welcomed by alien corporation X-S (excess, get it?) that performed evil experiments.

Svonkin said rides and attractions like this mock and satirize the previous Disney works.

According to both Svonkin and Axelrod, Disney's look at the future is now more focused on creating fantasy. Reach Timothy Guy at 951-368-9342 or tguy@PE.com

Virtual school represented at exclusive education forum

RIVERSIDE: The event focused on the challenges facing the educational system.

SPECIAL TO THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Riverside Virtual School was among only 50 high-rated federal grant applicants invited to attend the recent Aspen Institutes Education Innovation Forum and Exposition. The event was attended by many high-level government officials, policy makers, and industry officials.

The invitation-only event brought together more than 500 education innovators as well as for-profit and philanthropic investors and the country's most creative public and private sector leaders to address the challenges facing American education. Speakers included U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and formal Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan.

The school was invited to the event as one of 50 final-

ists for the federal i3 grant proposal. David Haglund, virtual school principal and director of the district's Educational Options Program, represented Riverside Unified School District at the expo.

The United States Department of Education received more than 1,700 i3 grant applications, of which 49 were funded. Highly-rated but unfunded applicants such as RUSD were invited to the Aspen Institutes event to share their programs with others and to meet potential private or public investors who might help to fund those programs.

The virtual school grant proposal, called The California Open Campus Initiative, was designed to provide access to innovative tools and resources to meet the

unique learning needs of all students — including students with disabilities and/or limited English proficiency in 16 California school districts.

This consortium of school districts, in partnership with businesses, non-profits and researchers from the University of Southern California, proposes to leverage time, resources and the opportunity to expand access to online learning via the Riverside Virtual School.

Federal funds would expand access to rigorous, evidence-based science, technology, engineering, and mathematics resources via virtual learning environments accessible from the classroom, from home, or from any location with access to the Internet.

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City of Corona Seeks Non-Profit Community Events
The City of Corona is creating the budget for co-sponsored events taking place next fiscal year (July 1, 2011-June 30, 2012) and invites qualified non-profit organizations to submit their requests in writing by February 22, 2011.
Qualified non-profit, organizations are defined as:
1) a non-profit, 501 C (3) tax exempt organization or government agency;
2) must be based within the City of Corona, have a local branch or non-profit affiliation within the City; and
3) the organization's event must provide a public benefit to the residents of Corona.
All co-sponsorships shall be limited to "in-kind" donations of City services in lieu of direct monetary donations.
For more information, please call (951) 817-5824.

