

Valley's Tanner Rahier gets call on day 2 of MLB draft

The best dressings are those you toss together yourself

FOOD & DRINK



Fans in Las Vegas hail the arrivals of Bradley, Pacquiao

SPORTS



The Desert Sun

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 2012

WWW.MYDESERT.COM

A GANNETT COMPANY

SERVING THE COACHELLA VALLEY SINCE 1927



WISCONSIN VOTERS STICK WITH WALKER

Republican who angered organized labor with cuts to public-worker collective bargaining rights and benefits is first U.S. governor to survive a recall election. **A3**

Parkway plan offers huge payoff, report says

CVAG study sees \$1.5B in health savings, new tourism, other benefits

By K Kaufmann
The Desert Sun

Every dollar invested in a proposed cross-valley bicycle, pedestrian and electric vehicle parkway could yield more than \$18 in economic benefits for the Coachella Valley — from lower medical costs to higher property values to hundreds of new jobs and visitors, according to a report its proponents released Tuesday.

An economic impact report on the Coachella Valley Association of Governments' \$80 million Whitewater parkway project released at a meeting Tuesday in Rancho Mirage is chock-full of such astronomical projections, predicting total benefits of close to \$1.5 billion over the next 23 years.

But the report — like the parkway itself — sparked immediate skepticism among valley residents and some business leaders who doubt that droves of devoted drivers will abandon their cars to walk or bike for daily trips to work, shopping or running other errands.

Many, such as U.S. Rep. Mary Bono Mack see the project — which is competing for up to \$40 million of \$53 million in air quality improvement funds — as an expensive luxury item that could supplant more pressing needs in the region.

"My point is, I can't believe anyone is going to ride in a golf cart," the Palm Springs Republican said.

The proposed path would follow the Whitewater Wash for 46 miles across the valley.

"The potential this represents is extraordinary," said John Husing.
Please see PARKWAY, A6

THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Economist John Husing projects the proposed cross-valley Whitewater parkway could pump \$1,470,389,921 in benefits into the Coachella Valley's economy over the next 23 years.

Here's a breakdown of the figures:

- Reduced medical costs from lower obesity rates: \$152,250,985
- Tourists coming for new annual events: \$137,357,016
- Fewer pedestrian and cycling accidents: \$136,920,280
- More cyclists staying in area hotels: \$487,376,407
- Additional business generated by events and tourism: \$300,111,945
- Impact on home valuations within a half-mile of parkway: \$103,409,166
- Impact on business valuations within a half-mile: \$21,735,260
- Savings from lower gasoline purchases: \$28,830,409
- Construction money flowing to local firms and resulting business growth: \$102,396,452

ELECTION 2012 CALIFORNIA PRIMARY

RESULTS as of 11 p.m.

36th Congressional District:
MARY BONO MACK 58.1%
RAUL RUIZ 41.9%

Superior Court Office #1
VICTORIA CAMERON 63.8%
TOM ECKHARDT 36.2%

Superior Court Office #2
JAMES "JIM" COX 58.27%
MICHAEL J. KENNEDY 41.73%

Superior Court Office #9
CRAIG G. RIEMER 51.44%
JOHN A. HENRY 48.56%

Superior Court Office #12
GARY B. TRANBARGER 58.74%
RICHARD T. NIXON 41.26%

Riverside County Board of Education, area 5
ADOLFO MEDIANO JR. 33.35%
GREGORY HAGANS 22.09%
RALPH R. VILLANI 44.56%

Riverside County Board of Education, area 6
ELIZABETH ROMERO
TOLEDO 50.4%
CARL R.V. BROWN 49.6%

42nd Assembly District (includes Riverside and San Bernardino counties)
BRIAN NESTANDE 60.9%
MARK ANTHONY OROZCO 39.1%

56th Assembly District (includes Riverside and Imperial counties)
V. MANUEL PEREZ 54.9%
CORKY REYNAGA-EMETT 45.1%

Proposition 28 (Legislative term limits)
YES 64.3%
NO 35.7%

Proposition 29 (Tobacco tax)
YES 50.4%
NO 49.6%

Democratic presidential primary:
BARACK OBAMA 100%

Republican presidential primary:
NEWT GINGRICH 3.8%
FRED KARGER 0.5%
RON PAUL 9.4%
CHARLES E. ROEMER, III 0.7%
MITT ROMNEY 80.7%
RICK SANTORUM 5.0%

THE VOTERS SPEAK

- Tweaks to California's term limits for members of the Legislature gain overwhelming support, while a tobacco tax initiative is too close to call. **A5**
 - Challengers seeking to unseat incumbents on Riverside County's school board do well. **A4**
- Visit mydesert.com frequently today for updated results.

Legislative incumbents look strong in primary

By Erica Felci
The Desert Sun

In an election that was more of a litmus test than a true victory, voters Tuesday showed they were inclined to support the incumbents in the desert's state and federal legislative seats.

The races for the 36th Congressional and 42nd and 56th Assembly district seats were a forgone conclusion because both candidates moved onto the November ballot so long as they received at least a single vote.

But Tuesday's primary was **Please see TRENDS, A4**

4 county judges turn back rivals

By Erica Felci
The Desert Sun

Voters on Tuesday voiced their confidence in the Riverside County Superior Court bench by retaining all four judges on the ballot.

Unofficial early returns from the Riverside County Registrar's Office showed the slimmest margin of victory was in the high-profile showdown between Judge Craig Riemer and prosecutor John Henry.

Riemer had maintained the advantage throughout the evening.

The other three judicial incumbents all had large double-digit leads from the start.

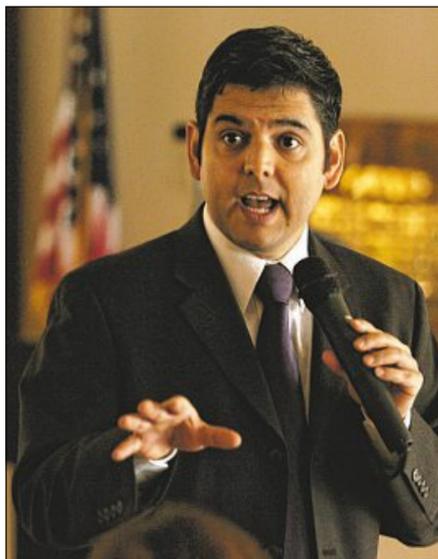
Although judges are up for a

referendum every six years, Tuesday's election marks the first time in 18 years that a sitting Superior Court judge has actually faced a challenger.

"I appreciate the support that I've been given," Riemer said as results came in Tuesday. "Yes it would be nice if (the lead) would be larger, but I am confident that I'm still going to end up with more than 50 percent."

Henry, a supervising deputy district attorney who prosecutes criminals who abuse or kill children, was encouraged to run by the Riverside County Deputy District Attorney Association.

The union has pumped more than \$100,000 into Henry's campaign. **Please see JUDGES, A5**



Rep. Mary Bono Mack, R-Palm Springs, and Dr. Raul Ruiz, a Palm Desert Democrat, were the two candidates in the 36th Congressional District primary Tuesday and both advance to the fall election. Bono Mack picked up 58 percent of the votes cast in the 36th district race Tuesday. **DESERT SUN FILE PHOTOS**

State relegated to campaign ATM role

California had no say in Obama-Romney match-up

By Marcel Honoré
The Desert Sun

PALM SPRINGS — The Republican contest ended weeks ago, making the votes Californians cast in Tuesday's presidential primary election all but irrelevant to the outcome.

So perhaps it's no surprise the state's voters were expected to turn out in record-low numbers Tuesday for that contest.

A Field Poll survey released Tuesday estimated about 6 million Californians — just 35 per-

cent of the state's eligible voters — would cast ballots in the day's presidential primary race.

That compares to a nearly 58 percent turnout during the previous contest in 2008, when California held its presidential primary election four months earlier on Super Tuesday — the day with the most state primaries.

At that point, then-Sens. Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton were locked in a fierce battle for the Democratic nomination and the Republican race was still **Please see CONTEST, A5**



Obama

Romney

GOOD MORNING

Not bad
97° 73°

Advice **D9** Lottery **B6**
Bridge **E5** Movies **D9**
Classified **E1-8** Obituaries **B6**
Comics **D8** Opinion **B7**
Crossword **E4** Sudoku **E4**



To subscribe or report a delivery problem, call (800) 834-6052 or visit mydesert.com/cs

INSIDE TODAY'S PAPER



VENUS RACES ACROSS THE SUN

Valley residents witness once-in-a-lifetime solar spectacle. **B1**

RAISE PLAN DERAILED

A plan that would've given big pay bumps to five Riverside County officials was pulled Tuesday. **B1**

U.S. HITS AL-QAIDA

A U.S. drone strike in Pakistan killed Al-Qaida's No. 2 leader, officials say. **A3**

Freedom from HERNIATED DISCS WITHOUT SURGERY?

Decompression Therapy

COULD BE THE ANSWER!

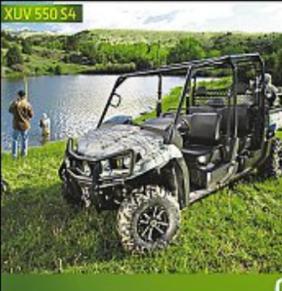
Herniated Disc • Bulging Disc • Degenerative Disc
Facet Syndrome • Sciatica • Spinal Stenosis • Neck & Arm Pain

CALL for your Free Consultation and TWO FREE Trial Sessions

Medicare and most insurance may cover a portion of your care.
SPINAL DECOMPRESSION AT
McDonald Chiropractic, Inc.
Greg McDonald, D.C.

35900 Bob Hope Dr., Ste. 100, Rancho Mirage
www.mcdonaldchiro.com
(760) 328-8212





3.9% FOR 60 MONTHS*
ON ALL GATOR™ XUVs

Mid-Duty Crossover Utility Vehicles

- Four-passenger 550 S4
- Starting at \$9,299
- Two-passenger 550
- Starting at \$8,199
- 4WD
- Fully independent suspension
- 400 lbs., 9-cu.-ft. cargo box

JOHN DEERE

OWN THE OFF-ROAD

XUV 825i

Heavy-Duty Crossover Utility Vehicles

- 50 hp EFI*, 44 mph (70 km/h)
- Double-wishbone suspension
- 16.4-cu.ft. cargo box
- Also available:
 - XUV 825i, 23-hp* EFI, 30 mph (48 km/h)
 - XUV 825SD, 23-hp* diesel, 32 mph (51 km/h)

TH6x4

Traditional Utility Vehicles

- 0% for 36 months*
- Up to 854 cc (20 hp*)
- Gas and diesel engines
- Payload up to 1,600 lbs. (726 kg)
- 2WD and 4WD

RDO EQUIPMENT CO.

ARIZONA
Ehrenberg: 928-923-9611
Wellton: 928-785-4276
Yuma: 928-341-7100

CALIFORNIA
Imperial: 760-355-4331
Indio: 760-342-8900
Riverside: 951-778-3700

Salinas: 831-424-8036
Watsonville: 831-763-2165

DS-0000301569

AFFORDABLE STORAGE CABINETS

CA License # 968329
Call for Free Estimate
Owner Jim: (760) 485-0110
Advisor Ally: (760) 902-7096
or In-Store (760) 347-3333
affordablestorage@dc.rr.com

Low Price Leader! Factory Direct!

10% off orders over \$600 Expires 6/30/12

Garage Cabinets
Custom Closets
Pullout Shelves, Etc.

Let us Organize & Increase Your Storage

Visit www.affordablecabinetsandclosets.com

- ★ Mfg Custom Design & Install
- ★ Garage Cabinets
- ★ Work Benches
- ★ Custom Closet Organizers
- ★ Kitchen & Bath Pullout Shelves
- ★ Built-In Home Offices
- ★ Laminated Countertops
- ★ Hanging Metal Racks, Etc.
- ★ Crown Molding

Custom Pullout Shelves Get Off Your Knees!

BUY DIRECT & SAVE

Support your local business Valley Resident

Quality Products AFFORDABLE Prices

MasterCard VISA

DS-0000301051

DIAMOND BLOWOUT

1.00 CT D-S11 Retail \$10,000 SALE \$6399	1.01 CT F-VS1 Retail \$8,500 SALE \$5699	1.05 CT J-S13 Retail \$5500 SALE \$3399	1.04 CT G-VS1 Retail \$12,000 SALE \$7499
1.38 CT Round Brilliant Retail \$6800 SALE \$4499	1.28 CT I-S11 Retail \$9000 SALE \$5999	1.51 CT D-S12 Retail \$16,000 SALE \$10,999	1.54 CT Princess Cut Retail \$10,000 SALE \$6999
1.65 CT I-S12 Retail \$10,000 SALE \$6499	1.84 CT Round Brilliant Retail \$7500 SALE \$4999	2.00 CT Round Brilliant Retail \$11,000 SALE \$6999	2.00 CT G-VS1 Retail \$28,000 SALE \$18,999
2.00 CT F-S11 Retail \$24,000 SALE \$15,999	2.03 CT D-VS2 Retail \$50,000 SALE \$33,999	2.05 CT H-S12 Retail \$17,000 SALE \$10,999	2.05 CT H-S11 Retail \$28,000 SALE \$18,999
2.06 CT G-S12 Retail \$18,000 SALE \$11,999	2.09 CT J-VS1 Retail \$15,000 SALE \$9,999	2.17 CT Pear Shape Retail \$14,000 SALE \$8999	2.20 CT Round Brilliant Retail \$12,000 SALE \$7999
2.24 CT G-VS2 Retail \$35,000 SALE \$22,999	2.29 CT I-VS2 Retail \$33,000 SALE \$21,999	2.31 CT H-VS2 Retail \$27,000 SALE \$17,999	3.00 CT G-VS1 Retail \$90,000 SALE \$61,999
2.32 CT G-VS1 Retail \$44,000 SALE \$23,999	2.76 CT Round Brilliant Retail \$15,000 SALE \$9999	2.84 CT H-S12 Retail \$27,000 SALE \$17,999	3.00 CT Round Brilliant Retail \$15,000 SALE \$9999
3.04 CT I-VS1 Retail \$52,000 SALE \$34,999	3.01 CT I-S11 Retail \$35,000 SALE \$22,999	3.01 CT Round Brilliant Retail \$16,500 SALE \$10,999	3.03 CT H-IF Retail \$90,000 SALE \$59,999
3.05 CT Round Brilliant Retail \$15,000 SALE \$9999	3.13 CT H-S11 Retail \$60,000 SALE \$34,999	3.17 CT I-S11 Retail \$45,000 SALE \$29,999	4.44 CT I-VVS1 Retail \$104,000 SALE \$70,999
3.35 CT K-S12 Retail \$37,000 SALE \$24,999	3.38 CT Cushion Cut Retail \$16,000 SALE \$10,999	4.00 CT Round Brilliant Retail \$42,000 SALE \$26,999	4.34 CT J-VS1 Retail \$115,000 SALE \$69,999
5.00 CT G-S12 Retail \$140,000 SALE \$99,999	5.01 CT Pearshape Retail \$22,000 SALE \$14,999	5.01 CT H-S12 Retail \$120,000 SALE \$71,999	5.03 CT J-S12 Retail \$70,000 SALE \$45,999
5.06 CT J-S12 Retail \$70,000 SALE \$45,999	5.11 CT G-S11 Retail \$170,000 SALE \$115,999	5.57 CT H-VVS2 Retail \$458,000 SALE \$189,999	6.89 CT Round Brilliant Retail \$120,000 SALE \$79,999

IMPORTANT DIAMONDS AND EXQUISITE FINE JEWELRY

EL PASEO JEWELRY

Hours
Mon - Thur 10-5
Fri - Sat 10-6
Sun Closed

73-375 El Paseo
Palm Desert, CA
760-773-1040
between Sage & Lupine

FREE REPAIRS
FREE APPRAISALS
some conditions apply

DS-0000302118

PARKWAY
Continued from A1

an economist who regularly tracks the valley's economy and was paid \$16,000 by CVAG to compile the report. "I look at a lot of cost-benefit ratios; this one is ridiculous — ridiculously high."

The project's \$80 million price tag means benefits could pay back the initial investment in about a year and a half, he said.

Other economic benefits the report suggests are:

■ A boost for valley tourism of more than \$624 million — from new events such as bicycle races and half-marathons tied to the parkway, plus increased visits from bicyclists.

■ A total of 743 new jobs, pumping \$102.4 million into the local economy. About 482 would build the parkway, with another 261 jobs created as a result of that construction.

■ Savings of \$28.8 million in lower gasoline costs for valley residents who leave their cars at home and use the parkway for daily trips and errands.

Rolf Hoehn, one of the 80 local business, tourism and health officials who turned out to hear Husing's results, did not buy into all of the figures.

Getting people out of their cars for everyday errands will depend on how close they live to the parkway, said Hoehn, who is director of sales at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden.

"That's going to be the key," he said. "If I want to go shopping, how easy is it going to be for me to get there, to take a slight detour?"

Cruz Gomez, 67, a former avid bicyclist from Bermuda Dunes, agreed.

"I live about 2 miles from the storm channel," he said, referring to the wash. "It would take me 2 miles to go down Washington Street."

But convenience is only one factor in why people might use the parkway, said Michael Jones, a principal of Alta Planning + Design, a Portland-based consulting firm that provided Husing

with figures on projected use of the parkway.

People living within a mile of the parkway might use it depending on the kind of trips they are taking, Jones said in a telephone interview Tuesday.

"Some are willing to walk or bike further because it's more enjoyable; it's related to the quality of facilities," he said.

Making the case

Positive spin such as that from Jones' was pretty much the order of the day at Tuesday's event, as CVAG and other valley groups continue their public campaign for the parkway project and \$40 million of \$53 million in air quality improvement funds.

Cities, agencies and non-profits across the valley are now preparing their own multimillion-dollar grant requests for part of the money, which is supposed to be used to offset emissions from the Sentinel natural gas plant now being built in North Palm Springs.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District will award the grant money; the deadline for proposals is Friday.

In addition to the \$40 million in Sentinel funds, CVAG has also committed \$20 million of its own transportation funds to the parkway. The Desert Healthcare District has also put up \$10 million, to be paid out over several years.

District officials see the parkway as a potential focus to promote more exercise as part of a campaign against childhood obesity, while tourism leaders said the trail could be key to re-branding the valley for visitors looking for an active, progressive ambiance.

"I frankly think this is one of the most important tourist concepts for this area," said restaurateur Jerry Keller, owner of the popular eateries Acqua Pazzo in Rancho Mirage and Lulu California Bistro in Palm Springs.

A lot of destinations are competing for this kind of exposure," said Scott White,

president and CEO of the Greater Palm Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau. "It would have a great impact from a global perspective."

Still, benefits of the parkway might not be evenly distributed among the valley's cities and residents.

With construction staggered over 10 years, and moving west to east, the immediate benefits — such as increased tourism — could be felt first in Palm Springs and other west valley cities. A connector to Desert Hot Springs could take 10 years or more, according to the schedule CVAG submitted to the Desert Healthcare District.

On the other hand, Husing said the majority of the jobs the parkway may generate — in construction, retail and tourism — could help valley cities such as Indio and Coachella that have high jobless rates.

While not high-paying, such jobs would go to the valley's "modestly educated," mostly Latino workers who only have high school diplomas or dropped out before graduating, he said.

Husing framed the parkway's projected economic impacts as a challenge to the AQMD to widen its criteria for grant awards.

"AQMD has been notorious for regulations and not thinking for two seconds about economic impact," he said. "What we are saying is you have an opportunity to put clean air and economic development on the same side of the table."

"The AQMD does take very seriously economic impacts," said district spokesman Sam Atwood.

"One of the most important economic impacts are the health effects of air pollution. Air pollution is responsible for billions and billions of dollars every year in health impacts."

"Everything we do is about reducing the economic impacts of air pollution."

K Kaufmann covers energy and green technology and health care for The Desert Sun. She can be reached at k.kaufmann@thedesertsun.com or (760) 778-4622.

Nurse Shirley, Expert Level Facial Rejuvenation Injector has joined the practice of Dr. Leonard Schwartz in Rancho Mirage.

Let Shirley reveal the youthful you.

Juvederm XC

Juvederm XC \$300* per syringe
BOTOX \$8.00* per unit with 25 unit min

Call for an Appointment Today
760-340-4700
*after rebate, Exp. 8/31/12

Eisenhower Medical Center 39-000 Bob Hope Dr., Wright Bldg., Suite 105 Rancho Mirage

Up to \$1000 REBATE with purchase of a high efficiency 16 s.e.e.r. system

Comfort Air
AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING
Only \$3,600 For
3 TON SYSTEM
13 SEER

WON'T LAST LONG ACT NOW

SAVE UP TO 60% ON YOUR ELECTRIC BILL With A New, High Energy Efficient System

SUMMER TUNE UP SPECIAL \$59.95 w/mention of this ad

(760) 320-5800 LIC# 763937

www.comfortac.com

DS-0000301823

LASIK SUMMER SPECIAL

(Teachers / Service Industry and established patients take an additional \$200 off)

\$1500 off plus 2 years 0% Financing with zero down plus LASIK for life*

Show off your freedom from glasses and contact lenses with the most advanced and safest Lasik using the blade free method.

This offer won't last.
Call 1-800-New Eyes (1-800-639-3937) to schedule a free consultation today!

Milaskas Eye Institute

La Quinta • Palm Springs 760.340.3937
Palm Desert • Rancho Mirage www.deserteyes.com

DS-0000301247 *Restrictions apply. Only applies to new lasik patients. Must mention this ad when scheduling. Call for full restrictions.