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SAN LUIS OBISPO CALIFORNIA

SATURDAY, JULY 4, 2009

ALASKA'S GOVERNOR | IN TOP STORIES, A3

PALIN SET TO RESIGN OFFICE



IN SPORTS, S1

CYCLING OWNER DISCUSSES TEAM

A Q&A with Team Columbia-HTC owner as Tour de France begins

SAN SIMEON

Hotel conversion approved

But water supply issues linger in plan to turn rooms into low-income studio apartments

By BOB CUDDY
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Maids, cooks and other workers who provide the backbone for the North Coast's tourist industry may have a chance to make "real homes" of the hotel rooms they have been living in for years in San Simeon.

— the conversion of 54 hotel rooms into 38 studio apartments for rent and 16 vacation rentals.

The application comes from Keshav "Chris" Gupta, who owns the Courtesy Inn at 9490 Avonne Ave. Gupta wants to add kitchen stoves and sinks and allow people who cannot afford housing in this high-priced market to have a home of their own in the Oceanside Inn, across Avonne Avenue from the

It all depends on whether the local services district agrees that there is enough water.

The county Planning Commission recently approved — with conditions

Please see MOTEL, A9



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JAYSON MELLOW

San Simeon's Oceanside Inn could become low-income housing.

JOHN MADDEN | TRIBUNE EXCLUSIVE



ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Destined to be a coaching success

Former Cal Poly teammates recall John Madden's natural leadership ability. He got his football coaching start at San Luis Obispo High and had a brief stint at Allan Hancock College while working his way up the coaching ladder. He eventually went on to lead the Raiders to a Super Bowl title. Page S1

EIGHT-HOUR GUNBATTLE IN AFGHANISTAN



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

Marine Cpl. Nolan Archer Dyer, with a U.S. flag in his backpack, takes position with his fellow marines in the Nawa district in Afghanistan's Helmand province Friday.

Airstrike ends lengthy Taliban fight



Bravo Company commander Cpt. Drew Schoenmaker gathers with his fellow Marines in an abandoned farm house in the Nawa district in Afghanistan on Friday.

Insurgents prevent Marines from meeting with residents and local leaders in Helmand

By RAJIV CHANDRASEKARAN
The Washington Post

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan — Taliban insurgents stepped up attacks Friday against U.S. Marines in southern Afghanistan's Helmand River valley, forcing troops in some areas to spend the day fighting instead of carrying out plans to meet with residents and local leaders.

The stiffest resistance occurred in the district of Garmser, where Taliban

fighters holed up in a walled housing compound engaged in an eight-hour gunbattle with troops from the 2nd Battalion of the 8th Marine Regiment. The Marines eventually requested a Harrier fighter jet drop a 500-pound bomb on the compound, which was believed to have killed all fighters inside.

The commanders directing the huge Marine securi-

See AFGHANISTAN, A9

GRAND JURY

Report applauds Atascadero High pool safety plan

Probe comes after '08 drowning; three districts still need work

By ANNMARIE CORNEJO
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A more comprehensive safety plan could have helped prevent the drowning of Atascadero High School junior John Erlanson in May 2008, according to a civil grand jury report.

Prompted by Erlanson's death, the civil grand jury investigated the pool safety plans of four San Luis Obispo County school districts that offer swimming in their physical education curriculum: Atascadero Unified, Lucia Mar Unified, Cayucos Elementary and Paso Robles Public Schools.

Erlanson, 17, was playing a game in Atascadero High School's swimming pool with the rest of his mid-morning physical edu-

Please see GRAND JURY, A9



John Erlanson

Russia to open airspace to U.S. for Afghan war

But Obama still faces challenges in his visit to Moscow this week

By PETER BAKER
The New York Times

MOSCOW — The Russian government has agreed to let U.S. troops and weapons bound for Afghanistan fly over Russian territory, officials on both sides said Friday. The arrangement will provide an important new corridor for the U.S. military as it escalates efforts to win the eight-year war.

The agreement, to be announced when President Barack Obama visits here on Monday and Tuesday, represents one of the most

Please see RUSSIA, A9

THE TWO-MINUTE TRIB: SERIAL KILLER SUSPECTED IN FOUR S.C. DEATHS

TOP STORIES, Page A3

TOP STORIES, A3 JACKSON FANS MAY SWARM L.A.

Officials are preparing for massive crowds beyond the 17,500 who will be allowed to attend the late pop star's memorial at the Staples Center.



GOOD JULY 4 TURNOUT IS EXPECTED

County visitors bureau says there will likely be more visitors than 2008, and they're staying longer. Page B1

BUSINESSES PREPARE FOR STATE IOUS

Private contractors, state vendors and local governments have to make ends meet without cash in hand. Page B5

DODGERS WIN AS RAMIREZ RETURNS

Slugger is 0 for 3 in his first game back from suspension, but Los Angeles wins 6-3 in San Diego. Page S1

ONLINE EXTRAS AT SANLUISOBISPO.COM

LOOKING FOR SOME FOURTH OF JULY FUN? From fireworks bursting over Pismo Beach to lasers flashing in Morro Bay, find information on local Independence Day festivities with our interactive map.

WEATHER AND TODAY'S INDEX



Patchy fog early, then sunny skies expected today through Tuesday. More on S8

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