

THE SUNDAY TRIBUNE

WATER POLO CHAMPIONSHIPS | IN SPORTS, S3

ARROYO GRANDE WINS ANOTHER TITLE

Eagles win third straight divisional water polo crown

IN TRAVEL, F3

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2010

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SOUTH AMERICA SHAKEN

CHILE REELS FROM MASSIVE 8.8 QUAKE

300 dead and 500,000 homes severely damaged in one of the fiercest temblors ever; Obama, other world leaders pledge support, but the nation says it doesn't need any



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

Residents look at a collapsed building in Concepcion, Chile, on Saturday after an 8.8-magnitude earthquake struck central Chile. The epicenter was 70 miles from Concepcion, Chile's second-largest city.

By ROBERTO CANDIA AND EVA VERGARA
Associated Press

TALCA, Chile — A deafening roar rose from the convulsing earth as buildings groaned and clattered. The sound of screams was confused with the crash of plates and windows.

Then the earth stilled, silence returned and a smell of damp dust filled the air as stunned survivors ran from their homes.

A journalist emerging into a darkened street in Talca found a man, some of his own bones apparently broken, weeping and caressing the hand of a woman who had died in the collapse of a cafe. Two other victims lay dead a few feet away.

A mammoth magnitude-8.8 earthquake had just shuddered across a huge swath of central Chile at 3:34 a.m. Talca was just 65 miles from the epicenter.

One of the largest earthquakes ever
See EARTHQUAKE, Back Page



Vehicles are scattered along an elevated highway that collapsed near Santiago on Saturday.

Tiny tsunami hits Japan; Pacific damage is small

By ERIC TALMADGE
Associated Press

TOKYO — The first tsunami from an earthquake in Chile hit Japan's outlying islands today, but while the initial waves were small and most of the Pacific islands already in its path had been spared damage, officials warned a bigger surge could follow.

Japan's Meteorological Agency said the first wave to reach Japan
Please see TSUNAMI, A8

INSIDE: Advisories issued for California beaches.
Page A8

CALIFORNIA COLLEGES

Plan for higher education faltering

50 years later, budget cuts undermine harmonious vision for the three-tiered system

By STEVE WIEGAND
The Sacramento Bee

It was as much a peace treaty as a plan, and it was built around a pledge: Every Californian would get a fair shot at a taxpayer-supported college education.

"It is the most significant step California has ever taken in planning for the education of our youth," said Gov. Edmund G. "Pat" Brown, while signing the Master Plan for Higher Education on April 26, 1960.

Nearly 50 years later, the plan is faltering, burdened by decades of passive state oversight and a blurring of the roles the state's three branches of higher education were supposed to play.

The results are grimly manifested throughout California.

A major role of the state's 110 public community colleges, for example, was to act as

Please see COLLEGE, A8

Class cuts, fee hikes, furloughs plague schools

Cal Poly and Cuesta feel squeeze of California's budget shortfall

By ANNMARIE CORNEJO
acorneo@thetribunenews.com

Students at Cal Poly and Cuesta College are facing fewer course offerings because of state budget cuts.

Cal Poly eliminated a number of elective courses in order to add required class sections to help students obtain their degrees.

The university is dealing with a \$34 million budget shortfall this year because of budget cuts made by Sacramento lawmakers.

Student fees have been increased by 30 percent from last year to help deal with the budget gap.

Please see IMPACT, A8

A TALE OF TWO QUAKES: Why Haiti's smaller quake did far more damage. **Page A3**

PREPARE FOR A DISASTER: Tips to help you get a kit ready for emergencies. **Back Page**

'MEGATHRUST' QUAKES: Check out the science behind 'elite class' of temblors. **Page B5**



THE TWO-MINUTE TRIB: JERRY BROWN KEEPS STATE DEMOCRATS GUESSING

STATE, Page A5

SPORTS, S1

U.S. GOLD MEDAL DROUGHT IS OVER

Steven Holcomb's team gives the United States its first gold medal in the men's four-man bobsled since the 1948 Olympics with win over Germany.



IS CALLING IT A 'SNOWICANE' GOING TOO FAR?

Some say for-profit forecasters are overhyping weather reports with terms such as 'snow-pocalypse'. **Page A6**

TEARS, CHEERS AT SEAWORLD WHALE SHOW

Hundreds show up to see the first SeaWorld Orlando whale show since a trainer's death Wednesday. **Page A6**

AMPUTEES STRUGGLE TO GET BY IN HAITI

More than 4,000 people have undergone amputations in Haiti, a nation ill-equipped for the disabled. **Page A7**

ONLINE EXTRAS AT SANLUISOBISPO.COM

'AND ALL THE TRIMMINGS' BLOG: "Here's a recipe for strawberry waffles. These waffles are delicious, and this strawberry syrup is delicious, and when you add delicious to delicious, you know what you get? A whole lotta delicious."

WEATHER AND TODAY'S INDEX



Expect partly sunny to mostly sunny skies today. **More on S8**

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Inland Coast N. County

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Dear Abby S7 Movies B3 Autos E3 Rentals H8
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CALLING ALL POETRY LOVERS!

This spring, The Tribune is inviting people from across the Central Coast to join us in celebrating National Poetry Month by sharing their best original poems.

We welcome every kind of poetry, from sonnets to haiku to free verse. San Luis Obispo poet laureate James Cushing will

read all the entries and select his favorites. We'll publish those poems in April in the Sunday edition of Central Coast Living.

To submit a poem for consideration (San Luis Obispo County residents only), please send two copies — one with your name, age, city of residence and phone number, and another without any identification.

Poems must be 22 lines or less. Haiku should be exactly 17 syllables or 17 words long. Please limit entries to one poem per person.

Poems must be received by Friday, March 12. Send your poem to: From Soul to Paper, The Tribune, P. O. Box 112, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406. For more information, call Sarah Linn at 781-7907.

CENTRAL COAST LIVING

IN FOOD & WINE, F5

POLENTA: A GREAT WINTERTIME MEAL



IN TRAVEL, F3

VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK NEAR LAS VEGAS

FEATURES EDITOR: SANDRA DUERR | SDUERR@THETRIBUNENEWS.COM | PHONE: 781-7901 | FAX: 781-7905

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2010

THE TRIBUNE **F**



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JOE JOHNSTON



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY NICK LUCERO

Far left, guitarist Toty Viola plays at the Lido Restaurant at Dolphin Bay in Shell Beach. At left, Viola poses with his promoter, Sue Cospers, who first saw him play in Florida and persuaded him to move to the Central Coast.

JAZZING UP THE WINE SCENE

Italian guitarist and a gig-getting Pismo accountant make quite the harmonious team

By PATRICK S. PEMBERTON
ppemberton@thetribunenews.com

When Sue Cospers saw Toty Viola perform while vacationing in Florida, she figured his jazz music would be a perfect fit for the Central Coast winery scene. But the 57-year-old certified public accountant had no idea then that she would eventually become Viola's promoter.

"I'm not a sales person," she said. "I'm a numbers cruncher."

Still, Viola's music inspired her so much, she felt compelled to help bring the native Italian to her hometown.

"I hadn't really followed music or allowed music to be a part of my life for a long time," said Cospers, who later told Viola: "You brought music back in my life."

While Viola's arrival here occurred under unusual circumstances, it wasn't the first time he'd made a life-changing move. But this one helped reinvigorate a career once stalled by a 10-year funk.

Musical roots

Viola was born in Palermo, a historic seaside city in Sicily. His father, an accordion player, got into music after hearing an American military band play on the streets during World War II. Years later, Toty, along with his father and brother Franco, would play to small crowds around their Sicilian neighborhood to help support the family.

"We are poor," Viola said, describing his family's thoughts. "But we are rich with music because everybody's a musician."

As an adult, Viola continued to perform during the evenings while working at the local unemployment office during the day. The plush hotel where he performed often saw famous guests, such as Tom Cruise, Al Pacino and Richard Gere. It

was while playing at the Village Igiea hotel that he met George Benson, the Grammy-winning jazz guitarist from America.

Although Palermo is a notable culture center, Viola had long dreamed of performing jazz in America, like Benson. So after 17 years as a government employee, he decided to move to America and become a full-time musician.

"At 40 years old, I changed my life," he said.

Viola's brother Franco had been the first in the family to make the trip. (His sister and parents followed.) When the city of Detroit sought an Italian musician to perform at a local Italian culture center, the Palermo mayor's office recommended Franco, a piano player.

"When he came to perform at this event at the local Italian culture center, he stepped in and played at a local restaurant, and the owner really liked him and said, 'I'd love for you to play here,'" said Mary Ann Gualtieri, Viola's wife.

A little later, Viola followed, immigrating as "an artist of extraordinary ability," thanks to letters of recommendation from Benson, Tim Hauser of Manhattan Transfer and Bob Flanigan from the Four Freshmen — all people he met while performing in Italy.

After settling in Detroit, his first gig was at the prestigious Detroit Montreaux Jazz Festival. While in Detroit, he also



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY NICK LUCERO

Viola was born into a musical family in Palermo, Sicily, and immigrated to the U.S. at age 40 to pursue music full-time.

met Gualtieri, whose parents were from Italy.

"I was supposed to teach him how to speak English, and he was going to teach me how to sing," she said. "I (still) don't sing, and he speaks limited English."

The couple later moved to Florida, where Viola helped care for his ailing mother. One day, he received a call from Benson, who had just heard one of Viola's songs.

"He said, 'We've got to talk because I want to play your song on my next CD,'" Viola said. "It

was like I won the lottery."

Viola's jazz guitar — which he plays primarily with his thumb instead of a pick — is the kind of soft, easy-listening music Benson is known for. Viola, who idolized Benson, saw it as a dream opportunity, which made it especially hard when Benson called later to announce that the album's producer had decided to drop the song.

The news was a stunning blow to Viola, who fell into a musical funk.

"I'm a very sensitive musician," he said. "I thought, 'God,

you give me this beautiful gift, but why do I not accomplish anything with my music?'"

After the incident, he decided, he would only play guitar to put food on the table.

"When I first met him, he had a guitar in his arms all the time, and he composed a lot of music in a short period of time," Gualtieri said. "And from that day he never picked up the guitar other than to go to work. He lost his passion."

It continued that way for 10 years, until an accordion player and piano salesman named Al Rinaldi saw Viola perform one night. With Rinaldi's encouragement — and money — Viola recorded a studio album, "Jazzissimo," which helped Viola restore his enthusiasm for music.

"It put the fire back in him," Gualtieri said. "And I saw him for the first time after so many years wake up in the middle of the night and start playing the guitar."

Not long after that, Viola met Cospers, and another big, motivating change was in the works. Cospers was wrapping up a visit to Florida on Dec. 1, 2008, when her friends persuaded her to go out one final time.

"It was my last night in Florida before we flew out the next day," she said. "I was really not in the mood to go to dinner that night. I wanted to stay home and pack."

The friends went to the Tuscan Grill in Ft. Lauderdale. And while there, they saw Viola prepare for his set.

"When he finally got up and started to play, I said, 'Oh my God — this guy is wonderful!'"

When he was finished, she made a simple suggestion. "I said, 'You need to move to the California wine country.'"

Viola's music, she said, was a perfect fit for wineries, which tend to favor easy-listening acts.

Please see VIOLA, F4

TravelBriefs

Celebrate Diana in Atlanta this June

A new exhibition in Atlanta traces the splendor, style and sadness of the "People's Princess," Diana Spencer-Windsor, Princess of Wales. She was larger than life before her death in 1997 — larger still after.

The highlights of "Diana: A Celebration," on display through June 13 at the Atlanta Civic Center in Georgia, focus on the public princess: About 750 million people around the world saw her wedding on TV; 2.5 billion tuned in to her funeral.

Those events, and her sense of style, get the royal treatment at this exposition approved by her family. It is literally the road-show version of what you'd see at Althorp, the Spencer family estate in rural England where she is buried.

From chamber to chamber, "Diana" is fully geared to women and girls. This is a woman's story — though one with designer dresses, gems and celebrities. It's a sanitized history of the princess that is sure to satisfy many.

For more information, contact the Atlanta Civic Center, 404-523-6275, www.atlantaciviccenter.com. Advance tickets are recommended: 800-745-3000; www.ticketmaster.com.

Get a 'running commentary' while on tour

Cycling tours are popular throughout Europe, but running tours?

That's what two members of a Dutch triathlon club had in mind when they formed "Tourist Run Amsterdam," a company that will launch running tours of the city starting next month.

Licensed guides who are also seasoned runners will provide "running commentary" as they lead tourists on 5-mile jogs through the city to places where cyclists and bus tours can't go. Groups are limited to five. Cost of the one-hour tours is 20 euros (\$27 at current exchange rates), and includes a drink after the run and a city map. Details at www.touristrunamsterdam.com.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE

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OANDA.COM; EXCHANGE RATES AS OF THURSDAY

Penny-pinching in Portland — without the pain

With a little creativity and perseverance, you can piece together a four-star tour of Oregon's Rose City on a two-star budget

By CAROL PUCCI
The Seattle Times

PORTLAND, Ore. — Tired of reading about traveling on the cheap? Me, too, when "cheap" translates into a budget motel and an early-bird dinner special.

I'd rather rest my head at a four-star hotel and dine on dishes created by award-winning chefs ... all without paying a fortune, of course.

If this sounds like your kind of weekend escape, read on. A stylish getaway to the Rose City has never been more affordable. Here's the plan:

Sleeping in style

What's a stylish weekend without a classy hotel? Why settle for less when you can sleep in the AAA Four-Diamond Benson (www.bensonhotel.com) or another luxury hotel for not much more than a night in a Days Inn?

How: Make a bid on Priceline (www.priceline.com). Narrow your choices to four-star hotels downtown. Priceline lets you choose the area and class of hotel you want, but doesn't reveal the name until after your bid is accepted and your credit card is charged.

After bidding \$60 several times before Christmas and being rejected, I repeated the bid in early January, and snagged two nights for late last month in a standard double room at the Benson (\$72 nightly with taxes and fees). The hotel's Internet rate for the same nights was \$139.

What to expect: Built in 1913 by Oregon philanthropist Simon Benson, the Benson is an old-world hotel with a new-world feel. Updated rooms come with extra touches — early check-in, terry robes, free newspapers and Caffe Appassionato coffee and Tazo tea.

The lobby feels like an elegant living room with its Italian marble floors, Austrian crystal chandeliers and walnut paneling from Russia.

Best part: The hotel is just a few blocks from Powell's City of Books and the Pearl District, Portland's hip former warehouse blocks filled with art galleries, cafes and restaurants.

Tip: Consult www.biddingfortravel.com for advice on how much to bid on Priceline and what hotels you can expect to get. Recent bidders report snagging other downtown four-star hotels (e.g., The Lucia, Monaco, Vintage Plaza) for \$50-\$70 per night.

Urban drinks and gourmet eats

Enjoy drinks and dinner for two at some of Port-



Enjoy the French flavor of the Everett Street Bistro in Portland's Pearl District, above left. Also in the Pearl District is Gerding Theater at the Armory, above. It hosts performances and houses a cafe. In the Belmont neighborhood, Tao of Tea, left, serves teas from around the world.

MCCLATCHY TRIBUNE PHOTOS

IF YOU GO

Consult Travel Portland's Web site (www.travelportland.com) for a one-stop guide to Portland.

If you're reluctant to bid for a hotel on Priceline, or if you're driving to Portland and want to avoid expensive parking rates, check out packages available through the Portland Perks program, with special rates on more than 35 hotels. Book online or call 800-962-3700.

land's swankiest spots for \$30 or less.

How: Take in a happy hour, and not just between 4 and 6 p.m. Consult www.urbandrinks.com for all the options. It's possible to find happy hours that last all day, start very early, or happen twice a day.

What to expect: Elegant atmosphere, surprisingly high-quality and healthful food. Here are three of my favorites, all within walking distance of downtown hotels:

• **The Heathman Hotel's Marble Bar** (www.heathmanportland.com). Happy hour starts at 2 p.m. and goes until closing daily.

Chef Philippe Boulout sets out a bistro spread of small plates in the \$1.50-\$6.50 range, all ample enough for two to share. Among the most satisfying were five plump pumpkin ravioli (\$3.95) paired with sauteed greens. Add one of the two daily \$5 drink specials or a local microbrew, and two can enjoy a late lunch here for \$15 each, including tip.

• **The TeaZone** (www.teazone.com) in the Pearl District. Loose-leaf teas including hand-tied flower teas from China and herbal medicinal teas draw a following of locals who drift into the retro-style Camellia Lounge for the \$3-\$5 happy hour, 4-7 p.m. daily and all day Sunday.

Try the house chai spiked with Frangelico,



or prep for the theater with a Streetcar Named Desire, an icy Champagne cocktail made with pomegranate liqueur and hibiscus juice. The \$5 black bean burger served with potato salad is one of the most healthful meals I've found on a happy-hour menu.

• **Portland City Grill** (www.portlandcitygrill.com). It's all about the view at this classy night spot on the 30th floor of the U.S. Bancorp Tower. Settle into a couch by one of the big picture windows and look out over the Willamette River as you nibble on a white Cheddar burger (\$5) or plate of rice-paper spring rolls (\$3). Afternoon and late-night happy hours Monday-Saturday and from 4 to 11 p.m. Sundays.

Tip: Oregon has no sales tax, so the price you see on the menu is what you pay.

Around the world with TriMet

Spin the globe and chances are your finger will land on a country whose culture you can sample within a few miles of wherever you are in Portland.

How: Buy a \$4.75 all-day TriMet (www.trimet.org) pass good for unlimited rides on buses, MAX light rail and the Portland Streetcar. There's also an extensive "ride free" zone for the streetcar and light rail.

Sample itinerary: Start out in France with breakfast at the Everett Street Bistro (www.everettstreetbistro.com) in the Pearl District. Notice the

pressed-tin ceiling as you dig into a wild mushroom scramble, sip Stumptown coffee and listen to Edith Piaf recordings.

Drop in next door to Ten Thousand Villages (www.portland.tenthousandvillages.com) and shop tax-free for fair-trade handicrafts made by artisans in 38 countries. Then walk three blocks to Powell's (www.powells.com) and find the Red Room. Plan your next world adventure with a few titles plucked from shelves stocked with used travel books selling for half or less than they cost new.

Refuel across the street at Cacao (www.cacaodrinkchocolate.com) with a \$2 cup of drinking chocolate infused with paprika, ginger and cayenne pepper. Then, take the bus to the Lan Su Chinese Garden and wander the serpentine mosaic pathways (www.portlandchinesegarden.org), or ride the streetcar to the Oregon Jewish Museum's (www.ojm.org) new Nob Hill location.

End your international tour with a bus trip across the Willamette to the Tao of Tea (www.taooftea.com) in the Belmont neighborhood. Order a pot of milky 500 Mile Chai (\$5) and find out why the blend was a favorite among long-haul Indian truck drivers who stopped at tea stalls along highways for a late-night pick-me-up.

High culture/low cost

Take advantage of free and discounted museum

times, plays, free author readings and neighborhood art walks.

How: Check http://aroundthesunblog.com for weekly listings of free or low-cost cultural events. Sign up for e-mail alerts from the Portland Center for the Performing Arts, which sends out news of last-minute discounts (www.pcpa.com).

Three suggestions:
• Go to the Portland Center Stage Theater's Web site (www.pcs.org) through the end of this month. Type HOTEL in the promo code box. You'll get a two-for-one price on its latest production, "The Receptionist," performed in the Gerding Theater, a renovated 1891 building that once housed the Oregon National Guard.

• Visit the Portland Art Museum on the fourth Friday of each month from 5-8 p.m. and admission is free. Kids younger than 18 get in free every day (www.portlandartmuseum.org).

• Take in a \$3 movie at McMenamins Mission Theater (www.mcmamin.com), originally built as a church and used as a labor hall. Wednesdays are "Burger, Beer & a Movie" night, for \$10.50.

Tip: Can't make it to a performance? Show up for a free tour of the Gerding Theater on first and third Saturdays of the month at noon. Its transformation from armory annex to beer warehouse to playhouse wins praise for green architecture and design.

Viola

From Page F1

Intrigued by the possibilities, Viola and his wife visited the Central Coast for the first time last summer.

"When we agreed that they would come out to California for a vacation, I said, 'Let me make a few phone calls,'" Cosper said.

While she had hoped to line up some gigs, she had

no experience promoting musicians. So she Googled "How to get a gig," and she learned how to put a promotional package together. Then she started making calls to venues.

"I just really hustled," she said, filling two weeks with gigs.

Though it was hard work, Cosper said she also enjoyed it.

"If I thought I could make a living at it, it would

be great to be a music promoter and a music manager," said Cosper, whose Pismo Beach house overlooks the ocean. "But I probably make a little more money doing what I'm doing."

Viola visited again in October. And by December, he and his family had relocated.

Now he's performing often, including regular gigs at Lido Restaurant in Shell Beach and Giancarlo's in Morro Bay. Meanwhile,

Viola and his wife have become close friends with Cosper, who lost her sister and parents in recent years.

"They feel like family to me," she said.

While the recession makes lining up gigs a challenge, Cosper plans to continue promoting Viola's career.

"With Toty's talent, my enthusiasm and a few fans, we're hoping to make a go of it," she said.

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Apr 8	North County Wildflower Tour with lunch included	\$59
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Apr 26-29	Laughlin at the Golden Nugget	\$199*
May 9	The Getty Villa in Malibu / A Day in Paradise	\$64
May 16-20	Canyon & Sedona / A sightseeing extraordinaire!	\$499*
June 5	Monterey Bay Aquarium and Fisherman's Warf	\$84

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