

NEWS IN BRIEF

A QUICK GLANCE AT EVENTS AROUND THE GLOBE

Santorum announces \$4 million for metro

BALA CYNWYD, Pa. (AP) — A U.S. Senate committee has set aside \$4 million toward construction of a proposed passenger rail line between Philadelphia and Reading, Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., said yesterday.

The money for the 62-mile-long Schuylkill Valley Metro Line was included in the Fiscal Year 2000 Transportation Appropriations bill, Santorum said in a news conference at the Bala Cynwyd train station of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA).

The light-rail line, which could cost up to \$700 million, would cut through Montgomery, Chester and Berks counties. It would parallel the I-76 and Route 422 Expressways and reduce rush-hour congestion to and from Philadelphia.

The state has been doing a \$75 million engineering study for the proposed line. SEPTA and the Berks Area Reading Transportation Authority (BARTA) are cooperating in the study, which is to be completed by February 2000.

SEPTA and BARTA officials have said the region, which includes 52 municipalities, is one of the fastest-growing in Southeastern Pennsylvania. Rapid growth in housing and jobs has forced more traffic onto already crowded roads such as the Schuylkill Expressway and U.S. Route 422, as well onto secondary and local roads, they said.

Free ride may soon end for turnpike drivers

BEDFORD, Pa. (AP) — There is such a thing as a free ride. Motorists have been allowed to travel 16 miles on the Pennsylvania Turnpike from Breezewood to Bedford — only if they get on at one exit and off at the other.

The fare for a car normally would be 80 cents. But it has been waived to divert traffic from a stretch of U.S. Route 30 that is being widened, and the federal government is reimbursing the Turnpike Commission for the lost tolls.

With the heaviest construction two years away, the federal allocation is already starting to dry up.

Turnpike commission records show that from Oct. 1, 1998, when the program began, through Sept. 1, \$1 million of \$3.1 million in reimbursements had been spent. And construction schedules show the biggest traffic snarls on Route 30 are still nearly two years away.

"The people have been using it," said Kathy Liebler, a commission spokeswoman. "My understanding is that the program stays in place until the money is used up."

The money came as part of the 1998 federal transportation bill authored by U.S. Rep. Bud Shuster, R-Pa.



U.S. might train again in Puerto Rico

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — A presidential panel recommended yesterday the Navy be allowed to resume practice bombing on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques — over the objections of the local population and the Puerto Rican government — but that it prepare to abandon the island within five years.

The recommendation drew immediate protest in Puerto Rico, where sentiment against the Navy has been growing since a civilian security guard was killed in a bombing accident in April. Protesters have been camping out on the bombing range since then, but the Navy is eager to resume using it.

Reflecting the political sensitivity of the controversy, Hillary Rodham Clinton called for a permanent end to using Vieques as a bombing range. The first lady, who is courting Hispanic political support in her exploratory campaign for a U.S. Senate seat from New York, urged the Navy to find an alternative.

"There should be an immediate and permanent end to the bombing," Clinton said in a written statement. "Use of live fire on the island has put the people of Vieques at risk, degraded the environment and hampered economic development."

Howard Wolfson, spokesman for Clinton's political committee, said her position on Vieques was not politically motivated. "This decision is made on the merits," Wolfson said, adding New York Sens. Charles Schumer and Daniel Patrick Moynihan shared the first lady's views on the subject.

EPA could be lacking needed water research

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — With crucial rules on safe drinking water due in stages over the next seven years, the Environmental Protection Agency might lack the needed research to protect the public and the financial health of water utilities, investigators concluded.

Providers of drinking water, and those trying to ensure its safety, told investigators they were concerned with "the adequacy of the research" on arsenic, disinfectants and other contaminants.

The General Accounting Office, Congress' investigative arm, said in a report obtained yesterday that each year since fiscal 1997, the EPA has asked for less money than the amount authorized under the Safe Drinking Water Act amendments of 1996. EPA earlier this year estimated the "shortfall" in drinking water research at \$10 million to \$20 million annually between fiscal years 1999 and 2005, the report said.

Water experts interviewed by the investigators "believe that if EPA issues regulations that are more stringent than what is justified by the available research, then water utilities could bear unnecessarily high treatment costs," the report said.



Israel gives Mandela hero's welcome

JERUSALEM (AP) — Hectoring his Israeli hosts in mild tones for their past alliances, Nelson Mandela elicited nothing darker than smiles and cheers yesterday from statesmen and schoolchildren alike during his first visit to Israel.

The former South African president's trip brought a belated end to the enmity between the Jewish state and the movement Mandela headed for decades from a jail cell.

While Israel provided the apartheid regime with arms and training, Mandela's African National Congress forged alliances with the Arab radicals Israel once regarded as mortal enemies.

"Israel worked very closely with the apartheid regime," Mandela reminded President Ezer Weizman.

But he was quick to add he was in Israel on a mission of reconciliation.

"I say Israel cooperated with apartheid but they did not get involved in the atrocities," he said.

Tanzanians welcome Nyerere remains

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania (AP) — The port city known as the "haven of peace" came to a standstill yesterday as thousands of Tanzanians welcomed home the remains of former president Julius Nyerere, the father of their nation and independent Africa's spiritual guide.

Businesses and government offices remained closed as people thronged the airport hours before the coffin of the man known to all as "Mwalimu," or "teacher" in Kiswahili, arrived aboard an Air Tanzania jet from London yesterday morning. Nyerere died Oct. 14 in a London hospital of complications from leukemia. He was 77.

Nyerere, who led the British colony of Tanganyika to independence in 1961, was a champion of liberation movements across southern Africa.

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D4. Broccoli in Garlic Sauce	D11. Pork in Garlic Sauce	D20. Lo-Mein* (Chicken, Beef, Vegetable or Pork)
D5. Mixed Vegetable	D12. Chicken with Vegetable	*not with rice
D6. General Tao's Chicken	D14. Beef with Vegetable	
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	D16. Shrimp in Garlic Sauce	

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