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■ High: 80 ■ Low: 56



Mostly sunny.

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Photo by GARY CANAZZI/www.canazziphoto.com

Vancouver pans casino impact statement

City's comments among many received by BIA

By JEFFREY MIZE Columbian staff writer

The final comments have been submitted to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, leaving the federal agency and its consultant to shift through reams of paper on the proposed Cowlitz casino near La Center.

The city of Vancouver released its assessment only hours before Friday's deadline, saying the draft environmental impact statement fails to address any transportation issues in the Vancouver area, even though 82 percent of the traffic will come from the south.

"The traffic on the two bridges crossing the Columbia will make the grid-

lock already present at times worse," City Manager Pat McDonnell wrote in a three-page letter to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. "There is no consideration of any traffic impact on street intersections within the city of Vancouver."

In an interview, McDonnell said the study is "unacceptable" and does not address the city's earlier concerns, outlined in a letter in November. The study also is vulnerable to challenges because it falls short of complying with federal law, he said.

McDonnell's letter says the draft study reaches the "unreasonable conclusion" that providing money for one counselor is sufficient because only 3 percent of problem gamblers created by the casino will seek treatment.

"Ninety-seven percent will not seek

CASINO, back page

Update

Previously:

A massive draft environmental impact statement on the proposed Cowlitz casino was released in mid-April.

■ What's new:

On the final day to submit comments, Vancouver criticized the study for failing to adequately evaluate transportation and compulsive gambling issues.

■ What's next:

The Bureau of Indian Affairs will work with its consultant to review the comments and prepare a final environmental impact statement.

Israel steps up attacks on Lebanon

Warplanes bomb suburbs of Beirut; 33 people die

By SAM GHATTAS Associated Press writer

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Waves of warplanes thundering through the darkness bombed Beirut's southern suburbs for hours early today, a day after Israel stepped up its airstrikes and tightened a noose around this reeling nation. The Israeli air force Saturday

hit strongholds of the Hezbollah Shiite Muslim guerrilla group, bombed central Beirut for the World's first time, and pounded seaports and a key bridge.

Then, after midnight and until 2:30 a.m., about 18 powerful explosions rocked southern Beirut, where Hezbollah is headquartered and much of the air assault has been aimed since cross-border hostilities erupted Wednes-

Israeli jets could be heard over page A5 the city, much of it darkened because airstrikes have knocked out power stations and the fuel depots feeding them.

Hezbollah's TV aired footage showing two long columns of smoke rising from buildings into the night sky. Much of Shiite-populated southern Beirut was deserted, its residents having fled east to Lebanon's Bekaa Vallev. Trying to defuse the violence, which began

MIDEAST, page A5

Inside

powers clash

over raging

violence.

page A3

Chart

details the

history of the



BEN CURTIS/The Associated Press

Smoke drifts across Beirut, Lebanon, on Saturday following a nighttime Israeli airstrike on the Hezbollah stronghold in the densely populated southern suburbs.

Bombing campaign likely to continue for several weeks

By ROBIN WRIGHT

WASHINGTON — Israel, with U.S. support, intends to resist calls for a cease-fire and continue a longer-term strategy of punishing Hezbollah, which is likely to include several weeks of precision

bombings Lebanon, according U.S. officials.

in Israel attacks to senior Israeli and On Hezbollah For Israel, the goal backed by U.S.

is to eliminate Hezbollah as a security threat — or altogether, the sources said.

A senior Israeli official confirmed that Hezbollah leader Hasan Nasrallah is a target, on the calculation that the Shiite movement

would be far less dynamic without him. For the United States, the broader goal is to strangle the axis of Hezbollah, Hamas, Syria and Iran, which the Bush administration believes is pooling resources to change the strategic playing field in the Middle East, U.S. officials sav.

Whatever the outrage on the Arab streets,

U.S., page A5

SUNDAY A14 CYAN MAGENTA YELLOW BLACK

Pennsylvania town begins enforcing immigration measure

Ordinance to punish citizens who house, do business with illegal immigrants

By MARK SCOLFORO

A14 THE COLUMBIAN

HAZLETON, Pa. — The mayor signed a city ordinance Friday that punishes people who do business with illegal immigrants or provide them with jobs or

housing, while critics said it was unenforceable and predicted it will be overturned.



Mayor of Hazleton, Pa.

people's immigration or citizenship status after the city council on Thursday passed one of the nation's strictest ordinances to fight illegal immigration on a 4-

He also expects the city council to approve a companion measure requiring all tenants to register with the city and prove their legal residency.
"We're also going to be talking

with Immigration and Customs (Enforcement) to see if possibly we could receive some assistance," said Barletta, who said he wore a bulletproof vest to the vote as a precaution because the issue was emotionally charged.

The ordinance fines landlords \$1,000 per day for each illegal immigrant living on their prop-

Lee Llambelis, legal director of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, said her organization will file a lawsuit that will claim the ordinance violates the federal government's jurisdiction over immigration.



RICK SMITH/The Associated Press

Hispanic protesters wave American flags Thursday outside of city hall in Hazleton, Pa.

"Do I have confidence that employees of the City of Hazleton will be able to implement this policy in a way that makes sense? Absolutely not," Llambelis said.

Barletta, a Republican, has said he proposed the law to ad-

dress crime, school crowding, hospital costs and demands for city services that he attributes to an influx of illegal immigrants in the northeastern Pennsylvania town of about 31,000 residents.

The measure has divided the city, with many longtime resi-

dents supporting Barletta, but the growing Latino community is largely opposed to it.

Other municipalities across the country also have considered acting to address illegal immigration. Ordinances similar to the Hazleton measure have been proposed in the Florida communities of Palm Bay and Avon Park and the California towns of Escondido and San Bernardino.

"It's looking like we're going to see a tidal wave of local governments stepping up to the plate on handling illegal immigration on the local level," said Joseph Turner, who proposed an ordinance similar to Hazleton's in San Bernardino, Calif. "And I believe it's going to put enormous pressure on the federal government to finally act."

Arizona, Colorado and California are among the states that have acted unilaterally to control undocumented immigration, said Gabriel Escobar, who co-authored a national survey of Hispanics released Thursday that found most believe the national immigration-policy debate has increased discrimination.

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"What people are realizing, and what Hazleton and other communities like Hazleton are a sign of, is that even though this is entirely a federal responsibility, the effects of immigration are felt most acutely on the local level," said Escobar, associate director of the Pew Hispanic Center in Washington.

The vote in Hazleton will alienate the influx of thousands of Hispanic residents whose arrival has revitalized the town, said Lazaro Fuentes, board chairman of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of the Lehigh Valley, an organization of about 200 businesses 35 miles southeast of Hazleton.

"This is politicization of a hot topic right now, and enforcing it is about as enforceable as the fact that you leave your house without \$2 in your pocket and you can be arrested for vagrancy," he said.

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GOP splits on dealing with illegal immigration

Differing views of House, Senate may hurt party later

By CHARLES BABINGTON

WASHINGTON — They monitor the same polls and national debate over immigration, yet House Republicans are reaching dramatically different conclusions from President Bush and Senate GOP leaders regarding which political and policy routes to take, a disagreement that may haunt their party in years to come.

House Republicans overwhelmingly favor a get-tough approach that deals only with tightening the U.S. border with Mexico and bolstering efforts to capture and deport illegal immigrants. With time growing short for a compromise, House members appear more wedded to their stand than ever and nave held hearings that ridicule the approach taken by Bush and the Senate.

The Senate bill would tighten borders but also provide an expanded guest-worker program and opportunities for many of the nation's estimated 11 million illegal immigrants to achieve legal status, possibly including citizenship.

House Republicans reject the approach as "amnesty" that rewards lawbreakers.

Both camps say they are right not only on the issue's substance but also on its politics. Each group claims to have the Republican Party's best interests at heart. By definition, both cannot be right, and if the party misplays its hand on the volatile issue, the consequences could be dire, according to a variety of politicians.

"If we lose a generation of Hispanic immigrants, the Republican Party will be a minority party for a long time," said Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., a chief sponsor of the Senate bill. That is what will happen if the House approach prevails, he predicts, and things will not be much better if the House and Senate fail to reach a compromise before the November

Americans "want this prob-lem resolved," Hagel said, and if it is not, "the Republicans, I believe, will be blamed, because we control the process."

House GOP leaders are equally convinced that they are the ones reading the political winds correctly and saving their party from a harsh voter backlash.

"I believe that the American people are much closer to where the House is," Majority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio, eran, successful politicians from the same party could assess the situation so differently, Boehner replied: "I wish I

Since his days as Texas governor, Bush has advocated comparatively generous treatment of illegal immigrants who work hard and avoid trouble. He and political advisers such as Karl Rove dream of bolstering the GOP well into the future by attracting large numbers of Latinos, the fastest-growing segment of the American electorate. Many elected officials and political analysts say inherent differences between House and Senate members also help explain their approaches to immigration.

Casino:

From page A1

treatment but will experience problems with crime, bankruptcy, divorce, domestic violence and mental or physical health problems that will be completely unaddressed," he wrote.

Vancouver hired The Clark Group to review the casino document. The Washington, D.C., company provides a variety of services, including planning, training and lobbying.

Ray Clark, a senior partner, said the document fails to answer the fundamental question of "who wins and who loses."

"It should be clear that locals living in the area for its rural character and exurban lifestyle stand to lose," Clark wrote in his eight-page assessment. "Increased traffic congestion, social disruption, aesthetic impacts of the casino and lights and increased pressure on community services could lead to a decreased qualify of life. For older residents and others living on a fixed income, increased competition for labor, goods and services could translate into a diminution of quality

Clark's letter also outlined a number of other concerns:

- A lack of reasonable alternatives, including ones that examine other sites and types of economic development besides a large casino.
- An inadequate geographic scope that examined only Clark and Cowlitz counties, not other counties in Washington and Oregon.
- A failure to consider other casino proposals, including the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs' proposal to build a casino in Cascade Locks, Ore.





CYAN MAGENTA YELLOW BLACK

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CRISIS IN THE MIDEAST SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2006 Israelis shocked when foes' missiles hit resort town

One projectile reportedly lands in Sea of Galilee

By MICHAEL MATZA The Philadelphia Inquirer

IERUSALEM — Striking deeper into Israel than any previous attack launched from Lebanon, two barrages of Hezbollah-fired Katyusha rockets rained down on sunsplashed Tiberias on Saturday, causing few injuries but widespread fear.

SUNDAY A5

The attack on a part of Israel's heartland thought to be immune to such violence radically alters the rules of the

On Saturday, two days after Hezbollah rockets audaciously hit the Mediterranean port of Haifa, and a day after an unprecedented Hezbollah hit on an Israeli navy vessel using a radar-guided missile, the "Party of God" guerillas managed to stun Israelis again.

This time it was an unparalleled strike 22 miles into Israel an immeasurably deep incursion into the nation's psy-

"Nobody believed it would get to us here," Tiberias resident Asher Shoshi told Israel's Channel 2 TV.

The four rockets, which

damaged two homes and wounded two people, sent thousands of tourists fleeing and creating traffic jams in this resort town of 37,000 full-time residents on the biblical Sea of Galilee. One of the missiles reportedly landed in the water on which devout Christians believe Jesus walked.

In an effort to bolster its defenses, Israel on Saturday deployed a Patriot missile battery outside Haifa.

The American-made antimissile system was designed to intercept surface-to-surface Scuds fired at Israel from Iraq in the first Persian Gulf War in

CYAN MAGENTA YELLOW BLACK

Israeli military authorities have said that the longer-range missiles used to hit Haifa and Tiberias were manufactured in Iran and trafficked to Lebanon by land and air via Syria, as was the radar-guided missile used in the strike on the navy vessel.

U.S. weighs evacuation of Americans

THE COLUMBIAN A5

By MAURA REYNOLDS Los Angeles Times

Concerned about the fate of Americans potentially stranded in Israel's siege of Lebanon, the Pentagon and State Departments are developing plans in case a mass evacuation becomes necessary, officials said Saturday.
The U.S. government was

not yet formally recommending evacuation, however.

The State Department said it was considering various ways of helping Americans who wished to leave Lebanon by finding ways to transport them to Cyprus. There, they could catch commercial airline flights out of the region.

However, options for traveling to the island were limited, considering Israel's naval blockade of Lebanon's ports and the military attacks that have left the international airport in Beirut unusable.

Department officials estimate there are 25,000 Americans in Lebanon.

Arabs assail Israel, mum on Hezbollah

McClatchy Tribune

CAIRO, Egypt — Arab leaders meeting here Saturday condemned Israel's bombing campaign in Lebanon as the death knell for any hope of negotiating peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

But they stopped short of supporting the militant group Hezbollah, which triggered the latest round of violence by kidnapping two Israeli soldiers last week.

Arab governments are hamstrung over what to tell their citizens, who are incensed by four days of Israeli land, sea and air attacks on a fellow Arab nation.

Responding too timidly could erode the Arab governments' legitimacy, but reacting more boldly could be interpreted as approval of Hezbollah, which has ties to the Islamist groups that threaten their own governments.

"They condemn Israel, but at the same time they have their own problems with the Islamist movements and don't support them," said Diaa Rashwan, an expert on militant Islam at the Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies in Cairo.

L

Mideast:

From page A1

when Hezbollah captured two Israeli soldiers and killed eight others in a cross-border raid, Lebanon's prime minister indicated he might send his army to take control of southern Lebanon from Hezbollah — a move that might risk civil war.

In a more ominous sign that the struggle could spread, Israel accused Iran of helping launch a missile that damaged an Israeli warship, a charge both Hezbollah and Iran denied.

Hezbollah, meanwhile, fired barrages of rockets ever deeper into Israel, and Israeli officials warned that Tel Aviv, 70 miles inside Israel, could be

The death toll in the fourday-old conflict rose above 100 in Lebanon, and stood at 15 in Israel.

Despite worldwide alarm, there was little indication either Western or Arab nations could muster a quick diplomatic solution.

In New York, Lebanon accused the United States of blocking a U.N. Security Council statement calling for a cease-fire. Diplomats said Washington, D.C., for now preferred to see the issue dealt with at this weekend's Group of Eight meeting in Russia and in other ways.

The United States and France, meantime, prepared to evacuate their citizens, and Britain dispatched an aircraft carrier to the eastern Mediterranean in apparent preparation for evacuations.

Choking back Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Saniora went on TV to plead with the United Nations "disaster-stricken nation."

The Western-backed prime minister, criticizing both Israel and Hezbollah, also pledged to reassert government authority over all Lebanese territory.

There has been no sign in Lebanon of Iranian Revolutionary Guards for 15 years. But Iran is one of Hezbollah's principal backers along with Syria,

Israel and Lebanon:

Decades of conflict

Thousands of Palestinian refugees were driven into Lebanon by the 1967 and 1973 Arab-Israeli wars, destabilizing that small nation. Anti-Israeli groups, such as Hezbollah, have used Lebanon to stage repeated cross-border attacks. Israel has retaliated with invasion and occupation.

Who is Hezbollah?



Formed 1982

 Sponsors Iran, Syria provide financial, military, political aid

 Military Thousands of supporters armed with short-range. Katyusha rockets, mortars, rocket-propelled grenades, rifles

Politics 11 members elected

by Shiite Muslim clerics to resist Israeli occupation of Lebanon; name means Party of God; called terrorist group by U.S.,

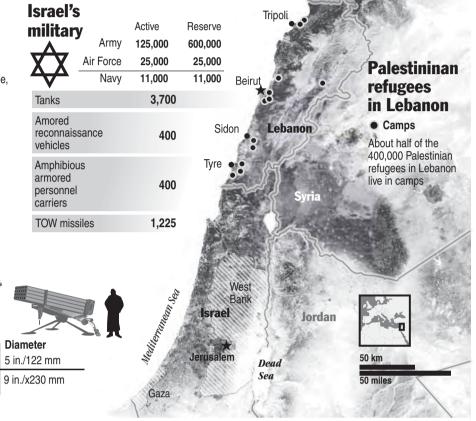
to Lebanon's parliament; seat in cabinet; major provider of social services to Lebanon's 1.2 million

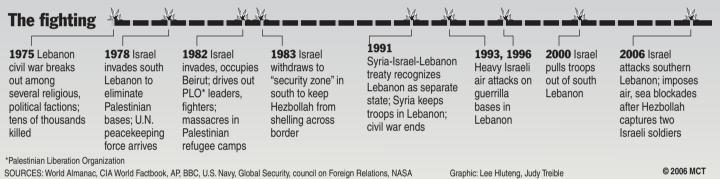
Leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah

Katyusha rocket

Upgraded World War II-era Soviet rocket; Hezbollah reportedly has over 5,000, launched from truck beds; some common types

	Length	Range	Warhead
Arash	10 ft./3 m	12 mi./20 km	40 lb./18 kg
Oghab	16 ft./5 m	21-28 mi. /34-45 km	154 lb./70 kg





providing weapons, money and political support. Many believe Iran and Syria are fueling the battle to show their strength in the region.

Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad again condemned Israel's Lebanon of-Saturday, telling fensive Tehran's state TV, "The Zionist regime behaves like Hitler."

Russia, said it was up to Hezbollah "to lay down its arms and to stop attacking."

But Russian President Vladimir Putin urged a balanced approach by Israel and said it appeared the nation was pursuing wider goals than the return of abducted soldiers.

In all, 33 people were killed

President Bush, on a trip to in Lebanon on Saturday, police

Israeli warplanes demolished the last bridge on the main Beirut-Damascus highway — over the Litani River, six miles from the Syrian border — trying to complete their seal on Lebanon.

Fleeing refugees, including women and children, were cut down on a road adjacent to the Lebanese-Israeli border in an airstrike as they left the village of Marwaheen. The bodies of several children, one headless, were sprawled on the ground.

Police said 15 were killed in the afternoon attack, and an Associated Press photographer counted 12 bodies in the two

U.S.:

From page A1

Washington, D.C., believes it has strong behind-the-scenes support among key Arab leaders also nervous about the populist militants — with a tacit agreement that the timing is right to strike.

"What is out there is concern among conservative Arab allies that there is a hegemonic Persian threat (running) through Damascus, through the southern suburbs of Beirut and to the Palestinians in Hamas," said a senior U.S. official who requested anonymity because of sensitive diplomacy. "Regional leaders want to find a way to navigate unease on their streets and deal with the strategic threats to take down Hezbollah and Hamas, to come out of the crisis where they are not as ascendant."

Hezbollah's raid that captured two Israeli

provided a "unique moment" with a "convergence of interests" among Israel, some Arab regimes and even those in Lebanon who want to rein in the country's last private army, the senior Israeli official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the ongoing conflict.

Israel and the United States would like to hold out until Hezbollah is crippled.

"It seems like we will go to the end now," said Israeli Ambassador Daniel Ayalon. "We will not go part way and be held hostage again. We'll have to go for the kill — Hezbollah neutralization.'

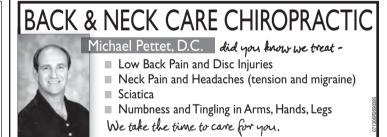
White House officials said Friday that President Bush has called on Israel to limit civilian casualties and avoid toppling the Lebanese government but has not pressured Israel to stop its military action. "He believes that the Israelis have a right to protect themselves,'

spokesman Tony Snow said in cross-border St. Petersburg, where Bush is attending the Group of Eight soldiers and killed eight has summit.

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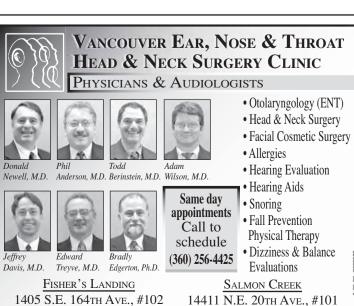
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