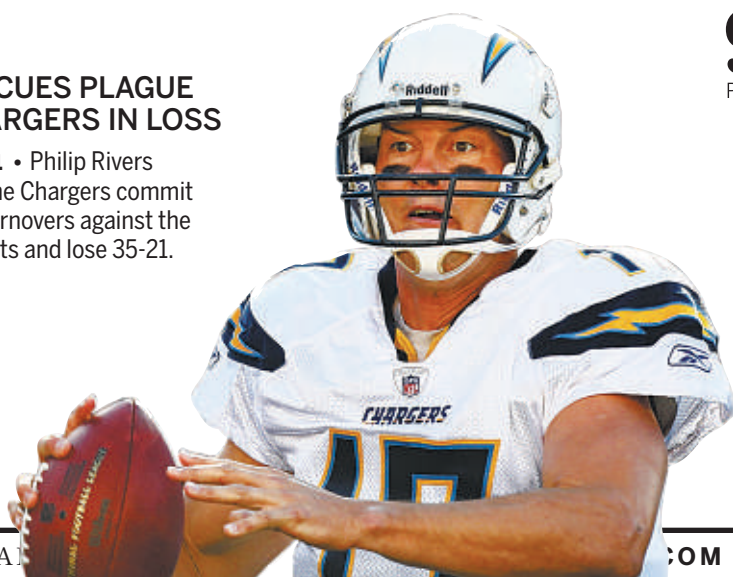


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■ **D1** • Philip Rivers and the Chargers commit key turnovers against the Patriots and lose 35-21.



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THE WORLD

KILLER QUAKE: A magnitude 6.9 earthquake shook northeastern India and Nepal, killing at least 16 people, damaging buildings and sending lawmakers in Nepal's capital running into the streets.

■ **A4 • CARNAGE IN YEMEN:** Yemeni government forces opened fire with anti-aircraft guns on tens of thousands of anti-government protesters in the capital, killing at least 26.

FORMER IMF CHIEF HAS REGRETS: Dominique Strauss-Kahn said Sunday that his sexual encounter with a New York City hotel chambermaid was "an error" and "a moral failure" he would regret his whole life, but not a criminal act.

RELEASE DELAYED: The release of two U.S. hikers jailed in Iran was delayed Sunday because one of the judges whose signature is required on the paperwork is on vacation.

THE NATION

■ **A4 • P-51 RACER WAS HEAVILY MODIFIED:** The World War II-era plane that plummeted into a Nevada air-race crowd like a missile bore little resemblance to its original self. It was rebuilt for speed, if not for stability.

FIVE BIKERS DIE: Five bikers were found dead Sunday in a recreational vehicle at a Tennessee speedway and an organizer for the motorcycle festival blamed the deaths on fumes from a generator.

U-T INDEX

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A12 ANOTHER NIGHT TO SHINE



University of San Diego graduate and "The Big Bang Theory" star Jim Parsons accepts the Emmy for best actor in a comedy series, an award he won last year. For more on the Emmys, see A12. GETTY IMAGES

OBAMA OFFERS PLAN TO CUT DEFICIT

President will call for \$1.5 trillion in new tax revenue

HELENE COOPER
NYT NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON
President Barack Obama will unveil a deficit-reduction plan today that uses entitlement reform, tax increases and war savings to reduce government spending by more than \$3 trillion over the next 10 years, administration officials said.

The plan, which Obama will lay out this morning at the White House, is the administration's opening salvo in sweeping negotiations on deficit reduction to be taken up by a joint House-Senate committee over the next two months.

If a deal is not struck by Dec. 23, cuts could take effect automatically across government agencies.

Obama will call for \$1.5 trillion in tax increases, primarily on the wealthy, through a combination of closing loopholes and limiting the amount that high earners can deduct. The proposal also includes \$580 billion in adjustments to health and entitlement programs, including \$248 billion to Medicare and \$72 billion to Medicaid.

Administration officials said that the Medicare cuts would not come from an increase in the Medicare eligibility age.

Senior administration officials who briefed reporters on some of the details of Obama's proposal said

SEE DEFICIT • A7

PENSION PETITION DRIVE FACES CHALLENGES

Two failed efforts show high degree of difficulty for ballot qualification

CRAIG GUSTAFSON • U-T

There has likely never been a more aggressive and contested petition drive in San Diego history than the one under way to put an initiative before voters that would end guaranteed pensions for most new city hires and give them 401(k)s instead.

It's widely viewed as a slam dunk for passage should it appear on the

June 2012 ballot, but that may not happen because of the high degree of difficulty in collecting the required 94,000-plus signatures from registered city voters in the six-month window provided under election law. Adding to that burden is the strong opposition from local labor unions that are admittedly putting up as many roadblocks as possible to thwart the effort.

The recent failure of two high-profile signature drives in San Diego illustrates the uphill battle facing any group trying to bypass elected leaders and mandate change through direct democracy. Like the new "Comprehensive Pen-

sion Reform" proposal, those efforts were backed by the business community and opposed by labor.

The first would have made it easier to outsource city jobs. The second would have altered the makeup of the San Diego Unified School District board. Supporters collected 134,000 and 129,000 signatures, respectively, for those proposals but neither made the ballot as election officials determined a large number of the signatures were invalid or duplicates.

Those drives have proved that collecting a bunch of signatures is far from a guarantee of success.

Initiative experts say several

factors — time, money, geography and opposition — pose formidable challenges for any proposal to overcome to reach the ballot.

The 401(k) measure would be a charter amendment, as were the other two proposals. That is the most difficult type of proposition to get on the ballot.

Charter amendments require signatures from 15 percent of the city's 629,000 registered voters and give supporters a six-month deadline to submit the petition.

"Charter amendments are darn near impossible to pull off because you have a limited amount of time,"

SEE INITIATIVE • A6

GLOBAL ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER IS FOCUS OF SCRIPPS GATHERING

Scarcity also seen as a threat to the stability of governments

MIKE LEE • U-T

For the moment, Californians don't have to worry about having enough drinking water because abundant snowfall last winter recharged reservoirs and made a three-year drought disappear.

But the Sept. 8 blackout provided a reminder of how critical the delivery system is when residents in parts of San Diego were forced to boil their water to make sure it wouldn't make them sick. Had the power outage lasted 24 hours, more problems likely would have sprung up across the region and made securing daily water supplies a top priority here as it is across the world.

Access to clean water is shaping up as one of the top environmental concerns

of the 21st century. Population growth — there are nearly 7 billion people on Earth — is a major stressor, and climate change is expected to increase the pressure by disrupting snowfall and melt patterns that people have relied on for centuries.

That's why the Center for Environment and National Security at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla is holding a forum about the issue today and Tuesday. It's expected to draw more than 100 policymakers, business leaders and agency officials who deal with water scarcity around the world.

"The real question is water. That is the nexus of things," said Reno Harnish III, a former U.S. ambassador to Azer-

SEE WATER • A3

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WATER • Two-day conference is expected to draw policymakers, business leaders

FROM A1

baijan and current director of the center, which is part of the University of California San Diego. "Often when you find a scenario laid out where climate is impacting national security, a drought has hit and the people are forced to migrate or they are fighting over water sources."

The Scripps forum is one of many attempts to address what has been recognized for years as a growing threat to human welfare and the stability of governments. A congressional Human Rights Commission held a hearing on the issue in May, and next month Las Vegas is hosting an international convention about water efficiency.

Solutions offered by Harnish and others revolve around increased investment by governments, corporations and nonprofit groups. They include increased pollution-reduction safeguards for watersheds, improved conservation in business and agriculture, and creating national-level programs to boost innovation in water technologies.

Harnish doesn't expect the two-day conference to end water scarcity, but he is hoping for an exchange of ideas that might help to transfer water-management ideas from places such as San Diego County to countries with less stable supplies.

Several experts said there's been progress battling water insecurity over the past decade, but the grim statistics remain: Nearly 1 billion people lack access to clean water and more than twice as many don't have sanitation services as basic as pit latrines, further diminishing clean drinking supplies. In addition, women in many parts of the globe spend large portions of their day searching for water instead of farming or operating small businesses that could help their communities.

Demand for water is increasing faster than the global population and the situation is complicated by several factors, including lack of effective pricing for water supplies in developing countries, contamination of freshwater sources and inefficient usage.

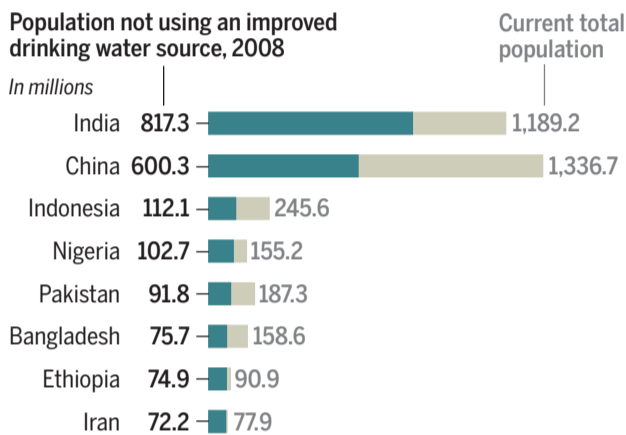
During his diplomatic career, Harnish lived in Egypt, Azerbaijan and elsewhere. "You'd see women in the upper Nile bucketing out (water) where everyone was also relieving themselves," he said.



Reno Harnish III heads the Scripps Institution of Oceanography's Center for Environment and National Security and is hosting an international conference about improving access to clean water around the world. JOHN GASTALDO • U-T

Water services lag across the globe

Countries that have more than 70 million people without access to improved drinking water sources, such as protected wells and public treatment systems:



Sources: GrowingBlue; WHO; UNICEF; CIA World Fact Book BETO ALVAREZ • U-T

"That is real life around the world."

He also heard talk of war in Africa when upstream countries angled for more water from the Nile, a reason Harnish said U.S. residents should not only care about their own supplies but those half-a-world away.

"Their problems become our problems, requiring the Marines to be landed to help with disaster and shortage of water and that kind of thing," he said.

Even though the U.S. might seem immune to such scarcity, cities from San Diego to Boston are struggling to pay for outdated and overburdened water delivery systems, which have been given a national grade of D-minus

by the American Society of Civil Engineers. To make matters worse, several studies have predicted disruptions of water deliveries from the Colorado River if global warming dries out the basin as models suggest it will do.

"In the developed world, we have lived through a 100-year-long golden age of water," said Philadelphia-based author Charles Fishman.

Fishman, author of "The Big Thirst: The Secret Life and Turbulent Future of Water," said the era started with breakthroughs in water purification that helped people forget about the fundamental role that water plays.

"A hundred years ago, even relatively wealthy



Kristina Maxwell (right), a volunteer with Give Clean Water, shows a family how to use a water filter on a recent trip to Fiji. The group installed water filters for more than 300 families and three schools. GIVE CLEAN WATER

people had to think about their water every day," he said. "That era is over."

He finds hope in technologies such as the wastewater purification plant being tested by San Diego's water department. Such devices promise to make water supply systems more robust but they come at a cost at a time when many residents are already struggling to pay their bills.

Technology is also part of the answer in developing countries such as Fiji, where the San Diego-based nonprofit group Give Clean Water focuses its efforts.

Founded in 2008, the charity has delivered 2,500 home-use water filters to Fiji — an island country known for exporting angular bottles of high-priced water. But the nation's infrastructure is paltry, leaving masses to collect water from the same rivers where animals gather and people bathe.

Executive Director Amanda Mineer said three years of work has left her more optimistic than overwhelmed. The group's goal is to install about 200,000 filters in Fiji at a cost of \$20 million over a decade.

"A lot of times with these overwhelming problems, we can get caught up in the statistics," she said. "I have to look at it in the face of every person whose home I have been in. You go from house to house and you realize that mothers' lives are being changed — the entire village's life is being changed."

"It builds confidence," she said. "Everybody has to do a little bit of it and together I believe we can."

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Twitter: @sdutlee

“A lot of times with these overwhelming problems, we can get caught up in the statistics. I have to look at it in the face of every person whose home I have been in. You go from house to house and you realize that mothers' lives are being changed — the entire village's life is being changed.” Amanda Mineer • executive director of Give Clean Water

8.7 MILLION SPECIES COVER THE EARTH, NEW STUDY SAYS

MIKE LEE • U-T

An international team of scientists has released what it is calling the most precise estimate ever offered of the number of species on Earth.

The scientists put the count at 6.5 million species on land and 2.2 million in the ocean for a total of just less than 9 million. And they said 86 percent of terrestrial species and 91 percent of marine species are yet to be discovered and cataloged.

Until now, the number of species on Earth was said to fall somewhere between 3 million and 100 million. Getting a count has challenged scientists for centuries and more recently become a source of frustration as conservationists try to assess what some fear is a major wave of extinctions.

"The new estimate of the number of existing species gives a better baseline for understanding extinction rates," said Karen Stocks at the University of California San Diego and one of the leaders of the global Census of Marine Life that provided data for last month's report. "Without knowing how many species there are, we have less context for how large those losses are and how important they may be."

The latest figure was published in PLoS Biology by scientists with the Census of Marine Life. It is based on new analytical techniques that dramatically narrow the range of previous estimates.

"Many species may vanish before we even know of their existence, of their unique niche and function in ecosystems and of their potential contribution to improved human well-being," said lead author Camilo Mora of the University of Hawaii and Dalhousie University in Canada.

Study co-author Boris Worm of Dalhousie said the recently updated Red List issued by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature assessed 59,508 species, of which 19,625 are classified as threatened. This means the most sophisticated ongoing study of its kind monitors less than 1 percent of world species.

Stocks said the breakthroughs will help guide scientists in two main ways.

"It provides a way to identify those groups where few species have been recorded but where we expect many to exist," she said. "It's a big world out there — you can't study everything — so this contributes to our ideas of where to best spend limited time and resources."

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Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Trial Seeks Volunteers

Pacific Research is currently seeking qualified volunteers to join a Multiple Sclerosis (MS) trial. The study is looking at an investigational medication with the goal of reducing spasticity associated with MS. The study allows continuance of other MS treatment and pain medications. Volunteers must be between 18 – 70 years of age.

The study involves 8 office visits over 3 months. Study participants receive physicals; study-related evaluations, lab work, and either study medication or placebo. Compensation for qualified volunteers up to \$150 - \$250 per visit is available for time commitment and travel. There is also an option of a 28-week extension study following completion of the first program. The extension study offers the study drug and consists of 7 office visits. Additional compensation is offered up to \$100 per visit for this portion of the project, to offset time commitment and travel.

Pacific Research Network

at 619.294.4302 or www.prnscd.com

for more information and to see if you qualify.