

NATION & WORLD

Clinton creates three national monuments

BY KEVIN GALVIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK, ARIZ. — President Clinton Tuesday announced the 92nd anniversary of the Grand Canyon's designation as a national monument by safeguarding other picturesque open spaces.

The president spent an hour watching the sun rise over the canyon's mul-ered ridges and plateaus, then took a helicopter tour of the canyon and hiked Tuweep Valley. He stood at Hopi, on the canyon's South Rim, and declared three new national monuments.

Clinton said it was fitting that he made the declarations today, because on Jan. 1908, Roosevelt made the Grand Canyon a national monument, protecting it from mining or other activities that would mar it.

None of you who can see what is before me can doubt the wisdom of my decision," Clinton said. "On this day, at this place, we continue that great

journey."

The lands already belong to the federal government but Clinton's action will protect the designated areas from mining and some other uses. The executive action was being carried out, in some cases, despite protests from local and state officials.

Clinton acted on recommendations from Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt to name as national monuments a jagged 1,500-square-mile desert area dotted with junipers known as the Grand Canyon-Parashant; Agua Fria, 71,000 acres encompassing two mesas filled with Indian ruins, petroglyphs and other prehistoric treasures north of Phoenix; and hundreds of rocks and small islands along the California coast.

"If there is one thing that unites our fractious, argumentative country, ... it is the love we have for our land," Clinton said. "The only thing we can add to it is our protection."

The Pinnacles National Monument, located south of San Jose, Calif., which was named a national monument by Theodore Roosevelt in 1908, was expanded under the order Clinton was sign-

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Bill Clinton
President of the United States

ing today. Roosevelt also declared Grand Canyon a monument in 1908. It later became a national park.

Although the president's action was praised by environmentalists, some Arizona state and local officials accused him of ignoring local interests.

"We think it is totally disrespectful of the local community," said Mohave County Supervisor Carol Anderson, whose district covers the monument area.

The mayor of Fredonia, Ariz., a tiny community about 50 miles from the monument boundary, said local people resent federal mandates and are worried about effects on the ranching and timber industries. "They'll declare this monument. They'll go home, and we'll be left to take care of it," Mayor Joy Jordan said before

Clinton's declaration.

Laurent Gaudreau, a 73-year-old outdoor-gear salesman at the Canyon's South Rim, disagreed. "Once land is gone, it is gone forever," he said.

Clinton was acting under the Antiquities Act, passed by Congress in 1906 and used by several presidents to protect federal lands and, in the words of the act, "objects of historic and scientific interest."

Clinton's action does not affect existing water and grazing rights and mining claims, but does bar new ones on the designated lands. Hunting is prohibited on the expanded section of the Pinnacles site and a ban on off-road vehicles at the two Arizona sites becomes permanent.

MERGER

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day is the proposed \$122 billion acquisition of Sprint by MCI WorldCom. Worldwide, the biggest pending deal was the \$150 billion hostile bid for German telecommunications company Mannesmann by Vodafone, the largest mobile phone company.

The Time Warner-AOL transaction is sure to have major repercussions for both industries. Many big media companies are struggling to figure out how to harness the power of the Internet, and Internet companies are seeking to put entertainment and other content on their Web sites to attract more customers.

"This is a defining event for Time Warner and America Online as well as a pivotal moment in the unfolding of the Internet age," Time Warner President Richard Parsons said.

The deal is subject to certain conditions, including regulatory approvals and the approval of AOL and Time Warner shareholders. The companies said the merger was expected to be finalized by the end of the year.

The Justice Department said Mon-

day it was unclear whether it or the Federal Trade Commission will be asked to approve the proposed merger. Each agency has its own group of antitrust experts, and they typically split regulatory reviews after deciding among themselves whose experts are most appropriate to decide the questions that such a megamerger might raise.

AOL Time Warner's brands would include CompuServe, Netscape, ICQ, AOL Instant Messenger, AOL MovieFone, TBS, TNT, Cartoon Network, Digital City, Warner Music Group, Spinner, Winamp, Fortune, AOL.COM, Entertainment Weekly and Looney Tunes.

Time Warner vice chairman Ted Turner, who will retain the title in the new company, backs the merger. Turner holds about 9 percent of Time Warner's outstanding common stock.

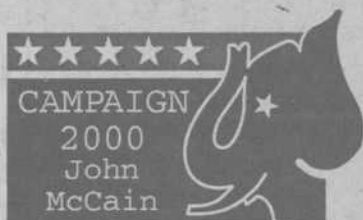
Under the deal, Time Warner shareholders will receive 1.5 shares of AOL Time Warner for each of share of Time Warner stock, and AOL shareholders will receive one share of AOL Time Warner stock for each share of AOL stock.

McCain outlines 5-year, \$237 billion tax cut plan

BY CURT ANDERSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — John McCain today outlined a five-year, \$237 billion tax plan that also would set aside more than \$700 billion to protect Social Security and create new all-purpose taxing accounts for the middle class.

In a lunchtime speech to the Chamber of Commerce in Concord, N.H., McCain suggested it would be irresponsible to close most of projected budget surplus taxes — as Republican presidential rival George W. Bush would do without planning for the retirement of the big baby boom generation, which would push Social Security toward insol-



To help pay for the changes, McCain said he would raise some \$150 billion by closing a long list of corporate tax loopholes and shelters.

"Every tax dollar now wasted on special breaks for oil companies, ethanol grants, insurance companies and the multitude of other special interests with their armies of lobbyists, is now at risk," he said.

The Republican presidential front-runner, Texas Gov. Bush, is pushing a five-year, \$483 billion tax relief plan that, among other things, would gradually cut all income tax rates, abolish estate taxes and double the \$500 per-child tax credit. Critics say it would leave precious little for Social Security or Medicare.

In a statement today, Bush said he and McCain "have a fundamental disagreement" over taxes and how to use projected surpluses.

"I believe surpluses should be passed back to hardworking Americans," Bush said. "Senator McCain's plan would leave more money in Washington to be spent on more government."

ELIAN

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nd harm to his physical and mental health and emotional well-being." After the ruling, Elian's great-uncle a copy of the ruling and yelled "ry for Elian!" in Spanish outside Elian's home in Little Havana.

"Today is a great day for Elian," Eig said. "The ruling will provide Gonzalez his day in court."

in was rescued from an inner tube on the coast of Florida on Thanksgiving, after a shipwreck that killed his stepfather and others fleeing Cu-

ard Perlmutter, director of the City of Miami's Children and Youth Clinic, called the judge's decision "legally popular" but legally incor-

said the federal government has authority to decide immigration

matters and a state court can only intercede if Reno gives her permission. She has not done that. He also said the INS has the power to return Elian at any time.

The case has touched off protests in Miami and in Cuba, where the Castro government condemned the ruling. At a rally in Havana on Monday, demonstrators likened Cuban exiles in the United States to "beasts." Elian's father, Juan Miguel Gonzalez, has demanded that his son be returned.

Elian's relatives in Miami say they can give him a better life off the communist island.

The judge has ordered the father to be at the March hearing, saying his "failure to appear may result in a decision adverse to his interests." Gonzalez has said he would not travel to the United States to retrieve his son.

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