

## STATE

## More funds at hand to fix S.C. roads

COLUMBIA (AP) — South Carolina's deteriorating roads and bridges will get an unexpected boost this year.

The state Department of Transportation will receive \$569 million in transportation aid. Much of this money, which comes from federal and state funds, is supposed to be allocated based on factors such as state population, vehicle miles traveled and miles of road.

However, members of a congressional conference committee earmarked hundreds of millions of dollars from the \$59.6 billion transportation bill for pet projects in the members' home states, an Associated Press computer analysis shows.

South Carolina had expected to receive about \$510 million, so state officials were pleased about the increase, said Bob Probst, DOT's deputy director and head of finance.

## Ring lost at beach found 36 years later

MYRTLE BEACH (AP) — The stone might be greener than it was 36 years ago, and it might only fit her pinky, but Sandra Hughes couldn't be happier to have her class ring back.

Hughes' boyfriend lost the ring on the beach during a vacation in 1966. The two would eventually marry and look for the ring when they returned to the Grand Strand on vacation. Hughes' husband died in 1997.

Gene Barnes found the ring more than 20 years ago. He died in 1994, but his wife, Marilyn, recently decided to find the ring's owner.

With the help of a magnifying glass, Marilyn Barnes was able to determine the ring came from New Castle High School in Virginia. The ring had no name on it, but it was engraved with the initials "S.G.H."

She called the school, now Craig County High School, and they were able to find Hughes.

## NATION

## Bush budget targets defense, tax cuts

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush is sending Congress a \$2.12 trillion spending plan Monday that seeks to recognize the "new realities" confronting the nation since Sept. 11. It proposes the biggest jump in defense spending in two decades and a record increase in money devoted to making Americans more secure at home.

The budget tries to revive an anti-recession stimulus package that stalled late last year in the Senate. It also seeks billions of dollars more in future years to make permanent the biggest economic victory of Bush's first year in office, a sweeping, across-the-board tax cut.

Congressional Democrats are pledging a fight to restore spending for their priorities and to oppose tax breaks in Bush's stimulus package for the wealthy and corporations.

## Rumsfeld says Iran is helping al-Qaida

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some Taliban and al-Qaida members who escaped Afghanistan have "found refuge" in Iran, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Sunday.

Rumsfeld and other Bush administration officials also charged that Iran was creating instability inside Afghanistan by funneling arms to various factions within the country.

Iran has helped in creating the interim Afghan government and raising money to rebuild its war-shattered neighbor, Secretary of State Colin Powell said. But President Bush's grouping Iran with North Korea and Iraq as part of an "axis of evil" supporting terrorism was justified, U.S. officials said.

Iranian officials have denounced Bush's comments and denied giving any help to the Taliban or Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network. Iran's government had strongly opposed the Taliban regime before its eventual collapse last year.

## WORLD

## Mideast leaders take moderate tone

JERUSALEM (AP) — Yasser Arafat and Ariel Sharon each took unusual steps Sunday: the Palestinian leader pledged to stamp out Palestinian "terrorist groups," while the Israeli leader announced he would continue cease-fire talks he began last week with senior Palestinians.

Arafat, in an editorial in The New York Times, denounced Palestinian militants who carry out bombings and shootings against Israeli civilians.

"These groups do not represent the Palestinian people or their legitimate aspirations for freedom," Arafat wrote. "They are terrorist organizations, and I am determined to put an end to their activities."

Sharon, who met last Wednesday with senior Palestinian leaders for the first time since coming to power last year, said he would hold more talks when he returns from a meeting this week with President Bush.

## Turkish earthquake kills at least 45

SULTANDAGI, TURKEY (AP) — An earthquake shook a poppy-growing region in Turkey on Sunday, toppling scores of buildings and killing at least 45 people.

At least 150 people were injured in the magnitude-6 quake. The government said no one else was believed trapped in the rubble and that it didn't expect the death toll to climb much beyond 45.

The epicenter was Sultandagi, a small town 125 miles south of the capital, Ankara, and affected areas up to 200 miles away. About 150 buildings collapsed in the area, which is fringed by the Sultan mountains and dotted with plains that are carpeted by red poppies in summer.

The government-controlled poppy industry produces morphine derivatives for use in painkillers.

## Interested in joining THE GAMECOCK staff?



Come to our interest meeting today at 7:30 p.m. in RH 333. For more information, e-mail gamecockeditor@hotmail.com.

## Former Enron chair cancels testimony before Congress

BY PETE YOST  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Former Enron chairman Kenneth Lay pulled out of this week's scheduled congressional testimony on Sunday as members of Congress suggested he and other company executives engaged in widespread criminality.

Enron's chairman "cannot be expected to participate in a proceeding in which conclusions have been reached before Mr. Lay has been given an opportunity to be heard," his attorney, Earl Silbert, said in letters to the Senate and House panels that were to hear from him.

The Senate Commerce Committee canceled its hearing after Lay pulled out, while the House Financial Services Committee planned to proceed.

Lay's decision came the day after a review of Enron's activities by University of Texas law school dean William Powers concluded that the company's management concealed financial information from the public.

Sen. Peter Fitzgerald, R-Ill., said on NBC's "Today" that "Ken Lay obviously had to know that this was a giant pyramid scheme — a giant shell game."

Rep. Billy Tauzin, R-La., asked whether "maybe somebody ought to go to the pokey for this."

Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., called Enron "almost a culture of corporate corruption" and said the Powers report is "a pretty devastating indictment of things that went on inside the corporation. The report would suggest that as CEO, Mr. Lay certainly was aware of much of this."

"We're going to meet with the

committee members and have a discussion about what we do next," Dorgan said Sunday night.

Dorgan dismissed Silbert's suggestion that the hearing would be "prosecutorial" in tone, saying that the comments by members of Congress simply reflect assessments "by Enron's own accounting firm regarding potentially illegal acts."

"It was clear to us that he was looking for any little excuse to wiggle off the hook," said Ken Johnson, a spokesman for the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which had planned to invite Lay to testify later this month. "As the old saying goes, 'you can run, but you can't hide'" and if Lay refuses to testify, "he'll be subpoenaed like everyone else."

In his letters to Sen. Ernest Hollings of South Carolina and Republican Rep. Michael Oxley of Ohio, Silbert said "Mr. Lay firmly rejected any allegations that he engaged in wrongful or criminal conduct."

Hollings chairs the Senate Commerce Committee, Oxley the House Financial Services Committee.

The Powers review of Enron also stated that a key document was missing from a partnership deal. Lay says he was unaware of the transaction and former Enron chief executive officer Jeff Skilling says he was unaware of the terms.

"We have not located any Enron Deal Approval Sheet, 'DASH,' an internal document summarizing the transaction and showing required approvals," stat-



Lay

ed the report. The report noted the same type of situation in another transaction as well, and the report raised the possibility that no approval sheet was ever prepared.

Tauzin said Skilling backed away from signing his name to off-the-books partnership deals.

"What does that say about his knowledge of whether these deals were honest or corrupt? We found out that one of the good guys ... went to Skilling and brought him all these deals to get his signature on it," Tauzin said. "He refused to sign it."

Citing a company rife with conflicts of interest, Tauzin said that in one deal, a man and his girlfriend at Enron actually negotiated with each other.

"They were really sweethearts, ended up getting married," Tauzin said. "When they signed the deals, they signed as married partners, one against the other."

Dorgan said the question of criminality is "a judgment for the U.S. Justice Department" to make, but he added that "\$1 billion in profit was booked here that didn't exist. That's trouble."

On CNN's "Late Edition," Reps. Jim Greenwood and Henry Waxman argued over the political dimensions to the Enron controversy.

Waxman, ranking Democrat on the House Government Reform Committee, said hundreds of thousands of dollars in Enron donations to Republicans and Democrats over the years had resulted in weakened regulatory oversight of the company.

"Those who stopped the police" from looking at Enron "bear some responsibility as well," Waxman said.

WILLIAM AND MARION LANGFAN  
CONSTITUTIONAL  
ORATORICAL PRIZE

When: Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Where: Final six speakers only

Gressette Room, Harper College, 7:00 PM

Earlier in the day (12 noon) we will reduce the number of competitors to six by listening to preliminary speeches at the Carolina Plaza, Room 712.

Rules: Deliver a speech without a manuscript and without notes.

Topic: The topic will be on a contemporary constitutional issue and will be announced on the web page (see below) 7 days before the contest. Speeches with be 8 minutes long and will be evaluated by professors and alumni.

Open to all USC full-time students, undergraduate and graduate (including law).

## Prizes:

First place \$1000

Second place \$500

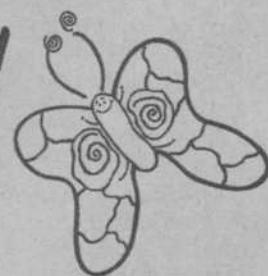
Third place \$350

Fourth place \$250

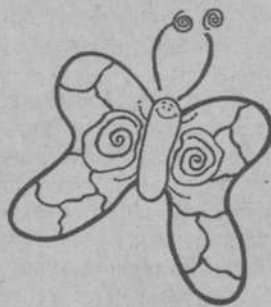
REGISTER: You must be a full-time student at U. South Carolina and must send your name, SS#, major, and on-campus phone and e-mail address TO: Berube (berube@sc.edu) before February 6, 2002 (12:00AM = midnight).

<http://www.cla.sc.edu/thsp/faculty/berube/debate/langfan.htm>

This contest is hosted by Carolina Debate and funded by the Moore School of Business through a gift from William and Marion Langfan.

EPSILON SIGMA ALPHA  
Service Sorority

## Spring Rush



2002

WHEN: TUESDAY-THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 5-7

TIME: 7:00 PM

WHERE: SOUTH QUAD LOUNGE

DRESS: BUSINESS-DRESSY

Visit our Website and Apply Online at:  
[www.geocities.com/sweetcarolinagirls](http://www.geocities.com/sweetcarolinagirls)