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## The San Diego Union-Tribune.

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AROUND THE REGION

### San Diego gains new sister city

June 29, 2004

**DOWNTOWN** – The city of Jalalabad, Afghanistan, is now a sister city of San Diego.

The San Diego City Council unanimously approved the diplomatic relationship yesterday. The formal vote follows years of efforts among local San Diegans to improve living conditions in one of Afghanistan's largest cities.

The new bond is designed to "promote exchange and communication in the spirit of international goodwill, understanding and peace," according to a December 2003 letter written by Mayor Dick Murphy to his counterpart in Jalalabad.

The federal Sister City program began in 1956. More than 1,200 U.S. cities are paired with more than 2,000 international cities in 137 countries.

San Diego now has 15 partners, nine of them in the Pacific Rim.

### Pedestrian finds body near wreck

**SANTA YSABEL** – A pedestrian walking along state Route 78 yesterday discovered the body of a man killed in an auto crash, a California Highway Patrol official said.

The body of the 48-year-old Santa Ysabel man was discovered about 10

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a.m. lying next to the man's wrecked pickup truck.

The Medical Examiner's Office said the man had been dead for at least 24 hours before the body was discovered, but the time of death has not been determined.

CHP investigators said the man, who was not wearing a seat belt, was ejected from the driver's side door when his Toyota pickup hit a cluster of oak trees 50 feet down an embankment north of the highway.

Officials said the man had been headed east on Route 78. The wreckage could not be seen by passing traffic. The cause of the crash is under investigation.

## Free insurance workshop offered

RAMONA – A free insurance workshop for fire survivors will be offered at 6:30 p.m. today at Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church, 1735 Main St.

The session will be led by George Kehrer, consumer insurance advocate and founder of Communities Assisting Recovery. Kehrer will give tips on the insurance process and answer questions.

## Drug-trafficking charges upheld

TIJUANA – A Mexican federal judge has upheld drug-trafficking charges against Efraín Pérez, a suspected high-ranking member of the Arellano Félix drug cartel who was arrested in Tijuana last month.

Pérez was arrested along with Jorge Aureliano Félix, whose court status wasn't immediately available. Mexican authorities consider Aureliano Félix to also be a high-ranking member of the cartel, which for more than a decade has been the region's most powerful drug-trafficking group.

Both also have been indicted in the United States, and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration had established a \$2 million reward for information leading to their capture.

Pérez is being linked to a large load of cocaine inside a Colombian plane that landed near Todos Santos, in Baja California Sur, on Nov. 5, 1995, according to a news release from the Mexican Attorney General's Office.

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