

## Tests show more swine flu immunity in older folks

ATLANTA - New test results show what scientists have suspected — people in their 60's and older have greater immunity to the new swine flu virus. The analysis was released Thursday, May 21 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. But officials there say it's not clear how safe older people are from the new infection. Their advice is that older folks should take the same precautions as their children and grandchildren. The CDC said tests show higher levels of swine flu-fighting antibodies in the blood of older people than in younger ones, probably from exposure to earlier viruses similar to swine flu. (AP)

## Calif. Supreme Court set to rule on gay marriage

SAN FRANCISCO -- The California Supreme Court says it will issue its long-awaited decision on the validity of the state's same-sex marriage ban on Tuesday, May 26. The high court announced the pending opinion on its Web site May 22. Justices are considering a series of lawsuits seeking to overturn Proposition 8 as having been put on the November ballot improperly. The court also will decide whether to allow the estimated 18,000 gay couples who got married in California before the measure passed to stay wed. Court observers have doubted the Supreme Court would invalidate the ban, which was approved by 52 percent of the state's voters. Since the arguments, three states -- Iowa, Maine and Vermont -- have joined Massachusetts and Connecticut in making same-sex marriage legal. (AP)

## California jobless rate drops to 11 percent

SACRAMENTO -- California's unemployment rate dropped slightly from last month's modern record, falling to 11 percent in April. The state Employment Development Department says the jobless rate fell from 11.2 percent in March. But it is up from just 6.6 percent a year ago. The news comes as the national unemployment rate continues to rise, increasing from 8.5 percent in March to 8.9 percent in April. Stephen Levy, senior economist at the Palo Alto-based Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy, says the slight decline is a false signal that economic recovery has begun. He says the state's economy dropped deeper into recession last month, with continued declines in construction, manufacturing and trade jobs. But he sees hope for a recovery beginning later this year. (AP)

## AP poll: Most students stressed, some depressed

by NANCY BENAC & TREVOR TOMPSON  
AP Writers

WASHINGTON - Stress over grades. Financial worries. Trouble sleeping. Feeling hopeless. So much for those carefree college days.

### LA schools face tough choices to cut \$131M

LOS ANGELES -- Los Angeles school officials say the results of May 19's special election will have a devastating impact on the nation's second largest school district. School district Superintendent Ramon Cortines said last May 20 that voters' rejection of the budget propositions will force the district to cut \$131 million by July 1. In addition, he said the district will have to cut another \$404 million over the next two academic years. Cortines said district officials are considering a number of alternatives, including furlough days, salary freezes, elimination of summer school, putting administrative employees on a 10-month work year and reducing after-school programs. Most of the ballot measures, proposing a complex mix of spending reforms, higher taxes, borrowing and funding shifts to solve a \$42 billion deficit, were losing by wide margins. (AP)

The vast majority of college students are feeling stressed these days, and significant numbers are at risk of depression, according to an Associated Press-mtvU poll. Eighty-five percent of the students reported feeling stress in their daily lives in recent months, with worries about grades, school work, money and relationships the big culprits. At the same time, 42 percent said they had felt down, depressed or hopeless several days during the past two weeks, and 13 percent showed signs of being at risk for at least mild depression, based on the students' answers to a series of questions

that medical practitioners use to diagnose depressive illness. These students complained of trouble sleeping, having little energy or feeling down or hopeless — and most hadn't gotten professional help. Eleven percent had had thoughts that they'd be better off dead or about hurting themselves. That's not just a case of the blues to be shrugged off by taking a break with Facebook or going for a workout. Kristin Potts, who graduated from Penn State last week with a 4.0 in chemistry and will go on for a master's, says she's seen warning signs among fellow classmates.

## Congresswoman Hirono reintroduces Filipino WWII Veterans Family Reunification Act

WASHINGTON, DC - Congresswoman Mazie K. Hirono (D-Hawaii) reintroduced last May 14 the Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act, H.R. 2412, aimed at exempting the sons and daughters of Filipino World War II veterans from immigration quotas that have delayed the receipt of immigrant visas to the United States, which has kept these family members apart. Some 200,000 Filipinos served with American troops during

World War II. About 18,000 of those Filipino veterans are alive today. Thousands reside in the US, with a significant number of these veterans living in Hawai'i. "These soldiers were members of the United States Armed Forces of the Far East. They were led to believe that at the end of the conflict they would be treated the same as American soldiers," said Hirono. "It took more than sixty years to begin to make good on our commitment. The Filipino Veterans Family Re-

unification Act recognizes the special circumstances surrounding this group of soldiers." In 1990, the Congress recognized the courage and commitment of the Filipino World War II veterans by providing them with a waiver from certain naturalization requirements. As a result, many veterans became proud US citizens and residents of our country. However, allowances were not made for their children and many have been waiting decades for petition approval. The Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act would allow for the further recognition of the service of these veterans by granting their children a special immigration status that would allow them to immigrate to the US and be reunified with their aging parents. Congresswoman Hirono initially introduced the bill in 2007. A companion bill will soon be introduced by Hawai'i Senator Daniel K. Akaka in the US Senate. ■

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