

Arsonists arraigned

Brothers charged in synagogue fires

► See Page 3A



Prep Baseball

Justin grabs first in SCAL

► See Page 1B

Seniors

Wayne McClure's been there and done that

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3

the Napa Valley Register Saturday

March 18, 2000

► Examiner sold to free newspaper publisher/Below

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Smith & Wesson agrees to gun locks

By SONYA ROSS
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON

In a deal heralded as a way to save children's lives, gunmaking giant Smith & Wesson agreed Friday to install locks on its weapons to make them more child-proof. In exchange, governments would drop lawsuits seeking damages for gun violence.

The agreement, reached after two months of negotiations involving the company, state and local officials and the Clinton administration, establishes an unprecedented "code of conduct" for selling and distributing handguns. President Clinton expressed hope that other gun companies will follow Smith & Wesson's lead.

"A decision to enter this agreement, we realized, would not be popular with everyone," Smith & Wesson President Ed Shultz said in a conference call broadcast at a news conference where the deal was announced. "But we believe ... it is the right thing to do."

In a letter posted on its Internet site, Smith & Wesson said that since 1997, it has provided a lock with every weapon shipped, and that the weapons are shipped in lockable boxes. The company did not address whether the locks were

See LOCKS, Page 7A

Taiwan to face off against China under new president

By DIRK BEVERIDGE
Associated Press Writer

TAIPEI, Taiwan

Taiwanese could shake the delicate status quo that has preserved peace between China and Taiwan in a vote Saturday that will give them an untested leader facing growing pressure to negotiate with a belligerent Beijing.

The race to succeed President Lee Teng-hui was too close to call as the three top candidates wrapped up their campaigns Friday night to the sounds of blaring air horns, fireworks and deafening applause.

But there was a very real possibility the ruling Nationalist Party could lose the presidency for the first time since Taiwan was separated politically from China when com-

See CHINA, Page 6A

Hearst to sell Examiner to Bay Area free newspaper publisher

By MICHAEL WARREN
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO

The Hearst Corp. sold the San Francisco Examiner to the owners of a free city newspaper on Friday, clearing the way for Hearst's purchase of its century-old rival, the San Francisco Chronicle.

The deal, which is expected to meet Justice Department approval, gives Hearst control of the city's dominant newspaper and ends a

joint operating agreement in which the two papers have split profits 50-50 for the last 35 years.

"Our deal today is the fulfillment of a dream for my family, for myself, for my late father," said Ted Fang, who will be the publisher of the new Examiner.

Fang said he would switch the Examiner back to mornings when the two papers become fully independent in August, after a four-month transition period, and compete head-to-head with the Chronicle.

Neither Hearst nor Fang would disclose the sale price, or say whether some profit-sharing agreement was part of the deal. Hearst, which is buying the Chronicle for \$660 million, said it would make a "substantial financial commitment" to the continued publication of the Examiner."

The sale is expected to close by March 30, but it will be "business as

See EXAMINER, Page 6A



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INSIDE

Ann Landers	5D	Stock Market	2-4D	Seniors	1D
Bridge	6D	Movies	6D	Sports	1-4B
Classified	1-8C	Obituaries	5D	TV listings	6D
Comics	5B	People in the news	6B	Weather	7A
Daily briefing	2A	Public notices	6B		

WEATHER

Sunny and warm. Highs in the 70s to around 80. Increasing clouds overnight. Lows in the 40s.

See Page 5A

TODAY'S OBITUARIES

Emily Smith
Denise Whited

LOTTERY RESULTS

Friday

Fantasy 8: 8, 11, 26, 31, 38

Daily 9: 9, 4, 4

See Page 5D