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Polls open, gov race a dead heat

BY DANIEL SCARPINATO
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Arizonans will head to the polls today to vote for a number of state offices that will likely affect the outcome of the UA's future, but with some races neck-and-neck, results may not be in tonight.

With the races for governor and secretary of state expected to be too close to call, voting officials expect the counting could take days.

Democrat Janet Napolitano and Republican Matt Salmon have been campaigning aggressively in a close race for Arizona governor.

A poll late last month, which surveyed 662 voters, showed Napolitano with a 16-point lead among likely voters, up from the previous week's 3-point lead.

But a Rocky Mountain Poll released Friday showed that Napolitano's lead has shrunk to only 3 points over Salmon among "likely voters."

The poll's margin of error is plus or minus 5.6 percentage points.

The split stretches beyond the state's borders. A national poll by the Pew Research Center illustrated the difference, with 46 percent of likely voters siding with Democrats and 44 percent saying they plan to vote for Republicans today.

Whoever inherits the governorship of Arizona will assume a \$1 billion state deficit and a seat on the Arizona Board of Regents, which will grant him or her influence in U A - centered issues like tuition increases and admission standards.

The Arizona Students' Association, a student-lobbyist group, is co-sponsoring the effort. The group spent the months preceding the election working to register students to vote.

Election recorders have until Nov. 13 to count and verify early ballot signatures, said State Elections Director Jessica Funkhouser.

Funkhouser expects a rise in early ballot voting from the September primary election, in which nearly 37 percent of registered voters chose to cast early ballots instead of going to their polling precincts.

Voters who have not mailed in their early ballots can still drop them off at their polling precinct or at their county recorder's office between 6 a.m. until 7 p.m. today, Funkhouser said. Also, voters who have moved but failed to submit a change of address can vote at their new precinct and make a change of address there.

In an effort to jump-start college voting, the Associated Students of the University of Arizona is sponsoring a free shuttle service to the polls today from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m.

The shuttle will meet in the circle driveway in front of the UofA Bookstore.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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College of Nursing reopens

BY REBEKAH JAMPOLE
Staff Writer

Nursing students and faculty returned to their college yesterday, united by last Monday's tragedy and their determination to persevere, as they say their professors would have wanted.

"Bob (Stewart Flores Jr.) wanted us to stop. He wanted to put a halt to the nursing college," second-year nursing student Janette LeSueur said. "The biggest tribute we can make to our teachers is to go forward."

As students walked to the building together, the USS Arizona bell tolled.

A Native American healer cleansed the College of Nursing with sage early in the morning. After the ritual, three white doves were released.

"It was amazing," LeSueur said. "We came here and we reclaimed our building."

The college was quiet yesterday as students walked through the building to the offices of Barbara Monroe, Robin Rogers and Cheryl McGaffic. Some said they felt

overwhelmed as they stood in the room where McGaffic and Monroe were murdered.

Most smiled as memories of their former professors were read aloud. Almost all students and professors wore pink and blue ribbons on their shirts in honor of their teachers, advisers and friends.

Those in Rogers' classes wore purple ribbons around their arms. Purple was Rogers' favorite color. Many also wore purple clothing to memorial services for her.

"There is just this closeness

that is helping us get through it," said Jennifer Moberly, a nursing senior.

As students walked through the main courtyard, they were met by large pictures of their slain professors, posters from other campus clubs and colleges expressing their sympathy to the nursing students.

People throughout the world have offered nursing students and faculty sympathy, prayers and services.

"Our hearts and hands are

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Friends of the three professors slain last week carry photos of the professors through campus yesterday morning after a memorial service at Centennial Hall. Following the service, more than 2,500 colleagues, students and community members joined a procession that led them to the College of Nursing.

Campus community, families celebrate lost professors' lives

BY STEPHANIE SCHWARTZ
Staff Writer

Students, colleagues, friends and family of Cheryl McGaffic, Barbara Monroe and Robin Rogers filled Centennial Hall on Monday morning to pay tribute to the beloved women who were killed last Monday.

Nursing students wore ribbons, carried flowers and many tied purple ribbons around their arms. Purple was Robin Rogers' favorite color. A harp played softly at the entrance of the auditorium, where nearly all the 2,800 seats were filled. Nursing students and faculty sat in a group near the front of the auditorium, many holding hands.

"I realize we've lost much more than professors or colleagues here," President Pete Likins said. "We've all lost part of ourselves."

At 8:30 a.m., the auditorium grew silent as the USS Arizona bell rang repeatedly, marking the moment former student Robert S. Flores Jr. shot and killed three of

his professors.

After the service, nursing students and faculty walked back to the College of Nursing building for a private service.

Despite the tears, much of the service was spent telling stories about the professors and expressing gratitude for their hard work and dedication to their students.

"I am grateful I knew them and I'm thankful I can be confident that the students in their classes will be successful," College of Nursing Dean Marjorie Isenberg said. "I have never been more proud of my colleagues and the students and staff than this time."

Isenberg said she received many e-mails throughout the past week, stating how greatly the lives of nursing alumni had been impacted personally and professionally because of the professors.

One former nursing student said she remembered McGaffic's constant reminders to never leave a patient's room without touching them. Six years later, she remembers this every day she works.

Nursing students Kimberly Ammons

and Sile Schaan remembered McGaffic's constant reminder to the students that it is OK to not be OK.

Students and faculty laughed as nursing clinical associate professor Mary Vencenz fondly remembered McGaffic's colored clogs that matched every set of scrubs she wore.

McGaffic, who taught a course on death and dying, will be remembered for her passion for nursing and her passion for every student and colleague, Vencenz said. Her passion was demonstrated for the living as well as the dying, she said.

"Some give up their lives to be less than they can be," associate nursing professor Paula Meek said. "Cheryl, that was not you. I, we, will live up to your vision of who we can be. We will follow your heart until we are unstoppable."

Nursing faculty member Fran Bartholomeaux remembered Barbara Monroe especially in clinical assessment, resulting in laughter from the nursing staff and students.

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