

Press-Telegram

489,999 READERS WEEKLY LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

50¢

Time for dancing in the streets, Pops in the Park
TIM GROBATY A2 • WEEKEND C1



SHE'S NO. 1
Gymnast Gabby Douglas adds gold to Team USA's Thursday medal haul
OLYMPICS B1, 6-8



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Jeff Gritchen Staff Photographer

Whale watchers are treated to an up-close visit of a blue whale swimming near the Palos Verdes Peninsula. The marine mammals are currently on a northern summer migration from Mexico to Alaska and can be seen here.

WHALES, AHOY!

Aquarium-led tours let people get close to large mammals

By Viridiana Vaca-Rios
Staff Writer

The missile-like shape of the endangered blue whale has been spotted off Long Beach, meaning the largest mammal on Earth has started its migration along the West Coast, giving whale-watching enthusiasts plenty to see.

With adult whales reaching the size of about two buses, the Balaenoptera musculus, as the animals are known by their scientific name, is larger than the largest dinosaur.

Marine mammal enthusiasts can now visit the Aquarium of the Pacific's award-winning exhibit, "Whales: Voices in the Sea," with a newly added interactive kiosk that educates guests on the environmental threats facing whales.

As part of the exhibit kickoff, visitors can see the largest mammal ever known



Ella and Tyler Barone watch a video at the "Whales: Voices in the Sea" exhibit at the Aquarium of the Pacific. A new kiosk educates guests on the threats whales face.

to exist for themselves in a three-hour whale-watching excursion.

Spectators will board a high-speed catamaran with stadium-type seating next to the aquarium and have a chance to see endangered blue whales. The tours can be bought with admission to the aquarium and are expected to continue until early September.

On one of these recent excursions, Missy Borodulin,

On the Web

Scan this QR code with your mobile device to see more about about whales or go to presstelegram.com.



a Mission Viejo resident and whale-watching enthusiast, gripped the boat's rail and gasped as she watched one of the blue whales

swim close by.

"You never realize how powerful nature is," Borodulin said. "This makes you feel alive and makes you think about the bigger picture. I think, 'Do I make this place inhabitable for these creatures?' It makes you think more about them."

Blue whales migrate each summer from the Mexican coast north as far as Alaska,

WHALES A15

Kofi Annan quits as Syria peace envoy

MIDEAST: The Assad regime is blamed for violence, but he says rebels doomed plans.

By Elizabeth A. Kennedy and John Heilprin
The Associated Press



Kofi Annan had several nations' support for peace, but his efforts were ignored in Syria.

BEIRUT — Kofi Annan announced his resignation Thursday as Syria's peace envoy and issued a blistering critique of world powers, bringing to a dramatic end a frustrating six-month effort that failed to achieve even a temporary cease-fire as the country plunged into civil war.

In a reflection of that escalation, rebels used a captured tank to shell a military air base near Aleppo — one of the first known uses of heavy weapons by the insurgents.

Speaking to reporters in Geneva, Annan blamed the Syrian government's intransigence, the growing militancy of Syrian rebels and a divided Security Council that failed to forcefully back his effort. Since he took on the job, Russia and China have twice used their veto power to block strong Western- and Arab-backed action against President Bashar Assad's regime.

SYRIA A14

Locking up illegal immigrants buoys private prisons

BUSINESS: Tougher U.S. laws helped to reverse fortunes of struggling companies.

By Laura Wides-Munoz and Garance Burke
The Associated Press

MIAMI — Locking up illegal immigrants has grown profoundly lucrative for the private prisons industry, a reliable pot of revenue that helped keep some of the biggest companies in business.

And while nearly half of the 400,000 immigrants held annually are housed in private facilities, the federal government — which spends \$2 billion a year on keeping those people in custody — says it isn't necessarily cheaper to outsource the work, a central argument used for

privatization in the first place.

The Associated Press, seeking to tally the scope of the private facilities, add up their costs and the amounts the companies spend on lobbying and campaign donations, reviewed more than 10 years' worth of federal and state records.

It found a complex, mutually beneficial and evidently legal relationship between those who make corrections and immigration policy and a few prison companies. Some of those companies were struggling to survive before toughened immigrant detention laws took effect.

A decade ago, just 10 percent of the beds in the nation's civil detention system were in private facilities with little federal oversight. Now, about half the beds are part of a sprawling,

PRISONS A7

Curiosity rover seeks clues to life on Mars

By James Figueroa
Staff Writer

LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE — Nothing quite like the Mars Science Laboratory has ever departed Earth.

Carried by the Curiosity rover, MSL is nearing the end of its 127 million-mile trip to the Red Planet, scheduled to land Sunday night at 10:31 p.m.

Excitement is building, with live public viewings of the landing set at the Planetfest conference in Pasadena, at Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles and elsewhere.

Jet Propulsion Laboratory and NASA scientists are paying close attention to this Mars mission for two reasons.

MARS A6



Damian Dovarganes The Associated Press
Adam Steltzner of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory on Thursday explains the entry and landing of the Curiosity rover, which is expected to touch down on Mars soon.

Obama, Romney don't sway undecideds

By Charles Babington The Associated Press

PURCELLVILLE, Va. — Undecided voters in swing states hold the key to the presidential election, but neither Mitt Romney nor Barack Obama has an easy recipe for winning them over.

Friday's new jobs report, even if dismal for incumbent President Obama, might do little to help challenger Romney with this group. Undecided voters interviewed this week said they place little importance on such statistics, even though both campaigns mine them for every possible advantage.

Instead, these voters want more details about Romney's economic proposals and Bain Capital record, less bickering between the par-

The gloves come off in battleground states

By Steve Peoples and Jim Kuhnenn
The Associated Press

GOLDEN, Colo. — Mitt Romney promised Thursday that his economic program will create 12 million new jobs in the next four years, and likened President Barack Obama to a "dog trying to chase its tail" when it comes to strengthening the sluggish recovery.

Firing back instantly, Obama said his rival

ELECTION A10

VISITS A10

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MediaNews Group NEWSPAPER

ONLINE POLL

Today's question:
Have you ever seen a live blue whale?
Vote at presstelegram.com.

Yesterday's question:
Will cutting more police officers impact public safety in Long Beach?
YES 81%
NO 19%

Bridge Business Classified Comics Crossword	C7, D6 A11 D2 C6-7, D3 C7, D3, 6	Dear Abby Horoscope Lottery Movies Nation+World	C8 C7 A2 C2-4 A8	Opinion Passages Puzzles Sports Weekend	A12-13 A4 C7 B1 C1
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