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THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2014

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Doctors just a laptop away
Health&Fitness/A3



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Kings can't close

Blackhawks stay alive
with OT win **Sports/B1**

Ex-SB County CEO crafts strategy to fund Measure M

Brown says plan could carve out extra \$23.75M to \$33M each fiscal year

ERIN LENNON

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When former Santa Barbara County CEO Mike Brown heard the contentious discussions over Measure M, he began crafting a strategy to fund the maintenance measure, arguing that its opponents have not explored all the options.

"I looked at this and saw the way

the county framed the issue and thought they were making it into a crisis that it doesn't need to be," said Brown, who was the county's highest ranking bureaucrat from 1997 through 2010.

Brown says his six-pronged strategy could fully fund Measure M, carving out an extra \$22.75 million to \$33.1 million each fiscal year through spending cuts, re-prioritized funding and new revenue.

If passed by more than half of county voters on June 3, Measure



Brown

M, the County Facilities Maintenance Ordinance, would require the county to maintain its public parks, buildings and roads in their current condition, a mandate requiring the county to increase its maintenance funding for roads by \$9 million and for its parks and buildings by more than \$8 million, according to Dennis

Bozanic, Santa Barbara County Assistant to the CEO.

Brown's strategy addresses the measure's estimated price tag, which was originally \$18.4 million.

This extra funding wouldn't decrease the county's deferred maintenance backlog of about \$340 million, but it would stop it from growing.

"Remember, Measure M doesn't say 'fix all this,' it says, 'just stop the deterioration so it doesn't get any worse,'" Brown said.

While Measure M opponents argue that these millions can only come out of the county's \$217 million general fund, Brown said that's not necessarily true.

Because departments like Public Health and Social Services are funded by categorical funds coming down from the state, they could

spread this additional maintenance funding across their budgets, adding it to their cost plans and rates charged back to the state.

"They would grow that cost plan and draw a greater amount of money down from the state," Brown said.

However, this strategy is only suitable for built space that houses staff and operations and would not include external features like parking lots, sidewalks and parks. Brown estimated that this strategy could cover about \$6.3 million.

Brown also suggested the county

See MEASURE M / A8

CALIFORNIA VOTERS MULL NEW STATE

'Jefferson' the dream for conservative backers of secession

JULIET WILLIAMS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO — Residents of California's largely rural, agrarian and politically conservative far northern counties long ago got used to feeling ignored in the state Capitol and out of sync with major urban areas.

The idea of forming their own state has been a topic among local secession dreamers for more than a century. Residents in two counties will have a chance to voice that sentiment next week.

Voters in Del Norte and Tehama, with a combined population of about 91,000, will decide June 3 on an advisory measure that asks each county's board of supervisors to join a wider effort to form a 51st state named Jefferson.

Elected officials in Glenn, Modoc, Siskiyou and Yuba counties already voted to join the movement. Supervisors in Butte County will vote June 10, while local bodies in other northern counties are awaiting the June 3 ballot results before deciding what to do.

A similar but unrelated question on the primary ballot in Siskiyou County asks voters to rename that county the Republic of Jefferson.

"We have 11 counties up here that share one state senator," compared to 20 for the greater Los Angeles area and 10 for the San Francisco Bay Area, said Aaron Funk of

See STATE / A8

ORCUTT SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT RETIRING

A wonderful life



Daniel Dreifuss/Staff

Orcutt Unified School District Superintendent Bob Bush will be retiring after 42 years with the district.

Bush calling it quits after 42 years with Orcutt Unified School District

BRIAN BULLOCK

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Orcutt schools superintendent Bob Bush, who is retiring this month after 42 years with the district, is the first to admit he's been blessed to spend his life in the same friendly, small town.

It's been a wonderful life.

But unlike George Bailey, the Bedford Falls, N.Y. hero played by Jimmy Stewart in the 1946 Christmas-time classic, Bush didn't need angelic intervention to realize it.

"I've been fortunate," Bush said with a smile that never seems to leave his friendly, familiar face. "To teach, be a principal and superintendent all in the same area... I'm pretty unique. You don't see many people who have done this."

Bush, who calls himself a dinosaur because of his unwillingness to move, said looking back

"To teach, be a principal and superintendent all in the same area... I'm pretty unique. You don't see many people who have done this."

Bob Bush

Retiring Orcutt Unified School District superintendent

he wouldn't have changed a thing.

The school district is hosting an open house June 12 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at its 500 Dyer St. office to honor him.

Like the fictitious Bailey, who wound up spending his entire life in a small New York town, Bush was born and raised in Orcutt, attending elementary school, junior high and high school there.

May Grisham was his second grade teacher at Orcutt Elementary School. The school was

eventually named after her.

"I was raised in a house my dad and grandfather built just a block from here on Sores," Bush said, waving his hand in the direction west of the district office and gazing out his office window like he could almost see the old place.

Unlike Bailey, however, who spent much of his life dreaming about leaving his home town, those thoughts really never crossed Bush's mind, even though he had a couple of chances.

See BUSH / A8

Rampage shows gaps in mental health law

Deputies had questioned Rodger three weeks before killing spree

MICHAEL R. BLOOD AND TAMI ABDOLLAH
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Elliot Rodger's murderous rampage near Santa Barbara has tragically exposed the limitations of involuntary-commitment laws that allow authorities to temporarily confine people who are deemed a danger to themselves or others.

Three weeks before he stabbed and shot six people to death and then apparently took his own life, the 22-year-old sometime college student was questioned by sheriff's deputies outside his apartment and was able to convince them he was calm, courteous and no threat to anyone. The officers had been sent by local health officials after

See MENTAL / A8

Celebrated poet, author Angelou dies at 86

She told her story in 'I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings'

HILLEL ITALIE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Maya Angelou's story awed millions. A childhood victim of rape, she broke through silence and shame to tell her tale in one of the most widely read memoirs of the 20th century. A black woman born into poverty and segregation, she recited the most popular presidential inaugural poem in his history.

"I'm not modest," she told The Associated Press in 2013. "I have no modesty. Modesty is a learned behavior. But I do pray for humility, because humility comes from the inside out."

Angelou, a renaissance woman and cultural pioneer, died Wednesday at her home in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She was 86.



Angelou

See ANGELOU / A8

COMING FRIDAY IN THE TIMES: Thousands of schoolchildren cheer on young riders in mini rodeo



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