



## McGWIRE ADMITS IT

Former baseball player Mark McGwire admits using steroids.

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## JUVENILE ARSONISTS?

Two juveniles were charged with setting a Maple Street fire.

PAGE 5A

Breezy with rain, heavy at times. High: 56. Low: 48. Details, 12A

# Times-Herald

Tuesday  
January 12, 2010

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# Same-sex couples plead case

### Proposition 8 challenge begins in federal court

By Lisa Leff and Paul Elias  
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Two same-sex couples gave intimate accounts of their private and public lives Monday during the opening day of a highly anticipated federal trial to decide the constitutionality of state bans on gay marriage, at times tearfully testifying about moments of awkwardness, disappointment and shame that they said resulted from their inability to legally wed.

"I've been in love with a woman for 10 years, and I don't have access to a word for it," said Kristin Perry, 45, the lead plaintiff in a lawsuit seeking to overturn the voter initiative that outlawed gay marriage in California. "You chose them over everybody else, and you want to feel that it is going to stick and that you are going to have the protection and support and inclusion that

■ See Trial, Page 3A



Demonstrators for and against same-sex marriage compete for attention Monday in front of the federal courthouse in San Francisco.

Associated Press



Mike Jory/Times-Herald

LaVonne Salle wraps a Barbie doll in gauze, preparing her for 'mummification' in a display at her new gallery and workspace on Georgia Street in Vallejo.

## Artist hopes Georgia Street welcomes her Barbie dolls

By Rachel Raskin-Zrihen  
Times-Herald staff writer

Maybe it's the "nudity," or the religious references, or something else, but some controversy seems to have followed LaVonne Sallee's modified Barbie art store from Virginia Street to Georgia Street downtown.

The new location opened Dec. 12 after a year on Virginia Street, Sallee said.

The 63-year-old former San Francisco artist said she's worked in various mediums over the years, tiring of one and moving to another. She's done fabric art, beadwork and doll clothes and accessories, and all are sold in her

310 Georgia St. gallery/studio. But her main focus now is on modified Barbie doll art.

"I realized that my business on Virginia Street was dying, and I made an offer on this store, which I understand has been vacant for more than a couple of years," said the native of Roswell, N.M. "The owner, David Fisher, added a clause in the lease stating that no artwork containing nudity or religious artwork or symbols can be viewed from the window, and I was surprised, but I accepted."

Ooak (One Of A Kind) Barbies gallery features the iconic fashion doll and similar

■ See Barbies, Page 2A

## Vallejo NAACP resumes King Day parade Monday

By Sarah Rohrs  
Times-Herald staff writer

After a one-year hiatus, Vallejo NAACP's traditional Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration will resume this year, stepping off with a parade at 9 a.m. Monday, the federal holiday.

Last year, the Vallejo's

NAACP chapter canceled its holiday parade and rally because leaders wanted to focus public energy and attention on President Barack Obama's historic inauguration on Jan. 20, organizers said last year.

"This year our program is in full force," Vallejo NAACP First Vice President Jimmy Jackson said.

Monday's program commemorates the Jan. 15 birthdate of the slain civil rights leader with a parade that begins at Tennessee and Tuolumne streets. The route follows Tennessee east, turns south on Oakwood Avenue and then east on Georgia Street to Hogan High School.

The Grand Marshal will be

long-time Vallejo NAACP leader Frank Jackson (no relation to Jimmy) of Vallejo.

Following the parade, an MLK program begins at 11 a.m. at the Hogan auditorium. The three speakers are Vallejo Mayor Osby Davis, Rep. George Miller, D-Martin, and Assemblywoman Noreen Evans, D-Santa Rosa.

This year's Vallejo theme coincides with Obama's call for a national day of service, Jackson said. Barrels will be available at the rally so people can donate canned food and clothing for Vallejo's hungry and homeless.

"Hopefully, we can get

■ See King Day, Page 3A

## Solano County's Sutter facilities get 'in the loop'

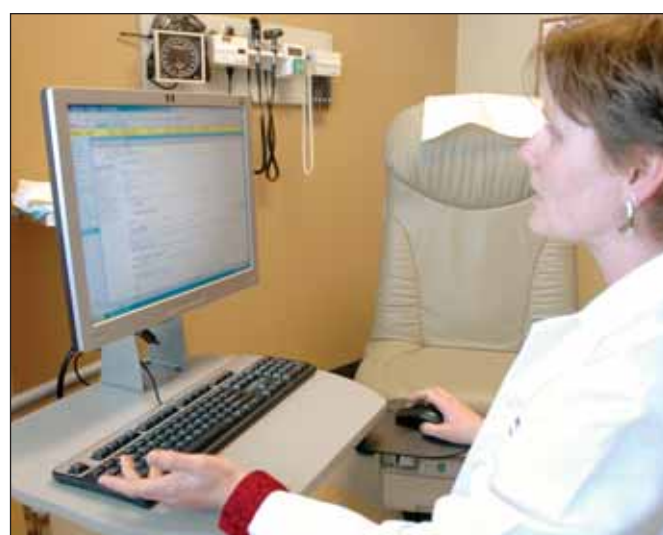
By Rachel Raskin-Zrihen  
Times-Herald staff writer

A decade after several Northern California Sutter-affiliated facilities "went live" with electronic health records, Solano County Sutters are rolling out the high-tech system.

"We're not the last to get this, but close," Sutter Vacaville doctor Zoé Berna said Monday.

The new system, the same one Kaiser Permanente has been using since October for

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Mike Jory/Times-Herald

Dr. Zoé Berna shows some of the features of the new electronic health record system.

## Environment at risk as public transit falls out of favor

By Mike Rosenberg  
MediaNews Group

In the war over the future of public transit in the eco-obsessed Bay Area, the biggest casualty could prove to be the environment.

Without a doubt, air quality inventories show that the best way to cut greenhouse gases in the region is by removing cars from the road.

However, with the cost to drive plummeting and fare increases and service cuts making transit less

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About Town . . . . .	4A	NYT Crossword. . .	10B
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Comics . . . . .	5B	Sports . . . . .	1-4B
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Movies . . . . .	4B	Weather . . . . .	12A
Nation . . . . .	7,10A	World . . . . .	10,12A

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Details, 11A

### LOTTERY

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6, 8, 1 (afternoon)  
3, 5, 3 (evening)  
Daily Four: 2, 3, 7, 5  
Fantasy Five: 13, 23, 25, 34, 39



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# Barbies

Continued from Page 1A

action figures in various "sculptures," including ones with religious themes and ones that can be construed as having a sexual overtones. The more potentially objectionable pieces are now displayed inside separate areas within her new, larger studio.

"I realized she had some controversial artwork, and asked that she not display that in the window, and she agreed," Fisher said.

Some of the topless Barbies displayed in the studio window now have black strips ensuring propriety.

"I've had people complain about this one, for instance," Sallee said, indicating a piece reminiscent of Leonardo Da Vinci's "The Last Supper," that she calls "Barbie's Last Sleepover."

Pieces depicting a pregnant Mary on a donkey and one of Mary holding a dying Jesus have also elicited complaints, she said.

But the religious and racy-themed items are not her main artistic focus, Sallee said.

"I started with mermaids, and mermaids don't wear blouses," she said. "I was surprised (by the objections)."

"It never occurred to me that Vallejo would be so different from San Francisco."

Sallee said she's heard a local merchant may be trying to organize a



Mike Jory/Times-Herald

LaVonne Salle, with a butterfly Barbie floating above, talks about the factors that lead her to move her Ooak Barbies art gallery and shop from Virginia Street to Georgia Street in Vallejo.

protest at the store's grand opening Saturday after failing to get traction with a petition. While several business neighbors said Monday that they're not big Barbie art fans and had heard there were objections, none said they were aware of either effort. The grand opening is planned

for 2 to 6 p.m.

"I have heard at least one merchant was upset about the nudity," Georgia Street neighbor Fred Menard of Indian Alley Antiques said. "But she's an artist and this is her medium, and it's a doll. It's kind of ridiculous." Calling the Barbie art "fun stuff,"

Menard said he finds none of it offensive. "But I don't find much offensive," he said. "I've been in Vallejo so long, nothing shocks me anymore."

One nearby merchant who asked not to be identified said Sallee's artistic style doesn't appeal to her, but that she has heard of no effort to protest her opening.

Bill Neads of Vallejo Antiques said he's heard the rumblings of controversy, but he has no objection to the work. "I think the lady's gifted," he said. "I might not agree with all the themes, but that's not my business. If you find it offensive, you don't have to go in there."

Like Neads, Gracie's Family Bar-B-Que owner Ken Ingersol, who was the gallery's neighbor on Virginia Street, said the market will dictate if Ooak Barbies stays in business or not.

"She's a hard lady not to like and her display now is toned down from what it was here, I'd say," he said. "I'm not into what she sells, but who am I to say what she sells and what she doesn't?"

Ingersol added that there are more important issues relative to improving downtown than Barbie doll art.

"Of all the things I may have problems with down here, this doesn't make it onto page three," he said. "I'm much more concerned about the prostitutes and people slinging dope on the corner."

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# Sutter

Continued from Page 1A

out-patients, allows for improved access and safety, while maintaining confidentiality, Berna said. Called Epic, it's also the same integrated software system used by UC Davis Medical Center, she said.

Kaiser Permanente spokesman Jim Caroompas said the system will be incorporated for hospital inpatient use in Vallejo in March when the new hospital opens. It came on line in Vacaville's Kaiser hospital when it opened in November, he said.

Sutter Solano spokesman Russell "Sy" Neilson said that after months of planning, coordination and training, Sutter Regional Medical Foundation introduces the electronic health record to its area facilities this week.

The first Sutter facilities to "go live" with the new technology will be Vallejo's ob-gyn, diagnostic imaging, laboratory and family practice areas and most of Vacaville's Sutter facility, he said. Hospital in-patients will get the system later, he said.

The new system provides clinicians — across Sutter Health's Northern California network — with instant access to the information needed to provide

better, safer and more convenient care to out-patients, he said.

"This gives a boost to patient safety and continuity of care," Berna said. "It's a major development in the way medicine is delivered, and I believe it's an important improvement."

An electronic health record is a computerized version of a paper health record, containing all the same information. With the new system, information like medical history, allergies, medications and test results, as well as contact and insurance information, will be almost instantly accessible by health care providers, Berna said.

"People are excited about it," she said. "Among other things, it cuts down on the potential for error in terms of understanding doctors' handwriting on prescriptions."

The system generates automatic reminders to clinicians so that they can notify patients of important checkups, tests or immunizations they need, she said. And it connects patients to health information they can take home after appointments to help them understand and follow the recommended course of care, Berna added.

"All it takes is a few clicks of the mouse and we're now able to quickly and easily access information about our patients," she said. "This allows

us to coordinate a patient's care in real-time, without having to wait for a paper chart to be faxed."

The new system reduces wait time for test and lab results and automatically cross-checks prescriptions for potential drug or allergy interactions, Berna said.

Clinicians and patients are especially excited about another of the new system's features called MySutterOnline — an Internet tool that provides patients with quick and secure online access to portions of their electronic health record at Sutter Health, Neilson said. With this feature, patients can request appointments, access health information and view test results online. Enrolling in MySutterOnline is done during a doctor's office visit, according to Sutter literature.

"It helps patients take ownership of their own health and simplifies doctors' lives," Berna said.

"Our goal is to have as many patients as possible participate in MySutterOnline," Sutter Regional Medical Foundation Chief Operating Officer Carolyn Appenzeller said. "This is a great tool to enhance our patient experience and engagement. It will also serve to strengthen the partnership that exists between our patients and our health care team." Contact staff writer Rachel Raskin-Zrihen at (707) 553-6824 or rzrihen@timesheraldonline.com.

# Transit

Continued from Page 1A

affordable and practical, transit agencies are having problems retaining their old passengers, let alone attracting new ones. The effects could be dramatic — more cars on the road could endanger human health, produce hazier air and add to rising Bay and ocean levels.

California is the 12th-largest source of global warming emissions worldwide, according to the Union of Concerned Scientists.

A nasty chunk of those pollutants originate in the Bay Area, where cars and trucks are the largest source of ozone precursor emissions, according to Bay Area Air Quality Management District inventories. Vehicles account for 35 percent of all reactive

organic gases and 45 percent of nitrogen oxides in the region, according to the air district.

Solo drivers can eliminate two-thirds of their commute's carbon footprint by ditching their cars for a bus with 18 people inside, air quality officials say.

However, many commuters are now doing the opposite, to the detriment of the environment. Each transit rider who switches to a 20-mile round-trip drive produces an additional 4,800 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions each year, a 10 percent increase in a two-car household's total carbon footprint, the American Public Transportation Association says.

It is possible to curb driver emissions through other means, such as carpooling or greener vehicles, but the most powerful option may be transit.

Chris Peebles, vice president of AC Transit's board of directors, said the service cuts and fare increases that every major local transit agency has implemented recently are a blow to the Bay Area's crusade against greenhouse gases because they make it harder for commuters to get around without a car.

"The number of areas where you can get around completely on public transit are pretty limited," said Peebles, a 12-year board member who travels primarily by transit. "Every time you cut public transit, it becomes more limited."

He added that the transit service cuts make it harder for the region to meet the state's strict environmental goals.

Moreover, the environmental benefits of buses, diesel locomotives and electric rail cars are not realized unless enough commuters are riding, argues Mikhail Chester, a postdoctoral researcher

who studied green transportation at UC Berkeley for six years. That's an issue in the Bay Area, where agencies have lost 66,000 daily passengers in just the past year.

Chester's study looks "beyond the tailpipe" at 120 factors — from concrete and asphalt production to train and car manufacturing — to determine each mode of travel's real carbon footprint in the Bay Area. Chester and UC Berkeley professor Arpad Horvath found that only transit commuters on full trains and buses have smaller carbon footprints than drivers.

For instance, they discovered that a commuter driving a SUV with one passenger would have the same carbon footprint, per mile traveled, as a commuter on a bus carrying eight passengers. Similarly, a commuter on a light rail train that is 34 percent full has the same environmental effect, per mile traveled, as a solo driver in a sedan.

Transit companies have an opportunity, however, to change that equation by investing money to make their fleets greener, much in the way automakers are rolling out more hybrids and cleaner cars.

Their funding problems, though, have erased many opportunities to do just that.

Most Bay Area operators have tested expensive zero-emission buses that use hydrogen fuel cell technology, but they have not had enough money for any mass rollouts. In some cases, the technology is not fiscally sustainable: Santa Clara VTA, for instance, says it costs about 32 times as much to operate a fuel cell bus compared to a traditional, dirtier diesel vehicle.

Caltrain has plans to electrify its diesel locomotive system, but it recently ran out of money in the environmental planning process.

# Sudoku

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	4		8		9			
2			6	3	1		5	
	7	5	9		2			
	5				6	2		
8								4
	6	3					1	
		6			9	4	7	
4		9	7		5			1
	2			6				3

Difficulty Level ★★

1/12

8	5	3	9	1	7	6	4	2
6	4	9	8	5	2	3	7	1
7	1	2	6	4	3	5	8	9
9	6	4	2	7	5	8	1	3
5	7	1	3	8	4	9	2	6
2	3	8	1	6	9	7	5	4
1	9	5	4	3	8	2	6	7
3	8	6	7	2	1	4	9	5
4	2	7	5	9	6	1	3	8

**Instructions:** Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9 X 9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3X3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level increases from Monday to Sunday.

Difficulty Level ★  
Answer to previous puzzle

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