

# LATEXTRA

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Photographs by RICK LOOMIS Los Angeles Times

## Honoring one of fallen

Two Los Angeles Police Department officers and a Marine stand watch, above, at the casket of LAPD Officer Joshua Cullins, 28, at police headquarters. At right, a police officer salutes. The Marine Reserve staff sergeant serving as a bomb disposal technician in Afghanistan died Oct. 18 when a secondary explosion was set off as his unit investigated an earlier blast.



## Patient aggression intensifies

Attacks on Napa State Hospital staffers and patients have increased sharply.

LEE ROMNEY  
REPORTING FROM  
SANTA BARBARA

When Napa State Hospital psychiatric technician Donna Gross was strangled last month on the hospital grounds, state officials lamented her death as a tragic and rare event, the first killing of a staffer in two decades.

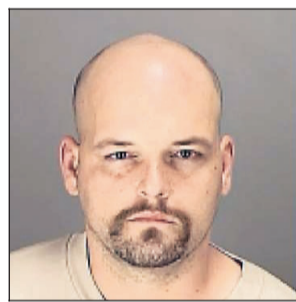
They pledged to improve security by offering staff members shuttle rides to the



**STAFFER KILLED:** Donna Gross was strangled; patient Jess Willard Massey has been charged.

parking lot, and they temporarily barred patients from going outside unaccompanied.

But a Times review suggests safety problems at the facility are neither rare nor so readily fixed.



Attacks on staff in the second quarter of 2010, the latest for which information was available, more than quadrupled to about 200 since early 2009 and patient assaults against one another have soared sevenfold to

692, data from the state Department of Mental Health show. Patients also have harmed themselves and threatened suicide at steeply rising rates since January of last year.

Even so, federal officials have declared the state hospital to be in "substantial compliance" with court-mandated changes to improve conditions and protect the civil rights of the hospital's 1,100 patients.

The reforms are the result of a 2006 lawsuit by the U.S. Department of Justice targeting Napa and three other state mental hospitals. They have cost California taxpayers tens of millions of dollars for, among [See Napa, AA6]

## \$10-billion boost for Medi-Cal

Obama administration hopes to help expand and modernize the state's health program.

NOAM N. LEVEY  
REPORTING FROM  
WASHINGTON

The Obama administration on Tuesday approved a \$10-billion plan to help California modernize and expand its Medicaid health insurance program for the poor, pushing the state to the forefront of the national effort to implement the new healthcare law.

The administration's much-anticipated decision to grant a so-called Medicaid waiver could ultimately help cover hundreds of thousands more Californians over the next five years. State and federal officials hope that will bolster efforts to improve the quality and efficiency of care provided to the state's poorest residents.

"California is now firmly leading the country in the implementation of health reform," said Peter Harbage, an independent consultant who has worked extensively on healthcare policy in the state.

The state's head start was made possible by an agreement between Washington and Sacramento to reallocate money already planned for the state's Medicaid program.

Whether the California agreement becomes a template for the rest of the country remains to be seen. Republican leaders in many states are fighting against implementation of the new healthcare law and arguing that the next Congress should repeal it.

But Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, a Republican, worked closely with the Obama administration to secure the waiver.

"This agreement is great news for the people of our state because we will be able to expand coverage, improve the delivery of care and build a strong bridge to federal healthcare reform with increased federal resources,"

Schwarzenegger said in a statement Tuesday.

A month ago, Schwarzenegger signed legislation to create a California insurance exchange, making the state the first to develop such a market since the law's enactment. (Massachusetts and Utah had set up exchanges before the law passed.)

Beginning in 2014, these state-based exchanges, a foundation of the new healthcare law, are to become the central Internet-based marketplace for con- [See Medicaid, AA4]

## MILLIONS AWARDED TO LAPD OFFICER

Jury decides he was fired because he testified against the force in labor dispute.

JOEL RUBIN

A Los Angeles County jury Tuesday awarded a former Los Angeles police officer nearly \$4 million in his case against the LAPD, concluding the officer was fired in retaliation for testifying against the department in a labor dispute.

The verdict, which stems from one of several similar lawsuits that thousands of disgruntled LAPD officers are pursuing against the department, underscores a long-running, internal rift between LAPD cops and the department's command staff that could ultimately cost the city millions of dollars more.

In January 2008, Richard Romney was an 18-year veteran of the LAPD, having spent his career as a rank-and-file patrol cop. That month, he testified in a federal lawsuit that another officer had brought against the LAPD. In that case, the officer accused the department of skirting the Fair La- [See LAPD, AA5]

## Judge issues warrant after Evi Quaid misses hearing

Actor Randy Quaid and his wife say they fled the state because of 'star whackers.'

STEVE CHAWKINS  
REPORTING FROM  
SANTA BARBARA

There's got to be a movie—or at least a reality show—in the ongoing saga of actor Randy Quaid and his wife, Evi.

The latest episode occurred Tuesday, when a Santa Barbara judge issued a warrant for Evi's arrest—an action that will cost the

couple her \$500,000 bail. Santa Barbara County Superior Court Judge Donna Geck threatened to do the same for Randy if he misses a court hearing later this month.

The Quaid's are charged with vandalism and related charges for allegedly squatting in and trashing a Montecito mansion that once was their home.

Scheduled for arraignment Tuesday, the eccentric Hollywood couple failed to appear at a hearing in the case for the third time. They were still in Canada, where they told reporters they had fled to escape a group of "Hollywood star whackers"

—which they described as a cabal that destroys celebrities through fraud, theft and even murder.

Seeking asylum across the border, they were arrested in Vancouver as fugitives from their case in the U.S. However, Canadian immigration officials determined that Evi Quaid, 47, is already Canadian by virtue of her father's citizenship. Meanwhile, Randy Quaid, 60, is to appear at a Canadian immigration hearing Nov. 8. Under the terms of his \$10,000 bond for that hearing, he cannot leave Canada beforehand, his attorney, Robert M. Sanger, told the [See Quaid's, AA4]



JONATHAN HAYWARD Associated Press

**PAIR:** Although Evi Quaid is free to come to L.A., she and husband Randy, who has a pending hearing in Canada, are "inseparable," his attorney says.

### Federal funds sought for pier

Santa Monica wants to replace the narrow access bridge. AA3

### DWP oversight agency proposed

The City Council wants voters to OK a utility watchdog. AA3

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**Weather:** Sunny and warm. Downtown L.A.: 96/63. AA6

WILL FERRELL TINA FEY JONAH HILL DAVID CROSS AND BRAD PITT  
"MEGAMIND' SOARS!  
A HILARIOUS COMEDY EVENT."  
DREAMWORKS  
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Coming to Theatres, REAL D 3D and IMAX 3D  
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