

LATEXTRA

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2013 :: LATIMES.COM/LANOW



LUIS SINCO Los Angeles Times

WATER COOLER

A paddle boat coasts through the mist on Echo Park Lake on Wednesday as the temperature reached 92 in downtown Los Angeles. Thursday's forecast calls for a high of 84 in the L.A. Basin. **AA7**

Calderon claims probe is payback

State senator says he refused a request from feds to wear a wire in a sting operation.

By CHRIS MEGERIAN

SACRAMENTO — State Sen. Ronald S. Calderon, who is being investigated by the FBI on suspicion that he accepted bribes, accused federal authorities Wednesday of trying to smear him for refusing to wear a wire in a sting operation against two other senators.

In a motion filed in federal court in Sacramento, Calderon (D-Montebello) says authorities from the FBI and the U.S attorney's office repeatedly asked him to participate in an investigation of Senate leader Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento) and Sen. Kevin de Leon (D-Los Angeles).

He was asked to wear a wire to secretly record conversations with them, the filing says.

Calderon declined and "refused to continue participating in the FBI's sting operation," the motion says. It is not clear what, if any, assistance Calderon had provided.

Federal agents raided the senator's office in June. Last month, a 124-page, sealed FBI affidavit detailing bribery allegations against Calderon was posted on a media website. Calderon's court filing accuses the authorities of leaking the document.

Calderon has not been charged with any crime and has denied the allegations, which include accepting \$60,000 from an undercover FBI agent posing as a film

studio executive and \$28,000 from a Long Beach hospital executive in exchange for efforts to influence legislation.

Leaking the affidavit broke the law, Calderon's motion asserts, and federal authorities should be held in contempt of court. The document was illegally released to the media "in an effort to defame and retaliate against Senator Calderon for not cooperating in its 'sting' operation," the filing says.

Mark Geragos, Calderon's attorney, said federal authorities have been "targeting the entire state Sen- [See Calderon, AA5]

Brentwood activists win fight

Billionaire Charles Munger scraps plan to redevelop site of old Dutton's bookstore.

By MARTHA GROVES

After years of wrestling with Brentwood activists, billionaire investor Charles T. Munger has pulled the plug on plans to redevelop the San Vicente Boulevard site that was the longtime location of Dutton's bookstore.

Brentwood Community Council Chairwoman Nancy Freedman said Munger's insistence on razing the landmark structure, known as the Barry Building, to install extensive underground parking and a new retail center raised activists' ire.

"We encouraged him to incorporate the landmark," Freedman said. "[But] Munger did not like the Barry Building and wanted to put parking under. That's where the whole intrigue with the community came in."

Freedman said the Brentwood council learned this week that Munger had withdrawn his application for the 77,000-square-foot, two-story Green Hollow Square, which was to have retail shops, restaurants, offices and a sizable open patio.

Munger, who will turn 90 on Jan. 1, had no comment.

A founder of the Los An- [See Brentwood, AA5]



CHRISTINA HOUSE For The Times

MAIL CARRIER Ruth Smith makes her rounds at the Barry Building, a landmark in Brentwood that would have been razed as part of a mixed-use project.

Builder defends runway

By DAN WEIKEL

Responding to allegations that it built a defective runway at Los Angeles International Airport, a major construction company on Wednesday claimed that it is the victim of a witch hunt and blamed poor maintenance by LAX workers for the deteriorating pavement.

Tutor-Saliba Corp. of Sylmar, which participated in the \$250-million project to relocate the southernmost runway at LAX, made the assertions in a letter sent to Gina Marie Lindsey, executive director of Los Angeles World Airports.

The city agency sued Tutor and four other contractors in October, asserting that the 13,000-foot runway completed in 2007 is riddled with defects, including premature cracking, exposed steel reinforcing bars and [See Runway, AA4]

TODD CHRISTENSEN, 1956 - 2013

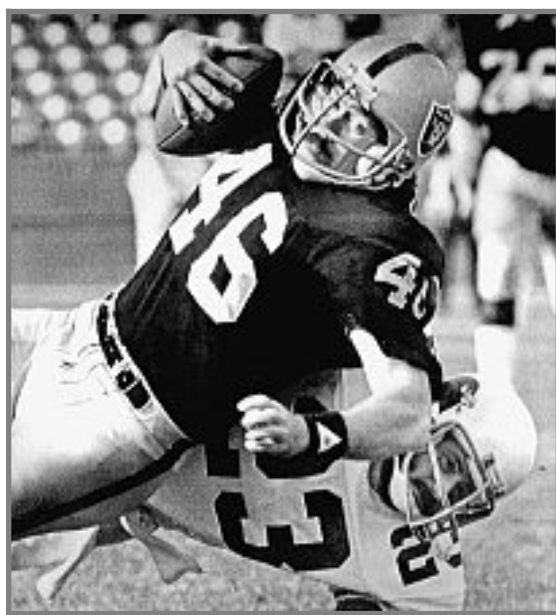
Record-setting NFL tight end, TV analyst

By SAM FARMER

As an eloquent and colorful All-Pro tight end for the Los Angeles Raiders, Todd Christensen seemed to have a playbook in one hand and a dictionary in the other.

"All you'd have to say was, 'Todd, will you just shut up? Give me a \$2 word instead of a \$10 word,'" teammate Matt Millen recalled Wednesday. "Todd would just laugh."

Christensen, a practicing Mormon who didn't drink but for years struggled with liver problems, died Wednesday from complications during liver transplant surgery at Intermountain Medical Center near his home in Alpine, Utah. He was 57. [See Christensen, AA6]



Associated Press

CUTTING EDGE

Christensen hauls in a pass for the Raiders in a 1983 game against the St. Louis Cardinals.

Marines die in base accident

Four are killed while doing maintenance on a Camp Pendleton artillery range. The cause wasn't clear, but officials said live fire was not to blame. **AA3**

Lottery **AA2**
California **AA3**
Obituaries **AA6**
Weather **AA7**

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