

Crime logs

FAIRFIELD

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

9:50 a.m. — Battery, 1200 block SHELL
10:40 a.m. — Residential burglary, 1400 block W. TEXAS
10:51 a.m. — Battery, 1600 block GATEWAY
11:23 a.m. — Graffiti, 200 block SANTA ANA
12:09 p.m. — Child molestation, FFPD
12:26 p.m. — Forgery, FFPD



If you have any information on any crime or criminal, Solano Crime Stoppers Inc. wants your help. Solano Crime Stoppers Inc. will pay up to \$1,000 for information leading to an arrest. All tips are anonymous and confidential.
We need your help!
Please call 644-7867.

9:23 a.m. — Burglary, 600 block BARNACLE
1:26 p.m. — Burglary, 000 block TERRY
5:54 p.m. — Fraud, 200 block BRIDGEWATER
6:20 p.m. — Assault, 700 block CIVIC CENTER
7:55 p.m. — Juvenile runaway, 900 block MCCOY CREEK

SUISUN CITY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

8:18 a.m. — Brandishing a weapon, 800 block HARRIER

Unions: Wisconsin is a turning point

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MADISON, Wis. — With the labor movement suffering an epic defeat in Wisconsin, union leaders plan to use the setback to fire up their members nationwide and mount a major counterattack against Republicans at the ballot box in 2012.

Wisconsin's measure stripping public employees of most bargaining rights swiftly advanced to GOP Gov. Scott Walker on Thursday, and he promised to sign it as soon as possible. But labor leaders say the events in Wisconsin have helped galvanize support for unions across the country. They hope to use the momentum to help fight off other attacks and grow their membership.

Said the president of the AFL-CIO: "I guess I ought to say thank you particularly to Scott Walker. We should have invited him here today to receive the Mobilizer of the Year award from us!"

As several states seek to follow Wisconsin's lead, newly invigorated public unions are looking ahead to the next election. Democrats are pressing to recall Republican opponents of organized labor and turn the debate into a focal point of next year's campaign.

The Wisconsin Assembly voted 53-42 Thursday to pass the bill after about three hours of discussion, far less than the 61-hour, three-day marathon it took to approve a previous version two weeks ago.

The passage drew shouts of "shame, shame, shame" from protesters in the gallery and came only a day after dramatic action in the Republican-controlled Senate, which used a legislative maneuver Wednesday to quickly

adopt the bill without any of the 14 Democrats who fled to Illinois three weeks ago.

Democrats said their counterattack efforts were already beginning to bear fruit in the form of donations: The party's Wisconsin chapter said it raised \$300,000 overnight and has collected \$800,000 from 32,000 donors in just five days.

Party chairman Mike Tate said Senate Democrats have raised \$750,000 over the past month alone. Republicans said they were simply doing what voters wanted.

In last year's election, "people spoke very clearly and very loudly and said they wanted government to change here in Madison," Republican Assembly Speaker Jeff Fitzgerald said. "It's a tough vote, but it's the right vote. People are sick of the status quo."

Shortly before the vote, police had to move dozens of protesters who were sitting just outside the Assembly chamber doors, blocking the way for lawmakers. Officers dragged many of them away, but there were no arrests.

The protesters have been a constant presence in the building for more than three weeks, with their numbers swelling to more than 80,000 for one week-end rally. About 1,800 were in the building Thursday, and hundreds screamed outside the chamber doors before the vote.

Walker had repeatedly argued that ending collective bargaining would give local governments the flexibility they needed to confront the cuts in state aid necessary to fix Wisconsin's deficit, which is projected to grow to \$3.6 billion deficit over several years.

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Fire: 'Who's against fire? Nobody's against it'

From Page One

the street. Contributions from fire supporters have historically influenced Fairfield politics, former city Councilman Jack Batson said.

"You definitely feel the pressure. You want to be re-elected, so you flail around looking for a way out -- go back and try one more time," he said. "The fire department in any city in America has always been the strongest lobbyist, and you saw that (Monday) night (at the budget meeting)."

Both Moy and Mraz received \$7,500 from the Fairfield Professional Firefighters Association in the 2009 election, in addition to financial support from other labor groups, notably police groups.

Timm received \$36,000 in the 2007 election from fire groups on the local and state level.

At Monday's budget meeting, the council directed the city to find approximately \$650,000 elsewhere in its budget to spare the fire company. If the company is cut, there would be no layoffs, though there would be one less truck at Fire Station 37.

A gathering of city management and heads of bargaining groups on Wednesday, born of a suggestion at Monday's meeting, yielded no suggestions as to where the money could be found, Quinn said.

"Really, no concrete ideas came out of that," he said. "It's my intent to still make the same recommendation and say, 'here are the alternatives.'"

No matter what the alternative is, it will mean cuts -- and likely layoffs -- in other departments.

"There's no way the Fire Department can meet their original budget goal and find \$650,000 elsewhere in the budget," Quinn said. The fire budget pays primarily for personnel costs, but the City Council has already decided they will not lay off any firefighters.

Voting to cut the fire de-



TIMM



MRAZ



MOY

Both Catherine Moy and John Mraz received \$7,500 from the Fairfield Professional Firefighters Association in the 2009 election in addition to support from other groups. Chuck Timm received \$36,000 from fire groups in the 2007 election.

partment's budget is politically unpleasant, Timm said.

"Who's against fire? Nobody's against fire -- it's very important," he said. "We're almost at the point where if you vote against it, you're voting against motherhood and apple pie."

Fire and police services are like a homeowner's insurance policy, said Timm, a retired Fairfield police sergeant. However, the city has to consider how much insurance it can afford, he said.

"Everybody agrees firefighters are extremely important, but if you don't have the money, what are you going to do?" he said.

Timm is ready to "make the hard decision" at the council's next budget meeting March 21, he said.

"Honestly, I think what the fire guys were saying was that their engine company is extremely important and I don't think there's any argument there," Timm said. "But the way we have to find the money is we have to fire someone else."

Council members must consider all the city's citizens, he said.

"I was supported very well by both police and fire," Timm said. "I sincerely appreciated their support and I worked with them for 31 years and they are like family to me and I will make the very best decision I can make. There's 105,000 people who live in Fairfield and we have to make the best decision for all of them."

Mraz, on the other hand, said public safety is essentially a sacred cow when it comes to allocating tax dollars.

Police and fire are essential services -- and would be with or without their support to his election

campaign, he said.

"If I didn't believe in what I'm doing, I wouldn't do it, no matter who contributed or who stands up for me," he said. "If we don't fund something in public safety and someone loses their life over it, we haven't done our job."

A recent survey conducted by the city as a preemptive measure to the budget process showed that citizens want public safety strengthened, he said.

"The people told us clearly that their biggest concern is public safety," Mraz said. "That's what I've been consistent with, that's what (Councilwoman Catherine) Moy's been consistent with."

Moy said she does not have a problem with the rest of the budget proposal -- but that cutting fire is essentially off the table for her.

Lengthening response times, the likely result if the sixth fire company was no longer running, could cost lives, Moy said.

"Public safety comes first, it's the reason that government exists . . . so that's why I say I can't do something that cuts the truck," she said.

If city staff returns March 21 with alternatives that involve laying off personnel in other departments to save the fire company, her vote will depend on where those people are employed, Moy said.

"Now do I want to see other people lose their jobs? Absolutely not," she said. "Right now I'm standing 100 percent behind the truck and the men and women who use the truck to save people's lives."

That's not because of their financial support, but rather because of her own devotion to public safety

above all other services, she said.

"I don't feel pressure . . . I just put a lot of pressure on myself. I was appointed at first and no labor group helped me and because of my positions with public safety, they supported me," she said. "I don't get any arm-twisting."

Helping putting someone in office does not necessarily confer any special privileges, said Dave Pierson, local firefighters' union president.

"I don't look at it as (the City Council) on my side," he said. "I know \$650,000 is a lot to ask. . . but I'm confident the majority of the council feels that public safety is important," he said.

The fact that other city employees may lose their jobs to save the fire department's company is a tough call that the council has to make, Pierson said.

"I don't want to see anyone lose their job in the city, but at the same time I don't want to continue to go on with an understaffed fire department," he said. "When it comes down to it, I need the sixth company. We're going to do whatever we have to do to make that happen."

Councilman Rick Vaccaro, appointed to fill the seat of late Councilman Matt Garcia in 2008, is currently ramping up his first election campaign.

His vote is not determined either way, he said.

"It's not an easy decision to make," he said. "I would hate to lay off another city worker, I'll tell you that."

Mayor Harry Price was not available for comment as of press time.

Reach Sarah de Crescenzo at 427-6935 or sarahdc@dailyrepublic.net.

Shouts: Hearing brings out sharp divisions

From Page One

terror cells, and the U.S. government has wrestled with fighting that effort.

King, a New York congressman and the new chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, said he called the hearing because Muslim community leaders need to speak out more loudly against terrorism and work more closely with police and the FBI. Democrats wanted the hearing to focus on terror threats more broadly, including from

white supremacists.

"This hearing today is playing into al-Qaida right now around the world," said Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas, who said the committee was trampling the Constitution.

Republicans said that was nothing but political correctness.

"We have to know our enemy, and it is radical Islam in my judgment," said Rep. Michael McCaul of Texas.

Thursday's hearing was the first high-profile event for the new Republican majority in the House, and

it roused the city. The room was packed, and officials steered onlookers into an overflow.

At one point, an exchange between Reps. Tom Marino and Al Green grew loud as they talked over each other. Green, a Texas Democrat who is black, said the terrorism hearing should have included discussion of the Ku Klux Klan. Marino, a Pennsylvania Republican who is white, said the subject of the day was terrorism, prompting the chairman to rap the gavel re-

peatedly as the two argued over whether the KKK was a terrorist organization.

Rep. Keith Ellison, D-Minn., the first Muslim elected to Congress, wept as he discussed Mohammed Salman Hamdani, a Pakistani-American paramedic who died responding to the World Trade Center attack.

"This committee's approach to this particular subject, I believe, is contrary to the best of American values and threatens our security, or could potentially," Ellison said.

Loan: To tide over

From Page One

school year.

According to that calendar, the year will begin Aug. 15 and end June 15, with a three-week break around Christmas and two weeks for spring break at the end of March and beginning of April, like this year.

The days that teachers will work is a negotiation item still being discussed,

however.

Confirming the student attendance calendar allows families time to plan for vacations and other events in the coming year, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Ron Hawkins said.

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Pipelines: Travis, PG&E each have lines

From Page One

he wrote.

Curry wrote of the Travis pipelines, noting "we conclude that the jet fuel lines are in poor condition and need to be decommissioned as soon as planned substitute lines are completed."

The substitute pipelines would be connected to the long-distance fuel transmission pipeline that runs next to the railroad lines. Kinder-Morgan upgraded this pipeline in 2004.

A 20-inch branch line is under construction to supply Travis that would allow the base's older pipeline by Highway 12 to be retired. That line presently extends only from the base to Walters Road.

The Suisun area will become less hazardous when the aviation pipelines are retired and automatic shut-off valves for the PG&E gas lines are moved closer to

the city, according to the report.

"Given the information and history of incidents, there's not a safety problem for residents given the information that we have gathered so far," Moscarelli said.

"With the jet fuel lines, it's not safety so much as environmental impact that we are concerned about, and that has yet to be determined," Moscarelli said.

The report called for Solano County and Suisun City to cooperate with local residents to ensure that future spills such as a jet fuel leak that occurred in February 2009 don't contaminate the nearby Suisun Marsh.

A Travis' public affairs representative said the base couldn't comment until it examined the report.

Joe Molica, PG&E spokesman, didn't comment specifically on the report, but said PG&E is ex-

tensively monitoring its pipelines to ensure their safety.

"Safety is our highest responsibility. We understand if folks have concerns and we are working very hard to address those concerns," Molica said.

Part of the work to address those concerns is the company's Pipeline 2020 program, which was created to strengthen the energy company's natural gas pipeline system.

The first part of the program is modernizing the pipeline infrastructure and key pipeline transmission segments. PG&E is presently engaging pipeline experts on how best to do that, Molica said.

That modernization includes upgrading pipes so they can be better inspected and expanding the use of automatic or remotely used shut-off valves.

PG&E also recently established an independent

nonprofit group to research and create pipeline inspection technology, Molica said.

"Finally, we are enhancing public safety partnerships, working with local communities and public officials, especially first responders, to provide them with maps of pipelines and emergency response plans," Molica said.

"This will all take time, but we are approaching all of these tasks with a great sense of urgency," Molica said.

Moscarelli has put in for another grant to further study the pipelines, to examine potential risks in more detail.

The study will be made available to the public within a week on the website <http://www.healthycommunityresearch.com>.

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California Lottery	
Fantasy 5/Thursday	
Numbers picked	19, 20, 28, 34, 35
Match all five for top prize. Match at least three for other prizes.	
Daily 3/Thursday	Daily Derby/Thursday
Afternoon numbers picked	2, 4, 8
Night numbers picked	1, 0, 8
Match three in order for top prize; combinations for other prizes.	
Daily 4/Thursday	Race time 1:42.53
Numbers picked	3, 1, 3, 1
Match four in order for top prize; combinations for other prizes.	
On the Web: www.calottery.com	