

Sunday

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Brown is bent on building a reserve

His budget aims for a cushion, but pensions, healthcare and other fiscal problems loom.

By CHRIS MEGERIAN

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Jerry Brown stepped out from behind the podium holding a green marker, ready to assume the role of professor.

As he laid out his new budget plan, he circled the spot on a chart showing California's budding surplus. Some people think "we should go on a spending binge," he said.

He wouldn't do that, Brown said. "We see the lessons of history."

If anyone in the Capitol knows California history, it's the 75-year-old governor serving his second stint in office. On his watch, recent deficits have disappeared amid a combination of budget cuts, tax hikes and economic luck.

However, other deep-rooted financial problems remain unresolved: big bills for teacher pensions, rising healthcare costs, a volatile tax system that can leave officials with whiplash. Brown has only begun to address some of these issues.

In the coming months, the governor will negotiate a final budget with a Legislature dominated by Democrats, who may be eager to expand social services and education programs in an election year.

In that process, Brown will have to avoid the mistakes of the 1990s, when California's situation was remarkably similar to today's [See Brown, A16]



RICK LOOMIS Los Angeles Times

LIBROS SCHIMBROS, in Boyle Heights, has a large Latino clientele. "We might have 1,000 books in Spanish, but we're always ravenous for more," bookstore operator David Kipen said.

E-libros gain U.S. readers

The Kindle and Nook help Spanish-language publishers flourish

By KEN BENSINGER

For decades, finding Spanish-language books in the U.S. was like tilting at windmills.

Booksellers stocked few titles in the language of Cervantes, and those they carried came at a hefty premium. A paperback copy of "Don Quijote" in the original Spanish could easily cost triple the price of a deluxe hard-bound translation in English — if it could be found at all.

Retailers blamed the expense of importing books printed in Spain and Latin America. And U.S. publishers lost faith in the market after botched attempts to translate English-language bestsellers produced error-

ridden Spanish versions that sold poorly.

The upshot was that even in heavily Latino cities such as Los Angeles, where Spanish-language television and radio command huge audiences, readers of *libros en español* found little more than bilingual dictionaries and religious tracts buried in the backs of bookstores.

"There was a tremendous appetite for Spanish-language books that wasn't being met," said David Kipen, who runs Libros Schimbros, a used-book store in Boyle Heights with a large Latino clientele. "We might have 1,000 books in Spanish, but we're always ravenous for more."

But lately, thanks in big part to the Internet, the na-

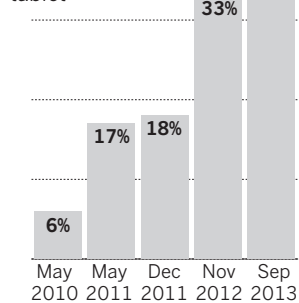
[See Libros, A12]

A growing market

The number of e-reading device owners is rising. Among them, Latinos are one of the groups with the fastest adoption rates on e-book readers.

E-reading devices

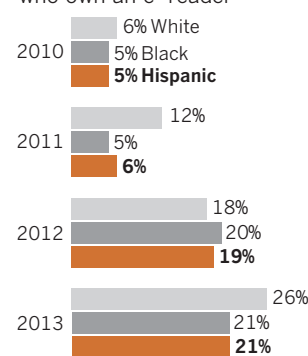
Americans 16 and older who own an e-book reader or tablet



Source: Pew Research Center

E-reader owners by race

% of adults in each group who own an e-reader



JAVIER ZARRACINA Los Angeles Times

ARIEL SHARON, 1928 - 2014



JIM HOLLANDER European Pressphoto Agency

WARRIOR OF ISRAEL

Former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon long pushed Jewish settlement in the Palestinian territories. Eventually, he had a change of heart.

Israeli leader was revered and reviled

The controversial Ariel Sharon, who was felled by a stroke in 2006, is dead at 85.

By LAURA KING AND EDMUND SANDERS
REPORTING FROM JERUSALEM

To his enemies, Ariel Sharon was "an Israeli Caesar," whose dreams of remaking the Middle East dragged the Jewish state into dangerous conflicts. He was reviled by Palestinians and some of his own countrymen, who regarded many of his acts as tantamount to war crimes.

Among his admirers, however, Sharon was "the Bulldozer," the warrior-statesman whose unwavering belief in military might and a pioneering spirit ensured Israel's survival in a hostile region. Despite many ups and downs during a long career, he was lauded as one of Israel's greatest leaders.

Sharon, the former Israeli prime minister and general, who fought in nearly all of

his nation's major wars and spearheaded Jewish settlement of Palestinian territories, then years later presided over Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, died Saturday. He was 85.

Elected prime minister in 2001 after holding nearly every major ministerial post, he was removed from office at the peak of his power after a severe stroke in 2006 that left him incapacitated. Despite some signs of brain activity, he never regained consciousness, and in late December his condition turned critical as his organs deteriorated.

Sharon's death at a hospital near Tel Aviv was announced by his son Gilad.

"That's it. He's gone. He went when he decided to go," his [See Sharon, A8]

Jersey's sketchy political record

The state's latest scandal is part of a long tradition of hardball politics. **NATION, A18**

Almonds are the toast of the world

Global demand for the California-grown nut is surging, but tightening water supplies are a worry. **BUSINESS, B1**

Danger zone at the Olympics

As the Winter Games showcase more extreme sports, the risk of injury rises. **SPORTS, C1**

Complete Index **A2**

Weather: Partly cloudy.
L.A. Basin: 72/50. **A32**

TODAY'S SECTIONS

California, Business, Sports, Calendar, Arts & Books, Travel.

REBIRTH OF FAB FORUM

ARTS & BOOKS

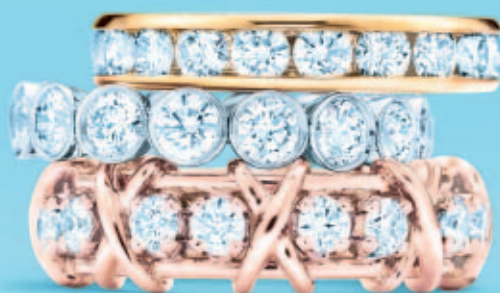


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