

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

And the season begins ...



Alejandro Cantarero/Daily Press

A decorated Christmas tree welcomes shoppers at the Santa Monica Place mall Friday night, as the holiday season officially starts a day after Thanksgiving. And despite rain earlier in the day, there was heavy foot traffic on the Third Street Promenade, with many people patronizing the various stores.

Father Dollar enriches L.A.'s Skid Row, one bill at a time

Retired priest also gives to Santa Monica's downtrodden

BY PAUL WILBORN
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — On a chilly, gray Sunday morning, Rev. Maurice Chase, better known as Father Dollar Bill, motors slowly through downtown's Skid Row like some modern piper.

His white Toyota does about five miles an hour — emergency flashers pulsing and two American flags flapping in the breeze. Chase waves through the window. Behind the car, men follow, pushing shopping carts. A sunken-eyed woman, wrapped from her matted hair to her slippers in a filthy gray blanket, stumbles along in his wake.

Stuffed in a bag under his car seat are more than \$3,000 in crisp new bills, most of them single dollars. Chase, an 83-year-

old retired Catholic priest, will spend the next 10 hours giving away the money, something he's done for the past 20 years. He's been seen in Palisades Park in Santa Monica over the years, handing out cash to the city's homeless population.

An estimated 12,000 people live on downtown Los Angeles streets just three blocks from City Hall, many in residential hotels or shelters, but at least 5,000 of them sleep in tents, refrigerator boxes, or under blankets and tarps in one of the largest concentrations of homeless in the nation.

During his career, Chase moved among the rich and famous, raising money for Loyola Marymount University. Now, his money comes from many of the same donors — which have included Bob and Dolores Hope, businessman Eli Broad, Gregory and Veronique Peck, and Frank Sinatra. Sinatra's widow, Barbara, still supports his Skid Row Charity Fund.

See FATHER, page 4

Airport museum will stay grounded in Santa Monica

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Plans for the Museum of Flying to take off for another regional airport have been grounded.

A deal was approved last week by the city's Airport Commission that may allow the private owners of the museum to lease its space to a high-tech Volkswagen laboratory and move the exhibits to a smaller hanger at the Santa Monica Airport.

The museum closed its doors in July. Officials said it had become too expensive to operate because of substantial increases in aviation insurance and lower attendance numbers.

Museum officials also said they were having difficulty flying their antique aircraft in and out of Santa Monica Airport because of a restrictive noise ordinance that punishes violators with fines in the

thousands of dollars.

The deal would allow the museum's owner, Supermarine, to make more money from the hanger while also making sure the city's aviation history wouldn't be carted off and put on display at a far away municipal airport.

Under the terms of the agreement, which will likely appear before the city council in January, the museum would move into a nearby 12,000-square-foot hanger. The original museum was housed in an elaborately displayed 40,000-square-foot space.

"Here we get to retain a museum to display history of the airport, and the new design studio will be very low impact," said airport manager Bob Trimborn. "It's as good as we could get considering the circumstances."

See MUSEUM, page 5

List of the perfect luxury gifts

BY JEFF WILSON
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Don't bother with a George Foreman grill, the well-heeled are browsing tony boutiques for gifts that make a statement. Still, wealthy shoppers get that sinking feeling when it comes to finding that unique holiday gift.

An \$80 million submarine is one suggestion from the Robb Report luxury magazine, which comes up each Christmastime with a list of 21 perfect gifts for its money-is-no-object readers.

"I think a lot of our readers haven't really been impacted by the economy slowdown. They are recession resistant."

— BRETT ANDERSON
Robb Report, senior vice president

The duPont Registry's holiday gift catalogue also features highbrow stocking stuffers: A \$450,000 Bentley Estate Station Wagon described as "the ultimate

family vehicle for the truly refined lifestyle" and a pair of McLaren Formula 1 supercars at about \$1.5 million apiece.

There's also a 1968 Mercedes-Benz 600 Presidential Landauet, originally built for Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, for \$295,000. And its only got 30,000 miles on the odometer.

Tom duPont, chairman of St. Petersburg, Fla.-based duPont Publishing, said the duPont Registry items are designed to impress. But they also reflect America's cocooning trend.

"Along with the nesting there is nesting going on in the garage," duPont said Wednesday. "People with resources are buying classic and luxury cars — the everyday car, the weekend car and the commuter car."

The 54-year-old publishing mogul is a collector himself with about 20 vehicles in his stable, "and 18 of them run." He's on the lookout now for an unusual limousine, particularly a Chrysler PT Cruiser limo or stretch Hummer.

The duPont Registry and Robb Report publications definitely aren't for the Chia Pet crowd.

Robb Report offers a 144-carat diamond necklace at \$10 million, a customized private jet for \$70 million, the new \$350,000 Daimler-Chrysler Maybach 62 sedan, a \$1.6 million Formula 1 Ferrari race car, a residence in London's fabled Regent's

See GIFTS, page 5

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average
★★-So-so ★-Difficult

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Knowing when to say "no" could be instrumental. Others want you to join in, but you can only do so much, so fast. Prioritize, perhaps opting to mix friends and loved ones together at one happening. Share news. Tonight: Dance the night away.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Somehow you wind up in the driver's seat, in that everyone seems dependent on you to do this or that for them. The odd thing is that you will accomplish nearly everything you decide to do. A parent or boss makes a demand. Tonight: Put your feet up. Let others do for you.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Your playfulness comes through, despite someone else and his or her occasional insistence on having things his or her way. Add more playfulness to your life. Organize an excursion or a day trip. Try something totally different. Tonight: Kick up your heels.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Stay in touch with your family. Make an extra effort toward a friend or loved one. Your ability to break past someone else's boundaries could be helpful. Ask for more of what you want from an associate. Tonight: Treat another.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Keep conversations moving. You might not feel that someone else really understands where you're coming from. However, when you decide to express yourself, others will listen. Use your dramatic personality and style. Tonight: You completely captivate someone.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Your perspective could change dramatically if you listen to what others say. Your intuition helps you financially, though you're likely to go overboard. Treat a family member or roommate. Let this person know how special he or she is. Tonight: Indulge a loved one.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Your smile draws many. Can you handle all this popularity? How much can you do? Don't get frantic about this matter; rather, enjoy it. Invite a key loved one or friend along. You might decide to throw a party. Tonight: Hang with friends and enjoy yourself to no end.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Much might be happening, and you could be overwhelmed by what's going down. A family member decides to head in his or her own direction. Take your time. Date on an older relative. Handle your finances wisely. Tonight: Add some mystery to your life.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Whatever you decide on works. Knowing this fact, what would you really like to do? What would knock your socks off? Seek out someone who means a lot to you. Don't isolate yourself. Consider what a big world surrounds you. Tonight: Where the action is.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Everything comes up roses as long as you're in charge of the watering can. Still, you do like all the acknowledgment and positive bravos. Don't complain if you find a loved one or partner hanging out with friends. This person needs time, too! Tonight: Be spontaneous.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Take off for the remainder of the weekend if you want to. You also might try something totally different and new. Others clearly want you around. A friend tries one of the most persuasive arguments possible. Tonight: Continue experimenting.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Spend some quality one-on-one time with a loved one or partner. You need time to discuss upcoming activities as well. What you do right now needs to be as a team or partnership. Make plans that suit you. Tonight: Add those extra touches to make dinner special.

 **QUOTE of the DAY**

"Anyone who eats three meals a day should understand why cookbooks outsell sex books three to one."

— L.M. Boyd

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LOCAL

L.A. Clippers score points at the St. Joseph Center

By Daily Press staff

Players, coaches, staff and cheerleaders from the L.A. Clippers served Thanksgiving dinner to the homeless last week at St. Joseph Center's Bread & Roses Café in Venice.

The NBA basketball team has been showing up at the center to distribute meals and bags of groceries for the past 12 years.

"These guys are tremendous," said Luis Hernandez, who is a client at St. Joseph Center's. "To take the time out to come down here and get involved is an inspiration to all of us."

Among those present to serve heaping plates of turkey with all the trimmings were head coach Alvin Gentry, general manager Elgin Baylor, forward Eric Piatkowski and center Cherokee Parks. Cheerleaders Tara Pokorney and Krystal Gray poured the orange juice.

St. Joseph Center provides emergency services, childcare, counseling, and training for over 7,300 homeless and low-income men, women and children each year with 11 programs and services on seven sites in Venice, Santa Monica and West Los Angeles.

For more information, call (310) 396-6468, ext. 325 or visit www.stjosephctr.org.



Courtesy photo

Clippers Cheerleader Tara Pokorney pours juice at St. Joseph Center's Bread & Roses Cafe to the homeless.

CrimeWatch

Man gets away after holding up dry cleaners

By Daily Press staff

■ A thief with a handgun robbed Dry Clean Express on the 2600 block of Lincoln Boulevard.

At 9:25 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 15, the suspect entered the store, walked up to the employee, displayed a handgun and demanded money. The robber fled with an unknown amount of money from the cash register.

The suspect is a white male, 20 to 40 years old, 5 feet and 5 inches to 5 feet and 6 inches tall with a thin build. He wore a black baseball cap, a long sleeved white sweater and blue jeans, and carried a black jacket.

■ A photographer sexually assaulted a woman after taking nude pictures of her on Nov. 15.

At 6 p.m., Santa Monica police responded to the area of Pico Boulevard and Cloverfield boulevards on a rape call.

The victim told police that she met the assailant, who is a photographer, and went to a motel room and posed for nude pictures. They had been doing this for about six months. But this time the photographer sexually assaulted her. After he took nude pictures of her, the victim escaped on foot and called police.

The suspect is a white male, 41 years old, 5 feet and 5 inches tall and average weight. Police have his name and are pursuing leads toward his arrest.

The victim was treated at a local hospital.

■ Robert James Largher was arrested after allegedly attempting to rob a Rite-Aid armed with a knife.

At 11:17 a.m. on Nov. 13, Largher entered the store at the 2400 block of Pico Boulevard and loaded up on DVDs and other miscellaneous items. He left the store without paying.

Store security officers followed Largher out the store. When they attempted to detain him, Largher pulled a knife and threatened to injure anyone who came near him.

Security officers overpowered Largher, subdued him, cuffed him and called Santa Monica police.

Largher, a 31-year-old Latino, was arrested and booked for assault with a deadly weapon and armed robbery.

With any information regarding these crimes call the Santa Monica Police Department Robbery/Homicide Unit at (310) 458-8451.)

surf report

Information compiled by Jesse Haley

It promises to be a ripplable weekend as we start to see more South Bay waves today thanks to a pumping west-northwest swell.

P.V. and Porto hit chest- to head-high late today as swell ramps up. Better exposures up the coast hit a foot or two over-head, and Ventura should be cranking.

Increased size is expected as swell fills in and peaks. Surf will gain a foot or so over today's heights.

We expect decent size in at Venice despite some water pollution, and better shape and conditions at El Porto.

Surfrider is improving slightly, but it's still a mess, so stay out of the water anywhere near Malibu Pier.



Today's Tides:

High-	4:24 a.m.	3.98'
Low-	9:28 a.m.	2.95'
High-	2:33 p.m.	4.18'
Low-	9:58 p.m.	0.34'

Location	Saturday	Sunday	Water Quality
County Line	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Zuma	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	A
Surfrider	1-2'/Poor	1-3'/Fair	C
Topanga	2-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	B
Breakwater	2-4'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	B
El Porto	2-4'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	B

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STATE

Chase: 'Touch the poor ... that's what I try to do'

FATHER, from page 1

At the first of three stops Chase will make in a 10-hour day, more than 300 people have formed into three haphazard lines along a wrought iron fence. Some have waited for two hours.

Chase emerges in a red sweater over his clerical collar and a Notre Dame cap pressed onto his gray hair. A cross dangles from his neck.

Few in these lines — divided into women, the disabled, and men — know his real name. Some call him Father Dollar Bill, but most have shortened it to just the initials — DB.

"Yo, DB, how you been baby," one man calls from the street.

Chase turns and waves, looking like a casting director's idea of a priest. He is a big man, with large hands, and a ready smile.

He stands on a throw rug at the head of the lines. As each person approaches Chase shakes their hand or places his hand on their shoulder or their face. They talk briefly, Chase often asking their name or where they are from.

Finally, Chase's hand emerges from his pants pocket with a dollar, sometimes more.

"They like the dollar," Chase says, during a break. "But it's more than that.

"I started out giving away \$400 or \$500 every Sunday. Then it became \$1,000, then \$1,500, now it is creeping up toward \$4,000."

— REV. MAURICE CHASE
Retired priest

Mother Teresa said 'touch the poor,' and that's what I try to do."

Chase said he always makes sure to look each person in the eye.

"By my looking into their eyes, I'm saying 'you have dignity, you're a human being, you are made in the image and likeness of God,'" Chase said.

William Wiggins, 52, who comes for his dollar every Sunday, knows the power of that look.

"When my spirit is down, he brings me back up," Wiggins said. "It's not the dollar. It's the way he inspires you."

Willie Jordan, who has worked among Skid Row's homeless for more than 50 years, said Chase's touch is really the secret.

"The most important thing he does is to shake a hand, put an arm around a shoulder. The human touch is so important. These people are used to being shunned," said Jordan, who runs the Fred Jordan Mission.

Chase said he has seen the numbers of homeless grow during his 20 years on the streets.

"I started out giving away \$400 or \$500 every Sunday," he said. "Then it became \$1,000, then \$1,500, now it is creeping up toward \$4,000."

His regular donors keep him going, and he writes letters before the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays to generate more cash.

Along with the singles, Chase carries

some \$5 and \$20 bills. At Thanksgiving, he also brings a few \$100 bills for people with special needs.

He knows that some people are angling for the bigger bills.

"The phonies are there but after 20 years, they are pretty easy to catch," he said.

Wiggins, who has seen people try to scam Father Dollar, said most of them fail.

"You can't trick him," Wiggins said. "He looks in your eyes. You can't put it over on him."

Jordan, who has known Chase since 1988, said he recently asked her for a favor.

He told her he had set aside some money to pay for a chartered bus. When he dies, he wants Jordan to fill it with the homeless and bring them to his funeral.

"That's just who he is," Jordan said. "He's a very special man. The star of Skid Row."

The dirty woman wrapped in the gray blanket finally has her moment with Father Dollar. She speaks incoherently and quiets as Chase's hands move to her face.

"May the Father, Son and Holy Ghost descend on you and heal you...in God's holy name," Chase says.

His hand goes into his pocket and pulls out a wad of bills. The woman clutches the money, as she stumbles away.

Santa Rosa assistant city attorney recovers after shark attack

By The Associated Press

BODEGA BAY — A shark attack near here had a local prosecutor recovering in the hospital Friday from surgery on his badly bitten legs.

Michael J. Casey, 48, was body-boarding Thanksgiving Day off Salmon Creek Beach when a 16-foot shark latched on and thrust him into the air. The yells of nearby surfers apparently helped convince the shark to let go.

"He still has all his fingers and toes," said his wife, Maureen Casey. "But I think he's a little bummed because he had a whole surf weekend planned."

Casey, who is an assistant city attorney in Santa Rosa, suffered deep cuts in his legs and was flown to Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital where he underwent two hours of surgery Thursday.

He was listed in good condition Friday, hospital spokeswoman Robin Welling said.

A second operation was planned to repair a severed

pineal nerve, Maureen Casey said.

Casey was with friends in 10-foot-deep water around 9 a.m. when what park rangers think was a great white shark grabbed him from behind, witnesses said.

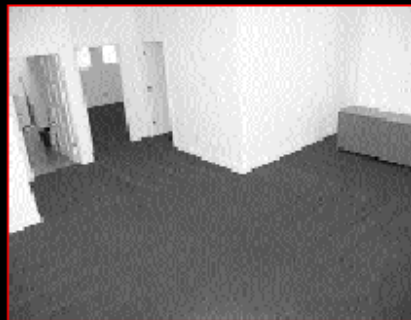
Rangers closed three miles of beach to swimmers for the weekend on fears the shark could remain in the area.

Attacks at the popular surfing beach are rare, according to Rich Lawton, Sonoma Coast State Beaches supervising ranger — the last one was six years ago.

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**LOCAL □ STATE**

New tenant will allow flying museum to stay

MUSEUM, from page 1

Museum officials were unavailable for comment.

Though the new museum will be less than half the size of the original, Trimborn said the new space will have an outdoor area where airplanes, which can be flown in from an outside location, can be displayed.

The result will be rotating exhibits that will likely act as a constant draw for visitors and help the museum keep its insurance premiums low, officials said.

"Airplanes on display will fly in, park and then leave," Trimborn said. "It will rotate, and it won't be as active as it once was."

But Trimborn said the outdoor display will allow visitors a better view of what is

happening at the airport.

"It has some better parking access, and there's more of an opportunity for people to watch the activity than before," he said. "It will still provide an excellent facility for the display of airport artifacts."

The proposed 12-year lease with Volkswagen would allow the automaker to station about 50 employees at the space, which would be used as a laboratory for developing prototype vehicles.

Currently, Volkswagen's North American Design Studio is based in Simi Valley, but the company wants to be closer to the Los Angeles metropolitan area and have a larger working space.

Average annual income of Robb Report reader is \$800K

GIFT, from page 1

Park for \$29.9 million and a \$1.25 million 24-day America's Cup vacation.

Too expensive? How about an original copy of Ian Fleming's "You Only Live Twice," signed by the author, for \$75,000?

The super rich truly aren't like you and me.

"I think a lot of our readers haven't really been impacted by the economy slowdown. They are recession resistant," said Brett Anderson, senior vice president and editorial director for the Robb Report.

"This year, a lot are buying boats and planes because of security issues. They can entertain and travel and feel secure," Anderson said.

The well-to-do are also hanging out at home a lot more.

"There's a lot of spending on home — entertainment theaters, wine cellars, commercial-grade kitchens," Anderson said.

"They are creating their own theater and restaurant in the home. It's cocooning."

The average annual income of a Robb Report reader is \$800,000, with an average net worth of \$4.9 million.

There's been a subtle attitude in the buying habits of the rich because of the dot-com bust and stock market slide. Conspicuous consumption is seen as tasteless by some.

"People are more interested in discreet luxury," Anderson said. "Back in the heyday of the dot-com boom executives were buying \$200,000 and \$300,000 Ferraris and there was a lot of show there."

"What has changed is Robb readers are going back to basics — spending on the home, classic cars and historic artifacts and antiques. They want things that have cultural resonance, things that aren't purchased necessarily an outward symbol of success."

"People are more self conscious about displaying wealth."

DID YOU KNOW?: Paul Revere never completed his journey.

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**FIND OUT YOUR FORECAST IN TODAY'S
HOROSCOPE'S ... PAGE 2**

Santa Monica Daily Press

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STATE

County services in jeopardy as state faces \$21B deficit

BY ALEXA H. BLUTH
Associated Press Writer

MARYSVILLE — It is Thanksgiving week and Diana Morales is gently bouncing her month-old granddaughter under the fluorescent lights of Yuba County's social services office.

Morales, 51, has depended on the workers there — and the doctors in the county-run clinic next door — since a disability forced her to lose her job sorting prunes at a nearby cannery.

But the health and welfare programs in this rural agricultural county north of Sacramento are among those in jeopardy as state lawmakers face a multibillion budget deficit for the second straight year. "I don't know what we would do," Morales said of the prospect of whittled county services.

Cutting county budgets, officials said, would mean certain layoffs and reducing or killing programs, which could mean delays in enrolling residents in the state Medi-Cal program, reduced job training for welfare recipients or leaving some without services at all.

California counties lost about \$1.1 billion in state money this fiscal year — considered a relatively small price although it forced layoffs and paring down of programs — as state lawmakers shifted, borrowed and trimmed to fill a \$23.6 billion budget deficit.

Now, however, the budget problems remain while the easy fixes have been used; counties and the people they serve stand to lose billions more in state money.

California legislators must solve a budget deficit that could soar past \$21 billion in the next 19 months. Gov. Gray Davis has called for a pre-Christmas special session to ask lawmakers to quickly enact at least \$5 billion in midyear cuts. "It's clear looking at these numbers that we are going to be looking at some very severe cuts," said Pat Leary, legislative representative for the California State Association of Counties.

Davis has said his midyear proposals will not include tax or fee increases, but he has declined to divulge details and aides have said everything is on the table when he submits his budget in January for the coming year.

Officials in all of California's 58 counties fear the current and future solutions will further cut their shrinking share of state money. They worry about a replay of the early 1990s, when lawmakers balanced the recession-plagued state budget by taking away property tax money from cities, counties and local districts to pay for schools.

In Yuba County, "we lost over half of our property taxes," said Randy Margo, assistant county administrator.

This year, counties are closely watching proposals regarding the state's vehicle license fee — which is the largest source of state money for counties.

Since 1998, the state has cut the fee by two-thirds but pays \$3.8 billion a year to cities and counties to make up for money lost by the reduction. Yuba County, for example, expects to get about \$3.6 million from car tax, or 14 percent of the county's \$25 million budget to operate health and welfare, public works, law enforcement and other programs.

These programs, county officials from

across California said, are on the front lines of government — providing functions including investigating welfare fraud, giving booster shots to poor children or dusting for fingerprints at a rural crime scene.

"Counties are inextricably tied to the state because we provide state services," Leary said.

In the 60,000-population Yuba County, as in many of the rural counties that snake through the state's inland valleys, leaders said deep budget cuts could worsen problems caused by a faltering economy.

The county of farms and orchards that stretch to the foot of the Sierra Nevadas already is struggling from a slumping economy and troubled agriculture industry. The county's clinic and social services offices are housed in an abandoned shopping mall whose empty, echoing corridors and plastered-over storefronts serve as constant reminders of an economy on the skids.

Nancy Hernandez, an unemployed mother of five, was at the clinic Monday making an appointment for her youngest, a toddler with asthma.

"It'll cut me real bad," she said, of the prospect of service reductions at the clinic, longer waits to get her children's ear infections treated or even the loss of some treatments altogether.

Other counties also have already felt the effects of the now two-year budget crisis.

In Monterey County — home to the farm-rich Salinas Valley — children and families were the first losers as leaders patched a \$6.3 million shortfall caused partially by state cuts. Supervisors voted to eliminate 18 jobs and reduce some services, including child protection and library hours.

In June, Alameda County slashed \$48 million from its budget, much of it in social services and health care, including medical clinics and public hospitals. Among the cuts, the health department is eliminating its lead-poisoning prevention and mental health day-treatment programs and home visits to medically vulnerable infants.

The Central Valley's Tulare County — home to one of the nation's highest unemployment rates — was forced to cut back its welfare-to-work program, which paid out-of-work residents to move to other states where jobs were available.

"We are just in such fear that every cent we have now is going to be taken back," said Tulare County Supervisor Connie Conway.

As a result, many county officials have joined a growing chorus of lawmakers, advocates and other calling for tax increases to balance the budget rather than cutting programs. But others, including the Legislature's Republican leaders, oppose higher taxes, saying overspending has caused the budget problems.

Last week, top administrators from California counties gathered in Pasadena for the yearly CSAC meeting where talks on virtually everything led back to the budget.

"Counties have been running a very tight ship for several years; there's not a whole lot of fat in county government," said Yolo County Supervisor Dave Rosenberg, who is the governor's senior adviser on intergovernmental relations.

Deeper cuts to counties could mean "poor people, hungry people and people in trouble" will be left without services.

STATE



California stores swamped by smart bargain-hunters

BY KATE BERRY
Associated Press Writer

Despite economic worries and war jitters, Californians swarmed malls Friday on the opening day of the Christmas shopping season, but they were budget-conscious and mostly snatched up deeply discounted items.

At the Glendale Galleria, a suburban mall northeast of Los Angeles, 500 people began lining up at 3:30 a.m. for bargains at KB Toys, which promoted discounts and free giveaways from 5 a.m. to noon.

"We're seeing a lot of traffic and a lot of happy store managers," said Annette Breathers, the mall's senior marketing director.

Katya Assaf, 27, of North Hollywood, dragged out four giant plastic bags filled with toys.

"I shop for one day and then I'm done," said Assaf, who bought a Power Rangers Wild Force robot for \$40, down from \$70.

Laticia Mora, 34, and her nephew Francisco Almeralla, 15, of Hollywood, waited an hour in line to buy Diva Dance toys and Yu-Gi-Oh! trading cards that feature Japanese animated characters. They planned to spend \$400 on gifts this year, about the same as last year.

But Brenda DeBorja, 38, of Glendale, said she was worried about the possibility of war with Iraq and its impact on the already shaky economy. To save money, she gave Christmas wreaths to family and friends on Thanksgiving and came out early to buy toys on sale.

"Even though I see a lot of people at this mall, I'm still worried about the economy," said DeBorja. "I used to buy full price but not anymore."

Across town, the Westside Pavilion was relatively empty. The older mall and others in the upscale West Los Angeles neighborhood are facing stiff competition from the recently opened Grove, a giant "adult Disneyland" shopping complex in midtown Los Angeles, said Jack Kyser, chief economist of the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation.

The Grove, which includes dancing fountains and cobblestone streets in a mock European theme, planned a fake snowfall and a 100-foot Christmas tree.

"What you're seeing is that a lot of retailers are big into stunts," Kyser said, referring to free giveaways and early morning discounts. "Everybody is incredibly competitive in this environment."

Some of the hottest-selling items this

year include long cashmere and knitted wool scarves, leather jackets and Playstation video game devices, said Erica Boatman-Dixon, marketing director at Westside Pavilion.

Not everyone had shopping fever, however.

In Beverly Hills, the annual "fur-free Friday" rally got off to a slow start with only 20 people picketing outside Neiman Marcus.

"The issue is fur and killing animals can't be defended," said Bill Dyer, regional director for In Defense of Animals, an international animal protection group.

Retail sales were expected to rise 3 percent to 4 percent in Southern California this year — up slightly from anemic sales last year, he said.

Californians benefited from an improved economy thanks to a rebound in the film industry, increased defense spending, the settlement of labor disputes at the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, and a strong housing market, Kyser said.

Nationwide, the Washington-based National Retail Federation predicted total holiday retail sales, which exclude restaurant and auto sales, will increase by 4 percent to roughly \$209.25 billion. That would make it the weakest increase since 1997.

A recent survey by Deloitte & Touche, a giant accounting firm with offices in Los Angeles, predicted that retail sales in Southern California will rise 3 percent to 4 percent in November and December because of a recent rise in consumer confidence.

"I think people are feeling a lot better about their job security and they haven't been spending all year long," said Brent Schoenbaum, a partner at Deloitte & Touche in Los Angeles.

Online retailers also had good business.

Chicken Dance Elmo, which was marked down to \$14.84 on the walmart.com site, was out of stock Friday, but it still wasn't the biggest seller, spokeswoman Cynthia Lin said.

LeapFrog learning toys ranked in the top three, with the Quantum Pad Learning System coming in No. 1.

Other hot toys included the Barbie wireless video cam for about \$117 and the Singing Starz video karaoke machine for about \$79. The Land/Sea RC camouflage remote control vehicle also was popular, selling for about \$65.

"Educational and interactive toys are popular," Lin said. "They're flying off our virtual shelves."

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Santa Monica Daily Press

STATE

Crowds face new rules at popular SoCal dunes area

BY RYAN PEARSON
Associated Press Writer

GLAMIS — Federal rangers have some not-so-friendly reminders for the 200,000 off-roaders and party seekers expected to mass this Thanksgiving weekend in one of the nation's largest dune parks:

Your favorite nighttime party spot? It's closed.

If you ride in the bed of a pickup truck, buckle up or you'll be fined.

And please, no more public nudity.

The Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area, in the southeastern corner of California, transforms during holiday weekends from a vast collection of picturesque desert hills into what off-road enthusiast Craig Kinsman calls "a cross between Mardi Gras and a scene from that 'Mad Max' movie."

Four-wheelers and dune buggies modified for speed roar down "Sand Highway" during the day. In chaotic all-night parties, scantily clad women dance around poles punched into the sand and motorcyclists plow through bonfires. The mayhem last Thanksgiving included a fatal shooting, several stabbings and more than 150 injuries.

Now park rangers are intent on laying down the law. And another. And another.

And if that rubs the party crowd the wrong way, so be it.

"Our intent is to make them feel unwelcome," said Stephen Razo, a spokesman for the Bureau of Land Management.

Authorities say they're showing zero tolerance for violations of BLM laws prohibiting public nudity, riding in open truckbeds and organized parties.

There will now be one law enforcement officer for every 1,600 revelers, up from one ranger per 4,000 two years ago. Officials are responding to the dune parties as they would to a major wildfire. The nearest hospital has switched into disaster mode.

But the big news for off-roaders is an Imperial County ordinance closing Competition Hill on holiday nights, starting Thursday.

The easily accessible 360-acre bowl will be cleared out at dusk in an effort to discourage partygoers, many of whom don't have the expensive off-road equipment needed to head deeper into the dunes. It is the first of four areas in the park that could be targeted for federal nighttime closures, officials said.

About 120 officers from 10 federal and state agencies are teaming up over the holiday season to patrol the dunes and keep people out of Competition Hill at night, said Razo, adding that enforcement costs over \$200,000 each holiday weekend. Violators risk \$500 fines and jail.

Rangers counted more than 10,000 people in the Competition Hill area last Thanksgiving.

"Turn the lights off, get the power and the booze running, and there's a riot element there," said county supervisor Wally Leimgruber, who helped break up a fight at Competition Hill last year.

Off-roaders will admit lawlessness is part of the desert's appeal. There are no posted speed limits and riders can reach speeds of over 100 miles per hour. Local video stores rent tapes of the outrageous

parties and off-road stunts at the dunes, 160 miles east of San Diego.

Kinsman, a 47-year-old San Diego painting contractor and regular "duner," wears a blue "Glamis" tank top depicting one cartoon dune buggy leaping inches above another.

Even emergency room staffers at nearby Pioneers Memorial Hospital poke fun at the high-risk dune culture. They're wearing "I Survived Thanksgiving 2002 at Glamis" T-shirts on the job through Sunday.

But many longtime Imperial off-roaders said they understand and even welcome the new restrictions. Once-a-year visitors — those in the center of Competition Hill chaos — have given the regulars a bad name, said 48-year-old Lenny LaVache of Los Alamitos.

"We come to enjoy the dunes and spend time with our friends and family," said LaVache, who has visited the area for 28 years. "They come to rape, pillage and plunder."

LaVache roams the dunes in a one-person mini-buggy, but said he and many friends now "avoid the holidays like the plague" because of the crowds. He helped clean up the dunes after the last New Year's holiday, which attracted 110,000 off-roaders.

The cleanup crew found scorched frames of couches and beds, car doors, and even a refrigerator, said off-roader Kevin Sweeney, 33, of Lakewood.

Environmentalists who long have monitored the unique ecology of the dunes complain isolated nighttime closures don't tackle broader enforcement difficulties.

Crowd problems could be eliminated by imposing a 'carrying capacity' on the dunes, said desert ecologist Daniel Patterson of the Center for Biological Diversity. "Until they learn to turn on the 'no vacancy' sign out there, violent situations and environmental damage will continue," Patterson said.

Under new direction from the Bush administration, the Bureau of Land Management is expected to soon release new rules opening 49,000 previously closed acres of the desert to a number of off-roaders with permits. The new land management plan includes no provision limiting the overall number of visitors to the dunes.

Motorists can now freely roam 68,000 acres, or 106 square miles, more than twice the size of San Francisco and nearly five times the size of Manhattan. The dunes reach 40 miles north from the Mexican border.

The wide-open spaces and smooth hills that make the area unique are ruined by too many off-roaders during holiday weekends, said Ken Turner of Hemet.

"It's like water-skiing on the ocean during busy times," said Turner, resting from riding his four-wheeler during a recent three-day trip to the dunes.

"At night, it's like a little city out there," said his wife, Penny, pointing toward Competition Hill.

Nearby, Kinsman steered his custom-built \$60,000 dune buggy up a 20-foot wall of sand and into the air, momentarily leaving the desert behind.

He landed with a shudder atop a hill of sand and stopped to survey the vast stretch of rolling dunes.

Watching a pink sunset color the sands, he said, "This is where you come to be free, to just rock and roll."

NATIONAL



'Immoral irony': Hunger rates highest in rural West

BY REBECCA COOK

Associated Press Writer

MATLOCK, Wash. — An old pickup truck turns off a lonely, two-lane country road into a crowded gravel parking lot, and 62-year-old Jerry lumbers out to join the line of people waiting for the Matlock Food Bank to open.

A real estate agent before a string of heart attacks forced him into retirement and medical debt, Jerry asks that his full name not be used. He doesn't want his children to know he relies on the food bank for staples every week. The pills that keep his heart beating cost him \$200 a month, the rural property he invested in for retirement isn't worth enough to sell, and he just can't afford it all.

He stands up straight in crisp blue jeans and a faded blue flannel shirt as he waits in line, the low, gray sky casting a pall over the parking lot. Jerry doesn't get food stamps — his wife cans vegetables from their garden, he hunts and fishes and they raise chickens to keep food on the table. But he's not too proud to accept help when he needs it.

"We're in a depression, not a recession," Jerry said, gazing through thick, round glasses at the woods surrounding his hardscrabble, timber-dependent town. "Most of the people that come here, they're my neighbors."

In Matlock, as in so many rural Western communities, everyone knows the threat of hunger is never far away.

The problem has spread throughout the West, where researchers identify a "hunger belt" stretching from New Mexico to Washington state.

The phenomenon baffled researchers when it was first documented in the 1990s — poverty rates are higher in the South, so why do people suffer from hunger more often in the West? Now researchers point to a combination of unemployment, seasonal work, rural isolation, population growth and high cost of living that conspires to send people to bed on an empty stomach.

As the economy continues to struggle, the hunger belt gets tighter every day.

"There's no good jobs around here. They've got to work at McDonald's and those places don't pay enough for people to live on," says Marge Brown, who runs the

Matlock Food Bank, which serves about 60 families a week. "It doesn't look like it's going to get better."

New statistics released earlier this month by the U.S. Department of Agriculture confirm the picture of hunger in the West.

Oregon has the highest hunger rate, with 5.8 percent of households experiencing hunger each year, followed by Washington, Utah, Idaho, Alaska, New Mexico and Montana.

Until recently, Washington and Oregon have enjoyed an image of growth and prosperity fueled by the economic boom of the late 1990s. But the good times were largely confined to Seattle and Portland. Rural areas are still struggling to crawl out of the hole created by downturns in natural resources-based industries: fishing, farming, mining and timber.

The specter of hunger in agricultural areas is "a weird, immoral irony," said Doug O'Brien, vice president of public policy and research at Chicago-based America's Second Harvest, the country's largest private hunger-relief charity. "The people that live in the very communities that raise the food we're going to feast on, one in ten of these households are hungry or at risk of hunger."

At the Matlock Food Bank, the roar of logging trucks on nearby roads testifies to the main industry in the county, one that's been declining since the 1980s. Areas like Matlock haven't yet found a substitute for the family-wage jobs that logging once provided.

Migrant workers flock to the area each fall, joining locals for the mushroom harvest, but the work is temporary and the pay low. Several mushroom pickers, their jeans and hands wet with mud stains, stop by the food bank.

Mushroom picker Barbara Thomas visits the Matlock food bank every Wednesday to get food for her six children, rushing so she can return to work in the woods before the afternoon light fades. Asked if she ever goes hungry because she can't afford to eat, she nodded curtly. "Yeah," she said. "Tuesdays."

Unemployment and prevalence of seasonal labor go hand-in-hand with hunger, experts say. Oregon, Washington and Alaska rank high in both jobless and hunger rates. Across the West, the agriculture industry relies on seasonal labor to harvest everything from mushrooms to apples. Families that work in the summer often can't make ends meet in the winter.

Many poor people could get help from the government but don't know it. Nationally, about 57 percent of people who are eligible for food stamps don't get them. Many believe receiving food stamps counts against their lifetime limit for welfare — it doesn't.

States are trying to raise awareness about the available benefits, but tight budgets make it hard to run advertising

campaigns. At the same time, private charities are struggling with a drop-off in donations of food and money because of the recession.

The go-go economy of the late 90s may have contributed to the hunger problem by driving up housing prices, experts said. Housing costs have skyrocketed in Seattle, Portland and similar cities, and income hasn't kept up, especially for low-wage workers. Housing costs have risen in rural areas too, though not as dramatically.

"Food is a cost that you can decide for short periods not to pay and get away with it. You have to pay the rent or you're out on the street. But you can go to bed hungry and still get up in the morning and go to work," said Michael Leachman, a researcher with the Oregon Center for Public Policy who studies hunger.

The allure of the West also contributes to its dark side. People move to places like Oregon and Washington in search of jobs or just a fresh start.

"It's a path we've taken in this country since the founding," said O'Brien at Second Harvest. "You keep going West when things are bad where you're at."

When something goes wrong — job loss, divorce or illness — new arrivals don't have an extended family network to support them.

That's what happened to Carolanne Grant, 38, who moved to Seattle from Connecticut in 1995 in search of a job. She found it, and kept her job as a janitorial supervisor even after her boyfriend kicked her out of their house and she started sleeping in bus shelters.

"I kept working, but it wasn't enough to pay rent," Grant said. "I walked up and down 3rd Avenue begging food. I told friends to bring leftovers to work. It was humiliating."

She got fired after she fell asleep at work. Now she lives at a homeless shelter and cooks lunch almost every day at the Church of Mary Magdalene, a downtown center for homeless women.

When the federal government first released state hunger rankings in the late 1990s, some policy makers in Oregon and Washington thought something must be wrong with the statistics, which come from Census surveys.

But several studies have reinforced the rankings, most recently the USDA report released in November. Now, even skeptics who don't entirely trust the data agree there's a problem.

"I'm still dubious," said Dennis Braddock, head of Washington's Department of Social and Health Services. But he's worried. A recent survey of Washington welfare recipients showed that 43 percent say they've eaten less due to lack of money in the last year, up from a third the year before.

"My concern," Braddock said, "is the problem seems to be getting worse."

How government measures hunger

By The Associated Press

The government measures hunger rates through yearly, national surveys conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. The Current Population Surveys ask a series of questions about how much people spend on food, where they buy food, and if they ever go hungry because they can't afford food.

The surveys ask people whether the following statements were true for their household often, sometimes, or never in the past year:

- Food didn't last and you didn't have money to get more.
- Adults cut the size of their meals or skipped meals because there wasn't enough money for food.
- You were hungry but didn't eat because you couldn't afford it.
- Adults did not eat for a whole day because you couldn't afford food.
- Couldn't afford balanced meals for children.
- Children were not eating enough because there wasn't enough money for food.

The survey also includes other questions. Based on the answers, households may be classified as "food insecure" or "food insecure with hunger."

Being food insecure means you don't know where your next meal is coming from. It could mean you rely on food banks or soup kitchens to provide meals for you and your family. Hunger is the more serious category, meaning you actually went without food for significant periods of time because you couldn't afford to eat.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture analyzes the survey data for its report on hunger in the U.S. Last year, according to the report:

- 11.5 million U.S. households, or 10.7 percent of the household population, was food insecure.
- In 3.5 million households, 3.3 percent, people actually went hungry.
- In 211,000 households, .6 percent of households with kids, children went hungry in 2001.

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NATIONAL

Montana's 'wine connoisseur' rule shows oddity of laws

BY MATT GOURAS

Associated Press Writer

HELENA, Mont. — To have his favorite wine shipped directly from a California winery, Montanan Gerard Lemieux wanted to make sure he did everything legally. The law, he knew, could be as twisted as an old grape vine.

Montana regulators said he needed a special state permit — a "connoisseur's license" — to have wine shipped directly to his home. Lemieux never claimed to be a connoisseur, but he shrugged it off and paid the \$50.

Then the state said he also would need to keep track of every purchase. Give special shipping labels to the wineries. Send more paperwork to regulators. File a state tax return every six months.

He did it all. But in the end, it was such a hassle that Lemieux threw up his hands in disgust. Next time he wants a few bottles from his favorite winery, he says, he's driving to the Napa Valley, filling the trunk of his car and hauling it back himself.

"There's nothing saying we can't do that," said Lemieux. "And in the end, it's easier."

The experience of Lemieux, a retired United Parcel Service worker from Missoula and one of just 10 Montanans holding a state connoisseur's license, is not uncommon for finicky wine lovers who want a broader selection than that available at the local store.

All states have laws to control the sale and shipment of alcohol, to ensure they can collect alcohol taxes and prevent sales to minors.

In recent years, however, the wine industry has persuaded some states to make exceptions for wine, arguing that minors aren't likely to try ordering fine merlots or chardonnays to get a buzz.

What has resulted is a confusing array of state rules and regulations that has often left wineries and wine lovers befuddled.

Thirteen states now have reciprocal agreements that allow residents in one state to order wine from another,

as long as the other state allows the same.

Fourteen states and Washington, D.C., allow wine shipments, but under tight limits or restrictions. Like Montana's law, many of the rules are so cumbersome, confusing or ambiguous that critics say wineries and even shipping companies like UPS won't ship to those states. Alaska, for instance, allows the direct shipment of a "reasonable" amount of wine, but never defines reasonable.

Wholesalers, who stand to lose business to direct sales, have resisted any move to exempt wine from state alcohol rules.

"The argument is that fine wines are not alcohol, but if you start opening the door, everything flows through," said Craig Wolf, an attorney for the Washington, D.C.-based Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of America.

For wineries, though, the myriad rules mean anytime a resident of another state places an order — whether by phone, mail or through the Internet — the winery is supposed to make sure shipping there is legal.

"We see this really as a matter of fairness for consumers," says Steve Gross, state relations manager for the Wine Institute, a California-based trade group. "It seems unfair that a consumer from one state can have wine shipped to his home to enjoy, and a consumer from another state is told 'sorry, we're not allowed to ship to you because of where you live.'"

Truchard Vineyards of Napa Valley takes orders over the Internet, but is careful about where it ships. The company's Web site lists the states where it can ship wine unfettered. Potential buyers from other states are asked to inquire before ordering because other state rules can change "on almost a daily basis," the winery says.

"It's a hassle," said Truchard's Linda Carr. "We'd love to see things different because we're missing a huge part of the consumer market."

In Massachusetts, wine makers say such state laws are hampering that state's fledgling wine industry.

At the Hill Vineyard in Dartmouth, owner Robert DeGrazia has to sell "every last drop" of his 1,500 cases a year within Massachusetts. That state's law forbids

wineries to ship directly to consumers, and his winery is too small to have been noticed by wholesale distributors.

"California wineries are 3,000 miles away and they're beating us up because we can't cross state lines," he said.

The disagreement has resulted in about half a dozen lawsuits — from Florida to New York to Washington state — usually filed by wineries or wine lovers. The lawsuits have pitted wineries and small, retail wine stores against wholesaler suppliers.

Both sides of the debate acknowledge direct shipments, if allowed in all 50 states, would still probably amount to only a small portion of all wine sales. Currently, direct shipments, including sales direct from wine tasting rooms, account for less than 10 percent of all wine sales, according to one Wine Institute estimate.

States treat wine shipping differently

By The Associated Press

A breakdown of how states regulate the shipment of wine directly to consumers.

■ Shipments allowed on a reciprocal basis:

California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington, Wisconsin, West Virginia.

■ Shipments allowed with restrictions or special permits:

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INTERNATIONAL



Six Pakistanis, four Somalis suspects held in attacks

BY MATTHEW ROSENBERG
Associated Press Writer

MOMBASA, Kenya — With Israeli and American authorities casting suspicion on al-Qaida or its allies, Kenyan authorities investigating the twin assaults on Israeli targets there focused quickly on foreign suspects, reporting Friday they had arrested six Pakistanis, four Somalis, an American and a Spaniard.

Al-Qaida carried out almost simultaneous bombings to the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998 that killed 231 people — including 12 Americans — and injured about 5,000.

Police spokesman King'ori Mwangi said police picked up nine of the foreigners on an Indian Ocean beach in the Mombasa area Friday morning. He declined to say if those suspects were attempting to leave the country by boat.

Mwangi also said all but two of the suspects in custody were traveling on what he termed "suspicious" passports, perhaps alluding to Somalia where it is possible to obtain a travel document in less than an hour. The lawless country has not had a functioning government for more than a decade and is believed to be a refuge for some al-Qaida operatives.

Two shoulder-fired surface-to-air missiles were launched against an Israeli charter jet leaving Mombasa airport Thursday morning, narrowly missing the Arika Airlines Boeing 757 with 261 passengers and 10 crew members. It landed safely in Tel Aviv with no casualties.

A few minutes later a vehicle packed with explosives broke through the gate at the oceanside Paradise Hotel. One attacker ran into the lobby and blew himself up, while two others exploded the vehicle. The bombs killed 10 Kenyans, three Israelis and the three bombers.

President Daniel arap Moi visited the shell of the destroyed hotel Friday and bemoaned that his country had again been caught in the middle of global terrorism.

"We are very bitter because our economy relies upon people who come here freely," he said.

Citizens echoed their president's frustration.

"The Kenyans died instantly; the only thing wrong they did was to go to work ... all these people are fighting their enemies in my country," said Daniel Mbui, a janitor at another resort hotel. "It's not Kenyans who were intended to be killed; this suffering was not for us."

The American woman and a Spanish man were taken into custody about 90 minutes after the bombing Thursday, but may have mistakenly been caught in the police dragnet, sources close to the investigation said.

But a top police official suggested otherwise.

"Immediately after the incident we detained two people for interrogation, arising from the information they gave us ... by this morning, we were able to also detain 10 people," Police Commissioner Philemon Abong'o told reporters.

Deputy Police Commissioner William Langat later told reporters the six Pakistanis and four Somalis were detained on Monday for attempting to enter the country on fake passports produced in neighboring Somalia. It was impossible to reconcile the differences in the two authorities' accounts.

The American and the Spaniard, believed traveling as husband and wife, were arrested as they checked out of a



Karel Prinsloo/Associated Press

A Kenyan soldier guards Israeli citizens as they arrive at Mombasa airport during an evacuation by Israeli security personnel early Friday, after the bombing at the Paradise hotel north of Mombasa Thursday. In a twin attack reminiscent of al-Qaida's well-coordinated 1998 assault on the U.S. embassies in East Africa, suicide bombers in Kenya killed 12 people at an Israeli-owned beach hotel and two missiles narrowly missed an airliner carrying home Israeli holidaymakers.

hotel near to the one that was hit by the suicide attackers.

U.S. Embassy spokesman Peter Claussen confirmed that an American woman, and a Spanish man with U.S. resident status and believed to be her husband, were being detained. He declined to identify the pair.

A police source, however, named the woman as Alicia Kalhammer who was said to have used a Florida address when she checked into Le Soleil Beach Club, 3 miles from the Paradise Hotel, on Nov. 26. The source was unable to identify the man because the couple checked in under Kalhammer's name.

In Washington, initial suspicion centered on two groups: al-Qaida and al-Itihaad al-Islamiya, a Somali Islamic group suspected of having links to bin Laden's network, said a U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity Friday. It is also possible the two groups were working together, the official said.

Simultaneous attacks, like those on the airliner and hotel, are an al-Qaida trade-

mark, officials said, also noting that bin Laden's recent audio message threatened Israelis. Over the last year, U.S. intelligence has detected signs al-Qaida was looking to strike in the Horn of Africa, the official said.

All of these groups have access to the shoulder-fired surface-to-air missiles that were launched at the airliner, officials said. Those missiles are easy to obtain on the international arms market.

Officials said it appeared the two missiles were fired by someone standing in a gully next to the airfield. A white four-wheel drive vehicle had been parked at the spot about 1 mile the airfield, police said.

They recovered missile launchers and two missile casings, a government statement said. There was no official information on the kind of missile used, but reports in the Israeli press suggested it could have been a Russian-made Strela shoulder-fired surface-to-air missile.

The Daily Nation newspaper reported that investigators were examining possi-

ble links between the attacks and five Pakistanis and two Somalis detained Monday near the port of Mombasa after they were found with Somali passports all issued on the same day in Mogadishu, the Somali capital. Mwangi refused to comment on the reports.

The previously unknown Army of Palestine claimed responsibility for the attacks. But Palestinian officials denied that any Palestinian group was involved, and Kenyan and Israeli officials have said they suspect Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network was behind the attacks.

U.S. officials said it is too soon to link any specific al-Qaida operatives to the plot. Several key al-Qaida figures charged in connection with the 1998 embassy bombings remain at large, including Saif al-Adil, bin Laden's security chief, and Abu Mohamed al-Masri, a top trainer and operational planner who is also known as Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah.

The leader of a militant Islamic organization in London said he had been aware of threats against East Africa for several days.

Sheik Omar Bakri Mohammed, head of Al-Muhajiroun, said unspecified warnings had been posted on Web sites and on Internet chat rooms.

"The warning has been sent to the Muslim community around the world ... that Israel would pay a heavy price in East Africa," he told the British Broadcasting Corp.

The hotel attack was a grim reminder of the bombing last month of a disco on the Indonesian resort island of Bali, in which more than 190 people, mostly foreign tourists, were killed.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has put the Mossad spy agency in charge of investigating Thursday's attacks.

The Israeli army sent a team of 150 doctors, psychologists, and soldiers to Kenya's Indian Ocean coast — a popular tourist destination — after the attacks.

Gilad Millo, a spokesman for the Israeli Foreign Ministry, said 235 Israeli tourists, including 15 injured in the blast, flew home Friday. The bodies of the three Israelis killed in the attack were also onboard the evacuation flight.

U.N.: Nearly 40 nations face food shortages

By The Associated Press

ROME — Nearly 40 countries, most of them in Africa, are facing serious food problems, a U.N. agency said Friday.

Twenty-five of the 39 countries facing food shortages are in Africa, the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organization said in its November issue of "Foodcrops and Shortages," which is published five times a year.

Zimbabwe, Ethiopia and Eritrea are particularly affected, the agency said.

Southern Africa has suffered two consecutive bad harvests and Zimbabwe's economic and political problems have worsened the situation in that country.

"Food assistance to the neediest is inadequate and slow in coming, while commercial imports are hampered by the worsening economic crisis," the report said.

Acute shortages of corn, the staple food for Zimbabwe's 12.5 million people, have been blamed on drought and the government's chaotic program to seize thousands of white-owned commercial farms for redistribution to black settlers.

Economic turmoil over the past two years has left more than 60 percent of Zimbabwe's population jobless. Tens of thousands of black farm workers have lost their livelihood in farm seizures.

On Thursday, the U.N. World Food Program said 6.7 million Zimbabweans could need food aid, and the WFP's resources fall far short of meeting that need.

In Mozambique, almost 600,000 people need food aid because their crops were wiped out by drought, the country's agriculture minister, Helder Muteia, said Friday. About 207,564 acres of land that normally yielded crops had produced nothing this year, he said.

Massive flooding during the past two years that wiped out large swaths of cropland has compounded Mozambique's food shortage.

The government was trying to address the problem by distributing seed and agricultural implements and rebuilding damaged irrigation systems, but Mozambique still desperately needed more aid, Muteia said.

In East Africa, drought also has caused serious shortages. Ethiopia has asked for food aid for about 6 million people, while neighboring Eritrea has asked for aid for about 1.4 million people.

In Asia, North Korea was among the hardest-hit countries.

"Donor pledges are urgently needed to cover the WFP emergency operation for the remainder of 2002 and the first quarter of 2003," the Rome-based agency said.

Afghanistan has enjoyed a recovery in agricultural production, but the return of refugees could lead to a funding shortage, it said.

The supply of food in the West Bank and Gaza Strip also is suffering from curfews and military operations, the report said.



SPORTS

IOC puts off decision on deleting sports until after 2004

MEXICO CITY — Baseball, softball and modern pentathlon are staying in the Olympics, for now at least.

Three months after an Olympic panel proposed dropping the three sports for the 2008 Beijing Games, the IOC decided Friday to put off any vote until after the 2004 Athens Games.

The decision sharply reduces the chances the sports will be dropped from Beijing's schedule, because of the short amount of notice. Also, the vote probably rules out the chances of golf or rugby being added for Beijing, as had been proposed.

The two-year postponement was a defeat for International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge, who had commissioned the proposed changes and pushed for a vote this week.

"I don't think I misjudged anything," Rogge insisted.

He said the sports could still be dropped for Beijing.

"It all will depend on how the three federations perform in Athens," Rogge said. "The decision could affect 2008 or 2012. No date is fixed."

However, IOC members said they fully expect the sports to stay through 2008 at least. The first scheduled IOC session after Athens is in 2005, when members will be selecting the 2012 host city.

"They're in for 2008," Canadian member Paul Henderson said. "Nobody's going to kick out a sport in 2005. These guys are in until 2012, there's no question about it."

The sports expressed mixed feelings over the postponement, suggesting they had been left in limbo.

"It doesn't make our life easier," modern pentathlon chief Klaus Schormann said, citing uncertainty among his sport's sponsors.

"But the clouds are not dark as at the beginning. They are light, feathery clouds."

Softball federation president Don Porter said he had hoped for a more definitive decision.

"What I'm satisfied with is the amount of support we got from the IOC members," he said. "I'm disappointed that they didn't come to a vote. I think we would probably have prevailed. This kind of keeps us under a shadow."

After 10-minute presentations to the assembly by leaders of the three endangered sports, dozens of rank-and-file IOC members took the floor to question the whole process and push for a postponement.

Of the 39 speakers, not a single one spoke in favor of the proposals to cut the sports.

"It is urgent to wait," Senegalese member Youssoupha Ndiaye said in a statement that summed up much of the 2 1/2-hour debate.

Rogge then conferred with his executive board and submitted a proposal to put off any deletion of sports until after Athens.

Of the 117 attending members, only two raised their hands against the postponement, while four abstained. On a separate motion, the members approved the "general principles" of the IOC's review of the sports program.

The last sport dropped from the Summer Olympics was polo in 1936, and IOC members made clear they had no desire for radical change now.

The IOC program commission recommended in August that the three sports be cut from the Beijing Olympics. The report cited lack of global popularity, high venue costs and, in the case of baseball, the absence of top major league players.

But the sports waged a successful lobbying campaign, and many IOC members

said they had not been given sufficient input or time to make a decision.

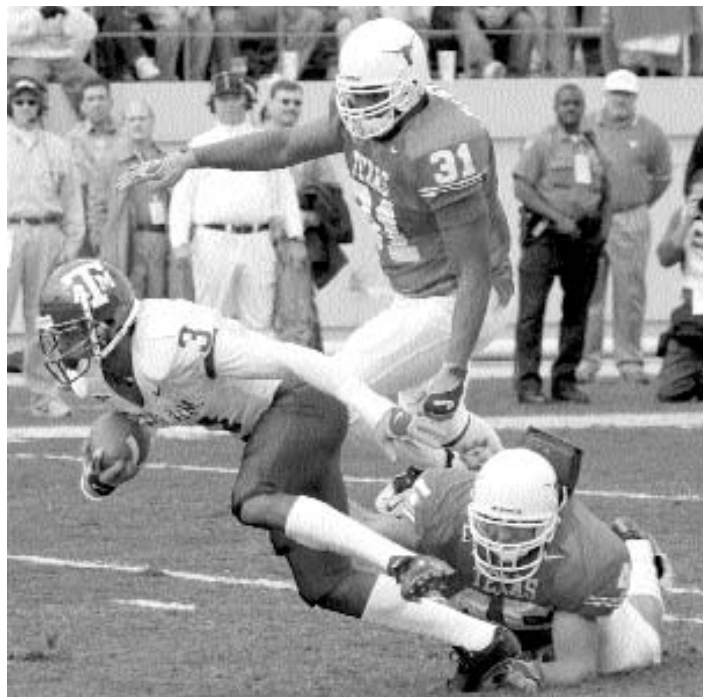
Senior Canadian member Dick Pound said Rogge and his executive board must have realized they had little support because they never endorsed the proposals.

"I think a lot of it was to keep the program commission from going under and going down in flames," he said. "But I don't approach this as a triumph or failure

on the part of Jacques. If the program commission did nothing else it sure got everybody's attention."

Baseball has been a medal sport since 1992. Softball, a women-only event, was added in 1996. Modern pentathlon, a five-sport discipline created by modern Olympics founder Pierre de Coubertin, was introduced in 1912.

A battle of the Texans



Eric Gay/Associated Press

Texas A&M's Terrence Thomas (3) breaks away from Texas defenders Reed Boyd (45) and O.J. McClintock as he scores on a 9 yard pass reception during the first quarter in Austin, Texas, on Friday. 10th-ranked Texas beat A&M 50-20.

Jordan to step away for good

BY DAN GELSTON

Associated Press Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Michael Jordan's first retirement began in October 1993, the second in January 1999. Neither stuck, of course.

This time, Jordan insists, he means it.

One of the NBA's greatest players ever will be 40 at the end of this season, and he says he won't be back for another.

"I just want to fulfill my year and enjoy it," Jordan said Friday before his Washington Wizards played the Indiana Pacers. "From that point, I'll just move on."

Let the Michael Jordan Farewell Tour begin.

The NBA and its TV partners will have one final chance to cash in on the league's top revenue generator in history.

"Michael's done a lot for the league," said Patrick Ewing, long a foil for Jordan while playing for the Knicks and now an assistant coach with the Wizards. "He was definitely the best player in my era. If he feels it's time for him to go, then I guess it's time."

Jordan said Thursday there was "zero chance" he will play next season.

When he walked away from the game for the second time, winner of six NBA championships with the Chicago Bulls, he

said he was 99.9 percent sure he'd never return.

Nonetheless, he came back to the NBA as a player in October 2001, saying he still had a competitive urge.

That's been satisfied, Jordan maintains. Honest.

"It's about that time," he said. "That itch is about to be completed."

Jordan signed a two-year, \$2.1 million deal last year after stepping down from his executive duties with Washington. Now he plans to return to his role as part owner of the Wizards.

"I think we have the right people in place that they will continue their education when I go back upstairs," he said. "My understanding was to make sure the guys understood what it took to play on this level and learn certain things. I think they're getting it."

Creaky knees and life as a sixth man have diminished Jordan's production. He failed to score at least 10 points in five of the Wizards' first 14 games this season, and he's yet to reach 30.

In one of the worst games of his 15-year career, Jordan scored only eight points and — What?! — missed a break-away dunk in a loss to Toronto.

The replay of the blown dunk was shown over and over. Jordan showed that he still has some game in his legs by scor-

ing 21 points in 21 minutes the next night against the Celtics.

Jordan, though, no longer can produce 30-point games night after night. What he is hoping for is one last postseason run.

While his Bulls teams routinely finished with one of the best records in the league, the Wizards missed the playoffs last season and entered Friday 6-8 with a four-game losing skid.

Jordan's scoring average of 16.6 points is second on the team (Jerry Stackhouse averages 21.7) — and nothing like his heyday, when he averaged at least 30 a game for seven straight seasons in the 1980s and '90s.

Jordan said he wants to see the Wizards' young core of Kwame Brown, Juan Dixon and Jared Jeffries develop into a playoff-caliber team without him. They are players — like so many 20-somethings in the league — who grew up with posters of Jordan on their bedroom walls.

Dixon, Washington's first-round draft pick in June, is thrilled running the court with his basketball idol at least for one season.

"I got the opportunity," Dixon said. "You're never disappointed when you get

the chance to play with Michael Jordan."

In hopes of qualifying for the playoffs one last time, Jordan told Wizards coach Doug Collins his minutes should no longer be limited by concerns over his knees.

The goal has been to give Jordan about 30 minutes a game. He played a season-high 34 in a loss to the Pacers on Tuesday, and is averaging 28.2.

"If we're winning, then my minutes are OK," Jordan said. "I don't mind the young kids playing, but if I feel like we're not winning or I can contribute more, then I'd like my minutes to increase. ... It's not that I want to average 40 minutes a night."

Jordan was surprised Friday by all the attention, saying he always planned to retire when his contract expired.

"I'm not looking to extend my contract," he said. "If that was the case, I would have extended it myself before I even came back."

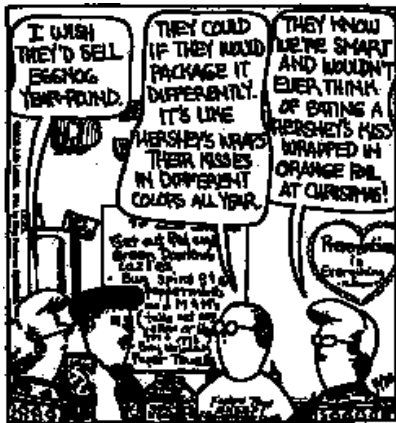
Perhaps this time Jordan should be believed.

"I have no regrets. None at all," he said. "I'm very happy with everything I've done."

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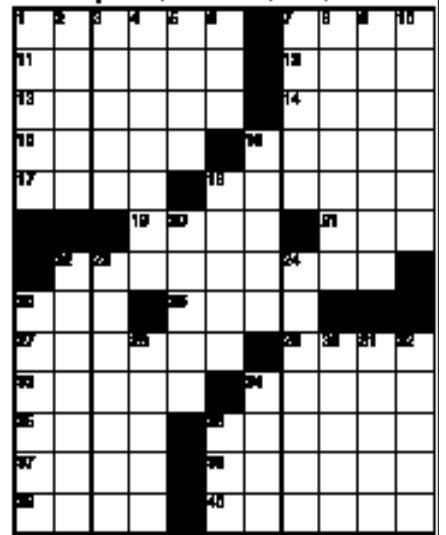
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 - 11 Ellington
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- DOWN**
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

Man creates art from styrofoam cups

Retired graphics designer J. Jules Vitali has created more than 1,000 pieces of small art in his preferred medium, foam polystyrene (Styrofoam) cups (some with flourishes of acrylics or bronze), according to an October Boston Globe profile. He took up his craft with a carry-out coffee cup and a Craftsman knife 20 years ago, inspired, he said, by boredom. A display of his "Styrogami," with pieces priced at up to \$800, is housed at the Freeport (Maine) Public Library.



*Only "Free Range" Indians used in this cartoon.



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SANTA MONICA \$1000.00 Guest House, pet ok, crpt, prknng. Westside Rentals 395-RENT

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Houses For Rent

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1318 Second Street, Santa Monica. Approximately 600 square feet. 2 ocean view offices w/reception. RTH Management (949)916-1430. Parking available.

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BLISSFUL RELAXATION! Heal your body, mind, spirit. Therapeutic, Swedish, Deep-tissue. energy balancing, non-sexual. Introductory specials from \$45.00/hr. In/out. Lynda, L.M.T. (310)749-0621

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CLASSIFIEDS



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MASSAGE/ESCORT (Playboy model) The lovely Dessarae. Beautiful body & face waiting for you. (213)308-9711 (310)319-1361.

REVITALIZE & Rejuvenate. Body, Mind & Spirit with a therapeutic Swedish/Deep-tissue massage. Laura (310)394-2923 (310)569-0883.

Therapeutic Massage, Swedish, Acupressure, Deep-tissue, Sports Massage, Reflexology. For apt call Tracy at (310)435-0657.

Services

HOUSE CLEANING Janet's at Your Service! House, yards, garage. Parties w/ hot dog cart! (310)367-5436 (818)545-8914

HOUSE CLEANING - Available 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Windows, laundry, general house cleaning. References available. Reasonable. Reasonable prices. Call Lalo (310) 313-0848.

Computer Services

COMPUTER HELP: Your home or office. Tutoring Microsoft Word, Excel, Internet navigation. Please call (310)207-3366.

Attorney Services

SPIRITUAL ATTORNEY Conscious caring help. 32 years experience. Low cost: Divorce, Support, Criminal, Business. (310)837-0801.

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DIABETIC WEIGHT-LOSS Bath Shampoo. Free sample. Ralph Sahara, P.O. Box 62174, Honolulu, HI.

EXPERIENCED MAKE-UP ARTIST! Weddings & Special Events. Local references available. (310)702-8778 / (323)559-9033. Nina & Alex.

Personals

FINANCIAL SECURE 70 seeking 50 plus, petite, secure lady for companion, travel, hiking, homelife. (310)452-3131.

MY NAME is Robert. 50/yr. old caucasian male looking for a 50/yr. old caucasian gal for some real fun. Not a financial free ride! Don't be bashful. (310)394-1533.

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310.458.7737 ext.101

Calendar

Saturday, November 30, 2002

movies

Loews Broadway Cinema
1441 Third St. at Broadway
Femme Fatale (R) 12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40. Half Past Dead (PG-13) 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10. The Emperor's Club (PG-13) 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20. Ararat (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00.

Mann Criterion
1313 Third St.
The Ring (PG-13) 12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 10:20. Punch-Drunk Love (R) 11:45, 2:15, 4:50, 7:30, 10:15. Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (PG) 9:30, 12:00, 1:00, 3:30, 4:40, 7:00, 8:00, 10:30. Extreme Ops 11:30, 2:00, 4:45, 7:35, 10:10. Friday After Next (R) 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:25.

AMC Theatre SM 7
1310 3rd Street
Santa Clause 2 (G) 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 9:55. 8 Mile (R) 2:25, 5:10, 8:00, 10:45. Treasure Planet (PG) 12:00, 1:45, 2:30, 4:10, 4:55, 6:40, 7:15, 9:00, 9:40. Die Another Day (PG-13) 1:10, 1:55, 4:15, 5:00, 7:25, 8:10, 10:30, 11:10. Adam Sandler's Eight Crazy Nights (PG-13) 12:10, 2:15, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45.

Landmark Nu-Wilshire
1314 Wilshire Blvd.
Bowling for Columbine (R) 1:30, 4:15, 7:30, 10:15. Far From Heaven (PG-13) 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30.

Laemmle Monica
1332 2nd St.
Real Women Have Curves (PG-13) 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00. The Fourth Tenor 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15. The Quiet American (R) 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40. El Cimen del Padre Amaro (R) 1:30, 4:20, 7:15, 10:05.

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
Femme Fatale 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

Today

Farmer's Market every Wednesday and Saturday. 9am to 2pm, Arizona between Second and Fourth Streets. Come and enjoy one of the largest and best farmer's markets in California!

Weekly Storytime, 11:00 a.m. Come to Barnes & Noble for Saturday readings with the kids! Call 310-260-9110 for more information.

MAGICOPOLIS presents HOCUS POCUS! (Fish Bones Choke Us). The stage explodes with a colorful mix of Magic, Special Effects, Sleight of Hand, Comedy and Music that's sure to delight audiences of all ages. At MAGICOPOLIS, 1418 Fourth Street, Santa Monica. Fridays & Saturdays at 8pm, \$20. Saturday & Sundays at 2pm, \$15. For tickets call 310-451-2241.

Puppetolio! presented by the Santa Monica Puppet & Magic Center. All ages, 3 and up. This musical revue features marionettes, ventriloquism, magic and more. Shows are always followed by a demonstration, Q & A, and a tour of the Puppet workshop and Museum.

Saturdays and Sundays at 1pm and 3pm. Wednesdays and Holidays at 1pm. Seats are \$6.50. 1255 2nd Street in Santa Monica. Reservations/Information (310)656-0483. www.puppetmagic.com

Santa Monica High School Theater Arts Department presents Romeo & Juliet. Friday and Saturday nights at 8:00pm. November 22nd through December 21st. \$10.00 for students, children, and seniors. \$15.00 for adults. Humanities Center Theater at Santa Monica High School, 601 Pico Blvd. For more information please call (310)458-5939.

Dodd Art Gallery showing Dafne Nesti "Paintings" and Dodd Jolsapple "New Works". Nov. 17th through Dec. 16th, 5pm to 8pm, 1650 20th Street, Santa Monica. For more information please call (310) 828-5825.

Comedy Underground presents Comedy Hideout's Pepper Childs! Show starts at 10pm, admission is \$5.00. 320 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. For more information please call (310)451-1800.

Chabad Montana Hanukkah Celebration, Third St. Promenade, at sunset. Music,

dancing and lighting of the menorah.

Music Showcase. UnUrban Coffeehouse. 3301 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, (310)315-0056.

The Empty State Theater at 2372 Veteran Ave. in W. Los Angeles proudly presents: "The Fortune Room Lounge Show" A musical improv show featuring the "Stella Ray Trio" and "The Lucky Players". Every Saturday night at 10:00 p.m. Admission is \$10.00, drinks included w/admission. Lots of parking! For information or reservations please call (310)470-3560.

Sunday

Children's Arts and Crafts - Sunday Dec. 1, 8, 15. Noon to 3pm, Third St. Promenade. The Skirball Cultural Center hosts arts and crafts activities for children.

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Almost Vaudville. 2 pm and 5 pm. UnUrban Coffeehouse. 3301 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, (310)315-0056.

Santa Monica Pier Carousel Grand Re-opening Holiday Event.

Calendar items are printed free of charge as a service to our readers. Please submit your items to todayspaper@smdp.com for consideration. Calendar events are limited by space, and will be run at the discretion of the Calendar Editor.

KEEP YOUR DATE STRAIGHT

Promote your event in the Santa Monica Daily Press Calendar section.
Fax all information to our Calendar Editor: Attention Angela @ 310.576.9913



BACK PAGE

Fruitcake maker says the dessert 'gets no respect'

BY SUSAN PARROTT

Associated Press Writer

CORSICANA, Texas — The way Bob McNutt sees it, there are two kinds of fruitcake people.

The naysayers see fruitcake as the Rodney Dangerfield of desserts. It gets no respect, and nary a nibble.

The "dee-vo-tees," as the Collin Street Bakery president calls them, order early and often, shipping fruitcakes around the world and savoring the sweet dessert like a fine wine.

"It's got a wonderful long finish, which is unusual for food," said McNutt, who prefers an after-dinner slice with a glass of port.

And he's not the only one to elevate fruitcake to gourmet status. He says "foodie" magazines also are featuring the deserts made in Corsicana and elsewhere.

So why the bad rap for such a culinary delight?

Maybe the critics have only tried inferior varieties, McNutt said.

"It's like picking a steakhouse," he said. "You can get a steak as tough as leather or a prime piece you can cut with a fork."

McNutt says his bakery's original Deluxe fruitcake, made with the same recipe bakery founders brought from Germany more than a century ago, is the top chop — with a price tag starting at about \$18.

The bakery, which had sales of \$39 million in 2001 — most from mail-order fruitcake sales — produced 1.5 million fruitcakes last year, each made within days of shipping.

One style is made of 30 percent Texas

pecans, along with pineapple and papaya grown by the bakery in Costa Rica.

Other varieties are pineapple and pecan; apricot and pecan; and apple cinnamon and pecan. The bakery uses a million pounds of pecans each year, McNutt said.

For many customers, a good fruitcake harkens back to earlier days, when their mothers and grandmothers baked the treat as a holiday tradition.

"Fruitcake is a comfort food," McNutt said. "When you talk about Christmas and the holidays, you get warm and fuzzy feelings."

The bakery recently commissioned a telephone poll of 804 people, who said the dense dessert conjured up thoughts of

home, hearth, family and friends. More than one in four said they have given a fruitcake, and many of those sent more than one. High-volume givers were much more likely to be men.

Verna Rogers of Athens sends fruitcakes each year to her sister in Austin and daughter in Montana. Though her grandson didn't care for the cake, the rest of the family is hooked, she said.

"You couldn't make a better cake," she said, peeking through a viewing window to the Corsicana bakery's production floor. "The ingredients are always perfect."

The bakery runs at full throttle each fall, with more than 700 workers on three

shifts.

Lined at long steel tables, the workers are mostly women wearing aprons and hair nets. Working quickly, they place an exact number of red cherries and green-dyed pineapple to cakes on conveyor belts to huge ovens.

McNutt and other administrative staff taste samples each day, a quality-control bonus that none seem to mind.

By the way, fruitcakes don't last forever, McNutt says. The Deluxe cake will keep up to six months refrigerated, and a while longer frozen.

Shuffle it around each holiday, though, and it will become the doorstep of legend.

Try cooking your turkey in a compost heap

By The Associated Press

THERMAL — While other people are fiddling with barbecue grills, deep-fryers and even something as conventional as an oven this Thanksgiving, John Beerman will reach into a simmering mound of fertilizer, pull out a fully-cooked turkey, and serve it to his family.

And for the third year in a row, Beerman expects, his holiday bird will draw raves for its succulence and flavor.

"We're going to have compost turkey," said Beerman, co-owner of California Bio-Mass Inc., a company that turns green waste into organic fertilizer. "This is basically like a luau."

Beerman spent parts of Monday and Tuesday looking for the best on the firm's

sprawling, 40-acre site to slow-cook his entree. He stabbed a three-foot-long thermometer probe into different compost heaps to find one hot enough for baking.

Beerman figured a compost pile could double as a natural oven for a Thanksgiving turkey because a naturally occurring bacteria in the green waste that go into it combine with water and air to make heat, raising temperatures inside to 130 degrees or more.

The process kills pathogens, harmful plants and seeds in the green waste and breaks down herbicides and pesticides, leaving a safe organic fertilizer for gardens and farms, he said.

Turning landscape trimmings, grass, leaves, pine needles, citrus and plants into fertilizer can take anywhere from six

months to two years. Because of the low temperature at which it is cooked, compost turkey can seem nearly as time-consuming compared to conventional methods.

Beerman's first compost turkey, for instance, resulted from trial and error. He dug a hole, dropped in a bird and cooked it for 12 hours at 160 degrees. But he had to keep coming back because the turkey needed 24 hours to cook thoroughly.

"Then I pulled it out and the meat was just falling off the bone," he said.

Beerman served the baked bird to friends in Big Bear. When they complimented the chef, he told them, "Guess what? I cooked it in a compost pile."

This year, though, he isn't planning to spring any more surprises on his family.

Meet Wolfgang!

Holiday Dessert Party & Book Signing

When: Sunday, Dec. 15th

**Book Signing
and Holiday Dessert Party**
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

With: **WOLFGANG PUCK**

1323 Montana Avenue
Santa Monica, CA

Price: Book Signing - Open to public

Holiday Dessert Party
includes dessert buffet and
a copy of "Live, Love, Eat!"
\$30 per guest

Advance reservations are required.
Reservations for the Holiday Dessert Party



Special
Price!

Click the link for more information on the book signing and holiday dessert party.

Wolfgang Puck is a world-renowned chef, author, and restaurateur. His new book, "Live, Love, Eat!", is a collection of his favorite recipes and stories. The book is available for a special price during the holiday season.

(310) 454-0250

Blue Cross of California Kids Safe Day 2002



present an afternoon of fun, food
prizes and child safety.

Saturday, December 7, 2002
11:00a.m. 3:00p.m.

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1310 11th Street, Santa Monica
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FREE photos & fingerprinting — to keep
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FREE DNA kits—for parents to retain.

FREE kids' safety tips.

FREE eye exams.

FREE food and entertainment.

FREE prizes and raffle.

Meet special guests Nathan Fillion
and Adam Baldwin!

Santa Monica Police K-9!
See Police Cars and Fire Trucks!

For more information call, 310.575.1927

