

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

Economic forecast not all gloom and doom



Jack Kyser, a local economist, speaks at the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce luncheon on Tuesday. The economy will bounce back and businesses will survive, he told the group.

BY CAROLYN SACKARIASON
Daily Press Staff Writer

The economic forecast for Southern California may be dismal, but it's nothing we can't recover from.

That was the message from Jack Kyser, chief economist for the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp., on Tuesday. Kyser told dozens of Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce members the local economy is already showing signs of bouncing back. However, he also said people should expect the pain to last a little while longer.

"The forecast is a modest recovery; there will be no barn burning but we will survive," Kyser said, adding that a 2.3 percent growth in the Gross National Product this year indicates times won't be as tough as they have been.

And while the GNP's fourth quarter looks weak this year and may be unnering to some, there is dim light at the end of the tunnel, Kyser said.

"You have a recovery, but not a traditional recovery," he said.

For the past several years, consumers have been carrying the economy. But because they have less disposable income these days, business owners are feeling the pinch, Kyser said.

He said people should be concerned that personal bankruptcies are on the rise, hotel bookings in Santa Monica are down

and a lot of office space is vacant.

But merchants can find solace in the fact that the standard economic forecast shows holiday sales should increase 3 to 4 percent over last year, Kyser said. Despite that many indexes say consumer confidence is down, one only needs to look at the busy shopping malls throughout Southern California this past weekend to realize it's not all gloom and doom, he said.

"We are not in an era anymore when you can kick back and think everything is going to be OK."

— JACK KYSER
L.A. County Economic Development Corp.

"It says people are not going out, that they are staying at home with the lights off and the shades down," Kyser said. "That's not the case."

If the Third Street Promenade's strong activity over the past weekend is any indication, holiday sales should hold steady over last year, officials say. But that's not what's happening in other parts of the state. Kyser reported that retailers in

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Homeowners may get more say in preservation

Some say City Hall is trying to confuse voters

BY ANDREW H. FIXMER
Daily Press Staff Writer

Any ballot measure regarding historic districts should give residents a stronger say in the future of their homes, the landmarks commission recommended Monday.

Santa Monica residents most likely will vote in a March special election on whether homeowners should have a say in their properties being designated as historic, or if government can do it on its own. Right now, homeowners don't have control over whether their properties are deemed landmarks.

The landmarks commission, which routinely designates buildings as historic, has made numerous recommendations to the city council on what changes need to be made to the city's current preservation law.

The city council may write a referendum at its Dec. 12 meeting, when it must decide whether to adopt as law or let voters decide the fate of the "Homeowners Freedom of Choice Initiative," which pro-

poses making historic preservation voluntary for owners of single-family homes.

"We want more outreach to let people know what a historic district really is. Right now there seems to be a lot of confusion out there."

— BARBARA SCHNITZLER
Landmarks Commissioner

An historic district is a group of homes that are designated by the government as having some social or historic value. Homes over 40 years old can be deemed a structure of merit, which limits the homeowner from making exterior changes and prevents them from tearing

See COMMISSION, page 5

Hare Krishnas land in court after citation on Promenade

By staff and wire reports

Hare Krishna devotees were given a slap on the wrist by a Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Tuesday for illegally selling books on the Third Street Promenade.

City law requires that books on the Promenade be sold by the author, which was not the case this summer when two Hare Krishna devotees stationed themselves on the outdoor mall and asked for donations for books. They were cited with a misdemeanor charge for vending without a permit, said Deputy City Attorney Patrick Brooks.

Santa Monica Superior Court Judge Bernard Kamins imposed a \$100 fine against one of the defendants and then waived it for unknown reasons. The other charge against another devotee had been previously dropped.

Hare Krishnas — or any group — are allowed under the Constitution to express themselves in public. The Hare Krishnas are free to return to the Promenade.

Meanwhile, David M. Lieberman, the attorney representing the Hare Krishna devotees in Santa Monica, also is battling their right to express themselves in other public places.

Three decades after California courts first confronted the issue of Hare Krishna devotees soliciting money in airports, the sect was in the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals where a judge suggested Monday they had come to the wrong place.

The point of law that was to have been argued was whether Los Angeles International Airport is a "public forum" under the Constitution, open to all who wish to propound their ideas.

Krishna members have long maintained they have a right to distribute literature and solicit donations at public forums which are places for free discussion. They have been involved in litigation on related matters since 1974, according to lawyer Barry Fisher, who was one of those

See HARE KRISHNAS, page 5

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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ A strange happening might stop you in your tracks. Someone you count on could reveal a completely different side in the next few weeks. Use your creativity to fill in the gaps, where some information might be obscure. Tonight: Put on a favorite piece of music.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ You might count on a partner or associate way too much, as the next few weeks could reveal. You have the know-how and energy to get through a problem. Start by listing your emotional and professional assets. See how much you have to offer! Tonight: Accept a fun invitation.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Clearly, others reveal a lot about who they are and where they are coming from. You might need and/or want to step back to get a clearer view of the big picture. Reach out to others. Refuse to stand on ceremony. Tonight: Go along with others' plans.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Don't count on funds that might not have arrived just yet. Meanwhile, a work-related project could be up for some changes. Understand that ultimately, your success will be ensured by the tightening up of plans. Tonight: Chat and relax.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You could be a little off, as Jupiter goes retrograde in your sign today. Relax and see what comes up. Perhaps something you didn't anticipate will come forward. Even if it seems like a problem, it could ultimately prevent a bigger problem. Use your creativity. Tonight: Be imaginative.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ You might sense a change in the wind. You could be most uncomfortable with developments. Just relax and remain secure. You have much more talent and ability than you might be aware of. Speak directly with family or a roommate. Tonight: You don't have to go far.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Your efforts do count, as you shall see. Friends seek you out. One person who might have been very secure suddenly seems less steady. Be sensitive to this person's request. Could you perhaps have been callous or taken someone for granted? Tonight: Make amends.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Financial matters shift in the next few weeks. You gain a different perspective, as a result. You might want to put in some overtime as protection. Discussions revolving around funds shed light on other ideas. Don't take what is happening personally. Tonight: Pay bills.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You might be off-kilter. Recognize this change rather than making assumptions. Your creativity and ability to detach help you through any problem. Curb your fiery intensity rather than jumping into the middle of a fire, so to speak. Tonight: Visit with a favorite person.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Don't take a partnership for granted. You might find someone close to be a bit touchy or unpredictable in the near future. You could discover that a friend or loved one needs extra care. Think through how you spend your time. Tonight: Do something for yourself.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Though many might not be able to handle unpredictability, it is certainly your specialty. Friends could reverse their tracks, forging a new trail. Understand that someone might suddenly realize what he or she has done. Tonight: Whatever would make you happy.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ A boss could become difficult. Step out in a new direction. Decide what you need in order to make you feel good. If you have too much work dropping in your lap, say so. Others need to hear more about your needs. Listen to what someone says, but know that you don't have to accept what you hear. Tonight: A must appearance.



QUOTE of the DAY

"Every morning I get up and look through the Forbes list of the richest people in America. If I'm not there, I go to work."

— Robert Orben

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LOCAL



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Mural project in schools nearly complete

By Daily Press staff

A district-wide art project will get its last brush stroke this week when a local artist paints the last of 11 murals at the elementary schools.

Malibu muralist David Legaspi III is painting his final mural at Grant Elementary School this Friday. The mural is the last piece of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's United Art Mural Project, created to reinforce the importance of the arts in education. Each of the 11 elementary school's murals represents the basic subjects of the elementary school curriculum. Grant's mural theme is social studies, with a focus on local history.

The United Art Mural Project was designed to emphasize district unity, express each school's individuality, and further their sense of community. Each mural is a collaborative effort between Legaspi III, who has donated his time and materials to the district, the children, parents, teachers, and volunteers.

The murals are tied together by a common image of ethnically diverse school children in the act of painting the mural, symbolizing the artistic efforts of the students at each of the schools.

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District believes in preserving the arts in schools. Studies have shown that arts education strengthens student problem-solving and critical thinking skills, as well as levels the field across socio-economic boundaries for learning. Students involved in the arts are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement, according to the district. They continue to outperform non-arts students on the SAT, in math and reading, and perform four times as much community service, according to the district.

Grant Elementary is located at 2368 Pearl Street.

Christmas music — barbershop style

By Daily Press staff

Get in the holiday spirit — a cappella style. The Santa Monica Oceanares and Sweet Adelines Holiday Show will have one performance. It is scheduled for Dec. 7 at 2 p.m. at the Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 14th Street and Ocean Park Boulevard.

Guests will be entertained by both the Oceanares' men's chorus and the Sweet Adelines Women's chorus as well as the following quartets: "authorized personnel," "time honored," "naturally into it" and "lovin' tuneful."

The Santa Monica Oceanares Barbershop Chorus is a registered chapter of the national Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing America, Inc. (SPEBSQSA), the world's largest male singing society.

More music for Christmas

By Daily Press staff

"A Christmas Celebration" — the ever-popular holiday concert featuring the Santa Monica College Concert Chorale and other groups — will be held at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 7 and 8 at the First United Methodist Church, 1008 11th St., Santa Monica.

The concert will feature special guest Peter Graves, actor and host of A&E's "Biography."

On the program will be Palestrina's Hodie, Christus Natus Est for double choir; Halsey Stevens' Magnificat featuring SMC adjunct professor David Searfoss on trumpet; and Puccini's Gloria from Messa di Gloria, featuring SMC alum Rodell Rosel as tenor soloist.

Closing the program will be the ever-popular seasonal music with audience sing-along on familiar carols, featuring Graves as guest narrator.

The annual concert features, in addition to the SMC Concert Chorale, the Chancel Choir of the First United Methodist Church and the Los Angeles Concert Orchestra. The conductor is SMC music professor James Smith.

The suggested donation is \$15 general admission and \$10 for students and senior citizens. For information, call (310) 393-8258.



Information compiled by Jesse Haley

We're expecting the arrival of a new northwest swell this afternoon. It's on the small side, but as it builds we should see some better waves, mostly Thursday.

Today, expect waist-high surf throughout the county. The south has slightly better waves, but nothing big.

Thursday our new swell hits its peak, pumping up surf to waist- and chest-level heights at northwest exposed breaks.

There are a lot of "C" rated beaches today, so don't go in the water with any open cuts. If you do paddle out, stay clear of storm drains and piers where bacteria concentrations are the highest.



Today's Tides:

Low-	2:53 a.m.	1.99'
High-	9:02 a.m.	6.66'
Low-	4:31 p.m.	-1.32'
High-	11:02 p.m.	3.79'

Location	Wednesday	Thursday	Water Quality
County Line	1-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	Not available
Zuma	1-3'/Fair	2-3'/Fair	Not available
Surfrider	0-1'/Poor	1-2'/Poor	C
Topanga	1-2'/Fair	1-3'/Fair	C
Breakwater	2-3'/Poor	2-4'/Fair	B
El Porto	2-3'/Fair	3-4'/Fair	B

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The Q-Line

The Bayside District Corp., which manages the downtown core, recently spruced up the Third Street Promenade with a new concept called "Winterlit" as part of holiday decor that officials hope will attract people to shop here.

Bayside hired a set designer, who has worked on Steven Spielberg films, to design the street mall. What you see in the center islands of the Promenade and overhead is expected to be the traditional holiday lighting for the next

five years.

This week, Q-Line wants to know:

"Do you think the Winterlit theme will help Santa Monica commerce during the holiday season?"

Call (310) 285-8106 with your response before Thursday at 5 p.m. We'll print them in Friday's paper. Please limit your comments to a minute or less; it might help to think first about the wording of your response.

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LETTERS

Not shopping here for the holidays

Editor:

In response to your inquiry regarding shopping in Santa Monica, I personally will not shop here. I will go to Culver City where I can attain most everything for Christmas at a reasonable cost.

I remember when Santa Monica would not allow Target to come to this city because it was not "high class" enough, although it would have generated substantial sales tax not to mention all of the perks to the employees and the residents of this fair city.

They're the same people that make the decisions who found no hesitation to fork over \$400,000 for a monstrosity that is supposed to represent a Christmas tree and then to compound it by spending more on simulated snow.

Margaret Kanai
Santa Monica

City strikes out; doesn't hit a triple

Editor:

A while ago, I heard a line about George W. Bush that I loved. It went, "George W. Bush was born on third base and he thinks that he hit a triple."

So true for W. and so true for our City Council (SM gives chamber a heads up on possible tax, SMDP, Dec. 3, 2002). For several years now, our City Council has stood

on third base smugly basking in the glory of the City's financial success. Many of our council members, who exhibit an astounding lack of understanding of basic economics, acted like they were financial geniuses, taking credit for filling the City's coffers through their expert fiscal management. The simple truth is that the Council unwittingly reaped the benefits of a good economy, and the fact the Santa Monica happens to sit on some of the most desirable real estate in the world.

The tax revenues generated by beach hotels, the Promenade and high property values made it all happen; yet, all along the way the Council systematically attacked the economic engine that fuels the City's tax revenues. The hotel bed tax accounts for a large portion of the City's budget, yet the hotels are continually attacked. While the City was collecting huge amounts of sales tax from the Promenade merchants, it turned a deaf ear to the merchant's complaints about the negative impact that the inundation of homeless people was having on their business.

Certainly, the slowing economy shares some of the blame for the City's tax shortfall. But bolstered by their conceit and arrogance, the City Council squandered the City's natural advantages. While standing on the third base, congratulating themselves for hitting a triple, the Council addressed pressing world issues — like ATM fees, world peace and economic injustice — while failing to protect and nurture its tax base; the engine that generates the revenues that pay for all of the goodies that we all want the City to provide.

Tom Fuller
Santa Monica

A day in the life ... fear factor thriving in America

EDGE
of the
WEST

By Ron Scott Smith



He wakes up, falls out of bed, and drags a comb across his head. Then he takes the gun from beneath the pillow — the gun that protects them from things that go bump in the night — and hides it on the top shelf in the closet so the kids can't get it when they come home from school.

The fear factor is alive and well here in the home of the brave.

He looks through the window on the front door to make sure there's nothing evil lurking, then loads the kids into the tank, also known as the Expedition.

It's just been tuned up, is burning newly efficient gallons per mile, and heads out to the private school to drop them off, far from the maddening cry of the frightening public ones that have gone to hell because "big government" has lost its will to throw more money in there. Somehow though, "big government" is more than willing to give away billions in a voucher program it knows will only serve to keep the poor even more firmly entrenched in that deteriorating public system.

He turns the radio on.

And there's that comforting voice of

the brave — a guy named Rush — blasting away at that scary Kerry from Massachusetts because he's probably going to be a contender for their presidency in 2004. "Mr. Teresa Heinz," they're all playfully calling him now, because his wife is the Heinz catsup heiress and — hey, when it plays well — go after the guy with the big bucks — never mind that's what your whole deal is about — protecting and defending to the death the American birth right to be very rich. The preemptive strikes have begun, a mere two years before the election, but it's never too early to begin destroying the enemy. Pity poor Tom Daschle. How would you like to have Limbaugh, Hannity, Prager, Medved, Hewitt, Elder, Liddy, et. al., coming after you nonstop, all day, every day? They identify the threat and take action. Just like the big guns in D.C. have identified Hussein, who looks to be out of here real soon.

He thinks — good — won't have that madman to fear much longer.

Right radio — let's go ahead and call it "fear radio" — keeps right on blasting across the American airways and oh beautiful for spacious skies — where are we going? Once upon a time, it was "get out of my face, big government," but only when something was being done to help the poor or the sick. Well, it sure looks like they're cozying up to it now more than ever, just like the ne'er-do-wells whose hands are in their wallets, hanging at the welfare office for the survival

scraps being thrown at them. The new cry seems to be, "go, big government" — and it's going all right. It just got bigger — way bigger — with the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, 170,000 new government employees, and T.I.A. — Total Information Access, which means just that — they'll have access to every electronic transaction you make in your life if they get their way. But hey, we need the protection. Screw the schools.

And screw the hungry freeloaders, the frightening few he sees lurking in front of Starbucks on his way in for a strong one.

We need the protection. Freedom? We can give that back to "big government" if they think they need it more than we do to keep us safe and sound, can't we? Small price to pay.

Are these guys waking up every day scared to death of everything that moves or does it just seem that way?

Fear of random violence? Check out the immovable resistance to any kind of sane move toward gun control. Guns gone wild, guns under every pillow, means a safer America.

Fear of attack from the skies above us? How about billions of dollars thrown away into a science-fictional space shield called "Star Wars," the very much alive Strategic Defense Initiative.

They're ready to put those billions into outer space while about 40 million Americans walk around down here on earth without a trace of health insurance.

Fear of Iraq? That country scares us

silly because they might have some of the nasty weapons we taught them how to build; scares us to the point where we're ready to go knock the oil and the tar out of them — knowing full well they can hardly put up a fight.

Fear of the UN — or the court of world opinion — when any stand is taken on anything counter to U.S. interests? We disdain them unless we can use them.

Fear of the Nobel Peace Prize? You got it. Because that monster of a human being, Jimmy Carter, the peacemaker, happens to have won it this time.

Fear of not getting the job because some other guy who needs it more might get it? That's a done deal — that affirmative action thing — it's over, out of here, no more doors open wider for anybody based on a sordid history of racism beyond our wildest dreams. Get over it, man, that was our grandfathers and great grandfathers. We're cool now, so you've all got to step up your game and play ball on our level playing field. No special favors, no mas. But somebody's still running the ball uphill and you tell me who.

So much fear, so few hiding places.

He's back home now after another strangely fearsome day. They never used to be this way. He tucks the gun securely under the pillow and falls off to another not-so-good night's sleep.

(To reach Ron Scott Smith, e-mail him at edgeofthewest@aol.com).

Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to sack@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

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LOCAL



Commission to clarify role in city's preservation

COMMISSION, from page 1

down the building.

Many preservation activists are against the homeowners' initiative. They have encouraged the city council to write a ballot measure to give voters another choice.

While they believe the current law needs tweaking, preservationists argue by making the process voluntary, the city risks losing private homes that are important historical and cultural landmarks to demolition and remodeling.

"There are ways apparent to us that the current ordinance doesn't work smoothly or properly," said landmarks commissioner Barbara Schnitzler. "Now we are trying to create an ordinance that will be more responsive."

Critics say by placing a second measure on the ballot, the council is attempting to siphon off supporters of the homeowners' initiative and confuse residents.

"They are marshaling the city's resources to combat an initiative sponsored by the people," said Greg Poirier, a supporter of the homeowners' initiative. "It's under-handed, deceptive and I don't think it'll work."

"I think it represents a desperate attempt to preserve the status quo," he added. "They are working at the behest of the city council on something that will confuse voters and divert attention. I think what they are doing is legal but it's sleazy."

Landmarks commissioners met twice — once last week and on Monday — to come up with ways to make the city's current historic preservation process simpler and to give homeowners an incentive to volunteer their homes for historic designation.

The commission recommended 23 possible incentives the city could create for homeowners who enter into the preservation program. They include everything from waiving permit fees and making the approval processes simpler to special parking privileges and economic incentives.

One recommendation would clarify that the landmarks commission can only regulate the outside of private properties and the exterior and interiors of public properties that have been designated historic.

It also would require 51 percent of residents in a neighborhood to approve whether a historic district could be formed. Currently, no such requirement exists and

the homeowner's initiative calls for 100 percent agreement among neighbors.

"We've always said we would not create a district against the wishes of property owners and we haven't, but there was never a number written into the ordinance," Schnitzler said. "I think some people have an idea the city wants to run around creating districts, which just isn't true."

The landmarks commission asked to be allowed to meet with residents of neighborhoods that are considered for an historic district before any formal application has been made.

That would allow the commission to better communicate with residents about what benefits and advantages exist for designating private homes historic, Schnitzler said.

And the commission asked the city council to allow it to act as a zoning administrator for landmark status homes to help expedite the process of getting approval for proposed exterior remodeling projects and obtaining the necessary city permits.

Commissioners said they believed it would act as an incentive for homeowners to preserve their homes because it would make the process easier and simpler for property owners.

But supporters of the homeowners' initiative say by making the preservation process completely voluntary, the onus of making sure important properties are not destroyed falls on the city — where it belongs in the first place.

They believe if the city and the landmarks commission are forced to actively recruit participants into the preservation program, then homeowners will be more willing to participate.

"If you teach homeowners more and offer them more incentives, I'll guarantee you you'll have more historic districts," said Marc Schrobilgen, an initiative supporter. "But if you make it mandatory and you take away the homeowners' voice, they aren't going to want to do it."

However, Schnitzler said if the system is voluntary, there would be no guarantee of protection.

"We want more outreach to let people know what a historic district really is," Schnitzler said. "Right now there seems to be a lot of confusion out there."

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Appeals judge suggests LAX solicitation suit in wrong court

HARE KRISHNAS, from page 1

appearing before the court.

Fisher's colleague, Lieberman, tried to argue the public forum question but was sidetracked by Circuit Judge Alex Kozinski, who suggested the case belongs in the California Supreme Court, not before a federal court.

"Why are we getting into this murky area of state law?" asked Kozinski. "... Why isn't this case being brought in state court?"

Circuit Judge Kim Wardlaw noted that an injunction currently in place allows the Hare Krishnas to distribute literature and make solicitations at the airport. She suggested the injunction remain in place and the case be "certified" to the California Supreme Court for review.

"What harm would there be if we ask the state court to determine this case?"

asked Kozinski.

"The harm is we want to get this case resolved," said Lieberman. "It's been pending for five years."

Los Angeles Assistant City Attorney Claudia McGee-Henry supported moving the case out of federal jurisdiction.

The city's attorney also argued that Los Angeles International (LAX) is not a public forum, that in a time of terrorist fears the airport is more restricted than ever to travelers.

She ridiculed "the notion that LAX is opening its arms to all."

"Parking is \$30 a day. It's 18 miles from downtown and services are offered only for the traveling public," Henry said. "LAX is not opening its arms to those who want to come and visit."

The 9th Circuit's decision on the case will be made at a later date.

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LOCAL □ STATE

Governor Davis to propose more than \$5 billion in cuts

BY ALEXA H. BLUTH
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO — Warning California is facing "serious problems," Gov. Gray Davis said Tuesday he will propose "substantially" more in midyear budget cuts to lawmakers this week than the \$5 billion he previously promised.

Davis also left open the possibility for the Legislature to enact tax increases during a special legislative session that begins Monday to close at least a \$21 billion budget deficit.

"We have serious problems and they will only be solved if we deal with them seriously, in a bipartisan fashion," Davis said after a "Big Five" meeting with the four top-ranking Democratic and Republican legislators.

On Friday, Davis will present a slate of midyear cuts and savings for lawmakers to take up during a special session that he asked lawmakers to wrap up by the end of January.

Davis previously said the package of midstream cuts would total about \$5 billion, but on Tuesday said it will "be substantially higher than that."

School leaders have said they fear the list will include massive cuts in education spending, which makes up nearly half of California's general fund budget.

Davis declined to specify what would be included in his proposal or its sum, but said it would not include fee or tax increases. He left the door open Tuesday, however, for lawmakers to propose their own proposals for midyear tax increases

by signing a broadly worded proclamation formerly calling for the special session.

Republican lawmakers have said they will oppose any tax or fee increases and will withhold their votes, which are needed to pass fiscal proposals by the required two-thirds majority.

Senate Republican Leader Jim Brulte, of Rancho Cucamonga, said he would propose cutting capital gains taxes for sales of commercial property to encourage firms to sell and buy parcels to stimulate the economy.

But Assembly Speaker Herb Wesson repeated his contention that it is "mathematically impossible" to address the large deficit by cutting spending without carving into critical programs.

"I don't believe that the governor can do anything other than endorse a balanced approach," said Wesson, D-Culver City.

Senate President Pro Tem John Burton, D-San Francisco, said he believes the Legislature will attempt in January to raise the state's car tax by a simple majority vote, a move Republicans have said they will immediately challenge in court.

Davis will submit a budget for the coming fiscal year on Jan. 10 that he said will be "balanced, be responsible and will have a mix of ideas." He did not rule out tax increases for the 2003-04 budget.

Davis, meanwhile, also said he directed his Department of Finance and the Legislative Analyst's Office — the Legislature's chief budget adviser — agree upon a projected budget shortfall and together inventory all possible solutions.

State budget cuts could have major local implications

FORECAST, from page 1

northern California were down double digits in the fourth quarter of last year.

"You don't want to be a retailer in the Bay area right now," he told the group. "Northern California is hurting and the Bay area is struggling."

Hotel occupancy through September is down 65 percent in Los Angeles County and 69 percent in Santa Monica. But even though those figures appear to be bouncing back, hotels throughout the state have slashed room rates in order to secure bookings, Kyser reported. He noted he was able to book a hotel room at a five-star hotel in San Francisco this upcoming weekend for \$150 a night.

The office space vacancy rate in Los Angeles County is 16.5 percent and 15.4 percent on the Westside, Kyser said.

"That has gone up dramatically in the past year," he said. "The office market is kind of sloppy for the next few years."

As for the rays of sunshine in Kyser's forecast, corporate profits are looking better, there is a slight increase in business expansions and inflation is under control.

On a local level, the movie industry is bouncing back, with a 15 percent increase at the box office over last year and the industry has grown 18 percent. Other industries that are expanding are professional services, as well as furniture and home furnishings in Southern California, Kyser said.

Defense spending will continue to rise as the war on terrorism and the Office of

Homeland Security continues to grow, Kyser said.

"This is something that we'll be living with and does have implications for Southern California," he said.

The largest implication for government spending is the state budget which faces a \$23 billion deficit this year, a \$21 billion deficit next year and is forecasted to be at least \$16 billion through 2008, Kyser said.

On Friday, Gov. Gray Davis will present a slate of mid-year cuts and savings for lawmakers to take up during a special session that he asked to be wrapped up by the end of January.

Davis previously said the package of midstream cuts would total about \$5 billion, but on Tuesday he said it will be substantially higher than that.

"This has implications for everyone in the state — the government, education and business," Kyser said. "We have to be very, very alert because it will be painful."

Kyser said it's important for business-minded people to watch government to make sure lawmakers don't make bad policy decisions when it comes to public spending.

As for continuing to go through years of deficit spending and consumer debt, it will be an interesting time, Kyser said.

"A lot of people will be able to handle it and the Federal government can handle it but who knows what the state will do, so hang onto your wallet," he said. "We are not in an era anymore when you can kick back and think everything is going to be OK."

STATE



Drug house razed



Lee Celano/Associated Press

City workers use a bulldozer to demolish a house believed to once be used for drug sales by gang members on Tuesday in the Boyle Heights area of Los Angeles. Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo and city Councilmember Nick Pacheco, who announced the demolition, vowed to push gang members out of the neighborhood.

Prosecutor says Winona Ryder needs drug and psychiatric counseling

BY LINDA DEUTSCH
AP Special Correspondent

BEVERLY HILLS — Winona Ryder should do community service, get drug and psychiatric counseling and pay \$26,000 in fines and restitution for stealing from a Saks Fifth Avenue, a prosecutor said, revealing the actress possessed eight narcotics at the time of her arrest.

In a legal memorandum filed in advance of Ryder's scheduled sentencing on Friday, Deputy District Attorney Ann Rundle revealed that when Ryder was arrested at Saks Fifth Avenue in Beverly Hills she had eight different painkilling prescription drugs with her.

Police were able to confirm that Ryder had prescriptions for all of the drugs except one, the memo said, noting that a drug charge was dismissed when a doctor subsequently confirmed that he prescribed the eighth drug, Endocet.

Other narcotics in her possession, according to the document, were liquid Demerol, liquid Diazepam, Vicoprofen, Vicoden, Percodan, Valium and morphine sulfate.

"The prescriptions obtained were from several different physicians and the defendant had utilized at least two different names in obtaining them (including Emily Thompson)," the memorandum said.

The presence of drugs, while not the basis of any charge against Ryder, was raised in support of a recommendation that she receive drug and psychiatric counseling.

Rundle also asked that Ryder be ordered to use only her real name, Winona Horowitz, or her stage name, Winona Ryder, and be prohibited from using the name Emily Thompson or any other alias for the purpose of obtaining drug prescriptions.

"The defendant should be ordered to cooperate with her probation officer in a

plan for both drug and psychiatric counseling," said the memorandum which was filed Monday and released by the district attorney's office on Tuesday.

Ryder faced up to three years in prison, but the prosecutor suggested three years' probation instead, with the day of her booking being counted as one day in custody so that in the future the Saks theft would count as a prior conviction.

Rundle recommended 480 hours of community service, the equivalent of 60 days and said, "The people strongly oppose allowing the defendant to design her own program for community service."

She added that the "punitive aspect of community service will serve as a deterrent for the defendant and demonstrate to her that criminal conduct results in serious consequences for the offender."

The prosecutor urged that Ryder be ordered to pay Saks restitution of \$6,335.40 for stolen merchandise. She also recommended fines totaling \$20,000.

The document said Ryder has no known prior convictions but stated, "The manner in which the crime was carried out indicates planning, sophistication or professionalism."

The Oscar-nominated actress was convicted Nov. 6 of felony grand theft and vandalism for shoplifting more than \$5,500 worth of merchandise from Saks last December. The "Little Women" and "Girl, Interrupted" star was found innocent of a third charge of burglary. Rundle said at the time she would not seek a prison sentence.

Transcripts made public after the trial disclosed that Ryder was suspected of shoplifting from two other high-end department stores in the past, but no charges were filed. Prosecutors were not allowed to present those allegations to jurors in her trial.

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STATE

San Diego couple with cancer dies on same day

By The Associated Press

EL CAJON — A San Diego area couple who was married for more than 50 years died hours apart in what relatives called a fitting end for a pair who had depended on each other since they met at a laundromat in 1949.

Faye Wakefield, 80, died in the couple's El Cajon home from an undisclosed cancer on the morning of Nov. 13. Joe Wakefield, 81, died six hours later.

"As Joe said, Faye wouldn't be able to find her way around heaven without him, a road map and a magnifying glass," the couple's son, Robert Wakefield, told The San Diego Union-Tribune.

The two were introduced by Faye's mother while doing the laundry and tied the knot in Chula Vista two weeks later on New Year's Eve.

Relatives said the pair had complementary personalities, with Joe as the quieter one. After serving as a turret gunner in the Army Air Forces during World War II, the

Globe, Ariz., native preferred to keep close to San Diego, where he relocated after leaving the military.

Faye, who moved from Iowa with two small children after losing her first husband in a car accident, was the more energetic of the two. At the age of 40 she took up a career in special education. After retiring, she pitched travel itineraries to her reluctant husband and the couple journeyed to England and throughout the western United States. Joe Wakefield "would always enjoy their outings when he was on his way," Robert Wakefield said.

"I think once Joe knew that Faye passed away, he gave up his will to hang in there. He didn't feel well that morning, and both held on for each other," said daughter-in-law Susan Wakefield.

The couple is survived by four children, Carolyn Hood of Mission Beach, Calif.; Vicki Wakefield of Las Vegas; Robert of El Cajon; and Tim Law of Del Mar, Calif.

Judge refuses to delay Max Factor heir's rape trial

By The Associated Press

VENTURA — A judge refused to delay the date-rape trial of millionaire cosmetics heir Andrew Luster, telling his attorneys they have had sufficient time to prepare their case.

Ventura County Superior Court Judge Ken Riley said he planned to begin jury selection on Tuesday.

Defense attorney Kiana Sloan-Hillier responded that she would take her request for more time to the California Supreme Court.

"We are being forced to go ahead with our hands tied behind our back," she said. "It is really not fair to the defense."

The great-grandson of cosmetics magnate Max Factor is accused of rendering three women unconscious with the date-rape drug gamma hydroxybutyrate, or GHB, then raping them.

Luster's lawyers accuse prosecutors of concealing evidence while pressing for a speedy trial. They also accuse the Ventura County Sheriff's Department of doctoring

videotapes and coaching witnesses to lie.

Authorities deny any wrongdoing. Luster, 38, was arrested in July 2000 after a woman told authorities she was drugged at a Santa Barbara bar, then raped at his Ventura County beach house. Detectives who searched the home said they found videotapes of Luster engaging in sex acts with two other women who appeared to be unconscious.

Defense attorneys asked Riley two weeks ago to delay the trial two months. When he refused they took their case to the 2nd District Court of Appeal, which turned them down last week. Riley turned them down again on Monday.

Sloan-Hillier said prosecutors have refused to turn over tapes, photographs and other evidence, including a recently obtained copy of a police interview with another woman who suspects she was drugged by Luster.

Deputy District Attorney Anthony Wold accused Luster's attorneys of stalling.

"Two-and-a-half years this case has been in the system," Wold said.

L.A. judge allows lawsuit over Princess Di's death to proceed

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Billionaire Mohamed Al Fayed won the right to proceed with a lawsuit accusing a lawyer and others of involvement in a \$20 million scheme to sell forged documents about the car crash that killed his son and Princess Diana.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge William Higbberger denied a motion Monday for summary judgment brought by the attorney for Keith Fler, a Beverly Hills lawyer. The other defendants include Oswald LeWinter, Pat McMillan and George Williamson.

Messages left after business hours with the offices of Fler and attorneys for the others were not immediately returned.

Al Fayed's lawsuit alleges that in 1998

the defendants came up with a scheme to try to sell him forged documents in which the CIA and British Intelligence allegedly discussed a planned assassination of his son and Princess Diana.

Al Fayed's son, Dodi Fayed was killed along with Diana and chauffeur Henri Paul when their Mercedes-Benz crashed in a Paris traffic tunnel in 1997.

Al Fayed, the Egyptian-born owner of Harrods department store in London, has long suspected the accident was plotted by people who disapproved of Diana dating his son. After the deaths, he announced he was willing to pay a reward for information about their deaths.

His lawsuit claims the defendants offered him the forged documents for \$20 million.

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3:00pm-5:00pm: Shea Welsh (Jazz)

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12:30pm-2:30pm: Tom Nolan (Rock)

Kinney Street:

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3:00pm - 5:00pm: Neon Venus (Latin)

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NATIONAL

Driver in \$10.8M armored truck heist pleads guilty

BY BEN DOBBIN
Associated Press Writer

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — The driver of an armored truck robbed of \$10.8 million in 1990 pleaded guilty Tuesday to helping carry out what was then the largest holdup of its kind in U.S. history.

"That's the way it is," Albert Ranieri told the judge as he admitted to a federal racketeering conspiracy charge.

The money is still missing and Ranieri, 38, did not implicate anyone else. The robbery remains under investigation.

"He was one of a number of people involved in the robbery — I don't believe he has all the money," prosecutor Charles Wydysh said.

Ranieri told the judge he invested more than \$650,000 from the robbery in stocks, a limousine business and drugs, including cocaine smuggled from California. He said he also gave \$10,000 to a man to apply for a job with the same armored

"He was one of a number of people involved in the robbery — I don't believe he has all the money."

— CHARLES WYDYSH
Prosecutor

truck company in an unsuccessful bid to carry out another heist.

Ranieri also admitted he gunned down a nightclub owner two years ago, though other charges against him, including conspiracy to commit murder, were dismissed. Under his deal with prosecutors, he will draw a 30-year sentence and a \$250,000 fine.

The Armored Motor Services of America truck was taking unmarked cash to the Federal Reserve Bank in Buffalo when its crew pulled over to buy coffee and sandwiches at a convenience store in the Rochester suburb of Henrietta.

Armed robbers boarded the truck,

drove it to a nearby wooded area, unloaded more than a ton of cash and made a clean getaway, investigators said.

Ranieri was found tied up, but he soon came under investigation. A car of FBI agents once ran into the back of Ranieri's car when he slammed on the brakes. He was charged with reckless driving, but the charges were dismissed.

In 1992, Ranieri and his father were arrested but bank robbery charges were dropped when it was learned an informant was in jail at the time he claimed to have seen the stolen money.

However, during an undercover drug investigation two years ago, Ranieri boast-

ed in a hotel room bugged by the FBI that he'd burned nearly \$100,000 of the missing booty in a barbecue pit to avoid being arrested.

"What do I care? ... I mean, I got a million dollars," he said in one videotaped recording.

The surveillance intensified after nightclub owner Anthony Vaccaro, 44, was slain while driving along a road in 2000. Months later, Ranieri and Anthony Leonardo Jr., a defense attorney for organized crime figures and a co-owner of the nightclub, were charged with conspiring to distribute cocaine.

Leonardo eventually pleaded guilty to the federal drug charge and to a state charge of conspiracy to commit murder, saying he and Ranieri plotted to kill Vaccaro.

Ranieri told the judge Tuesday he shot Vaccaro eight times with a high-powered rifle from a passing car, an admission that drew gasps and sobs from the victim's widow.

AOL expects 40-50 percent drop in advertising revenue

BY LISA SINGHANIA
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — America Online will meet its previously issued 2002 financial forecast, but the world's

biggest Internet service provider said Tuesday it expects a drop of 40 to 50 percent in advertising and other non-subscriber revenues next year.

In order to keep and attract customers, AOL said it will begin offering exclusive content from other divisions at parent AOL Time Warner Inc.

The deals, which involve magazines such as People, as well as Warner Bros. music, CNN and HBO programs, had been widely anticipated as America Online repositions itself amid questions about the viability of its business.

The news came as company officials met with Wall Street analysts and investors, and provided the first major strategic update since word this summer the Justice Department and Securities and Exchange Commission were investigating the division's accounting practices.

Earlier in the day, AOL said it expected overall 2003 revenues to be flat despite the drop in non-subscriber revenues as "solid growth" in worldwide subscriptions limits the damage.

The expected drop in advertising revenue comes as many of the lucrative long-term ad contracts made during the Internet boom years are expiring, and will not be renewed under as favorable terms.

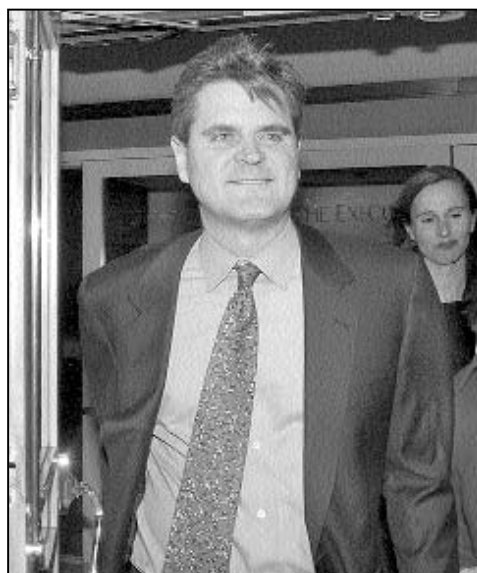
Although some drop-off had been expected, Wall Street was not pleased with the extent of AOL's projected revenue decline. AOL Time Warner's stock price was down 11.1 percent, or \$1.84, to \$14.73 in late morning trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

Jon Miller, the AOL division's new chief executive, said it would spend the next year refocusing on member satisfaction and retention. He said providing content that can't be found anywhere else on the Web is essential to profitability.

"We'll keep leveraging the firsts and exclusives that are making it cool to be on AOL again," he said.

Among the initiatives announced Tuesday were plans to offer video from CNN for free to America Online members that currently is available for a fee on the Internet. Content from Time Inc. magazines such as People and Real Simple will also be exclusively offered, as will music and entertainment offerings. Also, HBO and America Online plan to collaborate on original programming. All the partnering companies are AOL Time Warner divisions.

"This is going to be a team effort," said AOL Time



Richard Drew/Associated Press
Steve Case, AOL Time Warner board chairman, leaves an analysts meeting in New York on Tuesday. America Online will meet its previously issued 2002 financial forecast, but the world's biggest Internet service provider said Tuesday it expects a drop of 40 to 50 percent in advertising and other non-subscriber revenues next year.

Warner chief executive Richard Parsons.

Miller also said that the company would offer more choices to customers who access the Internet via high-speed or broadband connections.

The bulk of America Online's members access the Internet via dial-up connections, but the growth prospects for that market is slowing as Internet users switch to broadband performance. America Online offers broadband, but its product is pricier than others, and many investors are concerned the company is losing ground.

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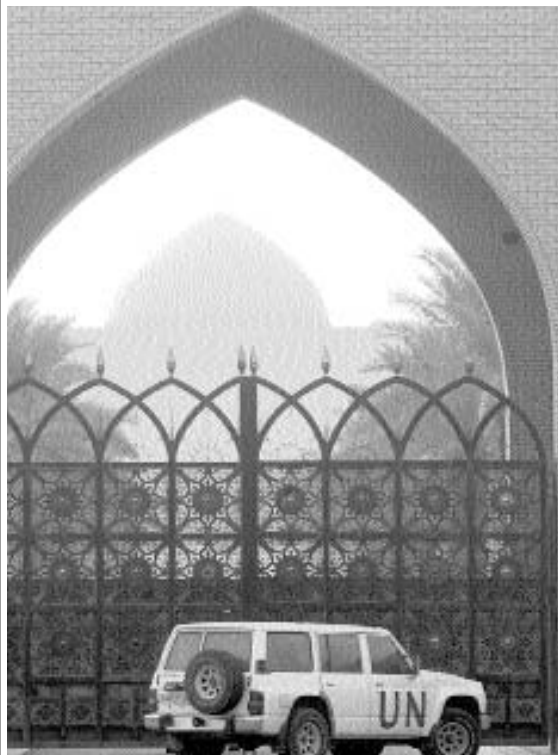
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INTERNATIONAL



Knock, knock



Jerome Delay/Associated Press
An UNMOVIC vehicle stands parked at the entrance after United Nations weapons inspectors entered the Al-Sajoud palace, one of Saddam Hussein's presidential palaces along the Tigris River, in Baghdad on Tuesday. Access to such sites was an explosive issue in the previous round of inspections in the 1990s.

Separate U.S., Israeli battles against terrorism now overlap

BY GREG MYRE
Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM — U.S. authorities and Israel's Mossad spy agency are both investigating last week's twin attacks in Kenya, and both suspect al-Qaida. The largely separate U.S. and Israeli battles against terrorism now overlap in the east African nation and will require a closely coordinated response, analysts said Tuesday.

The United States and Israel have backed each other's fights against terrorism, though the Bush administration has drawn a distinction between the U.S. campaign against al-Qaida and the Israeli conflict with the Palestinians.

In contrast, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon says it's all part of a single, worldwide effort against terrorism that has its roots in radical Islam.

The line drawn by the United States blurred Thursday with the suicide bombing at a hotel in Kenya filled with Israelis, and the near simultaneous missile attack that narrowly missed an Israeli charter plane taking off a few miles away in Mombasa.

"The paradigm has now changed dramatically," said Martin Indyk, the former U.S. ambassador to Israel. "The terrorists are busy erasing the

boundaries between al-Qaida, Hezbollah and Hamas, as the attack in (Kenya) demonstrated."

A statement attributed to al-Qaida and posted on an Islamic Web site claimed responsibility for the attacks, and U.S. officials said they considered the claim credible. "We suspect al-Qaida, or one of the organizations that operates under the cover of al-Qaida, is responsible," said Lt. Gen. Moshe Yaalon, the Israeli army chief of staff.

If an al-Qaida link is confirmed, it would mark the first time the group has hit an Israeli target, after years of threats by Osama bin Laden. It also suggests al-Qaida is attempting to draw Israel directly into the U.S. war against the group, analysts said.

The chief of research in Israel's military intelligence, Brig. Gen. Yossi Kupperwasser, said Israel knew terror groups were operating in Kenya but didn't have specific information pointing to attacks on Israeli targets.

U.S. investigators are also taking part in the Kenya inquiry, said a diplomatic source, speaking on condition of anonymity. Al-Qaida is also blamed for the deadly 1998 bombings at the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

If Israel openly launches a hunt for al-Qaida members, it

could create a backlash in moderate Muslim nations. They could be discouraged from assisting the United States in tracking down al-Qaida members and might be less inclined to support a possible U.S. war with Iraq.

"This is not a case where Israel can strike on its own and retaliate as it did in the past," said Joseph Alpher, an Israeli policy analyst. "How can Israel be involved without compromising the United States' ties to moderate Arab states? This is a question that has to be answered."

"U.S. coordination with Israel will continue to be relatively quiet and not visible," said Gerald Steinberg, a leading Israeli commentator on diplomacy.

Immediately after the Kenya attacks, Sharon assigned Mossad to lead the investigation, promising a global hunt for terrorists. However, Sharon also places tremendous value on his close relationship with President Bush, and when pressured by the Americans, he has scaled back military operations against the Palestinians.

If Israel locates those responsible for the Kenya attacks, Sharon could face a tough choice. Should Israel strike, or should it lay low to avoid potential harm to the broader U.S. effort?

Israel could calculate that less is more.

If the United States is successful in fighting al-Qaida, and if it topples Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, that could benefit Israel by discouraging Palestinians, Syrians, Iranians and others from supporting militants who attack the Jewish state, analysts said.

To date, Sharon has respected parameters set down by the United States, a pattern that's likely to continue, analysts said.

Some senior figures in Israel's security establishment are calling for a powerful Israeli response.

If the Israeli airplane had been downed, it would have created "options that up to now were unacceptable to public opinion," said Efraim Halevy, director of Israel's National Security Council and until recently, the head of Mossad.

Halevy didn't spell out the type of action Israel should take, but implied that the retaliation would be far harsher than anything that's been done. "It can be assumed the international community would understand, accept and internalize the changes in the rules of the game," Halevy said Monday at a security conference.

Among Palestinians, there's a broad consensus that their cause has been hurt by the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States and the Kenya attack. Even the most militant Islamic groups, Hamas and Islamic Jihad, say they don't want to expand their attacks outside the immediate region.

Mexican prison officials promoting factories to U.S. companies that want to cut operating costs

BY JULIE WATSON
Associated Press Writer

CIUDAD VICTORIA, Mexico — Prison officials in northern Mexico say their inmates are manufacturing furniture bound for Texas — despite U.S. laws that ban the importation of goods made with prison labor.

And they'd like to contract with more American companies to produce all kinds of goods. One official said prison shops would even label their products to hide their origin.

Prison officials in Mexico's northern states are pointing to inmate workshops as a way to stem the loss of business as foreign-owned assembly plants abandon the border zone in search of cheaper labor in Asia. Convicts already do work for Mexican companies.

But prison labor is strongly criticized around the globe on the grounds it undercuts unions, steals jobs from law-abiding workers and poses risks of human rights abuses. Many countries, like the United States, bar imports of products made by prisoners.

The prison director for Tamaulipas state, Manuel del Riego, said Clint Hough of Austin, Texas, is the first foreign businessman to accept the state's offer of its inmates' services. Del Riego said Hough has been buying furniture made by prisoners for more than a year.

Inmates at the Ciudad Victoria prison said Hough ordered chairs for a Texas restaurant chain as well as dining room furniture.

Hough, interviewed at the prison, would not confirm that he takes the furniture across the border. "That I would really rather not dis-

cuss because I'm afraid U.S. Customs would ruin it," he said.

Wiping sweat from his brow with a towel, Hough later denied ordering furniture from the prison at all, and said he merely teaches prisoners design and finishing techniques.

"You don't want to cause problems for people because the U.S. Customs can be narrow-minded in its views," said Hough, 49. "So it's really important that this not be reported."

Del Riego said 150 foreign companies, including many in the United States, had expressed interest in setting up production lines at the 11 prisons in Tamaulipas.

"Companies will save tons of money," he said.

On average, Mexican inmates earn the minimum wage of 45 pesos a day (\$4.50), half what free workers along the border make. Companies hiring prison labor also save on health insurance, retirement and other benefits.

Inmates in neighboring Nuevo Leon state now work solely for Mexican companies making such things as T-shirts and charcoal. "but we're open to foreign companies and would be happy to have one," said Ediberto Gutierrez, a prison administrator.

Baja California officials say they are in talks with the Tijuana trade association that represents foreign-owned assembly-for-export plants, known as maquiladoras or maquilas for short.

The border states have plunged into recession with the exodus of maquilas, which had fueled an economic boom in the region since the government in the 1960s allowed mostly U.S.-owned companies to take advantage of Mexico's cheap labor.

"I guess people are going to have to commit a crime to get a job, because there are hardly any jobs left in Mexico," said Raul Lescas, a researcher at Mexico's Labor University in Mexico City.

Rolando Gonzalez, president of Mexico's maquila association, said his group turned down the offer of prison workers because the group's businesses must follow "fair trade practices."

Del Riego, however, said there's no need for companies to worry.

"Our products don't say they are made in prison. They put a fancy tag on them and say they are made in a faraway country," he said.

While Mexico permits prisons to produce for companies, U.S. law bars the importation of convict-made goods "no matter what the circumstances," said Paula Keicer of the U.S. Customs Service in Washington.

Keicer said officials were not aware of prison-made furniture being imported across the Texas border. She said records of imports are confidential and could not discuss whether Hough was bringing furniture into Texas.

Inmates at the Ciudad Victoria prison said Hough hired them to make 60 straight-back, hardwood chairs for a Corpus Christi, Texas, barbecue chain and three dining room sets.

Covered in sawdust, Serafin Hernandez Jr., a convicted drug smuggler who oversees the operation, said Hough promised up to \$1,000 for that order, to be split among the 10 prisoners who built the furniture.

"He calls me each week and asks how things are going or tells me, 'I need two more chairs, a bedroom set,' and we get everything ready for when his trailer comes," said Hernandez, 32.



SPORTS

Baseline pass



Matt York/Associated Press
Miami Heat forward Eddie Jones (6) passes along the baseline around Phoenix Suns' Amare Stoudemire in the third quarter on Monday in Phoenix.

Tournaments unfit to be tied

BY DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

THOUSAND OAKS — Tiger Woods has won 48 tournaments around the world, enough to know what it means to be a defending champion. That's why he was so confused by the outcome at the Australian PGA Championship and the Volvo Masters.

Each ended in a tie.

Two tournaments, four championships.

"Whose picture do they put on the program next year?" Woods said, joking.

The joke is on golf.

Not many people Up Yonder would have cared who won Down Under except that the Australian PGA Championship produced two winners — Peter Lonard and Jarrod Moseley, who turned a major event into an exhibition for no other reason than convenience.

Tied at the end of regulation and after the first playoff hole, with darkness setting in, they decided to share the title instead of returning Monday morning to determine the winner of one of Australia's majors.

"We've got commitments tomorrow," Moseley explained.

Even more disturbing was that something similar happened just three weeks earlier on the

European tour.

Bernhard Langer and Colin Montgomerie were in a playoff at the Volvo Masters when it became too dark to continue. They decided to share the title, giving each his first victory of the season.

They cited equally feeble excuses for not returning to Valderrama the next day.

"I don't know who might come out here," Langer said. "Television probably would have a hard time to cover it. Everybody is really planning to go someplace, aren't they? There would not be that many spectators and the whole deal."

Someone suggested to Montgomerie that nobody won.

"But nobody lost," he replied.

The only tie worth celebrating in golf was the 1969 Ryder Cup, when Jack Nicklaus conceded a short par putt to Tony Jacklin on the final hole. Some tie that was — the United States still went home with the trophy. Even then, captain Sam Snead and some of Nicklaus' teammates were not terribly thrilled about his famous act of sportsmanship.

Ties never have belonged in golf, except when Walter Hagen was wearing one.

If golf were meant to have ties, Greg Norman would have won the career Grand Slam. He's

the only player to lose all four majors in a playoff.

Norman was among those out-raged by the result in Australian PGA.

As early as the sun rises in Queensland, he saw no reason why Lonard and Moseley couldn't return at 6 a.m. to finish. They still would have had time to make flights to their oh-so-important commitments.

"It's the third-oldest golf tournament in the world, and here we are making a decision like that," Norman said. "It never ceases to amaze me."

Ian Baker-Finch won the Australian PGA and considers that one of his majors. Told of the outcome — or lack of one — he was disgusted.

"That's ridiculous," he said. "It belittles the event."

Baker-Finch speaks from experience. He was desperate to make a light to England for the British Open when he was caught in a marathon playoff against Bruce Fleisher in the 1991 New England Classic. It was getting dark, and a PGA Tour official told them they might have to return the next morning to complete the playoff.

"Not finishing never crossed my mind," Baker-Finch said.

NFL heads for single-season record of overtime games

BY DAVE GOLDBERG

AP Football Writer

NEW YORK — Two simple reasons why the NFL is on the verge of breaking the single-season record for overtime games: the 2-point conversion and the salary cap.

Both took effect in 1994 — the 2-pointer to add more options for coaches, the salary cap to promote parity.

Is it a coincidence that there were seven overtime games in 1993, but 16 in 1994? And 21 in 1995? That's a record that's almost sure to be broken — there have been 20 overtimes already this season, with four weeks left.

In fact, in the 8 3/4 seasons since the changes, the NFL has averaged 15.1 overtimes. The average was 10 a season in the first 20 years of overtime, when there was no 2-point rule and no cap.

That fulfills the prophecy of the late George Young, chairman of the competition committee at the time the 2-pointer was adapted and later the NFL's vice president for football operations: "We put it in for eight and 11, to make it easier for teams to catch up," he said at the time.

Eight and 11?

Before 1994, a team that trailed by eight points was two scores behind and one that was 11 points down needed two TDs rather than a TD and a field goal.

That can lead to games like the one last Sunday, when Tennessee trailed the Giants by eight, scored a touchdown in the last 10 seconds, converted a 2-pointer, and went on to win in overtime. One reason the Titans were losing by eight was Giants coach Jim Fassel's decision to go for a 2-pointer — the play failed — at the start of the fourth quarter.

Then there's parity.

"There's not a lot that separates the

really good teams from the average teams. We need to find a way to win these games," says kicker Jason Elam, whose Broncos lost their last two games in overtime (to Indianapolis and San Diego).

The Broncos (1-2 in overtime) are among five teams that have gone beyond four periods in three different games. The others are San Diego (3-0), Buffalo (2-1), Atlanta (1-1-1) and Chicago (1-2).

Even more telling, only 10 of the 32 teams haven't played extra time: Baltimore, Cincinnati, Houston, Jacksonville, Miami, Carolina, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Seattle and Washington.

The parity shows up in other stats, too.

Nearly half the games this season — 95 of 192 or 49.4 percent — have been decided by seven points or fewer.

The kings of parity are the Giants (6-6). Ten of their 12 games have been decided by seven points or fewer — and even the two that weren't (a 17-3 loss in Philadelphia and a 21-7 loss in Arizona) were tight until the very end.

The early trend this season was for the team that won the toss at the start of overtime to win, prompting cries for changes in the system to give both teams a shot.

Two games were cited most.

One was San Francisco's win over Oakland. The 49ers kept the ball for 30 straight plays and 15 minutes bridging the end of regulation and the start of overtime, finally wearing down an exhausted Raiders defense.

The other was the game in which Detroit coach Marty Mornhinweg chose to take the wind rather than the ball at the start of overtime, and the Bears scored on their first possession.

Then there is the first tie in five years, 34-all between Pittsburgh and Atlanta. It

confused both teams even though it might ultimately help both — it keeps them out of playoff tiebreakers.

"I had to keep telling the players it wasn't a loss," Steelers coach Bill Cowher said. "It doesn't feel as good as a win, but it doesn't feel as bad as a loss."

Among the suggestions for change:

■ Giving each team at least one pos-

session.

■ Using the college system, in which each team gets to start at the opponents' 25 and the teams alternate possessions until one wins.

■ Requiring six points to win in sudden death — a touchdown or two field goals — instead of a single field goal (the least likely).

Woman to play in PGA Tour

BY NOREEN GILLESPIE

Associated Press Writer

HARTFORD, Conn. — Suzy Whaley has two young daughters who like to mimic her swing on the golf course. She may soon be a role model for many other girls.

The 36-year-old golf pro has accepted an invitation to play in the Greater Hartford Open, a decision that will make her first woman to play in a PGA Tour event.

Whaley qualified for the GHO by winning the PGA Connecticut Sectional in September.

"I took a long time to make this decision," Whaley said Tuesday. "I understand the historical implications of this decision, and the importance it has for women golfers."

In the qualifier, Whaley hit from tees 10 percent shorter than the men's. With her mother as her caddie and her husband as her coach, she shot a 1-under-71 in the final round to win the tournament.

She will have to play from the same tees as the men at the GHO, adding about 700 yards to her game.

"It's a lot longer than I'm used to playing," said Whaley, who has played on the LPGA Tour. "I'm going to do it anyway. I'm

going to do it the best I possibly can, and that's going to have to be good enough."

Whaley's decision comes at a time when women's issues have become a focal point in the game. The National Council of Women's Organizations is fighting with the Augusta National Golf Club, home of the Masters, over the club's refusal to allow women as members.

"I think it's pretty cool," Tiger Woods said at the time. "She went out there and she earned her right. She beat everybody in the field, and that's what you have to do."

But some are questioning her ability to succeed in what will undoubtedly be a bright media spotlight.

"Unfortunately, I think it might be looked upon by the media as a sideshow," said PGA champion Rich Beem. "I wish her well. But I also feel sorry for her because there's going to be so much scrutiny around her."

Whaley will work with sports psychologist Richard Coop to prepare for the tournament. Coop, who has worked with several PGA Tour golfers and other professional athletes, has known Whaley since the late 1980s when she played for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Art's art
 - 5 Brief snooze
 - 11 Press
 - 12 One-called critter
 - 13 Warden's worry
 - 14 Talked orally
 - 15 Photo's kin
 - 16 Stupefy
 - 17 Packing box
 - 18 Amusement
 - 22 Needed a massage
 - 24 Future film
 - 26 Reddish home
 - 27 Fireplace fill
 - 28 Figure of speech
 - 30 Borders
 - 31 Bear's hair
 - 32 Meadow native
 - 34 Neutral color
 - 35 Doll choice
 - 36 Marsh birds
 - 41 Cotton unit
 - 42 Charm
 - 43 Yard open
 - 44 Various
 - 45 Peaky insect
- DOWN**
- 1 Grime
 - 2 La Sonja song
 - 3 Apartment security feature
 - 4 Lowly worker
 - 5 Diamond unit
 - 6 Astounds
 - 7 Musical sound
 - 8 Catch
 - 9 Honest
 - 10 Jolting spot
 - 16 June honoree
 - 18 Nevada city
 - 19 Natural order
 - 20 Good on
 - 21 Noted lock
 - 22 Dry
 - 23 Program-ming output
 - 25 Bullet band
 - 29 "Silas"
 - 30 Hog holder
 - 33 Piquant
 - 34 Panning find
 - 35 "M*A*S*H" star
 - 37 Substance
 - 38 Owns
 - 39 Flightless bird
 - 40 Skedaddie
 - 41 Catch



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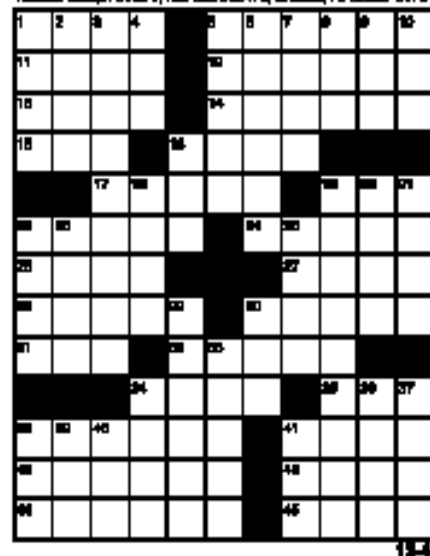
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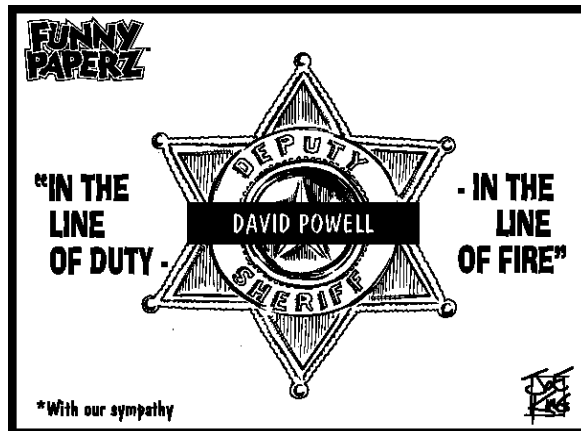
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NEWS OF THE WEIRD by Chuck Shepard

The food chain thwarted again

A 55-year-old man was killed in October as he and a colleague were preparing to butcher a hog on a farm near Frazee, Minn. According to authorities, after one of them fired his .22-caliber rifle, hitting the hog, it at first fell back, then lurched forward against the rifle, causing it to discharge again, fatally hitting the other man.





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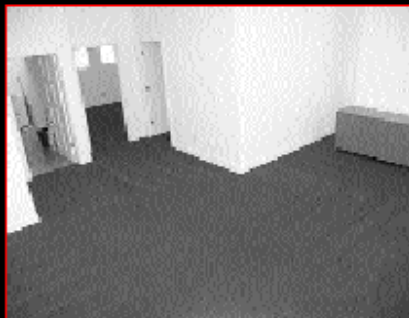
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CLASSIFIEDS



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Professional office space available on the Third Street Promenade.



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Call (310) 458-7737 ext. 104

Calendar

Wednesday, December 4, 2002

movies

Loews Broadway Cinema
1441 Third St. at Broadway
Solaris (PG-13) 12:00, 1:15, 2:30, 3:45, 5:00, 6:15, 7:30, 8:45, 10:00.
The Emperor's Club (PG-13) 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40.
Ararat (R) 11:15, 2:00, 4:45, 7:45, 10:30.

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) 12:00, 1:00, 3:30, 4:30, 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) 1:35, 4:00, 7:10, 9:45.
8 Mile (R) 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:10.
Treasure Planet (PG) 1:05, 3:05, 5:10, 7:20, 9:35.
Die Another Day (PG-13) 1:25, 3:45, 4:25, 7:25, 9:20, 10:15.
Adam Sandler's Eight Crazy Nights (PG-13) 1:00, 1:40, 3:15, 5:25, 7:00, 7:45, 9:55.
Wes Craven Presents: THEY (PG-13) 1:15, 3:20, 5:35, 7:55, 10:05.

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.
Rabbit Proof Fence (PG) 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 9:55.
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 (R) 5:00, 7:30.
Secretary (R) 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!

Santa Monica Public Library presents Preschool Story Time, every Wednesday at 11:15am, 1343 Sixth Street. Stories for children between the ages of three and five who are ready to participate on their own. (310)458-8600

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

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.

Santa Monica Strutters, a FREE program sponsored by UCLA Healthcare's 50-Plus Program! Walking programs for adults 50 or older looking for safe, low-impact exercise in a comfortable environment. The Santa Monica Strutters meet Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8 a.m. To 10 a.m., at Santa Monica Place, Fourth St. and Broadway Ave. in Santa Monica.

Ongoing support groups for people 55 and older. Current openings in Parents of Adult Children. Wednesdays 2:00 to 3:30. Center for Healthy Aging, 2125 Arizona Avenue. Sliding scale fee. Not drop-in groups. Phone interview required. Call Information and Referral. (310)576-2550.

Senior Suppers - Discounted meals for

people AGE 55 or older are served daily, from 3:30 p.m. To 7 p.m., in the cafeteria at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th Street in Santa Monica. \$3.69 Info only: (310)319-4837.

Thursday

Ongoing support groups for people 55 and older. Current openings in Men's Group. Thursdays, 11:15 to 12:45. Center for Healthy Aging, 2125 Arizona Avenue. Sliding scale fee. Not drop-in groups. Phone interview required. Call Information and Referral. (310)576-2550.

Dharma at the Clubhouse. A weekly book and multi-media study group, no fee. Applying studies of Buddhism-Dharma into our daily lives. Every Thursday night at the Clubhouse at Douglas Park, 25th & Wilshire. 7:30 to 9pm. Dan (310) 451-4368 www.santa-monicakks.org

O'Briens Irish Pub, 2941 Main St., Santa Monica, pours A Pint of Funny, every

Thurs., 8 p.m. FREE! (310)396-4725.

Gotham Comedy Night! Standup at Gotham Hall, 1431 3rd St. Promenade, Santa Monica; every Thursday, 7:30 pm, \$5.00 + 2 item min. 21/ over. (323) 525-5254

Snore No More - Dr. Jeffrey Rawnsley, UCLA head and neck surgeon, will discuss minimally invasive radio frequency treatments for snoring at this FREE community health talk. 7pm to 8:30pm, Cafeteria Conference Room at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, 1250 16th St. in Santa Monica. For reservations or more information, call (800)516-5323.

Unurban Coffee House presents Comedy Crunch every Thursday evening. Showtime is 7pm. 3301 Pico Blvd. (310)315-0056

Gotham Hall presents Comedy Night! Featuring professional stand-ups. Every Thursday, 1431 3rd St. Promenade, 8pm. Admission is \$5 + 2 item minimum. 21 and over. (323)525-5254

Calendar items are printed free of charge as a service to our readers. Please submit your items to todaypaper@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



Woman assaulted, attacked by ants

By The Associated Press

MACON, Ga. — A man was sentenced to 15 years in prison for severely beating his girlfriend's grandmother, pouring fire ants on her and stealing \$300 and her car.

Pearsall Leroy Gerald, 19, was sentenced Monday after pleading guilty to aggravated assault and other charges.

Gerald told police he attacked the 62-year-old woman on June 12 because he hated her and because he needed money to pay off a debt to a drug dealer, prosecutor Elizabeth Bobbitt said. The victim was beaten with a 4-foot stick and kicked repeatedly in the face.

"Her face was not even recognizable," Bobbitt said. "It looked like raw meat."

Primpin' Saint Nick

By The Associated Press

MIDLAND, Mich. — It's not easy being Santa Claus.

Just ask the men and women who get a jump-start on the holiday season with three days of training at the Charles W. Howard Santa Claus School.

The session begins with classroom work on St. Nicholas traditions worldwide. Then comes instruction on makeup, wigs and beards, wardrobe, music, even sign language.

Santa students also learn a few dance steps and observe each other interacting with local students, Booth News Service reported Sunday. A special educa-

tion teacher offers tips on communicating with special-needs children.

Annual field trips to toy stores and Bronner's Christmas Wonderland in Frankenmuth highlight what's new for each season.

Tuition is \$260, or \$130 for returning students, but that's just a fraction of a Santa's expenses. A good wool suit can cost \$1,000 and a natural-looking wig and beard runs from \$500 to \$2,500.

"It's quite an investment to do it right," said Tom Valent, dean of the school, which also offers a presentation from a tax accountant.

Fifty men and women from 17 states attended the school this year. More than half were veterans who said they never stop learning.

"There's always new ideas floating around," said William Sadowski, who's been a Chicago-area Santa for seven Christmas seasons.

The school's founder, Charles W. Howard, was technical adviser for the Christmas classic "Miracle on 34th Street." After his death in 1968, longtime student Nate Doan moved the school moved from Albany, N.Y., to Bay City. Valent and his wife began assisting Doan in the 1970s and moved the school to Midland in 1987.

Vegans denied their day

By The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Gov. Don Sundquist has refused to proclaim a "Vegetarian Month," leaving a vegetarian group with a bad taste.

"He is discriminating against vegetarians," said Lige Weill, president of the Knoxville-based Tennessee Vegetarian Society. "They sign proclamations for everything: baton twirling, anything."

Sundquist spokeswoman Melanie Catania told The Tennessean newspaper that such proclamations "are a tool to promote a positive message ... We don't use proclamations to get involved in political arguments, and this fell into that category."

The proposed proclamation says, "Our food supply should be safe and wholesome, rather than laced with pathogens, fat, cholesterol, hormones and carcinogens leading to heart disease, stroke, cancer and other chronic afflictions that each year cripple and kill millions."

It says meat farms destroy public lands and waterways, deplete water, soil and energy resources and that animals raised for food are often mishandled and mistreated.

Weill said the governor was free to tone down the language.

Former Govs. Lamar Alexander and Ned McWherter rejected similar proclamations.

Alexander ultimately proclaimed a "World Vegetarian Day" in 1986 and was then criticized by livestock growers and the meat industry. He subsequently signed proclamations for the beef, pork and poultry industries and served beef at a luncheon on "Vegetarian Day."

Humpty Dumpty done

By The Associated Press

ROGERS, Ark. — Even all the librarians at Rogers Public Library couldn't put Humpty Dumpty back together again.

A vandal sliced the head of the doll, and also damaged a stuffed wolf and a stuffed bear, though the stuffed animals were expected to be repaired.

"They slashed Humpty Dumpty's head, cut a leg off the wolf and whacked an arm off a bear," said Fran Levine, the library's assistant director.

"We were not able to put Humpty Dumpty back together again," Levine said. "He was not cut on a seam."

The vandal apparently also either stole 20 hand puppets or hid them so well that librarians cannot find them, Levine said Friday.

The "malicious incident" caused about \$550 damage to the puppets, library director Judy Casey said.

The library has anywhere from 700 to 1,000 visitors each day, with 588 people in the children's section on Nov. 7, when the damage occurred during library hours.



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