

# El Salvador hospitals ask for help

**INTERNATIONAL**  
SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — With hospitals running out of beds, blood and medicine, officials appealed for international help for thousands of victims from Salvador's second deadly earthquake in a month. Resources were dwindling Wednesday, and landslide-covered highways blocked rescue workers from reaching stricken communities.

Medical centers throughout the country — already overwhelmed by the thousands injured in last month's deadly quake — could not handle the additional victims from Tuesday's 6.6-magnitude temblor.

The National Emergency Committee put the death toll at 274, with 2,432 injured, 13,545 houses destroyed and nearly 123,000 people suffering property damage.

Vice President Carlos Quintanilla put out an urgent plea for help.

"We can't do it with just the resources of the state and Salvadorans," he said, adding that the international aid received thus far is "insufficient ... a drop in the bucket."

**NATIONAL**  
NEW YORK (AP) — A federal prosecutor has cranked up the heat on former President Clinton, launching a criminal investigation to determine if money played a role in the last-minute pardon of fugitive financier Marc Rich.

U.S. Attorney Mary Jo White's probe is expected to examine bank and telephone records and other documents for evidence of illegal conduct, according to a source with knowledge of the investigation.

"She is trying to determine if there was a transfer of money to buy the pardon," the source told The Associated Press on Wednesday, speaking only on condition of anonymity.

The move comes after Senate and House committees launched similar probes of the Rich pardon.

White, who was appointed to her post by Clinton in 1993, has said the pardon was granted without consultation with her office, which indicted Rich in 1983.

Critics have noted that Rich's ex-wife Denise contributed an estimated \$450,000 to the Clinton Presidential Library Fund, more than \$1.1 million to the Democratic Party and at least \$109,000 to Hillary Rodham Clinton's Senate campaign.

In a statement issued through transition office spokeswoman Julia Payne late Wednesday, Clinton again denied any wrongdoing.

**SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)** — A suspected serial killer described by prosecutors as "pure evil" was convicted of four murders in the San Joaquin Valley, and authorities suspect him in other killings and assaults across the West.

Wesley Shermantine Jr., 35, sat quietly as the verdicts were read Wednesday in a Santa Clara courtroom, where the case was moved because of publicity.

The sentencing phase to determine whether he should be executed for the crimes or sentenced to life in prison is to begin next week.

"This is the verdict, frankly, we expected. But to me, it's 15 years too

late," prosecutor Thomas Testa said. "For 15 years he's gotten away with a large number of sexual assaults, abductions, kidnappings, other crimes."

Testa said Shermantine had boasted of killing as many as 22 people, and authorities consider him a suspect in murders elsewhere in California and in Utah and Nevada.

Shermantine's attorneys declined to comment Wednesday.

**SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)** — In a victory for California's electricity wholesalers, a federal agency says power plant operators can't be forced to supply electricity if they risk not getting paid.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Wednesday denied a request by the Independent System Operator, which oversees the state's power grid, to relax its creditworthiness standards and allow near-bankrupt utilities to get power.

That means the state — already spending \$45 million a day to buy power for utility customers — may now have to step in and pay for emergency power purchases made by the ISO to avoid rolling blackouts.

"The ISO has been buying power without necessarily having credit-worthy customers behind it," said Tom Williams, spokesman for North Carolina-based Duke Energy. "FERC is saying there should be a creditworthy entity buying power."

The ISO had asked for the waiver in January after the credit rating of the two biggest buyers in the market, Southern California Edison and Pacific Gas & Electric, plummeted.

# Board pauses television system

**SCHOOL, from Page 1**

change. The superintendent said there is no deadline set on the contract to continue the classes, and no one has offered to buy the equipment.

The debate started last month when the board heard that the district's contract with a phone company that provided the service had ended.

Because it would cost too much to make upgrades, members heard, the telephone company wouldn't renew the contract, but the district could get hooked up with Brewster-based S&T Telephone, which provides the service to at least 13 other schools in northwest Kansas.

While a Spanish teacher has told the board that the program is useful and the district's technology coordinator said students could tune into college courses, Superintendent Selby and high school Principal Harvey Swager said it'll probably always be rarely

used. Administrators said the district's block-schedule and the fact Sherman County is in Mountain Standard Time — unlike most Kansas counties — makes it nearly impossible to take or teach classes elsewhere.

The program is too expensive, they noted, not to be used much.

Contract options from S&T include 10-years for \$171,335 if the district buys more than \$40,000 worth of computer equipment, or five years for \$120,000 if S&T buys the equipment.

Campbell suggested the district look into having a federal program, called e-rate, to pay part of the equipment. Earlier this year, the district applied for e-rate — which would reimburse 64 percent of the cost of new technology — to put computerized telephones in every classroom. The district won't hear until March whether it qualifies.

Superintendent Selby said the e-rate program is no longer accepting appli-

cations, but added that he would look into it.

Selby said Larry Keirns, the technical school's director, agreed to take the equipment, but not to buy it — or give class-scheduling preference to the district's students.

Campbell said Keirns is interested in the equipment because he sees value in the program, suggesting that the district switch from blocks to a more traditional class schedule to make it easier to teach or take Interactive Television classes.

"I think we're shooting ourselves in the foot with this thing," he said, noting that by selling the classes to small schools near Goodland that would otherwise shut down, the district would be helping to keep a community alive — which will ultimately benefit Goodland.

Selby said, though, that it's policy is that schools involved in the program will not charge each other for classes.

# Attorney says raises give mixed messages

**COUNTY, from Page 1**

procedures then.

"I don't think you want to send a mixed message," she said. "The most valuable assets you have in the county are the employees."

Rumpel asked if the commissioners thought they should send a memo to department heads. Rasure said he thought the commissioners should talk among themselves and come out with some ideas.

Rumpel said if it has to do with elected officials, then that can't be done in closed session. Rasure said he wanted to talk with the department heads individually and get their input.

The commissioners asked if that could be done in closed session. Rumpel said not unless they were talking about specific employees.

After talking with Selby and Rumpel, the commissioners decided to meet with county department heads about the matter.

Since their agenda was light, the commissioners decided to start by meeting with Rumpel and go from there. They then went into closed session for about 30 minutes with Rumpel to discuss employees and salaries in the clerk's office.

After coming out, the commissioners asked Rumpel to set up times for them to meet with the other department

heads about budget concerns and employee evaluations.

The commissioners agreed to table the matter on farm leases for county owned land until their next meeting.

Commissioner Frankenfeld told Tiede and Rasure that they would need to find another person to serve on the area's board for the Kansas Department on Aging.

Board member Berna Biem had resigned. The commissioners appointed Betty Rethmann of Goodland to fill the position.

The commissioners will meet again at 8 a.m. Tuesday in the commissioners' room on the first floor of the courthouse.

# Senate approves lottery bill with two-year extension

**TOPEKA (AP)** — The Senate voted Wednesday to extend the Kansas Lottery's life for two years, four fewer than the House wants.

The vote was 26-11. Some senators who voted no are opposed to gambling, while others complained about how lottery revenues are distributed.

State law abolishes the lottery on July 1, 2002, but leaders have said the

Legislature must give the agency a year to pay off prizes and wind down operations if lawmakers don't want to continue it.

The bill approved by the Senate would set a new abolition date of July 1, 2004.

It also would require the lottery to take competitive bids on contracts of more than \$1 million.

The House passed the bill last week with a six-year extension of the lottery, to July 2008, but senators heavily amended it before approving it.

The bill now returns to the House, where members are expected to reject the Senate changes and force legislative leaders to appoint a committee to draft a compromise.

## public notice

### PERFORMANCE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The City of Goodland will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, February 20, 2001, at 5:00 p.m. in the City Commissioner's Room at City Hall, 204 W. 11th, Goodland, Kansas, for the purpose of evaluating the performance of Grant Agreement Number 99-PF-006 which was for the demolition of abandoned, di-

lapidated residential and commercial structures in an area generally bounded by the city limits of the City of Goodland. This project was funded in part with the Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing, Small Cities Community Development Block Grant funds. All aspects of the grant will be discussed and oral and written comments will be recorded and become a part of the City of Goodland CDBG Citizen

### Participation Plan

Reasonable accommodations are available for persons needing assistance. Requests for accommodations should be submitted to the City Clerk's office by February 16, 2001.

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