Budget slump top story

STORY, from Page 1

percent, nearly 17,300 people.

For the 6th ranked story, it was Sebelius again.

But this time the story was about how as insurance commissioner she rejected the proposed sale in February of Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Kansas to Anthem Insurance Companies, of Indianapolis.

She said premiums for those insured by Blue Cross would have increased too much if it was purchased by Anthem.

A state judge struck down her order; she appealed and the case now is before the Kansas Supreme Court.

There was a tie for No. 7 — the turbulent year for Westar Energy Inc., and redrawing congressional and legislative districts.

In November, Westar chief David

purpose of a \$1.5 million loan. The to steer the remapping. allegations weren't related to Westar, and both men have pleaded innocent.

That same month, the Kansas Corporation Commission ordered a vest their crops and poor grazing greater separation between conditions forced many ranchers to Westar's utility operations and its sell off livestock. unregulated interests.

Every 10 years, legislators redraw boundaries for the 125 House the death penalty from a Johnson and 40 Senate districts, plus four County jury in November for killcongressional districts, to reflect ing two women whose bodies were population changes based on census figures.

Lawmakers settled on a congressional plan that put Junction City and nearby Fort Riley in different call" list so consumers can avoid districts and split Lawrence into two districts.

New House districts favored ma-signed up for the list.

Wittig resigned after a federal in- jority Republicans, but in the Sendictment accused him and a former ate, a coalition of conservative Re-Topeka banker of hiding the true publicans and Democrats emerged

> Drought was No. 9 on the list. This year, it was especially brutal, particularly in western Kansas. Some farmers didn't bother to har-

Two stories tied for 10th place. John E. Robinson Sr., received found in barrels on his rural property, and a third whose body was never found.

The Legislature created a "nopesky telemarketing calls. By September, thousands of Kansans had

Prime time schedule

Channel guide

2 PBS; 3 TBS; 4 ABC; 5 HBO; 6 CNN; 7 CBS; 8 NBC (KS); 11 TVLND; 12 ESPN; 13 FOX; 15 MAX; 16 TNN; 18 LIFE; 20 USA; 21 SHOW; 22 TMC; 23 MTV; 24 DISC; 27 VH1; 28 TNT; 30 FSN; 31 CMT; 32 FAM; 33 NBC (CO); 34 NICK; 36 A&E; 38 SCI; 39 TLC; 40 FX: 45 FMC: 49 E!; 51 TRAV; 53 WB; 54 ESPN2; 55 ESPN News; 58 HIST; 62 HGTV; 99 WGN.

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BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq criti-

cized the U.N. Security Council today for adopting a U.S.-backed resolution that tightens controls on imports to Iraq, saying the measure would inflict "deliberate damage and harm to our people.'

The resolution, passed Monday by a 13-0 vote with Russia and Syria abstaining, puts new limits on purchases of certain communications equipment and antibiotics which the United States and Britain said could be used by the Iraqi military in a war.

Washington and London have threatened to use military force against Iraq unless President Saddam Hussein's regime provides evidence it has eliminated its weapons of mass destruction.

U.N. arms experts have been in the country for more than a month inspecting sites to determine whether Iraq still has chemical, biological and nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them. Inspection officials have said Iraq's report on its weapons programs was not yet complete, and the United States has accused Saddam's regime of continuing to hide banned weapons.

Iraq's deputy prime minister, Tariq Aziz, accused the United States today of going ahead with plans for war without awaiting the weapons inspectors' report on their findings.

– Ties between Vietnam and the where. United States have come far and will strengthen further as the Southeast Asian nation reforms its economy and seeks foreign investment, Sen. John McCain said today. "When you look at our relationship 15 years ago, it's like night and day," said the former prisoner of war at the end of weeklong vacation that was his first visit to Vietnam in two years. "That's partially a maturation process on the part of the Vietnamese leadership. They recognize their future lies in a strong, vibrant free market economy. The United States can be extremely helpful in that," said McCain, R-Ariz., who is an advocate of reconciliation between the former enemies.

buildings. Officials said 41 people were injured and 47 people were continued searching for bodies but they said they did not expect to find many more in the fire-ravaged stores.

NATIONAL

RALEIGH, N.C. — Democratic Sen. John Edwards invited nearly 200 guests to his home to tell them what he was about to tell the world - that he plans to seek the presidency in 2004.

The first-term senator from North elect to serve this Michigan family." Carolina told guests at a New Year's Day party that he would form an ernors sworn in on New Year's Day. exploratory committee for a presidential run, said Walter Dellinger, a former U.S. solicitor general who took office as governor of New attended.

Edwards was scheduled to appear on NBC's "Today" show this ernor of New York. morning to make his announcement official.

Guests at the party Wednesday said Edwards indicated his campaign would focus on civil rights issues.

Edwards' announcement gives him the jump on several of his colleagues in Congress who are also expected to join the Democratic field.

Edwards, 49, a former trial lawyer, has spent months making the come the first state to have an online rounds at Democratic functions in computer in each of its public-HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam Iowa, New Hampshire and else-

The son of a textile mill employee, Edwards was born in South

Jennifer Granholm, Michigan's auguration to call on constituents to serve their communities — and pointed to her groundbreaking election as evidence that they can make a difference.

"I stand before you as living proof that the door is open to every single one of you in this room," she said in her inaugural address Wednesday. "Any one of us can run for office, and every one of us can

Granholm was one of three gov-Former Clinton administration Cabinet member Bill Richardson Mexico and George Pataki was inaugurated to his third term as gov-

Granholm, who had been the state's attorney general the past four years, attended an interfaith church service before her inauguration. She called her milestone election "a great message for our daughters and our sons that everybody can be governor."

HERNANDO, Miss. — In a milestone for student achievement and state pride, Mississippi has beschool classrooms, a spokesman for the governor said.

The state met the goal set by Gov. Ronnie Musgrove to connect







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still unaccounted for. Authorities first female governor, used her in-

VERACRUZ, Mexico—Family and friends filed past burned bodies laid out on a morgue floor in search of loved ones after a deadly New Year's Eve fireworks explosion killed 28 people in this Gulf coast city.

Some of the victims died clutching one another. Dozens of people examined tiny pieces of clothing on the remains Wednesday and searched for rings, chains or anything else to identify the bodies.

A spark set off boxes of illegal fireworks that blasted through a crowded market, igniting the entire city block. The explosions destroyed several businesses and dozens of market stands. Officials were still determining the source of the spark.

Dozens of families spent the New Year holiday rushing to hospitals and searching around the burned children and two stepchildren.

Carolina and spent his teenage Mississippi's 32,354 public classyears in Robbins, N.C. He became rooms to the Internet by Dec. 31, a successful lawyer in Raleigh, winning personal injury cases against Wednesday. big companies and amassing a fortune of \$14 million.

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. — People who knew Joe Foss say he lived his life with energy and conviction no surprise for a World War II hero category or technological catwho later served as governor of South Dakota, president of the National Rifle Association and the first Mississippi. "It puts us at the forecommissioner of the American front of something that is signifi-Football League.

Foss, who shot down 26 enemy planes as a Marine pilot in the war, died Wednesday. He was 87.

as Joe's Flying Circus that shot America Online chief executive down 72 Japanese planes. He downed 26 planes himself.

Foss was awarded the Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Flying at the time, made the challenge part Cross, the Bronze Star, Silver Star and Purple Heart.

Foss, a Republican, served in the Legislature for five years before becoming governor from 1955 to 1959. He then became commis- its to rebuild inventories and make sioner of the American Football capital improvements in 2003, League. Foss held the post until helping to fuel an economic recov-1966, and the leagues merged in ery, a survey published today said. 1970

sportsmen's shows, "The American economists indicates that econo-Sportsman" and Outdoorsman: Joe Foss" and was corporate spending will contribute president of the National Rifle Association from 1988 to 1990.

Foss is survived by his wife, two

spokesman John Sewell said The accomplishment has added importance in a state that has often

found itself near the low end of educational and economic rankings.

"I've never known Mississippi to lead the nation in any educational egory," said Tom Pittman, publisher of The DeSoto Times in northern cant and important."

The idea to hook up all the state's public classrooms to the Internet began in 1999 as a challenge offered Foss led a Marine air unit known up by Pittman's brother, then-Bob Pittman, at a meeting of the Mississippi Economic Council. Musgrove, a candidate for governor of his campaign.

> NEW YORK — After two years of cost-cutting, economists expect companies to start using rising prof-

The Wall Street Journal's 2003 He also hosted two television economic-forecast survey of 55 "The mists generally believe increased to steady economic growth throughout the year.

> On average, the economists forecast that real gross domestic product - the value of the nation's output, adjusted for inflation — would grow at an annual rate of 2.7 percent in the first quarter, 3.2 percent in the second quarter and 3.7 percent in the last two quarters of the year.

The economy is expected to have grown by an annual rate of about 1 percent in 2002.

But the economists also warned about uncertainties in the near future — such as the possibility of an extended conflict in Iraq or new ter-nomic growth.

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Friday	v Evening								3, 2003	
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	Tostitos Fiesta Bowl						Local	Local	Local	
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KUSA/NBC	Dateline NBC			Law & Ord	& Order: SVU Local		Tonight Show		Conan	
	The Nutty Professor	Local	Local	Local	Local	Local	Local			
Cable Ch	annels									
A & E	No Mercy	Third Wate	:h			No Mercy				
AMC	Smokey and the Bandit II			Tales from	Empire of t	he Ants	Ants		Tales from	
CMT	Living Proof: The Hank Williams, Jr. Story			Country's Most Shocki CMT 3rd Sl		hift				
CNN	Larry King Live Newsnight			Connie	Lou Dobb Larry K			Newsnight		
DISC	India's Sacred Monke	India's Sacred Monke FBI Files		Keeli & Ivy	Wings Ove		r Afghanist Sniper So		ool	
E!	Burt Reynolds			Loni Anderson Howard S			ern		Wild On Baja	
ESPN	NBA Friday			NBA Friday					SportsCenter	
ESPN2	Friday Night Fights			SportsCen	SportsCenter		NHL2Nigh	Pardon	NFL2Nigh	
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тсм	Shangai Express		Marlene D	Morocco				Rancho No	torious	
TLC	HomSavv HomSavv	Med Dete	Med Dete	City Cops		Scene of th	e Crime	A Family To	orn Apart	
TNN	Star Trek: Generation	Star Trek: 0	Generation	Star Trek:	Generation	Oblivious	Ultm Rvng	Fame for	Conspirac	
TNT	The Shawshank Redemption					Clifhanger	The Great		scape	
TRAV	Wildest of Tribes Wildest of Tribes			Last Warrior		Wildest of Tribes		Wildest of Tribes		
TV LAND	Sanford & Gilligan's	Andy Griff	Beaver	Lucy	Munsters	MacGyver		Sanford &	Happy Da	
USA	Hitched			Law & Order: CI		Monk		Hitched		
VH1	Where Are They Now	100 Sexies	t Artists	Where Are	They Now	Rockstrolo	Red Carp	Special	BTM	
WGN	In the Heat of the Nig			Celebrity			Matlock		Susan	
Premium	Channels		÷	, j		-				
HBO	Mad Love Inside the		On the Record The Sor			IOS	The Sopranos			
MAX	Just Cause			Riding in C	Riding in Cars with Boys			John Carpenter's Gho		
SHOW	Absolute Beginners			Scary Mov			Movie Ne	Odyssey 5		



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LEAVENWORTH (AP) — The FBI was investigating the death of an inmate at the federal prison here, prison officials said Wednesday.

Michael McAnulty was attacked about 7:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Prison staff took McAnulty to the prison's hospital, where he was pronounced dead shortly after 8 a.m.

FBI spokesman Jeff Lanza said August 2000. authorities expect to file charges

soon against an inmate in the killing.

McAnulty, 43, was sentenced in North Carolina to life in prison for assault with a deadly weapon on a mail custodian, intent to commit robbery and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

He arrived at Leavenworth in