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Consolidating

Elk Grove Dodge adds Chrysler and Jeep brands as the company streamlines. **Page B7**

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Nicole Tyson, 19, votes Wednesday at UC Davis. This year, many say, the skeptics will likely be proved wrong on the long-touted youth vote.

Huge youth vote forecast

TECHNOLOGY, PASSION TEAM UP

"Young people are voting and they are voting in record numbers because of the issues they care about." — Erica Williams, Campus Progress Action

By ED FLETCHER
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For years, political experts talked about connecting with young voters as if they were harder to reach than a High Si-

erra summit. They don't have land-line telephones, don't show up on mailing lists. Worst, they don't care.

This year it's different. A combination of new interest among young people, and campaigns employing the kinds of electronic tools familiar to today's youth, has pollsters preparing for a historic turnout of young voters.

Based on polling and anecdotal evidence, election watchers predict young people will smash registration and turnout records along the way.

"The evidence so far indicates a massive increase in youth participating in the election next week," said author and youth-vote expert Eric Greenberg.

GOP consultant Sean Walsh said he wants to be wrong, but questions whether the youth vote will usher in the para-

digm shift that others suggest. "Every election it's like Linnus waiting in the pumpkin patch," Walsh said.

Greenberg, the author of "Generation We: How Millennial Youth Are Taking Over America and Changing Our World Forever," is a believer. There's already been a nationwide surge in registration among young voters, and he's predicting a higher turnout on Election Day.

YOUTH | Page B2

ROCKLIN RESTAURANT CLOSING | Sacramento version is doing well

"I've done everything I could. I've looked at all the options. But the last two months were just too much."

MIKE FRAMPTON,
owner of the Melting Pot



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When Mike Frampton opened the Melting Pot three years ago, the Sacramento area was booming. But the business is getting squeezed hard. Fifty-two percent of people are eating out less often, according to a Nielsen survey. "My sense is that a lot of businesses are getting squeezed right now," Frampton says.

Melting Pot succumbs to meltdown

3-YEAR-OLD EATERY WILL SERVE LAST FONDUES TODAY

By JON ORTIZ
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The meltdown finally finished off the Melting Pot in Rocklin.

The 3-year-old fondue restaurant on 4 p.m. today for the last time after more than a year of fighting declining sales and dwindling crowds.

"I've done everything I could. I've looked at all the options," owner Mike Frampton said earlier this week. "But the last two months were just too much."

His restaurant's demise is a window into how recent wild swings on Wall Street and the credit crunch have pinched retailers and restaurants: Nervous customers spend less. Nervous banks lend less.

"My sense is that a lot of businesses are getting squeezed right now," Frampton said.

Consumers are cutting back on meals out. A Nielsen survey earlier this year of 50,000 consumers found that 52 percent are eating out

MELTING | Page B3



Mike Frampton tidies up in the kitchen of the Melting Pot in Rocklin, where dinner and drinks for two can top \$90. Frampton spent \$1 million to open up in 2005. Business has fallen the past two years.

ANTHRAX LETTER HOAX

More mailings planned, FBI says

MAN READING NEW PACKETS AT TIME OF ARREST, JUDGE TOLD

By DENNY WALSH
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For most people, a visit from the FBI would be a sobering experience, one that might make them reconsider their actions.

But federal agents say Marc M. Keyser was a very determined man.

So, after two FBI agents paid him a visit Wednesday to ask whether he had mailed 120 anthrax hoax letters around the country, Keyser got busy, authorities say.

In the four hours it took the agents to obtain an arrest warrant and return to his Sacramento apartment, Keyser had retrieved new addresses off the Internet, was assembling packets of a white substance along with CDs of a book he wrote, and was preparing to resume his mass-mailing campaign, according to the FBI.

But he was cooperative, surrendering without resistance.

Authorities say the "anthrax" so far has proved to be sugar and that the mailings — which went to The Bee, other newspapers nationwide and a Sacramento Starbucks — were an apparent attempt to draw attention to a novel he wrote about a fictional anthrax attack.

The scenario emerged in federal court Thursday as Assistant U.S. Attorney Benjamin Wagner argued to a judge why Keyser is dangerous and should remain behind bars.

"I have strong concerns he is unwilling to conform to provisions of the law," Wagner told U.S. Magistrate Judge Kimberly J. Mueller.

Keyser, who is charged with three counts of mailing the hoax packages, was ordered held without bail pending a further hearing today on the detention issue.

In a hallway interview after the hearing, Wagner said Keyser could wind up owing tens of thousands of dollars in restitution for responses by hazardous materials teams and law enforcement officers across the country.

He said an unknown number of the packages are probably yet to be delivered, and the Washington, D.C., headquarters of the FBI has issued a

HOAX | Page B2

AIRPORT ART | Q&A

Rabbit sculpture plan has some hopping mad

By TONY BIZJAK
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The county's approval this week of a prominent, red rabbit sculpture for the new Sacramento airport terminal sparked consternation, some chuckles, and plenty of questions among Bee readers.

Here's a peek inside the rabbit hole at how and why public art happens in Sacramento.

Q: What? \$800,000 for a rabbit?

A: Yes, it sounds hare-brained, but here's the context: In 1977, the county created an Art in Public Places program to bring more life to public-funded

architecture. The program requires builders of government buildings — such as the airport — to set aside 2 percent of construction costs for art.

The airport expansion is so huge, however, that the county finagled a lower art percentage. It's still a whopping \$8 million.

Q: This from a county that can't balance its budget?

A: The \$1.27 billion expansion — and its art — are financed by the airport account, not the county general fund. The airport is a separate company, so to speak, and pays for itself from fees on airlines, fliers and other airport users.

Q: Why can't the airport give some of this money to the county for more sheriff's deputies or other services?

A: County officials cite a legal barrier between the two accounts. Besides, they say, the artwork is just a small part of a bigger county need to replace outdated Terminal B with a new terminal, add gates for jets, build another parking garage and upgrade Terminal A.

Q: Why should government be buying art when everybody's pocketbook is hurting?

A: That's a legitimate debate. But it's not new. See Paris, Rome, Athens. In 1957, Philadelphia was the first U.S. city

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LAWRENCE ARGENT

Denver artist Lawrence Argent's 56-foot fiberglass rabbit will hang on invisible cables in the main atrium of the new airport terminal.