

California's Best - 2008 General Excellence Winner

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Retirements will help, but more cuts coming in Vacaville

BY IAN THOMPSON DAILY REPUBLIC

VACAVILLE — Twenty Vacaville employees agreed to an early retirement incentive plan that will save the city \$5.8 million during the next five years, but it's not enough to avoid more

budget cuts in early 2010. "We are assessing the budget numbers now and will be reporting back to the council in January regarding the need for further spending reductions," City Manager Laura Kuhn said. In October, when the retirement incentive plan was

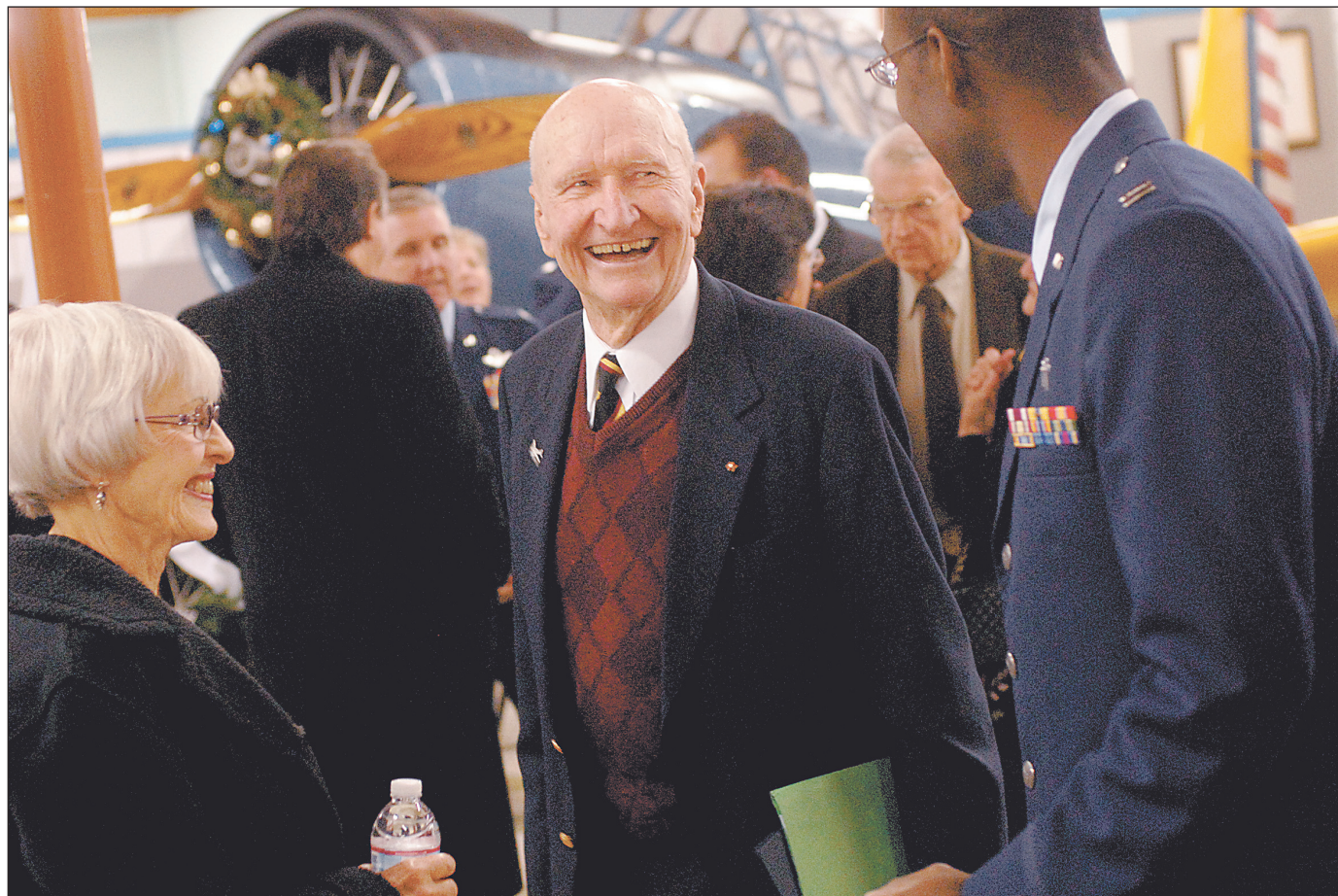
approved, the council was told Vacaville will spend \$5 million more than it makes during the 2009-10 fiscal year if nothing is done to cut costs or find new revenue. Vacaville expects to save about \$800,000 in personnel costs from the retirements during the remainder of this

fiscal year. The council approved the plan contingent on having at least 20 city employees take up the city's offer by a Dec. 8 deadline. "I believe the program was well received by our employees," Kuhn said. "We had hoped for more partici-

pation, however, participation was voluntary." Along with 10 other employees who retired this year, this makes 70 employee positions that Vacaville has emptied through circumstances that included a hiring freeze and layoffs. "There will be impacts to

service," Kuhn said. "We are doing our best to minimize the impacts, but with over 20 percent reduction in staffing, there will be impacts." Mayor Len Augustine called the incentives a good See Retirements, Page A10

'Sweet savior' to Berlin children



Brad Zweerink/Daily Republic

Retired Air Force Col. Gail Halvorsen, center, speaks with Chaplain (Capt.) John Harris, right, before the start of a ceremony honoring Halvorsen's contributions to the Berlin Airlift and the opening of an exhibit about the mission Thursday at Travis.

The 'Candy Bomber' recalls Berlin Airlift at Travis exhibition

BY IAN THOMPSON DAILY REPUBLIC

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE — When Lt. Gail Halvorsen landed his supply-laden aircraft in blockaded Berlin in late 1948, he was still not sure how he felt about the Germans

who America just finished fighting three years earlier. But when the German porters came up into the plane to thank Halvorsen and shake his hand in heartfelt gratitude for flying in food they needed to survive, "from that day we were on the same page."

"The Berlin Airlift showed that a friend can be made from an enemy," Halvorsen told those who gathered at the Travis Air Museum Thursday night to dedicate a permanent exhibit honoring the Berlin Airlift.

See Bomber, Page A10

States turn to cloud seeding to fight drought

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO — On a mountaintop clearing in the Sierra Nevada stands a tall metal platform holding a crude furnace and a box of silver iodide solution that some scientists believe could help offer relief from searing droughts. This is a cloud-seeding machine designed to increase rainfall by spraying a chemical vapor into the clouds. Under the right conditions, it can help water droplets grow heavy, coalesce and fall to the ground.



The Associated Press file

Faced with water shortages, growing populations and the threat that climate change could make matters worse, governments around the globe have in-

In this photo taken Nov. 12, Pacific Gas and Electric Meteorological Technician Steve Tissot inspects a cloud-seeding machine near Lake Almanor. See Seeding, Page A10

NOBEL CEREMONY

Obama delivers hawkish message at Peace ceremony

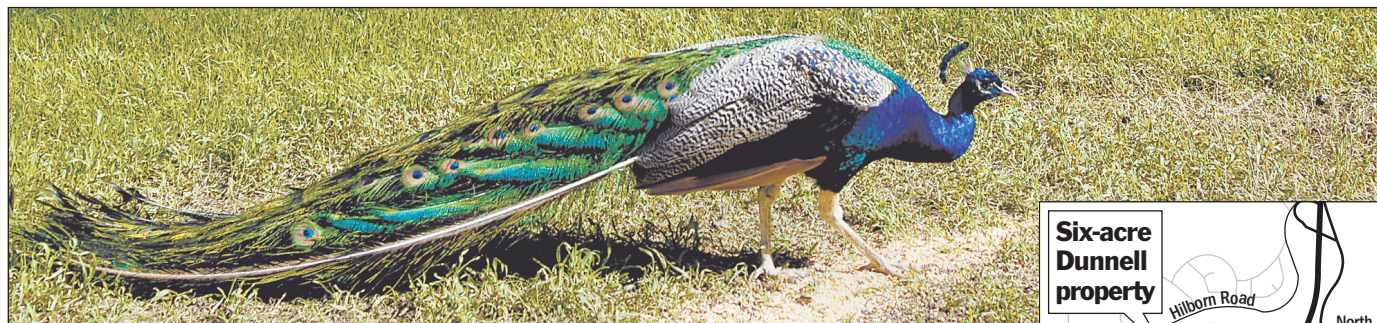
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OSLO — Newly enshrined among the world's great peacemakers, President Barack Obama offered a striking defense of war. Eleven months into his presidency, a fresh Obama doctrine. Evil must be vigorously opposed, he declared as he accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on Thursday. At the same time, he made an impassioned case for building a "just and lasting peace." "I face the world as it is, and cannot stand idle in the face of threats to the American people," Obama told his audience in Oslo's soaring City Hall. "For make no mistake: Evil does exist in the world."



The Associated Press

Barack Obama poses with his medal and diploma. Pronouncing himself humbled by such an honor so early in "my labors on See Peace, Page A10



Brad Zweerink/Daily Republic file

A peacock feeds on seeds at the Dunnell property earlier this year.



Scaled-back project in the works for Dunnell property

BY BEN ANTONIUS DAILY REPUBLIC

FAIRFIELD — Nearly 12 years after Adey Dunnell donated six acres on Hilborn Road to the city, officials are closer than ever to doing

something with her colorful property. A new plan would build a small neighborhood center on Rolling Hills land, but do See Dunnell, Page A10

COMING THIS WEEKEND

SATURDAY LIVING



WORTH MENTIONING Coach Rodney Bass teaches life lessons.

SUNDAY LIVING



SEASON'S SHOWCASE Holiday lights fill the night air around Solano County.

SUNDAY BUSINESS



BEHIND THE SCENES Bowls of factory on display on new Anheuser-Busch tour.

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