California briefly

Davis grants a rare parole for man in beating case

SACRAMENTO - Gov. Gray Davis has approved the parole of a man who beat a longtime friend to death in an argument over drug money, only the fifth parole allowed by the Democratic governor since he took office more than four years ago.

Davis said Richard Kemp's killing of Larry Proctor in Stockton in 1982 was a "shockingly brutal crime" but that Kemp has demonstrated "exemplary conduct" since then.

"Mr. Kemp has spent the past 19 years without a disciplinary report," Davis said Friday in upholding a parole board decision. "He has received over 40 laudatory reports for his participation in educational and vocational programs, therapy and self-help and volunteer activities."

Davis also said Kemp has expressed "deep remorse" and that Kemp's psychological and counseling evaluations "consistently find that he poses no risk." Kemp has job offers from two churches and the Human Services Department in Stockton when he gets out of prison, Davis added.

"Of the more than 150 parole cases I have received, Mr. Kemp's record is second to none," the governor said.

Kemp was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to 15 years to life in prison.

Tsunami-making faults found in sea

LOS ANGELES - Researchers have discovered faults and undersea landslides off the coast of Southern California that likely created massive sea waves, known as tsunamis, in the past and suggest that other seismic events could occur in the future, a University of Southern California researcher said.

"Our modeling predicts tsunami waves and flooding of up to five feet along the coast of Orange County, with surges of up to eight feet in the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach," Jose Borrero told scientists at a meeting of the Seismological Society of America in Puerto Rico.

Installing a string of buoys could give a 15-minute warning of the approach of a tsunami, Borrero said.

An offshore quake of at least magnitude 6.5 or a major undersea landslide would probably be required to cause such waves, researchers found. Borrero said a tsunami off the coast could reach as high as 30 feet.

Since 1800, Southern California has had only five or six small, locally generated tsunamis.
Lucy Jones, scientist in charge of the U.S. Geological Survey office in Pasadena, said: "I put tsunamis well down my worry list" when it comes to prospective disasters in this area.