

Officials seek buyer for St. Louis paper

United Press International ST. LOUIS — Politicians, unions and the Justice Department said Tuesday they will search for ways to keep the 131-year-old St. Louis Globe-Democrat publishing, though few expressed firm plans or much hope. Officials of the newspaper, the city's largest daily and the 34th largest in the country,

announced to stunned staffers Monday night it will cease publication Dec. 31 because of "financial losses."

Assistant Attorney General William Baxter, head of the department's antitrust division in Washington, said the department will spend the next 15 days exploring the possibility of alternative purchasers. The government is able to take the action because The Globe-Democrat, published by Newhouse newspapers, and the afternoon St. Louis Post-Dispatch have maintained a joint operating agreement since 1961, merging business, advertising and circulation departments.

The agreement keeps the companies exempt from anti-trust laws under the Newspaper Preservation Act. "During the past two years, major daily newspapers have

ceased publication in Washington, D.C., Cleveland, Philadelphia, Buffalo, Portland and New Orleans," publisher G. Duncan Bauman said Monday.

"For many years the Globe-Democrat has fought this trend. Nevertheless, the Globe-Democrat has incurred substantial losses for many years," Bauman said.

The Globe had overtaken the Post in recent years in daily circulation, leading 257,029 to 249,181, with an editorial staff of more than 200.

Robert A. Steinke, executive secretary of The Newspaper Guild in St. Louis, said the closing was "an absolute shock." He said he would meet with Globe managers later this week "to see if we can forestall this or at least get the best deals for our people."

Warped



150 dead Jury selected for trial of confessed murderer

United Press International DENTON — Seven men and five women were chosen Tuesday to hear the trial of mass killer Henry Lee Lucas who is charged with the stabbing death of his wife.

District Attorney Jerry Cobb said he planned to call 12 witnesses after opening statements were concluded Tuesday afternoon.

Lucas, 47, told authorities he killed more than 150 women in the past eight years. But he pleaded innocent to the first-degree murder charge.

State District Judge W.C. Boyd and attorneys for the defense and prosecution required

a day and a half to seat the jurors for Lucas' first trial since he was convicted in 1960 of killing his mother in Michigan.

Court-appointed defense attorney Tom Whitlock of Denton said he planned to ask Boyd to reduce the charge from murder to voluntary manslaughter in the slaying of Frieda "Becky" Powell, 15, a Jacksonville, Fla., runaway and Lucas' traveling companion.

Whitlock said he did not consider a videotaped conversation between Lucas and investigators, in which Lucas detailed how he stabbed the girl, to be a confession.

"In that tape he does not con-

fess to murder," Whitlock said. "Cutting a body is not murder. I don't think the evidence will show that. If Henry is guilty of anything, he's guilty of manslaughter."

Cobb said he would continue to press for a first-degree murder conviction — punishable by five to 99 years or life in prison.

"It's up to the jury whether or not to believe that stabbing a woman just because she slapped him constitutes murder or not," Cobb said.

In the videotape, Lucas recounted stabbing Powell to death, having sex with her corpse and dismembering her body with a 10-inch kitchen knife.

"The tape is damning my case but may not be damaging as some would say," said Whitlock.

Lucas served 10 years on and a mental hospitalizing his mother in Texas. He pleaded guilty to killing Kate Rich of Texas and was sentenced years in prison.

Investigators said over the slaying of Powell remains were scattered north Texas field, led by his confessions.

Lucas so far has been with nine slayings — Texas and one in Louisiana.

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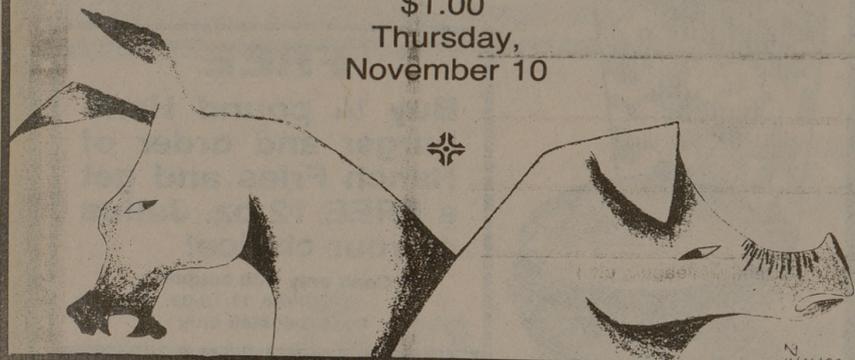
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Officers seek theft suspect

United Press International BEAUMONT — About 50 law enforcement officers, using dogs and helicopters, searched a wooded area in west Orange County Tuesday for a man suspected of three overnight armed robberies in Beaumont.

Beaumont police began chasing the suspect around 3 a.m. and managed to stop the man after he crossed the Neher bridge into Orange County.

However, while the man was radioing for help, he took the policeman's gun, cuffed him to the steering of his patrol car and fled. Officers said the man believed armed.

The search covered a three-square-mile area on Interstate 10 east of Beaumont. The suspect was not immediately identified. But police found a wallet they believe man dropped during the chase that contained identification of a James Hilton Bond Jr., Winnie.

Police said there was no violence in any of the robberies, convenience store, a truck and a motel.



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