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Cocaine country' under curfew

Curfew ordered for 9 Colombian cities, affects 3 million people

Also Wednesday, the U.S. govern-nent ordered families of its embassy aff to leave Colombia, a spokesman aid. The order apparently was iven because of fears of attacks by rug traffickers.

A shipment of weapons bound for Medellin was intercepted, and au-thorities said three more judges re-signed in the city that reputedly sup-plies the United States with 80 rcent of its cocaine.

More than 100 judges have re-igned since drug traffickers vowed o retaliate for a crackdown on drug rafficking.

The curfews imposed Wednesday Interior Minister Orlando Vasez affect a total of about 3 million eople. He said the mayors of the

Medellin Mayor Juan Gomez fartinez said the curfew is in effect rom 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. for all vehi-of Bogota, the capital. es and pedestrians, will remain in

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Au-horities imposed a curfew Wednes-lay in Medellin and nine other cities in the heart of cocaine country to try ohalt violence by drug barons stung y Colombia's crackdown on narcot-

and negotiate a peace. In a Medellin news conference broadcast by the national radio chain Caracol, Gomez Martinez said there would be no exceptions to the cur-few. "We will not give safe conduct nasses." he said passes," he said.

Gomez Martinez complained of a lack of security assistance from the national government. He has asked for 3,000 additional national police _ dellin.

officers to bolster the existing force of 4,000. He said the government agreed to provide an extra 100.

The mayor favors talks with the traffickers, but said at the news con-ference that the suggestion had been rejected by the government, and that he was carrying out all anti-nar-cotics measures ordered by national authorities.

Communications Minister Carlos

Lemos Simonds said on Tuesday, "There will be no dialogue." At midday, Mayor Escobar Perez anounced an identical curfew in the town of Itagui, 10 miles south of Me-

Vasquez ordered the curfew extended to eight other communities near Medellin. They are Bello, La Estrella, Envigado, Sabaneta, Rione-

gro, Copabacana, Guarne and Cal-das. "Medellin has become a center of perturbation in the country," Vasquez told reporters.

Since the government launched its offensive and drug barons re-sponded with a declaration of war, the city and surrounding communities have been rocked by at least 17 bombings and three arson attacks, according to police reports. Several other bombs were found.

Government rids Colombian town of drug lord

PACHO, Colombia (AP) — Gonzalo Rodriguez Ga-cha, the drug lord who owned this town, was generous one day and evil the next. He gave money to adults and toys to children, killed people who displeased him and

beople. He said the mayors of the nunicipalities under the curfew ave broader powers to conduct earches, inspect vehicles and arrest didn't, might kill a motorist who got in his way.

Last week, the crackdown on drug traffickers led the army to his hometown of 20,000 people 50 miles north

des and pedestrians, will remain in effect indefinitely in Colombia's sec-ond-largest city, "until the nights in Medellin quiet down." Jaime Uscategui Ramirez, the army coloner who iccu the raiding soldiers, said Rodriguez Gacha was so feared in Pacho that, when his 18-year-old son went into a bar, the doors were closed to everyone else until

he left. The son, Freddy, was arrested last week, but his father is still at large. At the main ranch, soldiers found 500 dolls wrapped

for next Christmas inside the house and a wooden gallows outside. The government has confiscated the ranches and other property belonging to Rodriguez Gacha.

President Virgilio Barco ordered the raids and ar-rests after Colombia's cocaine barons killed Sen. Luis Carlos Galan, the leading presidential candidate and a foe of the drug trade, on Aug. 18. Leaders of the drug cartels are said to own major of-fice buildings and bundreds of ranches and their im-

fice buildings and hundreds of ranches, and their importance to towns like Pacho is enormous.

"The people here will resent it, but in the end they will adapt to the new situation," Uscategui said of the raids. "We had no alternative."

Updated government economic report provides more good news for America

WASHINGTON (AP) -Amerians' personal incomes rose a brisk .7 percent in July while consumer pending climbed at the fastest rate nce April, the government said in April. Wednesday in a report providing more good news about the country's The g

The government also made signif-

The department said that con-sumer spending also posted a 0.7 percent increase last month, the fast-est advance since a 1.2 percent rise in April. nation of the strong July increases and the upward revisions in earlier months showed that the current eco-nomic expansion, which this month became the second longest in U.S. history, was picking up steam.

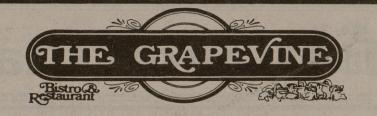
The government as of made signif-conomic prospects. The Commerce Department said for the revisions to previous months showing that income growth and prowth in wages and salaries, was the inggest monthly gain since a 1 per-ent increase in March. Intervisions to previous months showing that income growth and growth and salaries, was the intervisions to previous months showing that income growth and gish as previously believed. Private economists said the combi-

"The economy was not nearly as weak in the spring," Bruce Stein-berg, senior economist at the New York brokerage firm of Merrill Lynch said. "The image of an econ-omy on the verge of a recession has been changed by these revisions."

ting the increase in the gross national product from April through June at a healthy 2.7 per-cent annual rate instead of the ane-mic 1.7 percent rate reported a month ago.

Most of the upward revision in GNP growth came from a doubling of the estimate of how much consumers spent during the April-June quarter

Wednesday's report showed that consumer spending was even stronger in July, primarily because of a surge in sales of autos spurred by incentive sales programs aimed at reducing a high inventory of unsold



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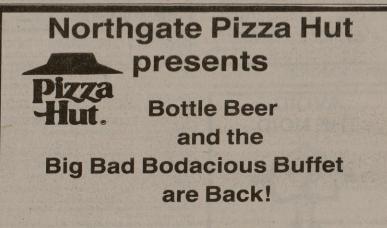


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Consumers clash with USDA over lunch food

WASHINGTON (AP) - School lunchroom cooks are hampered in efforts to provide nutritious meals be-tause the government donates mainly "fat-laden foods" such as ground beef, pork and luncheon meats, a con-sumer health group said Wednesday. Ellen Haas, director of the Public Voice for Food and

Health Policy, criticized the Agriculture Department, the agency responsible for administering the National School Lunch Program, for "not providing the critical dership necessary to speed progress in reducing fat school lunches. Scott Dunn, acting administrator of USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, countered by saying the depart-ment is committed to dietary guidelines developed ointly with the Department of Health and Human services. He said the guidelines don't set quantitative andards for fat.

"There is no scientific consensus on appropriate lev-

els of fat in children's diets," Dunn said. The American School Food Service Association noted in a statement that "children's eating habits are influenced by multiple factors such as home, school, and restaurants." It said parents and community groups must share responsibility for improving young people's dietary preferences.

The consumer group said its survey of school food. service directors shows, nevertheless, that the government school lunch program lends little encouragement

to dieticians seeking to lower the fat content of lunches. Public Voice said 67 percent of 177 school food serv-ice directors surveyed said that the USDA's commodity distribution program is one of the most significant barriers to their efforts to provide nutritious meals.

With car sales remaining strong, consumer spending this quarter should surpass the second quarter pace.

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