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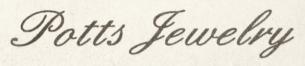
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Some states not in agreement with Microsoft breakup solution

be, and ... what I will feel

WASHINGTON (AP) - Signaling a potential division within ranks that could complicate settlement talks in the Microsoft trial, some states active in the case believe the Justice Department's plan to break up one of the world's most successful companies may not be the best solution.

Although debate continues in secret among the 19 state attorneys general deciding what to recommend about Microsoft Corp., there is a risk the government might fail to bring a unified proposal on sanctions to U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson. He bluntly told government lawyers to agree among themselves before they present in court any plan for sanctions.

"I would not like to have to deal with divergent points of view,'

Cable snaps,

2 fall 40 stories

NEW YORK (AP) - An Empire

State Building elevator with two peo-

ple aboard plunged 40 stories before

a safety system finally stopped the

car on the fourth floor. The passen-

44th floor, boarded the elevator

Monday afternoon and pressed a

the New York Post. "It was like a

feet before the safety system caught

it and slowed it to a stop on the

and floors 41 through 55, so there

was no way to exit. Masoraca

called for help on the elevator

an adjacent elevator, pried open an

emergency hatch and guided the

pair across a beam to safety.

Maintenance workers rode up in

Peterson was treated for neck and shoulder pain and released

bungee fall. It was terrifying.

'It just plunged," Peterson told

The elevator dropped about 400

The elevator services the lobby

gers were not seriously hurt.

ing really, really fast."

button for the lobby.

Jackson told them in a private meeting in November. Illustrating the difficulties in achieving such consensus, Ohio's attorney general indicated she is leaning toward a ban on some of Microsoft's behavior toward others in the technology industry rather than a forced restructuring of the software giant.

Calling the dilemma "the most difficult professional decision I ever got involved with," Ohio Attorney General Betty Montgomery told The Associated Press that a breakup of Microsoft "has never been on my top list."

lution, but again it's too early to be specific," said Montgomery. "Quite frankly, I indicated to my staff when we started this lawsuit that I was not looking out for a structural solution as much as a conduct solution

An official in another of the 19 states, who spoke on condition of "I can't tell you at this point anonymity, also has hinted that a ... what the resolution will breakup - considered the "death penalty" among possible remedies — might be too disruptive for consumers. about it and whether Ohio

Critics have suggested a courtordered breakup could result in difwill join in that solution." ferent - even incompatible - ver-— Betty Montgomery sions of Microsoft's dominant Windows software, which is en-Ohio Attorney General trenched as a de facto standard for running most of the world's per-

sonal computers.

Montgomery, a Republican now in her second and final term as attorney general, indicated the states may eventually endorse a breakup, such as Justice's idea of splitting Microsoft into three parts. But she also suggested not all the states may

"I can't tell you at this point ... what the resolution will be, and ... what I will feel about it and whether Ohio will join in that solution," Montgomery said.

News in Brief

an appointment to see a doctor. "I'm very tired, and I'm in pain," he said.

The elevator plunge was caused by a sheared compensating cable, which adjusts the weight of the car, building spokesperson Howard Rubenstein said.

The elevator passed an inspection May 19, he said.

"I thought I was going to die," Shameka Peterson said. "It was go-All 64 elevators in the landmark have been scheduled for inspec-Peterson and Joe Masoraca, tions this week who work in different offices on the

The 102-story building at the corner of Fifth Avenue and 34th Street opened in 1931. It handles millions of tourists each year and thousands of people work inside.

Girl pleads guilty in brother's death

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) - A 13-yearold girl pleaded guilty Tuesday to third-degree murder in the beating, stabbing and drowning of her 3-yearold half brother, prosecutors said.

A sentencing hearing in Juvenile Court is scheduled for Feb. 10 and few details on the case were released due to her age.

Christian C. Ladoucer was found in their home on Dec. 21. He had been beaten and stabbed before he

Under Minnesota law, the girl

could not stand trial as an adult because she is under 14 and she can't remain under court jurisdiction past her 19th birthday.

Graveyard murder captured on film

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) - A man who fatally shot his ex-wife at a cemetery while a TV camera rolled was found guilty Tuesday of murder.

A jury took just over an hour to convict Emilio Nunez, 40, in the slaying of Maritza Martin. Prosecutors did not seek the death

penalty; Nunez will get life in prison. A reporter for the Spanish-language network Telemundo was interviewing Nunez in 1993 at the grave of his 15-year-old daughter, who had

killed herself Nunez's ex-wife arrived unexpectedly, and he accused her of causing their daughter's suicide by slapping

the girl because she was pregnant. Nunez then pulled a gun, shot Martin in the head and fired 11 more

times as she lay on the ground. The reporter, Ingrid Cruz, and her cameraman ran for cover, but not before he filmed much of the shooting. The tape was shown in court.

Consume confidence on the ris

NEW YORK (AP) - Core confidence has soared to its his el in the 33 years the statistich kept, pushed by the booming sto

ket and plentiful jobs.
"Consumers have every rebe optimistic. There is just not ing wrong," said economist Mad di at Regional Financial Associ West Chester, Pa.

The Conference Board, which ies business and finance trends ed Tuesday that its Consum dence Index rose to 144.7 in

Confidence soars to 32-year high

Here is a look at the cons confidence index from a sir of 5,000 U.S. households.

J F M A M J J A S ON

1998 1999

the highest level reached since Texas A&M ness-financed group began kedo with it, such records in February 1967. evening at 7 The index is based on montahoma.

terviews with 5,000 U.S. hose Two wee and measures consumer optimistiwere rudel current and future business contisounding 8 Economists pay close attenticoach Pegg

cause consumer spending man on paper. about two-thirds of the U.S. am "Our k u.S. growth streak, which is at most of the month to become the longest are Zandi attributed the "carright before

among consumers to a conflusi factors: low unemployment, abox stock market and low inflation.

"Until the stock market cook fidence will not weaken and const will not stop spending," he said

Some economists caution, hos er, that the economy's heavy relian consumer spending can be am blessing, since sentiment can bear ed by unforeseen factors such as ical turmoil or sudden changes in nomic policies, like a tax increas

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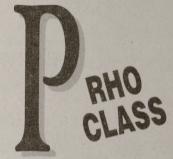
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> For information or transportation contact: Hector Valle 779-6396 or 575-4932 Sean Kenesson 764-9475 or 574-5158

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