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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEDFORD, Ore. — Jackson County was closing its 15 libraries Friday because the accustomed federal timber payments used to sustain them are in doubt, and in many towns the closures were marked with bitter-

In Eagle Point, Carole Mercer carefully removed embroidered jeans and tennis shoes Thursday from the local branch where they had been on display in honor of her daugh-

Mercer donated \$100,000 to help build the two-year-old branch. Her 20-year-old daughter, Sarah Ann, died in 1997. Mercer also removed the young woman's portrait.

Heist suspect

when found:

'Just shoot me'

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRANCHBURG, N.J. -

caught Friday in a bank rob-

bery investigation that led to

300-officer manhunt for

almost a day after gunfire

erupted outside a bank that

authorities suspected was

about to be robbed in Read-

The shooting began when

FBI agents confronted three

men. Agent Barry Lee Bush,

52, was killed in the gunfire,

and the FBI said he may have

been hit by shots from another

Two other suspects were ar-

Herrera-Genao was found

Friday, a few miles from the

Wilfredo Berrios, 28, and

Michael Cruz, 21, both of New

Brunswick, N.J., will be

charged with attempted

armed robbery, federal prosecutors said. Herrera-Genao

was expected to face similar

Authorities said Herrera-

Genao was caught Friday af-

ter approaching the woman in

the car as she prepared to

"He started hitting on my

window, trying to get in my car," Beverly Hardon said.

She sped off and then called po-

Police dogs quickly flushed

woods, authorities said.

ing to State Police Superinten-

An FBI task force had been

tracking Herrera-Genao and

dent Rick Fuentes.

charges.

leave home.

rested shortly after the shoot-

ington, N.J.

ory in a closed library," said Mercer. County commissioners decided on the clo-

\$23 million a year. Other agencies will see cutbacks, and several counties with federal timber land are cutting jobs and services. As Mercer packed up the memorial, two

dozen youngsters filed through the door to attend Storytime, the last before closure. Last year, 900 kids in the town of about 5,500 signed up for the summer program. "It's sad that this is being done," said Rose

Malone, who brought her 5-year-old grand-But she said she is reluctant to vote for a more of those must approve it.

"I cannot bear to leave my daughter's mem-three-year levy on May 15 that would give \$8.3 million annually to reopen the libraries. Mercer said some residents say libraries sures after Congress failed to renew the timare unnecessary in the Internet age, but as ber payments program that paid the county she spoke, children and adults were using computers funded by grants from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Teresa Montgomery, interim director of Southern Oregon University's Hannon library in Ashland, said it would remain open to the public, but to check out books people would have to buy a "Friends of the Library" card, at \$35 for a year's privileges.

Passage of the May 15 levy requires a "double majority," in which at least half of the registered voters must turn out and half or

Under federal law, illegally en-

tering the country is a misde-

meanor punishable by a fine and

up to six months in prison for a

The federal figures on arrests

and prosecutions were collected

by the Transactional Records Ac-

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illegal immigrants.

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Yee Ha!

When a third suspect was the fatal shooting of an FBI fear they will be prosecuted.

agent, he had a request for officers: "Just shoot me." Francisco Herrera-Genao, 22, was half-naked, and caked with mud and twigs after a night in the woods. He was arrested after trying to carjack a woman, authorities said. Herrera-Genao eluded a

Those 5.3 million immigrants Rio Grande and turned loose. into the United States again.

The number of immigrants prosecuted annually tripled during that five-year period, to 30,848 in fiscal year 2005, the most recent figures available. But that represented less than 3 percent of the 1.17 million people arrested that year. The prose cution rate was just under 1 percent in 2001.

## Bigger fish to fry?

top officials in the Justice Deagainst illegal immigrants.

ously suggesting the government prosecute everyone caught slipping across the border. With about 1 million immigrants stopped each year, that would overwhelm the nation's prisons, break the Justice Department's budget and paralyze the courts, immigration experts say.

Herrera-Genao out of the "Just shoot me. Just kill me," the shoeless, shirtless suspect told the state trooper who approached him, accord-

T.J. Bonner, the union chief

## 98 percent of illegal border-crossers

ties in the United States by crack-

ing down on employers who hire

"The employers are the ones

breaking the law," he said, sug-

gesting the creation of an "idiot-

proof" system to check the immi-

gration status of workers and

the prosecution of any employ-

By ALICIA A. CALDWELL THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EL PASO, Texas — For all the tough talk out of Washington on immigration, illegal immigrants caught along the Mexican border have almost no reason to

Ninety-eight percent of those arrested from Oct. 1, 2000, to Sept. 30, 2005, were not prosecuted for illegally entering the country, according to an Associated Press analysis of federal

were escorted back across the Many presumably tried to slip

The likelihood of an illegal immigrant being prosecuted is "to me, practically zero," said Kathleen Walker, president-elect of the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

Federal prosecutors along the border have come under pressure from politicians and from partment to pursue more cases

But few politicians are seri-

The Justice Department says it has higher priorities and too few resources to go after every ordinary illegal immigrant.

Instead, the department says, it pursues selective strategies, such as going after immigrant smugglers and immigrants with criminal records.





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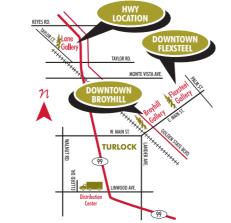
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