

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — San Francisco schools have already spent nearly all the \$23 million collected under a quarter-cent sales tax increase ruled invalid this week.

The 3rd District Court of Appeal in Sacramento said Monday that the San Francisco measure, approved in December 1991 by 55 percent of the city's voters, needed a two-thirds majority under Proposition 13, the 1978 tax-cut initiative.

That's in contrast to the situation in San Diego and Monterey counties, where similar challenges to sales tax increases succeeded. Under a state law that covers those taxes, but not the San Francisco tax, buyers of more than \$5,000 in goods can get tax refunds, and the rest of the money will be returned in a rollback of the local tax rate.

Monday's ruling upheld refunds totaling \$1,650 to four small San Francisco businesses. Large retailers could claim much bigger refunds, a possibility that led the San Francisco school board to set aside \$1.5 million of the tax revenue. But a lawyer and a board member suggested that merchants who sought refunds would risk a backlash.

"It's unsettling to feel that there are people out there who have no regard for the kids," said school board member Tom Ammiano. He said he won't patronize a flower dealer who was the lead plaintiff in the suit against the tax.

spending the money rather than setting it aside, said Jonathan Coupal, lawyer for the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, which represented the retailers who challenged the tax. The association sought unsuccessfully to block collection of the tax while the suit was pending.

The San Francisco tax was to have expired last June but was continued by a new ballot measure approved by more than two-thirds of the voters.

The measure was placed on the local ballot in the face of warnings by Proposition 13 advocates that it would violate the 1978 initiative's requirement of a two-thirds vote for new "special taxes."

the state Supreme Court broadened its previous definition of "special taxes" in a way that imperiled several local measures, including the San Francisco tax.

In a case from San Diego, the court ruled that the two-thirds requirement applied not only to special-purpose taxes levied by a city or county, but also to taxes imposed by a newly created district controlled by a city or county.

That ruling could be revisited soon, because the court has agreed to review an appellate decision that struck down a half-cent sales tax increase to fund transit projects in Santa Clara County. Hoping that the tax authority will be broadened, Goodwin said the San Francisco agency probably will appeal its case to the high court.

In Monday's 3-0 ruling, the appeals court said a tax agency controlled by a school district is covered by the two-thirds vote requirement, just like the county-controlled agency in the San Diego case.

Nominations are being accepted for awards which will be presented at Spring Commencement to University of Oregon faculty members for distinguished teaching. Graduate teaching fellows, who have their own competition, are ineligible for these awards. This year there will be up to three awards, each accompanied by a monetary prize. Nominations may be made by students, faculty, staff and alumni. If you wish to make a nomination, you may use the form below or another sheet of paper and send it to the following address:

Please send your nominations no later than April 15, 1994

The late Mr. A. J. Ersted established the Ersted Award for Distinguished Teaching so the University of Oregon could annually honor faculty members "who have taught comparatively short periods and have demonstrated exceptional abilities to induce students to reason and not merely memorize." The Ersted Award can go only to faculty who are early in their teaching careers. This teaching may occur at the undergraduate or graduate level.

The University of Oregon wishes to continue the tradition of the Burlington Northern Foundation Faculty Achievement Award For Distinguished Teaching by instituting an award which will honor senior faculty members who have achieved outstanding records as teachers. The Faculty Achievement Award for Distinguished Teaching can go only to faculty members who have held academic rank at the University of Oregon for at least seven years, and who have demonstrated excellence in teaching at the undergraduate or graduate level.

The reasons for this nomination are as follows:
(Please feel free to attach an additional sheet, if necessary.)

[illegible]

FLORENCE (AP) — It may never be as famous as the world's largest hand-dug well in Kansas, or as large as its counterpart in Darwin, Minn., but for Joe Dyer of Florence the six-foot ball of string, twine and yarn that fills his carport also tells the history of his life.

Dyer, 46, said he started winding the ball of string when he was nine years old.

"My grandmother gave me a book called *Homer and the Doughnut Factory*," he said. "I don't remember the book very well, but in the book, he started a ball of string. I decided I would do the same thing so my grandmother gave me a ball of string, and it grew from there."

And for the past 35 years, Dyer has continued the project he and his grandmother started.

The ball weighs at least a ton, Dyer said. But the weight is not all string.

He started wrapping change in with the string when he was young and then began putting newspapers and other articles of his life into the ball to make a living history.

"It's a time capsule of my life and what's going on close to it," Dyer said. He said he adds onto the ball of string at least once each week, and as the ball grows larger, it takes more and more string to make one wrap around it.

"It's getting hard to get enough twine to put on it because it doesn't take long until you're out of string," he said.

Dyer uses just about any type of string on the ball. It is made up of nylon, regular string, twine, yarn and even some small rope. He said he gets string from anywhere he can find it, including the string that seals dog food bags.

The ball attracts many sightseers, he said. And his wife, Phoenix, said people often donate to Joe's hobby.

"Sometimes people even leave bags of yarn on our doorstep," she said.

The colors that Joe Dyer adds to his ball of string change from season to season.

"In October, I make it orange and brown and I make it green and red during the Christmas season," he said.

Phoenix Dyer, who is a clinical therapist, said it is often a helpful tool with her work.

"Usually if I have a tough case, I take them to see it and it usually gets them to open up," she said. "Usually even the shyest child wants to ask questions about it."

She said she also used a photo of the ball of string — along with a textbook photo of the world's largest ball of twine in Darwin, Minn., that measures 12 feet 9 inches in diameter — during a speech she gave on obsessive-compulsive behavior.

However, she has "never regarded Joe's hobby in that light." She said the ball is a childhood project that has become a type of therapy for him.

The ball of string is something Joe said he plans on having for a long time to come.

"I plan on putting it in something like a gazebo so people can come look at it," he said.

MISCELLANEOUS

Assembly Committee on Multicultural Affairs will sponsor a public forum today from 12 to 2 p.m. in the EMU Walnut Room. For more information, call 346-3013.

Incidental Fee Committee will conduct budget hearings tonight at 6 in the EMU Maple Room. For more information, call 346-3749.

ASUO Safety Affairs will sponsor a HIV/AIDS performance tonight from 7 to 9 in the EMU Fir Room. For more information, call 346-0628 or 346-3749.

Career Planning and Placement Service

will conduct a resume writing workshop today from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in Room 221 Hendricks.

Deadline for submitting EI AIs to the Emerald front desk, Suite 300 EMU, is noon the day before publication. EI AIs run the day of the event unless the event takes place before noon and is requested to be published earlier.

er. Notices of events with a donation or admission charge will not be accepted. Campus events and those scheduled nearest the publication date will be given priority. The Emerald reserves the right to edit for grammar and style.