

✓ CF Unemployment LAYOFFS RP 5/6/93 p. 1

# Layoff notices upheld

An administrative law judge has upheld Pajaro Valley school board action in March that sent out more than 200 lay off notices to employees in March.

The ruling clears the way for the board to send out more than 200 final termination notices. Deadline for mailing those notices is May 15.

Earlier this week, Administrative Law Judge Nancy Rasmussen ruled that the district followed established procedures in notifying employees of the impending layoffs. Rasmussen

made the ruling after presiding over hearings held April 13 and 15. The hearings were requested by employees who received the notices.

On the line are 63 positions that include music teachers, counselors, librarians, nurses, GATE teachers and 26 time-release teachers, who take over teachers' classes for a certain portion of the day while the regular teachers work on curriculum development.

But layoffs may not reach as  
See LAYOFF / back of section ►

✓ CF LAYOFFS RP

## LAYOFFS

► From Page 1 5/6/93 p. 8

high as anticipated. School board president Jane Barr said the board last night approved the golden handshake proposal, which offers teachers early retirement.

Barr said between four and eight employees may opt for early retirement. Plus there are several other teachers that may leave the district at the end of the school year and others who may go on leave. She said some employees could be re-hired anytime after May 15 as positions become available.

That may not offer any solace for employees who are sitting on the edge of their seats.

"It's really hard on (employee) moral," Barr said. "It's not an ideal situation."

Teachers union representative Rhea DeHart couldn't agree more.

"There are some people out there living in limbo land," DeHart said.

The district is caught in a desperate fight to stay afloat amid an array of fiscal problems that has plagued the district for the past four years. It is estimated the district could be facing a \$4 million shortfall next year, trustees said.

At risk is the loss of counselors and music programs. At last night's school board meeting, numerous district music students appealed to the board to spare the music program. They carried signs and taped banners to the walls of the multipurpose room at Starlight Elementary School, where the school board met. One banner read, "Lose music, lose us."

— Emilio Alvarado