Sign on....

I commented briefly last time about the government shutting down. I didn't think it would happen, because they usually pull a last-minute extension out of their hats. This time, they didn't, each side blaming the other. From what I heard, Parks and other non-essential governmental units are closed, and I don't know if the workers are paid or not. I did hear, though, that the Congressional people do get paid. That, to me, is all wrong. If anything, the situation should be reversed, and the regular employees should be paid, and the Congressional people not paid. The problem with that is, that most of our elected representatives are wealthy and wouldn't miss it. I still think that there should be some kind of coverage that prevents this kind of foolishness.///This past week, we had some very high breakers in the bay entrance, and people were warned to stay away, or at the very least, be extremely careful about getting too close to the water. In the next day's Times-Standard, there was a picture of two people walking not too far from the waves. The wife of one of my high school classmates parked her Volkswagon van on the south jetty several years ago, and the waves picked it up and she and her kids were lost to the channel. Other folks have been lost, or at least washed off the jetties over the years. There is some fascination with the breakers and many folks just have to go look at them, even though they could lose their lives, or at best, be washed into the bar waters. I have been involved with some high water rescues, though not in the bay or the bar, and I know how dangerous the ocean can be. So, always watch the waves, and don't turn your back on the water, and if your kids are playing in

the sand, keep them away from the water's edge. //I have to say goodbye to another good friend. Don Bachman passed away last week. He had belonged to my church, sang Barbershop with me, and was the administrative officer for the U.S. Forest Service where my wife worked for many years before she became a registered nurse. Don's wife, Hilma passed away not too long ago, and now they are back together again. A memorial service is tentatively set for February first at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Eureka. My condolences to the Bachman family.//*On February 8th, the ECMS, or the Eureka Chamber Music Series, presents the San Francisco Opera Singers at Calvary Lutheran church, South and Prospect Streets. The concert starts at 7:30 P.M. There will be a "meet the artists" reception following the concert. The ECMS always has first class entertainment- be there!* There aren't too many more ways to enjoy an evening, and the performers are downto-earth folks*. I have attended a large percentage of the concerts, and have never been disappointed, so join me in this DON MECORT - MONEY COM MENT excellent pleasure. Sign off.....