

THE

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THURSDAY

## Grocers talk turkey, try to lure customers

*Competition rises before holiday*

## Finally, suits for men who work out

*'Athletic-fit' tailored  
for guys who keep in shape*



## Kings outshoot Sabres 43-14 in victory

*Team has 2-point lead in Smythe*

BUSINESS

B5

LIFE/ARTS

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SPORTS

D1

# Torrance, shooting victim settle

## \$1.9 million ends police-action suit

By Jim Radcliffe

STAFF WRITER

A construction worker left partially paralyzed when a Torrance policeman accidentally shot him in the face will receive \$1.9 million in a lawsuit settlement with the city, attorneys for both parties said Wednesday.

Patrick Coyle — a 33-year-old father of three who is in Los Angeles County Jail for a narcotics conviction unrelated

to the May 1988 shooting — will receive payments spanning the next 15 years as compensation for a traffic stop that soured and eventually cost three police officers their jobs.

### City admitted liability

To hasten the case and to cut court costs, the city admitted liability two years ago when Coyle agreed not to seek punitive damages. But agreement on the dollar amount hung up the settlement.

"We've had a lot of anxiety and turmoil in this past year," said Mayor Katy Geissert. "It's good to have this behind us. ... I'm glad this settled, and I'm

glad the city did the honest, straightforward thing."

"I think any time you reach a settlement, it's a compromise to both sides," said Brian Panish, Coyle's attorney. "Obviously, no amount of money will put him back to where he was before he was unlawfully shot.

"A lot of the money's going to have to be used for medical services," Panish said. The money also will cover lost wages and attorneys fees, the lawyer said.

According to the settlement, Coyle and his wife, Nancy, will receive three lump sums: \$500,000 within two weeks, \$150,000 in January and \$100,000 in a

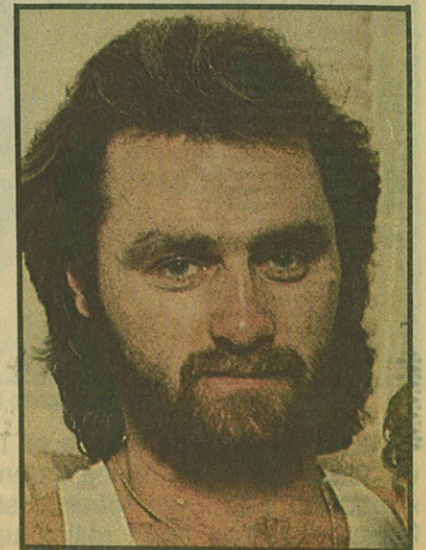
year.

The city also will make quarterly payments to the couple during the next 15 years for an additional \$1.19 million. The quarterly payments would cease if Coyle dies before the 15-year period ends.

### Tumultuous years

The case nearly shuts the door on four tumultuous years in which the Torrance Police Department was hit with four major lawsuits. Three, including Coyle's, were settled for a collective \$3.1 million. The fourth resulted in a \$7.6

TORRANCE/A13



An officer's gun left Patrick Coyle, 33, partially paralyzed.