

four years ago to deal with a routine passport matter, she had to pass through British security, then face an airport-style metal detector so she and her handbag could be scanned for weapons and contraband.

The wealthy American didn't leave her stash at home. She tried to pass the security scan with small amounts of crack cocaine, heroin and a banned stimulant in her purse.

The subsequent arrest led police to search the multimillion-dollar property she shared with her husband, Tetra Pak heir Hans Kristian Rausing. Police found still more drugs, including a sizeable amount of cocaine.

Charges were dropped in exchange for a formal police warning, but the arrest made public what close family and friends already knew: The golden couple, with untold riches, were deeply mired in drug addiction even as they gave millions to numerous anti-addiction charities.

Their sad tale reached its climax this week when the 48-year-old Eva Rausing was found dead in their home and her husband arrested for questioning about drug use and placed in hospital care. The cause of Eva Rausing's death has not yet been established.

Drugs. A scourge for the poor, for the middle class and even for the super-rich, those who, like the Rausing, measure their net worth in the billions.

"Addiction doesn't know any class boundaries," said Amanda Thomson, spokeswoman for Action on Addiction, one of many charities the Rausing supported even as they swooned toward drugged-out oblivion.

Eva Rausing was born into a wealthy American family headed by former Pepsi executive Tom Kemeny, and her husband was an heir to the formidable Tetra Pak fortune — his father and his family have a spot on Britain's "Rich



This photo of Nov. 26, 1996, shows Eva Rausing, right, and her husband Hans Kristian Rausing at Winfield House, London, the residence of the US ambassador to the UK attending the Glamour America Fashion Show and lunch. One of Britain's richest women, American-born Eva Rausing, was found dead in her west London home and a man was arrested in connection with the case, British police say, adding that an autopsy had failed to uncover a formal cause of death. Rausing, 48, was the wife of Hans Kristian Rausing, heir to the TetraPak fortune his father built by creating a successful manufacturer of laminated cardboard drink containers.

List" with a net worth estimated at 4.3 billion pounds (\$6.7 billion).

The money came from his family's development of a better milk carton — one that could be packed and shipped like bricks, easing the distribution of milk and juices throughout the world.

The Rausing married shortly after they met in the 1980s and raised four children from their London base in an exclusive section of the Chelsea neighborhood.

Before the embassy arrest, Eva Rausing's good looks and beautiful clothes — along with her husband and his friendly, bear-like countenance — had made the Rausing welcome participants on the London philanthropic scene. She was on several charity boards, focusing on those that helped fight drug addiction, but also serving on Prince Charles' Foundation for the Built Environment.

Charles, no stranger to second chances, stood behind her after the embassy scandal, backing a decision to keep her on board as a trustee. A

spokeswoman, who declined to be identified because of palace policy, said Charles, who was able to rebuild his life after his failed marriage to the late Princess Diana, believes people can recover from serious missteps.

But evidence suggests that Eva Rausing's drug use only intensified in the years since the embassy arrest. Recent photographs showed that Eva Rausing had become quite gaunt, and her once stocky husband also recently

appeared thin and furtive, bearing only a slight resemblance to his former self, when he would attend galas looking like an elegant, bearded, tuxedoed European swain from an earlier era.

Hans Kristian Rausing was arrested in connection to suspected drug crimes and police want to question him about the circumstances of his wife's death. He is currently receiving medical treatment in a London hospital. Police have not indicated that Eva Rausing's death was a result of foul play or that a crime was committed.

THIS WEEKEND AT THE MALL

SUMMER

SIDEWALK

SALE

**SATURDAY THRU SUNDAY
JULY 14TH THRU July 15TH**

Cross County Mall is Conveniently Located
at 700 Broadway East in Mattoon
With Easy Access From I-57 On Rte. 16
Exit West to 3rd. Stop light, Mall is on North Side

Many Fine Stores Including: Alamo Steak House,
Claire's Boutique, Community Blood Services, Pro Nails,
J.C. Penney, Community Health Improvement Center,
Bath & Body Works, JP's Sandwich Shop, Payless Shoes,
Maurices, Taco Bell, Carson's, Regis Hair Stylists, The Shoe Dept.,
Radio Shack, Christopher & Banks, GNC, H&R Block,
Super Jumbo Buffet, JG-TC, Kirin's Hallmark

Mall Hours:
Monday-Saturday 10am - 9pm • Sunday Noon - 5pm
Some stores have extended hours.

House Dems fall short in blocking food stamp cuts

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats fell short in efforts Wednesday to block cuts to the food stamp program as the House Agriculture Committee moved ahead on a half-trillion-dollar bill to fund farm and nutrition programs over the next five years.

The program that helps feed 46 million people at a cost of near \$80 billion a year was the dominant issue as committee members tried to advance one of the larger and more expensive bills that Congress is taking up this year. Democrats insisted that any cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program would result in people going hungry. Republicans said they were merely trying to bring efficiency to a program to ensure that anyone who is qualified for food benefits will receive them.

The committee's draft measure would save \$3.5 billion a year from current spending levels through such steps as ending the practice of direct payments for nonactive farmers and consolidating conservation programs. Of that, \$1.6 billion in savings would come from tightening eligibility rules and ending abuses in the food stamp.

The Senate version of the farm bill passed last month on a bipartisan vote would save about \$2.3 billion a year, with \$400 million coming from the food stamp program.

The House and Senate must reach a compromise before the current farm bill expires at the end of September.

House GOP leaders have not committed to bringing the legislation to the floor, where its chances of passage are cloud-

authorized under the farm bill.

The panel defeated, on a 31-15 vote, a proposal by Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass., that would have eliminated all the proposed cuts to food stamps. The cuts, he said, would deprive some 2 million to 3 million people of food assistance and would "literally take food away from hungry people." Rep. Joe Baca, D-Calif., told his colleagues, "I once relied on food stamps." Without that aid, he said, "I wouldn't have been able to feed my son and my wife."

But Republicans pointed to the sharp rise in beneficiaries, from 19 million in 2002 to 46 million a decade later, and current policies that encourage further enrollment as a means to stimulate the economy or fight obesity by promot-

ing healthier eating. The proposed House cuts would target practices by many states of waiving food stamp asset and income limits for people receiving other welfare benefits or giving minimal heating aid to people so they are eligible for increased food stamp assistance.

The committee chairman, Rep. Frank Lucas, R-Okla., stressed that no qualified people would be deprived of help. "I believe most Americans will agree that a 2 percent cut in food stamps is reasonable," he said.

The committee also rejected, by 28-15, an amendment by Rep. Kurt Schrader, D-Ore., that would have agreed to the Senate plan to reduce food stamp spending by \$400 million a year.

**When you need just a little
(or a lot of) extra help.
Call Us.**

Sarah's Homemakers helps people maintain their independence by providing a wide range of services, including:

- sitters
- errands & shopping
- personal care
- transportation
- general cleaning
- companionship
- laundry
- respite for caregivers
- meal preparation

Call us to discuss your needs and arrange a workable schedule. Cost is determined by the level of service. All our employees are



A new electric transmission line:
delivering reliable and
cost-effective energy

Please join us for an open house—because your input matters.

The Illinois Rivers Transmission Project will improve reliability, provide more access to renewable power and bring economic benefits to our area. And your opinion is vital as this initiative takes shape. At our open house, you can learn about the need for this new transmission line, share your thoughts on best possible routes and get answers to your questions.

Unique Suites Hotel
5 – 8 p.m. July 26
920 W. Lincoln, Charleston, IL 61920