

Vans, erosion control, drug abuse, CETA

Group reviews federal fund requests

By ROY BRAGG
Battalion Reporter

The Brazos Valley Development Council executive committee reviewed an application for transportation assistance for low income residents Thursday.

The project calls for the purchase of four vans, vehicle insurance, funds for gasoline and maintenance of the vehicles, as well as a salary for a back-up driver.

The BVDC executive committee

and comments on requests for federal funding in Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Robertson and Washington counties.

The program would be administered through the Brazos Valley Community Action Agency at a cost of \$87,550.

The BVDC also forwarded to Washington two requests for federal funding to aid erosion control projects in the region.

The Washington County Soil and

Water Conservation District is asking for \$374,000 for 29 erosion control structures in southwest Washington County. The Brazos-Robertson Soil and Water Conservation District is asking for \$204,000 to go along with \$51,000 of local funds.

The BVDC turned down a proposal to establish a drug and alcohol abuse program in Madison County. According to Debbie Calloway of the BVDC, the program would duplicate existing services offered by the BVDC's Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center. She said the proposal also arrived too

late to be considered for funding at this time.

The BVDC also passed three resolutions affecting the Community Employment and Training Act (CETA) programs in the region.

Two of the resolutions concerned CETA planning funds for the next year totaling approximately \$130,000. CETA funds are used to train the unemployed for entrance into the job market.

The third resolution dealt with continuation and extension of the Guidance Information System in area schools.

The Guidance Information System is a computer-based system which is intended to supplement existing career counseling services in high schools. The BVDC contracted for the service through the Region IV Educational Service Center in Houston. The service is presently available in Hearne and Bryan high schools. The Manpower Advisory Committee of the BVDC recommended that the system be extended to A&M Consolidated, Brenham and Navasota school districts at a combined cost of \$25,000 for the coming year.

The committee also recommended that funding be continued for the Juvenile Diversion Unit in College Station. The diversion program calls for funds to pay the salary of a full-time police officer to work with school officials to divert problem juveniles from the formal juvenile justice system.

Independent drillers increase exploration

United Press International

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — A consulting firm says about half the money spent in the United States last year on oil and gas exploration was invested by independent producers.

Nearly 5,000 independent producers invested \$3.75 billion in 1977 — an amount equivalent to that invested by the 20 major gas and oil producers, Arthur D. Little Inc. said Wednesday.

The report said exploratory activity by the independent producers centered onshore in the 48 contiguous states, but some firms have begun looking for gas and oil offshore, in Canada and in overseas nations.

Independent firms are expected to continue to increase their participation in oil and gas exploration over the next few years, the report said.

The number of wells drilled in the United States is expected to increase by 6 to 8 percent annually, and drilling costs are expected to rise by as much as 12 percent, according to the study.

The report added those figures indicate independent firms have developed more sophisticated exploratory techniques and are choosing lower risk sites for drilling.

However, exploratory drilling has resulted in the establishment of only 29 percent of new oil and gas fields and reserves, the report said.

More than half the reserves added in 1977 were in Texas, Louisiana and California, the report said.

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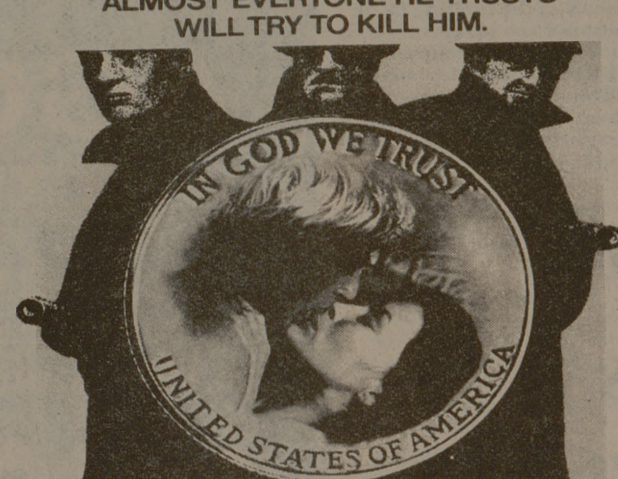
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Zindler pledges to battle Nazis to Supreme Court

United Press International

HOUSTON — Television reporter Marvin Zindler Thursday said he would take to the Supreme Court his fight to silence an American Nazi Party telephone recording offering bounties for "non-whites" killed in the act of attacking whites.

Zindler said Wednesday's refusal by the Texas Supreme Court to reconsider its July 12 decision was expected and no more than a formality clearing the way for him to take the

battle to the nation's highest court.

"In my gut feeling, the Supreme Court will not allow any group or individual to threaten to take lives of any ethnic group. This has nothing to do with freedom of speech.

"The Texas Supreme Court says I can't be injured by it. But if I can't be injured by it, or a black, who can file?" standing to file a lawsuit over the recorded message.

Houston Nazis offered a \$5,000 bounty "for every non-white carcass

killed while attacking a white

son." Zindler said he was of Jewish descent, making him "non-white" under the Nazi definition. He contended that as a public figure, he was especially endangered by the orderings.

The Texas Supreme Court overturned a Houston Court of Civil Appeals decision that Zindler had failed to show a special injury peculiar to himself.

Art of telling tall tales revived to help kids understand literature

United Press International

ST. LOUIS — Classic literature need not be boring.

Dragons and monsters, battles and heroes charm children as well as adults, but too often, obstacles such as Middle English and Greek have masked the delight brought for centuries by such adventures as Beowulf and the Iliad.

Emily Thach is trying to change all that by reviving the art of storytelling to make tall tales available to small children everywhere.

Thach directs a storytelling project at CEMREL, an educational

laboratory helping to spread the classic oral tradition in kindergarten through sixth grade.

The stories give students heroes to look up to and the feeling that words written on a page are not so different from words spoken for the ear. If an appreciation for classic literature sneaks in too, she said, that's great.

"All of school can seem like such a waste to some kids," Ms. Thach said. "All the literature they're forced to read can be so dead. It's a great waste, because the stories are really interesting.

"Great literature didn't become great because someone sat at a desk and wondered what students were going to do from September to January."

A child who hears a story has fond memories when the time comes again, under different circumstances, later in life, she said.

"Most people never had a chance to hear a story, and that Beowulf had a story and color characters. If you've heard it before then encounter it again, you know there's going to be a good fight, even a dragon sitting on a pile of gold."

Part of her project involves children telling the stories they have heard so the teachers can transcribe the children's version into a book.

The exercise shows children books are not mystical and do not belong to what she refers to as "highfalutin intellectuals" but are written by real people, Ms. Thach said.

"Books are something that kids that were invented as babysitters to put them down. Even most bright kids probably don't realize books are put together in words used pretty much every day they use words every day."

Ms. Thach acknowledged that there was violence in some of the folk tales included in her project, but she said children don't mind a little violence and the violence is not the senseless kind they often find on television.

"My husband is horrified that I read certain parts of the Iliad, although I'm against violence, but I go beyond anything Hutcheson that other guy on television thought of."

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