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Weather

Fair skies through Thursday with sunny days. High will be 87 and a low of 67. Winds will be Easterly at 5-10 m.p.h.

Carter proposes first phase of health plan

United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Carter Tuesday formally proposed the first phase of his national health plan — to shield every American from the costs of major illness, to provide free prenatal and infant care, and to reform programs for the poor, disabled and elderly.

The price tag is \$23 to \$25 billion. No increases in the payroll taxes would be required under the Carter plan, according to an outline prepared by the administration. The effective date is 1983.

In all, 56 million people would receive protection they do not now have against major illnesses.

There are two main features of the Phase One plan.

—HealthCare: a new \$18.2 billion umbrella federal insurance program consolidating Medicaid — for the poor — and Medicare — for the elderly — into a single structure to produce better efficiency and reduce fraud, abuse and waste. General tax revenues would pay for this part. It also would cover the near poor, small and

high-risk businesses and others not covered.

—The Employer Guarantee: a \$6.1 billion provision that builds on current group coverage by private insurers, requiring employers to provide minimum catastrophic coverage to all 156 million full-time workers and their families; coverage that starts after the first \$2,500 in annual out-of-pocket expenses.

For all pregnant women, prenatal care would be provided through HealthCare or private plans, as would infant services for at least the first year of a child's life.

Inflexible, publicly set doctor fees — based on average Medicare fees in a given area — would be established for elderly or poor participants in HealthCare. Advisory schedules would be set up for physician reimbursement plans.

Employers would have to pay at least 75 percent of any premiums; employees no more than 25 percent.

Coverage for all 24 million persons on Medicare would be improved, permitting, in one case, the aged and disabled an

limited number of fully subsidized hospital days after the first day's payment.

States would share some of the HealthCare cost for low-income eligibles, but would be given about \$2 billion in fiscal relief initially.

Private insurers would administer the Employer Guarantee, while the government would handle HealthCare, making full use of private companies as carriers and claim handlers on a competitive bid basis.

An outline of the legislation emphasized the substance of the first phase proposed Tuesday, suggesting that to implement a comprehensive universal plan would require little more than an expansion, through new legislation, of the initial step.

The outline also included a comparison between the Carter plan and a more expensive, one-shot plan offered by Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass. Kennedy estimated the cost of his plan would be \$40 billion in private and federal money. The White House estimate of the Kennedy plan's cost came to nearly \$64 billion.

Valley Information Center aids newcomers, residents

By ROY BRAGG
Battalion Staff

Driving down Main Street of a new town, it is impossible to learn anything about the town itself.

Without a referral agency or a visitors bureau, it would take days to figure out essential facts about population, housing, or historical background of the city.

In the past few years, College Station and Bryan have grown at a tremendous rate — mainly because of the explosion in enrollment at Texas A&M University. As is the case with any college town, the population is transient and constantly changing.

Throughout the year, and especially during the weeks before, during and after a semester change at Texas A&M, hundreds of new families move to the Bryan-College Station area.

When they arrive, they want to know the background of the town.

Last year, the Bryan and College Station city councils created the Information and Hospitality Center of Brazos Valley, a non-profit cooperative venture funded by the cities of Bryan and College Station.

The center provides maps, historical information and the names of housing locating services.

The center has a 10-member board of directors consisting of members of each city council, one member of the county commissioners and members from the chamber of commerce and the business community.

The center is funded by the 4 percent hotel tax levied by both cities, said Anne R. Bell, who with Mary Brannen works at the center.

The hotel tax funds, as outlined by state law, may be used for a limited number of expenditures.

The funds pay for such items as historical preservation and endowments to the

arts. Another of the sanctioned outlays, Bell said, is for the promotion of local tourism through methods such as the Information and Hospitality Center.

Bell said the city of Bryan gave more actual capital, but College Station donated the building, the land it is on and the maintenance of the building.

Bell said the people the center serves are not strictly tourists.

"We serve the local residents and the local scene and we serve the traveling public," Bell said of the center's functions.

More than 75 percent of the phone calls received by the center are from local residents, she added.

Of the 1,000 people who have come to the center, only 250 have been from out-of-town.

The center was funded for an initial two-year period and will be re-evaluated at the end of the two-year period to see if the need warrants.

"I've been pleased with the results," Bell said. "When I started in August, there was no building, no paneling, no shelves, no anything."

Bell said the number of tourists coming to the center has steadily increased daily.

One reason for the increase, Bell said, could be the five road signs being put up on roads leading to Bryan, she said.

The pamphlets carried by the center pertain to real estate, entertainment and historical sights in the area.

"We aren't allowed to carry individual advertising pamphlets," she said adding the center is not allowed to promote any particular business.

The center, located in a two-room building on S. Texas Avenue near the College Station Police Department, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Truckers surround gas pumps — protest high diesel fuel prices

United Press International

OZONA — A group of independent truckers conducting a rolling blockade of truck stops along Interstate 10 from Texas to California Tuesday surrounded the diesel pumps of the Circle Bar Truck Corral for three hours, claiming higher fuel prices were "a ripoff" by big oil companies.

The truckers, using eight truck tractors, previously conducted peaceful three-hour protests at truck stops at Brookshire (near Houston), outside of San Antonio and at Junction

"We want three things: lower fuel prices, proof of the fuel crisis and an increase (in freight rates)," said Ray Sprayberry, 38, an independent trucker from Nacogdoches. "We don't believe the fuel shortage is real; it's just a ripoff by the oil companies."

Sprayberry said the price of diesel fuel had increased 30 cents the past 30 days while freight rates have stayed at the same level.

"We're not making any money. I'm averaging about a dollar an hour."

Low-flying man cranks across Channel

United Press International

CAP GRIS NEZ, France — A California bicyclist Tuesday made the first man-powered flight across the English Channel, pumping his fragile, pedal-driven plane from the gray and green cliffs of England to a French beach in just under three hours.

Bryan Allen, 26, will collect a \$200,000 prize for his historic flight in the Gossamer Albatross, a featherweight aircraft that looks like a cross between a glider and a bicycle with wings.

"We made it!" Allen shouted as he floated the plastic and polystyrene contraption into this sandy, crescent-shaped beach 15 miles south of Calais to the cheers of more than 300 well-wishers and reporters who raced to greet him.

Punching his way out of the thin plastic covering around the 8-foot cabin, he gulped a bottle of champagne and elatedly told onlookers, "I feel marvelous."

The only hitch in the 171-minute flight came when one of the 48-foot wings snapped off on landing, apparently due to a combination of wind and the crush of people rushing forward to touch the plane.

Allen, a thin, bespectacled professional cyclist, looked slightly unsteady as he took his first steps on French sand.

He said his worst moments came midway in the 22-mile crossing when "some pretty radical turbulence" hit the 55-pound craft.

"All I could do then was just pour on the power," he grinned, shyly flexing his cramped legs.

Allen, dressed only in shorts, a small life jacket and running shoes, said he drank two quarts of water during the crossing and ran out of water about 20 minutes before landing.

The flight was a long time in coming.

After three weeks of waiting out the fickle English weather, and bicycling 40 miles a day to stay in shape, Allen finally lifted off from a concrete and hardboard ramp built into the cliffs at Folkestone at 5:51 a.m. (12:51 a.m. EDT) Tuesday.

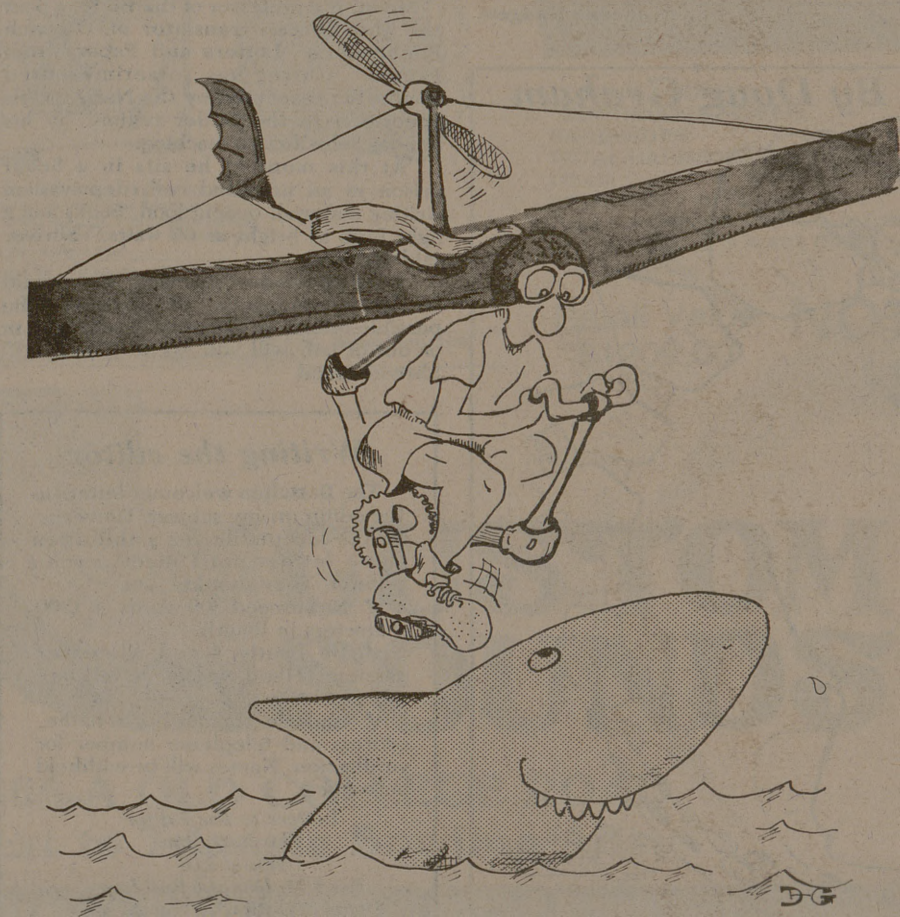
He reportedly veered off course twice — once to avoid a boat — but still managed to touch down near his original landing point at 8:42 a.m.

Hundreds of reporters, photographers, residents and 130 schoolchildren from the nearby town of Wissant scrambled over rocks to greet him. An American woman holding three small French, British and U.S. flags presented him with a huge bouquet of red, white and blue flowers.

Allen was followed by a small flotilla of boats — including one manned by the plane's inventor Paul MacCready — as he bobbed his way across the channel at a height of about 8 feet above water.

Winds were less than five knots at outset but by the time he reached France, they appeared to have picked up.

The \$200,000 prize for the first successful man-powered crossing was offered by British businessman Herbert Kremer.



By the light of the silvery moon

Lights blazing into each night, workers "catch a few rays" of moonlight on the addition to A&M's Kyle Field. Construction work-

ers are putting in two 10-hour shifts a day to catch up on lost work days due to the recent rainy weather.

Battalion photo by Jeff Sanders

15,000 refugees flee Managua; capital hit by heaviest fighting

United Press International

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Some 15,000 refugees streamed out of embattled Managua seeking refuge from the heaviest fighting yet in the capital between Sandinista rebels and Anastasio Somoza's national guardsmen.

About 60 U.S. citizens trying to leave the city came under sniper fire as they vainly awaited evacuation at the U.S. Embassy compound near one of the combat zones. No casualties were reported.

For the first time, the air force of Presi-

dent Somoza strafed and rocketed guerrilla held districts in the capital, igniting fires that enveloped Managua in huge palls of smoke.

At the height of air raids, residents of target districts telephoned reporters screaming for help.

"What savagery!" shouted one woman. "They are massacring us. They are going to destroy the city. We are going to die."

An estimated 15,000 Managua residents fled the city where fighting on the third consecutive day of the insurrection Monday was the heaviest ever.

"Some people that we've seen today (Monday) had not eaten in four or five days," said one Red Cross official of the refugees. "If this situation goes on for two or three more weeks I'm sure we'll have problems."

Gun battles also were reported in the northern cities of Leon, Chinandega, Matagalpa and Esteli.

The shooting broke out around the U.S. Embassy while the Americans were milling around outside the building waiting for the convoy to the airport, one of the Americans said.

Government troops on the embassy grounds opened fire against those firing outside and everyone ducked and crouched behind cars.

"We just have a lousy situation here," said one American awaiting evacuation.

Efforts to escort the Americans to Las Mercedes International Airport eight miles away were foiled by heavy fighting along the road to the airfield.

American officials said, however, it is possible the Americans — mostly wives and children of embassy personnel and some businessmen — may leave today aboard a chartered Pan American jet if the airport road is open.

Though battles in the capital appeared to have intensified, a military attache from a Latin American embassy said that the Sandinistas do not appear to be gaining ground.

"So far it's just running battles and I think the government will soon have complete control of the city because they have better weapons," the attache said.

The scene of one of the fiercest combats was reportedly at the major opposition newspaper La Prensa. Its editor, Xavier Chamorro, brother of slain publisher Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, Somoza's No. 1 political foe, said the newspaper's building was destroyed by fire.

Chamorro accused the national guard of deliberately setting it ablaze, and also said a rocket from a plane hit the building.

During lulls in the combat, refugees carrying belongings and waving white flags moved out of the districts onto the main roads.

The foreign ministers of Venezuela and Ecuador arrived in Managua Monday, apparently carrying a plan from the members of the Andean Pact Economic Alliance. The ministers hope to place pressure on Somoza to move toward a peaceful settlement.

Neither Somoza nor the ministers revealed what was discussed.

Gunfire also rang out on the south highway leading to the American Embassy as troops and guerrillas exchanged shots over a barricade of bricks.

The embassy spokesman said the flight ferrying the Americans out of Nicaragua left at 11 a.m. (EDT).

The embassy would not say where the Americans were taken but the aircraft came here from Howard Air Force Base in the American-controlled Panama Canal Zone, and military sources said it was scheduled to return there.

The Americans had tried to leave Monday through the regular airport but heavy fighting broke out on the road to the airfield.

As the Americans left, thousands of refugees also streamed out of embattled Managua to suburban churches, schools, homes and farms to escape the escalating combat.

Record number enroll

A record 10,951 students are enrolled at Texas A&M University for the first session summer classes, according to registrar Robert Lacey.

The total represents an increase of 6.2 percent over last summer's enrollment. Lacey said the 10,951 is for the College

Station campus only. Additionally, 371 students are enrolled at Moody College in Galveston.

All figures reflect enrollment for the fourth class day, the official summer reporting period for the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System.