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# Weather major factor in progress of oil slick

CORPUS CHRISTI — Scientists monitoring progress of an oil slick creeping north from a well blowout in the Gulf of Mexico predicted Tuesday the leading edge would hit Brownsville, Texas in 10 days. Dr. Jerry Galt of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration told a news conference, however, the scientists needed more nformation on currents before they could predict whether the oil might wash ashore along Padre Island, a sandy beach running 100

miles from Corpus Christi to Brownsville.

Louise Carroll of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration says information gathered in the past week by a Coast Guard cutter and a specially equipped C-130 aircraft has been fed into a computer and a projection should be announced today on the path and speed of the oil slick.

The new projection will be used by federal and state agencies assembled at Corpus Christi to help keep the oil from fouling shrimp grounds and resort beaches along the Texas coast should the 300-mile ong, 25-mile wide slick continue northward.

The projection they will make will be based on the assumption nothing goofy happens weatherwise." Carrol said. "The weather is a

Carroll confirmed NOAA had heard reports from Mexican news-

coast in Mexico's Veracruz State from Tuxpan south to Cao Rojo, but

"We heard reports mostly from the media," she said. "We don't really have any way of confirming it. We haven't been flying within 12 miles of the coast because it would violate Mexico's air space. One scientist said he would not be surprised if there wasn't some oil on

The newspaper "El sol" in Tampico, Mexico, where 1,500 families earn their livelihood by fishing, described the situation as a major disaster and dubbed the oil slick La Marina Negra — "the black

The original July 26 projection for the slick to reach Texas was based on normal currents and winds, which Hurricane Bob changed, and Carrol said it was "too early to tell" whether Claudette, the latest tropical storm in the Gulf of Mexico, might also affect its movement.

Officials in Mexico, who say up to half the 30.000 barrels of oil was being burned at the Ixtoc I wellhead, 50 miles off Ciudad Del Carmen on the Yucatan Peninsula, and 2 percent was being captured at sea, have said it may be the end of August before the gushing well can

Rosalynn says 'I blew it'

## First lady critisizes GOP

United Press International
DALLAS — First lady Rosalynn Carter, indulging in political rhetoric she often avoids, blamed Republicans for the energy crisis and hailed her husband's leadership during a two-day Texas visit that ended Tuesday. Mrs. Carter spent much of Tuesday in seclusion at a 30-acre religious retreat owned by Ruth Carter Stapleton, the presi-

dent's sister, in Argyle, Texas. Her schedule called for a flight to California for political appearances in Fresno, Palo Alto and Los Angeles before returning to Washington tonight.

We've had Republicans in the White House eight years, and how did we get ourselves into such a mess." she asked at a fund-raising dinner Monday night for the Carter-Mondale Presidential Com-

"How did we get so dependent on foreign oil," she asked, pointing to past GOP occupants of the White House.

her husband and his policies, pre-

viously has avoided direct political attacks on the Republicans. Her rhetoric at the dinner, however, was carefully prepared. Several hours earlier when reporters

She made earlier stops at Chicago Pine Bluff, Ark., and Little Rock asked her about GOP criticisms, she

basically shrugged it off. At the dinner, the first lady opened her speech by mentioning the news conference question.

It was the first time in her fourstate trip that began Sunday in which she criticized Republicans. She made earlier stops at Chicago,

The first lady's expanding influence in the wake of the "domestic summit" at Camp David has be-come highly visible.

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## Federal oil royalties increase

1978, nearly five times the previrecord high two years ago, the S. Geological Survey reports. The increase resulted from a 168 cent increase in gas production the Outer Continental Shelf (S) and a doubling of gas prices, icials at the USGS regional office Denver said Monday.

as production accounted for

running short

United Press International HOUSTON — With July alloca-

running out, 7 percent of the

e's service stations are out of at

tone grade of gasoline and more limiting purchases, the Ameri-

Automobile Association re-

ed Tuesday in its survey of 420

t at night in large cities

e limiting purchases

rday and Sunday.

an 387 percent increase over the hore oil and gas production in as topped the \$50 million mark ago.

The USGS supervises OCS oil, gas and mineral exploration, development and production, and collects the federal royalties.

Production of gas on OCS leases off the Texas coast jumped from 87 trillion cubic feet in 1977 to 233 trillion cubic feet last year, according to USGS officials. Meanwhile, the av-

prices (with last week's prices in

parentheses) were: regular 87.9

cents per gallon (86.2), unleaded

price of a barrel of oil produced on the federal leases jumped from \$9.81 in 1977 to \$10.33 last year. Gas production accounted for erage price of each thousand cubic feet of natural gas produced on the The USGS said condensate royalties totaled \$2.27 million, an 87 percent increase, while royalties from production of gasoline and liquified **Fuel allocations** petroleum gas in conjunction wit

natural gas production totaled \$105,315 a drop of 75 percent. Federal royalties from onshore Texas production of gas, oil and other petroleum products in 1978 added another \$255,511 to the federal royalty income, an 11.7 percent decline from 1977. Half of the onshore royalties are returned to Texas state government.

years ago to \$1.23 in 1978.

year, officials said.

91.8 (89.9). premium 92.4 (91.7). Self-serve prices included regular 85.5 (83.9), unleaded 89.3 (87.6) and All OCS production royalties go to the U.S. Treasury's general fund, and portions are available for allocapremium 91.4 (88.9). tion to the Land and Water Conser-Diesel fuel rose to 90.8 cents per vation Fund, and to the Historic gallon from last week's 89.7. Preservation Fund.

The higher production and prices pushed the value of the gas produced on federal lands from \$52 million in 1977 to \$287 million last tuted 3.5 percent of the record-high \$1.5 billion in royaties collected na-

The 1978 royalty collection of \$52 other mineral production on federal million from both onshore and and Indian lands. Louisiana ac-offshore production last year constital, with OSC production topping the \$1 billion mark for the first time.



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### Houston Chronicle

News you can use.

But the AAA reported stations ing interstate highways in small was and rural areas still have good supplies and travelers should few problems finding gas, exhis week's survey found availa-PES SNUFF
SPITTONS
PIPE RACKS
ROLLING PAPER
CIGARS - IMPORTED
AND DOMESTIC
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IMPORTED CIGARETTES
CUSTOM BLENDED TOBACCO
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TOBACCO ODOR ty was in slight decline overall in fewer stations were open at ht and more - 8 percent tation operators who have deeased their nighttime hours said by were open longer during the or were reserving gasoline for Still, 23 percent of the stations after 8 p.m. weeknights

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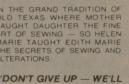
Saturdays. Austin, Corpus ti and Houston stations reces again increased, rising 2 cents per gallon since last

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