

THE BATTALION

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Weather

Partly cloudy and warm today, this afternoon and tomorrow. High today in the high 90's, low this evening in low 70s. Southeasterly winds 5 to 10 miles per hour.

Wind stalls slick; oil may be sinking

United Press International
SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, Texas — Abnormal easterly winds Monday stalled the lead edge of the world's largest oil slick east outside U.S. waters, leaving Coast Guard officials hoping too much oil was not creeping closer below the water level and out of reach of containment booms.

Residents, fearful the oil will ruin the area's fishing industry for several years, were praying for northerly winds to turn the slick away.

An armada of men and equipment was poised at the mouth of the Rio Grande —

the first battle line to keep the oil from entering the peaceful Laguna Madre, a rich spawning ground for sealife that separates Padre Island from the mainland for 100 miles to Corpus Christi.

But an ominous element was added to the growing concern of the 200-man U.S. Response Team when divers found dime, quarter and half dollar size patches of oil rolling as deep as 40 feet below the surface of the Gulf of Mexico as the oil slick approached.

"The major concern right now seems to be the amount of oil floating below the

surface. This is apparently a somewhat unique situation," said Chief Petty Officer Drew Shriever, an information specialist for the Coast Guard at oil slick headquarters opened in Corpus Christi three weeks ago. "They're having some reservations giving out any information or speculation on how extensive this is."

"It may be a day or two before we know the density and speed of movement and overall size of the underwater oil," he said. "There also will be some tests run to determine the chemical composition of this undersurface oil to discover potential damage to marine life."

Shriever said the nearest oil to U.S. waters was a patch of pancake-shaped sheens eight to 10 feet long drifting 8 to 10 miles south of the Rio Grande, an area where thick patches of oil began polluting the beach south of Matamoros, Mexico, on Sunday.

Giant oil booms were brought in to contain the surface oil, but the new element of the underwater oil apparently caught the team of federal officials by surprise.

Shriever said the Coast Guard had contacted some private firms about installing screens to catch the oil and keep it out of the Laguna Madre, "but there could be problems using this type of device."

The slick has been fed by 20,000 to 30,000 barrels of oil a day since June 3 from a runaway oil well in Mexico's Bay of Campeche and specialists said it may be another month before the well can be capped. By Monday it had gushed 1.73 million barrels of crude into the Gulf of Mexico.

A&M scientist leaves to study Mexican oilspill

As the world's largest oil slick moves east to the Texas shore, preparations for its impact are being made along the coast.

Among those studying the spill is Texas A&M University's Dr. Roy Hahn, director of the Oil Spill Technology Assistance Program, who left for Brownsville Tuesday.

Hahn said he cannot predict if the spill will hit the coast; however, he will make recommendations to people who live along the shore on how to deal with the spill if it does hit.

Hahn said plans have been made to hold one-day oil spill training courses in Brownsville on Thursday. A place has not been found yet to hold the school.

Hahn said the course is for "news media,

local officials, or anyone who wants to learn about the behavior of oil and the technicalities of oil spills."

Hahn said he will attempt to determine the properties of the oil. He said if the oil is of a tar-like consistency, it will stay on top of the sand and not be difficult to clean up.

However, if the oil is fluid, he said, it will soak into the beach and be more difficult to clean up and the effects will last longer.

No matter what the consistency, though, Hahn said the spill will hurt marine life along the coast.

Hahn said that since the spill is so large, there is nothing that can be used to put in front of the beaches to keep oil off the shore.

Estes given 10 years for evasion of income taxes

United Press International
DALLAS — Billie Sol Estes, the west Texas con man who spent more than six years behind bars for a conviction involving non-existent fertilizer tanks, received a minimum 10-year prison term Monday for another fraudulent scheme.

Estes, 53, was paroled in 1971 but federal officials also might revoke this parole, extending the length of his term beyond 10 years.

"I have a problem," Estes told U.S. District Judge Robert Hill before the sentence was pronounced. "I live in a dream world."

He again denied one of the charges against him — that he conspired to conceal assets from the government to avoid detection by the Internal Revenue Service — saying, "There was no concealment of assets."

Looking somber and dressed in a blue, striped suit, Estes showed no outward emotion as Hill gave him two 5-year prison terms to be served consecutively.

The sentences were imposed despite the pleas of his wife, brother and even the jury foreman for leniency. One of Estes' daughters wept aloud in the packed federal courtroom.

Estes' wife, Patsy, stood silently in the audience with a number of her daughters close to her. In pleading for leniency, she

talked in a virtual whisper and appeared shaken.

Estes was sentenced on his July 11 convictions — one for swindling a farmer out of \$30,000 and the other for conspiring with his co-defendant, Raymond K. Horton, to hide assets of various financial schemes in which they were partners.

Horton was sentenced to three years in prison and was fined \$10,000. Hill ordered that Estes' sentences be served consecutively and gave both men 10 days in which to appeal. Meanwhile, he allowed them to remain free on personal recognizance bonds.

Estes was convicted in 1963 of swindling farmers and banks out of millions of dollars. The massive fraud scheme was uncovered when banks started efforts to collect on various outstanding loans to Estes which were secured with nonexistent fertilizer tanks as collateral.

In addition, many farmers invested their life savings in the alleged fertilizer tanks.

The new sentences were imposed despite an affidavit by a juror which said he was pressured into returning a guilty verdict. Hill said he would consider an amended motion on a retrial for both Estes and Horton on Thursday.

The juror, Ray Loggins, 68, claimed "I do not feel and still do not feel that I voted

my convictions."

He said poor health, claustrophobia, pressure from other jurors and exposure to news coverage of the trial influenced his verdict.

Among those asking Hill for leniency was jury foreman Ernest Cotton, who said Estes and his family had suffered enough.

Cotton, of DeSoto, Texas, a Dallas suburb, said he voted for a conviction "because the evidence is there." At least five other jurors were in the audience.

Estes' brother, Dr. John Estes, also pleaded for a light sentence, saying he had paid for many of his brother's expenses over the years and Estes had no large sums of money and no other assets.

"I paid too many little bills for there to be large sums of money anywhere," Dr. Estes said.

Estes' brother said, "When Billie Sol was released from prison I felt he paid his debt to society. So far as I know our family has obeyed every law of the land and will continue to do so."

Estes entered the world of finance by buying 400 pigs at the age of 14 and later selling them at a profit. His techniques of high finance, however, eventually evolved into fraud and he became known as one of the nation's biggest swindlers in the 1960s.



Battalion photo by Doann Hamilton

B Sane protesters

Dwight Tompkins, a member of B Sane (Brazos Society for Alternatives to Nuclear Energy), discusses the problems of nuclear energy with two passersby. The organization set up a table on University Drive across from the Northgate shopping area Sunday and Monday for petition signing that would ban the disposal of radioactive wastes in Texas and implement action to seek alternatives to nuclear power.

Pumps 80 gallons a day

Texas debut of gasohol a hit

United Press International
SUNRAY, Texas — Although sales are down, manager Don Graham says gasohol sold at the Sunray Co-Op — the state's first outlet — has accomplished all that he expected.

"I didn't have any particular plans or anything for gasohol other than stretching supplies, and it has done that," says Graham, who suggested to the co-op board the idea of providing the ethanol-gasoline mixture.

"The main thing is I wanted people to try it and see what it did for them," Graham says.

Sales of gasohol — a 10 percent ethanol and 90 percent unleaded gasoline blend — were brisk at the outset, averaging about 400 gallons a day in mid-June, Graham says. But the co-op now pumps only about 80 gallons a day, he adds. "We realized that there were going to be quite a few more sales when we initially put it in than there would be on a continual basis. We do have people buying it on a continual basis, and we'll have it here another two months to determine whether we'll keep it," the manager says.

The cooperative bought 6,350 gallons of 200 proof anhydrous ethanol from one of the nation's major suppliers, Archer-Daniel-Midland of Decatur, Ill. The alternative fuel mixture was an instant novelty in this Panhandle farming community north of Amarillo.

Sunray is not the only outlet in the state to pump the mixture.

As of Aug. 1, gasohol is available in Perryton, about 65 miles across the Panhandle from Sunray.

The hybrid fuel sells for 94.9 cents a gallon at both outlets and some purchasers claim they have increased mileage by five percent with gasohol, something they say offsets the slightly higher price.

The Sunray Co-Op bought its ethanol for \$1.59 per gallon from A-D-M. But Graham says ethanol has climbed to \$1.73 per gallon since then, and fallen back to \$1.58 a gallon with a plentiful grain supply.

The price of unleaded gasoline also has risen during that period, he says.

"The unleaded gasoline mixed in with it has continued to escalate and I figure it will continue to do so," he said. "We have the alcohol here that we blend in with those supplies as we need it."

Consol looks over preliminary budget

By ROY BRAGG
Battalion Staff

The A&M Consolidated School Board looked over the first draft of the 1979-80 budget and established a preliminary tax rate Monday night.

The tax assessor-collector has established the maximum tax rate for the coming year at approximately \$1.29 per \$100 valuation, said Donald Ney, Assistant Superintendent-Finance.

By law, the district must announce a maximum tax rate early in the budget-making process. This is the highest rate the district may levy without the benefit of a public hearing.

An increase above the announced rate would force a special public hearing over the new rate.

The announced rate is not final, Ney added, and is subject to board approval and normal public hearing.

The proposed budget, totaling \$5,942,510, is nearly 25 percent (\$1,124,508) higher than last year's budget of \$4,818,002.

The largest single increase in the tentative budget is \$744,554 for salaries. The salary increase represents a 66 percent of the total increase in the budget this year.

Among other items in the budget are increases in capital outlay (\$122,730), supplies (\$106,761), utilities (\$175,000).

Budget Committee chairman Bill Wasson recognized the efforts of Superintendent Bruce Anderson and Ney and his staff for their work preparing the budget.

In other business, the board heard Anderson present his goal statements for himself, his staff and the district for the next five years. The goals are an attempt to put the entire district on a measurable scale, Anderson said, and will allow him and the board to evaluate the progress of the personnel and policies.

The plan covers goals in the areas of classroom instruction, personnel, business administration, special services, school and community relations and the implementation of new policies.

Earthquake hits part of California

United Press International
SAN FRANCISCO — A strong earthquake Monday swayed high-rise buildings in downtown San Francisco and jolted northern California from the Pacific to the Sierra.

There were no reports of injuries and major damage, but windows were broken and furniture tossed around rooms in cities along the coast of central California.

The National Earthquake Center of the U.S. Geological Service in Golden, Colo., said the quake had a magnitude of about 5.7 on the Richter scale. It was centered in the Hollister, Calif., area, about 100 miles south of San Francisco.

The quake occurred at 10:05 a.m.

Reports of the earth trembling and windows rattling came from the heavily populated San Francisco Peninsula, the San Jose area, Sacramento and as far east as Yosemite in the Sierra.

A sheriff's deputy at Hollister, said it was the strongest quake there in the past five years. Hollister is located on California's treacherous San Andreas fault which caused the 1906 San Francisco quake.

There were some broken windows, power lines down and interruption of phone service, a deputy at Hollister said, but no big damage or injuries that we know of.

In Carmel, on the Monterey Peninsula, residents reported windows rattling, furniture tumbling. Some residents ran into the street in alarm.



Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

A glimpse of the ol' days . . .

Billy Ray Montgomery prepares to anchor the first rafter of his log cabin. Montgomery was part of a team of men from Nacogdoches which built a log

cabin by hand during the 8th Annual Texas Folklife Festival. The annual celebration of folklore and lifestyles ran through Sunday in San Antonio.