

State briefs

JOAQUIN — A chemical-fueled blaze at the site of a Southern Pacific train derailment continued burning unharmed Monday, sending thick, black smoke into the air, and keeping firefighters and investigators at bay.

Some 200 residents within a three-mile area were evacuated Sunday, but Bart said all those outside a one-mile area were allowed to return home early Monday.

Five persons suffered minor injuries. Bart said of the total of 32 cars that derailed about 7 miles west of Logansport, La., and 12 miles east of the east Texas town of Tenaha, 26 were burning at one time. U.S. 84 leading into Louisiana remained closed today.

WIMBERLEY — Two scuba divers exploring a deep natural spring-fed well drowned Sunday, and their bodies are trapped in an underground cavern.

Kent H. Maupin, 20, and Mark Alan Brashier, 21, both of Pasadena, drowned in a gravel bottomed tunnel 100 feet below the surface of Jacob's Well, a privately owned artesian well.

One rescue diver, Don Dibbell of Wimberley, suffered an attack of trapped gas in his intestines and was rushed to the decompression chamber Sunday at Brooks Air Force Base School of Aerospace Medicine in San Antonio.

Divers suspended recovery operations Sunday, although the bodies of the two victims could be seen in cavern with an opening of 30 to 30 inches.

DALLAS — College programs at Roswell, N.M., and El Rito, N.M., will share in grants awarded by the U.S. Labor Department to help educate migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their dependents, it has been announced.

Eastern New Mexico University will receive \$499,085 for a program with 295 enrollees on the Roswell campus. A total of \$347,369 has been granted for a program involving 100 enrollees at Northern New Mexico Community College, El Rito.

Those schools, along with six others in Texas, will share in grants totaling \$2,810,773 under the High School Equivalency Program, which is conducted at the two New Mexico schools, and College Assistance Migrant Program.

155 guards strike atomic weapons plant

AMARILLO — The manager of the nation's only nuclear weapons assembly plant said Monday a walk-out by 155 union security guards had not affected production, and negotiations with the union could begin this week.

The strike by members of local 38 of the International Guards Union of America began at midnight Sunday when a three-year contract expired.

"We've not had any further contact with the union since the strike started," said Ross Dunham, manager of the Pantex plant located 17 miles northeast of Amarillo.

Dunham said the plant had activated a trained auxiliary force to handle the duties of the striking security guards.

He said negotiations between IGUA members and management at the huge assembly plant probably would begin "sometime later this week."

Earlier, Dunham said the strike dispute was "basically over some administrative matters."

Government selling chapel in Big Spring

LUBBOCK — For sale: a used chapel.

The federal government, through the General Services Administration, has offered for sale a 7,319-square foot chapel and 1.33 acres of land at the former Webb Air Force Base in Big Spring.

The government says a minimum fair market value price of \$70,000 will be asked for the chapel, land, personal property and furnishings within the facility.

An application to purchase the chapel must be submitted to the General Services Administration Service Center in Fort Worth, Room 1A03, before 12:30 p.m. Sept. 27.

The only catch is the chapel must be maintained as a shrine, memorial or religious building, and may not be used for commercial, industrial or other secular uses.

Prospective applicants who wish to inspect the chapel should telephone real estate officer Ray Baldwin at Reese Air Force Base in Lubbock.

FASHION 79

STUDENT MODELS NEEDED

Male and female models are needed to participate in professionally directed fashion shows featuring designs from such retailers as Joske's, Sakowitz and surrounding community stores.

Walkthrough Wed., Sept. 12

Women - 6:30 p.m.
Men - 8:30 p.m.

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Blacks urge competency testing delay

DALLAS — A group of black leaders proposes a delay in implementing a requirement that all Dallas Independent School District students pass a minimum competency test before they can graduate from high school, a spokesman for the group said Monday.

DISD will require 12th graders beginning with the class of 1981 to pass a test of basic functional literacy in order to graduate. DISD has proposed issuing a certificate of attendance to students who fail the test.

Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce president Ernest Haywood said the program was a "great public relations gimmick and nothing more."

Haywood said the test placed an unfair burden on black and Mexican-American students, as indicated by a practice run test administered earlier this year.

Black students averaged 66 on the test, Mexican-American students averaged 72 and white students averaged 84, against a passing score of

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