

Fly your talents in CS kite contest

If you remember how to build the kites your dad may have helped you with as a child, you may be ready for some competition.

It's kite weather again this year and kite builders and flyers will have a chance to show their talents in the College Station Parks and Recreation Department's kite contest on March 22.

The contest will begin at 2 p.m. on the grounds of A&M Consolidated High School at 701 West Loop in College Station.

First, second and third place awards will be given for the highest flying, best decorated, largest, smallest, most active and strongest kites and youngest and oldest kite flyers, said Marci Rodgers, recreation superintendent.

There will be two age divisions: children 15 and under and individuals 16 and over, Rodgers said.

Susan Edens, a Texas A&M student will be one of the judges of the contest, Rodgers said. Edens has attended several kite contests in Austin, where the idea of a kite contest for College Station originated.

Participation from A&M students is expected Rodgers said. "One student told us he is getting his dorm floor involved in the contest," she said.

This year's competition Rodgers said, is the second kite contest sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department in College Station.

state

Beaches safe from oil washups if well flow down, scientist says

United Press International
CORPUS CHRISTI — U.S. beaches are safe from new washups of Mexican oil this year if reports are true that the flow from a runaway well has been reduced to 400 barrels per day, the chief U.S. scientist monitoring the spill said Thursday.

"If the 400 barrel per day number is correct, we're out of the woods," said John Robinson, a Commerce Department scientist who has observed the oil spill since last summer. "We're not going to have any more problems."

Robinson said his prediction was safe despite reports Coast Guard pilots Thursday spotted a 40-mile-long oil slick floating in the Gulf of

Mexico only 78 miles from the mouth of the Rio Grande.

The Coast Guard's chief oil spill coordinator, Capt. Gerald C. Hinson, said he was surprised by the appearance of the 200-yard-wide slick but was not alarmed because southflowing currents would not give way to a northward flow until late April.

But Coast Guard Capt. Gerald C. Hinson and Robinson said it was impossible for U.S. authorities to know the precise amount of oil flowing from Ixtoc 1 in the Bay of Campeche because the Mexican government continued to prefer to handle the 9-month-old blowout themselves.

Last summer the Mexican govern-

ment reported the oil flow was at 30,000 barrels per day, but said half that amount was burning off at the wellhead.

Capping and wellblocking efforts were unsuccessful until Pemex, the Mexican national oil company, completed drilling two relief wells now being used to funnel brine and mud into the main well.

Pemex had been plagued by bad weather but Hinson said a 72-hour period of stable conditions could result in the capping of the well.

"This is the first time I've been encouraged," Robinson said. "I've been a pessimist since day one. But we're now to an extent corroborating (by overnight observations) the information that the oil flow has been reduced."

Robinson said Pemex had slowed the flow previously only to see it spurt back out of control.

Hinson said Texas beaches had been hit by tarballs of weathered oil throughout the winter but said military and civilian clean-up crews had kept pace with the impact, leaving beaches "in as good a shape now as they ever are."

Last summer repeated washups of oil on Texas beaches spoiled the

tourist trade and created serious financial problems for Padre Island hotels and shops.

Gov. Bill Clements, after touring a portion of the oily Texas beach, said the publicity about the pollution was "a big todo about nothing."

The state and federal governments as well as beachfront businesses and

property owners subsequently filed damage suits amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars.

SEDCO, the drilling firm founded by Clements and which made him a millionaire, owned the Ixtoc 1 rig. After the blowout the rig was towed into the Gulf of Mexico and sunk.

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Woman, mortician battle over free burial promise

HOUSTON - A woman who survived a car crash in which seven members of her family died 18 years ago has accused a mortician of reneging on his promise of free burial and of threatening to dig up the bodies unless she pays the bill.

Deborah Jackson Green, 28, a Texas Department of Human Resources employee, filed suit in state district court Wednesday making the charges against E.J. Butler Jr., owner of Paradise Cemeteries.

She asks unspecified damages for "harassment" and a court order blocking Butler's alleged threat to dig up the bodies of her mother, father, three sisters and two brothers, and re-bury them in a common grave.

Green also asks that Butler be ordered to let her place grave markers and flowers on the graves. She said Butler has allowed her only to

visit the graves.

She said she gained favorable publicity by promising free burials and would be held to the bargain.

Butler admits the re-burial threat — "I might have mentioned that I have the right to do that, but I was just trying to get my money" — but it could not be done without unlikely permission from the Harris County medical examiner.

Butler denies promising free burial. He said an insurance company promised to pay the \$3,015 bill but reneged, so "the only thing I could do was try to get my money from the only remaining family member."

Butler said he tried to collect from Green's only surviving brother, Cary Jackson Jr., 7, but was unsuccessful. Jackson, a former aide to Houston Mayor Jim McConn, was shot to death in a freeway incident last year.

District judge frees 3 men, rules they were held illegally

United Press International
ODESSA — District Attorney John Green pledged Thursday "justice will be done" despite a judge's ruling to release three men charged in the recovery of more than three tons of marijuana and the seizure of a DC-3 airplane.

Released were Jesse David New, 33, of McAllen, Humberto Pablo Nunez, 46, of North Bergen, N.J., originally from Havana, Cuba, and Richard Morley Stewart, 42, of Norman, Ark. A fourth man, Robert Lee Ross, 39, of Harlingen, was arrested

separately on Feb. 25 but was not released.

70th District Judge Gene Ater ruled they were held illegally because of discrepancies between the criminal complaint filed and the search and arrest warrants.

Green disputed Ater's ruling saying it is not necessary to allege the same offense in the search and arrest warrants and the complaint that eventually is filed.

Green indicated the three men had left the state.

Clayton warns of tax hike, no extra money for relief

United Press International
AUSTIN — Texans may be facing a tax increase rather than tax relief next year, Speaker Bill Clayton warned Thursday.

Clayton said he is dubious of prospects for the \$600 million to \$1 billion tax relief program Gov. Bill Clements has said he will propose.

The state's third highest official said he fears the 1981 Legislature may be forced to raise taxes rather than lower them.

"I don't see where we could find any monies at this point in time for any tax relief," Clayton said. "I would hope it would be so, I just don't see it."

"I don't think we're going to have enough projected surplus...

to take care of inflationary needs unless the comptroller comes up with some different projections," Clayton said.

He said the state's financial situation will be clearer in August when the Legislative Budget Board begins hearings on state agency spending and Comptroller Bob Bullock updates his revenue projections.

The comptroller in January revised revenue estimates downward, predicting \$324 million in the state treasury at the end of the 1979-80 biennium. However, Bullock said about \$200 million will be unexpended balances, leaving only \$124 million of actual surplus.

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