


MEN—WOMEN

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## Local/National

### 'Images of Aging' art show set in B-CS

A juried art show, "Images of Aging," is scheduled in the area for May to celebrate Older Americans Month. The art show, co-sponsored by the Arts Council of Brazos Valley, Retired Senior Volunteer Program and the Nina Heard Astin Trust, will be held May 15-22 and is open to all artists. The only requirement is that each entry comply with the theme of aging.

Competition will include a junior division for persons under 18 and a senior division for those over 18. An entry deadline will be set later.

Categories will include drawing (pencil, charcoal, pen and ink, pastels); painting (acrylics, oils, watercolor and tempera); sculpture (all 3-dimensional work); photography; prints (linoleum, wood, silk screen); creative stitchery, and mixed media.

Ribbons will be awarded with a cash prize for the entry judged Best of Show.

For further information and entry forms, contact the Arts Council at 779-2193 or 3232 Briarcrest, Dr. in the Brazos Center.

### Kids watch train kill mom

United Press International  
EAGLETON, Ark. — An Alabama woman who had taken her three small children to watch a passing train from the edge of the railroad track fell into the train's path and was crushed as the children watched, police said.

The woman was identified as Merrell Richmond, 45, of Toxey, Ala. The children — 4-, 5- and 10-years-old — told the police they walked with their mother from a house where they were visiting to nearby railroad tracks, state trooper David Hathcoat said.

As the train approached, Richmond feared the 5-year-old who was standing across the tracks from the other children and her would try to cross in front of the train. She moved to grab the child but tripped on the tracks and apparently knocked herself unconscious just as the train passed, Hathcoat said.



Greg Gammon

### Off to the races

Johnathan Jessup gets a helping hand from his father George as they both set out to run the course of the "Turkey Trot" Thanksgiving morning. Johnathan was one of the youngest among the more than 150 persons that braved the cold weather for this annual three-mile run which began at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

### Death of chick halts research

## Condor study still stalled

United Press International  
VENTURA, Calif. — A \$500,000 project to save the California condor from extinction is at a standstill five months after the death of a chick being examined in its nest.

The Condor Research Center now hopes the study will be resumed next spring.

"The death of the chick was a psychological setback for the whole program, no doubt about it," says John Borneman, director of the Ventura center, which is part of the Audubon Society. "But the threat of the death of the species looms far more important."

and Dr. Noel Snyder, had been given an OK from the California Fish and Game Commission for a program of attaching radio telemetry devices to several of the birds to trace their flight patterns and for a captive breeding program.

The scientists, plus an expert mountain guide, were examining a chick in its nest in the San Rafael Wilderness June 30 when the stress proved too much and the bird died of shock and acute heart failure.

The accident provoked a furor, particularly from environmentalists who argue the condor should be left alone to survive. The Fish and Game Commission withdrew the permit which had not been formally and finally approved.

Borneman said in an interview that recent developments have provided evidence that the marking and captive breeding programs can be successful.

Snyder and Ogden went to Peru last month to observe a similar project being conducted by the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center at Laurel, Md., using Andean condors which are similar to but smaller than the California condor.

Six of the birds that had hatched and bred in captivity at Maryland center were tagged with radio transmitters and released into the wilderness. All except one appeared to be fitting into a habitat, Borneman said.

"We hope to be able to resume the program but probably not this spring," Borneman said.

The center has recently engaged another scientist to study the effects of agricultural pesticides and poisons that find their way into bodies of animals on whose carcasses the condors feed. It was an attempt to find traces of poison in the eggshell of the chick.

"After the death of the chick was a very emotional period," Borneman says. "But now the almost a backlash against it. We are beginning to realize that you have human beings in charge of the project you are going to have takes and setbacks."

"I can understand a philosophical disagreement on whether the chick should or should not be left alone. But I can't understand people objecting to the program on scientific grounds when they refuse to get out into the field and find out the facts."

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## Collapsed salt mine stabilizing

United Press International  
JEFFERSON ISLAND, La. — Officials worked Sunday to clear oil and debris from the collapsed salt mine and restore normalcy to south Louisiana Island.

The accident last week forced families to flee their homes but officials said most residents were turning to the island.

"We had a meeting this morning with company officials... to discuss some of the things that will be done next week," Mine Safety and Health Administration spokesman J. Phillips said Sunday.

"Mainly... one thing that started, I believe yesterday, is that Texaco is cleaning up machinery and surface debris (on the lake) and prevent pollution from a boom in natural gas well. A fire in the viously drilled well had burned the collapse of the mine, but on Thursday.

Phillips said by allowing officials access to the lake, "allowing a certain amount of water to resume."

"We're continuing to take actions and monitor the earth movements around the salt dome," he said.

"It has remained stable on the dome itself. We're continuing to monitor the water levels in the shaft and air shaft."

"They seem to be stabilizing," he said.