

# State / National

## Nitro patch relieves angina

United Press International  
**GRAPEVINE**—A small adhesive patch filled with nitroglycerin and worn on the chest may help angina victims lead normal lives without debilitating chest pains, researchers said Tuesday.

And a pharmaceutical company spokesman said that Transderm-Nitro, one of three patch systems approved by the Food and Drug Administration, should be available to the public early next year. More than 2 million Americans suffer from angina pectoris, chest

pains caused by a restriction of the oxygen flow to the heart.

Nitroglycerin, usually administered by pills, has long been the primary treatment for the crippling pain.

But Dr. Jane Shaw, head of the ALZA Corp. research team that developed the Transderm-Nitro patch, said traditional methods of administering the substance are not precise.

Because oral doses of nitroglycerin are rapidly broken down in the body, a patient would have to

take the drug every 30 minutes for it to be effective, she said.

"The patch dosage form is a precise method of delivering nitroglycerin to the bloodstream over 24 hours," Shaw said. "It's as simple as applying an adhesive bandage. Once it is in place it begins to deliver nitroglycerin at a precise rate."

The 1-by-1½ inch patch consists of an impermeable backing, a drug reservoir, a semi-permeable membrane and an adhesive strip.

The impermeable backing allows the patient to bathe or shower while getting the full benefit of the treatment, Shaw said.

The semi-permeable layer controls the rate at which the drug, usually 5 or 10 milligrams a day, enters the body through the skin. "There is no possibility for overdose of the patient," she said.

Because the patch is applied once every 24 hours, researchers predicted patients would be more likely to comply with the therapy.

## TDC considers Ellington for possible prison site

United Press International  
**HOUSTON**—The Texas Department of Corrections is studying the possibility of using Ellington Air Force Base and other surplus federal lands as state prisons, TDC official T. Louis Austin said.

Officials toured Ellington Friday.

"(But) we haven't made any determination on any of the sites," Austin said.

However, the Justice De-

partment has approved Ellington for use as an airport only, federal officials said. The cities of Houston and Pasadena are negotiating with the federal government for use of Ellington as a general aviation airport.

Officials of the General Services Administration Office in Fort Worth said there is no state surplus property available for prisons. And Carol Thornton, GSA spokeswoman, said her office has received no inquiries

from the state as to the availability of Ellington.

But David Herndon, general counsel for Gov. Bill Clements, said the possibility of using Ellington and other surplus federal sites was first suggested to the state by the Justice Department.

"I can't imagine why in the world we would be encouraged to look at these sites if they weren't available," Herndon said.

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\$1000	97	1:142,319	1:10,947	1:5,474
\$100	485	1:28,544	1:2,389	1:1,195
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## Judge to rule on access to hearing

United Press International  
**TYLER**—A federal judge is expected to rule within a week on a petition seeking to stop a state judge from barring the media from a preliminary civil suit hearing.

U.S. District Judge William Steger will rule on briefs submitted by attorneys representing the Lufkin Daily News and state District Judge Marcus Vasocu of Longview.

The newspaper is seeking access to a preliminary hearing of a civil suit between stockholders of a Lufkin bank.

Attorney Jim George of Austin said Tuesday the newspaper's attempts to get state courts to hear its arguments have been refused and that is why it has turned to the federal court.

But Vasocu has said the federal district court does not have jurisdiction to review final judgments of state courts on the subject.

George said Steger could order Vasocu to allow reporters for the newspaper access to the hearing or order the state judge to hold an evidentiary hearing at which the parties seeking to close the hearing would have to prove they would lose a constitutional right unless the courtroom were closed.

Another attorney for the newspaper and its parent chain, Cox Enterprises Inc., said, "The issue is simply this: Does the public have the right to watch the judicial system in action?"

Attorney Roger Moss of Lufkin has said he believes Vasocu's ruling is the first ever in Texas court history to deny public access to a preliminary hearing in a civil case.

Public access has been denied previously in preliminary hearings for criminal cases.

## Judge vetos Dallas plan on busing

United Press International  
**DALLAS**—A federal judge has rejected a Dallas Independent School District plan that would have allowed 8,561 black and Hispanic students in grades 4 through 8 to opt out of forced busing.

Following an emergency closed-door session Monday, the school board issued a statement saying it was surprised and disappointed with U.S. District Judge Barefoot Sanders' ruling that the plan would lead to resegregation of schools.

The judge had first advanced the idea of allowing minority students to opt out of court-ordered busing in August. But Monday he said he could not approve the plan and still comply with a 1978 appeals court ruling.

"The theory and the practicalities of the DISD neighborhood option plan collide with the command of the law to achieve maximum school desegregation," he said in his written order.

School board attorney Robert Thomas said the DISD's desegregation plan hinged on approval of the so-called Minority Neighborhood Option Plan (MNOP).

In August, Sanders suggested the possibility of allowing minorities to withdraw voluntarily from busing.

But in response to the DISD's proposal, Sanders said Monday: "Any minority student who returned to these schools would leave a desegregated classroom to enter a segregated one."

Also Monday, the plaintiffs in the case agreed to drop their demand that three inner city high schools be closed.

