



staff photo by Athena Vourvoulis

Video games popular in MSC

David Gordon, a sophomore petroleum engineering major from Houston, shows off his talented wrist in the MSC Bowling and Games area downstairs in the Memorial Student Center.

El Paso wages water fight

United Press International LAS CRUCES, N.M. — A candidate for governor says the City of El Paso, which has filed a federal suit to gain access to water in southern New Mexico, actually encouraged its consumers to use more — rather than less — water.

Democrat Aubrey Dunn says he bases that contention on results of a private engineering study he commissioned.

"I've said all along there's more to this lawsuit for New Mexico water than meets the eye," Dunn said Sunday. "And nothing I've learned so far contradicts that conclusion."

He said he is "increasingly convinced that this suit is an attempt to establish a precedent for taking New Mexico water out of state, in order to use vast amounts of it for coal slurry pipelines in the near future."

A pending lawsuit filed by the far West Texas city asks a federal judge to strike down New Mexico's water export ban on grounds it is unconstitutional.

The dispute between El Paso and the state has sparked emotions on both sides of the Rio Grande.

Of the proposed water importation, Dunn said: "It would be another example of New Mexicans allowing themselves to be colonized by energy companies from other states, particularly Texas, if we accept their false claims on our underground water."

Dunn says his study indicated El Paso has a minimum water allowance 2.5 times greater than that allowed by "most New Mex-

ico cities."

He said El Paso permits users to consume 7,500 gallons of water per month on a minimum

charge of about \$5.05. He said New Mexicans generally are allowed a minimum monthly usage of about 3,000 gallons.

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FBI probes road kickbacks, \$2.9 million savings results

United Press International DALLAS — Texans have paid \$2.9 million less for road and bridge materials since the start of a federal investigation of purchasing irregularities and kickbacks by county officials, a newspaper reported.

In a copyright story, the Dallas Times Herald said Sunday that prices paid for road and bridge supplies showed a marked cost in some Texas counties decrease since the probe began.

The federal kickback investigation has resulted in 20 convictions or guilty pleas in eight East Texas counties. Federal pro-

secutors say they intend to pursue the investigation across the state, concentrating on areas where prices have fallen in a period of 12 percent national inflation.

"When someone has to pay commissioners a 'fee' for doing business, the money has to come from somewhere," U.S. Attorney John Wortham said.

In a study of 51 Texas counties, the newspaper said the cost of major road and bridge supplies had decreased in 45 percent of them since October 1980, when the federal investigation became known.

The newspaper said of 23

counties where prices dropped, taxpayers paid a total of \$2.9 million less for road and bridge materials in 1981 than in 1980.

"The decrease has saved taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars," the newspaper reported.

Although the kickback investigation evolved into one of the largest public corruption scandals in Texas history, Wortham said it had only touched the tip of the iceberg.

In Oklahoma, where a similar investigation began in 1978, more than 165 commissioners, former commissioners and sup-

pliers have been convicted, pleaded guilty or agreed to plead guilty to various charges.

Some county officials attributed the lower prices to efficiency and increased competition. But prosecutors and other public officials believe there is a direct link between materials bought at lower prices and the federal investigation.

Armed with calculators, grand jury subpoenas and their own copying machine, a strike force of five FBI agents has appeared unannounced at more than 20 Texas courthouses and dozens of banks.

Man held in hijacking try of parked, unloaded plane

United Press International AMARILLO — Trespassing charges are pending against a man who it is charged threatened to hijack a Braniff International jetliner at the Amarillo International Airport, an FBI spokesman says.

The FBI spokesman said Larry Darnell Wallace, 25, was in custody and probably would be charged with trespassing and theft more than \$10,000, on Monday.

Amarillo police said Wallace boarded the Boeing 727 aircraft about 11:30 p.m. Saturday while it was parked at the terminal for the night.

Police said the passengers and crew had already left the jet, but a custodian was on board when the incident began.

A police department dispatcher said the man apparently did not have a weapon.

Officials said the custodian notified police after the man got on the public address system and said he was going to hijack the plane.

A police statement released Sunday said the police SWAT team and negotiators from the

FBI were able to talk the man off the plane after approximately 45 minutes.

No hostages were involved and the man was not injured, the statement said.

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