



John Makely, Battalion staff

Showing Off

Teresa Hanson displays a formal dress during a fashion show sponsored by the MSC Hospitality committee. The show was held Tuesday in the MSC Lounge.

Report on sinkhole released

United Press International
BOLING — Highway department consultants claim the sinkhole eating a hole in the main road from Boling to Houston is due to natural causes and not mineral exploration, officials said Wednesday.

A report issued Tuesday by Espey Huston and Associates of Austin said further study will be required to determine if the sinkhole will continue to cut into Texas 442. The hole, which emerged on Aug. 12, is now over 250 feet in diameter.

Area residents initially speculated sulfur mining in the area caused the hole. The report disagreed.

"Geologists in the report said the entire area is full of natural cavities caused by water dissolving various minerals below the surface," said Earl Wyatt, district highway department director in Yoakum.

The highway department has not determined if the cavity is full or if the sinkhole will grow.

The report recommends an attempt to pump the water out of the sinkhole. If the hole can't be drained, officials said, it will be difficult to repair the road.

The Texas Department of Water Resources analyzed water samples from wells in the vicinity and found only one on the sinkhole's edge affected by the collapse. That well contained unpotable minerals.

The water resources department plans to continue monitoring area wells, officials said.

Owners have vacated three homes near the hole and other residents in the vicinity say they wish they could sell their property, but fear the sinkhole has hurt the value of their land.

Monitor could save lives

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — A wrist-watch-sized monitor will someday be used to rescue workers and locate and care for soldiers wounded in battle, a Purdue University researcher said Wednesday.

The Personal Monitor and Communicator could establish whether a soldier is conscious and relay vital information about the wearer's condition and location, said Dr. Willis Tacker, a research scientist at Purdue's Biomedical Engineering Center.

The device could be activated by medics working in field hospitals, military ambulances, helicopters or on the battlefield, using the remote transmitter, Tacker told a meeting of the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States.

Upon command, two electrodes on the back of the monitor will send a mild stimulus to the wearer. Tacker said uninjured soldiers could report their condition by pushing a button.

If the button is not pushed, the device automatically begins monitoring heart rate, body temperature and movement.

"The transmissions will tell medics where a wounded person is located and how badly he is injured," he said.

The \$1.8 million project is being funded by the Department of Defense, and a prototype system could be available in about three years, Tacker said.

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