

Waste dumping warned against

United Press International
SHREVEPORT, La. — Caddo Parish officials investigating the illegal dumping of toxic hazardous wastes at two loca-

tions issued a stern warning Wednesday that such actions will be prosecuted swiftly. "We're not going to tolerate any illegal dumping of hazar-

dous materials in Caddo Parish," said Sheriff Don Hathaway. "We want this word to go out loud and clear."

One person has been charged in a dumping incident at Ida, but authorities said more arrests were expected.

Four truckloads of contaminated soil and plastic sheeting illegally buried at a police jury landfill near Vivian already have been moved to an EPA-approved disposal site in Lake Charles.

The plastic was found buried under 12 to 15 feet of dirt at the landfill. It was believed to contain Bro-mean C-33, a soil fum-

gant made of methyl bromide and chloropicrin. The substance can be fatal if swallowed or inhaled and can cause severe burns to the skin and eyes on contact.

The contaminated soil and plastic was dug up by workers for Manville Forest Products Co. of rural Marion County, Texas, said John Greer, superintendent of the Caddo Parish Department of Solid Waste.

Hathaway declined to identify the firm that cleaned up the material, and would say only that the firm volunteered to do the work. He also would not

comment on who was believed to have dumped the plastic at the landfill. Manville officials could not be reached for comment.

The landfill site will be tested to determine if it was contaminated by the chemical.

Officials also were awaiting the results of lab tests to identify what chemicals may have been poured into bar pits at the Ida Gasoline Plant. Company representatives have met with Department of Natural Resources officials and agreed to submit a plan to clean up the old plant site, said Ida Gasoline manager Gary Northen. Cleanup was estimated to cost \$2 million, he said.

Oil reserve's woes attacked

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The chairman of a House panel Wednesday vowed to hold national energy officials "feet to the fire" to ensure problems are solved at the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

Rep. Mike Synar, D-Okla., told Secretary of Energy Donald Hodel that a House Government Operations subcommittee supports implementation of 170 recommendations made in a Department of Energy report on the oil reserve stored in giant underground salt domes in Texas and Louisiana.

The recent report detailed a myriad of problems, including equipment too rusty to operate and minimal fire protection at some sites, that raised concern about the reliability of the reserve in the event of a national crisis.

The reserve was authorized by Congress as a hedge against an oil crisis threatening national security and more than 350 million barrels of oil have been stored in it since 1977.

"The subcommittee intends to hold Secretary Hodel's and (DOE official Joseph) LaGrone's feet to the fire to assure that the 170 recommendations in this report are implemented and the problems are solved," Synar said.

Hodel, who ordered the report after a series of hearings by Synar's panel revealed massive problems at the reserve, testified that his agency is working to ensure it will be effective in the event of a national emergency.

"I hope that you will keep our feet to the fire because that's where we intend to put them," said Hodel.

Synar and Hodel complimented each other on interest in assuring the effectiveness of the reserve. Synar, chairman of the Environment, Energy and Natural Re-

sources Subcommittee, never to visit any of the sites.

"In reviewing this report seems clear that perhaps a major problem factor in the project is the poor work held by its managers," said. "As the report narrows emphasis on

The recent report tailed a myriad of problems, including equipment too rusty to operate and minimal fire protection at some sites.

'oil in the ground' has a serious negative impact on operational, business and administrative functions of this program."

Synar said his panel is concerned about reports of financial mismanagement of the reserve, inadequacy and operational problems.

A DOE task force filed a second report detailing each allegation of mismanagement of the reserve, including the conviction by a federal grand jury in El Paso, Texas, of a contractor for

Under the reserve program, water is pumped into the caverns and the brine is removed to room for oil later injected into the caverns.

Oil is currently stored at West Hackberry, St. James, Weeks Island, La., as well as Bryan Mound, Texas.

terminal is under construction at St. James, La. Work is under way to build the Big Hill, Texas, storage.


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Hearing Monday for 'beachfront' owners

United Press International
AUSTIN — A hearing has been set Monday on the state's request for an injunction against a couple who are rebuilding their Galveston home on beach property that is now considered state land.

Travis County District Court Judge Harley Clark issued a temporary restraining order late Tuesday at the request of Attorney General Jim Mattox.

The order forbids Robert L. Matcha and his wife, Anne Morgan Matcha, from continuing any reconstruction on the West Beach property or preventing public access to the beach.

Clark's order will remain in effect until he decides whether to make it permanent or rules in favor of the Matchas.

The state maintains that due to the shifting sands caused by Hurricane Alicia in August, the

Matcha's property is no longer behind the vegetation line used to mark public property.

Even though notice was posted that reconstruction might be in violation of the Open Beaches Act, the state said the Matchas went ahead with rebuilding.

Mattox's office has also filed similar complaints against 10 other Galveston homeowners.

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2 charged with drug possession

United Press International
MIDLAND — Two men were arrested by U.S. Customs officials at Midland Airport Wednesday for possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, officials said.

George Bivens, 43, of Sacramento, Calif., and Shelton, 43, of Sacramento, Calif., were arrested for 1,000 pounds of high-grade marijuana, said Ed Marston, U.S. Drug Enforcement office in Lubbock.

Officials with the airport wing of the customs made the arrest Tuesday after the two men landed plane at a small community port. The suspects' plane was tracked from the Mexican border, Mazurke said.

The two men appear before a U.S. magistrate in land.

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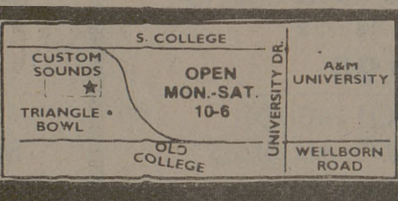
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