

State and Local

South Padre businesses ready for spring break

By KAREN WATSON
Reporter

While spring break at South Padre Island means sunbathers and time away from the books for thousands of college students, it also means overtime and increased revenues for island businesses.

"If you don't make spring break, you don't make your year," says Herman Gross, manager of a South Padre Island liquor store.

Mark Hamner, rooms division manager for the South Padre Hilton Resort, says during spring break the Hilton expects a 10 percent to 15 percent increase over last year's revenue. The total could reach more than \$500,000 over the roughly 10-day period.

Half the money the Hilton usually makes during spring break is from food and beverages, Hamner says.

Hamner, who also says the South Padre Hilton has been booked for the past two weeks for the period between March 22 and April 5, says rooms go fast this time of year.

Hilton employee Karen Linn says during spring break the whole island grows from a population of about 1,000 to a wall-to-wall population of 200,000.

Linn says they are expecting this year to be even wilder because Florida raised the drinking age to 21, but Florida law has exempted those who turned 19 before July 1, 1985. Thus some 19-year-old students still will be allowed to drink.

Sgt. John Stetar of the South

"If you don't make spring break, you don't make your year."

Herman Gross, manager of a South Padre Island liquor store.

Padre Police Department says the department is putting together a reserve police force of 10 volunteer officers for the period.

The Sheriff's Department and the Department of Public Safety, which will patrol the island with three units during the week and eight units on weekends, also will be shifting their efforts toward the island for spring break, Stetar says.

Most of the problems that occur are small ones such as traffic violations, small fights and public intoxication, he says.

Samuel Zuniga, assistant district supervisor for the Alcoholic Beverage Commission, says this year the commission is estimating there will be 200,000 people on the island for spring break.

Zuniga says the island is more organized this year than in the past because local businesses, such as beer distributors, have planned events to keep young people busy and out of trouble.

Douglass Podd, a beer firm's public relations representative in Dallas, says his company has tried to plan responsible activities for spring break. These actions, Podd says, are a result of the firm's concern with excessive drinking and an attempt to encourage people to use its products in moderation.

Podd also says firm representatives will be passing out literature on how to determine blood alcohol levels and promoting a "buddie program," which urges a designated driver not to drink.

Jim Shafrath, head of public relations for the beer distributor, says large quantities of beer — an estimated 800 cases — are sent to the island daily.

"We just send as many trucks as we can down there," Shafrath says.

Tom O'Connell, special events manager for another beer firm, says it also will sponsor events during spring break.

That firm always increases revenues after it sponsors special events, O'Connell says.

Gross says, "Whether for good or for bad, Padre is one of the few places that still has a 19-year-old drinking age."

Therefore, Gross says, Padre will have so many Alcoholic Beverage Commission agents on the island this year that they'll be "thick as fleas on a dog's back."

Zachry Co. indicted in DFW case

Associated Press

DALLAS — The H.B. Zachry Co., whose banner hangs over the company crane at a Texas A&M construction project, is facing indictment in Dallas.

The San Antonio-based construction company was indicted after Dallas County district attorneys deemed it "criminally responsible" for the offenses of one of its employees, involving construction at the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

Zachry, one of the airport's major contractors, does a great deal of construction work at A&M.

Paul Hensen, 50, of Burleson, and two former Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport managers, were released from jail Tuesday after indictments earlier this month on third-degree felony charges for tampering with government documents.

Hansen, James C. Lancaster, 34, of Southlake, and William Henry Early Jr., 60, of Lake Dallas posted from \$2,500 to \$15,000 bail, each.

Seven high-ranking airport officials, including Executive Director Ernest Dean, have resigned since the irregularities were discovered in July.

Lancaster and Early helped supervise \$22.9 million in contracts for construction work at American Airlines terminals. The project eventually cost \$26.3 million and resulted in lawsuits involving the contractor, the airline and the airport board.

Silver Taps to honor 5 on April 1

By CRAIG RENFRO
Staff Writer

In a four-day span, five Texas A&M students have been killed and two critically injured in two separate automobile accidents in Bryan-College Station.

Silver Taps ceremonies will be held for the students April 1.

On Sunday, Bryan police said an 18-wheeler struck an Oldsmobile 98 driven by David R. Hedegard as he was attempting a U-turn on Highway 21 near FM 2818.

Hedegard and passengers Arthur J. Strom and John L. Thornton were pronounced dead at the scene. Mitchell Smithwick was taken to St. Joseph Hospital in Bryan where he died of injuries.

Richard N. Walker of Bryan has not regained consciousness and remains in critical condition with a crushed pelvis and seven broken ribs, a hospital spokesman said.

Glenn M. Butterly, a freshman from Ft. Worth, is in stable condition after recovering from surgery performed Monday night to repair a ruptured diaphragm. Butterly also suffered a broken pelvis and ribs, the spokesman said.

Funeral services for the four students killed in the accident will be held today.

In a separate accident Thursday afternoon an A&M student died of multiple injuries in a Houston hospital after an automobile accident involving a high-speed police chase.

Scott A. Woodward, a senior from College Station, lost control of his vehicle at the intersection of FM 2154 and Highway 6. He was thrown from the car as it hit a ditch.

He was taken to St. Joseph Hospital and listed in critical condition before being transported to Hermann Hospital by Life Flight.

College Station police said the accident occurred as officers were chasing the vehicle to stop the driver for speeding on Wellborn Road.



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Back Talk



by Dr. Kevin G. Schacterle
Chiropractor

EARLY DETECTION OF "WHIPLASH"

When the head is thrust backward, in an automobile accident, for instance, cervical ligaments can be torn and intervertebral discs may be compressed. Because ligaments and discs in and around the neck have no pain fibers, symptoms may not appear for days, weeks or even months. Early detection of possible damage and appropriate care are essential in preventing serious consequences. A chiropractor's use of x-ray and other analytical procedures detects even minute misalignments of the cervical vertebrae. With specific chiropractic adjustments, the vertebrae can be restored to their normal functioning position. Correction of the primary injury, rather than relief from it, is essential to normal repair of ligaments, discs and muscles.

Please do not ignore the early warning signs: headache, stiffness in neck/back, painful joints, leg/arm pain, numbness, back/neck pain, shoulder pain, numbness in hands/feet. Early treatment of these signs will minimize your need for additional follow-up visits.

Complimentary consultations and spinal evaluation will be given thru the end of the month. Previous patients of chiropractic who feel the necessity for "only" a spinal adjustment are welcome.

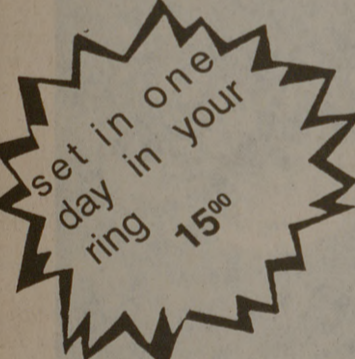
Should you feel a need for an appointment please call 696-2100.

Hint: Whiplash injuries can produce partial or even total disability.

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