

State and Local

Texans protest possible cuts in human services

AUSTIN (AP) — Two state legislators joined physicians, the disabled and elderly Texans Tuesday in protesting a proposal to reduce the Department of Human Services budget by \$125.9 million.

A rally at the main entrance to the department's headquarters complex drew approximately 150 demonstrators, most of whom wore armbands that said, "No cuts."

The rally was held prior to a board of Human Services meeting in proposed budget cuts. Some 100 witnesses had signed up to testify.

Sen. Chet Brooks, D-Pasadena; Rep. Lena Guerrero, D-Austin; and others addressed the rally as balloons popped in the wind and commercial airliners drowned out some of the remarks.

Guerrero said when Gov. Mark

White asked state agencies in February to cut their budgets by 13 percent to make up for an overall \$1.3 billion budget shortage, White meant to cut the fat out of administration, not to cut necessary services.

"Not providing for hearing aids, glasses and cutting medical services is negligent at best, and we won't take it," she told the cheering, sign-waving crowd.

"Health care is a basic human right," she said.

Brooks, chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Resources, said, "I see warriors of many battles here... hard-won battles over the last 15 or 20 years, and I don't want to see them washed away in a rather whimsical fashion because there are budget problems."

"We understand there are budget

problems but the thing we all feel, I believe, very strongly, is let's identify the essential services and protect them against all others.

"There are no doubt some places in the state budget as large as it is, \$38 billion for two years — I'm sure there are some places in there where we can make some reductions but don't do it in human services, don't do it in areas where people are vulnerable and people will suffer or die because those cuts are made."

Charlotte Flynn of the Gray Panthers said the Board of Human Services must re-examine priorities so "health services are not the last to be funded and the first to be cut."

Signs also carried that message as well as such comments as "Why hurt needy people?" and "We want what is right, not what's left."

Easterwood extension dedicated

Rep. Joe Barton, members of the Texas A&M Board of Regents and municipal officials Tuesday dedicated a \$1.7 million runway extension at A&M's Easterwood Airport.

Barton called the cooperation that resulted in the 1,800-foot runway extension "the epitome of the American spirit." The new runway will accommodate 737-type commercial jet aircraft.

"A first-class aviation facility means a tremendous amount to the Bryan-College Station ability to attract high-tech industry," Barton said.

He said applications have been submitted for federal funds for an additional \$3 million in improvements at Easterwood including a new terminal building.

Texas couple charged with selling explosives

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A Central Texas couple and an Arizona man were in custody Tuesday in connection with the seizures of explosive devices by federal agents who were posing as terrorists, authorities said.

Retired Green Beret Maj. James Albert Paxton; his 35-year-old wife, Francis "Frankie" Paxton; and Daniel Thomas Nicewander, 33, of Phoenix, Ariz. awaited an initial appearance before a federal magistrate.

Agents arrested the Paxtons on charges of making and selling bombs, and Nicewander on charges of interstate transportation of explosives, authorities said.

Paxton, 43, was arrested Saturday morning in the parking lot of a San Antonio shopping mall after he delivered 18 "car bombs" to two federal agents posing as Mexican terrorists, said Robert Rowe, resident

agent in charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Other agents, with guns drawn, then invaded the Paxtons' two-story brick and frame home in Round Rock, about 100 miles away, and arrested Mrs. Paxton and Nicewander.

Rowe said Paxton was charged with 18 counts of possession, manufacture and sale of explosive devices.

The agent said Nicewander, who he said had served under Paxton in the Green Berets, was charged with interstate transportation of explosives.

Rowe said Mrs. Paxton was charged with possession and sale of an explosive device. Her arrest stemmed from the sale of a pipe bomb May 6 to an undercover agent near the Paxton home, he said.

Search continues for victim of kidnapping in Texas City

GALVESTON (AP) — Authorities received dozens of tips Tuesday from area residents in their search for a Texas City woman whose bloodied car was found near a causeway.

Shelley Kathleen Sikes' car was found early Sunday with the driver's window smashed in, said Sgt.

Tommy Hansen of the Galveston County Sheriff Department's organized crime control unit.

The Galveston County Sheriff's Department has received dozens of phone calls, said Diane Lindquist, an administrative assistant for the department.

Hansen said Sikes, 19, had left her

job as a waitress at Gaido's, a Galveston beachfront restaurant, about 11:45 p.m. Saturday.

Her boyfriend found Sikes' 1983 Ford Pinto at about 2 a.m. Sunday, after she failed to arrive at his parents' Texas City home after leaving work, Hansen said.

Farm Aid II performers named

AUSTIN (AP) — Two members of the Rolling Stones have agreed to perform at the Farm Aid II benefit concert scheduled for the Fourth of July at a college football stadium here, singer Willie Nelson announced Tuesday.

Guitarists Keith Richards and Ron Wood will be part of a show that will include more than 60 acts and last for about 14 hours, Nelson said at a news conference in his recording studio.

"They said we could say they are coming. I'm looking for Mick now," Nelson said, referring to Rolling Stones lead singer Mick Jagger.

Farm Aid I, which was held in Illinois last year, raised \$9 million. Nelson said about \$5 million of that has been spent to help farmers who face tough financial times.

"The intent of Farm Aid I was to raise the consciousness of the people of this country to farm problems. We accomplished that," Nelson said. "Now we'd like to raise that consciousness a little higher."

The list of performers scheduled for Farm Aid II includes John Cougar Mellencamp, Neil Young, Dave Mason, Rita Coolidge, Jerry Jeff Walker and many more. The schedule also includes rock groups such as Steppenwolf, Motley Crue and Bon Jovi.

Nelson said the show probably will open with him, Julio Iglesias and Waylon Jennings performing together.

About 75,000 people at \$20 a ticket are expected to fill Memorial Stadium on the University of Texas campus. Nelson said more than \$100,000 in tickets have been sold.

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