

Battalion Classifieds

Curfew declared after arson spree razes businesses

CISCO (AP) — City officials declared a citywide curfew and state of emergency Thursday after three days of arson-sparked blazes razed a lumber storage facility belonging to the mayor and several other businesses.

The city council, meeting in emergency session Thursday afternoon, clamped a midnight-to-6 a.m. curfew for the next three days on this West Texas town of 4,500 about 45 miles east of Abilene, officials said.

A 21-year-old man was arrested Thursday morning just 1 1/2 blocks from the latest fire at Webb's Inc. warehouse and Dixon Auto store, Cisco police detective Risa Livingston said.

The man was seen running away from the scene at about 3 a.m., minutes after the fire was discovered, and was arrested after he jumped in a parked car, Livingston said.

City Manager Michael Moore said, "We're a small West Texas city and we just we're awfully proud of our town, that's what makes senseless acts like this so frustrating.

"These are good honest people and most of us have good common sense. This doesn't make sense. We don't need it and we don't like it."

The latest blaze started in the back of Webb's, spread to Dixon's after a fireball collapsed, and was definitely arson, Cisco Fire Chief Richard Connell said.

State fire marshals from

Duncanville also determined that a second fire at the Red Front Mini Mall, which heavily damaged two businesses Wednesday, was arson.

Mayor Joe Wheatley said a fire Tuesday at his Cisco Lumber Co. warehouse did at least \$150,000 in damage to building supplies and two forklifts.

He said a firefighter broke his leg when a wall of the storage facility blew out and buried him in rubble. A second firefighter suffered minor burns while trying to help the first firefighter.

The warehouse rubble was still too hot Thursday for fire investigators to probe it thoroughly.

"It was a total loss," Wheatley said. "I haven't had too much time to really think about it. I haven't recovered from my initial shock of it yet."

Wheatley, who was elected two months ago, said he ran unopposed and doesn't believe the fires were targeted at him. He said the other businesses were multi-partnerships.

The man arrested Thursday was taken to Eastland County Jail in nearby Eastland, where he awaited charges, Livingston said.

The seven-person Cisco police force is working around the clock to solve the case, Wheatley said.

Police believe three burglaries Tuesday and Wednesday morning may be connected to the fires those mornings, but no new break-ins had been reported to Cisco police by Thursday.

Warped



Waldo



SHOE



Clements: Veterans won't lose TDC jobs

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Former Gov. Bill Clements' remarks earlier this week about purging the Texas prison system of military veterans were meant only to include prison administrators with a military justice background, his campaign says.

If elected governor in November, Clements does not intend to ask for the resignation of all former military personnel in TDC, just some in administrative positions including

director O.L. McCotter, said Reggie Basher, campaign spokesman.

The former governor, in a speech to a Huntsville audience Monday, said TDC promotions should be made from within and not sought from outside, such as from the military and federal prison system.

He also expressed dissatisfaction at the state of the prison system in general, pinning much of the blame

on Gov. Mark White and the current prison administration.

Basher said, "He doesn't feel he (McCotter) has done the job. All he said is that if he wins the election, he will make changes at the top."

After reports of the remarks, Walker County Republican Party Chairman Joe Stivers said he received phone calls Tuesday from TDC employees who served in the military and were worried they would

lose their jobs if Clements is elected.

Clements did not mean all veterans when he made those remarks, Stivers said.

"He has no objection to veterans, what he has an objection to is by-passing those persons who could have been upgraded from within and the (current TDC) administration propensity to hire persons from the outside," Stivers said.

A spokesman for TDC said

McCotter won't get involved in politics by commenting on Clements' remarks.

TDC spokesman Phil Guthrie said, "Good administration is good administration and it doesn't make any difference where the experience comes from."

"I tend to regard that talk about the military as political rhetoric," Guthrie said.

City destroys list of adult business clientele

AUSTIN (AP) — A city-compiled list of customers of adult businesses was destroyed after numerous complaints, officials said.

"It's been disposed of, destroyed," Senior Assistant City Manager Terry Childers said Wednesday. "I ripped it to shreds."

The list's existence was disclosed Tuesday at a meeting of the Austin Planning Commission when the staff of the Office of Land Development Services presented a proposed new ordinance to regulate sexually oriented businesses such as topless bars, adult movie theaters and massage parlors.

The move was criticized by an American Civil Liberties Union chapter.

"After visiting with the state, we determined that the list really isn't needed anymore," Childers said Wednesday.

City workers involved in the study gathered license plate numbers of patrons, then used those to obtain the names and addresses of people who stopped at the adult theaters, bookstores and topless bars, officials said.

"We wish to express our objection and outrage," said a letter from

Dorothy Browne, president of the Central Texas ACLU chapter. She noted that patrons of the establishments "were not engaged in any form of illegal activity."

The letter expressed "grave concerns with how this information is to be kept by the department and how it is to be protected."

To study the effects of adult businesses on neighborhoods, the city staked out three businesses on a weekend night several months ago. License plate numbers were collected and run through Division of Motor Vehicles computers to identify the

owners. Their residences were plotted on a map of the city.

Stephen Swanke, a city planner and primary author of the study, said tracing auto license plate numbers is a routine marketing practice done to determine the area from which an establishment draws its customers.

Swanke said the study showed that 44 percent of the customers lived outside Austin. As a result, the study recommended that new adult businesses be restricted to regionally oriented commercial districts along heavily traveled roads and highways. Neighborhood locations shouldn't be allowed, it said.

Southern Baptists struggle for unity

ATLANTA (AP) — Pleas for conciliation mingled with threats of crackdowns at the Southern Baptist Convention as a victorious fundamentalist faction assessed its now-dominant role in the nation's largest Protestant denomination.

The new president, the Rev. Adrian P. Rogers of Memphis, Tenn., who rode a fundamentalist tide in defeating a moderate-backed opponent the day before, made an impassioned plea for unity among the dissenting factions.

The long-running, partisan contention in the 14.5 million-member denomination involves the fundamentalist insistence on strictly literalist views of

the Bible, while moderates allow for diverse understandings.

In business sessions, sharp division came over a fundamentalist move to pull the denomination out of an inter-Baptist agency in Washington, D.C., for not "truly reflecting our views."

The agency, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, which represents eight Baptist denominations in government issues, has repeatedly come under fundamentalist attack for not fighting court decisions barring group prayer in public schools, among other things.

The convention voted 12,001 to 9,556 to refer the motion to the executive committee for

consideration. But in any case, the agency emerged as a marked target of the now predominant fundamentalist forces.

Another motion was introduced asking that the denomination seek a new Christian Life Commission head "whose record and convictions about the sanctity of unborn life" are in accord with convention opposition to abortion.

The denomination's social agency is headed by the Rev. Foy Valentine and has been strongly criticized by fundamentalists who feel it has not sufficiently fought abortion.

The convention also voted to ask President Reagan not to reappoint an ambassador to the Vatican.

Houston Judge Paul Pressler, who

devised the long-range strategy for fundamentalists to win control through the president's appointive power, said he hoped the losers in the election would remain loyal to the denomination.

The denomination's employees work for its vast network of national agencies, seminaries and other institutions with expenditures amounting to about \$400 million annually.

The defeated moderate candidate, Rev. Winfred Moore, pledged his continued dedication to the denomination. But he predicted that, as the circle of belief is drawn tighter, "some are going to leave, and it grieves me. Some already have, and I regret it."

Panel says nuclear plant should be safe

BAY CITY (AP) — The South Texas Nuclear Project should be able to operate safely but some concerns still exist about the \$5.5 billion plant, a panel of nuclear experts said.

The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards visited the site and met with Houston Lighting & Power Co. officials May 29-30 in Bay City to review the plant's equipment and technical features. The full committee also met with power company officials in Washington D.C. on June 5.

The committee's report was made public Wednesday.

Committee members said they are concerned about the placement of a residual heat pump inside the reactor containment building, and about the location of diesel emergency generators.

The group said its approval of the project was also contingent on the resolution of several pending issues raised by the NRC staff.

Graham Painter, an HL&P spokesman, said the utility "feels this is a very positive report, and we certainly believe the remaining issues cited by the ACRS can be resolved satisfactorily."

Approval by the committee is a necessary step toward getting an operating license for the nuclear plant, scheduled to start loading fuel in Unit 1 in June 1987.

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