



Aerial Maneuvers

This is not a new ride at Six Flags, but part of the work being done on cooling unit 8 at the Texas

A&M power plant. The fan behind the crane is being removed so the gearbox can be replaced.

Photo by Robert W. Rizzo

Super collider maverick bid gets support

GARDEN CITY (AP) — Backers of a maverick bid for the lucrative super collider project voted Wednesday to press their suit, despite being bypassed in the state selection process.

Members of Garden City's super collider commission met in the Glasscock County courthouse to discuss reviving their bid, which had been voted down June 8, spokesman Thane Akins said.

A June 8 vote in San Angelo by board members ended in a 13-10 decision against an independent bid for the federal atom-smasher project.

But Akins and commission chairman Ralph McLaughlin of Big Spring discovered bylaw violations after the June 8 vote and called Wednesday's meeting for a second vote.

On Wednesday, commission members did not vote on whether to resubmit their proposal to the Department of Energy, but they did take steps toward that goal, voting to accept \$50,000 from an anonymous donor to prepare the site proposal.

Members also voted to investigate a proposal from an out-of-state private industry and banking firm that has expressed interest in underwriting the project and possibly subcontracting it back to the Department of Energy.

Maverick bids have been discouraged by the state, which has endorsed sites near Amarillo and Dallas for the federal project that will generate thousands of jobs.

The main issue facing Garden City advocates now, McLaughlin said, is an Aug. 3 deadline to get their application in to the DOE.

The atom-smasher project will involve building an underground tunnel 52 miles in circumference.

Commission members decided Wednesday to change the bylaws in order to award ten votes each to commission member cities Odessa, Midland, San Angelo and Big Spring.

Each of four industrial boards gained one vote apiece and each individual who paid \$1,000 in dues gained a vote.

Tuesday, the Midland City Council voted to supply \$7,000 to the Garden City group, said Midland City Manager Fred Poe. He said officials hope the bid would be an ongoing economic development tool for the area.

The Garden City group originally was formed for general economic development as well as capturing the super collider, he said.

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U.S. Navy to station aircraft carrier in Florida as final stop for gulf ports

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) — The Navy signed an agreement Wednesday to station the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk here, the final link in a chain of strategic home ports along the Gulf Coast from Key West to Corpus Christi.

The agreement calls for Florida to contribute \$12 million and Pensacola-area governments \$1.2 million toward dredging Pensacola Bay to accommodate the large operational carrier.

A dispute over how the costs should be split between the state and local governments delayed signing of the plan and prompted Escambia County commissioners to call for annexation by Alabama, alleging Florida was ignoring the needs of the Panhandle's western-most county.

That talk died down after Florida Gov. Bob Martinez and Pensacola officials signed an agreement June 10 to bring the carrier here. Officials

in Escambia County and neighboring Santa Rosa County have yet to make any commitment toward paying the local share.

Keith Eastin, principal deputy assistant Navy secretary for ship building and logistics, and Capt. Al Stewart, deputy director of facilities and construction, signed Wednesday's agreement in the Washington office of U.S. Rep. Earl Hutto, a Panama City Democrat whose district includes Pensacola.

"This was a momentous occasion," said Hutto, who called the Kitty Hawk "the biggest prize in the Navy's Strategic Homeporting plans for the Gulf Coast."

He also said the ship, expected to arrive in the early 1990s, would be one of the most significant economic development opportunities the Pensacola area has had.

The Kitty Hawk, now based in

San Diego, is to be berthed at the Pensacola Naval Air Station, replacing the small World War II-era carrier Lexington. The Lexington will continue its role as the Navy's only training carrier at Corpus Christi.

The Kitty Hawk's arrival is expected to bring 2,200 military and civilian personnel and 4,800 family members to Pensacola, Brian Keeter, Hutto's press secretary, said from Washington.

The Navy's annual payroll here is expected to increase by more than \$60 million and the ship should generate up to 400 more private jobs in repair and support businesses, Keeter added.

The Navy has signed similar agreements with state and local officials in other Gulf Coast communities for the homeporting of 27 other warships. The ships would be scattered throughout the area to limit losses in case of an attack.

The second major ship of the fleet, the battleship Wisconsin, is to be berthed at Corpus Christi. Smaller ships are planned for the Houston-Galveston area, Lake Charles and New Orleans in Louisiana, Gulfport and Pascagoula in Mississippi, Mobile, Ala., and Key West.

The Mississippi, Alabama and Florida ships, including a small minesweeper that already has arrived in Pensacola, will be part of the Navy's 15th carrier battle group built around the Kitty Hawk.

In addition to the state and local contributions the Navy has appropriated \$16.2 million for the budget year beginning Oct. 1 to complete the Pensacola dredging, Keeter said.

He said in the next budget year the Navy expects to spend \$14.3 million for berthing and pier work.

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