



Photo by Scott Weaver

Mug shot

Didi Duffy congratulates her boyfriend, Steven Snow, after he completed the 2nd Annual Community Biathlon. Phi Kappa Tau and Wendy's sponsored the event to raise money for the Children's Heart Foundation. The event took place Sat., Feb. 27.

INS plans to close offices, cut workers throughout Texas due to lack of funds

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — A shortage of applicants will force the Immigration and Naturalization Service to close its alien legalization office March 16 and make cutbacks in other centers, officials said.

The closing will come more than a month and a half before the May 4 deadline for the one-time amnesty program.

In addition to the Corpus Christi closing, the INS plans to cut back legalization staff at other Texas cities, including San Antonio, Austin and Harlingen. Mario Ortiz, chief spokesman for the INS Southern Region based in Dallas, said the cuts stem from money problems.

"The amnesty program was de-

signed to be a pay-as-you-go kind of thing," he said. "It was supposed to be pretty much self-sufficient, and there just wasn't enough of a turnout in some of the communities to support a local office. The numbers who actually came were not what we thought they would be at the beginning of the program."

Local INS officials and Hispanic leaders criticized the move to close the office before the deadline. They were further upset at a proposal that the U.S. Border Patrol set up shop at the same location.

"I think it will be another mark against the INS — especially if the border patrol moves in," said Lewis Underdown, chief legalization offi-

cer at the Corpus Christi office.

"Applicants are going to think the INS gave them another job."

The local office opened last May 5 to give illegal aliens a chance to take advantage of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. The act offers general amnesty to illegal aliens who have lived in the United States since before Jan. 1, 1982.

Certain agricultural workers have a later deadline for applying.

Once the Corpus Christi office closes, Ortiz said, local applicants will be referred to the nearest office, in San Antonio, where eight workers are slated to be cut or transferred March 11.

Dr. Hector P. Garcia, founder of

the Hispanic organization American GI Forum, said he is worried about applicants who have begun the amnesty process and return to find the office gone, or to discover Border Patrol agents there.

Jerry Hicks, deputy chief of the Border Patrol's McAllen Sector, said the agency intends to set up a Corpus Christi office primarily to combat drug trafficking along the coast.

The legalization site would serve as temporary space while the agency looked for a permanent location, he said.

The INS has come out against a proposal in Congress to extend the deadline. The agency launched campaign to bring in more applicants.

TCU professor saves the tails of the three blind mice

FORT WORTH (AP) — The tales of Mother Goose have lulled generations of tiny tots to sleep and brought smiles to their parents.

But Professor Barry Perlmutter thinks the lessons in some of the stories are a little bit too harsh — such as mice getting their tails chopped off, the little old lady who lives in the shoe beating her children, and the baby falling out of the tree, cradle and all.

Perlmutter, who is a child psychologist and an associate family studies

professor at Texas Christian University, has spent the last four years polishing all the Mother Goose anthologies he could get his hands on.

"OK, this is the original," he says, clearing his throat.

"Jack and Jill went up the hill To fetch a pail of water.

Jack fell down and broke his crown.

And Jill came tumbling after."

Then Perlmutter smiles and looks

up with wet eyes, "Here's the revised version:

"Jack and Jill went up the hill. They ran and played for hours.

And when they tired they sat and talked.

And picked and smelled the flowers."

Perlmutter, 36, has his own book, titled "No More Nightmares in the Nursery: A Gentler Mother Goose."

Or, it will be a book, if a publisher likes the 52 nursery rhymes that Perlmutter has rewritten so that nobody

gets anything chopped off — even when the characters still eat everything in sight and don't pay back the money they owe.

In Perlmutter's revisions, The farmer's wife does not chop off the mice's tails and the stingy woman from Exeter becomes "the gracious hostess of Exeter."

In his introduction, he tells parents has tried to keep as close to the original as possible and keep the cadence the same, so the rhymes can still be sung.

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