

What's Up

Thursday

ATHEISTS, AGNOSTICS, AND FREETHINKERS: Will meet at 7 p.m. in 604A-B Rudder to discuss "The Last Temptation of Christ."
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS: Will meet at 8:30 in 026 MSC for a general discussion. For more information call the Center for Drug Prevention and Education at 845-0280.
ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS: Will meet at 6 p.m. in 027 MSC. For more information call the Center for Drug Prevention and Education at 845-0280.
AGGIE SPACE DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY: Will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 352 Rudder. For more information call Mark McCann at 693-3789.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no later than three business days before the desired run date. We only publish the name and phone number of the contact if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are run on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3315.

El Paso area may get 3rd foreign-trade zone

EL PASO (AP) — A group of industrial developers plans to apply for foreign-trade zone status for 600 acres of industrial properties.

If the application is granted, the foreign-trade zone — which carries special tariff benefits — could spur growth throughout the city, authorities said.

The application has not been prepared yet. The city of El Paso is helping to write the application and hopes to have it ready to send to Washington in October, said Gordon Cook, director of the economic development department.

It could take one to two years for the U.S. Commerce Department to approve the zone, he said.

Four major developers are involved in the application: Foster Schwartz Development Co., Willie Farah, Pan American Industrial Park

and Phelps Dodge Refining Co. The new zone would be the city's third.

Foreign-trade zones allow manufacturers to import materials to El Paso without paying tariff, ship parts to twin plants in Mexico and import the assembled product to El Paso, paying tariff only on the added value.

Only a small percentage of companies take advantage of the breaks offered by the zone, said Mickey Schwartz, who along with his company, Foster Schwartz Development, owns extensive industrial space on El Paso's east side.

"Some are (using the zone) and some aren't," he said. "But it's a good promotional gimmick. For those that want it, it's there. And it will be used increasingly in the future."

Commission seeks summit on energy

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas' three Railroad Commission members, two Democrats and a Republican, Wednesday joined the call for a bipartisan, national energy summit meeting to be held in Texas.

"Since the oil price collapse of 1986, producers and consumers across the nation have waited in vain for Washington to stabilize and reverse the chaos in our domestic energy industry. We've waited long enough," said Railroad Commission Chairman Jim Nugent.

Nugent was joined in making the call by Commissioners Kent Hance, a Republican, and John Sharp, a Democrat. All three said they were joining the call made earlier by Texas Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, the Democratic vice presidential nominee, and Republican Gov. Bill Clements.

"I've given my commitment to Senator Bentsen and Governor Clements to join their bipartisan effort to craft an effective national energy policy this fall, a policy that will reduce our dangerous dependence on foreign oil supplies and let us bring our sailors home from the Persian Gulf," Nugent said.

Hance, who has attended recent meetings of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, said stability is the key to recovery for the domestic oil and gas industry.

"Our industry needs a policy they can believe in, that they can count on. I believe if we put regional self-interest and partisan politics aside, we can come up with a national energy policy that will give us that badly needed stability," Hance said.

Sharp said any energy policy needs to balance supply and demand.

"We need an energy policy that weans us from a growing dependency on the Persian Gulf and moves us toward development of our abundant natural gas reserves," Sharp said.

Who'll stop the rain? Normally parched county faces flooding

STANTON (AP) — There has been an ironic turnabout in how "precious water" is viewed in this farming community where rain usually is better than cash in the bank and sometimes is as rare as credit at the bank.

"They (farmers) used to lose sleep because it wouldn't rain," said Roy Lee Barnhill, a former Martin County cotton farmer who now is a professional photographer. "Now, they can't go to sleep because they fear it might rain."

Surprisingly high rainfalls since 1986 and a rising water table have flooded thousands of acres of farmland, eroded roads, and flooded about a half dozen farm houses in northeast Martin County.

Sulphur Springs Creek is flooding its brackish waters into cotton fields and is fueling salt-cedar shrubs, which thrive on salty soil and displace cotton and grasses.

And runoff from summer rains from the Ackerly area north of here is flooding farmland in the Brown and Flower Grove farming areas of Martin County and nearby the Knott community area in Howard County.

Martin County Judge Bob Deavenport estimated that 5,000 acres of farmland in northeast Martin County are under water. And approximately 50,000 acres have been taken out of cotton production due to the overland flooding and water rising to the topsoil from the Ogallala Aquifer.

Damage to cropland, roads, houses, and other property is estimated at \$25 million by Nestor Her-

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— Roy Lee Barnhill, former cotton farmer

nandez, Martin County executive director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

"We've got an awful lot of cropland that's under water," Nestor said.

Martin County has more than 122,000 acres of cotton on 302,000 acres of skip-row cotton cropland.

In 1986, Martin County and much of West Texas received heavy rainfall — up to about 50 inches of annual rainfall in some areas where the norm is a third of that.

"I considered that was our 100-year (heavy) rain and that wouldn't come again," Deavenport said of 1986. "But we had more damage (by erosion to roads and croplands) in '87 than we did in '86, and now we are into our third year" of unseasonably heavy rains.

But 1988 looked like a drought year until late spring and in June and July, when the gully-washing rains came.

"We came into the drought pretty much from October 1987 through April of 1988," said Alvin Riddle, Martin County district conservation-

ist for the USDA's Soil Conservation Service. "We had sandstorms day after day in the drought period."

Then came the rains. "We've never had this high-intensity, short-duration rain," Riddle said. "And you can't control it. That's the same way with wind. When you've got wind blowing at 75 miles an hour, you're not going to control it."

"We've got houses under water. We've got fields that are highly eroded," he said. "There's water where it hasn't been in so many years."

Sulphur Springs Creek, which originates in New Mexico and eventually flows into the Colorado River watershed, is doing a rare thing — flooding. Historically, the creek has been mostly dry — until 1986 when the heavy rains started.

In pondering what to do about the water problems, the Martin County Commissioners' Court is holding "brainstorming" sessions with commissioners from neighboring Howard and Dawson counties, with Colorado River Municipal Water District General Manager O.H. Ivie and staff, and with conservation and planning officials.

Deavenport noted that Martin County officials and farmers "can't solve the dang problem by ourselves." But apparently no solution has been proposed except to let the waters subside if rains hold back and if the massive aquifer doesn't continue to rise on its south end.

"There's no easy solution," Deavenport said, "but if we don't get started, we're courting disaster."

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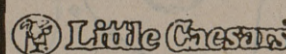
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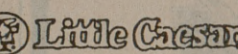


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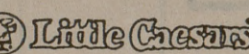
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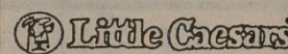
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NEW COURSE OFFERING, FALL 1988:

HEED 489 Special Topics in: CURRENT DRUG THERAPY

(3 hrs. cr.) TR 2:00-3:15 pm 160 Med Science Bldg

This course is designed to introduce the student to the current pharmacological treatment of a variety of common health disorders as well as cover a general overview of drug therapy. Topics to be covered include:

- Generic Drugs: Are They Good?
- Pain Relief
- Cancer Therapy
- Megavitamin Therapy
- Headaches & Migrains
- Drugs in Athletics
- Cold and Allergy Treatment
- Treatment of AIDS
- Treatment of Sexually Transmitted Disease
- Treatment of Parkinson's and Alzheimer's Disease

Prerequisite: Junior Classification

For more information, contact Dr. Steven L. Peterson, Course Coordinator, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, 845-2860.