

Wednesday, February 1, 1989

Clements highlights taxes, economic growth in speech

Measles outbreak hits state, avoids Brazos County area

By Melissa Naumann

REPORTER

A recent outbreak of measles in Harris County is beginning to show up in other parts of Texas, but has yet to affect the Brazos County area.

Although no cases of the highly contagious disease have been reported in the Bryan-College Station area, health officials are recommending that some people be re-immunized.

"Our guidelines are to reimmunize everyone who was immunized prior to Jan. 1, 1968," Catherine

Smith, a registered nurse with Infection Control of the Brazos County Health Department said. "Also, we immunize infants at 15 months."

Almost 500 cases of measles have been reported in Houston and Harris County and the epidemic could last for six to eight months, a *Houston Chronicle* article reported Thursday.

The Texas Department of Health recommends that all those immunized prior to 1980 be reimmunized if an outbreak of measles occurs on their campus. If this is not possible, an alternate method is to reimmunize those people immunized before they were 15 months old.

Those born before 1957, before a vaccine was available, are likely to have gotten the disease during childhood and are generally not considered susceptible to the illness again.

Some symptoms to watch for are a runny nose, watery eyes, fever, coughing and a blotchy, red rash that appears about four days after the other symptoms.

While the A.P. Beutel Health Center does not administer measles vaccinations, the Brazos County Health Department does for \$4. The Immunization Clinic is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and from 1:30-4 p.m.

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Bill Clements, in his State of the State address, said Tuesday economic development remains his top priority and urged the Legislature to avoid raising taxes, which he said would stall Texas' recovery.

"I re-emphasize that our economic development will be placed in jeopardy by increasing any taxes," Clements told a joint House-Senate session.

In a 28-minute speech that some lawmakers said often lacked specifics, Clements urged the mergers of numerous state agencies, including several in criminal justice and one which oversees financial institutions.

He also backed the proposed mergers between the University of Texas and Texas A&M with South Texas institutions.

But the governor, who says he won't seek re-election, said the key to continuing successes of the past two years is to leave taxes alone.

"The bottom line is we do not need a tax increase," he said. "We must reach a consensus on the budget that fits within our commitment to maintain our economic recovery. A tax increase will choke it off."

Some lawmakers have said an additional \$1 billion will be needed over the \$45 billion in state revenue projected for the 1990-91 budget period.

Clements indicated support for a plan offered by Comptroller Bob Bullock that would give the Legislature that \$1 billion by shifting some state monies from various special funds into the all-purpose General Revenue Fund.

Clements, the only Republican

governor this century, said 329,000 more Texans are working now than in 1987 and said continuing that growth is the major goal of his final two years in office.

"At this time in our history, we have no higher purpose, no greater mission than to enhance and expand our economic development," he said.

"We must not settle for second best. We cannot be satisfied with what we have achieved. We must dedicate ourselves to building a state economy in which every Texan who wants a job has a job."

Saying the state's economic pro-

gress is closely tied with Mexico, he announced a meeting with Mexican President Carlos Salinas in Mexico City on Feb. 15.

Clements, for the first time, publicly backed the merger of both Pan American University campuses into the University of Texas System, and merger of the University System of South Texas into the Texas A&M system.

The governor also backed "flexible tuition" proposals, which would allow Texas college and university regents to set tuition charged at their schools.

Judge might allow INS to keep applicants for asylum in Texas

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP) — A federal judge Tuesday said he probably will allow the Immigration and Naturalization Service to return to a policy of keeping political asylum applicants in southern Texas while their cases are reviewed.

U.S. District Judge Filemon Vela extended until Feb. 20 an order blocking the procedure, and said, "At that time, unless I'm persuaded otherwise, the restraining order will be lifted."

"We're pleased with the results," said William Joyce, associate general counsel for the INS, who traveled from Washington for Tuesday's hearing.

INS critics cited a sharp increase in homeless Central Americans living in squalid conditions in the area after the procedure took effect Dec. 16. A group of immigration attorneys sued the INS over the matter here on Jan. 6, and Vela on Jan. 9 issued a temporary restraining order blocking the procedure.

The only issue Vela agreed to consider in the class-action lawsuit on behalf of Central Americans and other asylum-seekers in the INS' Harlingen District was whether the INS instituted the change without allowing time for public comment as required in the federal Administrative Procedures Act.

"I am somewhat inclined to believe that probably what was taking place here would not require a notice and comment . . . was more procedural than substantive," Vela said.

Robert Rubin, one of the attorneys suing the INS, said the plaintiffs still hope the judge will rule against the INS after taking a closer look at the suit.

"The judge certainly indicated that he was not happy with the situation as it existed, and strongly admonished the government that he would be concerned if

conditions ever returned to the state that existed prior to his issuance of a temporary restraining order," said Rubin, with the San Francisco Lawyers' Committee for Urban Affairs.

Prior to Dec. 16, the INS allowed asylum-seekers who voluntarily presented themselves to the Harlingen District to travel on to their U.S. destinations, where they often were allowed to work while pursuing their claims for refugee status.

The district on Dec. 16 began requiring asylum applicants to file their claims in Harlingen and await decisions there in 30 days, a period in which they were not allowed to work.

The most visible effect of the travel restriction was a rugged campsite east of Brownsville, where more than 300 Central Americans camped out on the ground under discarded cardboard and old sheets of plastic.

Hundreds, and possibly thousands of Central Americans left the area on northbound buses and other vehicles after Vela made it possible for them to travel again Jan. 9.

Officials from the Miami area then visited southern Texas to tell Central Americans that they had no shelter for them, and joined officials in South Texas in calling on the federal government for help.

Vela said he was concerned with past asylum statistics showing that of the thousands who traveled into the U.S. interior, 75 percent never showed up at INS offices to pursue legally their cases.

More than 30,000 Central Americans, about half of them from Nicaragua, passed through the Harlingen District in 1988, most having crossed the Rio Grande illegally in the vicinity of the border city of Brownsville, according to the INS.

Dallas apartment complex seized by U.S. marshals

DALLAS (AP) — U.S. marshals seized control of an apartment complex where police claim drug dealers were allowed to operate by paying the building's management a rent premium.

Although similar seizures have been made in New York and Houston, confiscation of the Deauville Inn apartments was the first of its kind in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, authorities said Monday.

Federal agents and Dallas undercover police officers, in affidavits, alleged that an elderly couple who owned the complex had knowingly rented apartments to drug dealers and charged them an extra fee.

The agencies used civil procedures to seize the 29-unit building, valued at \$400,000. No criminal charges were filed in the seizure.

One undercover police officer reported "apartment complex owner Arthur Coffman, 71, and his 67-year-old wife, Murlene, told him "he could deal drugs out of the apartment for \$600 per month in addition to his rent of \$400 per month."

Officers have executed 12 search warrants and arrested 22 people at the Deauville Inn since June 1987, said Dallas police narcotics Capt. Eddie Walt said.

"This is the worst thing that ever happened to us," Coffman told Deputy Federal Marshal Roy Stapp when federal officers notified him that the apartment complex was being seized.

The federal forfeiture statute allows law enforcement agencies to seize property of drug dealers or those who knowingly assist drug dealers.

It was the first time authorities have used the statute in North Texas to confiscate the property of someone who was not suspected of being directly involved in drug dealing, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary Ann Moore.

The statute has been used in the past to seize apartment buildings in New York City and Houston, she said.

All legal tenants of the complex would be allowed to continue to live there, said Walt. He said officers found only three tenants actually had leases. There was no paperwork on the others, he said.

Student Senate positions open

A list of open Student Senate seats will be posted today in the Student Government office on the second floor of the Pavilion. Applications will be available Feb. 3 and will be due Feb. 10. Questions should be directed to Michael Kelley, Speaker Pro-Tempore, at 845-3051.

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Brazos Valley Safety Agency

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