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FORECAST for WEDNESDAY: Sunny and mild.

HIGH:65

LOW:40

ol. 88 No. 115 USPS 045360 8 pages

College Station, Texas

Tuesday, March 21, 1989

Study: Texas fails economic-performance test

hind most states in nearly all areas of rewould help form needed to foster a thriving business by is educationate, according to a study released Monday that also gives the state a failing grade e ranch or for economic performance ldrens' ground and seed See related story/Page 6 for economic performance.

The Corporation for Enterprise Development used more than 125 economic and solicy measures to grade the 50 states in our subjects — economic performance, usiness vitality, resource capability and de-

On a scale from A to F (with no E's iven), Texas earned a D in performance ecause of "wide economic disparities" hithin the state," a C in business vitality, a B n economic capacity, and a D in policy

Last year, Texas scored better in business itality, with a B, and in policy, with a C, but teeps the same grade for performance and

In assessing business vitality, the 1989 "report card" by the private, non-profit research organization found "a high level of entrepreneurial activity" in Texas, but weakness in existing businesses

A strong showing of available financial, infrastructure and amenity resources accounts for its B on the index that measured capacity for growth. But Texas gets a D in policy because while it "ranks among the most active states in education reform, it trails other states in nearly every other area

of development policy measured."
Henry Gandy, director of the state of Texas office in Washington, said the study does not reflect reforms the Legislature is

undertaking this year.

Because the Legislature was not in session last year, reforms that were being considered in 1988 are not reflected in the 1989 report card, Gandy said. Lawmakers are now tackling such issues as reform of workers compensation insurance and better regulation of state-chartered savings and

performance is low because the economy, battered by tumbling oil prices in 1986, a depression in agriculture earlier in the decade, and a downturn in real estate, is "on its way back but is still not thriving," Gandy

Nevertheless, Gandy said several national industries recently decided to expand or move to Texas, indicating that "a number of businesses feel Texas is a good place to do business, that the economic climate is

a good one." Gandy points to a decision by Mitsubishi Metal Corp. to build a copper smelter in Texas City that will create hundreds of jobs; the consolidation of general office headquarters for GTE Telephone Opera-tions in Dallas-Fort Worth; plans by For-mosa Plastics Corp.-Texas to build a manufacturing complex in Calhoun County expected to create 1,700 jobs; and plans by Fujitsu America to consolidate operations in the Dallas area

The study said states that scored a D or F

in performance depend largely on either

"Poorly diversified, none of these states has growing sectors to take up the slack, and recovery is a distant prospect," said the study, supported by contributions from corporations, labor unions and private

The performance rating was based on 17 measures, including employment growth, unemployment rate, earnings and job quality, health coverage, poverty and crime rates, environmental quality and infant

Business vitality was judged on such factors as the competitiveness of existing businesses, trade sector strength, business failures, entrepreneurial energy, and diversity.

The study said states like Texas, New Mexico, Montana and Alaska, after undergoing economic slumps, appear to have "entrepreneurship of necessity" — people forming businesses that substitute for jobs they have lost and that will permit them to

'We also may be detecting the fact that new businesses in these states are running into real barriers to growth — whether it be lack of available financing or weak local markets to support their growth," the study

Although this trend "should be a great concern to economic development professions," the study said high rates of new company formation are a good sign.

The study said investments in capacity from literacy to energy costs - are directly linked to eventual economic performance

"Postponing such investments simply mortgages the future," the study said.

The policy report card graded the tax and fiscal environment, education, infrastructure and amenities, business support including export promotion, development finance, and disadvantaged communities and individuals.

Salvadorans choose Istance of Tright-wing Cristiani IONS: AR for president's seat

AP) — Alfredo Cristiani, who has ried to end memories of his rightwing party's links to death squads that killed thousands of his countrynen, was recognized as the victor Monday in the presidential election. Fidel Chavez Mena of the incumbent Christian Democrats, conceded and told a news conference, "I have MPETITION called him personally to congratulate him and express my desire that God illuminate him in governing the

> Cristiani, of the Republican Nacharge from President Jose Napo-ieon Duarte on June 1. Although Duarte was one of the United States' top allies, he was unable to end nine years of civil war with leftist rebels that left 70,000 dead.

In Washington, the State Department said it was prepared to support the new Salvadoran government, but only if it protects democracy and protects human rights.

"Our relationship with that new government will depend on its adherence to democracy and respect for human rights, the twin pillars of our approach to El Salvador," department spokesman Charles Redman said.

Redman praised the Salvadoran ople for braving "violence and terr" by leftist guerrillas who, he said, ried harder to disrupt Sunday's baling than any other in seven years. White House Press Secretary Mar-

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador lin Fitzwater said the elections "represent a strong desire by the people of El Salvador for the ability to participate in the election process." But he said the United States was "concerned about the level of guerrilla attacks and human rights abuses'

during the balloting.

Asked whether the United States accepted the results, Fitzwater said: "I don't think we've reached a judgment about the validity" of the

U.S. Ambassador William Walker denied an Arena victory would be a defeat for U.S. policy. The United States has supported El Salvador with \$3.5 billion in aid this decade, and some congressmen have said the results leave much to be desired.

Cristiani, a 41-year-old coffeegrower and businessman, said late Sunday he "would be the president of all 5 million Salvadorans. We are going to unify these people in order to pull ourselves out of this profound crisis."

Arena was linked in the early 1980s to extreme-rightist death squads blamed for the murders of tens of thousands of suspected leftists. Cristiani contends the party has changed significantly and that the candidacy of a so-called moderate like himself is evidence of that.

But fanatical rightists remain prominent in the party, including party founder Roberto D'Aubuisson, who was once called a "pathological killer" by a U.S. ambassador.

nearly one-third of the national to-

The report said toxic railroad ac-

cidents pose a growing threat to communities nationwide but lax fed-



Heads up!

Sophomore Aggie quarterback Kent Petty, from Dallas, practices calling snap counts. The Aggie quarterbacks are expected to have an expanded role on the 1989 team under a pass-based

offense that Coach Slocum is implementing. Monday was the first day of spring practice. The workout was cut short because of lightning and rain.

OU coach has vear to reform football team

AUSTIN (AP) — University of Oklahoma head football coach Barry Switzer has about a year to shape up his team in discipline and academics, OU interim President David Swank said Monday.

Swank, speaking to Texas newspaper executives, expressed confidence that Switzer could turn around the football program that has been at the center of a firestorm of criticism.

"If he cannot, then we will have to find someone who can," Swank

He told members of the Texas Daily Newspaper Association that Switzer must implement stricter discipline and a recruiting system that emphasizes academic as well as athletic achievement.

"I think that within this next year we have to see signs of major changes in the program, or changes will have to be made," he

Problems began for the Sooners in December, when the NCAA placed the Oklahoma football program on three years probation for recruiting viola-

In January, a football player was accused of wounding his teammate in a dorm shooting. Three football players have been charged with an alleged gang rape in a dorm, and starting quarterback Charles Thompson has been accused of selling cocaine to an undercover FBI agent.

The incidents have cast the university into "dark days," Swank said. "An idol has been toppled from its pedestal.

Texas has record number of toxic railcar leaks WASHINGTON (AP) — Texas eral regulation has resulted in in- with 12,360 evacuations. had the greatest number of railcars creasingly inadequate safety over-

leaking toxic materials in 1987. according to a study released Monday by Citizen Action. The nation-More than 24,000 people were evacuated as a result of 351 major wide grassroots lobbying group conrail accidents involving toxic materisiders toxic leaks to be the most als in 1987, according to the organiaccurate measure of toxic rail accization. Forty-one of 50 states were affected by at least one accident. Texas had 29 toxic leaks in 1987,

Illinois led the nation with 49 rail accidents involving hazardous materials, followed by Texas with 46 and Louisiana and Michigan tied for in 1984, the Federal Railroad Adthird place with 15 each.

And Pennsylvania led the country

Although the number of toxic rail accidents nationwide declined 3.7 percent from 1986, Citizen Action said the severity of those accidents "increased significantly," with the number of railroad cars leaking toxic substances up 12.7 percent, from 79 in 1986 to 89 in 1987.

"Toxic railroad accidents are a growing public safety problem across the country," said Robert Creamer, spokesman for Citizen Ac-"increased significantly," with the

Those numbers, however, are down from 109 railcars that released hazardous materials in 1985 and 100 ministration said.

Most toxic rail accidents were con-

centrated in heavily populated states bordering the Great Lakes and the Gulf Coast — states with heavy industry or oil and gas production, Citizen Action said.

tal contamination of these catastro-

tion and executive director of the Illinois Public Action Council, which conducted the study. "Few communities are safe from the environmen-

Citizen Action said four billion tons of hazardous materials are shipped annually, involving 250,000 shipments and 3,000 carloads a day. Yet while 53 percent of rail acci-

dents involving hazardous materials stemmed from mechanical failures, the Federal Railroad Administration does not effectively enforce rail safety standards, the study charged.

The Citizen Action study said FRA's reliance on industry self-regulation of accident precautionary-measures has "repeatedly failed to prevent toxic rail accidents.

Ecologist says Earth's enemy is 'us'

By Juliette Rizzo

STAFF WRITER

dent severity

Invaders from space will not destroy the Earth, but humans will if they do not take steps to stop destroying the planet's natural environ-ment, Dr. Russell Peterson, a leading conserva-

tionist and ecologist said Tuesday.

In his lecture "The University, The Biosphere and Our Grandchildren," Peterson told students and faculty at Rudder Theater if today's society does not take precautions to preserve the global environment, generations of the future will be in danger of severe economic decline and social dis-

'We have met our enemy," Peterson said. "He

Peterson said the peoples of the world must learn to work with their "fellow men" to solve the inescapable problems facing everyone on the planet. He also stressed the importance of a mutually-beneficial interdependent relationship between men and their environment.

'We are all dependent on each other, the air, water, soil and the sun." The Earth and all its inhabitants will face unprecedented crises if these resources are wasted, he said.

The Earth's population is five billion and steadily increasing. More than one billion of

these people live in absolute poverty. The population as a whole does not work together closely enough to prevent global deterioration, he said.

Human disregard for natural resources is causing deforestation, soil erosion, water depletion, and a thinning of the ozone layer, which protects the Earth's surface from the sun's harm-

Clearly the Earth has come a long way for its occupants to enjoy a better quality of life than royalty did years ago, he said, but even though it has, and people today are more qualified to de-fine the Earth's problems, few solutions to such problems have been implemented.

The world has an ample food supply to feed its entire population if the food were distributed when and where it is needed, he said, and yet people are dying. Why?

Forty thousand children die each day because they are born into subhuman environments created by those who look out for themselves and not future generations, he said.

Peterson said the major reason for the Earth's deterioration is society's preoccupation with material progress and money.

"Each citizen needs to adopt the concept of 'earth ethics," he said. "It is our duty as citizens to protect the biosphere — our environment —to make responsible choices for alternative futures. The invisible foot will kick us in the future if we ignore the long-term effects of our present ac-

It is extremely important for all members of society to educate themselves about the longterm biological consequences of the three major threats responsible for global deterioration: the threat of nuclear war, excessive population growth and the degradation of the environment, Peterson said.

Today's leaders are spending time and money addressing the issues of increased nuclear protection and anti-abortion when the Earth is already overpopulated and has enough nuclear firing power to kill $1.2\,$ million people, he said.

To ensure a decent quality of life for future generations, today's leaders need to devote a fair amount of their attention to the conservation of

the Earth's resources, Peterson said. "These are critical times for the planet Earth," he said. "Humanity thrives as the Earth thrives, but for the Earth to thrive depends on how hu-

Sophomore dies Sunday in car wreck

Texas A&M student Jeffery Robert Wetuski, a sophomore animal science major from Plantersville, died Sunday at about 2 a.m. in a car accident.

Wetuski, 20, was traveling west on State Highway 105 in Plantersville when he veered to the right while approaching a left curve. Wetuski, who was not wearing a seatbelt, apparently overcompensated to the left, crossed the roadway and struck a culvert, causing the vehicle to roll

Justice of the Peace Bill Bay declared Wetuski dead at the scene at 3 a.m.

The body was taken to Noble's Funeral Chapel in Navasota. Services and burial will be today at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Stoneham at 10:30 a.m.