

Earthquakes in Costa Rica cause panic

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP) — Two strong earthquakes rocked Costa Rica Sunday, damaging buildings, causing landslides and sending panic-stricken people into the streets. No injuries were reported.

The quakes, measuring 5.5 and 6.9 on the Richter scale, struck at 7:16 a.m. and 7:23 a.m. (CST), according to Waverly Person, an official at the U.S. Geological Survey in Golden, Colo. The epicenter of the quakes was located in the Pacific Ocean, 80 miles southwest of San Jose, he said.

Federico Guendel of the Volcanological and Seismological Observatory in San Jose said 60 aftershocks struck in the hour after the second quake.

People in San Jose and other cities rushed out of homes and buildings as the structures rocked violently.

Many terrified people huddled in the capital's streets and parks, waiting for the earth to stop trembling.

Plaster, cornices and other adornments on older buildings crashed into the streets of San Jose. Many windowpanes and shop windows also shattered.

A water boiler exploded at the Hotel Balmoral during the earthquakes and several of the building's walls cracked.

Walls also cracked at the La Merced Roman Catholic Church, one of the capital's oldest buildings.

In Alajuela, a city 12 miles north of San Jose, the cupola of the local cathedral cracked in half during the second quake, and long fissures appeared in the sides of many buildings.

The main highway linking San Jose with the Atlantic Coast was blocked by several landslides and police ordered traffic halted until further notice.

A Red Cross news release reported "considerable" damage to buildings in the Pacific Coast port of Puntarenas.

Heavy structural damage also was reported in the nearby village of Cobano. No details were immediately available.

A spokesman for the Red Cross, Carlos Gutierrez, said a nationwide check by his organization, police and the fire department turned up no casualties.

The Richter scale is a gauge of the energy released by an earthquake, as measured by the ground motion recorded on a seismograph.

A quake of magnitude 5 can cause considerable damage, while one measuring 6 can cause severe damage.

Every increase of one number of the Richter scale means that the ground motion is 10 times greater.

Army admits mistaken identity in case of buried Vietnam vet

CLEBURNE (AP) — For 17 years the body of another soldier lay in the grave of Army Sgt. Frank C. Parrish, killed in a Vietnam ambush.

Last December, the Army admitted to the Parrish family that it had buried the wrong man on May 8, 1973, five years after Parrish was killed.

Then, what were described as the correct remains of Parrish were flown into the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

Parrish had joined the Army at 16 and stayed 21 years, winning the Bronze Star and a slew of other medals in Korea and Vietnam.

"This is extremely rare — that something of this nature occurred," Maj. Lois Faires, an Army spokeswoman in Alexandria, Va., said of the mistaken identification of a Vietnam-era Army fatality.

Faires said the error had happened only once before, but didn't identify the other mixup.

Ted Sampley, chairman of the Homecoming II Project, a group that probes cases of servicemen missing in action, disputed Faires' comments, saying he knew of at least 10 body mixups, discovered through independent forensic reports. Faires

suggested he was thinking of mixups in other U.S. military branches.

Meanwhile, the mis-identified remains were exhumed and sent to the Army's forensic laboratory in Honolulu, Hawaii, but they still have not been identified, Faires told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

On Jan. 3, Parrish's remains —

"This is extremely rare — that something of this nature occurred."

—Maj. Lois Faires, Army spokeswoman

positively identified through dental records and confirmed by a panel of independent forensic anthropologists — were buried without ceremony at the family's request, Faires said.

"The family did not want publicity at the time and are not pleased to have any now," she said. "They felt

he had been honored in 1973."

Parrish's widow, now remarried, declined to comment through the Army's liaison.

Parrish's brother, Johnnie Parrish, a mayoral candidate in Joshua, said he learned of the snafu in late December when he was called to the funeral home to meet with a three-man Army delegation.

He said a civilian official told him, "We hate to admit it, but we're just like everybody else. The Army made a mistake."

Faires said the mixup was discovered last October, six months after the Vietnamese government handed over the remains of 21 soldiers.

Johnnie Parrish said he was upset with the Army for exhuming the grave without notifying the family.

The Army apparently failed to tell anyone else, either.

Johnson County Clerk Robby Goodnight and John Murphy, deputy state registrar in Austin, said permits to disinter a body and transport it out of the county were never issued for the remains in Frank Parrish's grave.

Failure to take out a permits is a misdemeanor punishable by a \$200 fine.

Lawmakers gear up for Round 2 in fight over finance reform bill

AUSTIN (AP) — The school finance reform fight is still in its first round in the Legislature, but lawmakers already are gearing up for Round 2 after all but declaring the issue down for the count in this special session.

Rep. Eddie Cavazos, chairman of the House Mexican American Legislative Caucus, described the House's rejection of a school finance reform bill last week as "the first round of a championship fight."

The defeat of the bill, which would have put \$511 million more into public schools in 1990-91, makes it almost impossible to pass a school finance measure before the current special session expires at midnight Wednesday, Speaker Gib Lewis, D-Fort Worth, said.

Cavazos, D-Corpus Christi, was among Hispanic lawmakers who voted against the bill by Rep. Ernestine Glosbrenner, D-Alice, because they want more education money next school year.

"That figure ... was the first offer," Cavazos said. "Three weeks down the line and five offers later, it might look pretty good. I just couldn't accept the first offer down the pike."

Other lawmakers, including most Republicans and a number of conservative Democrats, also opposed the bill. Some wanted a lower price tag, and others were concerned that provisions designed to make schools more accountable would impose an undue burden on school districts.

"I think one more special and we can get it done — not this time," Rep. Kent Grusendorf, R-Arlington, said.

The Senate earlier approved a \$1.2 billion measure. The House Public Education Committee, headed by Glosbrenner, was to start over on education legislation Monday.

Lewis said he wanted the committee to work out a bill that could be taken up by the House early in a second special session. He and Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby said they recommended an April 2 start date for that session.

Gov. Bill Clements hadn't made a decision about the

date, his press secretary, Rossanna Salazar, said. But she added that he called the current special session in time to allow two 30-day special sessions before a May 1 deadline imposed by the Texas Supreme Court for school finance reform.

The court declared the finance system unconstitutional after finding glaring disparities between property-rich and property-poor school districts. The \$13.5 billion-a-year system relies on a combination of local property taxes, state aid and some federal funds.

Clements has promised he won't allow new state taxes to fund school finance reform. He estimated a

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— Kent Grusendorf, state representative

\$200 million to \$300 million infusion could be managed without the taxes.

But Grusendorf said, "Personally, I could come off the no-new-tax program, and I could support a tax bill if I felt like we had done something to really improve public education in the state of Texas."

"I think that's a reasonable position," he said. "I think many Republicans would take that position. I think the governor could be talked into taking that position."

Space center pushes back opening date

Hands-on visitors' attraction rescheduled for fall 1991 debut

HOUSTON (AP) — Creators of the planned hands-on visitors' attraction at the Johnson Space Center admit their original launch window was just too narrow.

Once projected to open by the spring of 1991, Space Center Houston is now looking at a fall 1991 opening schedule and a groundbreaking this spring — provided financing for the \$70 million project comes through.

The Disney-designed center is projected to attract 2.3 million tourists to Clear Lake during its first year. And, with numbers like that, general manager Vance Ablott said he isn't concerned about the delay.

"We'll open in the slow season, pick up a peak

season at Christmas and then be ready for the summer peak season," Ablott said. "It's the best of all worlds."

Ablott said the main reason for the delay was an increase in the projected cost of the project from \$64 million to \$70 million after the design was completed.

The final design increased the size of the center from 120,000 square feet to 180,000 square feet and boosted the technological expenses.

"When we started designing we realized what it took to communicate some of these stories," Ablott said. "There were more shows, more stories to be told."

The higher costs led Citicorp Bank, which

originally signed a letter of credit backing up \$64 million in taxable revenue bonds for the project, to take a closer look. Ablott said he is confident the deal will go through, however.

Space Center Houston will offer tourists hands-on experiences, such as computer displays simulating shuttle flights, simulations of weightlessness and opportunities to touch a moon rock or put on a space glove for a feel of objects in the vacuum of space. Several theaters will offer exhibits and films, such as how astronauts train for space. And visitors will be able to tour a space shuttle mockup.

The private, non-profit foundation is heading up the project without government funds.

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