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SPONSORED BY: The Other Eclips The Mercury Bar MSC Hospitality

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IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME STUDY Symptomatic patients with recent physician diagnosed, irritable bowel syndrome to participate in a short research study. \$100 incentive for those chosen to participate.

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Mattox: Richards avoiding debate Candidate accuses rival of ducking drug use issue

AUSTIN (AP) — Democratic gubernatorial candidate Jim Mattox on Tuesday accused rival Ann Richards of using illegal drugs when she was "a 46-year-old elected official" and said that's one reason she is ducking debates before their April 10 runoff election.

"There is sufficient information to cause me to believe that she needs to come forward and discuss these issues in a public forum," Mattox told a news conference.

"She doesn't want to answer simple 'yes or no' questions about cocaine, marijuana and hallucinogens. She must answer what she used, how much, for how long, and who supplied them," Mattox said, although

he refused to provide any evidence of drug use.

Richards, 56, served as a Travis County commissioner before running for state treasurer in 1982. She had little to say about Mattox's allegation during a campaign appearance in McAllen.

Asked by the Associated Press if she wanted to respond to Mattox, she replied, "No."

In debates and elsewhere, Richards has repeatedly refused to give a yes-or-no answer when asked if she ever used illegal drugs. A recovering alcoholic, Richards has said she hasn't used a "mood-altering chemical" in 10 years and that she never knowingly committed a felony.

"This campaign has taken on the predictable form that Jim Mattox campaigns always take," Richards said Tuesday. "Whatever trash he can throw to try to detract from his poor performance he will do that, and I expect it to continue until election day."

Mattox, the state attorney general, said Richards is refusing to debate him because she doesn't want to face questions about the drug issue and her personal finances.

He said she has refused to participate in two televised debates proposed for Dallas and Houston. He challenged her to participate in those and in two more "no-holds-barred" debates before the state Ca-

pitol press corps in Austin.

"I will appear anytime, anywhere," Mattox said. "Ann Richards is on the run. She's hiding what's happening right now, trying to stay out of Dallas' way."

In McAllen, Richards said she was willing to debate and blamed failure to schedule one so far on campaign staff.

"If we can work that (debates) schedule, that's great with Frankly, I don't know what the schedule. But there are some (campaign) events where people have bought tickets and must appear, she said."

Officials: low census figures need adjustment from courts

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston, New York and Chicago officials may go back to court to force the Census Bureau to adjust this year's figures upward to make up for people census-takers might miss.

Under a court-ordered settlement last summer, the U.S. Commerce Department agreed to draw up guidelines that would be used to decide whether the final figures from the 1990 count should be adjusted. The Census Bureau is part of the Commerce Department.

"I'm going to try to use the fact that I do know Bob Mosbacher, and he has been very helpful to us in the past. This really predates him at the Commerce Department."

— Kathy Whitmire, Houston mayor

people in the 1980 Census, costing the state \$50 million a year in federal aid and an additional seat in Congress, Houston Mayor Kathy Whitmire said.

Plaintiffs in the lawsuit, who include minority groups and several states, said they are prepared to go back to court because the guidelines issued by the Commerce Department this year do not really change anything, and there is a danger that the figures will not be adjusted.

"We feel that the guidelines do not respond to the court stipulation from last summer," Whitmire said Monday.

Along with pressing forward on the lawsuit, Whitmire is trying to meet with Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher to urge him to intervene in the case on behalf of his hometown.

"I'm going to try to use the fact that I do know Bob Mosbacher, and he has been very helpful to us in the past," Whitmire said. "This really predates him at the Commerce Department."

Under the original settlement, the Census Bureau agreed to conduct a post-census survey aimed at measuring the expected undercount. Survey results would be reviewed by a panel of statisticians that would recommend to Mosbacher whether an adjustment is needed.

But the guidelines released this month are so restrictive that an adjustment would be all but impossible, said special counsel Peter L. Zimroth.

Robert Ellert, chief counsel for the Commerce Department, Monday declined comment until the lawsuit is reopened.

B-CS reports 4.2 percent

Unemployment rates spring upward

AUSTIN (AP) — The state's urban unemployment rate shot up from 5.8 percent to 7 percent between January and February, but Texas Employment Commission member Mary Scott Nabers said Tuesday the increase was expected.

"Much of it represents a normal seasonal increase for this time of year," said Commissioner Nabers. "We were at 7.4 percent this time one year ago. It's good that we are somewhat lower today, but it is still not a comfortable position."

Approximately 7.78 million Texans were reported working, she said, representing 100,000 fewer than the previous month.

Only two major industry categories posted significant gains over the month: Government rose by more than 18,000 in February, and service

- Bryan-College Station 4.2 (3.4) Corpus Christi 7.7 (6.4) Dallas 5.5 (4.5) El Paso 12.2 (9.7) Fort Worth-Arlington 6.2 (4.7) Galveston-Texas City 8.0 (6.3) Houston 5.7 (4.7) Temple-Killeen 7.8 (6.3) Laredo 12.0 (11.7) Longview-Marshall 7.7 (6.6) Lubbock 5.0 (4.3) McAllen-Edinburg-Mission 23.7 (20.3) Midland 6.6 (5.4) Odessa 7.6 (6.3) San Angelo 6.1 (5.3) San Antonio 7.5 (6.0) Sherman-Denison 6.2 (4.9) Texarkana (not available) Tyler 6.8 (5.4) Victoria 6.1 (5.6) Waco 6.0 (5.1)

Rescue workers sue Coca-Cola for injuries after bus accident

EDINBURG (AP) — Eight rescue workers called to the scene of the state's worst school bus accident are suing for physical and mental injuries the police and fire officials say they suffered because of the Sept. 21 wreck.

The rescue workers have joined with scores of other plaintiffs suing Valley Coca-Cola Bottling Co. Inc. of McAllen. Valley Coca-Cola owns the truck involved in the accident that killed 21 students in the South Texas city of Alton.

Rodolfo Reyes, who at the time was acting police chief of Alton, is among the rescuers suing, along with assistant Alton fire chief Raul Garcia Jr. and six volunteer fire fighters from the city.

They all spent time in a water-filled caliche pit trying to rescue the junior and senior high students trapped inside the submerged bus, according to the pleadings filed in the state's 275th District Court in Edinburg.

Sixty students escaped from the bus that was knocked into the pit after the Coca-Cola-owned truck failed to stop at a stop sign. Many of the students survived with the help of rescue personnel.

The rescuers suffered "serious personal injuries resulting in physical pain, mental anguish, loss of physical capacity, loss of earning capacity, and medical expenses both in the past and in the future," they allege in court documents.

No specific amount of money is demanded in the pleadings that seek actual and exemplary damages.

They accuse Valley Coca-Cola of "reckless and heedless disregard for the rights, safety and welfare" of the eight police and fire officials.

Valley Coca-Cola truck driver Ruben Perez faces trial on 21 counts of involuntary manslaughter.

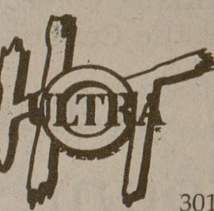
A preliminary report by the National Transportation Safety Board found that the truck's brakes needed adjustment, but that there was enough braking power to stop the 44,000-pound vehicle.

Guy Allison, a Corpus Christi attorney representing the rescue workers, said Tuesday there is "ample precedent in the state of Texas" in which such officials have sought damages.

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