

Battalion Classifieds

State restores food program, borrows funds

AUSTIN (AP) — About half of some 30,000 low income pregnant women and their children can be restored to a food program, but state health officials said Tuesday they still don't have enough money to fully fund the service.

The Texas Department of Health said recently passed federal legislation allows the department to borrow from next year's food funds to boost the Women, Infants and Children program.

"We now can restore at least some services to individuals," Debra Stabeno, director of the Texas WIC program, said.

Rising food costs earlier this year caused the state to serve only those who showed medical signs of inadequate nutrition, Stabeno said.

Those cut from the program included pregnant women and children who were termed "at risk" because of inadequate diet. WIC provides food packages, nutritional counseling and health care referrals.

By the end of June, the WIC program served about 330,000 people in Texas, 30,000 less than in January, Stabeno said.

With the ability to borrow from next year's budget, 15,000 people can be reinstated, she said.

But the program still will not be able to serve nutritionally "at-risk" children from 2- to 4-years-old and women during the six-month period after pregnancy.

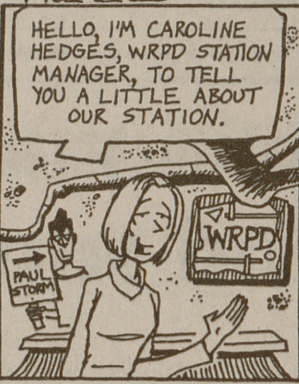
In addition, WIC administrators will cut costs this summer by substituting milk for cheese in food packages.

Stabeno, who testified before a congressional task force in Washington last month on the problem, said she is confident Congress will compensate for money borrowed against this year.

"They recognize the problems that happened in the WIC program this year and they are interested in restoring services to those people that are caught in this situation," she said.

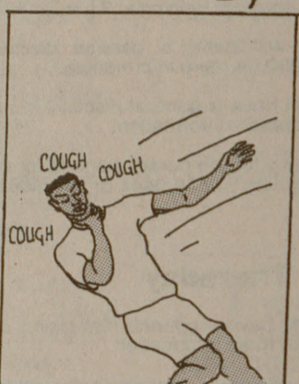
Texas is one of a few states that adds state money to the federal program. The U.S. Department of Agriculture contributes \$150 million per year and the state spends \$5.5 million annually, Stabeno said.

WRPD



by Scott McCullar

IN FULL EFFECT



By Eric V. Lewis

Man claims cocaine use drove him to hijack Cuba-bound jet

AUSTIN (AP) — A man admitted in federal court Tuesday that he held a flight attendant hostage and tried to hijack an America West jet to Cuba, but blamed his actions on the effects of prolonged cocaine use.

"I'm not a violent person," Jose Manuel Gonzalez-Gonzalez, 39, of New Orleans, said.

He is charged with air piracy and assault of a flight attendant in the January 16 incident. If convicted, he could be sentenced to 20 years to life in prison and fined \$500,000.

The plane, which took off in Houston, landed in Austin after the pilot said he had to re-fuel. Gonzalez-Gonzalez was apprehended by Austin police.

Gonzalez-Gonzalez, who was born

in Havana, said there was "no way" he would have tried to hijack the plane to Cuba if he had not been using cocaine.

He said that after a period of time in New Orleans in which he did little but use drugs and read and listen to news reports, he began thinking people were out to get him.

Among other reasons, Gonzalez-Gonzalez said he had listened to tapes implying that former New Orleans mayor Ernest "Dutch" Morial had been murdered.

Morial served as New Orleans' first black mayor in 1978-86. He died last Christmas Eve after collapsing from a heart attack that a coroner said was brought on by asthma, aggravated by extremely cold

weather.

Gonzalez-Gonzalez said he left New Orleans for Lake Charles, La. on Jan. 11. After that, he hitchhiked to Beaumont. From there, he took a cab to Houston, using cocaine along the way.

At Houston's Intercontinental Airport, he said he boarded a flight bound for Las Vegas.

"By that time, I felt the airplane crew was in on it too ... part of the conspiracy and the plot" to kill him, Gonzalez-Gonzalez said.

He described fashioning a fake bomb from a toothpaste container and flashlight, and raised his hands to demonstrate placing an airplane-set cord around the neck of flight attendant Stacey Wood.

Paper says cellmate's aid led to killer's indictment

EL PASO (AP) — A prison inmate may have provided the information that led to the indictment of a man accused of killing six women and burying them in the desert, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

David Leonard Wood of El Paso has been charged with serial murder in the slayings three years ago. He was indicted last Friday.

Wood has been serving a prison term for rape. His state prison cellmate, James Carl Sweeney, was brought to El Paso June 2 and returned to the state prison at Huntsville July 3, the El Paso Times reported.

El Paso police homicide detective Lt. Paul Saucedo would neither confirm nor deny that Sweeney was brought to El Paso. Saucedo was not in when called by the Associated Press Tuesday.

Sweeney is serving a 69-year sentence for a Gregg County burglary

and conviction as a habitual criminal.

Wood's sister, Debbie Galvan, said Sunday that her brother had been placed in solitary confinement at the Huntsville prison in March or April. When he was sent back to the general prison population, she said, he had a new cellmate: Sweeney.

Wood's sister also told the El Paso Times that El Paso detectives went to the state prison July 9 and seized all of Wood's legal papers. Among them are papers related to a \$20.5 million federal lawsuit Wood filed against El Paso police earlier this year, claiming he was being harassed by detectives investigating the desert bodies case.

Wood's father, Leo Wood, said his son told him the warrant used to search the cell said that with the cooperation of his cellmate, police had discovered information "that only the killer would know."

State agency gets examined

HOUSTON (AP) — The Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation is under fire for failing to hire minorities and making sure road projects don't harm the environment.

A legislative staff report recommended the agency hire more minorities and women for top jobs and meet stricter federal guidelines on projects that affect the environment.

The draft report by the state Sunset Commission staff was released to the Houston Chronicle on Monday.

The three-member Texas Highway Commission will receive a final version of the report this week.

MSC

(Continued from page 1)

bookstore, we will also improve the University as a whole."

Maloney said the faculty at A&M will be surveyed two or three times a semester to see if members want to add any new reference materials.

"We want to help A&M realize its full potential," Maloney said. "We are pleased to have joined the A&M team and hope to continue a prosperous relationship with the University in years to come."

With the selection of Barnes & Noble, Smith concluded a three-month search to improve Texas A&M's bookstore facilities.

In April, the University sent out requests for proposals to major

bookstore companies in the nation and to local bookstores.

Three responses were received by officials at A&M. No local bookstores responded to the request. Smith said one of the proposals was non-competitive and disregarded almost immediately.

The other two included a proposal from Follet College Stores Corp. of Chicago and from Barnes & Noble in New York.

Smith said he travelled to meet with the top management of both companies to evaluate his choices.

He said he also hired an independent agency to produce a report on the lease of the bookstore along with using the report compiled by his own staff under the direction of Don Powell, A&M's director of business services.

"I used the independent report to confirm the University's findings," he said. "With an issue of such magnitude, it's always best to have as much information as possible."

Shri Parchure, manager of Loupots Book Store on University Drive, said the leasing of the MSC bookstore will not affect his business, but he thought it was a good idea anyway.

"I think it is good the University sold the store to a private firm," Parchure said. "This is America and the government shouldn't compete against private enterprise."

"I think this is good for everybody at A&M."

Managers at Rother's Bookstore, Texas Aggie Bookstore and University Book Store could not be reached for comment.

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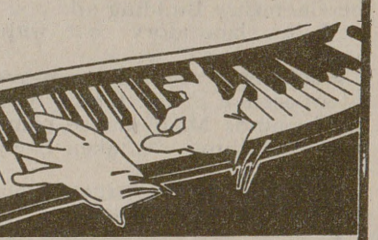
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