

# State, U.S. monitor election

Officials observe race amid allegations of voter harassment

PEARSALL (AP) — Federal and state observers monitored some polling places Tuesday on what Frio County officials described as a non-eventful run-off election day.

"So far, so good," County Attorney James W. Smith said, as voting came to a close. "We just hope it'll be a nice, dull, boring election."

The U.S. Justice Department sent two attorneys and another representative from the federal Office of Personnel Management to monitor the runoff, and the Texas Secretary of State's Office sent two officials.

The monitors were assigned after allegations of voter harassment in the Democratic runoff between incumbent County Commissioner Adolfo Alvarez and challenger Pete Espinosa.

Both campaigns and election officials have denied any wrongdoing.

Smith also requested two Texas Rangers be on hand in case of problems, but they did not appear to be needed, he said.

State monitors were watching other elections around Texas, but Frio County was the only place where federal observers were present.

They were assigned to watch and record activities at polling places during voting hours and to observe ballot counting Tuesday night.

Assistant U.S. Attorney General John Dunne, head of the Justice Department's civil rights division, said Monday his agency would take action if possible Voting Rights Act violations were reported.

Department spokeswoman Amy Casner said that could include filing a civil lawsuit to seek compliance with the law. Casner said sending election monitors is not unusual.

## Report indicates rise in minority incarceration rate

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas imprisonment rates for minorities, especially blacks, increased significantly between 1985 and 1991, according to a report presented Tuesday to a commission working on the state's punishment policy.

The incarceration rate for blacks increased from 683 per 100,000 black adult population in 1985 to 1,414 in 1991, said the report given to the Texas Punishment Standards Commission.

The incarceration rate for whites in 1991 was 167, up from 122 in 1985; and for Hispanics, 293, up from 173.

The percentage of black people sentenced to prison rose from 35.7 to 45.6 percent of all offenders sentenced during the six-year span; and for Hispanics, from 22.1 percent to 24.3 percent.

The percentage of whites sentenced to prison dropped from 42.2 percent to 30.1 percent.

The racial composition of the Texas population as a whole in 1991 was 12 percent black, 25 percent Hispanic, and 63 percent white, said the report, which was prepared by the Texas Criminal Justice Policy Council.

## FBI arrest Texas men for robbery of casino

BEAUMONT (AP) — Three Texas men were charged Tuesday in connection with a daring \$1.1 million casino heist at a Las Vegas Strip resort.

FBI agents arrested the trio early Tuesday in Beaumont. Two of the men are the sons of a former casino security guard who was arrested two days after the robbery at the Stardust hotel-casino.

Houston FBI spokesman Charles Kearney identified the men as Jeffrey Alan Hopper, 26; his brother, Bobby Lee Hopper, 22; and Wesley Edgar Carroll, 25. All three are from Beaumont.

The U.S. Attorney's office charged each of the three with violating federal law by transporting stolen money across state lines. Conviction on the charge carries a penalty of up to 10 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

The three men appeared Tuesday before U.S. Magistrate Wendell Radford and were ordered held without bond. A detention hearing was set for April 20.

The Hoppers are sons of Royal Mayne Hopper Jr., who was arrested last week on charges stemming from the April 6 robbery, Kearney said.

The FBI declined to comment on whether money taken in the robbery was found or what evidence linked the three to the crime.

The elder Hopper is a former security guard at the Stardust. He resigned shortly after contending he was robbed of \$150,000 at the casino.

Hopper was arrested last week, two days after two armed men knocked down a guard carrying \$1.1 million in cash and checks to an armored car. The men ignited two smoke bombs to create confusion and fled to a waiting car and driver.

Authorities were suspicious the robbers had inside knowledge of the Strip resort because they knew the time the armored car guard would be picking up the money. They also made a point of turning their faces away from surveillance cameras and escaped through the employees' exit.

## Houston prepares for convention

Police request more money for protective armor, riot gear

HOUSTON (AP) — Police SWAT officers are not the only ones making special preparations for this summer's Republican National Convention.

The Houston Police Department wants the city to spend about \$163,000 to buy protective armor for mounted special weapons and tactics units assigned to riot control for the GOP gathering.

"We hope the majority of this stuff will be here by the time of the convention," Larry Yium, the police department's budget director, said Monday.

The convention is scheduled for Aug. 17 through Aug. 20 at the Astrodome, but demonstrations and preparations are expected for several days prior to the event.

If man and beast are both outfitted, the patrols should resemble medieval knights.

Some \$14,919 worth of leather horse armor being requested includes 30 sets of visors, nose guards, visor bags, front and rear cannon bone guards, knee guards and bell boots.

The gear will protect the animals from people who may throw rocks or other objects at them,

Yium said. The department also is requesting \$147,719 worth of riot vests and helmets for the mounted officers. Yium said the protective gear being used now is outdated and needs to be replaced anyway.

The officers' armor would be funded from confiscated drug money, while the city is being asked to buy the horse armor with money from its general fund.

Prior to the 1990 economic summit, the Harris County commissioners approved \$35,000 in riot gear requested by the sheriff's department.

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LSAT Prep course schedule for the JUNE 15, 1992 exam

LAST	Reg. & Dia	CLASS 2	CLASS 3	CLASS 4	CLASS 5	CLASS 6	CLASS 7	CLASS 8	CLASS 9
CSL 4/6/92 MONDAY PM	4/6 5:30	4/13 6 pm	4/20 6 pm	4/27 6 pm	5/4 6 pm	5/11 6 pm	5/18 6 pm	6/1 6 pm	6/8 6 pm
CSL 4/7/92 TUESDAY PM	4/7 5:30	4/14 6 pm	4/21 6 pm	4/28 6 pm	5/5 6 pm	5/12 6 pm	5/19 6 pm	5/26 6 pm	6/2 6 pm
CSL 4/11 SATURDAY 10 AM	4/11 10 am	4/18 10 am	4/25 10 am	5/2 10 am	5/9 10 am	5/16 10 am	5/23 10 am	5/30 10 am	6/6 10 am

GMAT EXAM: JUNE 20, 1992

	REG & DIAG TEST	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6	Session 7	Session 8
GMAT CS 4/14 TUESDAY	TUES 4/14 5:30	TUES 4/21 6:00	TUES 4/28 6:00	TUES 5/5 6:00	TUES 5/12 6:00	TUES 5/19 6:00	TUES 5/26 6:00	TUES 6/2 6:00	TUES 6/9 6:00

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