

STATE SUMMARY

Woman organizes alien support group

AUSTIN (AP) — A 53-year-old Austin woman says it isn't easy talking about having encounters with aliens because people tend to think you're crazy.

But she knows she isn't alone among those who believe we are not alone, so she has organized a support group for people who have had experiences with aliens.

"There still is a part of me that thinks I'm totally nuts," said Jean, who asked that her last name not be published for fear of harassment. "But I know what I experienced."

She told the Austin American-Statesman she encountered aliens twice in the 1940s — first when she was 3 years old and again when she was 9.

"The meetings will be open to the public, but it will not be a debate," she said. "If anybody gives any of the abductees a hard time, they will be asked to leave. We don't need anybody making fun of us. We've lived with too much of that already."

TB outbreak alarms health officials

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Health officials are considering tougher measures, including mandatory hospitalization, to fight an increasing number of tuberculosis cases, according to a newspaper report.

The number of TB cases in the city has increased gradually over the past six years and dramatically last year, the San Antonio Express-News reported Sunday.

Methods used long ago to test the disease, including mass testing and quarantines, are being re-examined to fight a dramatic rebound of the disease in San Antonio and South Texas. Officials also are exploring the revision of quarantine laws to make it easier to confine some patients in hospitals.

Tuberculosis is a bacterial infection spread by tiny droplets released through coughing. Although the virus is killed by exposure to sunlight, it can circulate through a building's air conditioning system and infect someone in another room.

Inmates overpower guard, escape jail

HOUSTON (AP) — Authorities on Sunday searched for two convicted robbers who escaped from the Harris County Jail after overpowering a guard.

Harris County Sheriff's officials said the two escapees assaulted the jailer and handcuffed him Sunday morning on the third floor of the new jail, which opened last year.

They then cut open a louvered screen, broke out the window and climbed to the ground by using a handmade rope.

The two were identified as Thomas Paul Randle, 24, and Billy Lee Ford, 26. Both are ex-convicts who have been sentenced again to prison on aggravated robbery charges, authorities said. They were awaiting transfer to a state prison.

Austin's Aqua Fest features upgrades

AUSTIN (AP) — The Aqua Festival, an annual tradition in the city for more than three-decades, is undergoing a few changes this year.

The 31st version of Aqua Festival, which began last weekend and runs through Aug. 23, is dropping an evening water parade of lighted barges and adding power-boat racing, once an anchor to the event's program.

Also, the concerts that had been staged during the water parades are being replaced with one presentation on a 7,000-square-foot main stage.

"We made a conscious effort to try to even out the festival," said Jon Kemmerer, 1992 Aqua Fest commodore. "We didn't want to diminish what we are doing at Auditorium Shores with the concerts, but we also wanted to present additional events that are equally outstanding."

Boat racing was last on the festival program 14 years ago, until residents along Town Lake complained about the noise. This year racing will be held at lake Walter E. Long in far East Austin, far out of residents' earshot.

"A lot of the things that are new to the festival this year are 'back to the future,'" Kemmerer said. "You find them in Aqua Fests past."

One of those things is a pavilion featuring an array of ethnic music, dance, food and crafts under a single tent.

Federal court to decide on Texas school tax

AUSTIN (AP) — As Texas students look toward another school year, the way the state is paying for their education is under attack in federal court.

The result could be a taxpayer revolt or a public school shutdown, according to different sides in the case scheduled for argument Monday in New Orleans. The hearing is before a three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

At issue is whether Texas can use the county education district property tax this school year.

The Texas Supreme Court in January found that the levy violates the state constitution, but delayed the effect of its ruling until June 1, 1993, to give lawmakers time to fix the system.

If the resulting federal lawsuit by taxpayers succeeds in stopping the levy, Assistant Texas Attorney General Toni Hunter suggests that chaos will ensue.

"I think it's quite clear that some schools would close. I think it would be fairly widespread," she said.

The state would face a school funding shortfall of up to \$5.1 billion without the tax, according to a legal brief she filed with the 5th Circuit.

Hunter said she does not think lawmakers could act quickly enough to replace those funds.

She said, "I don't know where they would get it from in the first place."

But lawyer Jim Keahey, representing Texas taxpayers in the class-action lawsuit, disagrees.

"That's crying wolf," Keahey

said. "The schools won't close, the Legislature promptly did something about the situation which it can very well do."

In his legal brief with the 5th Circuit, Keahey said, "There is public interest in the payment of an unconstitutional tax. A taxpayers' revolt may be the consequence of a failure by the court to uphold fundamental law."

He added in an interview, "enough people would say, 'I'm not paying this unconstitutional tax, you know the Legislature would then meet and do something... I don't think anybody should pay their tax as long as the case is still alive.'"

"The schools won't close if the Legislature promptly does something about the situation, which it can do very well."

— Jim Keahey, lawyer

The current school funding system was meant to meet a Texas Supreme Court mandate to equalize school funding. It was designed to shift hundreds of millions of dollars from wealthier to poorer school districts within taxing regions made up of one or several counties.

But the state Supreme Court in January ruled that the plan violates the Texas constitution by imposing a statewide property tax and by levying a property tax without voter approval.

The court deferred the effect of its ruling so as not to interfere with the collection of 1991 and 1992 property taxes in the 18 county education districts.

Keahey then sued in federal court on behalf of retired naval captain Coleman Smith of Lake way, saying continued collection of the levy denies taxpayers due process, violating the federal constitution.



Todd Stone

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Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

District Seventeen of the Texas Department of Transportation is presently in the process of formulating a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the next three years beginning Sept. 1, 1992. Our current obligation authority provides construction dollars for preserve the system type projects such as rehabilitation and preventive maintenance. Some added capacity projects may also be contracted.

In order to solicit public comments about our transportation improvements, a Public Meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, August 13, 1992 at 7:00 p.m. This meeting will be held in Room 102 of the Brazos Center at 3232 Briarcrest Drive, Bryan, Texas. Written comments may be addressed to Mr. Delton A. Kittrell, P.E., Acting District Engineer, P.O. Box 3249, Bryan, Texas 77805. Written comments should be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 14, 1992.

Help Wanted

TENSION HEADACHE STUDY

Subjects with a history of tension headaches needed to participate in a short research study with a single dose of a marketed medication. **NO BLOOD WORK.** Eligible volunteers will be compensated.

G & S Studies, Inc. (close to campus) 846-5933

Students needed from the following locations to collect data on seat belt use for the Texas Transportation Inst. during August break: Abilene, Beaumont, El Paso, Galveston, Laredo, Lubbock, Houston, Midland, San Angelo, Temple, Texarkana, Tyler, & Waxahachie. Maximum 3 days work, \$5.50/hr. + gas. Call Julie at 845-2736 8am-5pm for interview.

Childcare for two and five year olds in my home. \$4.00/hr. Need references and car. 15-20 hrs per week 690-6708, 845-2091.
Part-time Runner - Energetic person to work for busy office. Call Call at 693-5775.
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New 2 bedroom, 2 bath, delivered set up w/all condition and appliances. \$188.49 p/month. 10.75 Apr 240 mos. 10% down. Must qualify. 1-800-880-2020.

1993 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, delivered set up w/all condition and appliances. \$216.00 p/month. 10.75 Apr 240 mos. 10% down. Must qualify. 1-800-880-2020.

For Sale

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1985 Redman 14 x 80, 3bd/2ba, lots of extras! Set up ready to move in. Call after 6pm (409) 696-0927.

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Antiques & Collectibles

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Aging Dallas park needs renovations

Voters to decide how to pay for refurbishing

DALLAS (AP) — Heisman Trophy legends Roger Staubach and Doak Walker polished their football reputations there. Ramses the Great and Catherine the Great dazzled art patrons there.

The Rolling Stones, Chicago, Michael Bolton and George Strait entertained there.

Queen Elizabeth II dined, and presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt, William Taft and Gerald Ford visited there.

Unfortunately, though, the good times have gotten the best of Fair Park.

Now weatherworn, tattered and feeling downright neglected, the 277-acre park, home of the annual State Fair of Texas and the Cotton Bowl, is asking for help.

Dallas voters will decide Saturday whether to accept a proposed half-cent sales tax increase to renovate the 105-year-old park. If passed, the increase would give Dallas one of the highest sales tax rates in the nation.

"Fair Park Yes!" proponents of the sales tax increase, are promoting year-round use of the park's facilities. Currently, the State Fair of Texas' 24-day run each fall draws more than half of the park's estimated 6 million annual visitors.

Cosmetic remedies such as fresh paint and landscaping won't be enough to mask cracking walls and foundations, leaky roofs, and outdated plumbing and electrical systems in 20 buildings created for the Texas Centennial in 1936.

Fair Park, a National Historic

"It's sort of like an aging beauty queen. It photographs well in just the right light, but when you look closely, the wrinkles are still there."

— Virginia McAlester, chairwoman of Fair Park Development Board

Landmark, is one of the largest collections of 1930-style Art Deco architecture in the United States.

"It's sort of like an aging beauty queen," said Virginia McAlester, chairwoman of the Fair Park Development Board. "It photographs well in just the right light, but when you look closely, the wrinkles are still there."

Opponents of the sales tax agree that improvements are needed, but say general obligation bonds, which are usually used for capital improvement projects, raising the hotel-motel occupancy tax or aggressive private fundraising are more viable alternatives.

Sales tax supporters say bonds would cost twice the needed amount because of interest payments and could take up to 10 years before money actually was invested in Fair Park.

"It's like a hole in your roof at home," said McAlester. "You realize the longer you let it go, the more expensive the repairs will be."



SKIN INFECTION STUDY

VIP Research is seeking individuals 12 years of age or older with uncomplicated skin and skin structure infections. If you have a skin infection, you may qualify for a four week research study using a currently available antibiotic medication. Participants who qualify and complete the study will be paid \$200.

GENITAL HERPES STUDY

Individuals with genital herpes infection are being recruited for a 3 week research study of an investigational anti-viral medication. If you would like to find out more about this study, call VIP Research. \$400 will be paid to qualified volunteers who enroll and complete this study.

ANXIETY STUDY

Individuals are being recruited for a research study on Generalized Anxiety Disorder. If you experience anxiety or would like to find out more about this study, call VIP Research. \$200 will be paid to qualified volunteers who enroll and complete this study.

ARTHRITIS

VIP Research is seeking individuals with osteoarthritis of the hip and/or knees for a three month study on investigational anti-inflammatory medication. If you have been diagnosed with osteoarthritis or would like more information, call VIP Research. \$100 will be paid to those individuals who qualify and complete this study.

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