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THE BATTALION

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KECKLESS RIVER RAFTERS-

Public education, increased law enforcement key to safety

The Associated Press

to get into BRAUNFELS adalupe River business owners local authorities say steppednave a high law enforcement this summer ped curb some of the chaos that spoiling the popular stream. River proprietors also say a you take sistent and recently slow river ty precau-e preventw has kept inner-tubers and ers coming to town at a steadamount of pace, rather than in large wds during a brief span like

> Still, drunkenness, trespassing, decent exposure and litter wen't disappeared along a 22e stretch of the Guadalupe orth of New Braunfels. As the abor Day holiday arrived, the wn braced for an estimated mriver enthusiasts during the

"We've made a lot of progress, twe've still got a ways to go,"
di Comal County Judge Carter

om San Antonio

hosts chess

championship

The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO-The 59th

outhwest Open state chess

hampionships has attracted

oung and old players alike to

hotel that hosted Texas' first

More than 100 chess play-

es, including about a dozen

uths, competed this week-

end for trophies and cash

prizes from \$100 to \$1,000 at he Menger Hotel. It was the

the of the first Texas chess

ampionship on Feb. 27, 1892.

Among the players was a

and who used a special

laying board that allowed

im to feel pieces without moving them and a disabled player who reclined in his

heelchair as he made moves. Topping the tournament slate and playing in the open section against chess masters

Saturday was Florentino Gar-

The Mexican government

pays Garmendez, who has a

s rating of 2,500 points, to

leach chess to youths and

compete in about 25 tourna-

ments annually.

mendez of Linares, Mexico.

Casteel, who has floated the river surveying the situation.

"It's much better than what I saw last year," she said. "The public awareness has certainly

made a major dent in this all.' Zero Rivers, owner of Rockin R River Rides, one of the largest outfitters on the Guadalupe, said increased law enforcement has helped. But he contends educating the public is the key to maintaining river quality.

The way to attack this is not, 'You slobs, quit coming here.' It's education," Rivers said.

Bill Perkins and John Guenzel, who have run the Rio Raft Co. on the Guadalupe since 1976, also said more education is necessary, along with more law enforcement.

The problem is there and it's going to be there, in my opinion, until we get a program of educating the people before they get on the river and enforcing the rules that we have," Perkins said.

After last summer's riótous ending, when tubers and rafters packed the river the final six weeks as water conditions finally were conducive to recreation, local officials pledged to clean

things up this year. "There was a consensus that people had gone too far and gotten too rowdy," said Comal County Sheriff Jack Bremer, who this year set up checkpoints on a major road leading to river establishments.

Officers checked for minors in possession of alcohol, drug possession and criminal backgrounds. The sheriff's department also increased the number of officers on patrol, Bremer said.

From Memorial Day weekend until late August, those efforts had resulted in 330 public intoxication arrests; 182 criminal trespass arrests; 145 driving while intoxicated arrests; 108 possession of a controlled substance arrests; and 37 assault arrests.

Woman finds out she's been dead for 11 years

AUSTIN - A Central Texas woman is dead serious about getting

Late last month, a credit bureau told Madeline Cheney that comshe's still alive

Cheney told the Austin American-Statesman that convincing others of that fact may yet be the death of her.

The Williamson County woman was shocked when she learned last fall that the Social Security Administration considered her dead - as of

In January, she walked into the Austin Social Security office and announced: "Hi. I'm here. And I just wanted to say I'm alive."

her mouth open and said: "You've been dead since April of 1982."

Since that January day, "This has just mushroomed into a massive

Last fall, the Cheneys were moving from Massachusetts to Austin when a prospective landlord checked their credit and told Gerry: "We

Social Security number.' Then the Cheneys discovered that Social Security had accepted taxes

There's a lot a dead person can do," Cheney said. However, Social Security officials said they could not tell Cheney, a

certified optician, whose account was credited with the employment taxes she paid through the years.

The Austin Social Security office's manager, Carroll Ferguson, said such cases "happen from time to time," usually when people change their Social Security numbers.

'There's a lot a dead person can do'

The Associated Press

the record straight on her records.

puter records listed her as dead and asked her if she could prove

She said a woman punched her number into a computer, dropped

effort on our part and on theirs, too, in trying to make her alive again. It's not as simple as you'd think," said Madeline's husband,

thought we'd let you know that your wife is coming up dead with her

on her behalf and had recorded a change of address and change of name when she married.

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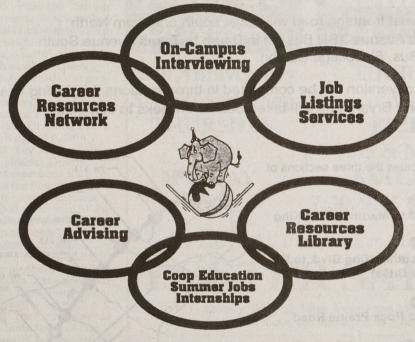
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