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some relief to a thirsty Texas, but not enough to end the devastating 10month drought, meteorologists said Sunday. A storm that lashed

the Dallas-Fort Worth area with winds gusting higher than 100 mph dropped an average of a half-inch to an inch of rain on Saturday. Other showers and thunderstorms over the weekend left 3 to 4 inches of rain over isolated parts of North Texas.

Weekend rains brought

Page 2 • THE BATTALION • Monday, June 3, 1996

'The rains that we've had in the last couple of days have been benefi-

near the deficit that we have," said Jesse Moore, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Fort Worth. "The drought is a long-term thing that has been going on for 10 months.'

State agriculture officials say the drought could become the worst natural disaster to hit Texas this century, costing farmers and ranch-

The dryness rivals that of the 1930s Dust Bowl in Texas, New Colorado, Mexico, Kansas and Oklahoma,

Last week, President Clinton ordered \$70 million in federal assistance for grain producers in Texas and Oklahoma.

Storms not enough to end drought

Weekend rains brought some relief to isolated parts of North Texas^{3, 19}

While the recent pre cipitation has helped fill some small ponds and boosted the levels of some area lakes by a couple of inches, "what you need is heavier rain over a larger area than we've had,' Moore said.

This weekend, por tions of Central and South Texas reported rain totals of between 3 and 6 inches.

'I'm sure some people are very happy — just not everybody," said

Kermit Weiss, a Texas farmer, plows a devastated wheat field for next year's planting.

meteorologist Bruce Weather Service office Thoren of the National in San Antonio.

New Riverwalk ordinance targets noise

SAN ANTONIO (AP) -There's a new battle of sorts in the Alamo City, but this time the participants aren't defenders of the landmark mission and

A new noise-and-crowd ordinance that kicked in this weekend requires bars, restaurants and other businesses along the famed Riverwalk to remove outdoor speakers and amplifiers and to keep patrons who are waiting outside from blocking pedestrian passage

It didn't take long for the ordinance, which went into effect at 12:01 a.m. Saturday, to be broken. Major violators of the new 72-decibel maximum were angry patrons.

"That's so stupid," said Deborah Rudd, who was listening to a toned-down reggae band at Tropical Drink Co., an easy target for violations because it opens into a courtyard.

The 24-year-old student said she could be driven away if the volume remains turned down on the live music she enjoys hearing.

"They're going to lose a lot of business, including mine," Ms. Rudd told the San Antonio Ex-

"They're going to lose a lot of business, including mine."

> — DEBORAH RUDD Riverwalk patron

No tickets were issued during the first night. Park Rangers have said they would try to keep the music muted and walkways clear through gentle persuasion, issuing tickets only if their requests were flagrantly ignored. But plenty of opinions were

A member of one band said he

doesn't understand why the 72decibel maximum rule was approved considering that it most directly affects the music industry, which is one of the city's big money-makers

'They're cutting their own throats," said Kevin Weldon, sound man for the band World

Tropical Drink Co. manager John Cardenas isn't sure how to handle the new sound cap, which forces sound levels into a range somewhere between sound created by normal conversation and a factory.

Cardenas is hoping his location somewhat off the Riverwalk will cut him some slack.

But, if ticketed, he has two options in mind: "Go to court or absorb it as an operating cost."

Not everyone is complaining. Jim Mathis, a member of the Downtown Residents Association and one of a handful of repeat callers to Park Rangers, said he is happy about the "well-balanced" ordinance. Nev- 'Nelson ertheless, he expects some es-his sixt tablishments won't conform to oth the the new requirements.

"We'll see," Mathis said skeptically as he served as a pall-ock earl bearer at a mock funeral put on record by Hard Rock Cafe to lay to rest its now-taboo outdoor speakers. M tra

Longtime area jazz musician Jim Cullum has complained in thes the past about the din created by the NC businesses that use a proliferation of speakers as blaring "bill-inished boards" to draw customers in. with 1

He was surprised this weekend, the La to learn that a competing restau-place, the rant registered only 76 decibels on the \$300 sound level meter. 41100 re

Officer Rubin Slaughter, whomer Day took a reading in front of one led for business, said he could hear more the proof the growd than the music of the crowd than the music.

"And you can't tell the crowd or seven to shut up," he said.

FBI armored vehicles move closer to Freemen

JORDAN, Mont. (AP) - Federal agents moved three armored vehicles closer to the Freemen ranch Sunday, within the FBI's road blocks around the ranch where the anti-government group has been holed up

Reporters could get no closer than 2 1/2 miles from the entrance to the foreclosed wheat and cattle ranch, but there were no indications the FBI planned

"We've moved them from one parking place to another," said a government source who spoke on condition of anonymity. "We haven't given up" trying to end the standoff peacefully.

The FBI established additional checkpoints Sunday along a rural road between Jordan and the Freemen ranch 30 miles away.

According to Tom Stanton, a neighboring rancher, the vehi-cles are parked at a spot about four miles east of the compound the armored vehicles to be and would have access through a back road to it.

The vehicles, which were not visible, were last seen by reporters topping a hill about eight miles from the ranch's back gate, which was as far as reporters could go on that road.

At the FBI staging area in Jordan, all appeared relatively calm. A helicopter that arrived

on Friday remained there.

The FBI has said it wanted

available in the event it be ck re emergency rescues or occupyions parts of the ranch.

The FBI believes 18 people, years three of them children, are inside the ranch.

Some of the adults are want ed on criminal charges, includ Groff and ing allegations they circulated timing millions of dollars in bogus ing and checks and threatened the life of with

Gingrich supports bill opposing same-sex marriages

Gingrich said he would not attend his lesbian sister's wedding if she married another woman

had girlfriends with her.

'That's her life and I

That doesn't offend.'

WASHINGTON (AP) House Speaker Newt Gingrich said Sunday he would refuse to attend the wedding if his lesbian half-sister were to marry

another woman. 'I wouldn't regard it as a marriage, I think a marriage is between a man and a woman," the Georgia Republican said on

NBC's "Meet The Press." Gingrich said he expected Congress to pass by a wide margin a bill that would define marriage as a union between man and woman, making homosexual couples ineligible for a wide range of

federal benefits, including Social Security payments.

President Clinton and congressional Democrats have accused the GOP sponsors of the bill of stirring up an anti-gay issue during this election year, but Clinton has said he would sign the same-sex marriage legislation in its current form.

Supporters say the legislation is needed because of a court case that could make Hawaii the first state to recognize same sex marriages. If that happens, other states could have a legal obligation to recognize those marriages. been with his sister, Candace Gingrich, "when she

Gingrich said he had

ernment or politics in the bedroom," he said.

He added that he opposed same-sex marriages

"I wouldn't regard it as a marriage, I think a marriage is between a man nd a woman."

Speaker of the House

- NEWT GINGRICH

"not as a puritan or a prude. I'm divorced and

remarried, I was adopted,

traditional marriages failed and defining that mar found or riage" as between a mar strokes. and a woman. Candace Gingrich, in splace at

remarried. I understance

have an interest

strengthening classic

But he said tha Americans "as a society of the said that ance the said that are the said that ance the said that are the said

M mer

life is complicated."

pre-taped interview of poped in NBC's "McLaughlin, Ont e-par in on One" Sunday, said an cut w that denying gays legallygie seni recognized unions "is the tour form of discriminationing a comuch in the same waresday ar that allowing us to fired based on our ories tation is discrimination.

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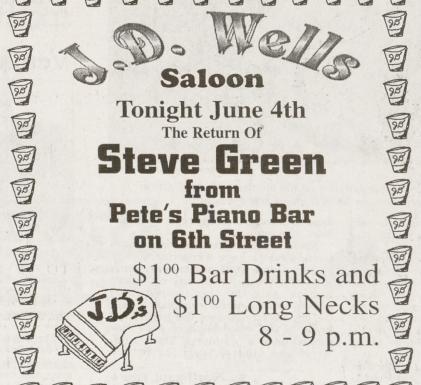
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