

# FBI officials pull plug on Freeman ranch

## Neighbors believe the remaining 18 fugitives have portable generators

JORDAN, Mont. (AP) — The FBI pulled the plug on the electricity at the Freeman ranch Monday and flew a helicopter around the property, passing over a sentry post where an American flag has been flying upside down.

A day earlier, the FBI had moved armored vehicles closer to the compound.

The power was cut during the afternoon in "another effort to persuade the Freeman to resume negotiations for a peaceful settlement" to the 71-day-old standoff, the FBI said in a statement.

The Freeman compound appeared quiet. Some neighbors have said they are sure the Freeman have their own generators.

But it is not known how long the fugitives could hold out without any additional outside power.

A fuel distributor said his company made a delivery to the ranch last fall, including 290 gallons of diesel that could be used to run generators.

The FBI switched on portable generators to supply power to 41 neighboring homes that are wired into the same circuit supplying the 960-acre Freeman grain and cattle ranch.

On Sunday, three FBI armored vehicles were moved to within a few miles of the ranch.

The FBI has said it wants the equipment available for emergency rescues or a

move onto the ranch.

However, a government source, who spoke only on condition of anonymity, said the arrival of the equipment does not mean the FBI is planning to enter the compound.

"We haven't given up" trying to end the standoff peacefully, the source said.

Agents also established additional checkpoints Sunday along a rural road between Jordan and the ranch.

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

Some of the adults are wanted charges including circulating millions of dollars in bogus checks and threatening to kill a federal judge.

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## news BRIEFS

### Highway 6 detour begins Wednesday

Officials at the Texas Department of Transportation say motorists should be prepared for a change in traffic at the intersection of the Highway 6 frontage road and Briarcrest Drive on Wednesday.

TxDOT's Area Engineer Pat Williams said the traffic must be moved to the opposite side of the frontage road so work can begin on the inside lane.

Work is expected to be completed by late July.

### A&M's Orman named U.S. Army consultant

Dr. David T. Orman, an associate professor of psychiatry at the Texas A&M College of Medicine has been appointed the psychiatry consultant to the U. S. Army Surgeon General.

Orman will serve a minimum of four years, will assist in policy decisions and set the agenda for the psychiatric care of Army personnel.

Orman is chief of the psychiatry department at Fort Hood's Darnall Army Community Hospital.

### A&M's Reyes garners Young Author Award

Texas A&M doctoral student Alexander Reyes received the Outstanding Young Author Award at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Circuits and Systems Society May 14 in Atlanta.

Reyes, a doctoral student in electrical engineering, won the award for "A Wireless Volume Control Receiver for Hearing Aids," a paper that appeared in Part II of the IEEE Transactions on Circuits and Systems last January.

Reyes, a native Bolivian, received his bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering from A&M.

### Engineer Calhoun to receive Collins Award

Dr. John C. Calhoun Jr., a petroleum engineering professor at Texas A&M, will receive the American Society of Engineering Educators' (ASEE) top honor for engineering education at the organization's annual conference later this month.

The W. Leighton Collins Award is given to those who make highly significant contributions to the ASEE.

Calhoun has a distinguished record of service at A&M, from his beginnings as engineering dean through his vice chancellorships in engineering and development to his service on the Vision 2000 committee.

## Land values drop in Texas as drought decimates soil, crops

(AP) The prolonged drought is hurting not only crops but the land they grow on, according to a Texas A&M University study.

Rural land values in some parts of the state are dropping because of the dry weather, said Charles Gilliland, a research economist with A&M's Real Estate Research Center.

Land values in the High Plains, San Antonio area and Lower Rio Grande Valley are weak, Gilliland said.

According to rural land price statistics collected by the center, land along the Canadian River breaks averaged \$193 per acre, down 16 percent from 1994.

Land north of that area is \$364 per acre, down 9 percent from 1994 median prices, and south of that area is \$301, down

seven percent.

"I think most of that weakness can be traced to the drought and the (poor) cattle market," Gilliland said.

Land values on the outskirts of San Antonio fell about 13 percent, from \$980 in 1994 to \$856 per acre in 1995. "I suspect that is associated with the drought as well as the ongoing water problems that people west of San Antonio are facing," he said.

In the Lower Rio Grande Valley, land values fell 10 percent from \$1,377 per acre to \$1,242 in 1995.

Statewide, the median value of land increased from \$683 in 1994 to \$727 per acre in 1995, still far short of the record high of \$1,050 per acre in 1985.

In the Johnson City area, the value of land rose from \$1,016

in 1994 to \$1,200 per acre, a result of feverish real estate activity taking place around Austin, Gilliland said.

"The one bright spot that on the horizon is an awful lot of Texas rangeland and some selected areas that are purchased for scenic beauty and recreational amenities," he said.

"The income to support those kinds of purchases continues to prosper even though agricultural income is being affected by the drought."

Gilliland said the rural land price situation could reverse itself with some clouds.

"All it would take to turn things around in the agriculture sector is for some good, heavy rains to set in and replenish the groundwater and so forth and get us back to a more normal situation," he said.

## Gallery

Continued from Page 1

Beetlejuice (action figure), their arrangement and the messages they convey.

"The appeal of her work is the universality of it," Brown continued, "She takes human emotions kept hidden and brings them to the surface."

The kind of art on display is called assemblage which Wilzig describes as "collage in 3-D."

Her sculptures are mostly constructed of junk. She says her father's pack rat nature rubbed off on her. He was imprisoned in Auschwitz during World War II and collected and used everything he could get his hands on.

Many of the pieces in the exhibit contain parts of mannequins, which Wilzig said terrified her as a child. "I thought they were dead people," she said.

In junior high, though, she

saw a mannequin painted in psychedelic colors and realized she wanted to create works of art with them.

However, it is not the materials that provoke controversy, but what she does with them. The themes of her art, Wilzig said, are "obsessions, passions, repressions."

"I don't believe in politically correctness," Wilzig said, acknowledging that her work is controversial.

"I try not to be offensive, but the work can offend people," she said.

Still, visitors to the Visual Arts Gallery will not see her most provocative work because she has sold most of them.

"This is pretty much the mild stuff," she said.

After surveying the exhibit, Mozola agreed with Wilzig's assessment. She said, although it was the most sexually provocative exhibit the Visual Arts Committee has displayed, she is very comfortable with the MSC Council's decision to bring the exhibit.

## Drought hurts land values

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