

Andrews signs military deal

Disposal center agrees to handle waste for Defense Department

ODESSA (AP) — A nuclear dump is still on track for a West Texas county after a company which already operates a disposal-and-treatment center in the area received two large contracts from the U.S. Department of Defense and the Army Corps of Engineers worth millions of dollars.

Workers for Waste Control Specialists (WCS) plan to dispose of hundreds of thousands of cubic feet of low-level radioactive materials in western Andrews County.

"These are sites that for the most part processed materials for the Manhattan Project being remediated by the Army Corps of Engineers," Bill Dornsife, vice president of nuclear affairs for WCS, told the *Odesa American*.

Company documents the newspaper obtained show the five-year contract with the Army Corps of En-

gineers may be worth up to \$96 million to WCS and represents hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of material.

Lawmakers earlier this month finished their session without changing the state's nuclear waste law. In accordance with the federally approved compact for nuclear waste with Maine and Vermont, it requires that low-level nuclear waste be buried in Hudspeth County.

But the Andrews Industrial Foundation wanted to attract a dump for economic development purposes.

Shipments of the Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM), and Low-Activity Radioactive Material (LARM) waste from military sites around St. Louis, Mo., and New Jersey may start arriving by rail this fall.

The Department of Defense awarded one of the contracts to

WCS after the material already had been disposed of at Envirocare's Utah site. Following disposal, Envirocare found the material contained small amounts of depleted uranium and lead from bullet fragments.

Envirocare's high cost for disposal of "mixed" wastes — hazardous and radioactive material that is mixed together — led the DOD to re-contract the waste for disposal at WCS, Dornsife said. The company operates a storage, processing and disposal facility for hazardous and low-level radioactive wastes at a 1,330-acre facility in western Andrews County.

State legislators blocked WCS from being able to hold its own operating license and contract directly with the U.S. Department of Energy for military-generated radioactive waste.

Making a racket



Bill Quinn (right), a junior accounting major, and Ben Inman (left), a junior biology major, exchange shots during an intense match of racquetball at the Student Recreation Center. Quinn and Inman said they usually play a game of racquetball at least twice a week.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Waterways center honored for Website

The Texas Transportation Institute Center for Ports & Waterways was recognized with the International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH) Award for Information Technology for its work on an Internet-based clearinghouse used in locating information related to maritime industries.

The Maritime Economic Resources and Marine and Intermodal Directory, called MERMAID, received the gold award, the highest award given in each category.

MERMAID is a collection of links to maritime information and provides summaries of information found within each of the links listed.

Students working at the Center for Ports & Waterways, which is housed at Texas A&M University-Galveston, collect data for the clearinghouse through the Internet.

The Website contains more than 1,200 links covering all aspects of the maritime transportation system. The Internet address for MERMAID is <http://maritime.tamu.edu>

HISTORIC

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of the restaurant should be paying for this themselves."

Chad Grauke, a principal with Arkitek Studio, the architecture firm that planned the renovations, said the project began regardless of the ordinance because the property had to comply with state requirements.

He said the architecture firm contacted the Texas Historic Commission and was told the property was not designated as historical and therefore there were no state requirements regarding the preservation of the structure.

Ned Coleman, an employee in the cemetery preservation office of the Texas Historical Commission, confirmed that the structure had not been officially designated as a historical structure.

He said the probable reason for this was because the structure had been moved from its original environment.

Coleman said the movement of a structure from one piece of property to another was a major reason some structures are not considered for historical designation.

Grauke said the renovations were funded by the facade grant program, which distributes federal funds through the community development sector of the city of College Station.

These grants are used to improve the exteriors of structures and have been used to renovate Burger Boy, University Book Store and Loupot's Bookstore in Northgate.

Randy Brumley, housing programs coordinator for the Community Development in College Station and facade program liaison for the project, said changes being made to the structure include aesthetic changes, utility improvements and restaurant capabilities.

Brumley said the air conditioning, plumbing and electric services are being brought up to code. He said in addition to these changes some new aspects will be added to the structure, and some of the original materials will be used.

"A new roof, new siding and some new windows will be added, but some of the older windows are being used," Brumley said.

He said the building will have a "sense of the era" and will feature plantation style columns in the front.

Grauke said the restaurant will bring College Station increased revenue.

"The property value will increase and the increased property tax will benefit the city of College Station," Grauke said. "Basically the city got this for free since the project was funded by a federal grant, not by the taxpayers of College Station."

NUTZ



BY R. DELUNA

SAFETY

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"The most important things to remember are to always read and follow label directions, to be sure to have water handy and to never experiment or attempt to make your own fireworks," Humphrey said. "Also, you should never reignite malfunctioning fireworks, and never throw fireworks at another person or shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers."

Those who will be near water, whether lakes or pools, for the holiday should exercise necessary precautions as well.

Jim Soper, an official for the

recreational sanitation branch of the Texas Department of Health, said people should be careful where they are diving, especially in natural bodies of water.

"Most of the diving accidents we have involve younger men diving into shallow bodies of water. Often these incidents involve alcohol," Soper said.

Soper also warned people who will be swimming in swimming pools to always keep their hair, as well as their bodies, away from any drains.

On the roads, the College Station Police Department will be targeting speed and seat belt violations over the course of the weekend.

Lieutenant Mike Matthews, Col-

lege Station Police Department said officers will be paid overtime to enforce these laws and will take whatever precautions necessary if violators are caught.

"We received this grant from the Texas Department of Transportation," Matthews said. "We use the money to pay officers overtime during the week surrounding Independence Memorial Day and Labor Day holidays."

Matthews said local residents will see the signs of a statewide campaign from July through July 8. The targeted areas in College Station are: FM 60, 2818, FM 2154 (Wellborn Road Highway 30 (Harvey Road Highway 6 (East Bypass)).

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News: The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in the Division of Student Publications, a unit of the Department of Journalism. News offices are in 013 Reed McDonald Building. Newsroom phone: 845-3313; Fax: 845-2678; battalion1.tamu.edu; Website: <http://battalion.tamu.edu>

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Subscriptions: A part of the Student Services Fee entitles each Texas A&M student to pick up a single copy of The Battalion. For additional copies 25¢. Mail subscriptions are \$60 per school year, \$30 for the fall or spring semester and \$17.50 for the summer. Pay by credit card, call 845-2611.

The Battalion (ISSN #1055-4726) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and Monday through Friday during the summer session (except University holidays and exam periods) at Texas A&M University. Periodicals Postage Paid at College Station, TX. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, 015 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77840.