

Ranchers file lawsuit to halt purposed AF bomber training

Claim jet noises will violate federal Noise Control Act

LUBBOCK (AP) — Ranchers and an environmental group have filed a federal lawsuit to stop the Air Force from conducting proposed low-level bomber training missions.

The lawsuit, filed Tuesday in Lubbock by the Heritage Environmental Preservation Association and 18 ranchers, claims the noise would violate the federal Noise Control Act and have an adverse effect on humans and livestock.

The Air Force is proposing flying B-1 and B-52 bombers from Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene and Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana through a series of training areas starting near the Big Bend and ending in the Lancer Military Operations Area south of Lubbock.

The jets would not drop bombs but would fire an electronic signal monitored by radar.

Dyess Air Force Base Lt. Wes Ticer said building the monitoring stations could provide economic benefit to the mostly rural area.

Ticer also said having a local training area would be convenient and make better use of training hours for pilots, who currently must fly to Utah, South Dakota, Colorado

noise could put him out of business.

"I know I couldn't run my horse outfit because horses are real sensitive to noise," he said in Wednesday's editions of the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal. "If I miss that income, I'm out of business."

According to the lawsuit, "It is the policy of the United States to promote an environment for all Americans free from noise that jeopardizes their health or welfare."

Residents in eight counties — Lynn, Garza, Kent, Stonewall, Dawson, Borden, Scurry and Fisher — could see between six and 10 of the so-called Realistic Bomber Training Initiative flights a day when the program begins in December 2001.

The lawsuit also complains that the military's plan will threaten airspace southeast of Lubbock International Airport. City leaders met last week with Federal Aviation Administration officials to voice their concerns about the project.

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— Buster Welch rancher

or Arkansas for similar training. But Buster Welch, a longtime rancher in Scurry, Kent and Fisher counties, all of which would be included in the flight path, said the

— News in Brief — DNA clears man in UH rape

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. George W. Bush has pardoned a man who was convicted of rape but later cleared by new DNA evidence.

Anthony Todd Robinson, 39, was convicted in 1987 of raping a University of Houston student, two years before DNA evidence was admissible in Harris County courts. He was sentenced to 27 years in prison and paroled in 1996.

When he was arrested, Robinson said he was innocent and offered a blood sample. His attorney said he was probably singled out because he is black. He paid \$1,800 for DNA testing after he was paroled.

City ordinance bans pig Owner tries to persuade officials

HURST (AP) — This little piggy can not stay home. City officials in Hurst, about 20 miles east of Dallas, have given Eli the Vietnamese potbellied pig an eviction notice, saying an ordinance bars the swine from living on a spread less than an acre.

City officials say Eli falls under the same category in the 1990 city ordinance that has prompted authorities to remove chickens, goats, horses and even a tiger — he is livestock.

"We don't live in the county, the ordinance simply doesn't allow potbellied pigs," Hurst Police Chief Tim Wallace was quoted by the Fort Worth Star-Telegram Wednesday.

Resident Cynthia Wynne, who adopted Eli in 1994 when he was 10 days old, went whole hog Tuesday showing "family pictures" to sway city council members to allow Eli to stay in his heated, enclosed room that doubles as her back porch.

"It would be like giving up one of my kids," Wynne said of the 225-pound black pig that stands about knee-high. "He is part of the family."

City officials say they are considering Wynne's appeal. In the meantime, Eli will continue his daily routine of sunning, eating and chasing his feline friend, Morris. Wynne says she plans to hold a party for Eli Saturday with vanilla cupcakes.

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Qualifications for editor in chief of *The Battalion* are:

- Be a Texas A&M student in good standing with the University and enrolled in at least six credit hours (4 if a graduate student) during the term of office (unless fewer credits are required to graduate);
- Have at least a 2.00 cumulative grade point ratio (3.00 if a graduate student) and at least a 2.00 grade point ratio (3.00 if a graduate student) in the semester immediately prior to the appointment, the semester of appointment and semester during the term of office. In order for this provision to be met, at least six hours (4 if a graduate student) must have been taken for that semester;
- Have completed JOUR 301 (Mass Communication, Law and Society), or equivalent;
- Have at least one year experience in a responsible editorial position on *The Battalion* or comparable daily college newspaper,
 - OR —
 - Have at least one year editorial experience on a commercial newspaper,
 - OR —
 - Have completed at least 12 hours journalism, including JOUR 203 and 303 (Media Writing I and II), and JOUR 304 (Editing for the Mass Media), or equivalent.

Application forms should be picked up and returned to Francia Cagle, Student Media business coordinator, in room 014A Reed McDonald Building. Deadline for submitting application: noon Friday, November 17, 2000. Applicants will be interviewed during the Student Media Board Meeting beginning at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 21, in room 221F Reed McDonald.

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