

NEWS IN BRIEF

State land officials considering 9 cities for veteran state cemetery

ABILENE, Texas (AP) — Another state cemetery for veterans is planned, with officials in nine cities invited to offer proposed sites for the \$8 million facility. Federal funds were recently dedicated for creation of one state veterans' cemetery per year in Texas, said Jim Suydam, a Texas General Land Office spokesman.

Construction of the first Texas State Veterans' Cemetery started in November near Killeen. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs national cemeteries are located in Dallas-Fort Worth, El Paso, Houston and San Antonio.

The Texas Veterans Land Board says sites under consideration for the next state cemetery are Abilene, Amarillo, Corpus Christi, Longview, Lubbock, Midland-Odessa, San Angelo, Texarkana and Tyler.

Third-grade reading scores climb

AUSTIN (AP) — Despite tougher standards, more third-graders passed the reading portion of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills this year, the Texas Education Agency said Tuesday.

Ninety-one percent of third-graders passed, up from 89 percent last year. Third-graders are required to pass the reading portion to move on to fourth grade.

Coast Guard searches for missing helicopter

By Pam Easton
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — The Coast Guard was searching the Gulf of Mexico on Wednesday for a Sikorsky S-76A helicopter with 10 passengers aboard that disappeared.

The helicopter last made radio contact Tuesday night when it was about 90 miles south of Galveston. It was heading to an oil exploratory ship in the gulf, Discoverer Spirit, about 130 miles east of South Padre Island.

"We are hoping that something went wrong and they maybe landed on a different platform," Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officer Adam Wine said. "We are hoping for the best."

No signs of the helicopter were found overnight. There were no reports of bad weather, Wine said.

The pilot, co-pilot and eight passengers were believed to be wearing lifejackets, Coast Guard Petty Officer Andy Kendrick said.

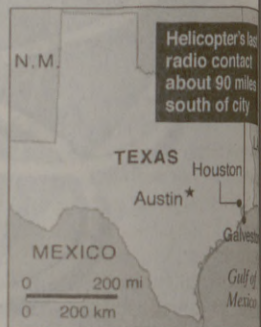
"It just depends on how they landed," Kendrick said. "We just keep searching, hoping they are alive."

Coast Guard officials were concentrating the search Wednesday near a mile-long oil slick 120 miles south of Galveston. The water temperature in that area averages in the upper 60s at this time of year, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"We have concentrated our search in that area to see if that might be any indication of

Helicopter missing

The Coast Guard was searching the Gulf of Mexico on Wednesday for a Sikorsky S-76A helicopter with 10 passengers aboard that disappeared.



SOURCES: Associated Press, ESR

where the aircraft might have gone down, if it went down, Wine said.

The total search area encompassed 2,800 square miles. An 87-foot patrol boat, four shore supply vessels and commercial aircraft were among those helping in the search.

Guy Cantwell, a spokesman for Transocean Inc., an offshore drilling company, said his company owns the drill ship that the helicopter was traveling to, but none of the company's employees were aboard the helicopter.

"We are concerned," he said. The Coast Guard identified the pilot as Tim O'Neal of Largo, Texas, but did not identify the others. The helicopter was owned by Alaska-based El Aviation Inc. and was chartered by El Segundo, Calif.-based exploration and production company Unocal.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Texas Rangers honor soldier killed in Iraq

CENTER POINT, Texas (AP) — After Army Spc. James Kiehl was killed in Iraq, his father decided to bury him alongside more than 30 Texas Rangers whose graves are marked by brown crosses with a lawman star in the middle.

On the first anniversary of Kiehl's death, the young soldier from neighboring Comfort has the same distinctive cross on his final resting place this one in Army green.

The Former Texas Rangers Association dedicated the cross Tuesday morning at Kiehl's grave in Center Point Cemetery, in the Hill Country about 50 miles north of San Antonio.

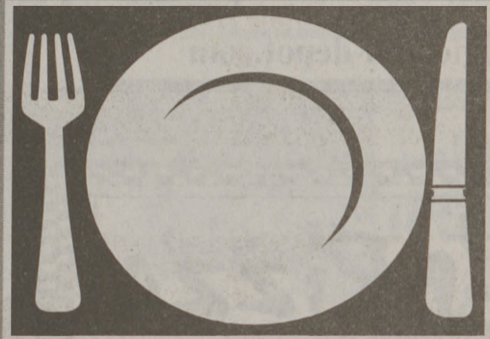
Randy Kiehl, father of the 6-foot-8 computer technician, said he chose Center Point because of its links to the state's frontier past.

Civil rights groups claim discrimination during adoption process

AUSTIN (AP) — A coalition of civil rights groups on Tuesday accused the state of placing an excessive number of minority children in non-family foster care and adoption to make the most of federal benefits.

"In essence what we see here is almost a potential bounty system," said Jerry Boswell, president of the Austin chapter of the Citizens Commission on Human Rights. "It's something we need to put a halt to."

A spokesman for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services said finances play no role in the agency's decision to remove children from their homes.



Let's Go Out To Eat

Thursdays in The Battalion

Pepe's MEXICAN CAFE
3312 S. College Ave., Bryan
Serving the freshest and best mexican fast food since 1969.

49¢ Crispy Tacos
No Limit. Show Student ID
Expires 04-02-04.
Between Farm Patch and Villa Maria

BLUE BAKER
Baking It Great!
Bakery • Pizzeria • Deli • Café

FREE 9" SPECIALTY PIZZA
with purchase of any specialty pizza & 2 sodas
Pizza Served Daily After 5pm.
Offer Expires: 3/15/04. Valid for dine-in or delivery.
Delivery minimums and fees apply. One coupon per transaction.
201 Dominik Drive (979) 696-5055

Buck's Pizza
PIZZA · STROMBOLI · HOAGIES

2 Medium One Topping Pizzas \$9.99
Limited time offer. Some restrictions apply.
Free delivery

979-693-BUCK

Jose's Restaurant

Buy one entree and get a second entree of equal or lesser value **FREE!**
(Good only Sun.-Thurs. from 5pm - closing)
Not valid with any other offer.
Present coupon to server when ordering. Expires 04/20/04.
(Closed Mondays)
3824 S. Texas Ave., Bryan
268-0036
All credit cards & checks accepted.

Must Be Heaven Sandwich Shoppe
Old Fashioned Sandwiches
Fresh Baked Bread
Soups - Quiche - Salads
Baked Potatoes
Homemade Desserts

BRYAN COLLEGE STATION
At the Intersection of Villa Maria @ Briarcrest
731-8891

Rock Prairie Rd next to College Station Med Center
764-9222

Buy one Heavenly Special, Get one 1/2 off with Coupon!
Offer Available after 4:00 p.m. Only - Must have coupon

POPEYES CHICKEN & BISCUITS

2 Can Dine!
5 Pc Mixed, 2 Reg. Sides & 2 Biscuits
\$5.99
Expires 04/17/04

3 Pc Mixed, 1 Reg. Side & 1 Biscuit
\$3.99
Expires 04/17/04

Texas A&M Students with a valid ID get **10% off** on regular menu items.

Present coupon when ordering. One coupon per customer per visit. Void where prohibited. Not valid with any other offer. Good at participating Popeyes only. ©2003 AFC Enterprises, Inc.

ZARAPE

Buy one entree and get a second entree of equal or lesser value **FREE!**
(Good only Sun.-Thurs. from 5pm - closing)
Not valid with any other offer.
Present coupon to server when ordering. Expires 04/20/04.
(Closed Mondays)
308 N. Main, Bryan
779-8702
All credit cards & checks accepted.

caffe' capri
the place for Italian for more info. ask a friend

FREE APPETIZER
With meal purchase and this coupon. Not good with any other offer.

Ag owned & operated
222 n. main in historic downtown bryan
979.822.2675

Honey B Ham & Deli
The Best Sandwiches in Town

FREE CHIP & DRINK!
w/purchase of any sandwich

2415 A S. Texas Ave.
Parkway Square Shopping Center
College Station, TX
696-DELI (3354)
Expires 04/30/04

Now serving an Atkins Menu

Otto's Bakery & Cafe
3115 S. College Ave. Bryan, TX 77801 (979) 776-1116

Monday-Friday 7:30 am-4 pm
Saturday 8 am-2 pm
Drive-Thru Available
Regular Hours for Carry Out
Call ahead for Casseroles & Dishes
Phone-in orders welcome
Cakes and Diet Desserts Available
Catering Available
Wholesale Orders Welcome

WEDDING CAKES, ALL OCCASION CAKES, SPECIALTY CAKES, KOLACHES, PASTRIES, SOUPS, SALADS, SANDWICHES, LUNCH SPECIALS AVAILABLE

FREE COOKIE & DRINK WITH MEAL SPECIAL

MSC Aggie Nights

Friday, March 26, 2004
9:00 pm - 1:00 am
In Collaboration w/ SPICMACAY - TAMU

- * Antaress Indian Fusion Band in MSC Flagroom
- * The Last Samurai at 7:00 & 9:45 pm in Rudder
- * \$1 w/ TAMU ID In Collaboration w/ MSC Film Society
- * Free activities in the MSC Basement: pool, bowling, arts & crafts and Dance Dance Revolution in collaboration with Cepheid Variable
- * FREE FOOD and Drinks!!!
- * PRIZES: Nintendo Game Cube & Digital Camera!!!

Drawing at 12:30 am in MSC Flagroom!

979.845.1515 aggienights.tamu.edu

For special needs, please contact us three days prior to the event at 845-1515.