

Heads or tails?



Dub Martin of Waco, organizes his coin collection that has been growing with his other collectibles for 60 years at the Gun Show at the Brazos County Center. **Martin** and his wife used to own an antique store, but now they travel the country showing off and selling their collection of history.

DUNNBOYZ

by Will L...



Texas hospitals are running out of room

LUFKIN (AP) — Texas' 10 state hospitals have been running at or near capacity for weeks, forcing counties to pay to transport psychiatric patients hundreds of miles to the nearest available bed, a newspaper reported Sunday.

At one point last week, the hospital in El Paso was the only one with any room, and all new patients had to be sent there, said Kenny Dudley, director of state mental health facilities with the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

"We've hit a point where every bed in the system is full. ... The thing that got us in trouble the last couple of weeks is that we've just been full all the time," Dudley said in Sunday's edition of the Lufkin Daily News.

The system usually runs at up to 98 percent of its 2,260-patient statewide capacity, Dudley said.

Department spokesman Don Rogers said the system traditionally sees high numbers of admissions at the end of every summer. But stretching capacity seems to be more than a seasonal problem at some hospitals.

Big Spring State Hospital, serving West Texas and the Panhandle, has been running at or over capacity for three months, spokeswoman Valerie Avery said. And North Texas State Hospital consistently has seen capacity patient loads for years, spokesman Jerry McLain said.

The problem involves funding and staffing levels, rather than space, Rogers said. Hospitals only can hold as many patients as they have doctors and nurses to treat them.

A systemwide overcrowding plan does not address possibility that the entire system could reach capacity. Austin State Hospital Superintendent Carl Schickel said his hospital, which serves Central Texas, has been near capacity for the past few weeks.

"The last month has been pretty bad," Schickel said. "It's tough all around."

Rogers said additional nurses and doctors would be called to work in case of an emergency.

Rusk State Hospital in East Texas began doubling its staffing levels last week, when the facility held 285 patients. Its staffing levels call for a maximum of 271 patients, spokeswoman Judy Garner said.

The diversion meant Angelina County deputies drove people facing court-ordered mental health treatment more than 700 miles to El Paso. The deputies must leave their local duties and use county vehicles on the trip, and the sheriff's budget must pay for their food and accommodations, Sheriff Kent Henson said.

El Paso "is the farthest we've ever had to go," Bexar County Judge Joe Berry said. "We have no choice."

David Cozadd, director of operations at a regional health care services agency in Lufkin, said more people may face mental health crises because state hospitals stretched to the breaking point. That could fuel the need for hospitalization, he said.

Government warns of threat against certain buildings

By Jennifer C. Kerr
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The federal government warned Sunday of possible al-Qaida terrorist attacks against "iconic" financial institutions in New York City, Washington and Newark, N.J., saying a confluence of chilling intelligence in recent days pointed to a car or truck bomb.

Recently obtained information — including photos, drawings and written documents — led the government to take the unprecedented action of naming specific buildings as potential targets:

—The Citigroup Center building and the New York Stock Exchange in New York City.

—The International Monetary Fund and World Bank buildings in Washington.

—Prudential Financial Inc.'s headquarters in northern New Jersey.

"The preferred means of attack would be car or truck bombs," Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said in a

briefing for journalists. "That would be a primary means of attack."

The government said the new intelligence indicated the meticulous planning of al-Qaida. Ridge identified explosives as the likely mode of attack, as opposed to a chemical or biological attack or a radiological "dirty" bomb.

Ridge said the government's threat level for financial institutions in just the three cities would be raised to orange, or high alert, but would remain at yellow, or elevated, elsewhere.

The Federal Reserve, the most potent symbol of America's financial strength, was not on the list of threatened buildings.

The government provided a wealth of detail that it had obtained in the past 36 hours to 72 hours, but a senior intelligence official described it only on condition of anonymity. The official described "excruciating detail" and meticulous planning "indicative of al-Qaida."

The official said the intelligence gathered from several sources indicated scouting had been done to identify security in

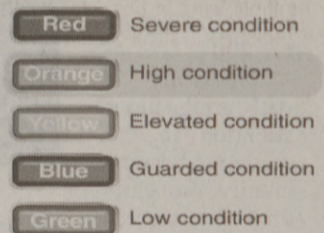
and around these buildings; the flow of pedestrians; the best places for reconnaissance; how to make contact with employees who work in the buildings; construction of the buildings; traffic patterns; locations of hospitals and police departments; and which days of the week present less security at the buildings.

To illustrate the level of the intelligence, the official cited these examples of detail possible plotters had accumulated: midweek pedestrian traffic counts of 14 people per minute on each side of the street for a total of 28 people; that some explosives might not be hot enough to melt steel; and that the construction of some buildings might prevent them from falling down.

The warning is based partly on documentary evidence — obtained during successful CIA counterterrorism operation — that provides clear indications that al-Qaida operatives are casing specific buildings in the financial sector, another official said, also speaking only on the condition of anonymity.

Cities warned of terrorist activities

The government warned of possible terrorist attacks against "iconic" financial institutions in New York City, Washington and Newark, N.J. New York City has been on the orange level of precautions since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.



SOURCE: The Office of Homeland Security

<AP> TERROR ALERTS 080104: Graphic shows the five levels of terrorism alerts as announced by the Office of Homeland Security; with BC-Terror Threats: 1c x 3 3/4 inches, 47 mm x 95 mm; JB/Staff; ETA 7 p.m. </AP>

Power line

Continued from page 1

of the lines and the modification of the electrical substations that relay electricity throughout the grid.

The total cost incurred by the University is approximately \$5 million, Sippial said.

Wilkerson said including underground and overhead lines, modification of substations and other materials necessary to transfer the electricity will cost BTU approximately the same

amount, about \$5 million.

Compared with how much A&M has spent in the past, \$5 million is a relatively small amount to improve and update the infrastructure and maintain reliability of power delivery, Sippial said.

"We've invested over \$50 million in our own utility infrastructure over the past six to seven years," Sippial said.

Wilkerson said that the campus operating only on a single line for so long is unusual. After the project is completed, the two lines will be in service at all times, and if one line

fails, the other will be able to supply the campus with power, he said.

Wilkerson said that after the project is completed, it is likely that A&M will not have another major outage.

"There are better ways that the University could spend the money because I really don't mind having blackouts," said Johnathon Cramer, a senior sociology major.

Construction on the project will begin this August and will be completed in August of 2005. The underground lines will run beneath West Campus and through Research Park.

Overhead lines will be installed on FM 2818 which will run directly to the substation near Rio Grande Drive.

Because of the construction, pedestrians and drivers may experience some inconveniences such as temporary road and sidewalk closures, obstructions to parking lots and construction-related noise.

If there is another region-wide blackout in the future, we now have the necessary back-up generators and additional lines that will not leave us stranded without power for an extended period of time, Sippial said.

Golf

Continued from page 1

for her to pay for school.

"With more money received in scholarships, students can work less, enhancing their time and ability to save," Gilbert said. "I think that more administrative scholarships should be awarded, especially with rising tuition costs."

Satterwhite said tournament fees go into an endowment and scholarships are funded from the endowment interest.

"The endowment was created by division employees through fund-raising donations," Satterwhite said.

Night

Continued from page 1

frequent victims of property crimes.

"I would encourage students to participate in National Night Out because they can have a better relationship with those in their neighborhoods," Melnyk said. "They can have a neighbor available who can watch for criminal activity around their homes in their absence."

Baron said National Night Out events are held for students who live on and off campus.

"Events are being coordinated at University apartments, and all students welcome to come," Baron said.

CORRECTIONS

A front-page article Wednesday incorrectly reported head football coach Deane Franchione as making a statement from coach's clinic in New Mexico. The statement was delivered from Houston.

A column in Wednesday's Sports section misspelled the name of Texas Rangers infielder Mark Teixeira.

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