

**TUESDAY**  
**BRIEFING**

**Boat ramp on island closed**

The Bird Island Basin boat ramp at Padre Island National Seashore is temporarily closed because of storm damage, park officials announced Monday.

Access to World Winds windsurfing concession, also in the park, remains open.

But high water from Tropical Storm Frances eroded much of the road to the boat ramp and parking lot along the Laguna Madre shoreline.

Allowing traffic on the road could cause further damage, park officials said.

Repairs are expected to be completed by Sept. 26, but that could change.

For updates on repairs and beach conditions, call 949-8175.

**Bayside to get first wastewater plant**

Construction on Bayside's first-ever wastewater treatment plant could begin as early as spring, thanks to \$1.2 million in federal grants and loans, city officials said.

The city's 416 residents now use separate septic systems.

The plant will be built on 40 acres of property the city owns on its west side, Mayor Tim Delaney said.

A representative from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Division will be on hand at 2:20 p.m. Sept. 22 at the Bayside Community Center to celebrate the federal funding.

Federal monies include an \$844,000 grant and a \$344,000 40-year, low-interest loan. The state contributed \$1.5 million in grants.

The system, which Delaney said will take about a year to build, will add at least \$20 to each resident's water bill, according to a news release from the city.

**Capelo plans to open district office today**

State Rep. Jaime Capelo, D-Corpus Christi, will celebrate the opening of his district office from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. today at the Shoreline Terrace Building, 719 S. Shoreline, suite 301-B.

The event is open to the public.

Capelo, who won the District 34 seat in a special election in May, faces Republican Rene De Alejandro in the Nov. 3 general election.

**Water Watch**  
Corpus Christi water usage Sept. 1-13:

1997	1,102,229 million gallons
1998	1,055,829 million gallons
4,300% lower than last year	

**Reservoir system level**

Combined system level: 52.2% of total capacity

<b>Lake Corpus Christi</b>	(max. capacity in acre feet: 241,241)
Sept. 12	12,180,210 acre feet
Sept. 13	18,699,996 acre feet
Difference	+4,489,800 acre feet
<b>Choke Canyon Reservoir</b>	(max. capacity in acre feet: 695,271)
Sept. 12	304,387 acre feet
Sept. 13	304,547 acre feet
Difference	+160 acre feet

**Corpus Christi rainfall**

Last significant rain: 1.66" Sept. 10

**Forecast:** The National Weather Service predicts a 20 percent chance of rain for today and Wednesday.

Note: An acre foot is the amount of water that it will take to fill a hole one foot of water.

## Crackdown on prostitution planned

By ROSEMARY BARNES  
Caller-Times

Prostitution has cost motel owner Sam Patel lost business for nine years.

Now, with the help of local law enforcement officials, Patel will get back at the prostitutes and their customers who have pushed the native of Ahmadabad, India, to his limit.

"They come to my motel at night and knock on the doors trying to find customers. They loiter outside

### Stretch of Leopard Street will be targeted

my place all day long soliciting," said Patel, owner of the Valley Motel at 5300 Leopard Street since 1989. "People don't want to stay here. Some check in, but the next morning they ask for their money back. I can't run a business under these conditions. The city owes us some protection."

Much to Patel's satisfaction, convicted prostitutes will be banned from his premises and other busi-

nesses along a stretch of Leopard Street where prostitutes have been known to ply their trade for almost a decade.

And, the "Johns" who make use of their services will be penalized with bumper stickers on their cars that say "Stop Sex Offenders."

Last week, Patel and several other owners of businesses along the 3700-to-5400 blocks of Leopard Street - long known for its concen-

tration of prostitutes - appealed to Police Chief Pete Alvarez for help.

Alvarez responded by joining forces with the Nueces County Attorney's Office and the County Community Supervision Department, previously known as the adult probation department, to try and curb prostitution with tougher penalties.

Also, the police department will make a concerted effort to arrest more prostitutes and more of their

customers, Alvarez said.

The city has about 100 arrests of prostitutes and more than 100 arrests of "Johns" annually, Alvarez said.

"Prostitution is a crime that has close ties to other crimes like drug abuse and criminal trespass. Where you find prostitution, you find the other crimes," Alvarez said. "We've been effective in arresting prostitutes and their Johns, but we need to ensure the community of more followup efforts to stop repeat offenders."

The cooperative effort between **Please see POLICE/B2**

## Covered pavilions delayed at 9 schools

Dispute between CCISD, contractors puts completion of play areas on hold

By HEATHER HOWARD  
Caller-Times

Completion of covered play pavilions at several Corpus Christi Independent School District schools remains delayed amid a dispute between the district and project contractors.

The structures, which will be 16 feet tall and measure 60 feet by 90 feet at their base, are designed to protect students from heat and rain.

Pavilions were scheduled for completion last spring at Chula Vista, Club Estates, Crockett, Lamar, Los Encinos, Lozano, Prescott, Schanen Estates and Shaw elementary schools.

The structures were not ready by the Aug. 17 start of school. James Smith, CCISD assistant superintendent for business and administration, said he does not know when the play areas will be finished.

Smith said the district asked the contractor to vacate the workites on Aug. 24 when CCISD deemed that the contractor was in breach of its contract because of what the district judged to be repeated failures to maintain a safe work site.

Smith also said that the district was not satisfied with the contractor's work in several areas, including the construction of the concrete pillars that support the roofs of the buildings.

"The district took over the project and started taking action to make them safe and finish the work," Smith said.

Steve Roth, owner of Coleman-Roth Construction Inc. of Victoria, disputes the district's claims.

Roth said the workites have been safe and said the construction company was asked to leave the job only **Please see SCHOOLS/B3**



Construction workers finish the roof of the Yeager Elementary School playground pavilion. Completion of other pavilions is on hold because of a dispute between CCISD and the contractors. **George Gongora/Caller-Times**

## \$2.5 million was used for training here

Smart Job funds spent to help area workforce

By ANNA M. TINSLEY  
Scipps Howard Austin Bureau

AUSTIN - Coastal Bend businesses spent more than \$2.5 million this year training area residents for jobs.

The money, from grants through the state's Smart Jobs program, was part of \$58 million awarded statewide, according to statistics released recently by the Texas Department of Economic Development.

"This program is at the forefront of providing new and better jobs for Texans from every background and region of the state," said Rick Thrasher, executive director of the economic development department.

"These grants are being awarded based primarily on the quality of training programs that are geared to producing better and more jobs for Texans."

Locally, 10 of the 12 Coastal Bend counties received Smart Job grant money in 1998 - all but Kenedy and McMullen counties.

The counties and the grant money received: Aransas, \$115,094; Bee, \$66,595; Brooks, \$5,047; Duval, \$9,832; Jim Wells, \$215,950; Kleberg, \$37,570; Live Oak, \$69,211; Nueces, \$1,065,208; Refugio, \$174,152; and San Patricio, \$767,641, according to the economic development department.

But the program has created some concern from state lawmakers.

State Rep. Vilma Luna, D-Corpus Christi, serving on the House interim subcommittee that is reviewing the Smart Job grant program. One of her concerns is that the program's criteria and guidelines have changed several times.

Luna said she is working with economic develop- **Please see GRANTS/B2**

## S. Texas community leaders to gather in Corpus Christi

Future of Region Conference is scheduled for Sept. 28-30

By STEPHANIE L. JORDAN  
Caller-Times

Community leaders from San Antonio south to the Rio Grande Valley will meet here later this month to set a regional agenda to take to lawmakers next year.

The South Texas Conference Coordinating Committee is hosting the Future of Region Conference Sept. 28-30 at the Omni Bayfront Hotel.

The committee is made up of chamber of commerce officials, business and civic leaders, economic development directors, educators and private citizens.

Its goal is to create a regional agenda that focuses on workforce, economic and infrastructure development and the environment. Its recommendations will be distributed throughout South Texas and provided to the region's legislators before the January session.

The conference has an unusual format, said Blakely Fernandez, director of business services for the Greater Corpus Christi Business Alliance.

The group will begin with a rough

**Where you can learn more:**

Future of the Region Conference, 857-1708. Conference fee is \$100.

sketch of common issues affecting the 47-county region in South Texas. Each conference participant will then be assigned to a group that will discuss each issue.

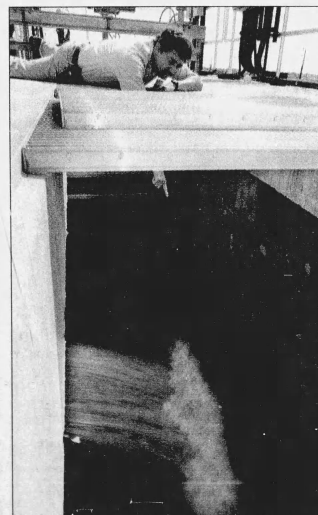
"We come to a consensus on those issues and work together," Fernandez said.

The days of each community working independently on these issues are over, said Blas Castaneda, one of the committee chairman and chief development officer for Laredo Community College.

"This is a more comprehensive approach to how we can improve our community," Castaneda said. "This way we can make things happen the way we want them to happen. We only have limited dollars, and this way we can make sure they go toward the whole."

When a large group representing **Please see CONFERENCE/B3**

## City touts benefits of Texana water



Lake Texana water, which is being tested for later use, flows into a junction box. City officials say the water will be softer, containing fewer minerals. **George Gongora/Caller-Times**

It should suds up better, leave glasses cleaner, officials say

By JAMES A. STYDAM  
Caller-Times

Softer water from Lake Texana has city officials sounding like Madison Avenue ad executives.

"It will mean sudser showers and glasses that don't streak in your dishwasher," said City Water Superintendent Eduardo Garana. Laundry will come cleaner too.

By the end of the month - once the Lake Texana Pipeline is pumping into the city's water system - the city's tap water will be one-third softer, meaning it will have fewer dissolved minerals than it has now, Garana said.

That's good, said Tracy Browning, manager of Eureka Laundry-Cleaners-Linen Service.

"We already use a water softener - things just get cleaner with less detergent that way - but if the water's softer, I'll probably have to recharge it less," Browning said. "But still, I'll have to wait and see if it's worth the cost."

Once Lake Texana water is flowing through the city's pipes, raw water fees paid by customers will almost double, to 70 cents per 1,000 gallons. The price hike is expected to be less than \$3 a month for most residential users, city officials said.

"But still, softer water will make it easier to clean clothes at home, and it should be easier on hot water heaters and other stuff too," Browning said.

The changes will come as a result of the blending of Lake Texana water with water from the Nueces River and the chemicals used to treat the water, **Please see WATER/B4**

# CALENDAR

To get your notice in:

Notices must be open to the public. Items must be received a week in advance. Photos are welcome, but cannot be returned.  
Mail to:  
Caller-Times Calendar  
P.O. Box 9136  
Corpus Christi, TX  
78469

Drop off:  
Caller-Times  
820 Lower N. Broadway  
8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri.  
Fax to:  
Caller-Times Calendar  
(512) 886-3732

## TODAY'S BEST DEALS

For information  
about getting your  
event listed, call  
886-3667

### AND IT LOOKS COOL, TOO

Check out an ancient technique for physical fitness at Tai Chi Chuan Classes for youth and adults today through Sunday at Lindale Recreation Center, 3134 Swantner. The classes, sponsored by the Corpus Christi Park and Recreation Department, will teach flexibility, balance, concentration and clarity. The classes cost \$35 per person. Information: 855-0392.

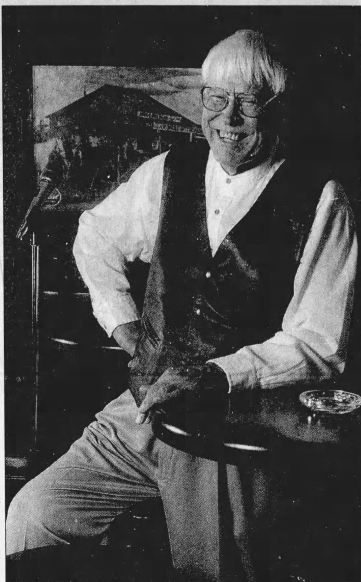
### BIG LAFFS

Don't miss local comedian and poet J.D. Byars at 7 p.m. today at Selena Auditorium, Bayfront Plaza Convention Center. Now almost 80 years old, Byars has brought his blend of physical comedy, political humor and rapid-fire one-liners to venues across South Texas. Information: 855-9488.

### ART SHOW

Catch the final day of "Catfish Banquet," an exhibit of works by artist Linda Anderson at CMR Gallery, 313 N. Chaparral, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. today. Information: 884-3606.

Courtesy photo  
Local comedian and poet J.D. Byars will perform at 7 p.m. today at Selena Auditorium, Bayfront Plaza Convention Center.



## School board delays vote on study of space needs

School trustees on Monday postponed a vote on whether to hire a consulting firm to study the Corpus Christi Independent School District's buildings to help the district find out how to make best use of space.

A proposed study by the Vietta Group of Houston also would be designed to help the district determine future construction needs, including whether to build a sixth high school, CCISD staff said.

The proposed study would cost \$275,573, CCISD officials said.

Some trustees said they were concerned about spending the money and thought district staff might be able to do the study in-house.

Others said they wanted more details before they could feel comfortable voting on the proposal.

Trustees may vote on the issue during the board's next meeting, scheduled for Sept. 23.

Last year, State Comptroller John Sharp's office recommended that the district perform a facility study and develop a long-range plan for its buildings.

Such a study would include evaluation of demographics, zoning considerations, safety, changes in attendance boundaries and use of portable classrooms, CCISD officials have said.

## POLICE

FROM B1

The city and county focuses on curbing prostitution by attempting to rehabilitate prostitutes, both male and female, said Assistant County Attorney Laura Garza Jimenez.

Prostitution is a Class B misdemeanor, which carries a maximum penalty of six months in jail and a maximum fine of \$2,000 and court costs. The charge is the same for the prostitute and the John, Jimenez noted.

"Prostitution is hard to deter," Jimenez said. "The prostitutes are arrested, pay their fines, do a little time and return to the streets. It starts all over again."

From now on, convicted prostitutes will be placed on 12 months probation, will be sentenced to a 30-day jail term and 100 hours of community service and will be charged a \$500 fine.

Also, convicted prostitutes will be placed on a curfew from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. every day during the 12-month probation period. They will be required to attend a sex offender class, obtain a high school diploma or a General Equivalency Diploma and find employment, Jimenez said.

Also, they will be barred from loitering or residing in the 3700- to 5000 block stretch of Leopard Street, Jimenez said.

Their customers also will be placed on 12 months' probation, sentenced to 100 hours of community service, be fined \$100 and be required to attend sex offender classes, Jimenez said.

Probably the worst penalty for the customers, Jimenez said, is having to cruise through the city with a "Stop Sex Offenders" bumper sticker on their cars.

"When you reduce demand for prostitutes, you've done good

away toward ending it," Jimenez said. "The Johns only have to be arrested once. They rarely go back. They learn their lesson the first time. The bumper stickers will reinforce that."

Eddie Gonzalez, director of the county's Community Supervision Department, said that the bumper stickers are designed to embarrass the perpetrators — a measure that has been used locally with people convicted of driving while intoxicated.

"This is not the first time the concept of using bumper stickers as a punishment has been used here or elsewhere," Gonzalez said.

Complaints from Leopard Street business owners gave law enforcement officials the impetus to expedite prosecution for prostitution, Jimenez said.

"Having the backing of these business owners helped us move forward with a plan we had been thinking about for a long time," Jimenez said.

Dave Bhakta, manager of the Tally-Ho Motel at 3901 Leopard Street, said that the presence of prostitutes has given the area a bad reputation.

"You see women sitting on bus stops waiting for a John to pick them up," Bhakta said. "We like to appeal to tourists and families on vacation. Having prostitutes openly soliciting business up and down the street hasn't been good for our business."

Patel said the new plan can only help his business.

"We want to reclaim Leopard Street from these prostitutes," Patel said. "We are on our way back to the way it used to be, the way it should be."

Staff writer Rosemary Barnes can be reached at 886-3716 or by e-mail at barnes@scripps.com

## TUESDAY

**AUDITIONS:** Open auditions for the opera "Sior Angelica," by Giacomo Puccini, at 7:30 p.m. in the Warren Theater, Center for the Arts, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Scheduled performances at 8 p.m. Nov. 12-14 and 2 p.m. Nov. 15. Information: 994-2761 or 994-2318.

**LECTURE:** Jose Casillas and Blanca Gárdano will lecture about the artwork of Rosario Cabrera at 10 a.m. in the Bailey Art Gallery at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. Cabrera's work is on display through Oct. 2. Information: (512) 593-2760.

**MEETING:** The Corpus Christi Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol meets at 7 p.m. at the Corpus Christi Army Depot. Students ages 12 or in the sixth grade are eligible to join. Information: 991-8967.

**OUTDOOR FUN:** The YMCA is holding the opening ceremony for the Indian Guides Program at 7 p.m. The program is designed for fathers and their elementary age children and participants are formed into groups called tribes that meet regularly and participate with other tribes in events and campsouts. Cost: \$45 per father/child pair. Information: 882-1741.

**SIERRA CLUB:** The Sierra Club will meet for lunch at 11 a.m. at the Art Center, 100 Shoreline, followed by a presentation at 12:15 p.m. A conservation update will be the fea-

tured topic. Information: 852-7938.

**AGGIES:** The Texas A&M Club of Nueces County meets at noon at Wings 'N More, 5990 S. Staples. Speaker: Dusty Durill. Information: 992-1977.

**LECTURE:** Spohn Behavioral Medicine presents "Is it Just a Passing Blue Mood?" from 8:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Spohn Memorial Hospital, Board Room, 2606 Hospital Blvd. Jackie Webb, an associate professor at Texas A&M-Kingsville, will discuss children and depression. Information: 902-6812.

## WEDNESDAY

**DANCE:** Dance featuring Los Chamacos at 8 p.m. in Ballrooms A and B, Student Union Building, Texas A&M University-Kingsville. Tickets: \$5 students, staff and faculty, \$8 general admission, \$10 at door. Information: (512) 993-2760.

**AWARDS BANQUET:** Noche de Estrellas Awards Banquet at 7 p.m. in the Retama Room, Harwin Center, Del Mar College. Sponsored by Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education and the Hispanic Women's Network of Texas. Proceeds will benefit TACHE and the Del Mar Chapter Scholarship Fund. Information: 698-1293.

**BIRDWATCHING TRIP:** The 1998 Hummer/Bird Celebration begins with a birdwatching trip, led by Ray Little, aboard the WharfCat. The catamaran departs at 6 a.m. at the

Rockport Harbor and returns at 8 p.m. For fee information: 512-728-6445.

**GRAND OPENING:** YMCA of Corpus Christi is celebrating the grand opening of the new CYBEX Center from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. Representatives from CYBEX, HEST Fitness and the YMCA will be on hand to give demonstrations and answer questions. Members of the Ice Rays Hockey team and cheerleaders will also make an appearance. Information: 882-1741.

## THURSDAY

**CELEBRATION:** Hummer/Bird Celebration continues and lasts through Sunday in Rockport-Fulton. Events include bird banding, nature tours, lectures, workshops and Hummer Home tours. Also, "The Great Outdoors," an exhibit at the Rockport Festival Grounds, will feature bird and nature-related merchandise, a traveling exhibit from the Texas Zoo, native plant sales, and a hummingbird fact garden. Information: (800) 826-6441.

**HEALTH FAIR:** American Legion Post 364 and Veterans' Affairs present a Veterans Health and Benefits Fair from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Post 364, 5323 Kostonyz Road. Refreshments and door prizes. Information: 853-9115.

**BENEFIT:** The Al Ann Shrine Temple, 2001 Sundite Road, will sponsor South Texas Opry at 7:30 p.m.

Food will be available. The event takes place every third Thursday of the month and the proceeds benefit children's hospitals. Information: 241-5353.

**FILM:** South Texas Institute for the Arts presents "Frida" at 7 p.m. at 1902 N. Shoreline Blvd. Paul Jodis created a film-portfolio of Frida Kahlo, a Mexican painter widely considered the most important woman artist of the 20th century. The film examines her stormy and touching marriage to Diego Rivera, her involvement in radical politics, her obsession with mirrors and her fascination with her own face features and twisted body. Cost: \$2. Information: 980-3505.

**ART CLASSES:** C. David Buck of Rockport will teach a series of oil painting art classes from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., beginning Thursday, at the Art Center, 100 Shoreline Blvd. For fee information call 512-729-0186.

**BREASTFEEDING:** La Leche League of Corpus Christi will meet at 10 a.m. in Sunrise Room, Sunrise Mall. Information: 895-0705.

**HELPING HAND:** Habitat for Humanity of Aransas County meets at 7 p.m. at the Unity Church, 1025 N. Ann, Rockport. Information: (512) 729-1973 or (512) 729-5423.

**NET SURFING:** Lynda Whitton-Henley discusses basic steps to searching the Internet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Community Meeting Room, Northwest Branch Library, 3202 McKinzie. Information: 241-9329.

## POLICE BLOTTER

This information is taken from reports filed at the Corpus Christi Police Department. Where numbered addresses are given, they refer to block numbers. If you have information concerning any of these reports, call the police department at 886-2840.

### ITEM OF THE DAY:

■ **1000 Leopard Street**  
A 40-year-old woman told police that a 45-year-old former male friend threatened to kill her if she removed a sign he put on her fence that said a drug dealer and thief lives there. She said she went to talk to him about it. She said she wanted that he had and he got angry and began swinging a hammer around and threatening her.

■ **3000 Baldwin Boulevard**  
A 30-year-old woman said that a 30-year-old female co-worker poured hot coffee on her. The younger woman said the older woman is always picking on her and when the older woman walked by she pinched the younger woman. The younger woman said she hit the older woman and the 30-year-old poured coffee on her. The younger woman said she poured cold water on herself to reduce the pain and drove herself to the hospital.

■ **400 Greenwood Drive**  
A 40-year-old man was accused of pushing a 33-year-old woman. The woman said she had gotten a ride from her friend, who is a cab driver, and he asked her how much money it would take for her to have sex with him. She said he ordered her out of the cab and pushed her after she told him that she

wouldn't have sex with him at all.

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

■ **4000 Western Drive**  
A 30-year-old woman told police that her 29-year-old husband stabbed her after they returned from visiting relatives. She said her husband was angry because she drove home instead of letting him drive. She said he was intoxicated. The woman reported that she was going to sleep on the couch and as she walked into their bedroom to get some belongings, her husband put his hand over her nose and mouth and stabbed her back, near the wasteline. The woman refused an ambulance.

■ **2000 Jasmine Court**  
A 22-year-old woman said her 18-year-old boyfriend repeatedly hit her wrist with a tool while they were arguing about her apartment keys. She said that while they were arguing, her boyfriend's bicycle fell, cutting her leg.

■ **6000 South Staples Street**  
A woman told police that she was arguing with her husband when she pushed him away from her and he punched her. The woman had a large purple bruise on her left eye.

■ **29-year-old woman** reported that her ex-boyfriend's 18-year-old girlfriend threatened to kill her if she got back with the man.

### DRUG CRIMES

■ **3000 Laguna Shores Road**  
A 20-year-old man was arrested after he was accused of having a bag of marijuana, a stolen candy bar and two stolen hamburgers in his possession.

### ROBBERIES

■ **50-year-old man** said he heard banging on his front door and it was a 27-year-old man hitting the door with two sticks. The older man said the younger man pulled out a gun, put it on the older man's head and demanded the money

the older man owed the younger man. He said the younger man threatened to kill him.

### MISCELLANEOUS

■ **2000 Airline Road**  
A 20-year-old man said he and two friends were out on the balcony of his apartment when the railing gave way and they fell to the ground. He said this was the second time he has had problems with the balcony rail.

### BURGLARIES

■ **1000 Carmel Parkway**  
A woman reported that someone broke a window of her van and stole "Prance," a Beanie Baby cat valued at \$6.

### THEFTS

■ **3000 Leopard Street**  
A store clerk reported that a 20-year-old man put a can of Spam, valued at \$2, in his front pants pocket and left the store without paying.

### AUTO THEFTS

■ **4000 Christie Street**  
Gray 1986 Chevrolet Suburban  
■ **600 Fido Drive**  
Blue 1994 Chevrolet 4x4 pickup  
■ **600 Flato Drive**  
White 1994 Chevrolet Chevyette pickup

### DWI ARRESTS

■ **1000 Baldwin Boulevard**  
A 46-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of driving while intoxicated. Police said they stopped the man after noticing he was speeding and failed to signal a turn, then noticed that the man couldn't balance himself. Officers said the man handed them a health care card, saying it was his driver's license.

### RADAR

School zones citywide.

Compiled by Sam Fernandez

## GRANTS

FROM B1

ment department staff to develop new guidelines and criteria governing the grant process.

"I would like to see criteria in place that addresses concerns — regional distribution of monies, making sure money is going all across the state, making sure the agency is meeting performance standards set by the Legislative Budget Board — and leave it in place to judge the effectiveness of the program," she said.

The program, created by state lawmakers in 1993, is growing — \$58 million awarded this year, compared with \$29 million awarded in 1997, records show.

Smart Jobs, a workforce and business incentive program, is designed to provide a skilled workforce and boost the competitiveness of Texas businesses in the global economy, according to the economic development department.

"Texas businesses are producing new and higher paying jobs aided by the Smart Jobs program," Thrasher said. "That stimulates a growing Texas economy and provides a better life for Texans."

Through this program, employers decide who to train, what training is needed and who will provide the training. Smart Jobs can provide funding for various types of training, including on-the-job, classroom and computer-based training.

"We want to ensure that this program is available and open to all Texans," said Stella Gutierrez, director of the Smart Jobs program.

A company is eligible if it has been in business for at least one year, has at least one employee, demonstrates financial viability and is paid up on state tax obligations. The maximum grant a company may receive is \$1.5 million per fiscal year.

State officials say they are pleased with the increase in grant money given this year.

"Extensive marketing of the program has resulted in an increasing number of grant applications from areas that previously had not participated," Thrasher said.

Scripps Howard Austin Bureau reporter Anna M. Tinsley can be reached at (512) 478-9644 or by e-mail at tinsleya@scripps.com

## SHIPS

### ▶ Arrivals

Desert Falcon (Greece) from Venezuela at Interstate E Elevator loading wharf.  
Desert Star (Cyprus) from Guyana at Reynolds discharging bauxite ore.  
SKS Tagus (Norway) from Algeria at Oil Dock 7 discharging condensate.  
United Stella (Liberia) from Spain at Oil Dock 8 discharging gas oil.

### ▶ In port

Clipper Victoria (Norway) at Cargo Dock 12 standing by.  
Pearl (Greece) at Valero 3 loading toluene.  
Eagle Lyra (Singapore) at Oil Dock 1 discharging crude oil.  
Sentinel II (Liberia) at Oxy Ingleside loading caustic soda.  
Petrobulk Pollux (Singapore) at Oil Dock 4 discharging naphtha.  
Joyous Land (Liberia) at Bulk Materials Dock 1 unloading barite ore.  
Sea Challenger (Liberia) at Reynolds discharging bauxite ore.  
Overseas Philadelphia (U.S.) at Valero 2 loading gasolium.  
Bona Forum (Bahamas) at Bulk Materials Dock 2 loading petroleum coke.  
Caribe Bulker (Panama) at Texas Sunbelt Cement discharging cement.

### ▶ Departures

HMI Dynachem (U.S.) to Tampa, Fla.  
Tromso Commercial (Liberia) to Houston.  
Four Lakes (Italy) to Sabine Pass lighting area.  
Prividenture L (Greece) to Corpus Christi anchorage.  
Kapucky (Panama) to Aruba.  
Luckyman (Cyprus) to Canada.