




Bo Jackson, and who else?

There could be as many as seven running backs taken in first round of the football draft

Jimmy the Greek, Page 4B



Robstown school board okays expenses for 1984 trip

By Armando P. Ibanez
STAFF WRITER

ROBSTOWN — The Robstown school board last night approved a trip taken to the Dominican Republic by the superintendent and a former high school principal almost two years ago.

The trustees voted 5-2 to approve \$1,575 in expenses incurred on the trip.

One of the reasons cited for the trip was an inability of Robstown school administrators to understand Puer-

to Rican Spanish over telephone lines.

Superintendent Jose Gene Gallegos, under fire after recent news stories about the trip, defended the expenses. He was accompanied on the trip in July, 1984, by Luis Gonzalez, at the time a district principal.

Another district principal, Maria Garcia, was on vacation in the island nation when she was injured in a car accident. She was hospitalized. Gallegos has said he and Gonzalez flew to the Dominican Republic to confirm insurance coverage.

Last night, Gallegos said, civil strife in the Caribbean nation at the time and the lack of a bilingual person who could communicate with hospital administrators made the trip necessary.

"During that time in Santo Domingo there was a rebellion and there were many people shot, killed... and that bothered me," Gallegos told the board.

One of the major inconsistencies in news stories, Board Chairman Ovidio Vela said, was the assertion

that one telephone call was made to verify hospitalization insurance.

Gallegos had said earlier that a bad telephone connection made insurance confirmation impossible.

"There were seven telephone calls," Rodriguez said. "The problem was language, Rodriguez said. "The only problem was Puerto Rican and the way they speak."

Finally, a banker, who was advancing the school

Please see Robstown/3A

9 issues on ballot April 5

By Rosemary Barnes
STAFF WRITER

There were winners and losers in last night's marathon City Council session to put together the final ballot lineup for the city's record \$111 million capital improvement bond program.

But local voters will have the final say on the nine-proposition ballot on April 5. If approved by voters, the entire \$111 million package will mean a 3.5 cent city tax rate increase to 60 cents per \$100 valuation and a 10 percent increase in the wastewater rate.

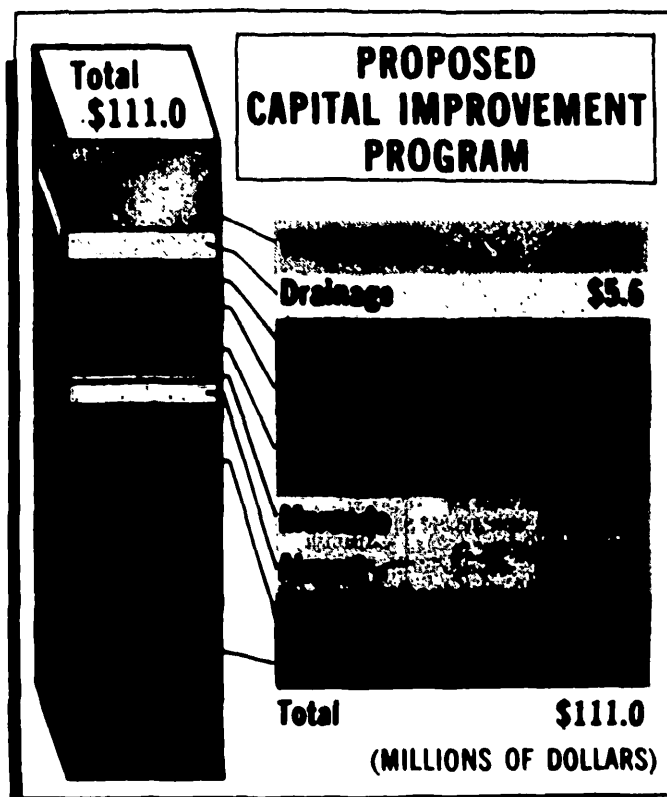
The Corpus Christi Aquarium Association fared well, with its \$4 million for site improvements on Corpus Christi Beach going unscathed by council members.

A "mercado," an 11-acre project in the area of the Agnes-Laredo and the Crosstown Expressway long envisioned by the Westside Business Association, stayed in the running with \$1 million allocated for land acquisition.

And council members heeded a plea from library board members by earmarking another \$1 million for the purchase of books for the new Corpus Christi Public Library, now under construction.

The Park and Recreation Board won a bid for an \$850,000 Southside recreation center to be located at an undetermined site somewhere in the area between Kostoryz and Airline Road.

The extension of Holly Road



KIMMO FIEG/STAFF ARTIST

from Kostoryz Road to Ayers Street, at a cost of \$658,000, reappeared on the approved project list after being axed by the Planning Commission.

The Corpus Christi Botanical Society suffered a serious setback in its efforts to win a \$3 million slice of the capital improvement program pie for assistance with its planned garden on the Oso Creekway.

While several society members solicited support from the council, their request never was mentioned by council members as a possible

addition to the bond program.

But the \$2.5 million to acquire about 200 acres along the creek as the first phase in creating a regional park along the Oso Creek, as recommended by the city staff and the city's Planning Commission, has kept its berth among the project finalists.

However, the future of the controversial extension of Mustang Trail between South Staples Street and South Padre Island Drive seems in doubt, as the project's \$300,000 price tag has been reduced to zero.

Proposed cuts translate to \$1 million at CCSU

Sugg says summer school may go

By Beth Arburn Davis
STAFF WRITER

Gov. Mark White's call for a 13 percent reduction in state agency spending translates into a \$1-million cut at Corpus Christi State University.

And, according to CCSU President B. Alan Sugg, it likely cannot be done without affecting quality, and may even mean reducing or eliminating summer school.

"That is the last thing we want to do," Sugg said today. "Gov. White has said he does not want a reduction in the quality of services."

But, Sugg acknowledged, the \$1-million cut — coming on the heels of an already reduced appropriation and a drop in tuition monies — will be "almost an impossible task without harming services."

And that could mean "just not teaching summer school or reducing the number of courses," he said.

Before that happens there likely will be cuts in travel, purchases of films and computer software, he said. Library acquisitions likely will also fall under the order for budget cuts, Sugg said.

He said the governor indicated a long-promised 3 percent pay raise for state employees this September was not to be affected.

Sugg said he would begin today to try and find ways to comply with White's order.

"It's going to be tough. It's going to be a heck of a challenge without affecting classes," Sugg said. "And

"It's going to be tough. It's going to be a heck of a challenge without affecting classes. And all this is coming on top of a 5 percent decrease in the appropriation for this year."

— B. Alan Sugg
CCSU president



all this is coming on top of a 5 percent decrease in the appropriation for this year. Texas was the only state in the union last year that reduced appropriations to higher education. The average salary for a professor in Texas is already well below the national average."

A \$1.3-billion shortfall primarily in state energy tax money for a two-year budget period that will end Aug. 31, 1987, prompted White's call for the cutbacks.

White's executive order in part called for the following actions by

agency executives by March 1:

- Defer construction and renovation of buildings other than prisons, mental hospitals and those critical to programs;
- Stop promotions and merit-pay increases without the prior written approval of the head of each agency;
- Halt most new contracts with consultants;
- Stop out-of-state travel where possible and reduce in-state travel;
- Renegotiate lease contracts where possible.

Private schools here facing pinch as enrollment declines

By Beth Arburn Davis
STAFF WRITER

Private schools, hit with declining enrollment, are facing hard decisions — including whether to increase tuition and combine, or even cancel, some classes.

Administrators at Trinity Lutheran School, St. James Episcopal School and St. Joseph's Junior High School say a weak economy and the perception that public education is better than it used to be have combined to lower private school enrollment to tenuous levels.

The fifth and sixth grades at Trinity Lutheran School were combined this year, according to Principal Larry

Hencye, because only six children signed up for fifth grade and 12 for sixth.

Hencye said the school's board of directors decided to continue the combined classes next year.

Trinity also will increase tuition next year from \$140 per month for one child to \$150.

However, he said, the board has agreed it will try to counter dropping enrollment with an aggressive public relations campaign. "We're into various things to get this going," Hencye said. "We're not going to sit back and ponder what's going to happen."

At St. James Episcopal School, enrollment in elemen-

tary school grades is either steady or only slightly down, but decreasing numbers of students in the seventh and eighth grades have forced the board to consider closing those grades as of 1986-87 if enrollment drops below 30.

According to headmaster Alan B. Conkey, in 1982, the first year the school offered a seventh grade, there were a total of 40 students in two classes. The next year there were enough students to offer two seventh and two eighth grade classes.

Today, however, there are only a total of 30 students in both seventh and eighth grades.

Like Trinity, tuition at St. James will be going up next year approximately 10 percent. Currently, tuition for elementary students is \$189 per month; for seventh and eighth graders, \$199 per month.

Conkey attributes declining enrollment to "primarily the economy," but also to the changing perception of public schools.

"Several years ago the perception of public school was undeservingly low. The perception is now better," but also not necessarily deserved, he said.

Like Trinity, the St. James board wants to make the

Please see Schools/3A

Date's record high of 88 may fall today

By The Times Staff

National Weather Service forecasters said Corpus Christi is "more than likely" headed for another record high temperature and possibly more hot weather tomorrow.

Today's forecast calls for unseasonably warm temperatures in the upper 80s along the coast to the mid 90s inland.

Today's record high temperature is 88 degrees, set in 1980, forecaster Tom Shelton said.

"More than likely" that record will be broken today, Shelton said.

The temperature climbed to 94 degrees yesterday to smash the old record of 88, set in 1974. Today shaped up as almost a carbon copy of yesterday with heavy fog limiting visibilities to one-eighth mile this morning at Corpus Christi International Airport.

Fog was prevalent all along the Texas coast early today. A traveler's advisory was issued for the Corpus Christi area at 3:10 a.m. today, and fog rolled over Victoria before 2 a.m. today. The Beaumont-Port Arthur-Orange area was

especially socked in this morning. High cloudiness covered most of the state.

This morning's fog was expected to give way to sunny skies this afternoon. Winds are expected to be from the south at near 10 miles per hour. More fog is expected tomorrow morning, with cloudy skies and another warm afternoon.

High temperature records were broken all over Texas yesterday, just a week after a nasty cold snap brought biting winds and a cold rain to most of the state.

Amarillo reported a record high temperature of 77 degrees yesterday, just one week after tying a record low of 12 degrees below zero, the Associated Press reported. Two weeks ago Amarillo had a foot of snow on the ground. This week's mid-February heat wave broke a previous record high of 75 set in 1930.

In North Central Texas, Wichita Falls hit 79 degrees, breaking a previous mark of 78 set in 1930. A week ago on Feb. 11, Wichita Falls reported 10 degrees, breaking a record low of 11 set in 1981.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fierce rainstorms pound western states

A trainer at Sacramento's Cal Expo raceway coaxed thoroughbreds through deep water yesterday after heavy rains flooded parts of Northern California. Meanwhile, the fifth powerful Pacific storm in eight days pounded the West today as more than 10,000 people re-

mained out of homes invaded by rising waters, landslides and avalanches. The storms have left at least 10 people dead. States of emergency have been declared in counties in California, Nevada and Utah. Story and photo, Page 4A.

TIMES

WEATHER

Partly cloudy tonight and tomorrow with late night and early morning fog. Low, lower 60s. High, upper 80s to mid 90s. (Details, Page 12A)

STOCKS

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market turned downward today, faced with some selling pressure after its recent runaway rise.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks slipped 1.37 to 1,677.41 in the first hour of trading.

OBITUARIES

Mrs. Eula Lee Smith
Jesus Ramos Jr.
Heron Ramos
Mrs. Maria L. Saldana
Guadalupe Salazar Jr.
Mrs. Florence Lee Budd
Mrs. Daisy Schultz Young
Therman L. Weaver

Obituaries/Page 11A
Funerals/Page 10C

INDEX

Abby/8D
Classified/1C
Comics/11C
Editorial/10A

Features/10A
Movies/10A