



Sports: Big 12 Men, Women Open Tournament Action: OU, ISU Advance

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East Texas: State Railroad Set To Begin Another Year Saturday

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After Two-Day Delay, Henderson County GOP Count In: Bennett Wins

By KRISTI FLIPPIN Staff Writer ATHENS — After a two-day delay for the hand-counted total of the Republican votes, Donna Bennett will keep her position as Henderson County district attorney for a third consecutive term. Complete but unofficial results in the Henderson County Republican primary show Mrs. Bennett with 2,577 votes, or 59 percent, to Barry Bilger's 1,817 votes, or 41 percent.

There are no Democratic challengers in the race, so when the Republican ballots could not be read by the vote-counting machine on Tuesday, both attorneys were disappointed by the delay.

Republican Party Chairman Dub McCarty said the ballots were incompatible with the vote-counting machine, resulting in numerous hours of hand counting.

The party took the lowest bid See VOTE, Page 6A

Inside Today



See Section F

Summary Judgment Asked By City To Permit Drilling

By LAURA JETT KRANTZ Staff Writer

Saying there are no valid claims in the lawsuit filed by the Save Lake Tyler Association to prevent drilling at the city lake, attorneys for the city of Tyler appeared in district court Thursday to schedule arguments for summary judgment.

Ronald Stutes, attorney with the Potter Minton Law Firm, represented the city during the 20-minute status hearing before 241st District Judge Jack Skeen Jr. David Frederick with the Austin firm Frederick-Law, represented SLTA by phone.

The lawsuit, filed against the city Jan. 9, claims the oil and gas drilling lease awarded Dec. 10 to C.W.

Resources of Longview violates the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code Chapter 26. That statute states that a city may not "approve any program or project that requires the use of any public land designated and used prior to the arrangement as a park, recreation area, scientific area, wildlife refuge or historic site," unless some conditions are met. Those conditions include determining that "there is no feasible alternative," that all reasonable measures are taken to minimize harm to the site, and that a public hearing is held with 30 days notice given.

The city is claiming any validity to the public hearing requirement was met by the hearing held See LAKE TYLER, Page 6A

Perry Asks Property Tax Limits

Eyes Cap, Tax Cut In School Funding

HOUSTON (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry, declaring that Texas homeowners need a property tax cut and not a tax charade, proposed Thursday easing the tax burden on them by limiting appraisal increases and putting a cap on the amount of money raised from property taxes.



PERRY: 'It's Time to end rate-gaming, appraisal creep and the robbing Peter to pay Paul'

"It is time to end this rate-gaming, appraisal creep and the robbing Peter to pay Paul" he told several hundred cheering supporters at a campaign-style appearance in Houston. "It is time to provide real property tax relief with real reforms that control both appraisals and rates."

The governor, however, who was making a similar announcement later in the day in San Antonio, would not specify how he would replace any revenues lost by such tax declines.

"My hope is it will be a revenue-neutral plan," he told reporters later. "There will be revenues brought in from some other areas to more fairly create a taxing structure in the state ... I will in the very near future lay out my ideas for where that revenue will come from."

Perry's proposal would do away with what he called "the divisive funding scheme known as Robin Hood," where some revenues from wealthy Texas school districts are diverted to poorer ones.

"Local taxpayers are fed up with their local school tax dollars being spent outside their local community," he said. "People are tired of that."

The governor called for a 3 percent limit on annual appraisal increases for homeowners, down from the current 10 percent.

The Texas House last year approved a measure that would have limited annual appraisal increases to 5 percent, but that bill, opposed by cities and counties, died in the Senate.

"For too long, Texas homeowners and employers have been the victim of an insidious, back-door property tax hike that comes in the form of higher appraisals," Perry said.

He said with the median home value in the state at about \$129,000, the annual property tax bill is about \$3,500. Under the current law, even without a property tax rate increase, that average homeowner can be hit with a tax bill as much as \$350 higher each year.

"It's a phenomenon called See PERRY, Page 7A

Terror Strikes Spanish Rails



— AP Photo

SAD DUTY: Rescue workers work inside a train at the Atocha station following a bomb blast there, after explosions rocked four stations in Madrid, Spain, on Thursday, killing at least 192 and injuring 1,200 people aboard commuter trains. The explosions occurred just three days before Spain's general elections. The government laid the blame at the feet of the ETA, a Basque terror group, but another group took responsibility in the name of al-Qaida.

Al-Qaida Claims Blame For 192 Deaths, 1,400 Injuries On Four Trains

MADRID, Spain (AP) — A series of bombs hidden in backpacks exploded in quick succession Thursday, blowing apart four commuter trains and killing at least 192 people and wounding more than 1,400. Spain at first blamed Basque separatists but a shadowy group claimed responsibility in the name of al-Qaida for the worst terrorist attack in Spanish history.

Who's Behind Deadly Attacks

— Page 14A

Panicked rush-hour commuters trampled on each other, abandoning their bags and shoes, after two of the bombs went off in one train in the Atocha station in the heart of Madrid. Train cars were turned into twisted wrecks and platforms were strewn with corpses. Cell phones rang unanswered on the bodies of the dead as frantic relatives tried to call them.

"March 11, 2004, now holds its place in the history of infamy," Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar said.

The bombing came three days ahead of Spain's general election on Sunday. A major campaign issue was how to deal with ETA, the Basque militant group that is seeking greater autonomy.

Campaigning for the election was called off and three days of mourning were declared.

The bombings occurred exactly 2½ years after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the United States, and were Europe's worst since the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, that killed 270 people.

The 10 backpack bombs exploded in a 15-minute See TERROR, Page 6A

Ex-Reporter, Congress Aide Accused Of Being Iraqi Agent

NEW YORK (AP) — A former news reporter and press secretary for four members of Congress was charged Thursday with being a paid Iraqi intelligence agent and trying to contact her distant cousin — the White House chief of staff — to alter U.S. policy.

Susan Lindauer, 41, was taken into custody in her hometown of Takoma Park, Md., and made a brief court appearance in Baltimore, where a federal magistrate ordered a psychiatric evaluation and released her to a halfway house, pending the posting of \$500,000 bail.

"I'm an anti-war activist and I'm innocent," Lindauer told WBAL-TV outside the Baltimore FBI office. "I did more to stop terrorism in this country than anybody else. I have done good things for this country. I worked to get weapons inspectors back to Iraq when everyone else said it was impossible."

Neither Lindauer nor two defense lawyers spoke after the court appearance.

She was charged with conspiring to act as an unregistered agent of the Iraqi Intelligence Service and with engaging in prohibited financial transactions with the Iraqi government. The indictment makes no mention of her congressional staff work. She was not directly charged with espionage.

She could get up to 10 years in prison on the most serious charge.

The indictment said she accepted \$10,000 for working for the intelligence service from 1999 to 2002, including payments for lodging at the Al-Rashid Hotel in Baghdad and expenses during meetings in New York City with Iraqi agents.

See SPY, Page 7A

Canton Chamber Salutes Groves, Toups As Woman, Man Of Year At Banquet

By KRISTI FLIPPIN Staff Writer

CANTON — The Canton Chamber of Commerce honored the Woman and Man of the Year, along with Organization of the Year and Students of the Year, at its annual banquet Thursday night at the Canton Civic Center.

Dorisene Groves was named Woman of the Year for being active in several civic and nonprofit organizations.

She is involved in the Canton Main Street Program, Women's League, Friends of the Library and the board of directors for the Blackwell Museum.

"She has been part of

Canton life as long as she has been in our area," Chamber Director Elaine Seymore said. "She is well-deserving of this award because she is caring of other people's needs."

Ms. Groves was a Canton High School home economics teacher. She served as the cheerleader sponsor and was one of the creators of the high school's Eagle mascot.

"I am so humbled and overwhelmed," she said as she



TOUPS: Man of the Year



GROVES: Woman of the Year

more said, "Oh, I just love to surprise people!"

Rob Toups, Canton High School music director, received the chamber's Man of the Year award. Under his leadership in 2002, the Canton band was the first

See CANTON, Page 6A



— Staff Photo By Herb Nygren Jr.

AFTERNOON HOOPS: Players in a pick-up game at P.T. Cole Park in Tyler soar into the late-afternoon sky in their half-court basketball game on Thursday. Partly cloudy skies and cooler temperatures are expected for Friday.

Forecast

Partly Cloudy High 63, Low 48 45% Chance of Rain



— Weather 16A

What's INSIDE

Table with 2 columns: Category and Page Number. Includes Business (7-8B), Classified (1-18D), Comics (20D), Community (3B).

QUICK REFERENCE

Table with 4 columns: Category, Page Number, Category, Page Number. Includes Crosswords (18D, 19D), Editorial (4A), InfoConnect (6A), Lottery Results (6A), Obituaries (4-5B), Showcase (Sec. E), Sports (1-7C), Tyler & East Texas (1-6B), Variety (19D), Youthful Living (8C).

DOW NASDAQ

Table with 2 columns: DOW (10,128.38) and NASDAQ (1,943.89). Includes Market changes: -168.51, -20.26.



Bible Thought

And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

— I Corinthians 15:45