



SPRING BREAK GUIDE

Bar contests Late-night eats Best beaches 53 club listings



High 79° Low 56°



20% chance of rain

Weather Page /B12



Corpus Christi Caller Times

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Friday, March 14, 2003 • City edition

Cuts may hit A&M-CC athletics



By TRICIA SCHWENNESEN
Caller-Times

State budget deficit to blame

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi sports teams' first official year at NCAA Division I status may be their last if the athletic department is forced to absorb some of the proposed budget cuts from the state. "We felt that if you didn't have

the opportunity to lay all the cards out like everything else then it's protected, like that program can't be touched," university President Bob Furgason said. "That's not the case. If we have to put a squeeze on it, we'll put some squeeze on it."

The state has proposed a possible 12.5 percent budget cut to higher education to help make up for a \$9.9 billion budget deficit. In the last round of talks in Austin, it was learned that strong student growth at South Texas universities could spare some

special item funding, potentially saving A&M-Corpus Christi \$2.4 million and A&M-Kingsville \$2.7 million in cuts.

"Our message over the last several weeks has been pretty targeted," Furgason said at Thursday's convocation called to

alleviate the fears of faculty, staff and students. "I don't take any comfort in anyone winning at others' expense."

Several budget committees at A&M-Corpus Christi have undertaken the task of reviewing costs of personnel, facilities and programs, and deciding where, if at all, any cuts

Please see ISLANDERS/A16

Quick Read

Creative dollars

Corpus Christi can improve its economy by creating a better environment for creative people, author Richard Florida said Thursday. **Business, Page D8**



Children's health issue

A proposal to eliminate state funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program could cut off 19,000 children served by Driscoll Children's Hospital. **Local, Page B1**

Drug safety

The jury in the cholesterol-lowering Baycol drug trial is scheduled to begin deliberations today. **Local, Page B1**

Bygone Buc Days

Buc Days memorabilia dating back 65 years is being placed at the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi library. **Local, Page B1**



Aviators get ready

The Coastal Bend Aviators continue to battle time and the elements in their quest to ready themselves for the start of the Central Baseball League season. **Sports, Page D1**

Ray coach activated

The Ray Texans tennis team bids farewell to coach Adelfino Palacios, who received his orders to take part in possible military action against Iraq. **Sports, Page D1**

OPINION

In a corner

The governor, lawmakers and other officials have painted themselves and Texas into a corner with their no-new-taxes rhetoric. **Editorials, Page A14**

Repeating history

"Ask the Poles, the Jews, the Russians, and yes, even the French about appeasement." **Letters, Page A14**

Misty weather stifles shipping



David Pellerin/Caller-Times

Dion Hodge of New Braunfels fishes along the Port Aransas jetty as two large ships pass through the fog to enter the port. The fog has blanketed the region every day this month.

Why is it so foggy?

Blame La Niña. Blame the wind. Just keep the lights on.

By MIKE BAIRD
Caller-Times

With fog blanketing the region every day so far this month, it is the most consecutive days of fog in the Coastal Bend in the last 15-20 years, according to the weather service.

The weather pattern that has brought a daily shroud of fog to the Coastal Bend this year is caused by the lack of weather fronts moving south from Canada that usually blow the region's weather from west to east, said National Weather Service meteorologist Waylon Collins.

Without that usual weather pattern, warm, moist air blowing from

the east-southeast over the Gulf of Mexico comes into contact with the cooler sea surface. The contact produces the fog, which is blown ashore by that same east-southeast wind.

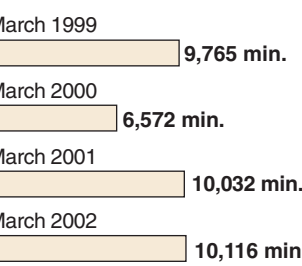
Meteorologists at the Corpus Christi National Weather Service office can't explain why it's happening now and hasn't happened in other years.

"It's not a simple answer," Collins said. "It would take extensive research, reviewing the last 15 years of weather patterns to understand why now," Collins said.

During the winter, weather patterns draw cold air from Canada into Texas. When the weather pat-

How much sun have we had?

Total minutes of sunshine:



*as of March 13

Source: NOAA Ashley Ream/Caller-Times

terns change in the spring, they are replaced with warm air from the south. February and March are typically transition months, Collins said.

Last year, the weather patterns steered a series of fronts across the region that blew from the west into the Gulf. There were more weather fronts at regular intervals last year so there was less time for the fog to develop, he said.

This prolonged period of east-southeast airflow is causing "advection fog," Collins said, which will continue at least through Saturday

Please see FOGGY/A16

U.N. vote on Iraq war plan delayed

The measure's many opponents led to the delay

By RON HUTCHESON, DIEGO IBARGUEN AND MARTIN MERZER
Knight Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration retreated on the diplomatic front Thursday night, delaying until next week a vote on a U.N. war resolution despite repeated vows to demand a decision on the unpopular measure this week.

Diplomats who attended a closed-door evening session of the U.N. Security Council reported that U.S. and British ambassadors told the council there would be no vote today and that talks concerning a resolution could continue through the weekend.

It appeared no progress had been made in the session. The council plans to resume closed-door talks on Iraq today.

The intensifying diplomatic turmoil came as more U.S. ships and planes assembled in the Persian Gulf region for war with Iraq and after Secretary of State Colin Powell raised the possibility that the U.S. could abandon all plans for a vote.

Last week, President Bush said he would insist on a vote this week, a position the White House had maintained firmly through Wednesday.

Earlier Thursday, Iraq denounced a six-part disarmament test proposed Wednesday by Britain. France, Germany and Russia — all members of the U.N. Security Council — flatly rejected the proposal. And none of the six uncommitted nations on the council endorsed it.

In short, confusion enveloped the Bush administration's diplomatic drive as

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Troops awaiting word on Kuwait border...A12
Soldiers get cards from students.....A12

Seaman's bills would give San Pat a port vote

By JANELL ROSS
Caller-Times

Measures leave commission with 7 members

for consideration during the current legislative session.

Seaman said both bills would leave the commission as a seven-member appointed body. The bills call for Nueces County to appoint three of the port commissioners, the city of Corpus Christi to appoint another three and San Patricio County to appoint one commissioner, Seaman said.

One of the bills would require port commissioners to live in the county they represent, Seaman said late Thursday.

The other would lift residential requirements for Nueces County's appointees and allow those commissioners to live in other cities and counties. Both bills would require all appointees to provide full financial disclosure state-

ments, he said.

Seaman described the two bills as "place-holders" that can be altered.

"Once a bill has been filed, you can virtually rewrite a bill entirely," Seaman said. "You can go to committee and make changes."

Seaman said he decided to file the bills after speaking with local

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