

CORPUS CHRISTI

Caller Times

50 CENTS FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2009 ■ CITY EDITION caller.com

81°/63°
MORNING FOG

Quickread

Fire kills one; baby rescued

A woman was killed in a Thursday night apartment fire that included the dramatic rescue of a baby.
LOCAL, 1B

City goes to the country

The Randy Rogers Band rides the wave of its third CD into a spring break show tonight at Concrete Street Amphitheater.
WEEKEND

Engineering bid gets help

The Senate Finance Committee approved \$4 million Thursday for the proposed mechanical engineering program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.
LOCAL, 1B

Blucher House is up for sale

The Charles Blucher home, where one of the city's founding families once lived, is on the market for \$750,000.
LOCAL, 1B

Head trauma killed actress

Doctors explain why actress Natasha Richardson's seemingly simple fall on a ski slope led to her death when she seemed to be fine afterward.
PAGE 2



Natasha Richardson

Pass it off to a money man

Our economy is in a clutch situation where the right decisions by the coaches on getting the ball in the right hands means victory and quicker recovery from what appears certain defeat.
BUSINESS, 6C

Windstorm bill talks postponed

Local leaders rally support against rise in insurance rates

BY JAIME POWELL
Caller-Times

Legislation pending in the House Committee on Insurance that would hike the cost of windstorm insurance, decrease coverage and limit availability for coastal property owners stalled after the committee chairman

decided Thursday not to hear windstorm legislation at the next committee meeting.

Rep. John Smithee, R-Amarillo, who chairs the insurance committee, told coastal lawmakers he was going to review a series of windstorm insurance-related bills at a hearing set for Tuesday afternoon, including the controversial House Bill 911, which he authored. Smithee's office confirmed Thursday afternoon that windstorm bills now will be heard at a later date.

Smithee did not return phone calls Wednesday or Thursday.

The bill created an uproar because under its terms, the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association, the wind damage insurer for hundreds of thousands of coastal residents, would assess rates based on geography, meaning coastal residents would see rate hikes of as much as 60 percent while inland property owners would not be affected. Coverage on residential, commercial and government property would be capped

at much less than what it is now. And coastal property owners would not be able to get coverage for condominiums, apartments, multi-family units, rent houses or vacation homes.

On Wednesday, dozens of Coastal

INSIDE

Contact information for lawmakers regarding windstorm insurance **6A**

First reported on caller.com

Please see **WINDSTORM 6A**

LIFE'S A BEACH ON A GOOD DAY



Spring breakers Kristina Canales, 20 (left), and Bree Gutierrez, 18, cruise the beach Thursday at J.P. Luby Park.

SUNNY OUTLOOK

Spring break vacationers soak up rays

Jalen Campbell, 12, plays football with friends Thursday near Bob Hall Pier. Many families staked out spots along the beach near the pier.



Visit Caller.com to buy or view more spring break photos.

Weekend weather forecast is bright

Spring breakers wanting to work on their tans should have no problem for much of the weekend. High temperatures are expected to be in the 70s and lows in the 60s, said National Weather Service Meteorologist Christina Barron. Skies should be partly cloudy until Sunday when they will become mostly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of showers, she said. Winds are expected to be 15 to 20 mph for the remainder of the week, Barron said.

— Stuart Duncan

Region's growth in past year up 0.6%

Corpus Christi area adds 2,322 residents

BY DENISE MALAN
Caller-Times

The Corpus Christi area grew six-tenths of a percent from 2007 to 2008, placing it in the middle one-third of metropolitan areas in the country, according to U.S. Census population estimates released Thursday.

Texas State Demographer Karl Eschbach said the numbers reflect a trend in Corpus Christi of slow growth from births and a small migration. The region is growing slowly compared with the four major metropolitan areas in Texas; Austin was the second-fastest-growing area in the country for that year with 3.8 percent.

Eschbach said 85 percent of people coming to Corpus Christi are from Texas, especially south of San Antonio, and the same amount leaving the area stay within the state. About half of those who leave move to adjacent counties, but of the others the most popular destinations are Houston and Austin. There is also a small international migration, mostly from Mexico.

"It's actually an interesting picture of movement back and forth within the region," Eschbach said.

Click through searchable databases with population changes for counties and cities across the U.S. at Caller.com.

INSIDE

Population changes across Texas **6A**

First reported on caller.com

Please see **CENSUS 6A**

Index

A ■ NEWS	
Corrections/Clarifications 2A	Viewpoints 9A
Editorials 8A	Weather 9A
B ■ LOCAL	
Texas 4B, 8B	Horoscopes 6B
Obituaries 5B	Sudoku 7B
Comics 6B-7B	Crossword 7B
Dear Abby 6B	
C ■ SPORTS	
College basketball 1C, 4C	Golf 4C
Baseball 2C	Tennis 5C
NBA 3C	Scoreboard 5C
NHL 3C	Business 6C-8C
WEEKEND	
On the Stage 2-3	Movies 6-9
Around the Bend 4-5	Video games 12
	Dining 13-18
E ■ CLASSIFIED	

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Young workers struggle after being laid off

Many in their 20s find high expectations dashed

BY MEGAN K. SCOTT
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Molly Stach thought she was doing everything right until she got laid off from her public relations job in December. Since then, the 26-year-old has been struggling with self-doubt.

"Why don't they want to hire me?" she asked of the companies not responding to the résumés she sends out each week. "I went through four years of college, graduated. You get praised while you are working and then all the sudden you are not employable."

For 20-somethings who are losing their jobs because of the recession, the economic downturn has been an especially bitter pill. Many of them have been raised to believe they can do anything

Please see **UNEMPLOYED 7A**

SATURDAY

MONARCHS OF THE SPRING ARE ON THEIR WAY

WANT TO ATTRACT BUTTERFLIES TO YOUR SPRING GARDEN? COLUMNIST MICHAEL WOMACK TELLS HOW.

LOCAL NEWS

Disability groups: Close state schools

Rallies push for the shuttering of sites in Texas

BY ELAINE MARSILIO
Caller-Times

Advocates for people with disabilities say some area lawmakers' proposed measures to address recent accusations of abuse at the Corpus Christi State School amount to a bandage over the problem.

They want to see the facility, and 12 others around the state, shut down.

Measures proposed by area lawmakers to increase security and oversight of the facilities wouldn't be as effective as moving residents into com-

INSIDE

Corpus Christi State School facts, figures **7A**

Mental health tracking figures for state, local area **7A**

munity settings, said Andrew Imparato, president and chief executive officer of the American Association of People with Disabilities.

"If all they do is try to make the institutions work better, they're missing the point," he said, noting residents' dignity will be sidestepped and the facilities still will be difficult to control.

Rallies have been planned

Please see **ADVOCATES 7A**