



Thrown Aside

A week before Red River Waste Solutions' contract expired in Cameron Park, the company removed more than 1,000 garbage cans, leaving residents without a place to deposit their trash.

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SPORTS



SEAWALL DEFENSE

The Port Isabel Tarpons will rely heavily on Luis Flandes and Javier Roque to stop CC West Oso Friday night.

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► TEAM POSTER INSIDE

LOCAL

LAWYER'S ARGUMENTS

Attorney says obese woman is not physically capable of inflicting the injuries that killed her nephew.

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WEATHER



GUSTAV'S MENACE

On the cusp of Hurricane Katrina's third anniversary, nervous Gulf Coast residents watch as a storm threatens to test everything the region has rebuilt.

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OBITUARIES

Roberto G. Shears
 Eduardo C. Gomez
 Maria G. Garcia
 Samuel Alvarez
 Jean P. Indridson
 Bertha H. Adams
 Kathi Ann Munter

► PAGE A5

MOST VIEWED ON THE WEB

VIGILANCE

Cameron County Judge Carlos H. Cascos is asking residents to be vigilant after receiving reports of kidnappings in Mexico that could spill over to include the kidnapping of citizens in South Texas.

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Good Morning!

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Bill's magic

Former president thrills convention, A8
 A look at Clinton's speech, ONLINE



Obama talks tonight
 ► WATCH ONLINE

ALSO: BIDEN ACCEPTS VP NOMINATION: NATION NEEDS MORE THAN A GOOD SOLDIER, SENATOR SAYS, PAGE A8

Got Your Back



G. DANIEL LOPEZ/THE BROWNSVILLE HERALD

Brownsville police officer Byron Puckett shakes hands with a student who received a free backpack from police Wednesday at Garden Park Elementary. The department will be giving out 400 backpacks this week. Puckett said that giving backpacks provides students with a positive experience with police. For a complete photo gallery, log on to www.BrownsvilleHerald.com.

Students get school bags from city police

BY THE NUMBERS

400
STUDENTS GET BACKPACKS

20
BROWNSVILLE SCHOOLS



What's the benefit?
 Without the police, a bag such as this model from Bagmax might have cost parents \$15-20.

SOURCE: Bagmax

BY LAURA TILLMAN
 THE BROWNSVILLE HERALD

The Brownsville Police Department distributed 400 backpacks filled with school supplies for the new academic year to students at 20 elementary schools on Wednesday.

"Lots of times, the only interaction children have with police is when they see their parent being pulled over or arrested," said officer J.B. Puckett IV, who helped coordinate the event. "It's important for children to have positive interactions with police. We have to start at a young age to show children that the police are here to protect them."

Students at Garden Park Elementary School on Military Highway thanked police officers for

the navy blue backpacks filled with paper, folders, pens, pencils and other materials their parents would ordinarily have to purchase. The students at each school were selected based on financial need and academic improvement.

"When children come to school, they're nervous anyhow," said Puckett. "It puts more stress on a child when they don't have the tools they need."

According to Garden Park Elementary Principal Victor Caballero, many children at the school could use extra help buying supplies.

"We try to supplement what they can't afford," Caballero said. "But this program definitely helps."

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COURTS

Atkinson DWI charge dismissed

BY LAURA B. MARTINEZ
 THE BROWNSVILLE HERALD

Brownsville City Commissioner Charlie Atkinson's pending charge of driving while intoxicated has been dismissed.

Attorney Oscar De La Fuente Jr., a special prosecutor for the Cameron County District Attorney's office, had the DWI charge dismissed against Atkinson on Aug. 20, court documents show.



ATKINSON

"It wasn't a slam-dunk case," De La Fuente said Wednesday. "It was borderline case."

The dismissal comes nine months after Atkinson's arrest by a Texas Department of Public Safety trooper on allegations that he was driving drunk while speeding on U.S. 77 north of FM 802.

De La Fuente said he had talked to the state trooper who arrested Atkinson and had reviewed the videotape recording of Atkinson's arrest.

However, De La Fuente believed there was not enough evidence to guarantee a prosecution, he said. The DWI charge was Atkinson's first, De La Fuente added.

PLEASE SEE ATKINSON, A8

Mystery chemical sickens customs agents

BY LAURA TILLMAN
 AND LAURA B. MARTINEZ
 THE BROWNSVILLE HERALD

Five U.S. Customs agents were transported to a Brownsville hospital Wednesday after being sickened by a chemical escaping from a freight train crossing the B&M International Bridge, officials said.

Felix Garza, spokesman for Customs and Border Protection, said the northbound railroad car was releasing strong chemical odors that caused the agents to feel

dizziness and nausea.

Authorities believe the car contained residue of methylene diphenyl diisocyanate. However, Assistant Fire Chief Omar Alegria said that the odor described by the agents who were affected did not match that of the chemical.

Methylene diphenyl diisocyanate is an industrial chemical commonly used to make urethane.

"If we walked up and smelled the chemical, we might be able to determine what it is, but we don't want to send in our

people without protection," Alegria said. "At the moment, we're trying figure it out as safely as possible."

The agents were being offered medical treatment as a precautionary method, Garza said.

"It is our hope that they will be checked, they will be found healthy and that they will be able to go home tonight and enjoy their evening," Garza said.

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G. DANIEL LOPEZ/THE BROWNSVILLE HERALD

A train stops over Mexico Boulevard near the Brownsville and Matamoros International Bridge Wednesday after officials said five U.S. Customs agents were sickened by fumes from the train.

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High 91°
 Low 77°



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