City, county, jobless rates fall

The unemployment rates in San Marcos, Hays County, Texas and the nation all fell in March, according to figures released on Friday by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).

San Marcos’ rate for March was 3.5 percent, down from 3.7 percent in February and 3.8 percent in January. In March of last year, the city’s jobless rate was 4.4 percent.

Hays County’s March unemployment rate was 3.2 percent, down from 3.5 percent in both February and January.

The county’s unemployment rate was 4.4 percent March of last year.

Regarding the state of Texas, the March unemployment rate was 4.3 percent.

Putting a number on summertime tubing

By the time the summer season is in full swing, tubers will be crowding both the upper and lower portions of the San Marcos River. According to a study compiled last year, traffic on the lower river will be more than double that in town.

Counts were conducted between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Aug. 31 included increased traffic in the area near Cape’s Dam be removed, something expected to improve the habitat for Texas Wild Rice and fountain dart- ers and make the area safer for recreation.

Options had included leaving the dam in its current condition, taking it down to half height or completely removing it. Research conducted by Dr. Thomas Hardy, chief science officer for The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, and his colleagues suggested complex removal to be the best option.

“The dam is not a natural structure on the river,” Hardy said to the board in his pres- entation. “By reducing the backwater effect, there will be more areas that are shallow enough beyond the depth that Texas Wild Rice likes.”

The race is one of several federally- endangered species that exist nowhere on earth but in the San Marcos River.

Counts were conducted by Dr. Hardy and other members of the Texas Wild Rice Coalition.

Counts taken on Aug. 31 included increased traf- fic in the area near Cape’s Dam, according to Hardy.