

The Battalion

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Midwest flooding threatens St. Louis

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A levee collapsed Sunday in St. Louis, threatening to submerge hundreds of homes under as much as 10 feet of water, and people in Wisconsin had to be rescued from rooftops as the Midwest's flood siege persisted mercilessly.

New storms cut a swath through six states and menaced four others.

Des Moines, Iowa, suffered a setback in its effort to restore running water to 250,000 people in their eighth day with dry taps. A pump failure meant that service wouldn't be restored before

Wednesday, two days later than the most recent estimate.

Among many cities and towns where volunteers heaved sandbags was Halstead, Kan., 25 miles northwest of Wichita. Heavy overnight rains threatened to push the Little Arkansas River over its banks for the second time in a week.

"Everybody's almost in a daze. There's not been much sleep this whole last week, and here we go again," said Chuck Bennett, police chief in the town of 2,000.

The toll in lives and property continued to rise from more than a month and a half of flooding: at least 28 deaths, at least \$7.5 billion in damage, 16,000 square

miles of farmland flooded and more than 24,000 homes damaged.

Among the latest developments:

- A 12-year-old boy was swept away in a flash flood Saturday night in Sauk County in south-central Wisconsin. Baraboo Police Chief Tom Lobe also said two campers were missing and that other people were rescued from rooftops and cars after the Baraboo River overflowed.

- As the Mississippi River neared an expected crest at St. Louis, a levee in south St. Louis gave way when the River Des Peres, a major storm drain for the neighborhood, pushed sandbags off the top of a fortified dike.

North of St. Louis, sandbaggers gave up trying to protect low-lying parts of St. Charles city from the rising Missouri River, and dozens of residents fled.

Much of the rest of St. Charles County already is under water as the Missouri and Mississippi rivers have converged there.

Downtown St. Louis is protected by a floodwall 52 feet high, 5 feet higher than the crest expected Sunday night and Monday.

- Almost 42,000 people in Cape Girardeau and Jackson, Mo., lost power for several hours because of flood-related problems at a switching station.

Weekend rap-up

Italy clashes with U.N. over Somalia

MOGADISHU, Somalia - Italy's deputy army chief vowed Friday his nation would not obey U.N. demands to immediately replace the controversial commander of 2,400 Italian peacekeepers or remove them from the capital.

Gen. Mario Buscemi, Italy's second-ranking military officer, appeared set on challenging U.N. officials within minutes of arriving in Somalia. He said he supported talks with Somali gunmen, whom the United Nations has branded as terrorists.

Italy has been at the forefront of nations who have criticized the U.N.'s handling of operations in Somalia, saying the humanitarian mission has been sidelined by aggressive military tactics against Aidid and rival warlords.

Hussein denounces U.S. administration

BAGHDAD, Iraq - President Saddam Hussein, facing an increasingly tense standoff with the United Nations, accused the Clinton administration Saturday of "political insanity and racial fanaticism."

In one of his harshest attacks on Washington since Clinton took office, Saddam also urged other countries to distance themselves from the United States - an apparent attempt to drive a wedge into the international alliance that has supported actions against Iraq.

"The Iraqi people will bow to no one but God, and will reject treachery, deceit and threats," Saddam declared in the speech, broadcast nationwide on television and radio. It marked the 25th anniversary of the coup that brought the ruling Baath party into power.

Last bridge falls to Mississippi River

WEST QUINCY, Mo. - In a rush of water and a ball of fire, the last bridge across the Mississippi River along a 200-mile span was cut when a levee blew.

A half-mile north of the Bayview Bridge, the levee failed Friday night.

The water's force sucked a barge through the levee breach, and a gas station hit by flood water exploded, sending flames and thick black smoke billowing hundreds of feet into the air.

The bridge, which had been restricted to local and emergency traffic only, was the last link across a 200-mile span of the Mississippi from St. Louis to Burlington, Iowa, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said.

'Killer bees' claim first U.S. victim

HARLINGEN - An allergic reaction from dozens of bee stings filled a rancher's lungs with fluid and killed him, a pathologist said Saturday in a preliminary ruling.

Initial measurements showed that the bees that swarmed Lino Lopez were of the so-called killer bee variety, bee researchers said.

That would make the 82-year-old Starr County man the first documented person killed by Africanized honeybees in the United States since the more aggressive strain crossed from Mexico into Texas in 1990.

"I think he most likely got enough poison from all of those stings, whether they were African or not, that he had an allergic reaction to it," said Ruben Santos, the forensic pathologist who performed the autopsy.

-The Associated Press

Worn Out Souls at the Hilton



STACY RYAN/The Battalion

Dave Loving, Dan Carpenter, Mark Oakland and Steven Kloesel, members of the R&B band 'Worn Out Souls,' perform during 'Sundance by the Pool' at the College Station Hilton Sunday afternoon. The free pool parties will be held on Sundays through mid-September and will feature a live band each week.

Instructors reflect on students' attitudes

By JANET HOLDER

The Battalion

Many factors influence a student's ability to learn including the student's and instructor's commitment and joint cooperation to learn Texas A&M instructors said.

Vincent Dimiceli, a math lecturer, said some students may make the classroom a more difficult place to teach and learn.

Dimiceli said he has separated students who talked to much in class because other students complained they couldn't pay attention to the lesson.

"A student gave a colleague of mine a

hard time and even brought complaints to the office because he was asked not to talk in class," Dimiceli said.

Rodney Paris, lecturer for the Academic Enhancement Center said it may be difficult for a professor to correct students' classroom behavior, such as sleeping in class because it is an adult correcting an adult. It is the professor's choice whether to discipline the student, he said.

Paris said another problem that disrupts the classroom is that students have become more visibly disrespectful.

"When I was in school if we had a professor with a heavy accent we would grit

our teeth, roll our eyes and close our mouth," Paris said. "Recently I sat in on an undergraduate class. A student made a derogatory comment about the professor's accent loud enough the professor could hear. It used to be students would correct each other when they were being disrespectful now they don't because they feel they don't have a right to tell others what to do."

"It takes only a couple of people in a class to make professors have the perception that it is a bad class," he said.

In addition to negative attitudes in the

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Gramm blasts proposed energy, fuel taxes

By REAGON CLAMON

The Battalion

Federally proposed energy and fuel taxes would harm Brazos Valley businesses and hit Texas' economy harder than other states, said U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, at a group meeting of Brazos county business leaders Sunday.

A plan proposed by President Bill Clinton to levy a tax on energy measured in Btu's (British thermal units) and a Senate plan to levy a 4.3 cent per gallon tax on fuel are now being debated in a House-Senate conference committee which began meetings last week.

Gramm doesn't support either plan.

Texas is the largest energy user in the nation and while the cost of a Btu tax to the average American family of four

who live in larger states," Gramm said.

Sunday's meeting was held at the ALENCO plant at 615 Carson in Bryan, which is owned by Redman Building Products, Inc.

John Standard, the general manager of ALENCO, told Gramm both the taxes would hurt his company and consequently hurt the community.

Standard said his plant uses a lot of energy in manufacturing aluminum doors and windows. The aluminum extrusion process in particular, Standard said, uses a tremendous amount of energy and would cause the plant to be hit hard by a Btu tax.

Standard said ALENCO would also suffer if a fuel tax were levied since the

"This tax is basically unfair to people

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Overpass construction on Briarcrest to cause delays

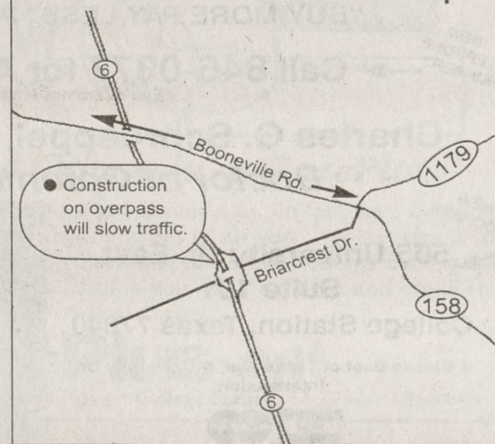
Minor traffic delays will greet motorists traveling in the area of the East Bypass at FM 1179 in Bryan today. Contractor crews will be working to set new beams on the existing bridge structure to widen it for additional lanes.

Traffic using FM 1179 (Briarcrest Drive), the west frontage road of South Highway 6, or the southbound lanes of South Highway 6 will experience delays during construction of the west side of the overpass.

To avoid peak traffic times, crews will be working to set the new beams across South Highway 6 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. only.

Motorists are advised to select alternative routes in order to avoid delays. The Texas Department of Transportation urges motorists traveling FM 1179 or the East Bypass to allow extra time to reach their destinations and to be alert for flagmen and warning signs in the construction zone.

Road construction on Briarcrest overpass



ANGEL KAN/The Battalion

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- Four Aggies dive into NFL training camps

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OPINION

- Editorial: We must fight the causes of youth violence
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WEATHER

- Monday: mostly sunny, highs in the mid to upper 90s
- Forecast for Tuesday: partly cloudy, highs in the mid to upper 90s

TEXAS LOTTO

- Saturday's lotto numbers: 5, 9, 13, 32, 42, 45
- Estimated Lotto Texas jackpot: \$3 million