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Window saver withstands wind, water

By GRETCHEN GARRETT
Battalion Reporter
People on the Texas coast might be interested in a device improved by a Texas A&M University physicist.

It is an aluminum disc which prevents windows from being broken during hurricanes or tornadoes.

The device was invented about five years ago.

Dr. William Bassichis, associate professor of physics, said that with the disc, windows that normally break in 80 mph winds could withstand winds up to 200 mph.

"Part of the reason for inventing this device was to protect the windows of high office buildings, since they must have protection applied from the inside," Bassichis said.

The device, he said, is about 10 inches in diameter. It weighs about three pounds and has an adjustable aluminum bar that is custom-fitted to the window frame. "It should only be installed when needed and is simple enough to put back up after it's been mounted."

With the disc applied to the inside of the window, Bassichis said, it would have the strength to resist being pushed in or broken. To prevent the glass from being blown outward, he said, "I put two-sided tape at six angles on the back of the same disc and press it against the window. The tape will hold roughly 1,500 pounds of force and can be

removed with a few drops of alcohol."

The bar, Bassichis said, divides the window into four segments so the glass is able to take up to five times the pressure it could normally stand.

"If only people would take advantage of these devices while they are available, then they wouldn't be in trouble when a hurricane strikes. The disc and bar have to be mounted properly on the window frame for them to work," he said, "and right before a storm hits is not a time when a person is calm and can accurately mount the device."

The devices, Bassichis said, will cost about \$30-\$40 per window, much less than the cost of the glass. Since most of home interiors are damaged by water that comes in after windows break, he said, the device would save people labor and money.

"Since Texas insurance laws don't encourage homeowners and businesses to protect their buildings, everybody's losing money."

Bassichis said he wrote to seven hospitals along the Coast offering the devices below the regular cost. "Only one responded, but it still didn't want the device. People just don't want to buy what they don't need right away, then when disaster strikes, they're sorry they didn't."



Texas A&M physicist demonstrates a metal disc and bar that increase the strength of windows five-fold, protecting them from being blown out during a tornado. The simple device is custom-fitted to each window and can save dollars and even lives, Bassichis said.

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Germans manage farm land in Ohio

United Press International
RAYMOND, Ohio — Geoffrey Wedding and two of his brothers still work on the family farm these days — but for West German bosses.

After 30 years, the 1,420 acres of Union County farm land near Raymond no longer is owned by the Wedding family.

They sold it in 1977 to a West German family to settle an estate involving five brothers and their mother.

"It was a good business deal all the way around because the West Germans were looking for land and someone to farm it," Wedding said. "We wanted to sell and three of us were interested in continuing to farm. It worked out fine for everyone."

The Weddings and the West Germans got together after "a fellow from Wapaknetta (Ohio)" contacted the West Germans, some of whom were in America at the time looking to buy land.

Wedding said their farm had been listed in farm publications distributed throughout the country.

"The (West Germans) came and it worked out that our land was what they were looking for," Wedding said.

The former Wedding farm among the 4,393 acres of farm land owned by six cities reported so far to Ohio Secretary of State Anthony J. Celebrezze Jr. Foreign interests paid more than \$7.5 million for the farm land.

Reports showed the West Germans paid \$2,483,900 for the wedding farm, making it the second largest Ohio sale to foreigners involving farm land. The largest was the sale of 2,284 acres of land in Licking County to a West German businessman.

In addition to the Wedding farm, the West Germans purchased 84 acres of adjoining land for \$400,000 and a 32.2-acre egg farm for \$96,870.

Wedding said the sale did not push up the price of farm land in the area. He said the purchase was a long-term investment for the West Germans, who are not in real estate business, but are interested primarily in egg farming.

He said the corn he and his brothers grow is sold to the farm, and the manure produced by the chickens is used as fertilizer on the farm.

Wedding said he and his brothers provide from 80,000 to 90,000 bushels of corn to the egg farm.



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High court won't hear case filed by 38 states

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court has refused to consider arguments by 38 states that they are improperly barred from relying on evidence gathered in a criminal trial when they press civil antitrust charges.

The justices Monday let stand a lower court ruling that facts established in the criminal trial may not necessarily be used in a later antitrust trial on the same issues.

In January 1974, three Illinois paving concerns, including General Paving Co. and F.F. Mengel Co., were indicted for conspiring to repress and eliminate competition in the construction of a portion of a federally funded highway in Illinois.

A federal jury convicted them of violating federal antitrust laws. The following June, Illinois filed a civil suit against the three paving concerns, seeking triple damages under the federal Clayton Antitrust Act for the same activities.

Relying on their previous criminal convictions, Illinois asked the trial court to bar the companies from relitigating issues common to the cases.

The state asked the judge to invoke a legal doctrine called collateral estoppel, which holds the parties litigated by two parties in a proceeding are binding on those parties in all future proceedings against each other.

District Judge J. Waldo Adams ruled, without trial, that the criminal and civil actions involved identical facts.

The paving companies appealed to the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which reversed the trial court, holding that Congress intended to bar the use of collateral estoppel in private antitrust actions following government suits.

Illinois appealed to the Supreme Court, arguing the appeals court decision will require "the unnecessary relitigation of factual issues whenever a private suitor seeks the judgment or decree in a government action."

In a friend-of-the-court brief filed with the Supreme Court, 37 states contended the 7th Circuit decision "significantly hinders the ability of the states to recover treble damages from antitrust violators."

"The states which rely on the taxpayers to pay artificially inflated prices to antitrust violators who contract with the state, must now pay to their taxpayers a second time for duplicative, lengthy and complex antitrust litigation to cover illegal overcharges," the states maintained.

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