

High winds wreak havoc across southeast Texas

United Press International
Heavy rains and ferocious winds roared across southeast Texas Thursday, flipping mobile homes, knocking out electrical power, injuring 20 people in Sealy and causing a fatal airplane crash near Houston. Numerous tornado sightings were reported.

The only tornado confirmed by the National Weather Service was one that touched in a Beaumont housing project. Other than knocking out electrical power, it did no serious damage.

The storm dumped rain at a rate of 2 inches per hour in some areas but winds — reported as high as 60 mph in Houston — were its most powerful weapon, leaving downed power lines, broken trees and overturned trailers and vehicles from Columbus to

Beaumont along Interstate 10.

"It (the storm) formed out west of LaGrange this morning (about 8 a.m.) and was just showers, thundershowers originally," said Gary Beeler of the NWS's Houston bureau. "Then we got reports of hail (in LaGrange) up to golf ball size. There were other numerous reports of tornados (in the Columbus - Sealy-Brookshire area) but we haven't been able to confirm them. It looks like it was mostly straight wind damage."

Sealy was one of the hardest hit towns. Power was knocked out completely and 20 people were treated at the Sealy Medical Center — most with bruises and cuts — while three were kept for observation. Nursing director Reba Millican said most of the injuries were suffered in overturned trailers and vehicles.

A Dallas man was killed when the storm cut his vision as he attempted to land at Andrau Airport in Houston, crashing in a nearby street and strewn wreckage in a wide area.

"At this point we don't know how many were aboard the plane," a constable said. "The crash occurred around 9:30 a.m. We have no identity on the victim."

Minor injuries were reported in LaGrange and Brookshire, where two babies were treated after their mobile home was hit.

Windows were blown out along the storm's path and municipal utility crews were scampering to restore power. One gust in Houston was powerful enough to blow a beam and scaffolding from the 75-story Texas Commerce Bank Tower, which is under construction, across the street onto a fifth-story roof of The Houston Chronicle. The debris knocked a hole in the Chronicle roof, allowing rain in and slightly disrupting the newspaper's city room operation.

In Katy, about 25 miles east of Sealy on Interstate 10, five 18-wheel trucks were flipped by the winds. The highway remained open but traffic was slow because of debris.

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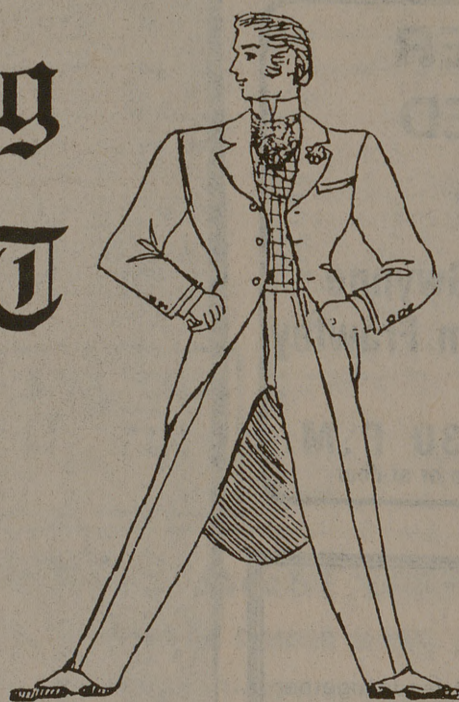


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What's Up FRIDAY

POULTRY SCIENCE CLUB: Will hold its annual "Chicken B-Que" from 6-12 p.m. in the American Legion Hall in Bryan. Admission is \$4. Tickets may be purchased in the poultry science office, Kleberg Hall.

SUMMER '81 CALENDER: Today is the deadline for entries to the Summer '81 Calender. Bring announcements to the Student Activities Office, 221 MSC.

HILLEL CLUB: Will have a Passover Shabbat Dinner at 6 p.m. in the Hillel Jewish Student Center.

INTER-VARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP: Dr. Clark, the Department of English, will speak on abortion at 7 p.m. in the Lutheran Student Center.

VENEZUELAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION: Meets to elect officers at 7 p.m. in 204B Evans Library.

UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY: Peanut Butter Fellowship will begin at 11:30 a.m. at Rudder Fountain. Bible Study will begin at 6:30 p.m. in 145 MSC.

HEALTH EDUCATION CLASSES & TAMECT: Will stage Mock Tornado Disaster at 1:15 p.m. on the grass around the Academic Building.

BICYCLE AWARENESS WEEK: "Bicycle Commuting: An Intelligent Alternative," will be the topic of Jeff Kuhl's talk beginning at 7:30 p.m. in 607 Rudder. Kuhl is a graduate student in Recreation & Parks.

"THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST": Will be presented at 8 p.m. in Rudder Theater. Tickets may be purchased at the MSC Box Office or at the door.

CASINO '81: An evening of gambling, prizes, and entertainment will be held from 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. in the MSC. Advance tickets are \$3 and may be purchased at the MSC, the Commons, and Sbis and Duncan Dining Halls. Tickets at the door are \$4.

T. CULLEN DAVIS: Will speak on "Searching For Values" at 7 p.m. in 601 Rudder. Admission is free. The Fort Worth millionaire is a 1955 graduate of A&M.

"USED CARS": This screwball comedy will be shown at 7:30 & 9:45 p.m. in the Grove. Admission is \$1.

"KENTUCKY FRIED MOVIE": Will be shown at midnight in the Grove. Admission is \$1.

CLASS OF '82 T-SHIRT SALE: Today is the last day to buy them from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the MSC Main Hallway.

LIONS CLUB DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE: Registration will be conducted from 5-5:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Parish Hall, 906 Jersey, College Station. Class will be conducted from 6:15 p.m.

SATURDAY

TAMU WHEELS ROLLER SKATING CLUB: Will skate in the Grove from 12-4 p.m. Non-members are invited to skate for \$1.

CORPS M-1: Will sponsor a Parents Day Dance at Cell Block 5 on the corner of Main and 19th Street in Bryan from 8:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Parents and females get in free. Guys will be charged \$1.

YOUNG DEMOCRATS OF TEXAS A&M: Meet at 7 p.m. in 112 Bolton.

MSC HOSPITALITY: Will wash your car at the Jack In The Box restaurant on Texas Avenue from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Price is \$2.50 per car.

WILDLIFE BIOLOGY SOCIETY: Will hold the annual Wild game Barbecue, with deer, waterfowl, rabbit, and rattlesnakes on the menu, beginning at 2 p.m. at Tabor Fellowship Hall on Tabor Road. Food will be served at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$3.50 in advance and \$4 at the gate.

"THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST": Will be presented at 3 & 7:30 p.m. today in Rudder Theater. Tickets are on sale at MSC Box Office or at the door. \$2.50 for students and \$3.50 for others.

PARENTS DAY COFFEE: Featuring speakers, a slide presentation, and refreshments, this program will be held from 9:30-11 a.m. on the first floor of Zachary.

PARENTS DAY BARBECUE: All are invited to this event sponsored by Off Campus Aggies, which will be held from 4:30-7 p.m. in 212 MSC. Tickets are \$4.25.

"USED CARS": Will be shown at 7:30 & 9:45 p.m. in the Grove.

"KENTUCKY FRIED MOVIE": Will be shown at midnight in the Grove.

BICYCLE AWARENESS WEEK: Community Bike Ride will begin at 9 a.m. Meet at Bee Creek Park in College Station or Williams Park in Bryan. Cyclists are asked to bring a lunch in their packs for a picnic at Hensel Park. Welborn Bluegrass will provide music at the picnic.

SINGING CADETS CONCERT: Will begin at 8 p.m. in Rudder Auditorium. Tickets are on sale in the MSC Box Office.

LIONS CLUB DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE: Class will be conducted from 8 a.m. to noon at St. Thomas Parish Hall.

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