

State / National



Staff photo by Brian Tate

A motorist navigates through high water on Wellborn Road during heavy showers Monday. Easterwood Airport recorded 3.37 inches of rainfall in the College Station area between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. Southwood Valley recorded 5.07 inches and the KBTX television station in Bryan

reported 4.43 inches of rain. There is a 30 percent chance of rain this afternoon and tonight. A weak cold front will pass through College Station on Wednesday with a change in temperature. The low will be in the 60s and the high in the low 80s.

Regents repeal drug rule at UT

United Press International
AUSTIN — University of Texas System Regents agreed Monday to repeal a rule requiring the dismissal of any system employee given probation for a drug-related offense. The Regents also agreed to reinstate an employee at the Austin campus dismissed under that rule almost two years ago.

The agreement was part of settlement in a federal suit filed against the university system by Kurt Gregory, who was dismissed in 1979 as a store clerk after he was given probation on a charge of possession of LSD.

The rule required dismissal of any employee given probation for a drug related offense, even if the offense occurred away from the campus.

Gregory gained his previous job and was paid \$7,992 in lost wages and \$1,000 in attorney fees. The Grievance Review Board at UT Austin had recommended in

1979 that Gregory not be dismissed under terms of the rule governing university system employees, because a similar rule concerning students had been ruled invalid by a federal court.

But UT Austin President Peter Flawn overruled the Grievance Board, and Gregory was dismissed Nov. 5, 1979.

The suit was filed on Gregory's behalf by the American Civil Liberties Foundation of Texas.

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Cooke's bid for freedom denied by Air Force judge

United Press International
ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. — A military judge refused Monday to free 2nd Lt. Christopher Cooke pending the outcome of preliminary proceedings in his court-martial on charges of passing missile secrets to the Soviet Union.

Orser, the judge, said that since evidence indicated Cooke had committed the espionage offenses, he must be confined to ensure his appearance in court.

Cooke, 26, has been charged with passing top-secret information to Soviet authorities during a number of unauthorized visits to the Russian Embassy in Washington.

Defense attorney F. Lee Bailey asked Orser on Friday to free Cooke without bail and to drop all charges against him.

Cooke, former deputy commander of a Titan II missile silo in Kansas, has been in custody since

May 5, and is being held in the stockade at nearby Fort Meade.

After Orser's decision to go ahead with the preliminary proceedings, the prosecution called Lt. Col. Grosvenor LaTarte, principal adviser to the Air Force's judiciary system, who said he knew of no agreement to drop prosecution of Cooke in exchange for information about missile secrets.

LaTarte said such an agreement could only have come from Gen. Richard Ellis, now retired as SAC commander who said in a sworn affidavit he made no such offer.

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IRS wants back taxes of 5 cents

United Press International
SPICER, Minn. — The Internal Revenue Service notified Max Spicer-Cincinnati he owes his government a nickel's worth of back taxes.

The Spicer, Minn., man paid \$2,871.95 in federal taxes last year. Adding penalty and interest charges to the missing nickel, the total owed was \$26.54 — an increase over the original 5 cents of 53,000 percent.

"I'm going to ignore it and see what they do," said the delinquent taxpayer.

William Knight, public affairs officer for the IRS in St. Paul, said it's probably just a computer mistake.

"This doesn't seem like the normal IRS procedure," he said, promising to inquire further.

"IRS is not unreasonable," said Knight. "Computers do blip or glitch or whatever and I really doubt we're going to send out that kind of a letter for a nickel."

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