



State taxes pass \$1 billion mark

United Press International
AUSTIN — State tax collections of more than \$1 billion made May the highest monthly total in Texas history, and Comptroller Bob Bullock said the revenue proves the nation's economic clouds have not reached the Sun Belt.

"The sun is still shining in Texas and Texans are making hay while it does," Bullock said, commenting on the economic situation.

The state deposited

\$1,013,475,464 in its treasury during May, \$25 million above the previous high of \$988 million recorded in February.

Part of May's record tax payments came from quarterly prepayments made by the state's largest taxpayers, along with month-end minerals tax collections, he said.

Major taxpayers retain a percentage if they prepay their taxes. In turn, the early payments allow the state to begin earning interest on the funds.

Violent weather ravages country

United Press International
Kansas and Nebraska cities were turned into ghost towns by flooding and 100-mph winds caused by storms that knocked out power for more than 45,000 people Tuesday.

And hundreds of New Englanders were still homeless from once-in-a-century rains that killed up to 22 people and inflicted \$100 million in damage.

Lightning sparked a fire in a downtown department store in Greencastle, Ind., early Tuesday, and thunderstorms unleashed golfball-sized hail on parts of southern Illinois and St. Louis late Monday.

Severe thunderstorms, with winds up to 100 mph, lashed Missouri and Kansas early Monday, taking down trees and power lines, bashing windows and overturning at least 65 utility poles.

More than an inch of rain swept by 80-mph gusts battered Kansas City in 15 minutes, clogging intersections with up to 3 feet of water and debris.

At least 45,000 residents in the Kansas City metropolitan area, which includes seven counties in Missouri and Kansas, were without power. Turner White, of Kansas Power and Light Co., said power may be restored Tuesday.

At least 22 people were either dead or missing in New England in the wake of storms that dumped up to 11 inches of rain in Connecticut — a record for total rainfall in June. In Connecticut, where floods forced 1,300 people to flee their homes Sunday, a state of emergency remained in effect.

Damage was estimated at \$100 million.

At least 200 people remained in shelters late Monday because high floodwaters swept away dams, at least 13 bridges and untold numbers of homes, the Red Cross said.

Rain began to thin by nightfall and the National Weather Service said most swollen rivers were beginning to recede.

Eight people were known dead in Connecticut and three

others were missing since the storm began Friday. Five people were killed and two others missing in Rhode Island, no people were missing in Massachusetts as were two in Maine.

Kansas Power & Light Co. suffered its worst damage in a decade, Craig Daniels, a company spokesman, said.

He said 39 poles supporting a 230,000-volt line between the Jeffrey Energy Center and Manhattan have been blown down. Between the center and Council Grove, 26 poles were down, he said.

"Boy, we do have damage to no end down here," Osage County Sheriff Robert Masters said. "I tell you, if you want to see a ghost town, Burlington is it."

Marvin Seley, the only supplier of lumber and glass in Burlington, said he was attracted as much by business as he did after violent winds and baseball-sized hailstones rumbled through town, knocking out most of the main street north windows.

Judge's poll results in defamation suit

United Press International
HOUSTON — A state district judge has filed a \$24 million damage suit against the Houston Chronicle and the Houston Bar Association based on a judicial evaluation poll that ranked Judge Jerry McAfee the most unsatisfactory judge in the county.

The suit, filed Monday, claims the Chronicle published "defamatory falsehoods" and that the bar association, after conducting its poll, released "in print, certain statements which were defamatory falsehoods" relating to McAfee's conduct.

Both the newspaper and the lawyer's groups should have

known the statements were false, McAfee said.

Bar president William Key Wilde said his organization would "vigorously" defend the suit.

"We have a right to rate judges and will continue to do so," he said.

Chronicle Assistant Editor Jack Loftis said editors at the paper "consider the results of the Houston Bar Association poll as being newsworthy and of interest to the community as a whole."

The bar association last year asked its members to rate 108 judges, including federal, state, county and municipal judges.

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\$287,000 judgement ordered against Cryts

United Press International
LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — A federal bankruptcy judge called Missouri farmer Wayne Cryts a thief and ordered him and four others to pay \$287,708 for the soybeans he took last July from a bankrupt grain elevator.

Judge Charles W. Baker levied the "coercive award" Monday and said it would increase by \$1,500 every day that Cryts refuses to pay. He also recommended Cryts and four others be prosecuted for criminal contempt.

The award was made against Cryts and his wife, Edy, his father, William C. Cryts Jr. — all of Puxico, Mo., — Jewell of Long Lane, Mo., — Evans Ippock of Buffalo, Mo. — Cryts was not available for comment, but he has said judgement of that size would force him to sell his land. Charles Cooper, an ally in the American Agricultural Movement, said attorneys are preparing an appeal of the judgement.

Cryts took 33,000 bushels of soybeans from a bankrupt elevator and will not say who helped him. As a bankruptcy judge, Baker does not have the power to charge him with criminal contempt.

Baker said by taking the judgement he did not fully recover in the bankruptcy. Cryts "sold his beans and kept the money" and made a \$140,000 profit in the process, Baker said.

Cryts' beans secured a \$140,000 loan from the Commodity Credit Corporation. Baker said this meant the Cryts actually owned the beans. Cryts has offered to repay the loan but because of the contempt of the case the CCC has rejected the offer.

The award would be paid among the trustees of the bankrupt elevator and several lawyers hired by the trustee.

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