

Texas A&M The Battalion

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Trees 'spruce' up holidays

staff photo by Robert Snider

Lambda Sigma representative Ken Moore, a sophomore from Barstow, California, began the annual Christmas Tree sale Monday in front of Rudder Tower. Deborah Barber (center) and Susanne

Davis, both Texas A&M Development Office employees, decided to buy their tree while the best were available. The trees will be on sale all this week in front of Sbis Dining Hall and in the Commons.

NATO briefed on MX missile

United Press International
BRUSSELS, Belgium — Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger promised to brief NATO's ultra-secret Nuclear Planning Group today on President Reagan's decision to deploy the MX "Peacekeeper" intercontinental ballistic missile.

U.S. officials said Monday Weinberger would try to reassure European allies the decision does not mean the Reagan administration is preparing for nuclear war.

Today's meeting also was set to review plans to deploy 572 cruise and Pershing 2 missiles in Western Europe starting in about a year.

NATO officials said the European missile deployment was certain to go ahead in the face of mounting anti-nuclear protest, unless the Soviet Union agrees to dismantle more than

300 SS-20 missiles aimed at Western Europe.

Weinberger called the MX decision "critically important" to Reagan's strategic rearmament program.

The Reagan plan calls for the deployment in Wyoming of 100 densely packed MX missiles, each of which will carry up to 10 independently targeted warheads.

The decision to base the missiles, Reagan renamed "Peacekeepers," on land rather than on ships or aircraft partly responds to NATO realities.

Alliance officials said, had the United States been unwilling to place the weapons on its soil, it would have been much harder to proceed with the plan to deploy new missiles on European territory.

The Soviet news agency Novosti warned Monday the cruise and Per-

shing deployments made an accidental nuclear war more likely.

In some of Moscow's toughest language to date, it said Soviet forces would launch their missiles "on warning" if any of the new NATO weapons were detected approaching Soviet territory.

European defense ministers, in a separate meeting Monday, expressed concern over a proposed Senate amendment to the 1983 appropriations bill that would result in the withdrawal of some 23,000 of the 220,000 U.S. troops in Europe.

The European ministers also were concerned about the increasing imbalance on defense purchases between the United States and Europe. They said Europeans buy nine times more U.S. defense equipment than Washington buys from them.

Second storm aimed for ravaged Hawaii

United Press International
HONOLULU — A new storm headed toward Hawaii today, threatening more destruction to areas left vulnerable by Hurricane Iwa and setting off fear in ravaged neighborhoods where residents proclaimed, "I can't take it anymore."

The National Weather Service said Monday the storm was intensifying near the International Dateline, 1,200 miles west of Honolulu, and could arrive by Wednesday.

An NWS spokesman emphasized it was not known how the storm system would affect the islands but said the decision to announce the status of the storm was for planning purposes "due to local conditions of lack of power and water as well as for the emergency rehabilitation measures

now being undertaken on Kauai and Oahu.

"The system has a potential for bringing heavy rains and possible flooding and high winds by Wednesday beginning on Kauai and spreading shortly thereafter to other islands."

Reaction from Kauai residents, many still trying to repair their hurricane-strafed homes, was one of dismay.

"I can't take it anymore," Kathleen Ladera of Hanamaulu said. "I can't believe it. I hope you're joking."

In Honolulu, police patrols were asked to call in high wind and surf conditions so Civil Defense authorities could evaluate the information.

The islands of Kauai and Niihau, both in the northwest corner of the

state, and parts of Oahu, where Honolulu is located, sustained damages running into the millions of dollars and prompted President Reagan to issue a disaster area proclamation.

As of Monday, about 40 percent of Kauai's 13,000 homes were still without electricity and water was trucked into three communities.

The Red Cross said one of every eight of the island's residences was demolished or made unlivable by Iwa's 110 mph winds.

The survey showed 1,907 homes and businesses were either destroyed or sustained major damage on Kauai and another 2,983 homes sustained minor damages.

On Oahu, another 418 dwellings, including 30 businesses, were destroyed or rendered unusable.

Programs help juvenile offenders, lessen crime

by Carole Craft

Battalion Reporter

Billy is 12 years old. But while most kids his age were playing little league baseball or video games, Billy chose to follow the influence of his older brother and break into an office building.

Now Billy is one of the 267 juvenile offenders counseled by the Brazos County Juvenile Probation Department.

Over the past two years, the department has reported a 15 percent decrease in the juvenile crime rate for the county. E.A. Wentreck, the chief juvenile probation officer, said the decrease can be attributed in part to an expanded department staff and the department's programs.

"I think we've held juvenile crime substantially when you consider the rapid growth of this area," Wentreck said.

Juvenile crime has been held to the same level it was two years ago, he said.

The department has nine programs to help juvenile offenders deal with problems that might steer them toward crime.

Janet McNutt, counseling unit supervisor, said many of the programs are intended to show teenagers other activities in which they can participate.

The eight-week program, for children 10 through 13, is designed to show the children that many opportunities are open to them in the community, McNutt said. Each day,



time with a child, serving as a role-model and friend.

Volunteer groups primarily work in the community with the children and teen-agers, Ricketson said. The groups take juveniles in the program to parks and picnic areas to help clean up the facilities and plant flowers, she said. Volunteers in the groups provide transportation and supervision.

"The Volunteer Group gives people in the community a chance to get involved and makes them aware that Bryan-College Station does have problems like this," Ricketson said.

Personnel from the Texas A&M College of Education have supported the program by offering tutor programs for children and teen-agers with problems in certain classes, Ricketson said.

The probation department also sponsors a teen court, where the defendant — the juvenile offender — is tried by a jury of his peers.

Rita Villareal, who supervises the court, said the judge, jury and attorneys are high school students.

The students apply to participate in the program and are chosen by the probation department, Villareal said. In each trial, students are responsible for all case investigations and for getting witnesses to appear, she said. They run the trial and decide on verdicts without adult help.

"The best thing about Teen Court is that offenders get tried by their peers," Villareal said. "It makes a big impression on them."

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Out-of-season sunning

staff photo by Robert Snider

December is almost here but winter isn't, or so it seems. Chris Smith, a freshman electrical engineering student from

Houston, figured it was time to take off his shirt and coat and get back into the sun.

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forecast

Today's Forecast: Cloudy skies through Thursday. High of about 77, with tonight's low about 58. Winds of 10 mph.

Explosion in Thatcher's private office

United Press International
LONDON — A bomb hidden in a package exploded today inside Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's No. 10 Downing Street offices, slightly injuring one man, Scotland Yard said. The prime minister was not harmed.

Thatcher was in her private office around noon when the bomb, concealed in a yellow package, exploded in another room, a spokesman said.

Texas chief justice sworn in

United Press International
AUSTIN — Despite threats by Democrats in the Texas Senate to nullify the appointment of Jack Pope as head of the Supreme Court, Pope was sworn in as chief justice.

At the swearing ceremony Monday, Pope praised outgoing Gov. Bill Clements for improving the state's judicial system.

Pope, who has served 17 years on the Supreme Court, last week was named chief justice by Clements, a lame duck Republican, as replacement of former Chief Justice Joe Greenhill, who resigned in Septem-

ber after 25 years on the court.

But his appointment must be ratified by the Senate in January, and at least a dozen senators have threatened to block the confirmation, claiming Gov.-elect Mark White, a Democrat, should have been allowed to make the appointment.

At the swearing in ceremony Monday, Pope, 69, a native of Abilene, praised Clements for strengthening the Texas judicial system. He cited the governor's support of constitutional amendments that created several new appeal courts and expanded the jurisdiction of lower courts in cri-

iminal cases.

"There are those who say that these changes are the most significant improvements to the judicial branch of government that have occurred in Texas for a century," Pope said.

"So governor, while this moment may be mine, I am claiming it to acknowledge that the judicial branch is stronger throughout Texas than it has been in many decades, and I'm sure it will prove itself strong enough in the future to master our oppressive dockets."

Pope also complimented Greenhill,

who he said "used himself up in the night and day service of this state."

Elected to his first judgeship in 1946, Pope was described by Clements as the longest-serving active judge in the state. He announced his retirement from the Supreme Court last year and said he will not run for the chief justice post when his appointive term ends in 1984.

Justice Sears McGhee administered the oath to Pope. All but one Supreme Court justice — Franklin Spears who was hospitalized for a checkup — attended the ceremony.