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What's Up

Monday

RANGE SCIENCE SEMINAR: Andrew Samson will speak about the "Texas Land Protection Priority" at 9 a.m. in 204 Sterling C. Evans.
HONORS STUDENT COUNCIL: Dr. Nation will speak about teaching in China at 7:30 p.m. in 501 Rudder.
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: call the Center for Drug Prevention and Education at 845-0280 for details on today's meeting.
STUDENT SENATE: will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 204 Harrington.
INTRAMURALS: entries open for outdoor soccer at 8 a.m. in 158 Read. There will be a meeting for outdoor soccer officials at 6 p.m. in 167 Read.
TAMU FORESTRY CLUB: will sell Christmas trees from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. on the front lawn of Sbsia and at the Forest Science Building.

Tuesday

OFF CAMPUS AGGIES: will have an off-campus roommate session at 5 p.m. at the Off-Campus Center in Puryear Hall.
MSC HOSPITALITY: will have the "Lighting of the Tree" at 12:30 p.m. in the MSC.
TAMU SCUBA CLUB: will have its last meeting of the semester at 7 p.m. in 402 Rudder.
SPEECH COMMUNICATION PROJECT: will have a safety awareness booth from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. in the MSC.
PRE-MED/PRE-DENT SOCIETY: Dr. David Jones from the UTSA medical school will speak at 7:30 p.m. in 203 Harrington.
PHI BETA LAMBDA: will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 131 Blocker.
CLASS OF '89: is accepting pictures or negatives in the Student Programs Office for the senior banquet slide show.
AGGIES FOR DIABETES AWARENESS: Dr. Luther Travis will speak about current diabetes research at 7:30 p.m. in 204 Sterling C. Evans.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no later than three business days before the desired run date. We only publish the name and phone number of the contact if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are run on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3315.

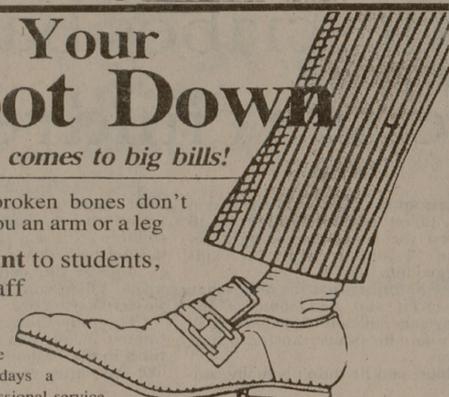
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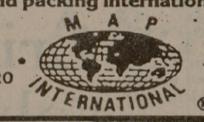
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Residents return to Fruitvale homes after chemical spill

FRUITVALE (AP) —Nearly 250 residents were returning Sunday to the homes they were evacuated from after a train derailed during a heavy thunderstorm, spewing nearly 20,000 gallons of toxic anhydrous ammonia.

Firefighter Bruce Messer of the Tyler Fire Department Hazardous Materials Response team said authorities at 11:20 p.m. Saturday officially lifted an evacuation order that was issued late Friday.

"It was tentatively supposed to be lifted at midnight," Messer said. "We had one man left on the unit. All the ammonia was pumped out of the pit and were trying to use a product called stabilizing foam that would suppress all vapors at that point. Once that was done, the evacuation would be lifted."

At the Best Western Canton Inn about 12 miles northeast of Fruitvale, desk clerk Marcie Nix said evacuees who had been guests there began leaving Sunday morning.

"Some of them have already checked out," Nix said early Sunday. "I think they'll all be getting home by Monday. . . . They'll be glad to get home. Some of them were in their house coats when they were evacuated and that's all they wore for three days. But Union Pacific had been real nice and took care of all their meals and rooms."

Nix said at least 40 of the hotel's 60 rooms were used by evacuees, and that the rest were booked to workers on cleanup and repair crews involved with the train derailment.

Authorities said they were uncertain what caused the Union Pacific freight train enroute to Fort Worth from New Orleans to derail about 7:30 p.m. Friday. A tornado had been spotted in the area about the time that 45 cars on the 89-car train derailed along a mile of track.

Among the cars derailed was one filled with 30,000 gallons of anhydrous ammonia, a toxic liquid fertilizer, while another was loaded with chlorine. Messer said all but 14,000 gallons of the ammonia had seeped from the ammonia car before authorities could control the spill.

"This car was sandwiched between two other cars, with a puncture hole 2 feet by 3 feet big," Messer said.

Crews from the railroad, Boon and Coots Fire and Protective Service of Fort Nachez, Dallas-based E-tech Environmental Services, the Tyler unit and eight area volunteer fire departments worked to free a damaged chlorine tanker from the wreckage, right the ammonia car into a pit and pump out the spilled liquid.

A vapor cloud emerged as the draining began and it continued on and off throughout the day, Messer said. Workers occasionally had to leave the area, but there were no reported injuries.

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