

The Battalion

Vol. 91 No. 190 (16 pages)

"Serving Texas A&M Since 1893"

Wednesday, August 26, 1992

Andrew's fury strikes Louisiana coast

The Associated Press

FRANKLIN, La. — Hurricane Andrew threw its deadly fury into Louisiana's bayous and marshes with 140 mph winds and tornadoes, striking only a glancing blow at New Orleans before heading deep into Cajun country Wednesday.

The storm, already labeled the costliest natural disaster in U.S. history with damage put at more than \$15 billion, added plenty to the bill it ran up earlier this week in Florida and the Bahamas.

A tornado spun off by the storm ripped through a New Orleans suburb, and 30 people were reported injured. Andrew also flooded roads, uprooted trees, tore off huge limbs and started power lines popping throughout the region.

"This house is falling apart around me," said Ken Perry, manager of an airport in Patterson, 60 miles west of New

Orleans. "I'm standing in water right now in the house, and we're 10 feet above sea level."

A natural-gas pipeline exploded early Wednesday in a residential section of Kenner, a New Orleans suburb, said Capt. Mike Zito, Fire Department spokesman. He said the blaze might have been ignited by an exploding transformer. No injuries were immediately reported. About 75 people were evacuated.

A high school in Patterson where 120 people took refuge lost its roof to the wind, said Sheriff Huey Bourgeois of St. Mary Parish. He said no one was hurt.

Andrew was blamed for 17 deaths in Florida and the Bahamas. Official reports of any deaths in Louisiana were not expected for hours.

Tens of thousands of people rode out the storm in shelters and boarded-up homes.

The hurricane's leading edge came ashore about 11 p.m. CDT and scraped

along Louisiana's coast, a marshy area dotted with cypress trees, Spanish moss and fields of sugar cane. The storm center came ashore four hours later, 55 miles south-southeast of Lafayette.

At 4 a.m. CDT, the center was 40 miles south-southeast of Lafayette, heading northwest at 12 mph. Its top sustained winds had dropped to 115 mph, the National Hurricane Center reported.

"It's still a powerful storm ... but loss of energy from the warm gulf waters is going to kill this thing. It will die a slow and painful death," said Roger Edwards, a meteorologist at the hurricane center.

A storm surge of 10 to 15 feet of water was possible near the eye, and up to 10 inches of rain were possible.

"The rain was whipping really bad. We could see it, but you couldn't see outside because the rain was hitting the window in sheets," said Junius Crochet, assistant police chief in Morgan City.

A tornado cut a swath seven miles

long through LaPlace, a town of nearly 20,000 people 20 miles west of New Orleans. Nine homes and some offices were destroyed, said Arnold Labat, St. John the Baptist Parish president.

"There's nothing left but splinters," Lucille Perilloux, 46, said of her home. "All I heard was a loud, loud noise. I turned to go into the house and it picked me up and threw me. It rolled me across the ground, almost to the street."

Thirty injured people were taken to River Parishes Medical Center, which was without power, said hospital spokeswoman Rose McDuffie. She said three of them, all seriously hurt, were being taken to New Orleans-area hospitals.

Parts of Grand Isle, a 7-mile-long barrier island 110 miles south of New Orleans, were under water and power was out. The 1,452 residents had left in the first wave of evacuations Monday.

President Bush Wednesday declared parts of Louisiana a major disaster area,

opening the door to federal relief aid.

On Tuesday, 2 million people in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas were either ordered or advised to leave. They included the 1.5 million residents of metropolitan New Orleans, a bowl-shaped city with large areas that are below sea level and protected by levees.

Thousands of Texans fled north Tuesday backing up highways for miles as Hurricane Andrew bore down on the Louisiana coast. Millions more in the Houston area were told to batten down.

Officials recommended evacuation of Orange and Jefferson counties as well as the Bolivar Peninsula on the eastern end of Galveston Bay. There is no provision in Texas for mandatory evacuation.

On Monday, the storm, with sustained winds of 140 mph and gusts over 160 mph, smashed nearly every building in a swath of Florida just south of Miami, then churned its way across the Gulf of Mexico.

Governor opposes Republican attacks

The Associated Press

AUSTIN — Gov. Ann Richards said Monday that Republican attacks on Hillary Clinton "won't work" in the presidential campaign.

"It's trying to pretend that we're all still Mrs. Cleaver in our pearls and high heels, cleaning the bathroom," she said of the criticism leveled at Democratic presidential nominee Bill Clinton's wife, a lawyer.

"You know, a lot of us did that for years ... without the adornment, and now some of us are doing other things. The truth of it is, the majority of us are," said Richards, a Democrat who is scheduled to attend a dinner honoring Bill Clinton Tuesday in Dallas.

Richards said that Americans "cannot any longer hide our

heads under some bushel and pretend that we are a society that we're not, and in essence, I think that's what it (attacks on about Mrs. Clinton) amounts to."

Among the attacks have been national GOP Chairman Rich Bond's accusation that Mrs. Clinton likened the family and marriage to slavery.

And Republican Patrick J. Buchanan last week said Mrs. Clinton practiced "radical feminism."

Buchanan later said that Mrs. Clinton should not be attacked personally. But he said if she is going to be "a real player in national politics," her ideas should be scrutinized.

Religious broadcaster Pat Robertson has said he could not believe "the American people are so blind that they would replace

See Governor, Page 8

D-FW battles pollution

Officials examine emissions standards

The Associated Press

FORT WORTH (AP) — A treadmill test for cars and other tougher emissions requirements may be necessary because air in North Texas isn't getting much cleaner, officials said.

State air quality officials are considering a measure that would require vehicles to pass more than just an annual exhaust test with the engine idling.

Tarrant and Dallas counties, under federal standards, must reduce their pollution levels by November 1996 or face sanctions that could stop building permits or force industries to cut back on hours of operation.

"At the rate it is going, it's going to be a long haul for the Fort Worth-Dallas area to meet federal air quality standards by 1996," Steve Davis, a Texas Air Control Board spokesman, told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

A dynamometer, which would allow inspectors to measure a car's exhaust at 55 mph, could be testing vehicles at North Texas inspection stations as early as 1994.

A hearing on the proposed testing device by the control board, which measures air quality around the state, is scheduled for 2 p.m. Sept. 10 at the Arlington

See D-FW, Page 6



KYLE BURNETT/The Battalion

Greg Hill, a sophomore tailback, signs an autograph for an unidentified fan at Texas A&M Photo Day which was held at Kyle Field on August 15. Hill, who drew one of the largest lines

of autograph-seeking fans, was not sidelined for a moment during the one and a half hour event which boasted an attendance of more than 500 people.

Fire engulfs TKE house; residents left unharmed

By JULIE CHELKOWSKI

Reporter of THE BATTALION

A fire destroyed the Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) fraternity house and all property inside last Thursday night, but left occupants unharmed.

Three members of the social fraternity safely escaped the house, located on ... in Bryan as the house was left in ashes after unsuccessful attempts by fraternity members and the Bryan Fire Department to extinguish it.

Mike Donoho, assistant fire chief of the Bryan Fire Department, said they took a defensive strategy to fight the fire.

"The fire developed very rapidly because of the age of the wood and the structure, so we had to stay outside to prevent it from spreading," he said.

The fire department was successful in containing the fire to the fraternity house. Donoho said a neighboring house, cars and the carriage house that belongs to TKE and houses some

members were saved.

Jeff Erler, vice president of TKE said he and two other men were in the house when they discovered the fire in a locked bedroom. The room was unoccupied at the time.

"When we opened the door, we found the couch and the air conditioning unit on fire," Erler said. "The house was 90 some years old. And since it was all wood and so old, it burned in about 30 to 45 minutes."

The fire was considered a "two-alarm fire," Donoho said, which means a second fire station responded to the scene when it is determined that the fire cannot be controlled by only one station's equipment.

Donoho said the fire started in an upstairs bedroom. The cause has not been officially determined, but Donoho said they believe it was started from an extension cord connected to the air conditioning unit that was not ca

See Fire/Page 5

Warfare in Sarajevo intensifies

The Associated Press

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — The worst bombardment in weeks blasted Sarajevo late Tuesday just hours before another attempt to negotiate peace. Mortar rounds, rockets and machine-gun fire came from Serb positions in surrounding mountains.

Outmanned and outgunned troops loyal to Bosnia's Muslim-led government tried earlier Tuesday to break the Serb siege of the capital.

Bosnia's Muslim, Serb and Croat factions have been trying to strengthen their positions before the Wednesday opening of the London conference, sponsored by the European Community and the United Nations.

Shelling was almost continuous from 9:30 p.m. until midnight throughout all sections of Sarajevo. A round zoomed in every five or six seconds, sometimes faster. Sustained and fierce firing came from many directions at once.

Kosevo Hospital reported 11 wounded in two hours, but Dr. Nevan Knezevic said the count was low because only "fools and reporters" were out on the streets.

State-run Sarajevo Radio and an independent station broadcast repeated warnings for people to stay in cellars or shelters.

One shell landed yards from a hotel housing a team of Associated Press journalists. Another blasted into the Holiday Inn where scores of other journalists were staying.

No one was reported injured in either blast.



DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

Jeff Wicker, a junior psychology major from Lubbock, climbs down from atop the remains of the TKE house.

INSIDE

War of the wives

Hillary Clinton and Tipper Gore fired back at Republican assaults of bashing family values.

Page 8

A legend revisited

Singer/songwriter Jerry Jeff Walker, who will play Sunday at Hurricane Harry's, has touched audiences across the country with his unique blend of country music and storytelling.

Page 9



Hillary Clinton defends herself against accusations made at GOP Convention.