

# Flooding to blame for lost water service

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thousands queued up for clean water for a second day Monday in St. Joseph, Mo., as they waited for crews to repair damage caused when the Missouri River invaded the city water treatment plant.

Seven water pump motors were airlifted out of the plant Monday and taken to Kansas City for repairs, water company officials said.

The muddy Missouri, which overflowed the plant's levee Saturday night, had risen to 32.5 feet Monday, 15.5 feet above flood stage.

Until the plant is working about 85,000 people in the St. Joseph area were depending on

## Missouri water treatment plant down

bottled water, water tank trucks, military water purification units and portable toilets.

Missouri officials were able to turn for advice to a voice of experience in neighboring Iowa, where 250,000 people in and around Des Moines lost water service to flood damage.

Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad said he discussed the possibility of shuffling bottled water to Missouri and offered the use of a portable water purification plant flown into Iowa by the National Guard.

"We've accumulated quite a lot of bottled water," Branstad said. Scores of giant tanker trucks holding fresh water were parked at

one central gathering spot in Des Moines.

Water is running again in Des Moines for showers and flushing toilets, but residents still need bottled water for drinking.

The pump airlift went on without the use of the St. Joseph airport, where water up to 8 feet flowed over runways and surrounded an Air National Guard C-130 cargo plane.

"The airport may be under water, but I am still in charge of aviation," airport manager Brian Weiler said good-naturedly.

Upstream in Nebraska, thunderstorms during the night poured down 4 more inches of

rain on the saturated Missouri River watershed, causing local flooding and threatening to prolong the inundation.

"Everything is saturated and if there is any appreciable rain in that area, there will be problems," said Nebraska Civil Defense spokesman Joe Hinton.

National Guard troops used two five-ton trucks to carry people around the town of Beatrice in southeastern Nebraska on Monday after the Big Blue River flooded two highways.

The Missouri rose more than 3 feet in 24 hours at Kansas City, Mo., heading for St. Louis and the confluence with the Mississippi, which was expected to crest again Aug. 3 at St. Louis at a record 48 feet.

# Report to NASA managers shows job perception error

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Most space shuttle mishaps are the result of human error, yet there is a growing sense among workers that they will be punished or even lose their jobs if they report mistakes, NASA said Monday.

This erroneous perception seems to be the result of budget-induced work force reductions and "sometimes exaggerated reporting of incidents by the media," NASA said in a 45-page study of shuttle processing.

"We reviewed all the discipline records and found no evidence that reporting mistakes leads to disciplinary action," said Richard Perry, chairman of the review team and director of NASA's space flight safety and mission assurance. "Rather, we find that intentional violation of procedures ... did receive appropriate disciplinary action."

"But the perception is there on the part of the people, and we've conveyed that to management."

## Ripoff artists thrive on states' dilemma

# Anti-fraud programs absorb cuts by Clinton

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Clinton is quietly scaling back the federal government's commitment to help states investigate welfare and food stamp fraud, by some estimates more than a billion-dollar problem.

The administration's plan would force states to pick up a bigger share of the cost of finding welfare recipients who work off the books, hide assets, collect multiple checks or sell food stamps on the black market.

But states, starved for cash and strapped by unparalleled growth in their welfare rolls, say they do not have the money to cover the loss in federal dollars and may have to shrink their anti-fraud programs.

"You will see the ripoff artists and the

leazy subculture that's trying to rip off this program quickly move to exploit the fact that the states are going to be in tough shape fighting fraud," predicts Rep. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., who has spent five years investigating food stamp fraud.

Adds Donna FitzGibbon, president of the Wisconsin Council on Welfare Fraud: "It's like leaving the vault at the bank open and hoping nobody walks by and takes the money. Ninety percent won't, but what about the other 10 percent?"

Even the largest government estimates of fraud are not that high. Congressional officials now peg food stamp fraud at \$1 billion a year while the HHS Inspector General found that as early as 1987 fraud in Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) was a "billion-dol-

lar problem." The government will spend \$22.4 billion on food stamp benefits and \$23 billion on AFDC benefits this year.

But Robert Greenstein, a former Agriculture Department official who now heads the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, an advocate for the poor, argues that the government has no good data on the extent of welfare fraud.

Martha Armstrong, president of the United Council on Welfare Fraud, an organization of fraud investigators, estimates that fraud occurs in 5 percent to 10 percent of households on welfare.

The federal government now gives the states \$3 for every \$1 they spend controlling fraud in food stamps and AFDC. Clinton wants to split those costs 50-50.

# Committee policy shuns gays in military service

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Clinton's policy on homosexuals in the military centers on the premise that orientation is not a bar to service. A Senate panel's version says loud and clear who shouldn't sign up.

Sen. Sam Nunn, said the Armed Services Committee policy sends a message to both commanders and the courts that military service is unique and homosexuality is anathema.

"The presence in the armed forces of persons who demonstrate a propensity or intent to engage in homosexual acts would create an unacceptable risk to the high stan-

dards or morale, good order and discipline," the panel says in the last of its 15 congressional findings embodied in the policy.

To federal courts weighing military regulations, the committee policy stresses that the armed forces operate with their own rules, some of which would not be found in civilian life.

And to the commanders, the policy says individuals whose presence would create an unacceptable risk must be excluded.

"It is clear on the people who would not be able to serve in the military," Nunn said Friday in announcing it.

Absent from the committee policy is the cornerstone of Clinton's plan — the idea that homo-

sexual orientation is not a bar to service unless manifested by conduct. The committee makes no mention of orientation.

The major change embodied in Clinton's policy, an end to questioning recruits and service members about their sexual orientation, would be continued in the committee's plan.

There is a caveat: A future president or defense secretary could reinstate the question.

There is no mention in the committee policy of Clinton's requirement that commanders and agencies not begin investigations solely to determine an individual's sexual orientation.

And also absent from the committee plan is one of the provisions gay rights groups had sought and won in Clinton's plan — a promise of evenhanded enforcement of the Uniform Code of Military Justice for homosexuals and heterosexuals. The code views sodomy as a criminal act.

Nunn portrayed the committee policy as consistent with Clinton's. But the Senate legislation is clearly hostile to homosexuality in the military.

Nunn, D-Ga., won the support of all 10 committee Republicans for the policy and the backing of Sen. Richard Shelby, the Alabama Democrat who has opposed Clinton on nearly every policy this year.

# Tuberculosis

Continued from Page 1

of people coming in from Mexico and Central America," McMurray said.

Rep. Ron Coleman, D-El Paso, and Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-New Mexico, have proposed companion bills that would ask President Bill Clinton to seek an agreement with Mexico for a bi-national commission on border health.

The group would bring Mexican and American officials from various agencies together to carry out clinical work on both sides of the border.

A&M sociology professor Dr. Alex Macintosh said, "If these commissions get cooperation from the local population, it should work."

"Many people on the border are illegal aliens and are difficult to get in contact with," he said.

"They are naturally suspicious of people they don't know."

The funding of these three commissions is provided by the Center for Disease Control.

TB is highly contagious and is spread primarily through the pulmonary route. The disease can be transmitted by coughing, sneezing, and talking.

The disease can also be transmitted to other rooms through air conditioning vents, McMurray said.

Tuberculosis primarily affects the lungs, and symptoms include: coughing, weight loss, and night sweats. Treatments are usually given in six month regimens and require taking a pill daily or two times a week for six to nine months. In Texas, the number of cases reported has risen 43 percent over the past five years.

# Calling

Continued from Page 1

Hearne's population is 5,100 and is located 20 miles from Bryan.

The exchange must file a petition with PUC signed by 5 percent of the people owning a phone, or 100 total subscribers within an exchange, whichever is less.

The local telephone company will then provide ballots to all subscribers within the petitioning exchange, and 70 percent of those

responding must support the expansion.

The petitioning exchange must share a "community of interest" with the exchange requested, according to the bill.

Boyle said Hearne residents working in Bryan are an ideal example of an interested party, but they should consider where they want to call and what particular exchanges.

Boyle said no one from the Hearne area has become involved yet, but Texas Communities for Expanded Local Calling Areas would be interested in Hearne's participation.

# Clay

Continued from Page 3

the SWC has a lot to work with. It is true that Texas isn't the largest television viewing audience in the nation, but the conference is stocked full of strong individual programs.

In the 1992-93 seasons, at least one SWC

school was in the top 20 of most NCAA sports, in both men and women's categories. Football and basketball are the only weak links in the conference's chain which is devastating because they are the most highly visible sports in collegiate sports. But schools around the league are repairing those deficiencies as quickly as possible.

Texas Tech won a national championship in women's basketball. Texas' swimming program is one of the best in the nation. The SWC is the best baseball conference in the na-

# Castro urges Cubans to overcome economic crisis

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HAVANA, Cuba — President Fidel Castro marked the 40th anniversary of Cuba's revolution on Monday by urging Cubans to "redouble efforts" to overcome their economic crisis and outlining ways the government will help.

His nationally televised speech was the centerpiece of celebrations that were trimmed to the bare bones for the second consecutive year in the beleaguered Communist nation.

In his speech, Castro detailed Cuba's economic woes, saying sugar earnings would fall \$450 million below what had been expected. Fuel shortages have severely cut back capacity to refine sugar, the country's its most important export.

The loss of trade and aid from the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, combined with the 30-year-old U.S. trade embargo, have cut Cuba's economy roughly in half and slashed its imports.

Castro revealed that estimated imports this year would be about \$1.7 billion, down from \$2.2 billion last year and from about \$13 billion in 1989. He noted the country faces "an extremely grave scarcity of convertible currency."

He said measures to solve the problem include encouraging visits by Cubans living abroad, allowing Cubans greater freedom to travel overseas, making Cuba more open to foreign investment, and encouraging tourism. He also said possession of foreign currency would be decriminalized.

"There are not miracle formulas" to save the economy, he said.

Cuban officials recently announced that possessing foreign currency would be decriminalized. And they are promoting joint ventures with foreign capitalists in export industries and oil exploration and encouraging tourism, which they say brought in \$530 million last year.

Visits by Cubans living abroad have been allowed only rarely after much paper work, and Cubans have not been encouraged to travel overseas.

Castro and other officials say they are being forced into measures that seem to clash with their socialist ideals to save the revolution and defend their system.

Stripped of most of its oil, much of its food and most of its spare parts and industrial supplies, Cuba has been forced to slash working hours at many offices and factories and idle others. Nearly everything is rationed and the black market is booming.

A&M continues to build a football program to compete with the nation's powerhouses. The rivalries of A&M vs. UT, A&M vs. LSU and UT vs. Oklahoma are some of the greatest in football.

With all of this raw material and the long tradition of the Southwest Conference itself, the SWC only needs someone who could fit all the pieces together and has the ability to promote that material on a national level. It seems that the conference has found the perfect man for the job in Steve Hatchell.

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