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STATE & LOCAL

Page 2

THE BATTALION

Tuesday, September 14, 1993

Tornado season hits early in Dallas-Fort Worth area

The Associated Press

DALLAS — Twisters, heavy rain and high wind cut through the Dallas-Fort Worth area Monday, leaving toppled trees, crumpled buildings and minor injuries in their wake.

Douglas Cain, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service, said the storm moved from southwest to northeast, which is normal for tornadic activity in North Texas because of the jet flow. Johnson, Denton, Collin, Tarrant and Dallas counties were hit hard.

Cain acknowledged Monday's weather was slightly unusual. "This is a little bit early," he said, adding that a minor tornado season crops up in October. "Our best season (for tornadoes) is the springtime."

The weather service issued a flash flood watch for all of North Texas for Monday afternoon and evening, with the likelihood of 1 to 3 inches more rain over the western third of North Texas and 3 to 5 inches elsewhere.

Cain said Arlington and Cleburne reported the worst damage Monday morning.

More than an inch of rain fell at Mineral Wells and at Dallas-Fort Worth Airport.

Sometime after 7 a.m. in Cleburne, about 65 miles southwest of Dallas, the storm flattened a number of businesses in the southern business district, downed trees and knocked out power.

"Our awnings were lifted up and pulled away from the building," Gary Bennett of Bennett Printing and Office Supply told the Cleburne Times-Review. "We can salvage some of them. We also had some ceiling damage."

Jailbirds singing to the tune of millions of federal dollars

The Associated Press

AUSTIN — Prisoners who are exhausting their appeals, demanding civil rights or trying to improve their living conditions are responsible for a large percentage of federal lawsuits.

Nationally, more than one-fifth of the more than 230,000 civil cases filed last year in federal courts were initiated by prisoners, according to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts in Washington, D.C.

A review of the 547 lawsuits filed this year in U.S. District Court in Austin reveals nearly one-third of those suits were by inmates. The Austin division of the Western District of Texas covers 17 counties.

Prisoners have asked federal judges to mandate everything from a different brand of tennis shoes in the prison store to the lifting of a ban on boom boxes in jail cells.

U.S. Magistrate Stephen Capelle estimates he spends about half his time reviewing prisoner-filed lawsuits on all topics — including a request for a change of menu.

"My first reaction was that this guy had misspelled the word and wanted a change of venue," he recalls.

"But he was in a jail that had no kitchen," Capelle says, "and for six months he got an Egg McMuffin for breakfast, a McDonald's hamburger for lunch and a TV dinner at night."

Campus News Briefs

A&M College of Medicine receives award

Texas A&M University's College of Medicine was honored by the Texas Academy of Family Physicians for its efforts to increase the number of physicians practicing family medicine in Texas.

The new award recognizes that more than 25 percent of the College of Medicine's 1993 physician graduates elected to continue their medical education in family practice.

Green named one of Top 10 College Women

Jennifer Green, a senior bioengineering and German major at Texas A&M, has been named one of Glamour magazine's Top Ten College Women for 1993.

Green is featured in the magazine's current October issue for her biomedical research on laser-tissue interaction which was presented at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

Seminar on media exposure to be presented

Texas A&M's Office of University Relations will present a seminar about using special events and publicity to get media exposure on Sept. 17.

The seminar will be presented by public relations professionals Sean Petty, assistant commissioner of the Southwest Conference, and Don Smith, president of the New York City Sports Commission.

Kern-Foxworth honored for winning article

Dr. Marilyn Kern-Foxworth, a journalism professor at Texas A&M, will be honored at the International Association of Business Communicators District 5 conference in Houston Oct. 1 for her article "The Role of Public Relations in Colorizing America: Before the Dream Becomes a Nightmare."

The article was named a winning entry in the "Silver Quill" competition of the IABC District 5.

A&M nuclear engineers receive award

Two Texas A&M University nuclear engineering faculty members and three students have been honored by the national Health Physics Society.

Faculty members receiving the award were Dr. Milton E. McLain Jr. and Dr. Wesley E. Bolch. Students honored by the award were Ian S. Hamilton, a graduate student from San Antonio, Philip C. Fulmer, a graduate student from Marion, S.C. and How Mooli Lau, a graduate student from Malaysia.

AMA official to speak on health care reform

A top official of the American Medical Association will discuss the potential impact of health care reform during a visit to Texas A&M University's College of Medicine.

Dr. Nancy Dickey, secretary-treasurer of the AMA's board of trustees, will speak at 7:15 Tuesday evening in the courtyard between the Joe Reynolds Medical Building and the Medical Sciences Library.

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For more information, contact the
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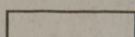
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THE BATTALION

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The Battalion (USPS 045-360) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and Monday through Thursday during the summer session (except University holidays and exam periods), at Texas A&M University. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77840.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, 230 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

News: The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in the Division of Student Publications, a unit of the Department of Journalism. Editorial offices are in 013 Reed McDonald Building. Newsroom phone number is 845-3313. Fax: 845-2647.

Advertising: For campus, local and national display advertising, call 845-2696. For classified advertising, call 845-0569. Advertising offices are in 015 Reed McDonald and office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Fax: 845-5408.

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