

THE BATTALION DEBRIEFING

Page
Wednesday • December 4, 1996



Rachel Redington, THE BATTALION

Leftovers Ray Prewitt, a senior poultry science major, herds turkeys that were used as an exhibit.

State Audit finds Lone Star Card works

AUSTIN (AP) — Despite a rocky start, the state's program for distributing welfare benefits electronically is working well, according to a new state audit.

Retailers and program participants criticized the Lone Star Card program when it began about a year ago for delayed benefits and for communications problems with the electronic system.

But the state audit released Tuesday says the system now is "effectively providing government benefits." Auditors added, though, that the system needs changes, including clearer instructions for retailers when the electronic system isn't working.

The Lone Star Card looks like a debit card. The more than 1 million Texans who get assistance from the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program and other welfare benefits have accounts on the system. Grocery purchases and withdrawals are deducted from the accounts as they would be

from traditional bank accounts.

The system is run by Austin-based Transactive Corp., a subsidiary of the controversial GTECH Corp. that runs the state's lottery system.

Jessica Shahin, a spokeswoman for the Texas Department of Human Services, said there were problems when the system first started.

"Ninety-nine percent of transactions run electronically now," she said. "We run \$3.6 billion through the system at 99 percent. We want 100 percent."

Airline to pull plug on information signs

DALLAS (AP) — American Airlines will unplug eight giant gate information signs at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport because of the multimillion-dollar jury verdict that found they contributed to a traffic accident, according to a published report.

The Dallas Morning News reported in a copyright story Tuesday that American chairman Robert Crandall told the airport last week that the airline would turn off the five-story illuminated signs after the Thanksgiving

travel rush ended Monday.

A jury ruled last month that the airline was grossly negligent for erecting the signs.

But American spokesman John Hotard said Tuesday the signs' fate is still undetermined.

"As to a final decision on when we're going to turn them off — we haven't decided if nor when," Hotard told The Associated Press. "Those decisions are being looked at as we speak."

He said the airline would announce its plans later this week.

World Mother Teresa to recover from surgery

CALCUTTA, India (AP) — Mother Teresa will recover, her doctor said Tuesday, but the 86-year-old nun will not regain the energy that allowed her to travel the world serving the poor.

A few days ago, doctors were saying she could soon return to work. But her recovery has been complicated by lung and kidney problems linked to the poor func-

tioning of her heart.

Though angioplasty last week removed blockages in two arteries improved blood flow to her heart, her other organs have slow to rebound.

"She will have to be taken care of for a long time," said Tarun Prasad, one of the doctors treating Mother Teresa at the B.M. Birla Research Center. He said she would be hospitalized for at least two more weeks.

"At her age, with this procedure will be difficult to go back to active life she led," Prasad reporters. When she returns, Missionaries of Charity, she will have to undergo daily medical checks, he said.

Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity runs 517 orphanages for the poor, AIDS hospices and other charity centers around the world.

The Roman Catholic nun remained in critical condition Tuesday but was well enough to sit in a chair for a half-hour and read the Bible, other religious books and magazines some of them sent by the Vatican, Prasad said.

Mother Teresa told doctors she was doing too much for her

This day in history

(AP) — Today is Wednesday, Dec. 4, the 339th day of 1996. There are 27 days left in the year.

On this date:
In 1783, Gen. George Washington bade farewell to his officers at Fraunces Tavern in New York City.

In 1816, James Monroe of Virginia was elected the fifth president of the United States.

In 1875, William Marcy Tweed, the "Boss" of New York City's Tammany Hall political organization, escaped from jail and fled the country.

In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson set sail for France to attend the Versailles Peace Conference.

In 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt ordered the dismantling of the Works Progress Administration, which had been created to provide jobs during the Depression.

In 1942, U.S. bombers struck the Italian mainland for the first time in World War II.

In 1945, the Senate approved U.S. participation in

the United Nations.

In 1965, the United States launched Gemini 7 with Air Force Lt. Col. Frank Borman and Navy Commander James A. Lovell aboard.

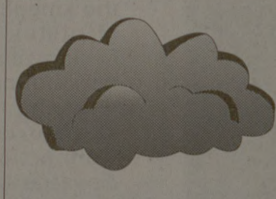


In 1977, Jean-Bedel Bokassa, ruler of the Central African Empire, crowned himself emperor in a ceremony believed to have cost more than \$100 million. (Bokassa was deposed in 1979; he died this past Nov. 3 at age 75.)

In 1980, the bodies of four American churchwomen slain in El Salvador two days earlier were unearthed.

Today's birthdays

Game-show host Wink Martindale is 62. Actor Jeff Bridges is 47. Rock musician Gary Rossington (Lynyrd Skynyrd) is 45. Actress Patricia Wettig is 45. Rock singer Vinnie Dombroski (Sponge) is 34. Actress Marisa Tomei is 32. Actress-model Tyra Banks is 23.

Weather

Today	Tonight	Tomorrow	Highs & Lows
			Today's Expected High: 64°F Today's Expected Low: 47°F Tomorrow's Expected High: 66°F Tomorrow's Expected Low: 49°F
Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of rain.	Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of rain.	Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of rain.	

Information courtesy of TAMU



Sundown specials

SERVED DAILY 4 P.M. TIL 6:30 P.M.

- ANGUS SIRLOIN 8.95
A 9oz. heavy aged Angus sirloin.
 - BUTTERMILK CHICKEN FRIED STEAK 7.95
Fresh round steak, dipped in a buttermilk batter and lightly fried, served with your choice of ranch fries or uptown mashed potatoes.
 - GRILLED CHICKEN 7.95
A seasoned boneless chicken breast cooked to PERFECTION and topped with our grilled pan onions.
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
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Noonday Programs	Holiday Craft Fair
Today thru Friday 11 a.m.-2 p.m. MSC Flagroom	Tomorrow & Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. MSC First Floor

For more information, please call 845-1515


 Persons with disabilities please call 845-1515 to inform us of your special needs. We request notification three (3) working days prior to the event to enable us to assist you to the best of our abilities.

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