

TODAY

HIGH 104°
LOW 75°

TOMORROW

HIGH 102°
LOW 76°

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THE BATTALION

Opinion:
With Governor Bush's recent decision, the death penalty has become a political tool not a crime deterrent.

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TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY • COLLEGE STATION • TEXAS

Cadet roundup

Corps uses summer to talk with parents, recruit incoming students

BY SARAH GOLDSTON
Staff Writer

Garrison said they also talk to prospective students about experiences current cadets have had in the Corps. "One of the most important aspects of the Corps is the focus on grades," Garrison said. "I wouldn't have the GPA that I have without the influence of the Corps. Grades are why we are here at the University."

“There is no hazing in the Corps. This is A&M; we don't do that trash.”

— Mike Rountree
Corps recruiter and junior construction science major

Both cadets said the Corps provides an opportunity for students to make new friends.

Garrison also said the Corps offers a number of extracurricular activities.

The cadets do a number of recruiting activities during the summer. They participate in the "Welcome to Ag-

gieland" presentation which is presented to all new students.

Those who plan to participate in the Corps are divided into their specific ROTC groups. They are sized for uniforms and complete administrative paperwork.

"Usually on the second day of the conferences during the lunch break, students have the opportunity to go by the resource tables set up in Duncan Dining Center," Burnside said.

A week before school starts freshmen participate in Freshman Orientation Week.

"During this week, freshmen who intend to be in Corps go through a week of intense training, learning all the aspects of the Corps," Burnside said.

Freshmen learn how to wear their uniforms, straighten their rooms and meet other people in the Corps.

"The most valuable experience a freshman takes away from FOW is working as a team member towards common goals," Burnside said. "Freshmen will be able to utilize newly gained skills to enhance their success in the student's freshman year."

Burnside said FOW is the springboard to a student's entire freshman experience. He said freshmen make many friends during this week.

"These students learn respect for each other," he said, "and they rely on each other."



PHOTO BY MIKE FUENTES / THE BATTALION

New fish Brian Friedli learns about various medals from Corps of Cadets members (left to right) Frank Almaraz (C-1), a junior industrial distribution major, Lindy Lindemann (B-1), a sophomore forestry major, Bobby Robbins (B-1), a sophomore chemistry major and Mike Sharmer (G-1), a junior biomedical science major.

Splash dunk



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

J.P. LeCompte, a junior management major, swims to the hoop as Andy Vincent (right), a junior management major, and Chad Lee, a senior history major, go for the block. The three were playing a relaxing game of pool basketball after finals Monday at the Student Recreation Center.

NEWS BRIEFS

from staff and wire reports

Web site offers legal opinions

Texas Attorney General Dan Morales announced that his office's Web site now has archives of legal opinions.

Over 9,500 rulings dating back 45 years will be available at <http://www.oag.state.tx.us>.

More than 180,000 pages of legal documents are available in Adobe Acrobat format.

In the next few months, Morales expects to have all opinions and decisions dating back to 1939.

Cotton drought losses at \$1.8 B

Unrelenting hot, dry weather across the state continues to take its toll on Texas crops, slashing an estimated \$500 million from cotton farmers and \$1.8 billion from the economy, according to a Texas Agricultural Extension Service economist.

The estimated losses, which will climb even higher if sufficient rain doesn't fall, have surpassed the 1996 levels when agriculture last felt the impact of severe drought, Carl Anderson, Extension cotton marketing economist, said.

Cotton farmers that year took a \$359 million loss that translated into a \$1.2 billion cut to the state's overall economy.

Expected cotton losses this year have more than tripled in the two weeks

since the Extension Service released its first drought impact for 1998, estimating the loss to cotton farmers then to be \$157 million.

According to the Texas Water Development Board, practically the entire state is experiencing a severe to extreme drought, with crop moisture deficits of at least 4 inches, and conditions are expected to continue at least through August.

CVEN department head named

John M. Niedzwecki is the new department head of the civil engineering department.

Niedzwecki, who holds the Wofford Cain Professorship in Offshore Technology, had served as interim department head since August 1997 when distinguished professor Dr. Ignacio Rodriguez-Iturbe returned to full-time teaching and research.

At Texas A&M since 1978, Niedzwecki specializes in offshore platforms and coastal structures.

He has worked extensively with the Offshore Technology Research Center and leads their fluid/structure interaction research area.

He was awarded his Ph.D. degree from the Catholic University of America in 1977.

Niedzwecki received his master's degree and two bachelor of science degrees from Boston University.

Florida fire victims allowed to return home

BUNNELL, Fla. (AP) — With firefighters gaining ground, Flagler County's more than 40,000 residents got the go-ahead to return home yesterday, and authorities said all but a handful of the county's houses had escaped damage.

Fire crews had contained the blazes that forced the evacuation of the entire county on Friday, though the threat of flare-ups remained.

Officials had previously feared that four fires in the county would merge and burn all the way to the Atlantic Ocean.

"We are pleased the tide has turned to some extent, at least temporarily," Lt. Gov. Buddy MacKay said in Tallahassee.

About 97 percent of the houses in Flagler County escaped the fires, Sheriff Robert McCarthy said. About 40 to 50 homes were damaged or destroyed, but officials were still checking to get a firmer count.

Some 49,000 acres of the county

had been charred.

Among the unlucky ones were Beatrice and Gerald Snyder, who have been married for 47 years. Their home in Bunnell was destroyed.

"As wonderful as FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) has been, that isn't going to bring back 47 years of stuff," she said.

In Washington today, the White House announced that President Clinton would visit Volusia County, another hard-hit county, on Thursday to survey damage.

Temperatures today were forecast to rise to near 100 degrees, the high on Sunday afternoon. Isolated severe thunderstorms were forecast this afternoon and evening, with 1 to 2 inches of rain possible, emergency officials have said it will take more than 10 inches of rain to extinguish the flames.

There is a 50 percent chance of more rain the rest of this week but a storm building in the Caribbean is not

likely to reach the area.

Although officials said the fires that have ravaged northeastern Florida for more than a month ebbed in intensity Sunday, there were scattered flare-ups.

Plumes of smoke lined the sky for miles, and flames dotted many stretches of woods.

The fires have covered more than 474,464 acres since Memorial Day. State officials estimate that more than 2,000 fires have damaged or destroyed 301 homes and other structures and injured more than 100 people, many of them firefighters.

Only one death has been reported, an elderly man who suffered a heart attack Friday while being moved from a nursing home.

"We think it's miraculous there hasn't been more deaths," MacKay said.

The cost of fighting the fires has topped \$116 million and losses are estimated at \$276 million.

The federal government has contributed \$66 million.

The damage has been concentrated in three counties along the Atlantic coast, from St. Augustine south to near the Kennedy Space Center. More than 100,000 people fled their homes, but all evacuation orders have been lifted.

The Florida Highway Patrol said several roads closed because of the fires would be reopened for returning Flagler County residents.

However, a 100-mile section of Interstate 95 from near Jacksonville to Cocoa Beach remained closed.

Within an hour after the Flagler County evacuation order was lifted, traffic on Route 1 appeared normal again. At the Bunnell Thriftway, the city's only supermarket, manager Tom Hubbard prepared for an inundation.

"People will be needing the staples of life," he said. "They'll go home and look in their refrigerator and see the milk is out of date."

