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Weather service reviews flood warnings

Concerns over effectiveness of rainfall predictions prompt reexamination of performance

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Questions over how well the National Weather Service predicted peak flooding during last month's deadly rains in Central Texas have prompted a formal review of the agency's performance.

Findings are due in January to director John G. Kelly.

"We're asking ourselves hard questions about this event," John Patton, a weather service hydrologist for 26 years, told the San Antonio Express-News.

The 90-day review, initiated Wednesday, seeks to determine why - despite the use of sophisticated radar, computer models, weather spotters and satellite-linked flow gauges - the agency's forecasts were off by as much as two days in predicting when peak flooding would hit downstream communities.

The floods and storms killed at least 29 people and left hundreds of millions of dollars in property damage.

"I didn't have a chance to move anything. I lost everything," 78-year-old Seledona Garcia of Victoria, who was warned to leave immediately just hours after being told that she would have two tion," Patton, who put in several 20-hour days or three days to evacuate, said.

Officials say forecasting about river crests was complicated by heavy rains downstream,

"We couldn't keep up with requests for forecasts and emergency officials wanting information."

- John Patton Weather service hydrologist

record flows that undermined computer models, and by staffing shortages caused by flooding around the weather service offices in New Braunfels.

"We couldn't keep up with requests for forecasts and emergency officials wanting informaat the height of the flooding, said. Forecasters' jobs were complicated further

because some U.S. Geological Service river gauges malfunctioned while underwater and could not transmit data.

But, officials said, predictions of severe flooding were broadcast early and often, a clear indication that trouble was in store for Cuero, Goliad, Gonzales, Victoria and other communities along the Guadalupe and San Antonio rivers.

The Guadalupe River peaked in Cuero late Oct. 19. Until that day, the weather service had forecast it would crest Oct. 21.

Luther Boysen, emergency management coor-dinator for Cuero, said that the suddenness of the flooding left him little time to post the hundreds of evacuation notices that had been printed.

"We were sitting here looking stupid because we didn't get the people evacuated," he said. "It appeared perhaps we were not monitoring the river and appropriately advising them.

for Tuesday elections Wr AUSTIN (AP) — As the final of state.

Candidates get ready le

minutes of the 1998 election campaign

Sunday, candidates for office worked to get voters to the polls on Tuesday and tossed final jabs at

their opponents. gubernatorial candidate Garry Mauro spoke to four church

congregations in the Houston area, spokesperson John Hannah said. Mauro has scheduled stops in Brownsville and Chorpus

Christi, Hannah said. "The message was getting out

the vote, which it has been for a while" Hannah said. Gov. George W. Bush's spokesperson, Mindy Tucker, said Bush's only public appearance Sunday was participating in a breast cancer awareness

run in Austin. "He tries not to campaign on Sundays," she said. But Bush had several stops planned for Monday, Tucker said. "He's been in three cites a day since last Monday in an effort to remind people to vote.

voters are expected to cast bal-

lots, according to the secretary

Based on early voting totals, only about 30 percent of the state's 11.5 million registered

solutely ridicu-lous," Hannah said. Those polls historically under sample Hispanic voters, who will a factor

Though opinion polls showe

Bush with a significant lead ov

Mauro, voters still must show

up, Tucker said. "No matter what the pollss:

it's important for people to vote,'

ued to dismiss the polls Sun

Mauro's campaign contin

she said.

But a recent El Paso Times/KVIA-7 pollir hrough the of big plays dicated that Bush could be Ironically, t come the first Republican gu courtesy of backer Ken bernatorial candidate to cam El Paso County, a heavily His panic area.

That survey found Busi supported by 51 percent of like ly voters in the county, com pared to 37 percent for Maun and 1 percent for Libertarian Lester Turlington.

First female football kicker named homecoming queen HOUSTON (AP) — This year's walking onto the field one moment ball began last spring when Westbury

homecoming queen at Westbury High School credits her on-the-field performance for raising her profile. But it was not cheerleading that caused Cindy Wright's stock to rise.

It was Wright's success as a place kicker for her school's varsity football team.

Last month, Wright became the first female to score in a Houston Independent School District game. On Friday, her classmates voted to crown their gridiron hero, homecoming queen.

"I think the only reason I was homecoming queen was because I

was playing football — but that's fine with me," Wright said of Friday night's homecoming activities. Since joining the team, Wright

has kicked 15 points-after-touch-down for the Rebels. As a result of her on-field ex-

ploits, Wright said her popularity has soared. At the urging of friends she entered the school's homecoming competition and, to her surprise, won.

At games her friends have lobbied for the female kicker, some toting banners such as "Crown the kicker" to the game.

She is loving every minute of it,

as a focused football player and the next as homecoming queen. It has made for a special senior year.

"I get to keep the crown and the flowers," she said. "But most of all I get to keep all the memories.

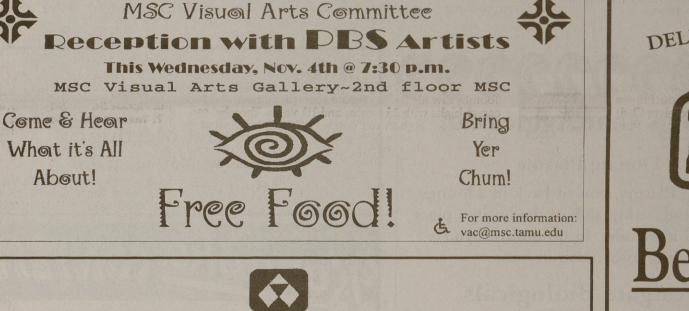
A straight-A senior, Ms. Wright plans to attend a major college such as University of Colorado or University of Texas next year and major in pre-med. She wants to eventually combine her love for children and interest in medicine by becoming a pediatrician or a dentist. She also plans to continue playing soccer in college. Her venture into high-school foot-

soccer coach Matthew Caulkins asked her about kicking a different kind of ball. Football coach George Campbell saw her hit a 40-yard field goal and asked her to join the team. She accepted — despite initial

protests from her parents, who worried about possible injuries.

My dad thought I was crazy and my mom thought I was psycho," Wright said.

But no injuries have occurred she said the guys on the team are very protective — and her parents have come around, now videotaping every kick.





day. "Garry Mauro is poised for a major upset," Hannah said Bush is supported by 70 pecent of likely voters, compare to 23 percent for Mauro, a

cording to a poll by The Dalla Morning News and Housto Chronicle. The rest of the m spondents were undecided. "That's ab-

in the election, he said.



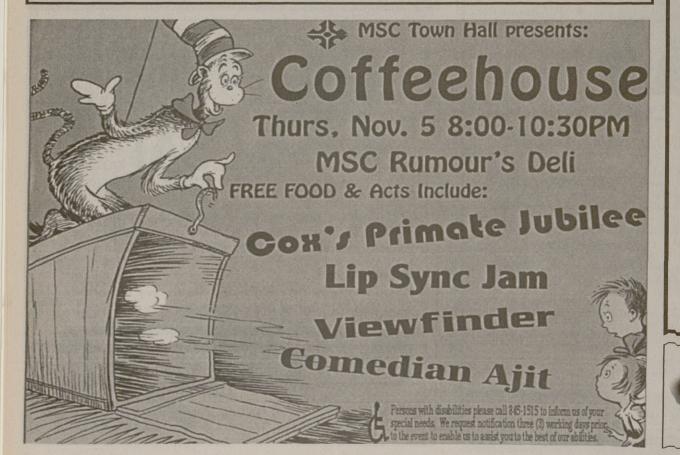
Aluminum Company of America

ALCOA

Alcoa will be at Texas A&M on Friday, November 13th to interview electrical, mechanical, chemical, and computer engineering students for full-time positions at Alcoa plants in the United States. Alcoa employs 76,800 people and is the world's leading producer of aluminum, serving diverse markets such as automotive, packaging, aerospace, construction and a variety of others with both aluminum and non-aluminum products.

If you are interested in getting our pre-select interviewing schedule: 1.) register with the Career Center to interview on-campus, and 2.) request that the Career Center submit your resume to Alcoa.

Alcoa will be hosting a reception on Thursday, November 12th, at 7:00 - 8:15 p.m. at Memorial Student Center, Room 231. All students interested in meeting with Alcoa representatives are welcome.



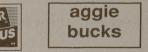
Just call Papa John's between 6 and 8 o'clock.

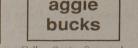
The Time You Call is the Price You Pay for 1 Large 1 Topping Pizza.

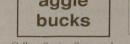
Offer good on Monday only. All prices subject to sale tax. Offer can expire without notice.

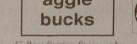
College Station 764-7272 Northgate 846-3600 Bryan 268-7272

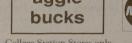




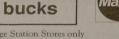


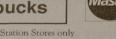


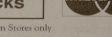












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