

THE BATTALION

107 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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News in Brief

State

ATMs may be down because of flooding

HOUSTON (AP) — An estimated 76,000 ATMs in 22 states may be affected by weekend flooding in the southeast Texas, a banking official said.

Access to ATMs in the PULSE network was disrupted when the primary and secondary power supplies were flooded in Houston, said Julian Read, a spokesman for PULSE, a non-profit electronic funds transfer network. It has more than 12,600 financial institution members.

Also, an estimated 300,000 point-of-sale transactions — using an ATM at a cashier — also may be affected, Read said.

Officials are trying to switch operations to a processing center in Dallas. PULSE anticipates the majority of the system to be operational sometime Sunday, and it should be fully operational early in the week, he said.

Second trial ends with guilty verdict

WICHITA FALLS (AP) — Three years after Zacchaeus Field was gunned down on a street simply because he was black, relatives say they can start to heal.

Once-avowed white supremacist John Matthew Turnbow, 28, of Iowa Park was convicted Friday of murder in 78th District Court. The judge will determine sentencing.

The jury deliberated less than two hours in Turnbow's second trial. His first, in March 2000, ended in a mistrial after jurors — all of them white — remained deadlocked for two days.

Turnbow and co-defendant Rodger Bridges allegedly attacked Field in October 1998 while looking for another black man who had dated Bridges' ex-wife. Bridges remains jailed and is awaiting trial in connection with the murder.

Turnbow's sentencing has been set for July 3.

Nation

North Dakota hit by flooding, hail storm

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Violent storms swept through parts of North Dakota, dumping hail that piled up like snow and killed vehicles in the streets.

Scattered power outages were reported with Saturday night's storms, but there were no immediate reports of injuries. More than an inch of hail was reported in some areas.

The National Weather Service said 2 inches of rain fell in less than an hour, causing flooding that cut off a number of Bismarck streets. A small stream flash flood advisory was issued for the area.

A number of funnel clouds were also reported, but there were no reports of tornado touchdowns.

Floods blamed for 15 deaths

Houston declared disaster area, some highways remain under water

HOUSTON (AP) — Floods from Tropical Storm Allison were blamed Sunday for at least 15 deaths as damage estimates climbed into the hundreds of millions of dollars in the Houston area.

With waters in most areas receding, it was feared the death toll could grow as the raging waters that inundated areas of Southeast Texas were slipping back within bayou banks.

Some residents, primarily on Houston's east side, continued to be rescued from their homes Sunday by National Guard troops in 5-ton trucks who arrived after Gov. Rick Perry declared a 28-county area disaster area. President Bush also followed Saturday with a federal disaster declaration.

Skies were cloudy Sunday and forecasts were for little or no additional rain. Most of the heavier rain had moved to

the east into Louisiana, where at least one fatality was reported.

Some of the rainfall amounts were staggering. Double-digit figures in inches were common on rain gauges around Southeast Texas, with one station on the east side of Houston registering just under 3 feet since Allison, the first named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, came ashore last week.

Much of the nation's fourth-largest city dried out and returned to normal Sunday although some highways, particularly on the east side or near downtown, remained blocked by high water or scores of cars and trucks that were abandoned Friday night when flash flooding from the storm caught motorists by surprise.

"This is overwhelming," said Houston Police Sgt. C.J. Klausner as he

watched crews removing dozens of cars and tractor-trailer rigs from Interstate 610, which was closed on the east side of the city for a third day.

"It's probably totaled," Charles Steele said of his big rig, which he swam from when the high water hit. His empty tanker trailer floated in the rising water and jackknifed, landing on a small Jeep that was stuck behind him.

A Houston fire truck and a bus were among the vehicles that had been trapped.

"I've got to get this thing going," said Steve Gonzales, who returned Sunday to where his girlfriend's car was among about 35 vehicles engulfed at one intersection. Water had topped the dashboard.

The Harris County Office of Emergency Management estimated 20,000

homes suffered \$500 million worth of damage from floodwaters. Damage to public facilities and businesses, not to mention the toll outside of Harris County, were expected to send the cost much higher.

"If I were to give a guess ... it would top \$1 billion," Brown said. "That would be a guess, but it would suggest we have had a serious problem."

The mayor urged downtown employers to give their workers the day off Monday.

"Because of buildings being closed, power out and water in some of the buildings, I'm asking employers to consider tomorrow a day of recovery to let downtown get back on track, back on its feet, to take the day off to take care of

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Summer days



Regan Chesher holds the flag as Chuck Glenwinkel takes a shot at the A&M golf course on Sunday afternoon. With the showers gone, many students and area residents took advantage of sunny summer skies.

BERNARDO GARZA/THE BATTALION

TEAM Blinn debuts

Elizabeth Raines
The Battalion

Last week, 500 hopefuls on A&M's fall waiting list were given the word that they were accepted — well, partially accepted.

Texas A&M University President Dr. Ray M. Bowen met with Blinn College President Donald E. Voelter on June 7 at the Bush Presidential Conference Center to formally initiate the Transfer Enrollment at A&M (TEAM) Blinn program.

TEAM Blinn has been formed through the combined

"Most students that go to Blinn go to Texas A&M, and TEAM Blinn will make the transition easier for them."

— Ronald Douglas
A&M executive vice president and provost

Man surrenders peacefully after standoff with police

Stuart Hutson
The Battalion

The 500 block of Kyle Avenue was blocked off and residents were evacuated from their homes early Saturday morning as a 14-hour standoff began between police and a 26-year-old College Station man who allegedly attacked his mother and barricaded himself in her house.

College Station police responded to a report of an assault at 505 Kyle Street at 1 a.m. to find the mother of Robert Alex

Garza with a broken finger and nose, a bruised arm and a black eye. She said that Garza, who was wanted by the police for parole violation, had attacked her and was armed with a knife.

Garza's mother was sent to the College Station Medical Center for treatment while his 20-year-old sister looked on tearfully as College Station Police Department (CSPD) SWAT and hostage negotiation teams set up a perimeter around the house Garza refused to exit.

"We aren't sure if there are

any guns in the house, but at this point we are acting cautiously to make sure no one gets hurt," said Sgt. Leeth of the CSPD, two hours into the standoff. "Our basic plan is to just wait him out."

And wait they did. Periodically attempting to contact Garza with the aid of his sister, who was waiting nearby in her car, CSPD officers rotated with Bryan Police until Garza finally surrendered peacefully at approximately 3:20 p.m.

"This is just crazy, I didn't expect something to happen like

this in this neighborhood," said A&M sophomore business major Aaron Murski, who was with friends when he was asked by police to leave his house around 2:30 a.m. "All I wanted to do was to sleep in my own bed tonight, but they won't even let me near my house."

The police were unaware of the conditions of Garza's parole violation, but he is currently being held for the violation at the Brazos County Jail. The assault on his mother is still being investigated and additional charges could be filed.

Heroin overdoses rise in Austin

AUSTIN (AP) — Ten people have died in Travis County this year from heroin-related overdoses, almost half the 22 overdose deaths from all drugs this year, officials say. Four of the deaths occurred during one week in April.

Although it's too soon to tell whether the county will set a record this year, the jump in the number of heroin users seeking treatment has alarmed officials.

A few years ago, about five people a week would seek help at Austin Recovery, a non-profit rehabilitation clinic. Now the clinic is seeing about five new addicts a day.

"It's just a tremendous increase that I haven't seen ever, and I've been doing this for 13 years," said Bud Hibbs, the director of admissions at Austin Recovery. "Heroin just seems to be at this point very cheap and very readily available, whereas

many years ago it was more of an underground drug."

The number of heroin abusers seeking treatment at the clinic has jumped 17 percent

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— Bud Hibbs
director of admissions at Austin Recovery

since 1997, Hibbs told the *Austin American Statesman*.

Other drug-abuse professionals say they've noticed the same thing.

Three years ago, teen-agers at Phoenix

Academy, which provides substance abuse treatment in Austin for adolescents, rarely mentioned using heroin.

"Now they are reporting trying it one or two times, and most typically they are smoking it," said Laurie DeLong, the center's director.

Officials have noticed that traffickers are starting to stockpile the drug at the Texas-Mexico border, said Nicholas Nargi, resident agent in charge at the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration office in Austin. "Some are smuggling larger kilogram quantities in tar and powder form from the interior of Mexico," Nargi said.

The amount of heroin seized by the DEA nationwide has increased in the past few years.

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efforts of Texas A&M and Blinn to allow students who qualify for acceptance into Texas A&M, but could not get in because of limited space, to be admitted as part-time students.

"There are many more students that apply to A&M and [meet all the requirements] than we can take due to space," said Ronald Douglas, A&M executive vice president and provost. "Most students that go to Blinn go to Texas A&M, and TEAM Blinn will make the transition easier for them."

The top 500 students on the A&M waiting list were sent invitations in the beginning of June to participate in the TEAM Blinn pilot program.

"We are very excited about the program," said Vivian Jefferson, director of admissions and records for Blinn. "We sent out 500 invitations and so far approximately 175 students have responded."

Students in the program will be considered part-time students at A&M and will pay for and receive the benefits of being a part-time student. These benefits include access to A&M's library resources, the Student Computing Center (SCC), the Student Recreation Center, A.P. Beutel Health Center and Food Services, along with tickets to student athletic and performing arts events. They may also join the Corps of Cadets, fraternities and

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• Gov. Perry should sign bill banning the execution of retarded murderers

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