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News

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THE BATTALION

Tuesday, November 24

Less air travel expected for Thanksgiving

DALLAS (AP) — Fewer people are expected to travel over Thanksgiving this year, and those who do are more likely to drive, as Americans worry about airplane security and give thanks for lower gasoline prices.

Air travel is expected to fall at least 15 percent from a year ago as airlines struggle with a weak economy and fear after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and a fatal jetliner crash last week.

Some travelers admitted to being scared, but decided to fly anyway. Fourteen-year-old Katie Blakeney went ahead with a trip from Dallas to visit family in Tulsa, Okla.

"She said she wasn't going to let terrorists ruin her life," said her mother, Tracy, seeing Katie off at Love Field on Monday.

"She was going to keep traveling. We are not stopping our lives."

The American Automobile Association (AAA) estimated that 34.6 million Americans will travel at least 50 miles from home, a 6 percent decline from last year. A record 87 percent will drive, and the number taking airplanes, trains and buses will drop 27 percent due to a decline in air travel, AAA said.

Rose Rougeau, a spokeswoman for the AAA of Texas, said the rush to the highways will be a combination of air fright and low gasoline prices — under \$1 per gallon in some places.

Greyhound Bus Lines reports a 20 percent surge in advance-purchase tickets and an increase in trips longer than 1,000 miles.

"This makes us think we're picking up travelers from the airlines," said spokeswoman Kristin Parsley.

Anticipating many first-time bus travelers, Greyhound has expanded its Website to include a section on bus etiquette, such as the proper way of toting your own bags to the bus and giving them to a ticket agent or sky cap.

Amtrak is getting 10 percent more inquiries about tickets than it did last year, when the passenger rail service carried 567,000 people, a spokeswoman said.

Amtrak has added 75,000 seats, or 10 percent, to its capacity for Tuesday through Monday. It expects especially high demand along the New York-to-Washington route.

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BIOTERRORISM

Continued from Page 1A

if they occur, Clarke said.

The focus will be on livestock, crops, food processing and transport.

"We will research every opportunity for the introduction of harmful materials to the food supply," Clarke said.

Naturally occurring biological outbreaks, such as foot-and-mouth disease, are as relevant as intentional attacks like those in Japanese subways, Clarke said.

Congressional funds are being sought for the institute, as well as federal intelligence information that may help with research efforts.

"It is possible for a university to get

classified intelligence information, but it is not too common," Clarke said. "Long term, we hope to develop whole new ways of thinking of how things could be introduced and detected."

Plans include development of DNA monitoring and diagnosis tools, biotechnology, vaccines, satellite imagery and ground-based monitoring systems in areas of concentrated agriculture.

Clarke emphasized that the technology must be affordable for the agricultural community.

A&M has already been involved with researching countermeasures against biological weapons and the protection of soldiers against chemical attacks.

Research to create animal resistance to naturally occurring diseases is granted

\$10 million per year at A&M. Clarke said University research on immunogenetics and understanding disease-related, but the institute will apply research to bioterrorism.

Clarke said research on threats to water supply might come with plans to expand the program to numerous universities and governmental agencies.

"If we get the money we are asking we will bring in new talent," Clarke said.

The plans are to integrate University researchers, the United States Department of Agriculture, private sector researchers, Air Force programs like Brooks Air Force Base in San Antonio and Health and Human Services, which includes the FDA and Centers for Disease Control Prevention.

OPENER

Continued from Page 3B

to having a good season. Then hopefully we can gain some confidence."

The Aggies came out of the gates with confidence, jumping out to a 20-9 lead with 13:43 left in the first half on back-to-back 3-pointers by senior guard Andy Leatherman and sophomore guard Bradley Jackson.

The Colonials managed to cut the lead to six at 28-22 on a basket by Chris Monroe with 6:32 left in the half. It was as close as

they would get to A&M as the Aggies pulled away, raising their lead to 14 points before going into halftime with a 43-32 lead.

A&M came out with the same intensity in the second half, pushing its lead to 17 points at 56-39 on a three-point play by junior guard Brian Brookhart, who led the team with nine rebounds, with 14:35 left to play.

George Washington attempted to get back into the game, going on a 9-1 run to pull within nine points at 57-48 on a bucket by Albert Roma with 11:35 left in the game.

Instead of turning to King to stop the run, the Aggies were put on their shoulders by someone else: Anderson.

Anderson, who also pulled down five rebounds, scored the next seven points for the Aggies on a 3-pointer and four free throws to push the lead to 64-48 with 10:03 remaining, effectively ending George Washington's chances.

"I got a little mad at myself," Anderson said. "I was fouling too much so I wanted to get every rebound and try and do something."

Two areas that plagued the

Aggies last season were late spots on Monday. A&M rebounded the Colonials 44-38 and had 18 offensive rebounds.

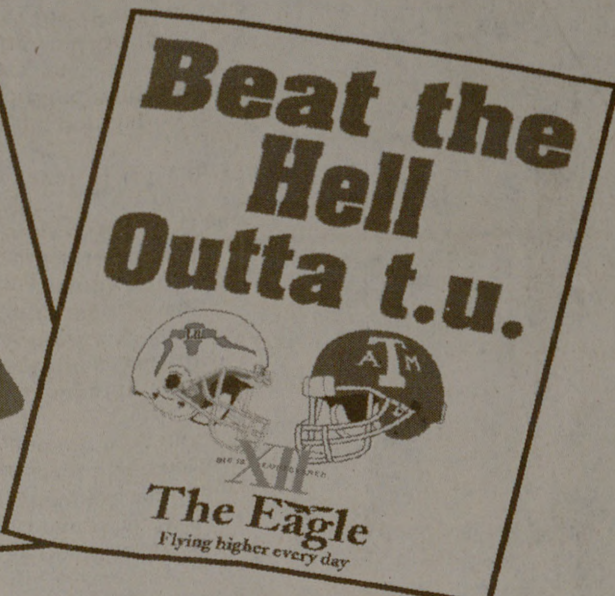
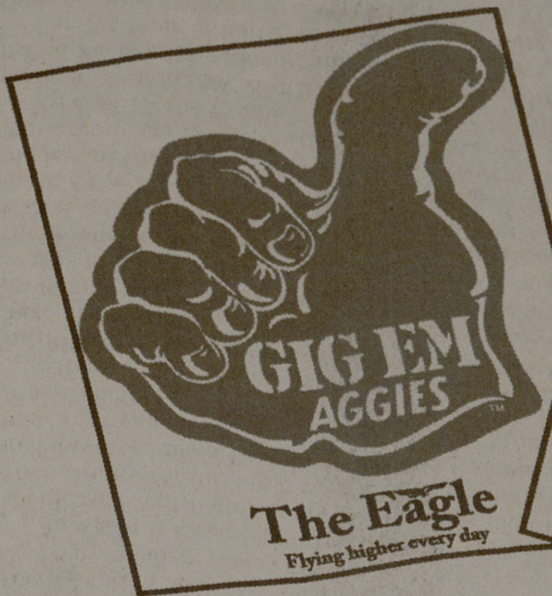
The Aggies also had a production from their bench that was better than the Colonials. The Aggies gained 35 points from the bench as 12 players scored.

Monroe led George Washington with a game-high 20 points. Roma chipped in 10 points and Jaason Smith had 10 for the Colonials.

The Aggies return to the court on Saturday in Beaumont to play the Lamar Cardinals at 7 p.m.

Cheer Card

Friday - November 23



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