

Texas A&M University — Celebrating 125 Years

THE BATTALION

SERVING THE TEXAS A&M COMMUNITY SINCE 1893

Volume 108 • Issue 69

College Station, Texas

www.thebatt.com



NEWS IN BRIEF

Anthrax found in Connecticut postal facility

HARTFORD (AP) — Trace amounts of anthrax were found at a postal facility that sorts mail for the town where a 94-year woman mysteriously died of the disease last month, officials said Sunday.

Ottillie Lundgren, of Oxford, was the fifth person in the nation to die since the anthrax scare began in October. The source of her exposure has baffled officials, who are investigating whether she could have come in contact with tainted mail.

The spores were found on four sorting machines during tests at the Southern Connecticut Processing & Distribution Center in Wallingford. The center processes about 3 million pieces of mail daily for Oxford and other towns.

The trace amounts most likely were left on the machines when a letter sent to Seymour, near Oxford, passed through the facility on Oct. 11, said Jon Steele, vice president of the Postal Service's Northeast Area Operations.

Officials announced Friday they had found a single spore of anthrax on the Seymour letter.

PUBLIC EYE

Percentage of infants 19-35 months old in Texas with the proper vaccines, the lowest of all 50 states
69.4

TODAY

AGGIELIFE
Page 3
Knights in shining maroon
• Chivalry remains a timeless and appreciated practice on campus

SPORTS

Page 7
A&M pounds Texas, advances
• Win lands Aggies in Sweet 16 round

OPINION

Page 11
People should leave Harry alone
• Despite the black magic, books and movies are no threat

WEATHER

TODAY
40% HIGH 70° F
LOW 55° F
TOMORROW
HIGH 75° F
LOW 60° F
FORECASTS COURTESY OF www.weathermated.com

Teacher shortage sparks new program

TEACHERS NEEDED IN TEXAS
Percent of teachers needed but not hired

SUBJECT AREA	TEACHER SHORTFALL
ELEMENTARY ESL	21%
SECONDARY MATH	17%
SECONDARY FOREIGN LANGUAGE	13%
SECONDARY ESL	11%

SOURCE: A&M's Institute for School University Partnership
CHAD MALLAM • THE BATTALION

By NONI SRIDHARA
THE BATTALION

Starting this spring, Texas A&M will be the first university in the state to participate in an alternative teacher-certification program partnership to address teacher shortages in areas like math, science and bilingual education.

The U.S. Department of Education funded a \$1.4-million "Transition to Teach" grant that

allows A&M to partner with the Region IV Education Service Center (ESC) in Houston.

The ESC has had an alternative certification program in place since 1991, allowing professionals to enter a condensed certification program, said Dr. Joe D. Crane, chief officer of the Human Resources Services Division of the ESC. The program began with Aggies seeking to partner with the ESC, he said.

ing the end of their program and looking for other options and including teaching as one of them," Crane said.

Critical teacher shortages are a nationwide phenomenon, Crane said.

"It is kind of hard to pinpoint what teacher shortages are attributed to, but some of it is pay and working conditions," he said.

The A&M System's

See TEACHER on page 6.

A&M leads in cloning research

By TANYA NADING
THE BATTALION

With recent advancements in cloning technology, Texas A&M continues to lead the field in biotechnology and cloning research.

A&M is the first institution in the world to have cloned three different species: a Brahman calf in 1999, an Angus calf in November 2000, a boer goat in March 2001, and nine piglets, born Aug. 12, 2001.

"The cloning research is important to Texas A&M because we are leading in the field of cloning," said Dr. Jorge Piedrahita, associate professor at the College of Veterinary Medicine and assistant director of the Center for Animal Biotechnology and Genomics (CABG). "It would be unwise to give up the leadership and realize later that we could have been the next Microsoft, for example."

Piedrahita's research has two major goals that he and his team set forth.

"The first goal is basic research on understanding nuclear reprogramming," he said. "We look at what happens to the nucleus and try to determine why some clones are not as normal as others."

The second goal is to create genetically-modified animals, or transgenic animals, that can be used for biological and medical research.

"Cloning is so important because the technology has a tremendous potential for medical treatments as well as food products in the future," Piedrahita said.

The nine piglets were born at the CABG and were the first of five expect-

See CLONING on page 2.

Secret invention revealed

Hyped as the new alternative to cars

NEW YORK (AP) — After months of hype, an inventor is set to unveil an electric scooter being billed as an environmentally friendly alternative to cars.

Inventor Dean Kamen and his backers said the scooter needs less energy and creates less pollution than cars, and could help people move about more efficiently in urban areas.

The Segway "will be to the car what the car was to the horse and buggy," Kamen told Time magazine for Monday's edition. "Cars are great for going long distances. But it makes no sense at all for people in cities to use a 4,000-pound piece of metal" to get around town.

Kamen holds roughly 100 U.S. patents. His other inventions include the heart stent used by Vice President Dick

See INVENTION on page 2.

Reindeer games



STUART VILLANUEVA • THE BATTALION

Senior psychology major **Ryan Beard**, dressed as Rudolph, greets children during Breakfast with Santa at the Lincoln Recreation Center on Sunday. The event was organized by Delta

Sigma Theta to provide free breakfast and toys, which were donated by campus and community organizations for Bryan-College Station area children.

Brown wins mayoral runoff

HOUSTON (AP) — In the wake of a ferocious and negative campaign, newly re-elected Mayor Lee Brown on Sunday asked the city to coalesce for his final two years in office.

"I'm very pleased with the outcome," Brown said. "This is a city I love. I want to make sure I do everything I can to see it progress. I believe when we work together as one city, we have a very bright future."

Saturday's election was as close as predicted, with results seesawing all night

until Brown surged late. Brown had 165,865 votes, or 52 percent, to Sanchez's 155,164, or 48 percent.

Brown starts his third term in January. He cannot run again because of a term limits ordinance.

More Houstonians participated in the runoff than the 288,000 who voted in the Nov. 6 general election, which featured hotly contested city charter amendments in which voters barred same-sex benefits for city workers and preserved a light rail line already under construction.

City council member Orlando Sanchez, who often did not respond to Brown's attacks about his work record as a probation officer, an anonymous donor backing his daughter's private-school education or his conservative beliefs, said he hoped his campaign would benefit the nation's fourth-largest city.

"I hope our message resonates that we talked about: making public safety No. 1, taking care of the city's infrastructure,

See MAYOR on page 2.

Enron files for bankruptcy, sues Dynegy

NEW YORK (AP) — Culminating a stunning six-week downfall, beleaguered energy company Enron Corp. filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on Sunday and filed a \$10 billion lawsuit against Dynegy Inc. for scrapping a proposed buyout.

Houston-based Enron listed \$24.7 billion in assets — more than \$38 billion less than it had two months ago — and \$13.1 billion in liabilities, according to the filing, making it one of the largest U.S. corporate bankruptcies ever.

Enron accused Dynegy of wrongfully terminating its \$8.4 billion takeover bid and said it would seek at least \$10 billion in damages. Enron said proceeds from the lawsuit would benefit its creditors. Both actions were filed in U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York.

Enron also said it is in "active discussions" with several financial institutions to secure credit for the continued operation of its wholesale energy trading business, as well as additional funding to

keep the rest of the company operating.

A cash and credit crunch following disclosures in mid-October of questionable financial partnerships has made it difficult for the once-mighty energy trading to continue doing business.

Enron tried to restore confidence by raising more cash and promising to sell its money-losing businesses to shore up its once-profitable trading business. But investors continued dumping shares and several energy companies stopped making trades with Enron for fear they would not be paid.

Enron chairman and chief executive Kenneth Lay said Sunday's filings will help the company, which just months ago was the country's seventh largest in terms of revenue, regain the confidence it has lost.

"While uncertainty during the past few weeks has severely impacted the market's confidence in Enron and its trading operations, we are taking the steps announced today to help preserve capital, stabilize

See ENRON on page 6.

A&M grads, students among those affected

By ROLANDO GARCIA
THE BATTALION

The sudden collapse of Enron Corp., a Houston-based energy conglomerate, has forced the company's employees, including many Aggies, to update their résumés.

Enron employs more than 20,000 workers worldwide, and layoffs at its Houston headquarters are imminent.

"They're going to layoff 3,000 people tomorrow, and I'm pretty sure I'm going to lose my job," said Mark

See LAYOFFS on page 6.