

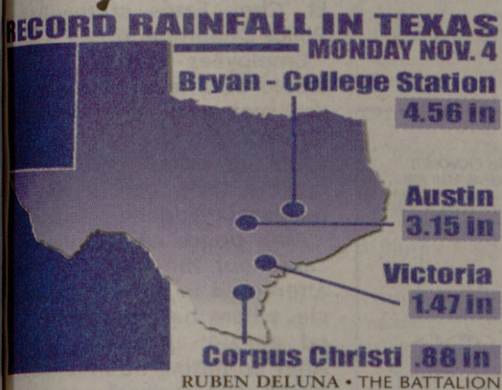
THE BATTALION

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Wednesday, November 6, 2002

Bryan-College Station receives record rainfall



By Melissa Sullivan
THE BATTALION

On Monday, Bryan-College Station set a record for the amount of rainfall on a single day in the month of November with 4.56 inches of rain falling in a 24-hour period, according to the National Weather Service in Houston.

The previous record for Nov. 4 was 2.08 inches set in 1925.

Hugh Walker, deputy city manager for the City of Bryan said despite the large amounts of rain,

no unusual problems were reported. "Any time it rains you are going to have waste system control problems and drainage concerns for creeks," Walker said. "Nature is just going to take its course."

Walker said city officials know the areas that need work, and crushed rock or old concrete will be used to solidify the banks of the creeks to prevent erosion.

A process called inflow and infiltration, or "I and I," is a problem for residents, Walker said.

"As it rains, water flows into

pipes and through the manholes and continues to the treatment plants," he said. "Raw sewage has not increased, it is the rain water."

Marshall Wallace, drainage foreman for the Public Works Department said College Station reported few problems and only one road closing.

"We have done a lot of work in the past year trying to improve the drainage system," Wallace said. "We go around and keep an eye on places like bridge crossings and trees that slow water down."

Wallace said the city does not normally have any major problems unless three to four inches of rain falls in one hour.

Walker said the City of Bryan is working on a long-term plan to make further improvements in the drainage system.

In addition to the new plan, Walker said, the city is looking at studies to take more precaution in taking care of water flow problems.

"This is long term and will not happen tomorrow," Wallace said.

Presidential Library celebrates 5 years

By Jeremy Osborne
THE BATTALION

With the contested election of President Bush, the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and the resurgence in American patriotism, the George Bush Presidential Library Complex has been a witness to history since its dedication five years ago.

"Being a Presidential Library, we can bring in amazing things from all over the country and world to this community and university," said museum curator Patricia Burchfield.

The Bush Library was the only venue to host an exhibit featuring the flag that was flying at the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

"When it actually came through the doors you kind of stopped as that Port Authority policeman carried it in," Burchfield said. "It sort of gave me chills because the history of that flag was so current and devastating."

In addition to the terrorist attacks, the Bush Library has witnessed the election of another President Bush.

In July, the library hosted, "Fathers and Sons: Two

Families, Four Presidents." The exhibit examined the parallels between the Adams and Bush families, the only two families that have father and son presidents. Currently on display is "Freedom's Journey," an exhibit which features a voting machine, "butterfly" ballots and chads from President Bush's contested 2000 Florida presidential election victory.

In addition, the library has witnessed the recent resurgence of patriotism in the country. Visitor attendance is up about 20 percent from last year, said Brian Blake, museum public relations coordinator. Library officials said they see more emotion in visitors as well.

"I think you see them taking a little longer when they look at exhibits like 'Remembering Sept. 11,'" Blake said. "You see them really looking at paintings and the art and the pieces. I think they're contemplating, taking it in and really feeling the emotion that those pieces bring."

Burchfield said she feels visiting the museum is comforting to many visitors.

"I think when people feel

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LIBRARY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

11 a.m. - 3 p.m. in the George Bush Presidential Library rotunda

Cake and ice cream will be served; balloons will be available for children

There will be trivia games for kids and adults

Autographed memorabilia from former President George Bush will be awarded

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION

Professor fights syphilis with Houston leaders

By Melissa McKeon
THE BATTALION

A Texas A&M professor is using funds from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to use community leaders in Houston and Dallas to help eliminate syphilis in the United States.

Nilesh Chatterjee, a professor of health and kinesiology, is working in Harris and Dallas counties because they are among the 28 counties in the United States that accounted for 80 percent of syphilis cases in recent years.

"Those specific area codes had higher rates," Chatterjee said. "We're trying to focus in on specific neighborhoods with higher problem rates."

The CDC Behavioral Interventions and Research branch has awarded Chatterjee a yearly grant of \$299,000 for three years.

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted bacterial disease known as "the great imitator" because its symptoms resemble many other diseases and can be difficult to diagnose, Chatterjee said.

The plan is built on the Popular Opinion Leader method, which trains and uses well-known and influential community leaders to help change dangerous sexual behavior in the surrounding area.

"Trained community leaders will have conversations with people in places like buses, salons, street corners or bars," Chatterjee said. "The leaders already know many people in the community and they will guide them to seek out health care."

This approach has worked in HIV prevention, he said. Of the nine states with the highest syphilis rates, eight were located in the South, according to the CDC Web site. In some areas, African-Americans are 30 times more likely to get syphilis than other races, said Keith Randall, senior media communications

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Cruising by



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

Lance Armstrong, the most recent Tour de France winner, goes through cycle tests at the Oran W. Nicks Low Speed Wind Tunnel in College Station. Some of Armstrong's spon-

sors, Trek and Zipp, are in the process of fine tuning his cycle with the help of the Wind Tunnel Staff. The Wind Tunnel has conducted a variety of tests on his cycle.

ELECTION 2002

Boyett projected to defeat student

By Sarah Walch
THE BATTALION

George Boyett, Class of 1957 Justice of the Peace incumbent for Precinct 3, led Texas A&M student Jared Copeland by a margin of 74 to 24 percent with roughly 42 percent of precincts counted at press time Monday night.

Qualifications are the most important issue in any election, Boyett said.

Boyett, a Republican who has held this position for 14 years, said he has never run against a student before, but feels that any student can get elected if they run for it seriously and first find out about the job.

"Students by all means should participate in politics here and get involved,"

Boyett said.

Copeland's campaign manager Jonathan Kolmetz said he is dedicated to getting a student voice into local government.

Local politics are important to students, and a student representative should be elected, Kolmetz said.

"(Brazos County) is one of the most Republican counties in Texas," he said. "We ran a good campaign."

Kolmetz graduated from A&M in August with a degree in political science.

Copeland was unavailable for comment. Boyett said he ran unopposed in the two most recent elections.

"I still remember the numbers from my first election," he said. "That's something you never forget."

Boyett says once the final results are announced, the winner will take office Jan. 1 for a four-year term.

Republican Steve Ogden, state senator incumbent for District 5 led with 90 percent of the vote, according to the preliminary results.

County Judge incumbent and Republican Randy Sims led Democratic challenger Tommy Lyons 62 percent to 36 percent, with Libertarian Cindy M. Arnold receiving 2 percent of the vote, with 4 percent of the precincts counted.

"The indication (of early results) is positive for Republicans," said Debbie Capps, president of the Republican Women of Brazos Valley. "It looks as though the trend will continue."

Republicans sweep statewide elections

(AP)—Republicans in President Bush's home state brushed aside the top of the so-called Dream Team ticket, extending their dominance of state offices Tuesday in a nightmarish election for Texas Democrats.

Gov. Rick Perry easily held off big-spending challenger Tony Sanchez, and John Cornyn defeated Democrat Ron Kirk for a seat in the U.S. Senate.

Democrats' best hope rested with former Comptroller John Sharp, who trailed Republican David Dewhurst, 52 percent to 46 percent with about 55 percent of the expected total vote counted.

Perry and Cornyn both declared themselves winners before a cheering GOP crowd in Austin. Red, white and blue

balloons were released and the song "God Bless Texas" was played on a loudspeaker.

"It's time to go to work, go to work for the people, and I need your help," Perry said.

Cornyn followed Perry to the microphone and declared, "I accept with humility the honor of following Phil Gramm in the U.S. Senate."

Sanchez declined to concede, saying that he still expected a close finish — final totals were delayed because of problems counting ballots in two of the state's most populous counties, Bexar and Tarrant. But Kirk conceded a short time later.

Democrats offered a multiracial ticket with a middle-of-the-road platform that provided

voters the chance to elect Sanchez the state's first Hispanic governor and make Kirk the first black sent to the Senate from the former Confederate states since Reconstruction.

"The state of Texas has never seen a ticket like this," Kirk said in his concession. "We didn't get there this time, but I wouldn't change a thing."

Charles Elliott, longtime political scientist at Texas A&M-Commerce, said Democrats didn't get the increase in voter registration and turnout that they expected.

"Given what the Democrats thought they had put together with the Kirk-Sanchez combination, they really did think

that was the Dream Team," Elliott said.

Republicans emphasized close ties with Bush, and the message was apparently effective, Elliott said. The former governor and Vice President Dick Cheney campaigned and raised funds for the Texas GOP candidates.

Tuesday's results don't negate the Democrats' strategy, which was sound, said political scientist Jerry Polinard of University of Texas-Pan American.

"This is a preview of coming attractions," he said. "The demographics of the state are clear. If Democrats in 10 years are still getting 60 percent of the Mexican-American vote,

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