

THE BATTALION

Volume 109 • Issue 101 • pages 10

Texas A&M University

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Friday, February 21, 2003

Flood shuts down part of Highway 30

By Melissa Sullivan
THE BATTALION

Portions of Highway 30, or Harvey Road, were shut down indefinitely Thursday due to several inches of rain that fell across central Texas.

Two-tenths of a mile stretch from Earl Rudder Freeway to FM 158 was closed at 3:10 p.m. Thursday, according to the College Station Police Department.

Ronnie Waller, supervisor for Brazos County Maintenance Highway Department, said the department closed the road after several reports of water moving across the roadway.

"We have flood gauges on the roads and we monitor those," he said. "We had about six to eight inches of water on the roadway."

The department did not set up

detour signs and did not know when the road would reopen, said Linda Steele, office manager of the Brazos County Maintenance Highway Department.

The Associated Press reported that the National Weather Service in New Braunfels said an additional three to four inches was expected through noon Friday in south central Texas.

Waller said the Highway Department is monitoring the rain throughout the night. As soon as the water recedes and they determine it is safe for traffic to pass, they will reopen the road, he said.

"If the rain stops, it will reopen at about 6 or 7 a.m.," Waller said.

Last November, College Station set a record for the amount of rainfall on a single day with 4.56 inches falling in a

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ALISSA HOLLIMON • THE BATTALION

Professor dies from surgery complications

By Molly Cain
THE BATTALION

Dr. Albert Schaffer remembers his wife Ruth as a caring woman who went out of her way to make sure others, especially her students, were happy.

"She was a warm, loving and caring person," he said. "She was extremely devoted to her family, but also to her students, and would always go the extra mile for them."

Dr. Ruth Schaffer, professor emerita of the sociology department, died from complications of heart surgery on Jan. 28. She was 77 years old.

Schaffer specialized in aiding students with past problems to gain entrance into college.

Her husband recalled a specific incident when his wife

helped a young woman gain admission into Texas A&M after a rocky past that would have prevented it otherwise. The woman ended up graduating from A&M and now has a daughter enrolled in college as well.

Schaffer was a strong advocate for diversity issues on campus. She was appointed in 1981 to chair the Minority Conditions Committee and to make recommendations on the situation regarding minorities at A&M.

When the Faculty Senate was created, Schaffer became a member and continued her research in diversity.

She resigned her membership in October 2002, after the Faculty Senate did not pass her 20-year annual report on minority conditions. She worked on the report even after

her retirement because it was important to her, Albert Schaffer said.

In her resignation letter, Schaffer cited that her treatment by the Faculty Senate reminded her of when she was a professor at the University of Alabama in 1956, being persecuted for teaching a course on race and minorities.

"During this time, I was targeted to the University each week by the Grand Wizard of the KKK, Robert Shelton, and suffered other abuses," she said in her letter. "The last two months have brought that history vividly and hauntingly to my mind."

Recent events by A&M President Robert M. Gates have encouraged her husband to see the results of her hard work.

"Her hopes of A&M becoming

a more global campus and increasing the numbers of minority students and faculty, may finally become a reality because of Gates' involvement," he said.

Schaffer's daughter Edie wants her mother to be remembered as a special woman who impacted the lives of others.

"It was very surprising to see how many people—my mother touched," she said. "And even more so to see how many people they went on to touch."

Ruth Schaffer graduated from Hunter College in New York and received her Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina — Chapel Hill, in 1954. Her work brought her to A&M in 1971, where she was a professor until 1990, after which she became a professor emerita of sociology.

Students organize to keep dairy open

By Brad Bennett
THE BATTALION

More than 30 students gathered Thursday night at a private home to organize a protest in hopes of keeping Texas A&M's Dairy Science Center open.

The students, mostly workers at the Dairy Science Center and members of the Dairy Science Club, laid out plans detailing what they will be fighting for and how they will accomplish their goals.

Dairy Science Center Manager C.J. Cordell, Class of 1999, said the group is unofficial and he hopes that it will develop into a political action committee.

"We need to decide, 'What is our goal,'" said Chad Martindale, the Dairy Science Club president and a senior agriculture development major.

The students discussed several options for maintaining a Dairy Science Center at A&M, ranging from improving the existing facility to moving to a new facility on the Riverside Campus.

To accomplish their plans the students plan to meet with school, state and industry representatives.

Martindale said the group plans to start meeting with school officials Friday, beginning with Dr. John McNeill, the head of the Animal Science department, then moving up the chain of command to A&M President Robert M. Gates.

Despite the outcome of the

school meetings, a trip to meet with the state legislatures is planned for next Thursday and Friday, Martindale said.

The group projects needs to raise several million dollars to fund a new Dairy Center.

"There are tons of former students willing to give money to Dairy Science," said Rori Geotz, a junior animal science major who works at the center.

Martindale said that several prominent people in the dairy industry are former students, including a high ranking official at Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream and the CEO of Blue Bell, with whom five students are meeting on Friday afternoon.

Laura Hamilton, a senior animal science major and calf manager at the Dairy Center, said the group plans to seek support and get organized before seeking money.

The students are also seeking the support of the Aggie Mom's Club and other parent organizations to bombard officials with phone calls.

Cody Martindale, a sophomore animal science major and brother of Chad Martindale, said he is confident that the students will succeed in keeping the Dairy Center open.

"Hell will freeze over before they shut us down," Cody Martindale said.

A&M's Dairy Science Center has been housed at A&M since 1886. Twenty-five people will lose their jobs because of the closing. This could be the end of the dairy science program at A&M, the department announced Wednesday.

Reveille returns to duty

By Esther Robards-Forbes
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M's first lady and highest ranking cadet Reveille VII is back on her feet after suffering a leg injury last fall when she jumped off the YMCA building's steps following a post football game yell practice.

Reveille is easing back into her normal activities such as attending classes and community events with the mascot corporal, said Capt. Christy Grant, adviser to the University mascot. Reveille was assigned to bed rest for the remainder of the fall semester and limited in the number of functions she could attend.

After a brief period on medication to help her heal and get some much needed rest, she has made a full recovery, said mascot corporal and sophomore industrial distribution major Jordan Caddick.

"She's chasing squirrels on the quad, playing frisbee and even going on our morning runs with us, which she couldn't do before," he said.

Other problems have plagued the 2-year-old mascot, including several trips to obedience school after she proved nervous in front of Kyle Field's more than 80,000 fans. "You can tell a puppy to sit and stay, but you can't tell them not to bark. She's getting older and that helps some," Caddick said.

Last November, Reveille became the first of A&M's mascots to be banned from public restaurants because of health reasons, Corps Commandant Gen. John Van Alstyne said. The Corps did not want to jeopardize any relationships with restaurant owners and adhered to the health code, he said.

Also a first for A&M's mascot is a muzzle, deemed a "gentle lead," which prevents her from biting and keeps her head straight while she marches so she can look forward.

REVEILLE RECOVERED

Nov. 2002

- Jumped off steps of YMCA Building and injured her foot
- Banned from restaurants due to health code

Feb. 2003

- Resumed normal activities
- Has a 'gentle lead' to help keep her head straight

TRAVIS SWENSON • THE BATTALION

SOURCE: JORDAN CADDICK, MASCOT CORPORAL

Corps Public Relations spokesman Burke Wilson said Reveille has not tried to bite anyone.

Grant said that Reveille is still a puppy, and with ongoing training and a little growing

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Eight charged with operating global terrorist organization

By Curt Anderson
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Eight people, including four U.S. residents, were charged in a 50-count indictment with supporting, financing and relaying messages for a violent Palestinian terrorist group blamed for the deaths of more than 100 people in and around Israel.

The indictment, returned by a federal grand jury in Tampa, Fla., was unsealed Thursday. It charges that the men are members of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, designated by the United States as a terrorist organization.

Among them are a Palestinian professor at the University of South Florida, 45-year-old Sami Amin Al-Arian, who is described as the group's U.S. leader and secretary of its worldwide council.

In announcing the indictment, Attorney General John Ashcroft said the eight supported numerous violent terrorist activities.

"Our message to them and to others like them is clear: We make no distinction between those who carry out terrorist attacks and those who knowingly finance, manage or supervise terrorist organizations," he said.

The indictment charges the eight men with operating a criminal racketeering enterprise since 1984 that supported Palestinian Islamic Jihad and with conspiracy to kill and maim people abroad, conspiracy to provide material support to the group, extortion, perjury and other charges.

Each defendant faces up to life in prison if convicted.

Al-Arian and two others were arrested in Tampa and a fourth man was arrested in Chicago. The other four were living abroad and are not in custody, Ashcroft noted.

The group is described in the indictment as rejecting peaceful solutions to the Palestinian quest for a homeland in the Middle East and with embracing "the Jihad solution and the martyrdom style as the only choice for liberation."

The group's purpose, prosecutors allege, is to destroy Israel and end all U.S. and Western influence in the region.

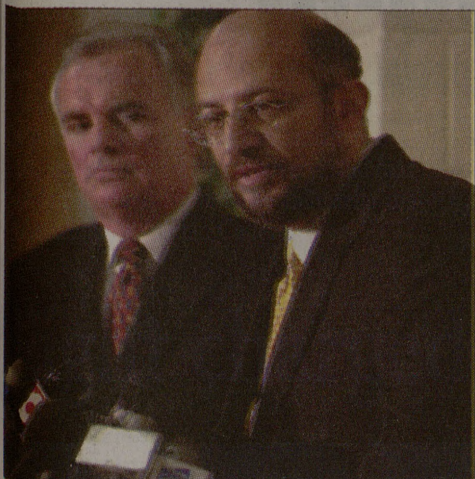
Among the 100 people whose killings are blamed on the organization in Israel.

The defendants allegedly provided financial support through a number of U.S.-based entities, resolved internal conflicts, helped communicate claims of responsibility for terrorist actions and made false statements to immigration officials to help terrorists.

Those arrested in the United States Thursday were described as setting up a terrorist cell at the University of South Florida.

The tenured computer engineering professor was placed on forced leave and banned from campus shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The school also is trying to dismiss him.

The university also claimed the professor raised money for terrorist groups, brought terrorists into the United States, and founded organizations that support terrorism.



Sami Amin Al-Arian, a professor at the University of South Florida, shown in a January 2002 file photo with his attorney Robert McKee.

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