



UPD director ends 53-year career

By Pammy Ramji
THE BATTALION

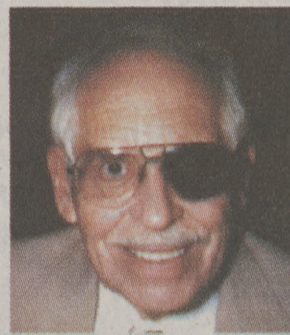
After a long and legendary 53-year career in law enforcement, Bob Wiatt officially stepped down as director of the University Police Department at Texas A&M on Tuesday. The University Police Department's Division of Administration is hosting a retirement reception at the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center on June 4 in honor of Wiatt. Wiatt started his career 50 years ago and served 21 years at A&M.

Director of University Relations Lane Stephenson. Now at 77, Wiatt is known as the oldest active person in law enforcement. He attended the University of Cincinnati and Chase Law School and became an attorney. Wiatt began his 30-year career as an FBI agent in 1951. In 1958, the FBI transferred Wiatt to a position in Bryan, and he retired from FBI service in 1980. Wiatt has encountered some dangerous situations throughout his career, as in one instance, when he shot and killed a kidnapper, said University Vice President for Administration

Charles A. Sippial Sr. "He is totally dedicated to law enforcement, and he is a man who follows through; many people look up to him," Sippial said. Health issues prevented Wiatt from being the kind of officer/director that he would have liked to have been, Sippial said. "We will miss him; he was a great boss," said Wiatt's secretary, Karin Towner. The reception is from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and a presentation by University President Robert M.

BOB WIATT RETIRES

The legendary lawman Bob Wiatt will conclude his 53 years of service at a retirement party on June 4.



- Served in the Navy during WWII
- Started FBI career in 1951
- Played pivotal role in 1974 Huntsville Prison siege
- Served two years as Chief Investigator for Brazos County District Office
- Served as Texas A&M's UPD director of security for 21 years

WILL LLOYD • THE BATTALION
SOURCE • OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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The doctor's in



BRIAN WILLS • THE BATTALION

Paulus Fong, a soils and crop sciences Ph.D. student, injects an enzyme into a sample of DNA while testing restriction digestion on the sixth floor of the Heep Center. Students are constantly testing proteins with various enzymes to determine their effectiveness for use in pesticides.

A&M student makes virus tracking map

By Chelsea Sledge
THE BATTALION

Catherine Zindler has developed a map that designates at-risk areas in Bryan and College Station for the West Nile virus.

Zindler, a graduate student in the entomology department, developed the West Nile risk area map for the Brazos Valley as a project for two of her graduate classes.

"My map points out areas that are at risk so we can survey them before anything starts dying," Zindler said.

In 2003 there were five cases of West Nile reported in Brazos County and none so far in 2004.

Zindler said the type of mosquito which carries West Nile, the southern house mosquito or *Culex quinquefasciatus*, does not prefer to feed on humans.

"The mosquito is more likely to bite you because it's hungry," Zindler said.

Zindler said mosquitoes become a problem for humans when they are enclosed in a person's home.

"The southern house mosquito actually feeds on birds, and the problem occurs when the mosquito gets trapped in your house," Zindler said.

Liz Adams, a senior psychology major, said she couldn't help but worry about contracting West Nile virus this past summer.

"I am outside all the time and from what you heard on TV, West Nile seemed to be catching like the common cold," Adams said.

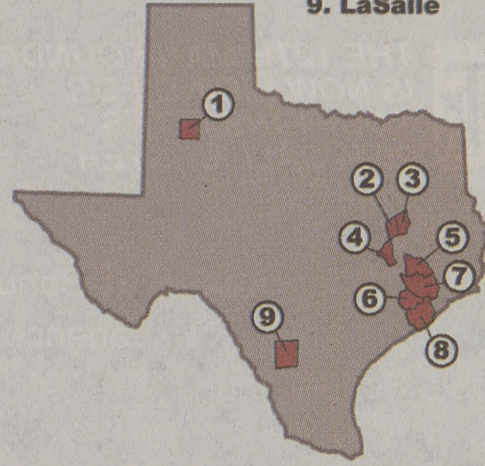
All five human cases in the Brazos Valley contracted the virus in zones designated as high risk and very high risk on

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WEST NILE IN TEXAS

Five human cases of the West Nile Virus were reported in the Brazos Valley in the past 12 months. The virus has been identified in the following counties in 2004:

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. Lubbock | 5. Montgomery |
| 2. Robertson | 6. Fort Bend |
| 3. Leon | 7. Harris |
| 4. Brazos | 8. Brazoria |
| | 9. LaSalle |



RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION
SOURCE • TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Aggie takes command at Lackland

Former female Corps member named base commander

By Carrie Pierce
THE BATTALION

Col. Thelma Roman-Hales was one of the first women in the Corps of Cadets to wear senior boots and, on Thursday, will become the commander of the 37th Missions Support Group at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio.

"Women in the military have come very far," Roman-Hales said.

Today Roman-Hales will be assuming a

position that places her in charge of 4,900 military personnel.

Roman-Hales said the Missions Support Group is the largest in the Air Force, supporting 35,000 people on the base.

"We take care of Lackland families, housing, communications, contracting, supply, personnel and air field operations," Roman-Hales said.

Roman-Hales said that when she entered A&M as a freshman in 1976, women had only been in the Corps for two years. All

women were in Company W-1 until it became too large. The Corps then created Squadron 14 and Roman-Hales served as commanding officer of that outfit. Roman-Hales graduated from A&M with a horticulture degree in 1980.

"We were the first class that wore senior boots," Roman-Hales said. "At the time, that was rebellious and a huge change. We were certainly paving the way."

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Crews work to restore power after storms

By Sheila Flynn
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — It could be several days before electricity is fully restored to hundreds of thousands of people left in the dark after powerful thunderstorms toppled power lines and downed trees, officials said Wednesday.

About 280,000 homes and businesses across the Dallas-Fort Worth area remained without power Wednesday afternoon, TXU Electric Delivery spokesman Drew Douglas said.

The Southwestern Insurance Information Service, an industry group, gave a preliminary damage estimate of about \$100 million. Most of the damage was due to wind, spokeswoman Sandra Ray said.

Last year, a springtime hailstorm in North Texas caused

more than \$800 million in losses, according to the Insurance Council of Texas.

"In these situations, it's going to take days — up to a week — to get more concrete numbers," Ray said.

TXU spokeswoman Carol Peters said all available TXU crews, as well as crews from up to 750 miles away, were working to restore power. In all, about 2,500 people were working, she said.

Tuesday night's storms packed winds of more than 80 mph, as much as 2 1/4 inches of rain, damaging hail and prolific lightning. A tornado was spotted in Arlington, and roofs and buildings were damaged across Dallas, Johnson and Tarrant counties, forcing some residents from their homes.

"This particular storm was in another realm," Peters said. She said the company "could not

"This particular storm was in another realm. (The company) could not have begun to predict the extent of the damage.

— Carol Peters
TXU spokeswoman

have begun to predict the extent of the damage."

Crews were targeting what she called "key infrastructures" to restore power to the most homes and businesses. But she warned that it could be several days before electricity

is fully restored.

Few injuries were reported, but Fort Worth police confirmed one storm-related death Wednesday. Police said it appeared a man died when he slid his vehicle into a muddy creek.

Meanwhile, TXU was working with officials in Dallas and Fort Worth to set up shelters for senior citizens and others affected by the outage.

Many residents, including Joy Nguyen of Dallas, were dealing with the lingering outage.

The family refrigerator shut off about 9 p.m., and she was trying to preserve food by packing it with dry ice.

"My husband, who works at home and uses his computer to do most of his work, is pulling his hair out because he can't get anything done," she said. "Today is such a bad day."

Saudi plan makes effort to stop terrorist funds

By Jeannine Aversa
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Saudi government, in an effort to prevent charitable donations from bankrolling terrorism, is creating a commission to filter contributions raised inside the kingdom to support causes abroad.

As part of the plan, announced Wednesday at the Saudi Embassy, the government is dissolving a large Riyadh-based Muslim charity, Al-Haramain Islamic Foundation, along with other Saudi charities and is folding their financial assets into the new Saudi National Commission for Relief and Charity Work Abroad, officials said.

Adel Al-Jubeir, foreign policy adviser to Crown Prince Abdullah, estimated that about \$100 million a year might flow through the commission.

The action, which comes in the aftermath of terror attacks in the kingdom over the weekend that left 22 dead, was welcomed by the Bush administration.

"I think it is an important step," said Fran Townsend, the White House's homeland security adviser. "I think what we've got to do is work with the Saudi government and see how they implement this announcement today," she added. "I think

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