



105th Year No. 47 May 5, 1983 Houston, Missouri

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A WIDE ANGLE LENS camera shot of Brushy Creek as it rages Friday morning. The flood claimed one life and left an estimated \$1 million in property damage in its wake. More flood pictures appear on the inside.

Houston Readies For Big Weekend

Houston merchants, the Chamber of Commerce and several other community organizations are hoping for fair weather today (Thursday) through Saturday. It's time for the chamber-sponsored first annual Old Fashioned Bargain Days with a big sidewalk sale and a number of other outdoor events set to take place.

Merchants will have merchandise in front of their stores Thursday through Saturday and plan to remain open on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. to provide ample time for customers to shop.

Saturday's special events begin at 7:00 a.m. with a Lion Club Pancake Breakfast. Lions Club members will be cooking and serving the hotcakes at the lot next to the old Pay-Less building on Grand Avenue. Price of the meal is \$1.

During the day, shoppers can enjoy an antique car display at the courthouse square along with country, gospel and jazz music. Bake sales will be held at the Bank of Houston (for the Boy Scouts) and at the Texas County Library, the items available will include home-baked goods, coffee and donuts, a plant sale and a "yard sale".

The Houston Senior Citizens and the Texas County Genealogical Society will have displays on Grand Avenue and the Texas County Memorial Hospital will conclude three days of exhibits at the old theater building with a diabetes blood test screening and a radiology display.

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Nursing Home Facility Gets UDA Grant

A federal Urban Development Action Grant awarded to the City of Houston this week signals a go-ahead for the construction of a Level III residential nursing facility on a tract of land set aside for industrial development. "This will be the first commercial establishment in the newly-designed industrial park area," said City Administrator Pat McDonald.

According to McDonald, Aurora Nursing Home, Inc., has made arrangements for its share of construction costs with a local institution. The HUD grant to the city is for \$145,000, said a spokesman for Missouri Senator John Danforth. These funds will be matched with a private investment of \$484,558 from the nursing home company.

Officials of Aurora Nursing Home, Inc., will meet with their architects "in the near future", McDonald said, and construction could begin within 30 to 60 days.

A Level III facility is for ambulatory patients who need nursing care, but who do not require full-time bed care. The Houston facility will be able to house 38 persons.

"We envision a half-million dollar building," McDonald said, "Ten construction jobs will be created. When the building is finished, there will be 15 full-time jobs and three to five part-time jobs

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Police Chief Candidate Field to Five

Houston's search for a new Chief of Police will soon be narrowed down to five candidates, reports City Administrator Pat McDonald.

"So far, we have received between 30 and 35 applications for the position. We are pleased with the quality of the applicants. They look good."

The city's deadline for accepting applications to fill the post recently vacated by retiring chief, George Foley, is May 15 at 5:00 p.m. After that, city fathers will begin the job of reviewing all applications to narrow their possibilities down to five persons. "These five will be interviewed and we hope the slot will be filled by June 15, give or take a week," said McDonald.

The aldermen have approved the purchase of an updated phone system for city hall. "The phone company asked us two years ago

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HOUSTON BUSINESSMAN Andy Jordan, left, looks relieved to be on solid ground after spending a harrowing hour perched on a windowsill before his rescue from a flooded apartment. With Jordan is volunteer fireman Steve Hutcheson.

Water Disrupts School Calendar

An unforeseen water disaster has thrown a wrench in the gears at the Houston Schools.

Because classes were cancelled Friday due to local flood conditions, the day of school lost must be made up Monday, May 23. The school calendar called for the year to close the previous Friday.

"We don't have any choice in the matter," says Superintendent Ron Griffin. "The state now dictates how we handle make-up days."

In order to qualify for state aid, public schools are required to convene 174 days a school year.

One-Vehicle Wreck

A Roby resident received possible rib injuries in a one-vehicle accident on Rt. 17 two miles north of Roby. Georgie R. Sudheimer, 29, was injured after swerving to miss a deer crossing the road. The pickup truck went off the roadway and struck a tree.

The accident occurred April 28 at 10:25 p.m. Treatment was at the Texas County Memorial Hospital.

New Location for Shop

Imogene's Sew-Nice fabric shop is now open for business at 111 S. Grand Avenue in the building formerly occupied by Evelyn's Beauty Shop. The fabric and sewing supplies shop is owned by Imogene Holland, who moved the shop from its Pine Street location over the weekend.

Placid Brushy Creek Swells to Angry Monster

For a decade the Reese apartment complex, constructed on the banks of the normally placid Brushy Creek in northeastern Houston, had been sitting on a keg of dynamite.

The explosion came at 7:30 Friday morning. What probably was a record-breaking flood engulfed the valley causing one death and damaging several buildings. Rains of cloudburst proportion in the head waters transformed Brushy from a picturesque stream to a roaring demon with unbelievable currents.

Ruby Reese, 60, owner of the apartment complex, was swept from her home when a tree, riding the crest of the flood, struck the eastern wall of her apartment, creating a gaping hole. Waters poured into the apartment, carrying Mrs. Reese outside the building into the swift current. Her body was found several hours later, about a half-mile downstream.

Several other occupants of the two-story apartment complex narrowly escaped a similar fate, officials said. "At the crest of the flood," one worker stated, "we weren't concerned with property damage. We were worried about saving lives."

Mayor Mel Flowers estimated the damage in

Houston in excess of a million dollars. In addition to the Reese complex, these buildings were damaged to varying degrees: Dale Stille's Garage, J.D. Morton Garage, Houston Bowl, the vacant building formerly occupied by Farm and

More about Flood; Turn to A-8

Home, Houston Auto Parts, Moe Miller's Garage and the Faith Fellowship Church. The eastern wall of the church was crushed as the building succumbed to the intense pressure of the flood waters.

At least seven vehicles were swept downstream and there was damage to other cars and pickups.

A dramatic rescue of five persons, perched precariously on the upstairs balcony of the Reese complex, added tension to the flood scene.

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Creek Flooding Crisis Draws Media Attention

Houston made the news last Friday. Unfortunately, it took a flood disaster for it to get there.

Area, regional and even national media mention focused on a Brushy Creek flood that left a woman dead and caused an estimated \$1 million in property damage.

Reporters from a newspaper and two television stations in Springfield were dispatched to the scene.

Texas County Sheriff Ray Dow Clayton was in demand for telephone interviews concerning the crisis. The first inkling of what was about to unfold came at 6:29 a.m. Friday. A dispatcher's log book entry at the sheriff's office reads "City police report high water about to go over the bridge at bottom of hill."

Shortly after that, Dale Stille, owner of Stille's

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Presidential Nod Needed for Relief

Texas County officials are hoping for disaster declarations from Gov. Christopher Bond and President Ronald Reagan to become eligible for federal relief to replace public property losses dealt by Friday's flood waters.

County Clerk Don Troutman says based on reports to him from townships the loss figure Tuesday stood at \$810,000, principally to roads and bridges.

Troutman has surveyed much of the damage as has State Representative R.B. Grisham, member of Congressman Iko Skelton's staff was here Monday. Between 25-30 township bridges are destroyed, Troutman said.

According to Grisham, Gov. Bond has declared a state emergency in the county. Since Missouri is out of disaster money, the county's hopes for financial assistance hinge on a presidential declaration which could result in federal aid.

Too Much Water....

✓ Crisis

(From Page One)

Garage which fronts on Brushy Creek, was notified the water level was about to reach his area where a number of cars were parked.

"We received the first call for help about 7:30," said Clayton, "when we were told a person was said to have been washed away."

On the scene at the Reese Apartments building, Clayton said, "For awhile, we thought the whole building was going to wash away. Except for Andy Jordan, residents were taken out by boat. It looks like the water was held back by the Farm and Home building and when it gave, all that water came on down with a sudden rush. Andy sat on a window sill in his apartment until the water went down enough to get him out."

The body of Ruby Reese was found at 5:30 p.m. a half mile down Brushy Creek, Clayton said. "She was found behind a drift. The body was brought to land by members of the Texas County Rescue Unit. It was hard to get to and they had to get a rope across the creek to pull themselves to the drift. The water was still high, very fast and dangerous. They used a stretcher to get her back to shore."

Flood water was not the only hazard the rescue unit and other volunteers had to fight. "There were a lot of snakes out," Clayton said. "One person was bitten by a copperhead, but it hit just his clothing

and didn't go into the flesh."

Local pilot, Jim Brallier, and a sheriff's department deputy aided in the search for Mrs. Reese' body by flying over Brushy Creek. The helicopter from KY-3 also assisted in the search, according to Clayton.

"We appreciate the help given to us by the City Police, Highway Patrol, and many volunteers. The rescue unit did a fine job. They all got into it and stayed with it under very hazardous circumstances."

One problem Clayton wanted to stress... "During the emergency, we had two phones and the radio in the dispatcher's office manned. Even then, the lines were constantly busy with calls. When a situation like this occurs, we are asking people to hold their phone calls to us unless it is an emergency. Please leave the lines open for those with emergency calls. It will help us do our job better."

"For most part, local people all responded well," Clayton finished. "There was very little looting, in spite of the situation. Even with all the cars and personal belongings scattered around. Three persons were arrested for investigation into possible charges of looting, but we were very fortunate there wasn't more, things being the way they were Friday."

24-Hour Deluge Drops 5.67 Inches

One of the biggest rainfall yields on record here covering a 24-hour period was registered for the torrential downpour early Friday morning that sent Brushy Creek into flood stage.

When precipitation finally subsided that night the storm had dropped 5.67 inches on the Houston area. The Houston Newspapers, which maintains records here for the National Weather Service, reported the reading as one of the largest in its 30 years as a weather observer.

Before the weekend was out, another .83 inches had fallen when a front passed through during the early hours of Sunday morning.

Friday's soaking catapulted April's rainfall total to a whopping 9.48 inches. Normal for the 30-day period is 4.27.

✓ Monster

(From Page One)

A bass boat, driven by Allan Branstetter who was accompanied by Don Rust and Gary Parish, was launched from a point on Main Street near the Emmett Kelly Park, and after several attempts reached the balcony. Twila Dodson and two children, Sharon Adey and Cheryl Roberts climbed in the boat which was driven downstream and then landed near the Houston Auto Parts building.

Branstetter said it was a touch-and-go effort to fight the tremendous current and finally reach the balcony.

Witnesses described the scene as frightening as the boat could not cope with the current to return to its launching point. When the pilot headed downstream, the motor stopped and a witness said, "My heart was in my mouth. I could just see that boat and seven people being swept downstream to destruction. But Branstetter got the motor started and the rescue was completed by veering to the left and the safety of shallow waters."

Rust remained on the balcony with Eddie Phillips and Dwaine Adey. Andy Jordan, an occupant of a downstairs apartment, was unable to reach the balcony and was perched on a window sill.

Meanwhile, the water receded so that a four-wheel vehicle, owned and operated by Manuel Holden, rescued those remaining in the apartment complex.

Three persons were contacted who saw Mrs. Reese swept from her apartment.

Sherrell Campbell said he sighted what appeared to be an object emerge from the building, apparently through the door. "I first thought it was a dog. Then I realized it was a human. I saw her head but there were no arms reaching up or struggling for help as I watched her being swept downstream."

Other witnesses were Mr. and Mrs. John Burdine who lived in a downstairs apartment. The Burdines, employed by the local Brown Shoe plant, had left earlier for work. They returned to see the entire valley covered by water as the flood reached crest stage. The Burdines saw Mrs. Reese swept from her apartment and watched as she was moved downstream by the terrific currents.

Campbell also confirmed that a huge tree was shoved into the back of Mrs. Reese' apartment causing a gaping hole that permitted the waters to pour inside.

Water Forces Road Closings

Boats may have been more useful than automobiles for several hours Friday when a number of areas along Texas County roads were closed to traffic due to flood waters.

A spokesman for the Missouri Highway Department, Ray Birdsong, Willow Springs, said there was "water all over the place from Simmons to Cabool."

Flood waters went over the floor of the Dogs Bluff Bridge, causing that highway to be blocked for the first time in many years. Water four feet in depth was reported over the Jack's Fork bridge on Highway 17 east of Summersville.

At a point where the Piney River flows close to U.S. 63 between the H Highway (Elk Creek) intersection and Cabool, high water caused traffic to halt. Route 17 about two miles east of Houston was closed to traffic for several hours before noon on Friday when a normally dry stream bed turned into a torrent.

Near Houston, the Brushy Creek bridge a mile east of town was closed and sustained considerable damage which caused it to remain closed after the flood waters receded. The bridge on Highway B near the intersection of U.S. 63 remained closed to traffic as late as Tuesday.

Other areas of the county's roads that saw high water levels were: Rt. U at its Piney River crossing; Routes Y, K and W in low-lying creek and river areas, said Birdsong.

County Flood Damage Estimates Expected to Exceed \$1.5 Million

Damage from flood waters following Brushy Creek's rampage here Friday probably will top \$1 million. County-wide the damage figure could reach \$1.5 million.

That's the opinions of Warren Gobble and Luke Turner, Civil Defense Directors for Texas County and Houston, respectively.

Besides the property loss incurred in Houston there were damages in Cabool and in several

townships to roads and bridges.

Gobble said that volunteers retrieved 10 submerged vehicles and rescued 13 persons in Houston.

In a joint statement released this week, the civil defense directors said, "We want to thank all the volunteers who pitched in and helped and the landowners who allowed us to go through their properties."

Mother's Day Special!

Smorgasbord

Sunday, May 8

11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

All You Can Eat-- **\$4.75**



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Salem, Mo. 65560

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Tyrone Club

There will be a potluck supper at the Tyrone Community building Saturday night, May 7, 7 p.m. The Country Bumpkins will be entertaining after supper. Public welcome.

Board Meeting

The Raymondville R-7 School Board will meet in regular session Monday, May 9 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the teacher's lounge.

South Bado

It's nice to see the sunshine this morning after a stormy weekend.

Church attendance Sunday was 55. Rev. Taylor spoke. Mrs. Betty Taylor was back after an absence because of illness. Mrs. Ruth Van Genderen, Sarah and Nathan sang a special, "Beulah Land." I failed to get the visitors names.

Lynn Moore lost a horse by lightning Saturday night.

The Jerry Bay family and Mrs. Nita Akeman visited in the Lynn Moore home Saturday. Mrs. Bay and Mrs. Akeman visited one day with Mrs. Ruby Higgins and Linda Washman.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Dillon, Kansas and Mr. and Mrs. Les Dillon visited awhile one night with Esther, Wayne and Darrel Reaves. Other visitors during the week were Mr. and Mrs. Ray Pomroy, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Reaves and Charley James.

L.R. (Dans) Coats received word of the passing of a brother, Ray, in California.

A former resident of this area, Roy Gourley, passed away Thursday. Funeral services were held Saturday in Springfield.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Slinger visited Saturday evening in the Doyle Akeman home. Other visitors were Mrs. Wanda Moore and Mrs. Ruth Brown.

Mr. and Mrs. Doyle Akeman ate supper with Mrs. Ruth Brown one evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Reaves and Mr. and Mrs. Jackie Traw, Willow Springs ate Sunday dinner with Mr.

and Mrs. Clarence Reaves.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Sullens, Newton, Kan. are spending a few days with Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Wheat. Mr. and Mrs. Billy Gibbons visited awhile Saturday night. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Van Genderen visited Friday. Mrs. Joan Moore and Jenny were Sunday dinner guests.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Wheat and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Sullens were dinner guests Tuesday in the Bill Moore home.

Beta Sigma Phi

Preceptor Gamma Sigma chapter of Beta Sigma Phi met May 2 in the home of Wanda Byler.

Edna Haggard, president, conducted a short business meeting.

Following the meeting Polly Dobbin was in charge of the program, "Has the American Dream Failed?" Polly gave a history on why our country was settled. News articles were read by different persons in the group, followed by a discussion period.

New officers were installed.

Those attending were Betty Ameloh, Alberta Whiteaker, Wanda Byler, Ruby Mires, Carolee Hutcheson, Edna Haggard, Colleen Vaughn, Freeda Stewart, Ruth Romines, Ruth Massey, Helen Laffoon, Una Hibbs, Vera Douglas and Polly Dobbin.

Refreshments were served by Wanda Byler.

Old Fashioned Bargain Days

Sidewalk Sale

1 Rack
Spring & Summer Merchandise
1/2 Price

Active Wear	New Lines
Coordinates	Miss Elaine Lingerie
*Paddle & Saddle	
*Pep by Pandora	
20% Off	20% Off

The Clothesline

Grand Ave. - Houston

Old Fashioned Days.....

Sidewalk Specials

"Grab" Table \$500 Pair	Rack Women's Dress Shoes Values To \$38.00 \$1200 Pair
Men's Western Boots Values To \$95.00 \$500 Pair	Children's Hush Puppy Canvas Shoes \$1200 Size Infant 5 1/2 to Children's 2
Table Outside Men's - Women's - Children's Fleet Star Joggers Reg. \$20.00 \$1600 Pair	Bennett's Shoe Store "Put Yourself In Our Shoes" Grand Avenue - Houston