

Schwartz To Explore 'Evacuation Failure'

AUSTIN (AP) — Sen. A.R. Schwartz, D-Galveston, said Friday the Texas Coastal and Marine Council would explore "the total failure" of state highway authorities to plan for evacuation needs during coastal flooding.

He would add that issue to the agenda for the Aug. 17 council meeting in Lake Jackson.

The Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation has failed to heed "reported warnings" of inadequate evacuation routes, Schwartz said in a statement.

Odd-Even Suspension To End Tuesday

AUSTIN (AP) — The suspension of odd-even gasoline distribution in the flooded areas of southeastern Texas will be continued until midnight Tuesday, Ed Vetter, head of the governor's energy office, said Saturday.

The original suspension, ordered earlier in the week, was to have expired at midnight Saturday. The extension applies to Harris, Galveston, Brazoria and Fort Bend counties.

Vetter said the extension was granted to be sure that no one in the flooded area was restricted from buying gasoline.

Police Are Searching For Clues In Slaying

HOUSTON (AP) — Police searched for clues Saturday in the sexual assault and slaying of a 33-year-old woman who was decapitated.

Alys Elaine Rankin, a secretary for Bovay Engineers Inc., was found by a co-worker, Bob Smith, 40, who was on his way to take her to work.

Police theorize she was strangled and then her head was removed at the shoulders with a butcher knife early Friday. Some razor blades were also found near the bed where the body rested. The head was missing, police said.

Smith found the body about 7:30 a.m. "I thought she was

getting her purse," he said. "The door was slightly ajar."

Then, Smith said, "I got that feeling something was wrong, a 'too quiet' kind of feeling." Going in the bedroom, Smith saw her body was nude and her feet were tied.

Governor's Mansion To Be Closed Aug. 1

AUSTIN (AP) — The governor's mansion will be closed for repairs beginning Aug. 1 for 12 to 18 months, the governor's office said Friday.

The recent Legislature appropriated funds for structural renovation of the 123-year-old official residence.

Denver Firm Barred From Selling Securities

AUSTIN (AP) — A Denver-based brokerage firm has been enjoined from offering and selling securities in Texas without a license, Attorney General Mark White said Friday.

White had sued First Colorado Investments and Securities and its President William P. Snow.

The attorney general said Austin District Judge Jerry Dellana found First Colorado had violated Texas securities law by failing to obtain a license.

White said First Colorado admitted to some violations.

The order does not return money to any Texas investors who have dealt with the company. However, individuals can file lawsuits to recover any money they feel First Colorado obtained improperly.

Traffic Fatalities In Texas Up 5 Percent

AUSTIN (AP) — Traffic accidents have killed 2,131 persons in Texas this year, up 5 percent from the 2,020 fatalities recorded during the comparable period of 1978.

The Department of Public Safety said the deaths occurred in 1,844 fatal accidents, also a 5-percent increase over the 1978 figure.

Fatalities in cities over 5,000 were up 13 percent while those on interstate highways were down 20 percent from a year ago.