

Presnal attacks pet food industry

Rep. Bill Presnal, D-Bryan, took a swipe at the \$2 billion-a-year pet food industry, telling animal control officials meeting at Texas A&M University that the industry's advertising fails to stress pet owner responsibility.

"The dog has become a sacred cow," Presnal said at the 6th annual Animal Control Personnel Development Program at A&M.

The House Appropriation chairman said owner education and responsibility are the only answers and that animal control services can't expect tougher laws until the general public — including owners — strongly supports such regulation.

Presnal said more pet shelters and more euthanasia are not solutions to the animal surplus, which he said would require the death of 26 million cats and dogs each year just to reach a no-growth situation.

Presnal defended the decision not to fund an oral rabies vaccine program by saying the medicine was not scientifically proven effective, and he applauded a new law that takes effect Jan. 1 requiring local and county authorities to pen and hold animals suspected of having rabies.

Another speaker at the three-day conference, Dr. Ted Baker of the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, said recent studies show that 80 percent of all dog bites involved owned dogs, not strays.

Baker said territory, the feeling by the dog that he or his owner is in danger, prompted most of the attacks, some of which were fatal.

A&M animal behavior expert Dr. Bonnie Beaver said a dog's response to a pre-school child as a different species, rather than just a small human, may have been a factor in aggressive behavior.

campus & city

Fire station to be ready by March

By RHONDA WATTERS

The new Bryan fire station, under construction on Briarcrest Drive, should be completed by March, Bryan City Fire Chief Paul Philbin said Monday.

"It looks to me like they are ahead of schedule, although the weather could change that," Philbin said. "But the contract states they will have it ready by March."

Presently there are two fire stations operating in the city, one on Bryan Street, and the other on Cavitt Street.

Basically, Philbin said, the need for a new station is determined by the expansion growth of the city and the distances that have to be covered to respond to calls. He said the department tries to limit its response time to fire calls to less than three minutes, with five minutes being the maximum.

Philbin said Bryan needs the additional fire station because there are some places in the east part of the city that cannot be reached by firefighters in less than the five-minute maximum.

"The first five minutes of a fire are the most critical," Philbin said. "A fire can get away from you."

He said about one out of every four calls comes from that area. Philbin said the insurance companies claim Bryan needs five stations to adequately cover the city, and they might penalize insurance buyers.

He said Bryan is considering building one more station next year, in the north end of the city, bringing the city's total to four.

Philbin said the north part of Bryan, which like the east part averages about one out of every four calls in the city, also does not have adequate coverage.

Citizens will be able to vote on a bond issue in January on building a station in that area.

An \$85,000 fire truck for the Briarcrest station has already been purchased and paid for by the city, Philbin said. It will be operated by a crew of three people, the minimum number it takes to man a fire station.

Philbin, who has only been Bryan fire chief for the past two months, said the fire department had a "turnover rate of 28 people from November to November" last year.

"As far as experience, we're hurting," he said, "but I guarantee you by this time next year, we'll have the finest fire department in Texas."



Bryan residents can expect better fire protection by March, when a new fire station on Briarcrest Drive will be completed. Marion O.

Lawrence Jr., Inc., designed the structure. The general contractor is Hamilton Wood and Co. Battalion photo by Sam

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Engineers stay in demand as grads' numbers increase

United Press International
LOS ANGELES — A recent Sunday edition of the Los Angeles Times included two special sections of classified advertisements plus part of its regular classified section devoted entirely to job offers for engineers.

The salaries for those jobs range from a starting scale of about \$28,000 a year to \$40,000 for supervisory posts and a potential for earning \$100,000 and more for those who rise to top positions.

The names of the companies at the bottom of many of the "help wanted" ads are among the most prestigious in the nation — Lockheed, McDonnell Douglas, Rockwell, Hughes Aircraft, Northrop, TRW, Fluor, Litton, Rohr, Martin Marietta, Teledyne, Jet Propulsion Laboratory,

Southern California Edison. But there are hundreds of engineering offers from smaller and little known companies engaged in electronics, computers, components and construction of industrial plants.

The same situation prevails in the San Francisco peninsula area centered around San Jose, in Seattle where Boeing has its main operation and in southwestern and eastern areas but the fiercest competition is in Southern California.

Kaye Kiddoo, the veteran director of personnel for the Lockheed Corp., says never in his career has he experienced such an imbalance between the demand and supply of qualified engineers.

And the engineer drought grows more intense even though the Car-

ter administration canceled a bomber program, the NASA program has been curtailed and Japanese have grabbed the share of television sets manufacturing in the United States.

Kiddoo says the greatest increase in the aircraft and aerospace comes from military spending as the F18 Air Force fighter joins with Northrop and McDon Douglas the prime contractor

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