

CS towing fees unrestricted

By TIM JASEK
City Reporter

Although Bryan wrecker operators cannot charge more than \$25 for towing vehicles from private property, College Station fees will remain unregulated.

Sparky Hardee, owner of Coyote Wrecker Service, spoke at the March 13 city council meeting and stressed free enterprise and no fee restrictions. After Hardee spoke, the council made its decision in his favor.

"I provided the facts. I didn't in-

fluence the council, the facts presented did," Hardee said.

The fact is that he has towed 70 percent fewer cars this year than last year, Hardee said.

The reason for the sharp decline in business, he said, is that "word got around that it'll cost you \$50 (Hardee's fee) if you parked where you shouldn't."

Hardee, who will not tow in Bryan because of the set fee, said he also told the council his insurance on his land, drivers and truck is high and

that he is occasionally faced with lawsuits to defend.

"I believe the deciding factor was the decline in the number of cars towed since last year," he said.

Hardee, a 1962 Texas A&M University graduate, has been in the towing business for five years.

The \$40 towing fee recommended by Councilman Jim Dozier — who later voted not to regulate fees — would "put me out of business," Hardee said.

"We should let free enterprise

solve the problem," he said.

Dozier said, "I wanted the \$40 fee. It was proper." But because he and former Mayor Lorence Bravenec were the only ones voting for the set fee, Dozier said he then moved that wrecker fees be unregulated.

"I'm well aware that if operators abuse the ordinance it can be changed," Dozier said.

"I believe in as little government interference as possible," he said.

Even wrecker operators who handle only accident calls felt towing

fees from private property should not be regulated, he said.

"It had nothing to do with Hardee's talk," the councilman said. The matter had been under consideration for "quite some time."

An unidentified Bryan wrecker operator from A-1 Wrecker Service, which tows anywhere in Texas, said the Bryan ordinance does not affect his business.

"We charged \$35 in College Station and \$25 plus a \$10 service charge in Bryan," he said.

The \$10 service charge is for the additional paper work the city of Bryan requires, he said.

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Students expanding museum to include nature center

By CATHY SAATHOFF
Campus Reporter

A group of wildlife students at Texas A&M University is working on expanding the Brazos Valley Museum to include a nature center, hoping to increase community interest in the museum.

Now, it consists of five or six exhibits and a tract of undeveloped land.

Wildlife and Fisheries Science professor Robert Dowler, is calling the "Nature Centers for Learning," report of the 16 students, who are in the museum science option of WFS, are developing a hypothetical plan for the development of a nature center, hoping to put their plan into practice at the museum.

stage now — it is moving from its old home at the municipal golf course to the new center.

"We're trying to renovate our exhibits so that they'll fit in there," Dowler said.

Work is slow, however, because the museum relies on volunteer help. The only paid position is that of director, which has not been filled.

Dowler's students have formed committees to deal with trail design, public relations, educational programs and plant and animal surveys for the museum.

"What we're trying to do is come up with a master plan for how it might be carried out," Dowler said.

"The biggest problem is the lack of funding for the development."

"We can plan all we want, but without any money to put it into effect, it's kind of a theoretical exercise," Dowler said.

Funding for the museum comes in the form of membership. A membership includes discount on programs offered by the museum and copies of its newsletter.

The programs offered include a summer day camp, Audubon films, tours and classes on topics such as preparation of specimens, animal habitats and edible plants.

Other money comes from the United Way and grants from local organizations such as the Astin Foundation and the Arts Council of Brazos

Valley, which has given money for an ecology exhibit. A live animal exhibit is also in the planning stages.

"My students help with part of the exhibits," Dowler said. Students from WFS 421, Museums and Their Functions, which he taught last fall, came up with the idea of a live animal exhibit.

In class, Dowler instructs the student on exhibit preparation, which includes materials and techniques to be used, as well as placement, lighting and color of the components.

Dowler said the ideal situation would be to plan an exhibit and then obtain the materials needed. Unfortunately, this usually works in reverse. The exhibit must be planned to utilize what is available.

The class is planning an exhibit at Manor East Mall Saturday to promote the museum.

Katrina Jez, a class member, said, "It started as a way of finding out what people think of the museum."

The class will set up tables to inform shoppers about the volunteer program, day camp, classes and the photography contest sponsored by the museum. A pocket gopher and king snake will be on display.

"We think there's a real need for the museum in this area," Dowler said. It is the only natural history museum in the county, and he hopes to increase public interest in the project and possibly get more support from the county.

Dowler said his students' work is "about as real-life a situation as you can get" working on maximum development with minimum money "which in this case is zero."

Student are using their own money for class projects, but Dowler has them saving their receipts for possible reimbursement from the museum.

Dowler, who is on the board of trustees of the museum, is studying the development of a recycling program for the museum in connection with Earth Day '80, which the Wildlife Society is handling on campus.

The society is collecting aluminum cans until April 22, and Dowler wants to extend the collection to help the museum. However, the American Association of University Women is thinking about community-wide recycling project. Ironically, the AAUW founded the museum 15 years ago.

However, Dowler is more concerned about the project getting started than about where the money goes; he has a box in his office that is already filled with cans for the drive.

Police woman resigns as head of division

Sgt. Linda Andrews, head of the traffic division of the College Station Police Department, recently resigned her position.

Andrews, the first woman police officer to head a traffic division in Texas, could not be reached for comment, but said in an interview with The Eagle that she resigned last week because she "has other things to do."

She said she left on good terms and there were no hard feelings.

She also said the College Station Police Department is hard to work for.

Members of the police department will not comment on the resignation.

Andrews, who was the only female officer in the police department, told The Eagle her future plans possibly include working for the Department of Public Safety or for a police department in a smaller city.

The 27-year-old officer headed the

traffic division since October. Before that, she was a patrol officer for about three years.

During the past year, she was in charge of the selective traffic enforcement program for College Station, and supervised five policemen.

Andrews' resignation was one of three which reportedly took place at the department last week — another police officer and a jailer also resigned.

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