

Mondale considers female running mate

See page 3

Soviet Foreign Minister attacks U.S. policy

See page 5

Top seeds advance at Wimbledon

See page 7

Texas A&M The Battalion

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Photo by PETER ROCHA

Pego Ferguson, manager of the U.S. Fireworks of America, Inc. fireworks stand, shows a customer some of the stand's selection of firecrackers. The stand, located at Highway 60 near FM 2818, is one of many open in the area for the Fourth of July.

July Fourth

B-CS, Texas A&M plan celebrations

By KARI FLUEGEL
Staff Writer

Rocket's red glare and bombs bursting in air will only be part of the festivities around the Bryan-College Station as area residents celebrate the 208th observance of Independence Day.

Among the area festivities are a fireworks show at Tiger Field, a picnic at Wofford Cain Pool and a 12-hour Music Fest.

More than 10,000 spectators are expected to attend the celebration and fireworks show at Tiger Field, sponsored for the 12th year by the College Station Noon Lions Club in cooperation with the city of College Station and the College Station Independent School District.

Concession stands will open at 5:30 p.m. with cold drinks, popcorn, ice cream, hot dogs, balloons and watermelon available.

Games, including sack races, three-legged races, egg tosses and tug-of-wars, will begin at 7 p.m. Winners will receive slices of watermelon.

Music will be provided throughout the evening by KORA-KTAM. Area Boy Scouts from Troop 1,861 will present the colors at 9 p.m. as trumpeter and A&M Consolidated band director Carl Idlebird leads the crowd in the national anthem. The fireworks will begin about 9:20 p.m.

The Lion's Club has ordered more spectacular aerial fireworks this year, Danny Stribling, Lion's Club Fourth of July committee chairman, said.

"We expect this to be the very best show ever," he said.

The Fourth of July also will be celebrated at Wofford Cain Pool on the Texas A&M University campus from noon until 5:30 p.m. More

than 800 people are expected to attend, Eric Hunter, assistant director of the Intramurals Department, said.

The pool will be open to the entire community. Admission will be \$1 for those without a pool pass.

Four Hams on Rye will provide the live music throughout the afternoon. Other activities will include water games, such as inner-tube races and water volleyball, at 2 and 3 p.m. and a fashion show at 4 p.m.

"It'll be a day in the sun with music," Hunter said.

The fifth annual program is sponsored by the MSC Basement, MSC Grave and the Intramural Department.

A 12-hour Music Fest in Central Park in College Station will also be included in July 4th festivities.

See JULY 4, page 3

Fireworks illegal in B-CS

By PAM BARNES
Reporter

Little Johnny saved his money for weeks to buy fireworks for the Fourth of July picnic at his grandmother's farm. The day before the picnic his mom drove him outside the city limits where several firework stands line the roads. After carefully picking out his holiday fun, he and his mom headed home — back into the city. Just as they pulled off the highway the fire marshal stopped them and took away little Johnny's fireworks.

Johnny isn't real, but the problem is. It's against the law to use or even possess fireworks in the College Station (and Bryan) city limits.

Fines for this crime run from \$10 to \$1,000, depending on the situation, says Harry Davis, College Station fire marshal.

"We'll confiscate the fireworks if someone is just popping them at home," Davis says. "But if the person is being negligent or dangerously misusing the fireworks we'll issue them a citation or, if necessary, have them put in jail."

Davis says he feels guilty sometimes for taking away some of the fun and traditions of July Fourth, but "the law is the law."

Jerry Redman, who works at the fireworks stand on Highway 2154, Welborn Road, says the fireworks law is good because it will keep peo-

ple out of trouble, but he says it's too bad that it affects those who aren't misusing the fireworks.

"Fireworks are only dangerous if you use them wrong," Redman says. "You can have all the safety laws in the world but there are still going to be people who get in trouble."

Redman says he warns people not to carry the fireworks back into the city.

"We tell them, but most everybody knows," Redman says. "The fire marshal drives by or sits down the road and he'll stop you if you bring them into the city."

"We had a little kid buy his fire-

See FIREWORKS, page 3

Food safety simple

By SARAH OATES
Staff Writer

July 4 means fireworks, flags, going on picnics and, quite often, getting sick from food poisoning.

However, common sense precautions can reduce the chances of this happening, says a Texas A&M University Food Technology Specialist.

One of the most common forms of food poisoning is caused by a strain of staphylococcus bacteria that contaminates the food. The bacteria grows on the food, poisoning it. The poison is eaten with the food and results in varying degrees of illness characterized by vomiting, diarrhea and stomach cramps.

"It's different with different people," says Al Wagner.

For most people, Wagner says, staphylococcal food poisoning is a miserable 24-hour virus. Certain other types of food poisoning, such as botulism, can last for weeks. He said that babies and the elderly are likely to be more affected by food poisoning than other age groups because they have less immunity to it.

Mayonnaise often is spuriously blamed in cases of food poisoning, but contrary to popular belief, its acidity actually can help retard bacteria growth on food.

The bacteria enter the food from the hands of the person preparing it. Mayonnaise-based foods, such as potato or egg salad, are easily contaminated because

See FOOD, page 3

Reagan undaunted by Soviet arms talks rebuff

United Press International

WASHINGTON — President Reagan said Monday the United States will pursue its proposal for talks with the Soviet Union on space weapons and nuclear arms despite a refusal by the Kremlin to link the two issues.

Undaunted by a rebuff from Moscow, Reagan reaffirmed his desire that a meeting in Vienna — proposed last week by the Soviets — take

place despite a sharp disagreement over the scope of the agenda.

"We stand by what we proposed yesterday and we are in communication with them," Reagan said during a Rose Garden photo session. Aides said he was referring to his offer Friday to discuss nuclear arms control as well as space weapons.

His comments did nothing to cut through ambiguity shrouding the position U.S. officials staked out in

the 48 hours after being presented with a Soviet invitation for talks on preventing "the militarization of outer space."

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said the United States is determined to use any such talks to explore how negotiations might be revived on medium- and long-range nuclear weapons, suspended after a Soviet walkout last fall.

Administration officials, however,

would not say whether the United States would go to Vienna if faced with a flat refusal by Moscow to discuss anything except anti-satellite technology and other space-based weapons systems.

"There will be discussions on the three subjects (space weapons, medium-range nuclear missiles and strategic arms) as far as the United States is concerned," Speakes said. "We don't consider it a pre-condition,

we don't consider it an impediment — any of the above. But I can't predict what would happen."

Speakes said the administration is "pursuing discussions in diplomatic channels to arrange a September meeting."

Having denied Soviet assertions that Reagan jeopardized the talks by lading them with unacceptable conditions, he turned away further questions by citing a need for quiet

diplomacy.

"We have nothing more to add to what has been said publicly," he said.

Reagan explained his position Sunday to Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin during 50 minutes of barbeque diplomacy at a White House party for foreign diplomats.

He said Dobrynin, slated to fly to Moscow later this week, will "have a message" for the Soviet leadership.

Second session may be necessary

House rejects Senate's tax plan

United Press International

AUSTIN — The fate of a \$4.8 billion tax bill hinged on last-ditch private negotiations Monday night by House and Senate members locked in a war of wills with just 24 hours remaining in the special legislative session.

Although the House took a take-it-or-leave-it stance late Monday by rejecting Senate changes in a House-approved tax measure and refusing to appoint a conference committee to iron out conflicts, key legislative leaders met privately into the night in an attempt to salvage the tax bill.

The House's refusal to concur in Senate changes — which center on the replacement of a House-approved tax on advertising and repair services with a quarter-cent sales tax hike — put the measure back in the hands of the Senate, which must agree to reopen debate on the bill when it reconvenes Tuesday morning to keep the tax plan alive.

If the private negotiations, conducted with input from Gov. Mark White, fail to produce a version acceptable to both houses by midnight Tuesday, the tax bill would die.

In that event, White has indicated he will call lawmakers back for a sec-

Tax bill doesn't contain tuition hike for colleges

Texas residents attending state colleges and universities don't have to worry about increased tuition costs — at least for now.

The tax bill passed by the House of Representatives last weekend overlooked the issue of resident tuition rates.

An amendment to the educa-

tion tax bill by Rep. Wilhelmina Delco, D-Austin, deleted the provision calling for an immediate increase in resident tuition rates from \$4 to \$7 per credit hour.

Non-resident and international students weren't so fortunate, though. Their tuition will increase from \$40 to \$46 per credit hour for the 1985-86 school year.

of advertising and any increase in the state's 4 percent sales tax.

House members have adamantly supported the tax on advertising and opposed any increase in the sales tax.

The Senate plan sponsored by Sen. Grant Jones, D-Abilene, would raise approximately the same amount of money as the House plan. But the Senate flatly rejected the tax on advertising, an issue that sparked heated debate when the House passed its tax bill Saturday.

White was present for adoption of

the Senate tax plan, but refused any comment on the measure before leaving the Senate floor.

Major provisions of the tax bill adopted by the House and the Senate were:

- Raise the state's 4 percent sales tax a 1/4-cent under the Senate plan.
- Raise the gasoline tax from 5 to 10 cents.

- Increase the sales and rental tax on autos from 4 percent to 5 percent.

- Raise motor vehicle registration fees by \$12.50 in 1985, another \$6.25 in 1986 and another \$6.25 in 1986.

- Hike cigarette taxes by 1-cent per pack in 1984 and another cent in 1985. Cigarettes, snuff and other tobacco products also would be subject to sales taxes.

- Increase taxes on beer, ale, malt liquor and wine by 20 percent; raise the tax on liquor from \$2 to \$2.40 per gallon.

- Put computer software, home fertilizer, foreign aircraft sales, advertising, amusement services, motor vehicle parking and storage, cable television service and repairs of tangible personal property under the sales tax.

In Today's Battalion

Local

- The Eternal Flame is being renovated this summer by a graduate of the class which donated it. See story page 4.

State

- Texas A&M students at Galveston convert a drug-smuggling boat into a marine research vessel. See story page 6.

National

- The Supreme Court ruled the government cannot ban public TV and radio stations from editorializing. See story page 6.

World

- A South Korean freighter set aflame by two Iraqi missiles in the Persian Gulf appeared to be sinking Monday. See story page 5.