### State and Local

Improvement for a price

### 'Mud Lot' no longer free

By BRIAN PEARSON
Staff Writer

The 61/4 acres of land sometimes known as the Mud Lot, Rough Lot, Grode Lot or Surface-of-the-Moon Lot are no

face-of-the-Moon Lot are no longer available for free parking.

The former parking area, located at the corner of Nagle and Church streets, was closed Tuesday so construction could begin to improve the parking lot.

to improve the parking lot.

Skipper Harris, 34, who owns a parking lot maintenance company, said he is leasing the lot from Boyett Properties and is planning to create a gravel-covered lot which will be open in 10 to 15 days.

"I'm rying to help everybody out and give them a better place to park," Harris said Tuesday afternoon while on location at the lot. "It's pretty tacky out here right now."

Harris said the lot will be leveled off and covered with white gravel. He said the surface will look similar to an oil field road

look similar to an oil field road.
The charge for parking will be
\$1 per day, but some permits

might be available, Harris said. Signs giving information on how to obtain a permit will be put up inside, he said.

"We're kind of debating on the cost (of permits) right now," he said. "We'll have them available by within five days of the open-

Harris said attendants will operate the lot from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays.

"After 9 o'clock we'll be locked up and anybody found in the lot the next morning or during the night will be towed away," Harris said.

He said the lot will be open on Saturdays during A&M home football games. St. Mary's Church will be in charge of the lot on Sundays. Patrons of the church will be allowed to park free on Sunday, he said.

Harris was at the lot Tuesday morning and afternoon to prevent people from parking their cars. Signs warning potential parkers of certain tow away were placed inside. Harris said any car parked in the lot past 1 p.m. Tuesday would be towed. Four cars were towed.

Currently, only half of the area is being developed and will hold 360 vehicles, he said.

"I have some details to work out with the city before I can start the other half," he said.

Harris, who worked for the Texas A&M Range Science Department during the early 1970s, said he saw the area change into its current status.

In 1952, 10 acres of the area were used for the Circle Drive-In theater. The theater closed in 1976

Since then, part of the original 10 acres was sold to build North Ramparts and Newport condominiums. Another part was used by the City of College Station for the development of Church Street. The majority of the remaining land has been used for parking.

Harris refused to disclose the cost of building the new lot.

"I'd rather not discuss the cost," he said. "It's plenty, I guarantee."

### Killer may have been posing as florist, FBI says

**Associated Press** 

SAN ANTONIO — A banker's wife believed killed by an extortionist may have been expecting a florist to deliver flowers the afternoon she was shot to death at her home, the FBI says.

Rebecca Jo Patton, 42, wife of Castle Hills National Bank President Frank Patton Jr., was called about two hours before she was found slain and told to expect flowers, FBI special agent-in-charge Bill Dalseg said.

Dalseg said Patton was talking to an acquaintance on the telephone when she put the acquaintance on hold to take another call.

He said when Patton returned to the line to talk to the acquaintance, she indicated the other call had been from a florist informing her he would deliver flowers.

Investigators believe the supposed florist may have been the killer, Dalseg said.

Authorities said they believe Mrs. Patton was shot immediately after an extortionist called her husband and demanded money in return for her safety.

### Rep. Loeffler against state income tax

By JENS B. KOEPKE
Staff Writer

A state income tax is inevitable with the state government's present rate of spending, said U.S. Rep. Tom Loeffler, a candidate for the Republican gubernatorial nomination, Tuesday night.

Appearing in the Gubernatorial Series sponsored by the Memorial Student Center Political Forum committee, Loeffler told the audience that state government spending has increased 175 percent in the last decade.

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He said that sales taxes and other taxes and fees have been increased to the point where an income tax, personal, corporate or both, will be the only way to raise the necessary revenue to meet the increased



U.S. Rep. Tom Loeffler

spending. Loeffler said that, as governor, he would veto any income tax, personal or corporate, if it were

tax, personal or corporate, if it were approved by the Legislature. "If you have an income tax, personal or corporate, you are ripping out the foundations of the economy" he said

Instead, existing programs should be re-evaluated and streamlined if necessary to avoid any tax increases, he said. Contrary to what Gov. White has said, the state has enough revenues right now to pay for all the needed programs, Loeffler said. The programs with the highest priority should be public education, higher education, law enforcement—especially prison reforms, highway and water transportation and social programs, he said.

If elected, Loeffler said he would appoint an independent commission made of people in the private sector to review all areas of government and suggest ways to make the programs more efficient.

Loeffler stressed his ability to garner bipartisan support for his programs as an important asset for a Texas governor in an increasingly two-party state. His experience working together with the conservative Southern coalition of Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives could be continued in the primarily-Democratic Texas Legislature.

The purpose of the Gubernatorial Series is to allow candidates to present their views on issues relating to the election and on politics in general.

Former Rep. Kent Hance, also a candidate for the Republican gubernatorial nomination, will speak at Texas A&M on Oct. 9. Former Gov. William Clements and Gov. Mark White are expected to appear in the spring.

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