

Organization involves people in B-CS

Leadership Brazos begins 4th year

By John Coles
Reporter

Leadership Brazos, an organization developed to identify, educate and involve potential leaders in the Bryan-College Station community, is beginning its fourth year of leadership training. An anonymous seven-member committee chooses 30 applicants to participate in eight monthly sessions from October to May. Beverly Barron, staff director of Leadership Brazos, said that when the committee chooses an applicant, it considers a candidate's other involvements. High credentials as well as potential are considered when the committee makes its choices, Barron said. The eight-hour sessions focus on learning about certain aspects of the local economy: education, media and communications, criminal justice, lifestyles and city and state government. Each session is intended to enhance a participant's knowledge and leadership skills. "Leadership Brazos is absolutely wonderful," said Sara Jones, a local attorney, a Leadership Brazos graduate and now a city councilwoman. "I've lived here all my life, and I thought I

knew everything there was to know about the community," Jones said. "Then I was chosen for Leadership Brazos and have learned so much, plus the fact of working with 29 other concerned individuals makes it worth the time and money." A tuition rate of \$350 a year helps pay for a two-day retreat in September, various guest speakers at the sessions and a year-end banquet. Barron said, "Leadership Brazos is a lot of fun. Not only does a person learn about the community, but he develops a network of friends he can call on to ask for help and to gain their knowledge." Fred Brown, a local car dealer, College Station City Council member and a graduate from the first class in 1983, said, "The alumni group gives me a nucleus of friends and colleagues I can call on for help at almost any time. "Leadership Brazos is a marvelous way to find out the inner workings of both cities, and a little bit about the state. In fact, it is what inspired me to run for city council." Brown now serves on the council, and donates time to the Brazos Valley Rehabilitation Center and Humana Hospital. He also serves on the

board of directors for the March of Dimes and Republic Bank. "The alumni group is really just starting to organize," Barron said. "My main objective is to find out what everyone in the group is doing now to help the community." One of the alumni projects is "Christmas in July," which helps homeowners with house repairs if they are unable to afford the repairs, Barron said. Many of the alumni's ideas come from other leadership organizations around the state, she said. There are similar programs in Austin, Houston, Beaumont and Corpus Christi. Some of the participants this year include a moving consultant, a woman who works for the school district, a public information officer for Bryan and a man who owns his own recording studio, Barron said. The oldest participant is 58 and the youngest is 23, she added. "And I think it's interesting to know that this year's class has more women than men," Barron said. "So when we pick an applicant for the class, we look at the quality of the person and his or her potential to be a leader."

Texas' 100th State Fair starts today

DALLAS (AP) — The Texas Sesquicentennial and exhibits from China will make this year's State Fair of Texas, which opens today, a world-class affair with the potential for record attendance, fair officials say. The fair's "Texas 150" celebration begins at noon in honor of both the anniversary of the state's independence from Mexico and the 100th anniversary of the first state fair. "We have the opportunity to create a new generation of fair fans," said Wayne Gallagher, the fair's executive vice president and general manager. He said more than 3.7 million people are expected to go through the turnstiles before the fair's end on Oct. 26. The attendance projection, if reached, would surpass the Ohio State Fair totals and enable Texans to boast of the country's largest state fair. Officials said they would use some ideas from the 1936 fair, which honored the state's 100th year of independence.

Clements' group protesting new political ad for White

AUSTIN (AP) — Republican Bill Clements' campaign is protesting a new television commercial produced by Democratic Gov. Mark White and has asked television station managers to consider taking it off the air. But White's campaign says Clements' request is evidence that the ad has struck its target. The commercial hit the airwaves this week, raising questions about the effects on education of Clements' so-called "secret plan" for balancing the state budget.

Reggie Bashur, spokesman for Clements, called the commercial's implication that Clements would cut education spending "a big lie."

George Bayoud, Clements' campaign manager, has sent a letter to Texas television stations arguing that the commercial tries to leave the impression that Bill Clements will ruin the education system in Texas if he is re-elected governor. The letter also said Clements is committed to education funding.

The 30-second commercial features a little girl holding a doll and reciting the alphabet while an off-camera voice says Clements' secret plan to balance the budget could include devastating cuts in state spending. The voice then says that if Clements is running against White "to get even — that's his business." And as the little girl falters in mid-alphabet, the voice adds, "If he (Clements) takes it out on education, that's your business."

Autopsy shows boy, 9, died from cocaine

HEREFORD (AP) — The death of a 9-year-old boy from an allergic reaction to cocaine underscores the fact that drug use is not just a problem in large cities, authorities in this Panhandle town say. An autopsy showed this week that Manuel Saucedo died of cocaine poisoning on Aug. 17. Residents said they were shocked that dangerous drugs were so readily available. "It's so shocking that it happened here in Hereford," said Justice of

the Peace Johnnie Turrentine. "And it's shocking that it happened to a 9-year-old." Police who interviewed family members were uncertain how the boy obtained the cocaine that killed him. The case probably will be referred to a grand jury, investigators said. The case is not the first involving drugs in Hereford over the past year. Last January, after a 10-month undercover operation, police ar-

rested 70 adults and seven juveniles on a variety of drug charges. Manuel's father, Hector Saucedo, said his son had been happy and singing the night of his death and "kissed me on the cheek and said, 'I love you, daddy.'" After the youth was found on the floor of his residence, Saucedo and his oldest son carried him two blocks to a hospital where he was pronounced dead of cardiac arrest.

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