

What's up

Tuesday

TAMU SAILING CLUB: will hold a membership drive from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Rudder Fountain.

AGGIE PARTNERS FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS: will hold an executive board meeting at 7 p.m. followed by a general meeting in 274 Read.

BUSINESS CAREER FAIR HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE: Career Fair company hosts will meet at 7:45 p.m. in 150 Blocker.

DATA PROCESSING MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION: will meet at 7 p.m. in 150 Blocker.

TAMU WOMEN'S CHORUS: will hold auditions through Friday. Arrange an audition time in the Vocal Music Office, 003 MSC. Auditions are also being held for a bass guitarist and a drummer.

Wednesday

TAMU SAILING CLUB: will hold a membership drive and novice test at 7 p.m. in 308 Rudder.

TAMU BOXING CLUB: will hold an organizational meeting at 5:30 p.m. in 260 G. Rollie White.

MSC LITERARY ARTS: is now accepting submissions for Litmus. Call 845-1515 for more information.

PARENTS WEEKEND COMMITTEE: applications for nominating 1987-88 Parents of the Year are available in the Commons, Sterling C. Evans Library, the Memorial Student Center and the Pavilion.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three working days prior to desired publication date.

Lawsuit to contest funding method for state schools

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas' property-poor school districts are pitted against wealthy districts in a trial starting today over the method the state uses to allocate funds to public schools.

At last count, at least 115 districts had entered the suit, which is expected to last at least several weeks.

Texas Civil Liberties Union legal director Jim Harrington said Monday that TCLU will join the suit on the side of poor districts, which claim the present system discriminates against them.

Preliminary hearings were held Dec. 17 before State District Judge Harley Clark.

In a court petition, 67 school districts claim that state funds for schools are not being distributed equitably under school reform legislation passed in 1984.

Eight districts in South Texas originally sued the state in March of 1984.

The state, backed by 48 other school districts, claims state money is

being spread evenly over the state.

State lawyers say the poorer districts simply are not collecting as much local school taxes as they could.

During the December hearing, the attorney general's office contended that any change in school financing should be made by the Legislature, not the courts.

Assistant Attorney General Kevin O'Hanlon said the poorer districts do not want equity.

They just want more state money without having to raise local taxes, he said.

Austin lawyer Rick Gray, representing a group of the poorer districts, said some school districts with wealthy assets can collect local taxes of only 8 cents per \$100 property valuation and spend up to \$19,000 per student in school.

As a result, low-wealth districts, which are limited by law to a tax rate of \$1.50 per \$100 valuation, can spend only \$3,000 per student.

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Kids devour 12,500 burritos a week

School district has big grocery list

ODESSA (AP) — Among the items on Ron Clark's weekly grocery list are 12,500 frozen burritos, 3,000 gallons of milk and 62 cans of scouring powder.

His "family" — the more than 25,000 students of the Ector County Independent School District — also consume 3,000 pounds of ground beef weekly.

Clark, the associate director of food services, said students and teachers are expected to eat about 3 million meals by the end of this academic year.

The food they consume is stored in a warehouse, where staffers work amid giant-size cans of fruit cocktail, catsup and cases of cereal boxes stacked to the ceiling.

Popular cereal choices include Trix, PacMan, Country Cornflakes

and Frosted Flakes, Clark noted. Students consume about 11,180 packages of cereal each week.

At Burleson Elementary, fifth- and sixth-grade students say that they most enjoy eating fast-food en-

item appears on the menu, Clark said. That happens twice a month.

Sixth-grader James Parrish, 11, said he also liked the hamburgers and frijoles.

"I like just about everything," Par-

we'd call traditional meals such as meat loaf, fried chicken or lasagna," Clark said. "Convenience foods have really grown, and kids are eating out more and more so that's what's popular — like chicken nuggets.

"Fast food is not bad for you as long as you eat it in moderation."

Goulash and lasagna are among the district's least favorite entrees, Clark said.

Sixth-grader Corey Abila, 11, agreed about the lasagna: "I never have tried it, but I don't want to" because it looks bad, Abila said.

Some people complain that the school lunches have too many starchy foods, Clark said. But some items are served because the federal government sends surplus products to the schools, he said.

*"Kids are getting away from what we'd call traditional meals such as meat loaf, fried chicken or lasagna."
— Ron Clark, associate director of food services for Ector County ISD*

Gramm fights opponents of twin plants

HARLINGEN (AP) — Sen. Phil Gramm vowed again Monday to fight congressional opponents of the twin-plant industry that assembles U.S.-made products with Mexican labor.

Gramm said maquiladoras would be coming under attack in Congress from legislators who don't understand the program benefits people on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border.

Speaking to the dedication of a new training center at the Harlingen campus of Texas State Technical Institute, Gramm said American jobs are preserved by the twin-plant industry and shutting it down would be "devastating to the Valley, devastating to Texas."

Steelworkers optimistic over news of tentative contract agreement

BAYTOWN (AP) — With unemployment benefits running out, steelworkers say they are relieved union leaders and USX Corp. officials have reached a tentative agreement to end a six-month work stoppage.

"All I can tell you is I'm optimistic," United Steelworkers member Ken Bradford said Monday. "I'm waiting to see the package," he said. "It has to be fairly decent with so many presidents approving it."

On Sunday, the leaders of the local unions voted 38-4 in favor of a four-year pact that cuts pay 8 percent and eliminates 1,350 jobs, while boosting job security for those who remain.

The union's International Executive Board also approved the tentative pact.

The contract now goes to a secret-ballot vote among 33,000 union workers.

rish said. "The food's pretty always good."

Clark, 39, said students tend to avoid the kinds of meals he ate when he was going to school.

"Kids are getting away from what

If approved, it would end the longest work stoppage in the steel industry's history.

The 750 union workers at Baytown's Texas Works Steel Manufacturing plant will meet Saturday to discuss the proposed contract and then vote on it, said Pete Brady, vice president of Local 7756.

"We're upbeat at this point," Brady said.


Brady said union members appeared to get what they wanted in the form of increased job security.

"As it stands right now, it looks pretty good," union member Betsy Mendez, 40, said Monday. "We'll have to get the full details. Everyone is in limbo right now. No one wants to get real excited. But we have a lot of smiling faces today."

Already, Mendez's 14-year-old daughter is planning a celebration.

"She's pretty anxious for me to go back to work," Mendez said. "Everyone's eager to go back to work."

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