



Photo by Marie McLeod

Out On A Limb

Mike McDowell, a sophomore mechanical engineering major from Houston, takes a look at a tree at Big Bend National Park during spring break. McDowell was part of a group of A&M students who wanted to avoid the usual spring break spots. Their solution was a trip into the West Texas desert.

Program provides rental equipment and outdoor trips

By Sherry Copeland
Reporter

The Texas A&M Outdoors Program provides opportunities for students, faculty and staff to enjoy outdoor life.

The program offers equipment rental and resource information through the intramural office, as well as outdoor clinics and trips and information and suggestions about various parks, lakes and rivers.

Equipment can be reserved with full payment two weeks in advance of a trip and isn't available on a first come, first serve basis.

The program was started by Patsy Greiner, coordinator for outdoor recreation and coordinator of individual and dual sports for the intramural-recreational sports department.

The Outdoor Clinics, Greiner says, are designed to promote confidence as well as teach a specific skill, such as rock climbing, and usually are taught through day-long sessions.

Training clinics aren't required, but are strongly recommended for beginners planning to attend an outdoor trip, she says.

TAMU Outdoors sponsors about

two or three trips a month, and Greiner says they are scheduled as all-day or weekend events. However, she says, more backpacking trips are offered during cooler weather and more water trips are scheduled during the spring and summer.

"Trips are great," she says. "Our age range on one trip was from 18 to 71 years old. Once, on a rock-climbing trip, we had a student's dad, who was 65 years old, go with us. It was really neat teaching him how to climb."

The distribution of students and faculty on each trip is usually half-and-half, she says.

Before every overnight trip, she says, a pre-trip meeting is scheduled for the participants, giving them a chance to meet each other as well as the trip leaders.

"Hopefully, this meeting will instill some confidence in the first-time participant," she says.

The organization's upcoming trips are publicized in *The Battalion* and on fliers around campus, Greiner says, and anyone interested in embarking on a trip should sign up early to be assured a spot on the list.

2 robbery suspects killed in foiled holdup attempt

DENTON (AP) — Police on the trail of suspects linked to more than 20 North Texas armed robberies shot and killed two men during a foiled restaurant holdup that resulted in injuries to two officers.

Two members of a Fort Worth police tactical team were wounded during an exchange of gunfire at a Pizza Hut restaurant, but only one remained hospitalized Sunday.

About 25 to 30 people were inside the Pizza Hut when the two men burst in at 11:06 p.m. Saturday

wielding sawed-off shotguns, police said. None of the customers was injured.

The suspects, identified only as two white males in their late 20s or 30s, were pronounced dead at the scene at 11:40 p.m.

Capt. Jerry L. Blaisdall and Mark Lang of the tactical unit were both shot in the left leg, police said. Blaisdall was treated at the scene and Lang was taken to AMI Denton Regional Medical Center.

Students learn communication skills

School offers help to deaf children

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — Learning to tell a story comes naturally for most children, but for the students at Regional School for the Deaf, telling stories requires much more physical involvement.

"Their form of communication is body language, facial expressions and sounds. It's nice to sit and watch them tell a story . . . it's almost a form of mime," says Annette Humphreys, instructor at Egly Elementary.

Some children speak clearly and easily, depending on how well they can hear. Others use sign language, sounds or writing to communicate, she says.

In all, there are 93 students who are involved in the Brownsville Independent School District's Regional School for the Deaf, which has been in existence since 1975. Three local schools host the program, including

Egly, Oliviera Intermediate School and Homer Hanna High School.

A staff of eight teachers and 12 teachers' aides handle the 67 deaf

for the event and learned to dance by counting beats and responding to hand signals.

Anson Coy, their instructor, says,

"Their form of communication is body language, facial expressions and sounds. . . . It's almost a form of mime."

— Annette Humphreys, instructor at Egly Elementary

students at Egly, who travel from cities throughout the Valley.

A major project this semester was a special dance for the Charro Days Fiesta Folklorica. Sporting Brazilian outfits, the deaf students from Egly danced to the musical strains of "La Bamba" for an appreciative crowd.

They spent one month preparing

"We've worked really hard. Two years ago, we rehearsed, costumes were purchased by the parents and Parent Teacher Association and everything was prepared, then it was cancelled due to the rain."

There was no such disappointment this year, and the children enjoyed their performance.

"It takes a lot of patience teaching

these children," Coy says. "Handling the organization and short attention spans are other problems . . . but you have to remember we're dealing with children between 4 and 13 years of age."

An ordinary day in the program begins at 8 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. The schedule includes breakfast, reading, spelling, science, social studies, mathematics, lunch, physical education and art.

Humphreys says, "The majority of our deaf children are taking some form of speech therapy; some are mainstreamed into regular classes at Egly, and depending on the class, theater arts and music are offered."

Classroom participation outside of the school is also stressed. Children frequently take field trips to the weather station, police station, zoo, plant nurseries and farms outside the area.

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