

State and Local

Roadwork not expected to hinder traffic flow during game weekend

By Fiona Soltes
Staff Writer

Although road construction on campus is extensive, it should not cause any major difficulties during the upcoming Texas A&M-Alabama game weekend, Tom Williams, director of Parking Transit and Traffic, said.

"We do expect some congestion, but as most of the construction is on the north side of campus, we don't anticipate too many problems," Williams said.

Houston Street, which runs along the west side of Sbis Dining Hall, is now open, but it may be closed intermittently throughout the semester, he said.

"We don't have any control over what the highway department does, and since Houston runs to University Drive, it's likely they're not finished," he said.

Ireland Street, which runs along the west side of the Blocker Building, is still closed and will not open until the beginning of next year because of construction of the Northside Parking Garage.

Ross Street, between Spence and Ireland streets, will be closed for another three months, Williams said. The southern portion of Spence Street has been closed because of residence housing construction.

University parking officials also are working to relieve parking congestion. The temporary parking lot behind the University Police Station is open to students with blue day student, brown random staff and red dormitory student parking permits, Major Linda Lively, head of parking administration, said.

"It had been designated dorm parking at the beginning of the semester," Lively said. "It's just not being used, so we've decided to open it up to others to relieve some of the crowding elsewhere."

The lot will be open until the Southside Parking Garage is complete, she said.

Professor emeritus dead at age of 98

By Fiona Soltes
Staff Writer

A former Texas A&M department head died Tuesday at Sherwood Nursing Home in Bryan.

Dr. Samuel Rhea Gammon, 98, was head of the Department of History and Government from 1925 to 1954.

"He was a real gentleman," said Dr. J. Milton Nance, professor emeritus of history.

Gammon came to A&M in 1925 as department head, a posi-

tion he held until his retirement in 1954. He was named a professor emeritus of history in 1956.

Gammon is survived by a son, Dr. Samuel Rhea Gammon, Jr., and daughter-in-law, Mary, of Washington, D.C., where the younger Gammon serves as the executive director of the American Historical Association.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday at the First Presbyterian Church in Bryan. Interment will be in the Bryan City Cemetery.

EPA project may help cut pollution

By Tim Davis
Reporter

The Gulf of Mexico Program, a new initiative created by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, will hopefully help to curb the pollution of natural water resources in the United States.

Dr. John M. Sweeten, extension agricultural engineer for waste management, said the EPA is developing a program that will affect the states on the Gulf, as well as states in the Midwest.

"They plan to start at the Gulf and work their way upstream, and in the process bring awareness to the northern states of their effects on the Gulf," Sweeten said.

He added that two-thirds of the United States waterways drain into the Gulf.

Sweeten said the main objective of the program lies in nonpoint source pollutants prevention, a part of land management practices that attempts to control pollutants from diffuse points through planning and management.

Although Texas A&M is not directly involved in the program through the EPA, Sweeten said the University is always interested in working on new ways to work against water pollution.

"A&M will be available to the program in an advisory, technical and technological transfer capacity and we will be attempting to bring control of nonpoint source pollutants to the forefront," he said.

Sweeten also commented on his concern for the Atlantic Ocean, and its pollution problems in relation to the Gulf situation.

He said the Atlantic has been a dumping ground for waste and toxic chemicals, however, the Gulf of Mexico is not in as much trouble from these elements.

"I don't think the Gulf is that bad, not in terms of illegal dumping," Sweeten said.

He said a big part of the problem is soil erosion, simply because of the large land area involved.

Large quantities of soil are washed down the rivers from northern states into the Gulf, he said. The majority of this soil is not from Texas, therefore it involves much more than just the states bordering the Gulf, he said.

A number of states will be involved in this project, he said, whereas before it was up to the individual states.

"Another product of this program will be a better understanding of soil moisture conservation," Sweeten said.

As we control the soil erosion, we will also decrease soil moisture loss, he said.

"If we controlled soil moisture better, it would act as a buffer in times of drought, as well as allowing the land to make better use of the rain it received," he said.

Roger Meacham, an EPA spokesman, said that EPA Region's 4 (Atlanta) and 6 (Dallas) have jointly established the program's office at the John C. Stennis Space Center, near Bay St. Louis, Miss.

Study recommends changes in child protection agencies

AUSTIN (AP) — A new study recommends 72 changes in the way the Texas child protection system operates, and a member of the Department of Human Services board said Tuesday it offers a battle plan for combating child abuse and neglect.

"As private citizens and parents, we are not satisfied with a child protective services system in Texas that is merely average," board member Rob Mosbacher said in releasing the study.

"We must have a program for Texas that is second to none," he said. "Today, we do not have that program. But for the first time ever, we have a plan to attain one."

The study, conducted by the American Association for Protecting Children, will be presented to the human services board on Thursday. It found a number of problems and offered recommendations that Mosbacher said could lead to a "truly exceptional" system for Texas if they are implemented.

"What these experts found is that Texas, like most other states in the union, is struggling with the problem of child abuse and neglect," Mosbacher said.

No cost estimate has yet been prepared, he said, although it may not be that expensive.

"While resources is part of the problem, it is by no means the whole problem ... But I don't think the price tag is going to be that substantial," Mosbacher said. "A great deal of the help can come at the county level, and it can also come from private sector organizations."

Reported cases of child abuse soared 119 percent from 1976 to 1986, while the size of the state's Child Protective Services staff grew just 6 percent.

Among the recommendations, the study found a need to improve support for foster homes. "Despite the enormous need, the number of foster homes in Texas declined from 1984 to 1987," Mosbacher said.

The study also suggested improved cooperation between law enforcement officials and the child protection workers.

"Although CPS and law enforcement agencies are required by law to notify each other of abuse and neglect reports, a cooperative effort does not extend past that point," Mosbacher said.

The court system was the focus of

other recommendations. Currently, the courts generally are involved only when state officials seek conservatorship or to remove a child from a family.

And because the department can be represented in court only by local prosecutors or a member of the attorney general's staff, whose expertise may not be child abuse issues, Mosbacher said the effectiveness of their legal representation is sometimes in question.

"If the working relationship among (the Human Services Department), law enforcement, legal counsel and the courts is poor, children become the innocent victims of the system," he said.

The study also said: • Caseloads for some workers are two or three times higher than recommended standards of 15 to 25 per worker.

• An effective assault on child abuse "can only be waged with the combined forces of the community," but that in Texas the Human Services Department staff works in near isolation. "Those in the community who could be, and should be, our allies too often end up as adversaries," Mosbacher said.

Correction

It was reported incorrectly in Tuesday's *Battalion* that the motion for increased faculty input in the Athletic Council's action would be forwarded to Texas A&M President William H. Mobley, who would then consider forwarding it to the System policy makers.

The article should have read that the motion will be discussed in the Executive Committee, then sent to a committee for further study.

The *Battalion* regrets the error.

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