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Married students join 'National Night Out'

By Mia B. Moody

STAFF WRITER

Residents of the Texas A&M Married Student Housing participated Tuesday in "National Night Out," a campaign for neighborhood crime prevention intended to help create programs that will make their neighborhoods safer.

Sandra Burke, president of the Married Student Housing Council and a graduate student in educational technology, said the council decided to co-sponsor the National Night Out program with the University Police Department after residents became aware that their apartment complex is not a Utopia.

"One of the officers brought The Battalion and read the Police Beat and the residents were shocked to learn the amount of crimes that go on at A&M," Burke said. "Most of

the crimes are petty like slashed tires and stolen bicycles and people walking around in other people apartments. But by the officer reading this report, residents realized that A&M has crime problems."

Students who attended the National Night Out said they thought the program was entertaining as well as useful. A bright hot-air balloon was shot into the air with McGruff "the crime dog" on board, children participated in a coloring contest and students met neighbors to talk about a crime prevention program.

Mohamad Saleen, a graduate student in the soil science department, said he was just passing by and saw the crowd and he decided to participate in the program.

"I think this is a very good idea, especially since most of the residents here are international students," Saleen said. "We can take this idea to our homes and we can teach people

how to prevent crimes."

At 8 p.m. the residents were told to turn their porch lights on to participate in a contest sponsored by National Town Watch, a crime prevention agency in Pennsylvania. A satellite was used to judge which neighborhood was the brightest in the United States.

Officer Betty LeMay who works in the crime prevention unit at the University Police Department said the department is working on several programs to decrease the crime rate in residence halls.

"We have implemented a Crime-line which will give students information about crime on campus and crime prevention tips," LeMay said. "The Aggie Watch is a program which enables students to report anything that looks suspicious. The last program, operational I.D., encourages occupants to engrave all of the items in their apartment."



Photo by Kathy Haveman

McGruff "the crime dog" joins University Police Crime Prevention Officer Betty LeMay

and Bryan police Sgt. Choya Walling for a hot-air balloon ride, part of National Night Out.

Hance plans to get nomination

Railroad commissioner plans 'new vision for Texas'

AUSTIN (AP) — Kent Hance said his proposals for sweeping education and criminal justice changes in Texas, coupled with his experience in government, will assure him the Republican nomination for governor.

The Railroad Commission chairman plans to enter the race Tuesday with announcements in Austin, San Antonio, Houston, Dallas and Lubbock, campaign press secretary Mark Sanders said. Hance then will embark on a two-week tour of 29 other cities.

In a Monday interview with the Dallas Morning News, Hance proposed that the state education commissioner be elected, rather than appointed by the State Board of Education.

The change would make the commissioner more accountable to Texans, said Hance, who added that he would stress local control in the education system.

Hance said he would support the death penalty for drug dealers and a constitutional amendment denying bond for pushers. He advocated mandatory jail time for all users of illegal drugs.

Hance also vowed to work for tax breaks for businesses.

In his quest for nomination, Hance said he will spend \$3 million and his campaign theme will be a "New Vision for Texas."

His announcement makes him the third GOP candidate to enter the race to succeed Gov. Bill Clements, a Republican.

Former Secretary of State Jack Rains of Houston, Texas A&M Class of '60, and Midland businessman Clayton Williams, Class of '54, already have announced. Corporate takeover artist T. Boone Pickens of Amarillo has said he will decide by Tuesday whether to enter the race.

Among the Democrats, State

Treasurer Ann Richards has announced her bid for governor. Attorney General Jim Mattox is expected to challenge her in the Democratic primary.

Hance touted surveys that show him the front-runner in the race for the GOP nomination.

His campaign released partial results of a survey by its pollster, Lance Tarrance, that indicated Hance was 20 points ahead in the GOP field.

The poll of 500 GOP voters was

conducted July 31 through Aug. 2. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.5 percentage points.

Some of Hance's detractors have said the reason he is ahead in the early surveys is that he has more name identification than the other Republican hopefuls.

This will be Hance's fourth statewide race since 1984. He ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate as a Democrat that year, then became a Republican in 1985.

Railroad officials say

Waco train collision not caused by speed

WACO (AP) — Engineers driving two freight trains involved in a fatal collision near a candy factory Tuesday appeared to have been operating the engines at legal speeds, a Union Pacific Railroad spokesman said.

"There was a grain train pulling 99 cars southbound which collided with a switch engine pulling 16 cars in the opposite direction," Alex Tice said. "The engineer of the grain train was killed."

Waco police Sgt. Roy Halsell identified the man killed as Frank Lewis, 37, of Fort Worth.

Five other crewmen were treated for injuries at Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center. Three were treated for minor injuries then released, and the other two were in stable condition, hospital spokesman Mike Beatty said.

A firefighter called to the scene after the wreck also was injured, Waco assistant fire chief David Walsleben said.

He was treated for a back injury then later released from Providence Medical Center.

Investigators are trying to determine why the two trains, both traveling under 20 mph, collided, Tice said.

Waco Fire Department officials said the accident occurred shortly after 6 a.m. near the M&M Mars factory.

"The situation was stabilized in about an hour," Fire Chief Robert Mercer said.

"Most of the flame and smoke was from diesel, ruptured fuel tanks on the engines."

"There was no hazardous materials involved, other than the diesel fuel spill."

The grain train was destined for Corpus Christi, and the switch engine was going to a siding about a mile from where the collision occurred, Tice said.

"That particular area was restricted to cars going 20 miles per hour or less," Tice said.

"But you take the momentum of a locomotive and combine it with a switch engine and the impact is still going to be pretty significant."

Tice said he did not know how long it would take to repair the damaged tracks, but said officials had asked for about 480 feet of new rail panels.

Work crews are expected to continue working today to reopen the line, Tice said.

Social workers place AIDS victim in custody after reported sex abuse

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — State social workers have taken custody of a 9-year-old AIDS patient they say was sexually abused and who reportedly was injected with drugs as punishment.

The San Antonio girl, who probably will remain in state custody until she dies, has been placed in foster care with a family who knows her, said David Reilly, regional director of the Texas Department of Human Services.

"Everybody just wants to give her the best we can give her in the time she has," Reilly said Monday. "She is with the person she wants to be with, and, if that works out, there is no reason to move her."

The girl is believed to have been sexually abused at a young age and been given drug injections as punishment, according to a report filed in the child's case.

"From everything we can determine from the circumstances, it appears to be she got it (the AIDS virus) from abuse," Reilly said.

Authorities held a closed-door hearing Monday concerning the girl in state district court. District Judge Tom Rickhoff said the hearing was closed to the public because of a law requiring confidentiality in AIDS cases.

Among the issues believed to have been discussed in the hearing was whether the girl should attend public school.

"As far as we're concerned, she's going to go to school," Reilly said. "I don't think we have an obligation to tell the school (about her disease). In fact, we may be precluded (by law) from telling them."

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