# **State & Local**

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The Battalion

### Tuesday, July 2, 1991

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### **The Battalion** (USPS 045 360)

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Opinions expressed in *The Battalion* are those of the editorial board or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Texas A&M student body, administrators, faculty or the A&M Board of Regents.

Comments, questions or complaints about any of the editorial content of the newspaper should be directed to the managing edi-tor at 845-3313.

### **Subscriptions**

Summer heat leads to high bills Simple tips save money, keep you cool

**By Melinda Cox** The Battalion

Rising summertime tempera-tures means rising energy bills, but a few simple methods can help keep you cool and your en-ergy bill down. Thonda Snider, the energy editor for the Texas Energy Ex-tension Service at Texas A&M, said the most common culprit during these hot months is stu-dents' needs for cool air. "The biggest energy con-

"The biggest energy con-sumer in the summer is the air conditioner," Snider said. "The air conditioner is 50 to 60 per-

an contributer is 50 to 60 per-cent of the cost for the summer electricity bill." Snider said the way to reduce a high summer energy bill is to do anything possible to cut down on the use of the air con-ditioner. She said there are conditioner. She said there are several simple and easy ways to ac-complish a cheaper summer utilities bill.

"Setting the thermosat be-tween 78 and 80 degrees when you are home, and 80 to 85 degrees when you are gone for several hours will help reduce the cost of your electricity bill,"

Snider said. If students are gone from the house for more than four hours, turning the air conditioner off is a good idea, Snider said. Fans are also good way to cut

down the use of an air conditioner, she said.

Fans will not lower the temprature of the room, but they do circulate air which helps a person feel cooler.

"Running an air conditioner for a day costs \$5 or \$6 a day, but it only costs around 10 cents a day to operate a fan," Snider said. "People can use ceiling or circulating fans." She said another way to keep a house or apartment cool in the summer is shading. Windows can be shaded from the outside with awnings, solar

the outside with awnings, solar screens, shades or vegetation. A tree can also provide shade and keep the sun from getting

through a window. Snider said curtains are effective for keeping some of the sun out but only so much heat is re-flected. Taping aluminum foil to the inside of the window pane helps reflect the sun's heat. Snider said it is best to do

baking, ironing and other heat-producing jobs in the morning



Escaping the heat during summer months requires students to get creative with their attempts to keep cool.

so the air conditioner does not have to work as hard to cool the room.

Even the type of lighting used can play a part in the cooling of your home, she said.

"Fluorescent lights don't put off as much heat as incandes-cent lights," Snider said. "They also use less power and last eight to 10 times longer."

For more information on

### Economy uncertain without air base

FORT WORTH (AP) —City leaders Monday began mapping their strategy for the future of Carswell Air Force Base following confirmation that the base will be closed.

Meanwhile, nervous business owners who depend on the fa-cility wonder how they'll get by.

"We will be majorly affected," said Jody Simpson, a sales rep-resentative at an appliance rental store near the base. She esti-mated about 30 percent of the store's business depends on Car-cural swell.

"If it gets bad enough, I'm sure we'll be forced to relocate, like everyone else around here.'

The Base Closure and Realignment Commission Sunday recommended that the 50-yearold base be closed along with Bergstrom Air Force Base in Aus-tin and Chase Field Naval Air

tin and Chase Field Naval Air Station in Bee County. Kingsville Naval Air Station was the only Texas military base winner as the independent com-mission voted to keep it open. Fort Worth Mayor Kay Gran-ger met Monday with Rep. Pete Geren, Rep. Joe Barton, consul-tant James Toal and others to be-gin assembling a task force to

gin assembling a task force to study alternative uses for the base, said public information of-ficer Pat Svacina.

Some of the suggested uses for Carswell include turning it into an industrial park, relocating Meacham Airport there or creating an international trade zone. Citizens also have sug-gested turning the base into a recreation area

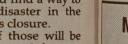
"None of those options have been explored yet and that's what the task force will do," Svacina said. "That's a huge chunk of land. It's not in any form that can be converted to civilian use immediately.

Part of the task force's goal will be to minimize the economic loss to the region. An Air Force study found that the base pours \$212 million into the regional economy every year and affects 12,000 jobs.

Mike Rosa, the research director for the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, was optimistic that the city would find a way to avert economic disaster in the wake of Carswell's closure.

"Some 7,000 of those will be (military) jobs we won't have to

SCOTT D. WEAVER/The Battalion



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#### BATTIPS

The Battalion enco its readers to contribut ideas and suggestions ing BATTIPS, The ion's phone line desig improve communicati tween the newspaper readers.

The BATTIPS nur 845-3315.

Ideas can include no ries, feature ideas and ality profiles of inte people. Readers also couraged to offer any suggestions that cou prove the newspaper.

## Subcommittee to review psychiatric apprehension laws

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A state Senate subcommittee is planning a hearing here to examine possible abuses of the Texas emergency apprehension law governing psychiatric patients, officials said.

State Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo, said

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allegations that mental health laws are being violated for profit in Bexar County indicates such abuses may be widespread.

The Senate Health Services Subcommittee, which Zaffirini chairs, has scheduled the hearing for Wednesday.

"I suspect that thus far we have seen just the tip of the iceberg," Zaffirini told the San Antonio Express-News. "What we have seen so far is downright frightening.'

ways to cool the house and save

money this summer, ask for the free publications "Natural Cool-ing," "Shading" and "Save En-ergy in the Summer" from the

Texas Energy Extension Service at 1-800-643-SAVE.

worry about since they'll be transferred," Rosa said. "The working spouses will be turning in notices to offset maybe a thousand civilian jobs. In a sense, there's kind of a wash effect."

Rosa said there also will be a

benefit from military retirees who previously purchased goods at the military exchange.

## Brothers found guilty in videotaped murder

TYLER (AP) — A federal jury real, 29, and Reynaldo Sambrano Monday found two South Texas Villarreal, 24, both of Edinburg. brothers guilty of killing an East Texas lawman in an attack partially captured by a video camera on the dash of the officer's car.

The jury deliberated about two hours before returning the guilty verdict for Baldemar S. Villar-

murdering Nacogdoches County Constable Darrell Lunsford. Sentencing is scheduled for July 8.

The brothers could be exe-

provides the death penalty for killing a law enforcement officer The two were convicted of while committing a drug offense.

Federal officials said the brothers' trial was the first in the nation under the 1988 law. Proscuted under a federal law that - ecutors said the Villarreals and a

third occupant in the car were transporting marijuana from Houston to Chicago when they were pulled over.

U.S. Attorney Bob Worthan said Monday he could not comment on the case because a gag order had been issued by U.S. District Judge Robert Parker.

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