City proposes joint effort to beautify College Station

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March 27

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gen city council noticed the landscape work A&M has done to improve its appearance and entrances to the University, and the council

wanted to be a part of it.
"Our purpose is to compliment what's been done with the University and set the tone for visitors,"

Another main project of the streetscape proposal is widening Texas Avenue to three lanes going in either direction, plus a continuous left turn lane.

Ron Ragland, College Station city manager, said the widening of Texas Avenue creates perfect timing to landscape the community.

"It's a truly pleasing, aesthetic treatment," Ragland said. "We trying to integrate into the whole planning system.

Ash said, however, the plans have not been finalized. "This is just a conceptual master plan," he said. "The only pro-

ject in the process of being funded right now is the street widening." Ash said the city may not be able to achieve all these goals and

proposals in a first phase project.
"It depends on the funding," he said. "It may be phased in over the next few years.

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Ann Richards on Thursday approved closing the Travis State School for the mentally retarded but said the Mexia State School should be spared. Instead, Richards said she

Richards closes

state school

would recommend that the Legis-lature approve converting the Fort Worth State School to a drug rehabilitation center for prison in-

Richards said she believed her decision would meet the requirement for settling a long-running

federal lawsuit against Texas' system of caring for the mentally re-

Closing two of the 13 state schools for the mentally retarded was called for in the settlement agreement.

A special task force had recommended closing Mexia and the Travis school, which is one of two located in Austin.

Richards noted that Travis State School also has been identified by state prison officials as a potential drug treatment facility.

Aggie Brigade defends regional title

Continued from Page 2

after the rope bridge), we were ready to go again."

The payoff was A&M's second consecutive U.S. Army Third Region Ranger Challenge Champi

existence of the competition.

onship and its third in the six-year

Ranger Challenge is a group within the Army ROTC which basically trains year round. The group is separate from all other groups within the Corps of Cadets. About 20-25 cadets begin trying out for the team one week into the fall semester. Jones said it

takes a special type of individual to make the team. Anyone can make the team, but basically it's all heart," he said. "It's more than their PT (Physical Training) score. We've taken some who barely have made minimum, and they made Ranger Challenge. I only scored a 250 when I came out (300 is perfect score). We look for people who really are motivated and dedicat-

ed, that's the main quality you're going to need for Ranger Chalg to A&M so worked in Louisia After an initial cut, the Aggie Brigade takes two teams to a matchup with five or six other squads, which usually is held at Sam Houston State University. nted to ret This gives everyone some compe-

tition experience, and allows the team coaches and team leaders an opportunity to evaluate personnel in a game situation.

This year's team included four juniors: Taylor from Dallas, Jones from Texarkana, John Donaldson from Boling and Randy Sanders from Carmine. Sophomore members are Will Compton of Harker Heights, John Donley of Grand Prairie, Blake Hamm of Dallas, Scott Stewart of Stafford and Sean Simms of Taipei, Taiwan. The two alternates are Will Haraway of Harlington and Michael Kleppe of

The team coaches are Sgt. Maj. homas Epting, Master Sgt. Chris Michaelson and Sgt. Cedric Busby Epting is considered the "head coach," but he said "he does no

more than the other two coaches." Ed Liles, who also made the trip to Kansas, fancies himself only as a supporter, but Jones said

his involvement goes beyond that. 'Ed is the official academic tutor for Ranger Challenge," Jones "Without him many of us would not be around very long."

Young squad utilizes training, unity to win second straight championship

team is trimmed to 11, with nine team members and two alternates. The team then starts preparing

Rick Taylor, Aggie Brigade team leader and Commander of Troops for the Third Region.

for the November Apache Brigade Shoot-Out in Fort Hood, from which the top two teams travel to regional competition in March. This was the last year that the regional championship was held in Fort Riley, as the four regions are being condensed into two. Next year the regionals move to Fort Lewis, Wash.

A&M won the first competition in 1987, finished second in 1988, third in 1989 and second in 1990 before winning the last two years. The Aggies are the only school to place every year.

After the one-rope bridge, the teams compete in the Army Physical Fitness Test, which requires situps, push-ups and a two-mile run; an M-16 rifle marksmanship test which, requires firing at a scaled silhouette target 25 meters away; weapons assembly, which tests cadets on their ability to properly and quickly assemble an M-16 rifle and an M-60 machine

The last four events include an orienteering test, which requires teams to find as many "control points" as possible in 90 minutes over a 6-kilometer square orienteering course; a grenade assault course that requires hitting six targets with practice hand grenades while negotiating an obstacle course; a recon patrol segment, which tests the cadets' teamwork

After the early competition, the and stamina during a 12-hour might patrol and is followed by the 10-K march. The cadets get about an hour-and-a-half of sleep be-tween the night patrol and the

> The strength of the team rests in its intense training program or PT. The PT program is developed each year by the team leader after consultation with Michaelson and the rest of the team.

> Jones, who likely will be next year's team leader, said the program developed by Taylor and Michaelson was the best for the team and they would continue to

> The Brigade trains four days a week in what Epting refers to as "early in the morning" and five days in the afternoon. Morning practices last an hour-and-a-half, while afternoon practices usually take two hours

> The team also takes every other weekend to work on orienteering or patrolling. However, as the regional competition neared, the team worked every weekend.

> Participating in Ranger Challenge takes up most of the cadets' extra time, including time away from regular Corps formations. The Brigade usually misses out on PT with their units in the morning and on formations because they still are working on Ranger Chal-

> There's speculation among some of the Corps members that the only reason cadets participate in the Brigade is to get out of formation. Jones and other members quickly mention that Brigade workouts are not an easy way out.

"It's a little joke that if anyone says 'you're just doing it (Ranger Challenge) to get out of formation,' we'll just tell them to come out for some of our PT sessions sometime, and they usually drop the subject," Jones said.

The never-ending training continues on the 13-hour bus ride to Kansas with forced hydration and a healthy diet of bananas for potassium. The team was required to drink one quart of water every hour.

Epting said the procedure is required to ensure maximum performance from the team.

"It's done so they won't dehydrate themselves once they've

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started an event," Epting said. "They'll sustain the same power from start to finish. It's the same way with their diet - it's pretty well-designed around a lot of potassium and fresh fruits, and they stay away from fats.

The team effort it takes to maintain a strict training and nutritional regimen carries over into how the team performs and how it deals with adversity. All say that there is not one individual who the team looks to for inspiration they look to each other

"The team had overall input into everything that was going on," Michaelson said. "It wasn't just one person's say-so. It was the whole team. He (Taylor) delegated the individual events and guys basically were in charge of that event. That was supposed to be their specialty, and they were to ensure the team was trained up to par for that event.

'It wasn't one or two leaders with six or seven guys following them around - it was the whole team leading everyone. Everybody leads in their own respect.

The ideal that the whole team leads is important for two reasons. First, the team never panics and starts pointing fingers when an event goes bad. They start looking

ahead to the next challenge Second, with a high turnover rate of team members, it's easy to integrate new members over the course of a year if new members take an active role in leading the

Jones, Stewart, Compton and Donley are the only returnees for next year because other team members are taking staff positions within the Corps of Cadets or the strain of competition wears out the bodies of some members.

The main reason it's hard for them to do both is, as staff members, they have to be there for formations," Jones said. "We're never at formation because we're out

Unity was needed more than ever this year as the Brigade was faced with defending their regional championship crown with only one year of combined team member experience. The championship team from 1991 had a combined 17 years of Ranger Challenge experience.

There's a big difference there, as most can see," Epting said.
"It's kind of a blinding glimpse of the obvious. They had a lot to overcome and a short amount of time to do it in. It was really a challenge.

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