

TxDOT delays Texas Avenue construction

The construction will not disrupt the fall's football game traffic. The construction was originally scheduled for September but will not begin until December.

By Katherine Arnold
 THE BATTALION

The Texas Transportation Commission rejected bids for construction on Texas Avenue, which will delay construction until December, Texas Department of Transportation officials said.

The project will widen Texas Avenue between University Drive and Dominik Drive to six lanes with a landscaped median. There will be left-turn access at key locations.

Phillip Russell, director of transportation planning and development for TxDOT, said only two construction companies bid on the Texas Avenue construction when TxDOT began accepting bids in July.

The less expensive of the two bidders was still \$1 million over the anticipated cost of \$3.8 million.

"Because there has been so much construction activity this summer, we are hoping that is why we only had two bidders," Russell said.

TxDOT will be able to get a better price on the construction if more companies bid on the project, he said.

"At least we are going to miss this year's football season. We are going to hit a couple of them anyway, but not this year."

— Phillip Russell
 director of transportation planning and development for TxDOT

Denise Fischer, public information officer for TxDOT, said construction was scheduled to begin in August. After the bids for the project were received, they had to be approved by the Texas Transportation Commission in Austin. Because of the high cost, the bids were rejected.

TxDOT will now accept bids in October. If a contract is granted in October, construction will begin in December.

Construction will not take longer, it will just extend five months beyond the scheduled date of completion, Russell said. The project is expected to take 24 months.

There is one benefit to the construction being pushed back, Russell said.

"At least we are going to miss this year's football season," he said. "We are going to hit a couple of them anyway, but not this year."

Construction on Wellborn Road (FM 2154) will begin in mid-September. Young Contractors, Inc. was awarded a \$3.7 million contract to add paved shoulders and reconstruct the pavement on Wellborn Road. The construction will extend from FM 2818 to Greens Prairie Road in Wellborn. The project is scheduled to be completed in Fall 1996.

A contract for construction on George Bush Drive will go out this month to widen the road to four lanes, Fischer said. That project is scheduled to last 20 months.

Balloon Classic takes flight

□ The 5th annual Brazos Valley Balloon Classic was held at Lake Bryan and included a Balloon Glow, balloon launches, and boat and jet-ski races.

By Libe Goad
 THE BATTALION

Hot air balloons filled the early morning skies with brilliant color, and jet skis and boats stirred the waters of Lake Bryan this weekend during the 5th Annual Brazos Valley Balloon Classic and Hydro-fest.

The three-day festival featured balloon launches and boat and jet ski races during the day. In addition to a carnival and various food and craft vendors, music by Rockafellas, Vince Vance and the Valients, Against the Grain and Ezra Charles and the Works offered entertainment in between events. Balloons made nighttime appearances in a Balloon Glow, where pilots illuminated anchored balloons with blasts from propane burners Friday and Saturday.

The Texas summer weather carried an agenda of its own, which may be the reason for a smaller turnout than expected



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION
 Front to back: Dick Goss in "Cablevision," Cheri White in "Texas Wildflower" and Steve Lombardi in "Texas Flag" fly over Bryan Lake Park Sunday morning as part of the 5th annual Balloon Classic and Hydro-fest.

A&M commencement set for this weekend

□ More than 2,000 students will receive their degrees at this weekend's commencement ceremonies.

By Tara Wilkinson
 THE BATTALION

Speakers for the Aug. 11-12 Texas A&M commencement ceremonies, state Rep. Robert A. Junell and Dr. Amy Freeman Lee, said graduations should be fun and lively.

Junell, of San Angelo, is serving his second term as chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. Lee, of San Antonio, is an artist, educator and humanist who is currently chairman of the Board of Trustees of The Wilhelm School in Houston.

Junell will speak Friday, Aug. 11 at

the commencement ceremonies for the Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Business Administration, Education, Geosciences and Maritime Studies and Science.

Although he has not yet decided on a speech topic, Junell said his speech will be anything but boring.

"I've been to lots of graduations and I don't remember anything that was said," he said. "So I'm going to try to do something short and humorous with a message."

But as a Texas Tech University graduate, Junell joked that his topic might allude to his alma mater.

"Maybe it will be, 'Should A&M be merged with the Texas Tech System,'" Junell said.

Lee, who will speak Aug. 12 at commencement ceremonies for the Colleges of Architecture, Engineering, Liberal

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Fate of general use fee still undecided

□ The Board of Regents will vote on on the proposed fee increase at its Aug. 31-Sept. 1 meeting.

By Wes Swift
 THE BATTALION

After a summer-long controversy, the approval of the proposed general use fee increase now rests in the hands of the Texas A&M Board of Regents.

The nine-member Board will vote on the proposal at its Aug. 31-Sept. 1 meeting. Several of the regents said they want to hear all perspectives and

collect all the information before committing to a position on the proposal.

Mary Nan West, Board of Regents chairman, said she has not decided how she will vote. She also said each regent may not decide until the final vote.

That uncertainty kept administrators busy most of the summer. In addition to the normal annual budgeting process, University policy-makers considered the fate of the general use fee when developing contingency plans for budget cuts and salary increases.

Dr. Ray Bowen, Texas A&M president, said his staff has prepared for every possibility and can only sit back and wait for the regents' decisions.

"We've got all aspects of this situation worked out," Bowen said. "The re-

gents have really given no indication of what they're going to do, but everyone's really optimistic [about the proposal]. Right now, the most stressful thing we can worry about is how the football team will do against LSU."

The regents received an in-depth look of the situation at their July 26-28 budgetary workshop in Salado. Bowen discussed the proposal with the regents and answered their questions.

Bowen said most of the questions focused on the effects, such as decreased class access and possible layoffs, that the budget cuts would have on the University. He explained that he was not surprised by the questions.

"This is one of the hardest decisions this Board's going to make," Bowen

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Summer Finals Schedule

Summer session 1995 final examinations are scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. This schedule gives the assigned times for final exams according to class meeting times. Finals for one-hour courses are given in the final class period.

Second 5-week term		10-week semester	
Wednesday, Aug. 9		Tuesday, Aug. 8	
Class meeting time:	Exam time:	Class meeting time:	Exam time:
8-9:35 a.m.	8-10 a.m.	MWF 8-10 a.m.	8-10 a.m.
10-11:35 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	MWF 10 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
	-12:30 p.m.	MWF 12 noon	-12:30 p.m.
	1 p.m.-3 p.m.	MWF 2-4 p.m.	1 p.m.-3 p.m.
	3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.		3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Aug. 9		Wednesday, Aug. 9	
Class meeting time:	Exam time:	Class meeting time:	Exam time:
8-9:35 a.m.	8-10 a.m.	TR 8-10 a.m.	8-10 a.m.
10-11:35 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	TR 10 a.m.-12 noon	10:30 a.m.
	-12:30 p.m.		-12:30 p.m.
	1 p.m.-3 p.m.		1 p.m.-3 p.m.
	3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.		3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

I-Camp helps international students adjust to American culture, A&M

□ ISA still needs student volunteers to teach A&M traditions to incoming international students.

By Javier Hinojosa
 THE BATTALION

I-Camp eases international students' difficulties of venturing to new places for the first time and meeting different people with unfamiliar customs.

The International Students Association (ISA) is

sponsoring the second annual camp that will help incoming international students with the transition from their own cultures to the traditions and customs at Texas A&M.

Many positions remain open for student volunteers to assist with the camp scheduled Aug. 19.

Magali Hinojosa, ISA president, said A&M students are encouraged to

meet students from all over the world while serving as I-Camp volunteers. It helps if students are international students or a members of the ISA, she said, but it is not required.

"There are a great number of U.S. students that are in the ISA," Hinojosa said.

"The organization focuses on international students, but does not limit their membership to just interna-

tional students." Attending this year's I-Camp, which focuses on familiarizing international students with the University and American culture, are 150 international students.

Hinojosa said helping the international students make friends is another ISA goal.

"Many students come to A&M by themselves and don't know anyone," she said. "We provide some time where they can interact with members in their group."

Suzanne Droleskey, director of International



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