

THIRD STRIKE

The A&M Volleyball Team was defeated by Texas for the third straight time.

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TESTY TEMPERS

Hernandez: Stress of finals and term papers can sometimes grow into violent dispositions.

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EXECUTIVE ROMANCE

Lovestruck president faces ruthless foes in latest Reiner film.

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THE BATTALION

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White House, GOP brace for budget talks

Clinton promised he would hang tough for Democratic priorities.

WASHINGTON (AP) — With a budget truce revving the government back to life, the White House and congressional Republicans pledged Monday to use December talks to champion divergent spending priorities that have so far been irreconcilable. The GOP signaled possible give on its prized tax cut.

Democrats and Republicans alike seemed relieved that the longest-ever partial federal shutdown was ending, a six-day ordeal that had both parties fear-

ing retribution by disgusted voters. But there was doggedness, too, and White House spokesman Mike McCurry warned, "We'll be right back where we were" unless the two sides strike a budget deal by mid-December.

A day after bipartisan leaders shook hands on a pact reopening government through Dec. 15, the House overwhelmingly approved the measure 421-4 and shipped it to President Clinton for his signature. The legislation commits both sides to seeking a balanced budget in seven years using congressional economic calculations, which Republicans had demanded for months, and to protect social programs, as the

White House insisted. It was approved Sunday by the Senate.

Before recessing for Thanksgiving, the House also gave final congressional blessing to the GOP plan for balancing the budget by 2002 on a mostly party-line 235-192 vote. It would overhaul Medicare, slice scores of programs and trim taxes for millions.

Clinton's long-promised veto of that measure will serve as the

starter's flag for bargaining that Republican leaders said they hoped would begin next Monday. With those sessions in mind, the GOP prepared to send a letter to Clinton asking that he provide them with a detailed, seven-year budget-balancing plan of his own next week.

The president had long said that the GOP's seven-year, budget-balancing timetable would force overly harsh spending cuts. Democrats said Monday that to meet that schedule, the key in upcoming negotiations would be to force Republicans to shrink their planned \$245 billion tax break for families and businesses.

"Well, I think that has to be on the table," responded House

Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., on NBC's "Today" program. Trimming the tax cut would make things easier for politicians and bureaucrats, but "harder for parents," he added.

Clinton met with House Democrats in a Capitol basement meeting room to send them home for Thanksgiving on an upbeat note, promising to hang tough for Democratic priorities, participants said.

But he also warned them that "everybody can't have their way," said Rep. Barbara Kennelly, D-Conn., a reference to compromises he said would be inevitable.

Both sides said they were mulling plans for the structure of their negotiations. But for now,

each stressed that going in, they had achieved what they wanted.

"If we do what we should do between now and Dec. 15, it won't make any difference who won and who lost," said Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan. But he couldn't resist adding: "I think we won. We didn't blink."

That is not how Democrats saw it.

"The president got what we wanted," boasted White House staff chief Leon Panetta on ABC's "Good Morning America," saying the administration got Republicans to promise to protect Medicare, Medicaid, education,

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Gingrich

Aggies helping others

Students provide ready reading

A library established for Mockingbird Run will serve 300 school-aged children and their families.

By Michelle Lyons
THE BATTALION

Three children sit in front of a small, hand-built bookcase, poring over colorful picture books. It is a scene some Texas A&M students are hoping will become common at the Mockingbird Run apartment complex in a dilapidated part of Bryan.

A&M educational human resource development students pooled their resources with members of the Bryan-College Station community to establish a library for Mockingbird Run.

Dr. Don Seaman, an A&M professor of educational human resource development, said the students in his class chose this library project out of several others.

"We had several projects nominated," Seaman said. "[The students] saw

the chance to do something in the community; they wanted something that was doable."

Because the area surrounding the complex is in a run-down section of Bryan and because there are so many children living there, the class approved of the project as a means of helping those who may otherwise be underprivileged.

The group also chose the project, Seaman said, because the results could be easily observed.

Seaman said he enjoyed this particular project because it went beyond A&M.

"This is the first time I've ever had a project that went outside the campus," he said. "It's bridging the University and the community, and that's what I like. I think everybody has a pretty good feeling."

Jacque Taylor, Federal Women's Program manager for the Bryan federal prison camp and a student in the class, said the class chose the project with the hopes of increasing the reading rate at the complex, especially since so many school-aged children live there.

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Gwendolyn Struve, THE BATTALION

Nicholas Hall, age 3, browses books Monday in the new library set up at his apartment complex.



Shane Elkins, THE BATTALION

FREE? AT A&M?

Renee DeCarlo, a senior marketing major, gave out free popcorn and candy in the MSC Monday. The goodies were provided by the MSC Public Relations Committee.

Environmental design majors devote energies to local health-care center

The project prevents the isolation of senior citizens by integrating the surrounding community into the facility.

By Heather Pace
THE BATTALION

Daniel Bertrand and Stephen Tarnoki, senior environmental design majors, created a health-care center design that prevents the isolation of senior citizens by integrating the surrounding community into the facility.

This project and seven others were the focus of a "Comprehensive Facility for the Elderly of Brazos County," which were presented last night at the Education Center of St. Joseph Regional Health Center.

Students began their eight-week projects by gaining an understanding of the hospital's vision for the future.



Shane Elkins, THE BATTALION

Vinh Nguyen and Charles Johnson, both senior environmental majors, make the final touches on their facility's design.

Each team, composed of two students, developed a logo, purpose and clay model before getting feedback from the hospital.

The projects include sections for independent living, assisted living, skilled nursing, home care services, Alzheimer's and hospice care.

Michael Reeder, a senior environmental design major, said they talked to different people and visited the E.F. & Bertha Kruse Memorial Lutheran Village in Brenham, Texas to gain a better understanding of the facility's needs.

"Our project became more detailed as they told us if it was going well or if we should go in a different direction," Reeder said.

Mitchell Ruiz, a junior environmental design major, said the project will be beneficial in the future because it provided him with practical working experience.

"The project helps up because solving problems prepares us for the true problems of architecture," Ruiz said, "when you have to deal with real needs, real budgets and real people."

Although students had the same problem to solve, they tackled their problems in different ways.

Chuck Johnson and Vinh Nguyen, senior environmental design majors, left a 100-foot setback to sublet for future retail expansion, kept vehicles to the perimeter of their project and designed a miniature golf course.

They focused their center around a recreation center, a community center and a chapel, which ties together those living in independent or with assistance.

Johnson and Nguyen structured their project around the environment by utilizing natural vegetation and planning a lake that extends throughout the community.

Bertrand and Tarnoki decided to create a dual day-care center for elders and children.

"The day-care center adds to the elders' enjoyment," Bertrand said, "by enabling them to mingle with children."

The site of the future facility would be a 21.3 acre lot located on 29th Street and Villa Maria.

Sister Gretchen Kunz, St. Joseph Regional Health Center president, said financing is currently preventing the plans from becoming a reality.

"I dream and pray for the money," Kunz said. "That is the main thing holding us up."

Court case stalls B-CS utility rates juggling

College Station residents may face higher electric bills.

By Tara Wilkinson
THE BATTALION



yet been set.

Depending on the outcome of a court dispute between the cities of Bryan and College Station, residents of some College Station annexes may have to pay Bryan utility rates, and all College Station residents may face higher electric bills.

Judge J.D. Langley of the 85th District Court in Bryan made a partial ruling on the utilities disagreement in October. The judgment, which favored Bryan, has little effect until a final decision is made. A court date for the final ruling has not

The agreement specified that though College Station would annex the land in question, Bryan would continue to provide utility service for

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