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TODAY

TOMORROW

4TH YEAR • ISSUE 107 • 12 PAGES

COLLEGE STATION • TX

TUESDAY • MARCH 10 • 1998

Intersection closure affects Ol' Sarge route

By AMANDA SMITH
Staff writer

Closure at the intersection of Southwest Parkway and Dartmouth Street in College Station on Wednesday will change several A&M off-campus bus routes and possibly through the summer. The closed section is between Brentwood and Southwest Parkway Drive.

er for A&M Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services (PTTS), said the "Ol' Sarge" off-campus bus route changed last week after construction began. "We are going to go backwards on our route," Jackson said. "The Ol' Sarge route will be affected. It is one of the heaviest off-campus routes and Southwest Parkway is heavily traveled." An additional Ol' Sarge stop will be located at the Post Oak Mall bus stop. The revised bus route is about two minutes

shorter in travel time, Jackson said. Drivers who used the Dartmouth section may use an alternate route, taking Brentwood between Dartmouth Avenue and Texas Avenue during the period of closure. PTTS Bus Operations has met with Klotz Associates, the municipal development group in charge of the construction on Southwest Parkway in College Station, to minimize the effect of construction. "The contractor wants to work with

us," Jackson said. "The contractor said that buses should have enough room for proper turn radiuses. We have put up signs at the bus stops." Jackson said PTTS Bus Operations plans to take a survey of students who take the Ol' Sarge route to campus at the end of this semester. "If the customers want the route to remain the same (following the end of construction), then we will keep it," Jackson said. An open forum is scheduled for April 2

to address concerns about bus operations and other transportation services provided by PTTS. "Communication is sometimes a hard thing," Jackson said. "We are in the midst of working on some changes in the bus routes. We want to see what feedback we can get from the students." About 20,000 students use the buses on and off campus every day, Jackson said. Nearly 10,000 students purchased off-campus bus passes this school year, he said.

Building 'The Zone'

University athletic officials host a groundbreaking ceremony marking the expansion of Kyle Field

By AMANDA SMITH
Staff writer

Texas A&M University athletic officials broke ground yesterday to mark the beginning of expansion on the north end of Kyle Field. The \$32.9 million renovation and expansion will produce "The Zone," which will add 10,000 seats, a suite and a club level to the stadium.



GREG MCREYNOLDS/THE BATTALION

ter Gooding, Bucky Richardson, Wally Groff and Dr. Ray Bowen break ground at Kyle Field Expansion site on Monday.

dium. The renovations are expected to be completed by September 1999.

"We are one of the few universities that has an athletic program that is not funded in some way by student fees or by state funds," said A&M President Ray M. Bowen. "Without good facilities and without the kind of support the 12th Man Foundation provides, we couldn't be here today celebrating the success of this Athletic department and the creation of this wonderful facility."

The expansion is funded by the 12th Man Foundation, a private and non-profit organization.

Wally Groff, A&M athletic director, said the improvements may boost attendance at football games.

"The (expanded) football facility should help us sell extra tickets," Groff said. "It will give us an opportunity to increase revenue by adding additional seats. The former students and the fans will be the ones to benefit the most."

Football ticket sales and additional revenues account for 80 to 85 percent of the Athletic Department's funds, Groff said.

The A&M System Board of Regents approved a contract in late February with Bartlett Cocke of San Antonio to complete the renovations.

Final descent



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Cathy Boettcher, an air traffic control specialist, guides a Beech 1900 twin engine plane from Continental Express into Easter Wood Airport Monday.

Paper recycling introduced Bonfire committee formed to teach students about traditions

By STACEY BECKS
Staff writer

The Physical Plant Recycling Center is putting recycling bins next to The Battalion distribution centers on campus in an effort to alleviate overflowing trash and cluttered classroom caused by papers left by students.

Student Senate recently passed a resolution that asked for a newspaper recycling program.

Larriane Ibrahim, the bill's author and a senior marketing major, said the program can work if students are aware of the recycling bins.

When the newspapers are left overflowing trash bins, classrooms and buses, they can't be used for recycling purposes," she said. "Recycling is a way to solve the problem of excess newspapers and to do something for the environment."

Nicole Tatschke, environmental conservation specialist for the utilities division of the Physical Plant, said there are temporary recycling bins at some of the distribution locations and more will be installed. The recycling bins will be labeled "for newspaper recycling only."

The six distribution locations are the Commons, Sbsia Dining Hall, West Campus Library, Zachry, Blocker, and Harrington Education Center.

Tatschke said the Recycling Center wants to work with the students and implement the programs the students want.

"We want to provide as much recycling accessibility as possible," she said. "If students want newspapers recycled that's what we'll work to implement. I want to encourage students to use the newspaper bins and not put trash in them."

Tatschke said newspaper recycling does not generate revenue because the quality of paper is low, but they still want to recycle the newspapers to prevent them from going to landfills.

The Recycling Center has recycling bins in 138 buildings on campus. They recycled 634 tons of material last year.

By JENNIFER WILSON
Staff writer

A student organization is forming a committee to promote community and campus involvement with Bonfire and to help people feel welcome at Bonfire activities.

Belinda Rodriguez, director of the Bonfire Reloading Committee (BRC) and a junior animal science major, said the idea for the committee was introduced to the BRC last year by members of the Bonfire Advisory Council.

Rodriguez said the committee will aim to eliminate any negative feelings that may be associated with Bonfire since last year's sexual profanity issue.

"Bonfire is a very positive event and the main goal of the new committee is to get community members involved so they understand what goes into building bonfire," she said.

Rodriguez said the committee will set up a tent at Bonfire site where people can ask questions, take a tour and look at scrapbooks to learn more.

"It will help prevent people from wandering around without knowing where to go to protect their safety and keep them out of the way so the red pots can do their job," she said.

Sarah O'Brien, associate director of BRC and a junior journalism major, is forming the organization from the ground up. She said the name for the committee is not official yet, but it will act as a hostess organization for Bonfire.

"The new hostess committee will be a partnership with BRC, and BRC will take on two distinct purposes: to maintain and operate the cookie shack and to serve as an informative aid with the hostess committee," she said.

O'Brien said that there is much to be learned about Bonfire that students do not learn at Fish Camp orientation.

"People have a lot of questions when they see a 55-foot monument to Aggie spirit that is being constructed solely by students," she said.

O'Brien said the hostess committee will help people learn about the reasons why pots are worn, what the different pot colors mean, the specific jobs that students have and the dangers that are involved with building Bonfire.

"It makes such a difference to know why people are doing what," she said.

O'Brien said the committee will encourage people who would not usually participate in Bonfire to learn more and help.

"In such a male-dominated atmosphere, we want to let people know it's okay to be a girl and be out at Bonfire," she said. "There is a lot for girls to do besides the two extremes of wiring logs or the traditional role of just serving cookies."

PLEASE SEE BONFIRE ON PAGE 2.

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Indian Slip takes theater dynamics, improvisation to level of side-aching laughter.

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online

http://battalion.tamu.edu
Pick up with state and national news through The Battalion, AP's 24-hour online news service.

Lott calls for honesty

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott urged President Clinton today to end the "stonewalling" and tell "the whole truth" about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky.

He also said the administration should stop its "smear tactics" against independent counsel Kenneth Starr.

"I today call on the president to come forward, tell the American people what has happened in these cases, particularly the Lewinsky case," Lott, R-Miss., told reporters.

"What is the whole truth? Tell that to the independent counsel, call off his attack dogs, get this behind us so that we can go on with the people's business."

Lott had come under fire by House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., and other Republicans over the weekend after saying Starr should accelerate the long-running Whitewater investigation into the president's private land dealings and allegations that he had an affair with former White House intern Lewinsky and cov-



Clinton

ered it up. Today, Lott told a packed Capitol meeting room that Starr "is doing a great job under very difficult circumstances."

And he criticized Clinton and the White House for hindering Starr's work with "stonewalling and smear tactics and attack methods being used by his attorneys and by his allies."

Lott said he hoped Starr would wrap up his work "sooner rather than later" because of the effect it is having.

"It is beginning to have an impact on the presidency, on the president and on his ability to deal with many very important issues for the future of our country — from Social Security to what's going on in Iraq to now what's going on in Kosovo," Lott said.

Swift justice offers alternative for students

PANAMA CITY BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Spring Break Court is now in session.

Vacationing college students nabbed for misdemeanors like underage drinking and disorderly conduct can expect some immediate justice at this popular spring break destination.

And they can avoid a criminal record by giving up a day at the beach for a day cleaning up the beach.

Starting Monday, instead of processing offenders through normal criminal channels, Bay County judges will hold court at City Hall in this Florida Panhandle resort town. The plan mirrors a similar program used at Key West for several years.

First-time offenders can keep their records clean by doing up to eight hours of community service. "They're going to pick up trash on the side of the road they proba-



bly threw down there last night," Police Chief J.B. Holloway said. "We hope their friends will see them and decide that they want to behave a little better."

Other options are pleading guilty and paying a \$175 fine or pleading innocent and having to return for trial. But the community service option carries a distinct advantage for youthful offenders.

"If they choose that then they don't have a record" Holloway said. "Mom and Daddy don't have to

know about it." Justice will be swift. "As soon as you leave that courtroom you step onto a work van," Holloway said.

The Spring Break Court, which opens Monday, operates seven days a week until April 4. Panama City Beach usually gets about 500,000 visitors during the four-week spring break period.

It is expected to relieve regular court dockets that usually get clogged with spring break violators.