



TODAY



TOMORROW

NEWS BRIEFS

Construction to close lots PA-48, 61

Construction will begin today on the Foundation building, which will be located on the corner of George Bush Drive and Houston Street. The construction project affects people with red permits using PA-48 and PA-61. Signs are posted indicating that parking is not appropriate in these areas due to construction, which is scheduled to begin on April 13. Sherry Wine, the associate director for Administration of Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services (PTTS), said the construction is two weeks behind schedule. PTTS officials recorded license plates and parking permit numbers on Friday, and parking counselors called and asked drivers to relocate their vehicles. PTTS does not plan to relocate vehicles today, unless otherwise directed.

MSC food area in search of names

This summer, the 12th Man Burgers and Snacks food service area on the first floor of the Memorial Student Center will be converted into a food court similar to the one in the underground, but with a decidedly international flare.

Besides all-American favorites like chili, barbecue and fried chicken, there is a proposal to offer Asian cuisine and south-of-the-border favorites. The individual branding units within this new area want to name their stores with "an A&M sentiment." The University's Department of Administrative Services is now collecting possible names.

The names will be selected in June as the remodeling of the area begins. The new food court is expected to be open for the fall semester. Potential names should be e-mailed or telephoned to Debbie Bentley, Department of Food Services, Memorial Student Center, Stop 1374, 845-3005 or <dbentley@dsrv.tamu.edu>.

Faculty to work broad announced

Seven Texas A&M faculty members receive funding for proposals to conduct scholarly work abroad through the International Research Travel Assistance Program administered by the Office of International Coordination. Approximately 10 grants of about \$1,000 each are funded each fall and spring.

Spring 1998 recipients and the countries in which they will work are: Armando Alonzo, assistant professor of history, Spain and Italy; Daniel Bornstein, associate professor of history, Italy; Tina Derr, assistant professor of management, France and Poland; James Derr, assistant professor of veterinary pathobiology, Nepal; Chester Dunning, associate professor of history, the Netherlands, Germany, Britain and France; Daniel Galloway, professor of architecture, Italy; Gordon Maxson, professor of mathematics, Germany; John McEachron, professor of wildlife and fisheries sciences, Australia; Paul Parrish, professor of English, England; Donald Saylak, professor of civil engineering, Russia; and Hans Wessler, professor of physics, Japan.

INSIDE

aggielife

AS, Jr. wraps up its spring season with two performances of the children's play *World's Favorite Field Trip*.

See Page 3

sports

Fielder Will Gray overcame adversity to become a solid contributor for A&M baseball.

See Page 6

opinion

Daniel: Phone registration brings frustration and potential danger.

See Page 7

online

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

Yellow bikes to begin cycling Fall '98

By AMANDA SMITH
Staff writer

Texas Aggies Making Changes (TAMC) is paving the road for a bicycle transportation program set to begin in Fall 1998.

The Borrow-a-Bike program will allow students to use bicycles from on-campus bike racks and ride them to classes or campus locations.

Kristi Polasek, the co-director of the TAMC Borrow-A-Bike program committee and a sopho-

more nutrition major, said she hopes students respond positively to the new program.

"I am really excited about the new program, but I think that the students must treat the bikes with respect," Polasek said. "A lot of people have bikes, but there are still a lot of people who don't. Students who have bikes can still use those in the Borrow-A-Bike program."

Between 50 and 60 bikes will be numbered and painted yellow and placed in bike racks across campus, including West campus.

Polasek said the committee hopes to receive 20 more bikes before the Fall 1998 semester begins. The Borrow-A-Bike committee has received more than 35 bicycles from Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services (PTTS), the Bryan Police Department and the College Station Police Department.

The Brazos Valley Cyclists have worked to help members of the Borrow-A-Bike committee learn how to complete basic maintenance repairs on the bikes, Po-

lasek said.

Polasek said the Borrow-A-Bike committee is still discussing arrangements and the frequency of maintenance on the bicycles.

Liz Hagan, a member of TAMC and a freshman agribusiness major, said she looks forward to the start of the program.

"I think it's a great program," Hagan said. "I do not have a bike, and I live on campus. It will be nice to have bikes available and not have to worry about maintenance. It will also be nice for students

who live off campus who won't have to worry about leaving bikes on campus."

Cass Burton, an off-campus senator and a sophomore political science major, proposed the idea of a Borrow-A-Bike program to the Student Senate after initiating research on the program as a freshman in Fall 1996.

"I am so excited about the program," Burton said. "I can't get over how cooperative the administration has been. TAMC has made this program possible."

Living it up at A&M

Right: Arin Schall, a junior political science major, gets her hair braided at Whoopstock '98 Saturday afternoon.

Far right: Linda Rodriguez, a senior electrical engineering major, and Jose Ornelas, Class of '94 graduate, dance in the Latin room at Ring Dance Saturday night.



JAMES FRANCIS/THE BATTALION



GREG MCREYNOLDS/THE BATTALION

Turtles take hold in South Texas

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — A pair of rare sea turtles has turned up on a South Texas beach.

What's even more unusual — and encouraging — is that both Kemp's ridleys laid eggs.

Saturday's discoveries were a triumph for an ongoing federal program at Padre Island National Seashore to save the approximately 3,000 turtles that exist.

"This job does require a lot of dedication and we have to put up with seeing a lot of dead turtles, but today we found two — nesting, no less," Darrell Echols, branch chief of science and resources manage-

ment for the National Park Service, told the Corpus Christi Caller-Times. "All I can think right now is that all's well in the world today."

A beach visitor reported the first turtle at 9 a.m. on Mustang Island. The turtle team found it, watched it cover 93 pingpong-ball-sized eggs and caught it. Then they heard the report of the second turtle, discovered by two turtle patrollers.

Scientists placed the two turtles' eggs, 190 in all, in incubators and captured the turtles, said Donna Shaver, a U.S. Geological Survey research biologist who directs the Kemp's ridley recovery

program.

Shaver's team drew blood from the two turtles, tagged them, placed satellite transmitters on them and set them free. Each weighs 80 to 100 pounds.

The transmitters will keep track of the turtles, and the group may be able to claim another bunch of eggs if the turtles return to shore.

One of the two turtles was from the 13,500 that have been raised in captivity and set free through the federal program, Shaver said. Its tag showed that it was born in 1984. The other had no tag and may have been born in the wild, she said.

Katy team takes decathlon silver

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — A team of California high school students Sunday were saved from having to eat loads of canned Spam by winning the U.S. Academic Decathlon.

El Camino Real High School of Woodland Hills, Calif., beat out 57 other high schools to win the prestigious competition in which teen-agers from across America are tested for their knowledge.

"It's the greatest feeling on earth," said 17-year-old Steve Chae, a jubilant member of the California team, which placed second in last year's national championship. "The one thing we came back for was the national title, and we did it."

Defending champion James E. Taylor High School of Katy, Texas, came away with the silver medal this year.

"We didn't lose the gold. We won the silver," said Taylor's Cheryl Hogan, 18.

Mountain View High School of Mesa, Ariz., was third, followed by the Wheeler School of Providence, R.I., and the Whitney Young Magnet School of Chicago, Ill.

The California team spent as much as 50 hours a week preparing for the contest. They were hungry for victory, but not for the stack of canned Spam they had pledged to eat if they won anything less than the gold medal.

"We don't have to eat the Spam," 17-year-old Elena Pelman said after her team's victory.

Wheeler's fourth-place finish was the best ever for a Rhode Island team at the nationals. The Wheeler team also scored higher than any other Northeast school, won a medal for the best performance of a small school, and walked away with a total of 11 individual medals.

"I'm ecstatic. This is more than we possibly could have hoped for," said 17-year-old Megan von Reinhart.

Each year, a special award is given to the Academic Decathlon competitor who has overcome the greatest adversity.

That award — and a \$3,000 scholarship — this year went to Levon Camp, a Tennessee teen-ager who once belonged to a gang and who used to be so unruly that his teachers liked it when he played hooky.

Catholic center opens Saturday

By RACHEL DAWLEY
Staff writer

More than 1,000 people gathered in the courtyard of St. Mary's Church Saturday for the dedication of the new Catholic Center, which will be home to the Catholic Campus Ministry at Texas A&M University.

Bishop John McCarthy of the Diocese of Austin and Archbishop Patrick Flores of the Archdiocese of San Antonio celebrated a Mass at St. Mary's at noon and a Rite of Blessing of the new complex was held after the Mass.

Twenty-five priests and 12 deacons from around the world were present for the dedication.

Father Mike Sis, director of campus ministry at St. Mary's Catholic Center, called the dedication "an historic moment for the Catholic Church, for Texas A&M University and for the future of our society."

Peter de Keratry, development director for St. Mary's, said the 30,000-square-foot center includes a small chapel, classrooms, meeting rooms, an expanded library, a student lounge area, three conference rooms, several study areas and an administrative suite. An adjacent activity center also includes a commercial kitchen and

a large dining space.

De Keratry said the center is open to the entire community, not just Catholic students.

The \$4.9 million facility was completed through the church's "Building a Tradition in Faith Campaign," which received donations from current and former students, foundations and friends of St. Mary's from all over the world. The campaign was initiated in 1994 and completed in February of this year.

Jenny Koons, president of the St. Mary's pastoral council and a senior English major, said there are currently 10,000 Catholic A&M students and 4,000 participate in St. Mary's Mass. Koons said the new center will cater to the 40 student organizations within the church.

"The new center is beautiful," Koons said. "We tried to design a space that is accommodating both with meeting rooms and leisure space."

Koons said St. Mary's activities affect the community and the new center will allow a stronger outreach program.

"We are working hard to improve our community programs," Koons said. "Now we have a bigger space to plan. The new center helps us coordinate our efforts."