

NEWS BRIEFS

Time to do or die

Voters to decide Northgate garage

By ROBERT SMITH AND COLLEEN KAVANAGH
Staff writers

Voters will take to the polls on Saturday to decide whether there is a need for a Northgate parking garage.

College Station citizens will vote on a proposed city ordinance that would limit the city from spending, using lending or granting funds for the garage. A "no" vote supports the garage, and a "yes" vote opposes the garage.

The proposed four-story, 752-space garage would be located on 1.65 acres between College Main and Second Street that the City of College Station would acquire. The estimated cost of the garage is \$6,807,639, including \$427,620 for land acquisition, \$5,184,900 for actual construction, \$832,176 for construction contingencies and \$362,943 for architect's

fees. The proposed fee for garage customers is \$1 per hour with a maximum of \$2 per day.

Mayor Lynn McIlhane and Councilmen Hub Kennady, David Hickson and Larry Marriot support the project. Councilman Dick Birdwell, Steve Esmond and Swiki Anderson oppose the project.

In an interview earlier this month, Councilman Dick Birdwell said there is no

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need for a Northgate parking garage.

"I was out in Northgate this afternoon," he said, "and there were over 120 empty spaces. They've (parking surveyors) overestimated parking needs. It's going to be big money for the taxpayers."

Kennady said that many of the available parking spaces are one-hour only spaces.

"If a parking garage was built, I think a number of students would want to use it — especially with the elimination of Mud lot."

Larry Haskins, attorney for Jack Culpeper, owner of the Mud lot, announced in April that Mud lot would be closing in December 1998. Mud lot, used by an estimated 700 motorists per day, will be used for hotel and retail development.

"This is an opportunity to provide a substantial amount of parking for students and citizens in the Northgate area," Kennady said. "I hope that it is not a missed opportunity."

Councilman Swiki Anderson said he opposes the project because it is neither necessary nor cost justified.

"It is going to cost the city a great deal of money," he said. "Also, students will have to park in the garage because part of the plan is no on-street parking."



Computer model of proposed Northgate garage.

Bardin Nelson owns five lots with two duplexes and a five-bedroom house on the designated parking garage area.

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Brazos Bash brings first concert to Arena

The 6th annual Brazos Bash will premier Saturday as the inaugural community event in the Reed Arena special events center. Proceeds from the event will benefit the St. Joseph Regional Rehabilitation Center.

The bash will be highlighted by Aggie and country and western performer Rick Trevino.

Opening the entertainment venue will be the Brazos Valley debut of The Lynns, daughters of country music sensation Loretta Lynn.

A special traditions show will feature The Aggie Wranglers, The Singing Jaxies, the Symphonic Band and a laser light production.

Leading the volunteers are the 1998 honorary chairpersons: A&M's Perry Adkisson, A&M President Ray Owen and wife Sally, Red and Lou Gashion and M. Bookman Peters.

Proceeds from the 1998 Bash will be dedicated to providing an aquatherapy pool to assist with specialized therapy programs at St. Joseph's.

Tickets can be purchased for \$12 at any ticketmaster outlet, Foley's, the MSC box office, Rothers Bookstore, Harwood Records and DoubleQuick Food Stores.

Aggie to be honored in fall Silver Taps

A 25-year-old Texas A&M student died on Apr. 28 at 10 p.m. Nathan Wade Hightower was a senior mechanical engineering major. His wife, Chrystal Lynn-Huereca Hightower, resides in Bedford. The cause of his death is unknown, as the autopsy is still pending. Hightower will be remembered at the Sept. 8 Silver Taps ceremony next fall. Information on the funeral and burial services is not yet available.

Students to celebrate with dinner, dance

The Turkish Student Association at Texas A&M University presents Turkish Night Monday.

Dinner and live music will begin at 7 p.m. in the MSC Ballroom followed by a folkdance performance at 8 p.m. in Rudder Theater.

Food will be prepared by a professional Turkish chef, and the menu will include Baklava, a pastry, along with other sensational Turkish delicacies.

The award-winning Anatolian University Folkdance Ensemble, which is traveling from Turkey, will perform folk dances.

South Texas College of Law alters name

To eliminate any public confusion regarding the relationship between South Texas College of Law and Texas A&M University, South Texas has modified its name. Prior to consideration and decision by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board of Texas A&M University's request to add law to its table of programs, South Texas will operate under the name South Texas College of Law affiliated with Texas A&M University.

Spokin'



ROBERT MCKAY/THE BATTALION

Geno Mayo, a sophomore applied math major, makes adjustments to a new bicycle at AggieLand Cycling and Fitness Thursday afternoon.

Donation begins first endowment

By JENNIFER WILSON
Staff writer

The family owners of Blue Bell Ice Cream of Brenham recently granted \$500,000 to the Bright matching program to establish an endowed faculty chair for the director of the George Bush School of Government and Public Service.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed F. Kruse and Mrs. Howard W. Kruse are the first to endow a faculty chair using the Bright matching program which establishes a series of \$1 million endowments for faculty chairs throughout the University. The program uses part of a \$25 million donation given by H.R. "Bum" Bright, class of '43.

Dr. Charles Herman, director of the Bush School, will be the first to hold the new chair.

"It will be a special honor to be the first to hold the Ed and Howard Kruse chair," Herman said. "The Kruses are wonderful people who have shown an interest in the Bush School from the beginning."

The new gift from the Kruses for half the total endowment will be matched by an equal amount from the Bright fund. The Kruse brothers are both Texas A&M graduates. Ed Kruse, class of '49, is chairman of the Board of Blue Bell Creameries. Howard Kruse, class of '52, is CEO of the firm.

James J. Palincsar, senior vice president for development at the A&M Foundation, said it is rare for the University to have a matching program of this level. "Our goal is to encourage anyone

who's been considering endowing a chair to move forward now and take advantage of this unique opportunity," Palincsar said.

Melissa Baird, director of public relations for the A&M Foundation, said A&M currently has more than 90 endowed chairs, but the Kruses' chair will be the first of 30 chairs matched by the Bright program.

"Endowments such as the Kruses' help maintain the superior level of scholarship at A&M by funding the ground-breaking teaching and research efforts of top faculty," Baird said.

Bill Perry, dean of faculties and associate provost, said endowments greatly benefit the University.

"Endowed chairs not only recognize outstanding faculty; more importantly, they enhance faculty programs and enable the faculty to do and achieve even more for the University," Perry said.

The Kruses' commitment to the Bush school will help the school to research policy problems and to educate people who wish to dedicate their lives to public service.

"The resources of their endowment will provide me and my successors with the means of contributing to the excellence of the Bush school, and enable us to help talented students and dedicated young faculty," Herman said.

The mission of the Bright chair program is to increase endowed chair positions at the University and to attract and retain top-flight faculty.

Teen birth rates drop across nation

WASHINGTON (AP) — American teen-agers are having fewer babies, including a dramatic decrease among black girls to the lowest rate on record, the government said Thursday.

Teen birth rates are down in every state. The reasons: less sex and more birth control, statistics indicate.

"Our concerted effort to reduce teen pregnancy is succeeding," said Donna Shalala, the secretary of health and human services.

Black teen birth rates fell by 21 percent between 1991 and 1996. In 1996, 9.2 percent of black teen-age girls gave birth, the lowest since the government began keeping that statistic.

Hispanic teens are now giving birth, though their rates are 10.7 percent in 1995 to 10.9 percent in 1996, the first significant decline.

Despite the decreases, teen birth rates among both minority groups are more than double that of white teenagers, which have been stable since 1991. In 1995, the birth rate for non-Hispanic white teens of those teens had babies.

Nearly half a million teenagers give birth each year. In 1996, there was about one birth for every 20 girls ages 15 to 19, down 11.9 percent since 1991, according to the analysis released Thursday by the National Center for Health Statistics.

Most teen mothers are under 19, but the rates dropped most dramatically among girls 15 to 17.

Teen births

A breakdown by race of teen birthrates and percentage change, 1991 and 1996.*

Birth rates per 1,000 women age 15-19		
	Total	Percent change
1996	55	
1991	62	-11.9%
Non-Hispanic White		
1996	39	
1991	43	-9.4%
Black		
1996	92	
1991	116	-20.6%
American Indian		
1996	75	
1991	85	-11.6%
Asian or Pacific Islander		
1996	25	
1991	27	-7.3%
Hispanic		
1996	102	
1991	107	-4.8%

*Data unavailable for non-Hispanic White, 1995 figure used.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics AP

Experts attribute the decline to less sexual activity among boys and girls and greater use of birth control in the age of AIDS.

Child care center to open Aug. 31

Initial enrollment will be selected by lottery to limit size

By SUZANNE RIGGS
Staff writer

Texas A&M will open a child care center Aug. 31 to help accommodate the needs of its faculty, staff and students with young children.

The 10,310 square foot Texas A&M Children's Center, currently under construction behind the married student housing on Hensel Dr., will serve 114 children full-time and up to 40 children part-time, ranging from the age of six weeks to prekindergarten.

Rosie Schoenfeld, executive secretary for the vice president of administration's office and a member of the Child Care Advisory Committee, said the Children's Center will promote high-quality child care.

She said that it will offer a low student-to-teacher ratio to guarantee the attention each child needs. "This kind of environment is especially important for the toddlers and the infants because they need a lot of holding and nurturing," she said.

The Children's Center staff will consist of teachers with degrees that have had experience working with young children and student aides to make sure the program has a strong educational base.

"We want the students to receive a great education on current events, and especially diversity since A&M has such a large, diverse population," she said.

Gaile Cannella, associate professor of education curriculum and instruction and a member of the Child Care Advisory Committee on Programming, said getting the parents involved is another program goal.

"There are lots of different types of ways for parents to be involved," she said. "One way that is being discussed is to have them help determine the curriculum by volunteering in the classroom and serving on a child care board."

Mary Miller, associate vice president for administration and chair of the Child Care Center Advisory Committee, said the Center will be accessible to students.

"This is especially important for students because there really isn't anything in town that can accommodate student schedules of working at night or weekends, or just needing just part-time child care," she said. "And nothing beats its location."

Miller said the Child Care Center should be available to everyone, including the low-paid staff and students.

"We'll be doing fund raising to supply them with need-based scholarships to pay for the child care fees." She warned that the demand for the Center will probably exceed supply.

As a result, the initial enrollment will be handled by a lottery drawing, with the remaining names placed on a waiting list. After that, the selection process will be based on a first-come, first-served basis.

"We encourage everyone to apply and to get their applications in as soon as possible," she said.

Applications are due May 15. For more information or to obtain a Children's Center application, call 845-0555.

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Highway 6 bids a fond farewell to College Station.

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Aggie and Texas A&M face off for the regular-season Big 12 title in three-game series.

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Aggie: Stupid actions of students deserve reflection and correction.

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online

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