

TODAY

HIGH 96°
LO 75°

TOMORROW

HIGH 95°
LO 75°

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Sports:

Pick-up basketball games at the Student Rec Center serve as a fun and physically competitive means of exercise during summer school.

TUESDAY • JUNE 2 • 1998

THE BATTALION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY • COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

Regents conduct final meeting



Chair
Donald E. Powell

Vice Chair
T. Michael O'Connor

Members
Robert H. Allen
John H. Lindsey
Frederick D. McClure
Erle Nye
M. Guadalupe L. Rangel

The Board of Regents
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

New campus water source and acceptance of bids for construction among approved items

By ROD MACHEN
Assistant City Editor

After the final meeting of the Texas A&M Board of Regents on May 28, the salty state of campus tap water is about to change.

During the meeting, the Regents approved a contract with the Brazos River Authority to use water from Lake Limestone as an alternate source to the present ground water supply.

The change should improve the quality of water for a campus that uses an average of 8.1 million gallons per day.

The Board authorized Chancellor Barry Thompson to take bids to complete the fifth

and sixth floors of the Sterling C. Evans Library annex.

The two floors, which were originally planned to be left unfinished, are expected to be finished by Christmas 1998.

In other business, the Board:

► Authorized the Chancellor to take bids on a renovation of Hensel Street. This area behind University Apartments will also be equipped with improved street lighting.

The project also calls for a parking area for the new child care center scheduled to open in August.

► Approved a \$1.6 billion 1998 budget for the entire Texas A&M University System, a three percent increase from 1997.

A&M's share is \$684 million.

► Approved system member Tarleton State University to begin offering upper- and graduate-level classes.

The classes will be held at Central Texas College, a community college in Killeen. The University of Central Texas, a private school which had formerly offered upper-level classes at Central Texas College, will transfer its assets to the A&M System.

Officials hope the new university will be in operation by fall 1999.

Expansion plans in store for Highway 6

AMBER BENSON
City Editor

State Highway 6 from Waco to Houston will be among the first corridors completed in the Texas Trunk System, due to new selection criteria adopted by the Texas Transportation Commission Thursday in Austin.

The new criteria adopted by the Commission will focus on completing entire corridors by considering projects on a regional basis. Portions of Texas 6, Texas 105, F.M. 1744 from Waco to Houston and Texas 21 and US 290 from Bryan/College Station to Austin were selected to be included in the 11 corridors to be completed in the first phase of the project.

“Highway 6 is an essential transportation artery which cuts through the heart of Central Texas.”

— Steve Ogden
Texas State Senator

The original list of Phase 1 corridors did not include State Highway 6. By including it and the other highways, the Commission has prioritized in excess of \$260 million and almost 100 miles of highway construction projects to the area state Senator Steve Ogden said.

“Highway 6 is an essential transportation artery which cuts through the heart of Central Texas,” Ogden, who petitioned for the roadway known as the ‘Aggie Expressway’ to be included on the list of priority projects, said. “Most of this region is not served by an existing interstate-quality road. This is great news.”

First approved in 1990, the Texas Trunk System is a long-range plan to upgrade existing roadways into a four-lane, divided highway system that includes and complements the interstate highway system. According to information provided by the Texas Department of Transportation, about 3,900 miles of the Trunk System still need expansion from two lanes to four lanes.

Before the adoption of the criteria, projects were completed in a piecemeal fashion, resulting in incomplete corridors.

Traffic jam



MATTHEW CRAWLEY/THE BATTALION

Students wait outside the Parking Traffic and Transportation Services (PTTS) office in the Koldus Building on Monday afternoon to pick up parking tags for the summer session. After waiting in line for an hour, Aaron Corner, a senior marketing major, said, “Why don't they (PTTS) set up a couple of tables? They know this is going to happen every semester.”

NEWS BRIEFS

Freshman to be honored at Sept. 8 Silver Taps

Joseph Thornton, a freshman aerospace engineering major from Beeville, died May 17 in a car accident. Thornton was a resident of Walton Hall. He will be honored at the September 8 Silver Taps.

Faculty Senate elects new '98 - '99 officers

The Faculty Senate elected officers for the 1998-99 academic year at the final meeting of the 15th session on May 11.

Diana Kaplan replaced her colleague in the College of Education, Wayne Wylie as speaker of the senate. Arther Hobbs of the College of Science was named deputy speaker.

Former speaker Wayne Wylie installed 32 newly elected and reelected senators.

Street accepts appointment to head of department

Richard L. Street has accepted appointment as head of Texas A&M University's Department of Speech Communication effective Sept. 1. He succeeds Linda Putnam, who is returning to her faculty position.

Street, a professor of speech communications, came to A&M in 1988 from Texas Tech University, where he served as chair of speech communication. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in speech communication in 1975 and 1977, respectively, from Texas Tech and his Ph.D. in communication from the University of Texas at Austin in 1980.

In addition to his distinguished research in health-care communication, Street is an award-winning teacher. In 1991 he received the Association of Former Students teaching award.

Program underway to boost A&M into 'top 10'

By SHATERA KENNEDY
Staff Writer

The Vision 2020 program that was designed to propel Texas A&M University into one of the “top 10” public universities in the country will kick-off June 4 under the leadership of Jon L. Hagler.

President Ray Bowen chose Hagler, an 1958 alumnus, to lead the initiative because of his dedication to A&M and his outside experiences.

“Being based on the East Coast, Hagler has the opportunity to view A&M from a perspective that is perhaps different in some respects from that of ours here in Texas, and that,” Bowen said, “can be a distinct advantage in a project such as Vision 2020.”

Hagler is a partner in the firm of

Grantham, Mayo, Van Otterloo and Co. L.L.C. He is also a member of the board of trustees of the Texas A&M Foundation, which raises funds on behalf of the university. The new development foundation building, currently under construction, will bear Hagler's name.

“I am very grateful to this university which has given me the most profound developmental experience of my life and a corollary legacy of rich beliefs from which,” Hagler said, “I draw to this day.”

The Vision 2020 program will concentrate on 11 key areas which include graduate studies, undergraduate academics, demographics and leadership.

The program's primary focus is the steps and strategies necessary to move A&M to the academic forefront nationally by the year 2020.

The program, which Bowen announced at the Academic Convocation in October, will actively involve more than 200 faculty, staff, students, former students and other supporters with representation evenly divided from within and outside the university, Bowen said.

A 14-member planning group has been meeting for the past six months to assemble background information and establish basic parameters for the study.

The first phase of Vision 2020 will be formally launched June 4-6 with a series of campus sessions focusing on assessments and aspirations.

“Texas A&M represents the best instincts of the people of this state and this nation,” Hagler said, “and I believe it is our very special destiny to nourish and empower it in the years ahead.”

