

WEATHER

TODAY

HIGH 96°
LOW 75°

TOMORROW

HIGH 93°
LOW 76°

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TOMORROW

Opinion:

National Health Institute's definition of overweight does not take into account all the necessary components.

THURSDAY • JULY 2 • 1998

THE BATTALION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY • COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

Independence Day

Bryan-College Station celebrates Fourth of July in style

BY SARAH GOLDSTON
Staff and Wire

This Fourth of July Brazos Valley residents can attend a number of events in the Bryan-College Station area.

However, Susan Gandy, assistant to the county judge, said the county would like to remind residents to use extreme caution if they plan to have a private fireworks display.

"We hope citizens do not use fireworks," Gandy said. "We want to encourage them to attend one of the public fireworks displays."

Aerial fireworks are banned this year because the unusually dry weather has increased the risk of accidental fire.

"It's like a tinderbox out there, the least spark will cause a fire," she said.

There are alternatives to having individual firework activities when celebrating the Fourth of July.

The Heritage Society is sponsoring the

"Annual Fourth of July Celebration" at Heritage Park from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Starting at 10 a.m., the Sojourners will present the flag in a flag-raising ceremony followed by the singing of "The National Anthem."

Children are encouraged to decorate their bicycles and wagons for a parade around the park with Uncle Sam.

The Pete Rodriguez Band will entertain until noon from the Gazebo.

Refreshments will be available and quilts from the Brazos Bluebonnet Quilt Guild will be on display.

Pat Allen, event chair, invites the community to bring lawn chairs and enjoy the festivities.

Heritage Park is located at 30th and Hutchins in Bryan's eastside historic district.

At College Station swimming pools — Adamson Lagoon and Southwood-Hallaram — games, music and bathing suit competitions will be held.

Both pools will feature pie-eating con-

tests and water-balloon tossing contests.

Adamson Lagoon is located in Bee Creek Park at Southwest Parkway and Anderson Street.

Southwood-Hallaram Pool is located on Rock Prairie road next to the hospital.

The College Station Lions Club is also sponsoring a fireworks display at Anderson track and field on the A&M campus.

"We're going to shoot off about \$10,000 worth of fireworks this year. A company out of Houston does this for us every year," said Jennifer Bohac, event committee member.

Bohac said the fireworks are set up to fire toward the George Bush Library.

KKYX (Mix 104.7) will play patriotic music during the display.

Games for children will start at 6:30 p.m., entertainment will start at 7 p.m. and the fireworks will begin at 9:40 p.m.

People planning to attend the event can park at Olsen Field or Reed Arena.

"People shouldn't park on the street or at the George Bush Library," Bohac said.



Charter check

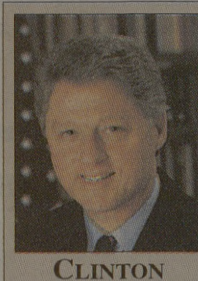


MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Bus driver **Dustin Singletary**, a junior biomedical science major, checks his windshield wipers for his charter Wednesday afternoon. Charters are run heavily during the summer at Bus Operations.

Clinton ends visit at Shanghai; next stop Guilin

SHANGHAI, China (AP) — President Clinton is delivering an environmental warning as he leaves the gleaming skyscrapers of Shanghai for the fabled limestone mountains of Guilin: China soon will have the "unfortunate distinction" of replacing the United States as the world's No. 1 producer of greenhouse gases.



CLINTON

While the problems are enormous, attitudes are changing, and Clinton pledged U.S. support for China's efforts to clean up its environment. He said Wednesday that a major legacy of his visit will be U.S.-Chinese cooperation on the environment — something that "ten years from now people will look back and say that's one of the biggest things they did."

In a speech to American business leaders, Clinton urged China to clean up corruption, open trade markets and combat the environmental catastrophe hanging over the world's most populous country. He said it was wrong to believe

"that there is an iron, unbreakable link between economic growth and industrial-age energy practices.... It is simply not true."

The president was accorded a third opportunity of national media exposure in a taped interview with state television CCTV. He was asked friendly questions and sidestepped on whether he or President Jiang Zemin has a tougher job.

With the end of the Cold War, Clinton said, "America has this role which is temporary — it won't last forever — as the only superpower in the world." He said the world "needs a leader but not in the sense of one country telling everyone else what to do."

Clinton's stop on Thursday in Guilin puts him amid the splendor of cloud-shrouded mountains and winding rivers that have inspired artists for thousands of years, a contrast to the high-rise modern structures of Shanghai. After floods along the Li River, the government sent in 5,000 soldiers to clean up the mud-coated banks. The troops hauled away 20 tons of drift and sludge to improve things for Clinton.

After a river boat ride, the president will fly to Hong Kong, the last stop on his nine-day visit, to demonstrate U.S. interest in preserving the autonomy of the former British colony. It was returned to China on July 1, 1997, after 156 years of British rule.

Hoop dreams

New coach brings recruiting, professional experience to A&M Women's Basketball

BY KATIE MISH
Staff writer

The new Texas A&M Women's Basketball head coach, Peggie Gillom, was introduced in a press conference yesterday afternoon in Reed Arena.

Gillom, who holds the rebounding and scoring records at her alma mater of Mississippi, coached her last game Monday night as assistant coach for the WNBA Houston Comets, after accepting A&M's offer for the coaching position early Friday morning.

Gillom has worked under Van Chancellor for the last 20 years, first as a player and then as his assistant coach at Ole Miss and with the Comets.

She said that leaving Chancellor was hard, but that it was a step in the right direction.

"Being with someone 20 years — as a player, as a friend, as a coach — leaving coach was hard for me, because that's somebody who has been with me all my life," Gillom said.

Gillom has already hired two assistants, Liz McWhitter and Jennifer Vance.

McWhitter, a longtime friend of Gillom and a native of Rockdale, Texas, has experience as an assistant coach in Illinois, and played professional basketball for a couple of years. Vance has worked with Gillom at Ole Miss and Houston.

Gillom credits A&M's commitment to the Women's Basket-

ball program as one of the deciding factors for her move.

She said the traditions and supportive nature also drew her to the offer.

"It is every assistant coach's dream to one day become a head coach, at the right situation," Gillom said. "Even though there have been opportunities for me before, I feel this is the right situation."

Gillom said despite her lack of a head coach title, she has dealt with all the responsibilities that come along with the head coach position, and she doesn't expect a difficult transition.

"I've dealt with the public and the players. I think I've had most of that experience," Gillom said, "and being under Van

Chancellor, who is one of the top coaches in the country, I've learned a lot."

Gillom had a great deal of success with her recruiting efforts at Ole Miss, and expects to do the same with Texas A&M.

She said the key to her recruiting is to get to know both the athletes and their parents on a personal level.

Gillom said that despite the late start, her team is not behind on recruiting because of their connections.

She said they also have two scholarships remaining.

"We're making plans right now to get on the road and call recruits," Gillom said.

SEE GILLOM ON PAGE 2.



PHOTO BY RYAN ROGERS/THE BATTALION

Peggie Gillom, former Houston Comets' assistant coach, recently accepted the position as the Texas A&M Women's Basketball coach. Gillom speaks at a press conference yesterday about her plans for the team and the upcoming season.