



aggielife

• In 1959 a 12-inch-tall piece of plastic sparked a revolution. Now, 40 years later, Barbie still reigns.

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A complete guide to the Texas Film Festival - events, films and special guests.

sports

• Freshman sensation Lisa Klam prepares herself to lead the Texas A&M Women's Softball Team into battle.

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Voters petition for removal of mayor, council members

BY AMANDA SMITH
The Battalion

A citizens' petition circulating in College Station aims to remove members of the College Station City Council, including Mayor Lynn McIlhane.

Five College Station registered voters presented an affidavit Friday to City Secretary Connie Hooks requesting recall petitions. In accordance with the city charter, the petitions must be filed 30 days before the next election.

Generally, signatures from at least 40 percent of the registered voters are required to have the petition placed on the ballot for the next election.

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have been very pro-active in getting feedback from the citizens."

McIlhane said that in the 1998 citizen survey, College Station citizens gave city services a 93 percent approval rating. She said the survey is conducted annually, and 536 citizens were contacted. She said the majority of the services addressed in the survey received a ranking of 90 percent or higher.

Hooks said a recall election would require 1,523 signatures for McIlhane, 1,482 signatures for Mariott, 1,444 signatures for Silvia and 435 signatures for Hickson, each based on the number of votes received by the candidates in May.

Benito Flores-Meath, one of the five College Station residents who submitted the affidavit, said the five council members he recommends recalling continue to act in the interest of special groups, not the majority.

"When the City Council continues to ignore hundreds of people, something is wrong," Flores-Meath said. "Now it is time to recall and to get a fresh set of faces on the City Council. People are coming out of the woodwork and giving support. We have had a lot of people sign our petitions."

After conversations with constituents over the weekend, Hazen said she does not think the petition will receive much citizen support.

Hazen, who was elected in May 1998, said the city council has acted in the best interest of the majority.

"I feel that our council and the city staff have done our best to handle the matters brought before us," Hazen said. "I feel the city council is very representative of the people. It is very unfortunate that it came to this."

In a letter released Feb. 20, Anderson said he will not run for reelection to the College Station City Council in the upcoming May election.

SEE PETITION ON PAGE 2.

Daily grind



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Scott Mills, a senior agricultural development major, grinds his new barbecue pit at the Parsons Mounted Cavalry complex Monday evening.

Welfare-reform advocate voices concerns

BY NONI SRIDHARA
The Battalion

Star Parker, president and founder of the Coalition on Urban Renewal and Education (CURE) and a former welfare recipient, said the steps people should take to leave the arena of poverty include having a sense of moral obligation and a strong work ethic, getting a good education, and saving and investing money wisely.

Parker said under the objective of moral obligation everyone must be self-sufficient and personally responsible.

"We have fallen victim because of our environment and not our personal choice," Parker said. Parker said she was involved in drugs and was promiscuous, and she used abortion as a form of birth control.

Parker said the "leftist" groups are responsible for keeping the poor in a lower status because they cannot empathize with the poor. She said liberals should not try to legislate on behalf of the poor.

Parker emphasized the importance of receiving a good education. "In this country, you have to become proficient in English and math to leave poverty," she said.

She said many of the schools are creating programs such as bilingual education just to receive more funds. Parker said this does not help the poor; it just contributes to the problem of those dependent on welfare.



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Star Parker, founder and president of CURE, speaks Monday night.

Parker said the welfare program and the hopes for the "great society" stole the work ethic.

"Some of the key points to a strong work ethic are hard work, postponed gratification and diligent efforts," she said.

Parker said welfare sometimes encourages single-parent homes, and many of families receiving welfare are headed by single mothers. She said 80 percent of people on welfare have had children out of wedlock.

"Many a times, it is the fathers who teach their sons the importance of working, but in single-parent families, they do not have an example to follow," she said.

She said 70 percent of the males who come from single-parent families get into serious trouble during their

SEE PARKER ON PAGE 2.

SEVERE WEATHER

Division of Emergency Management prepares, educates Texans about dangerous weather.

BY APRIL YOUNG
The Battalion

In an attempt to increase knowledge of potential hazards severe weather can cause, the week of Feb. 22 has been declared Severe Weather Awareness Week for Texas and surrounding states that are affected by similar weather patterns.

For three decades, the governors of each state have declared a Severe Weather Awareness Week.

Don Rogers, assistant public information officer for the Division of Emergency Management (DEM), said because of Texas' geographical diversity, different types of weather occur throughout the state.

"Texas' geographical diversity means that we have flash floods, tornadoes and hurricanes throughout the state," Rogers said. "It is important that people are made aware of the necessary precautions to take during these types of weather."

Rogers said the leading cause of death in severe weather is flooding.

"The number one weather-related cause of death in Texas is flooding because people tend to think that they can go into a flood without paying attention," he said.

According to the National Weather Service, the southern flooding in January 1998, which included Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Oklahoma,

Arizona, Tennessee and Kentucky, resulted in 10 deaths.

Rogers said there is a history of severe weather in Texas, but no particular area harbors it more than another.

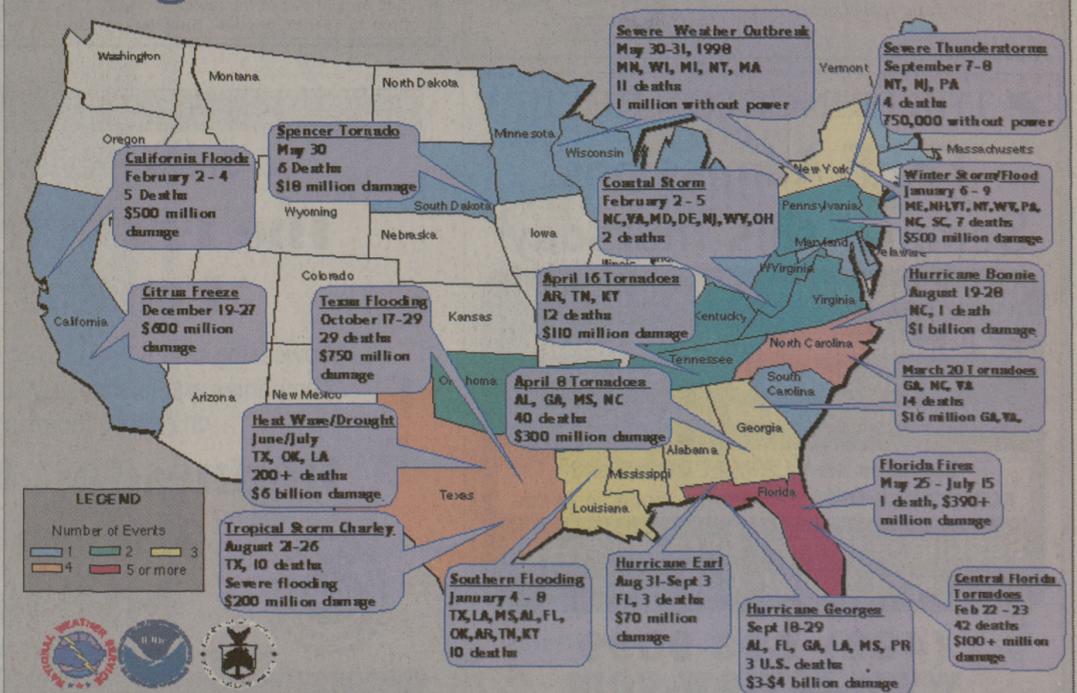
"East Texas tends to have drought and fires; coastal areas have hurricanes and tornadoes, while the central area has flooding and tornadoes," Rogers said. "So Texas in general is not particularly affected by one type of severe weather."

According to the National Weather Service, during the Dallas-Ft. Worth flash flooding and hail in May 1995, \$900 million in hail damage was reported as well as 21 deaths and 510 injuries.

For this reason, DEM has designed an informational packet which contains media advisories, press releases and feature articles about preparing for tornadoes, flash floods, thunderstorms and lightning.

SEE WEATHER ON PAGE 2.

Significant Weather Events - 1998



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE