

College Station to open Northgate police office

• Department may add new services as result of new location.

BY NONI SRIDHARA
The Battalion

A new College Station community police office will officially open with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and reception at 10 a.m. today behind the Loupot's bookstore in Northgate.

Major Mike Patterson of the Field Operations Bureau with the College Station Police Department (CSPD), said this community office is a natural extension of CSPD's two other offices. The first is located in Lincoln Center and the second is in Windsor Square Apartments.

Suanne Pledger, special projects director for Loupot's bookstore, said the location was chosen because Northgate is the center of College Station activity. CSPD is trying to duplicate a program implemented in Denton where the College Station officers recently received formal training.

Patterson said another reason for choosing the location of the office is because officers spend a

large amount of time patrolling the Northgate area.

"We not only have drinking incidents," he said, "but sometimes we'll see car burglaries or vandalism occurring over there."

"We can now deal with these problems more directly if we have some officers over there. We are hoping to see more of a long-term effect."

Patterson said, in the beginning, the office will primarily be open during weekends and evenings, with one bicycle officer patrolling the area.

He said the space and materials for the center, including the furniture, have been donated by the Northgate Merchant's Association.

Patterson said they are looking at relocating the office if the Northgate parking garage is built.

"If the Northgate parking garage is built, then we will see if we can relocate into the garage," he said, "so we will have more space and it will be more secure."

Pledger said the office will also distribute tourist information to area visitors.

"The members of the CSPD are acting as community ambassadors," she said, "so I hope it will be well embraced by the community."

Rewarding Experience

Conference to help develop new system to award Texas A&M professors for excellence in teaching

BY RACHEL HOLLAND
The Battalion

Texas A&M faculty and administrators will explore ways to change the reward system for teaching today at the College Station Conference Center.

The local conference is part of a national project that helps universities develop methods of evaluating and rewarding teaching that enhance student learning.

A&M, through the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, was one of 11 universities that participated in the original national project in 1995.

Dr. Larry Oliver, project coordinator and associate dean for the College of Liberal Arts, said A&M administrators became interested in expanding the project to other colleges after seeing its success in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Oliver said representatives from at least one department within each college at A&M will participate in the conference.

"With the information they get, they will begin making plans to better evaluate, measure and re-

ward effective teaching," he said.

He said departments will have one year to produce a brief report about their plans and make it available to other departments.

"The end goal is for all departments to have better information and ideas on stimulating, evaluating, and measuring effective teaching," he said. "We hope it will have a ripple effect across campus."

He said there is no master plan for departments to follow.

"This is not an attempt to construct a one-size-fits-all teaching system," he said. "It is an attempt to get departments to construct a system that is best for the culture of the department."

Dr. Carlton Stolle, project coordinator and a professor in the Mays College and Graduate School of Business, said the conference will try to change the perception that teaching is not as important as research.

"What we are trying to do is keep the level of teaching high and more visible," he said. "We are not trying to bring down research. We just want to elevate the level of teaching."

Memorial run to benefit American Cancer Society

BY RACHEL HOLLAND
The Battalion

Nearly 600 runners and walkers from the community are expected to participate in the 12th annual Bill Thomason 5K Memorial Run/Walk Saturday.

Christian Galindo, the event director, said the race began in 1987 to raise funds for the American Cancer Society when his running partner, Bill Thomason was diagnosed with cancer.

Galindo said there are two purposes for the race.

"We want to remember and honor Bill, who died of cancer in 1988," he said. "We also want to raise funds for and support the American Cancer Society."

He said \$50,000 has been raised from the past 11 races and another \$9,000 is expected from this year's race.

"It is important to raise funds for the fight against cancer, because it is such a horrible disease," he said. "And at the same time, we are trying to pass on a message of healthy living. We want to encourage people to get involved in physical fitness and to eat properly so their bodies will be strong enough to fight off anything."

Galindo said helping the American Cancer Society through the race became even more important to him last year when he was diagnosed

with cancer. "I have struggled through hopefully beaten it," he said, "but it remains an important cause."

"We want to encourage people to get involved in physical fitness."

— Christian Galindo
Event Director

The race is at 9:30 a.m. and there is a \$15 entry fee that begins and ends at the on Villa Maria.

Galindo said at least 100 participants each year are students.

Forrest Lane, the university's sergeant for the Cadets and a junior political and economics major, said he will volunteer for the eleventh year at the race.

The course is certified for the first time through the Track and Field and the Club of America. The organization will measure the course and will be officially recognized.

Daughter of Jasper man urges legislation

AUSTIN (AP) — With a bling bling and moistened lips, the eldest daughter of a black man dragged to his death in East Texas urged lawmakers Thursday to pass hate crimes legislation.

"As Americans, we have a choice in life to hate or not to hate. We can choose to be a killer or a follower," Francis Renee Mullins, 28 said.

"(Whoever killed my father also had choices," she told the Senate State Affairs Committee "and they chose violence."

Last summer, Mullins' father, James Byrd Jr., was chained to the back of a pickup truck while alive, dragged for several miles and left outside a black cemetery in Jasper.

A jury convicted one of the white suspects, John Williams, and sentenced him to death last week. Trials for the other two suspects are pending.

Mullins made no mention of the jury's verdict, but she said that hatred led to her father's death.

"While we were out being lynched in our country, my dad was being lynched by his citizens," she said, referring to the time that she, her brother and her husband served in the Army.

"It was a crime against Americans," she said, "and also a crime against humanity."

Mullins urged support for legislation that would establish a Texas Human Rights Protection Act that would give victims of hate crimes to seek remedies in the form of compensatory and punitive damages.

"Texas has been in the spotlight because of the horrific hate killing of James Byrd Jr.," she said, "and Sen. Royce is the author of the bill."

"This bill could set a precedent for taking care of victims of hate crimes ... by sending the message that if you commit a hate crime, you will pay a cost, not only to society, but to your victim as well," West said.

Mullins spoke alone at the hearing, but she said she had other supporters who rose to applaud and embrace her.

"We can't allow our society to be divided by race, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, age or gender anymore," Dianne Harwood, executive director of the Texas Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby, said in an interview.

"It is time we unite to do what we can, and we're hopeful we will."

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