Volume 107 ~ Issue 159

News in Brief

g, 71 percent hey favore

State should be s)fficials add Grimes ound that who to disaster list

espondents Tropical Storm Allison cut a ds on TV, wath through Texas in recent eks, but central Texas and h indicates he Brazos Valley were largely rns at some™ndamaged.

be outdate orm damage sustained by mes County resulted in its red 1,142 at communities eligible for fedtelephone ral disaster assistance.

Federal emergency manment agency officials say nes County was added to list based on their review of rmation on the damage Sullathered by federal disaster re-

the government aid will ne in the form of temporary ising, low interest loans for ividuals and businesses to ake property repairs, unemolicit exempliforment assistance and minors, he rants for expenses caused by er conditions je storm but not met by othstates were programs.

ed because Residents who wish to seek ges to grantosaster assistance can apply by rwise failed alling 1-800-462-9029

according to Applicants should have their Center for Adress at the time of the dis-Policy, wister, current address, social seurity number, a list of damge Terry C. E. and their current phone ring whether umber on hand when calling.

tutional and torage facility gets from defendurglarized Sunday

he Bryan Police Departoper venue nent is seeking the public's help can sue on the investigation of a burglaat a self-storage facility

ne crime occurred ben Sunday night and Monnorning, when someone into AA Self Storage in 1000 block of Stewart

me of the stolen properas recovered near the fabut it is not yet clear how h property was taken. Exact figures will not be

able until the completion inventory of the facility. yone with information on ourglary can contact the Police Department at

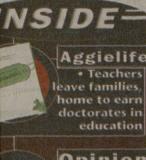
mer investigator dicted for theft

e Texas coastline is erodt an astounding rate, but is hope that a solution to problem will be found in ear future, according to a A&M researcher.

m Ravens, a researcher at s A&M-Galveston is studythe results of dredging g rollover bay near the bopeninsula.

me Texas beaches are ing at the rate of 10 feet ear, ravens says, which has led to the destruction of h front property.

vens is studying the effect e dredging, and trying to out if depositing sand on hes can create a more efnt barrier to erosion.



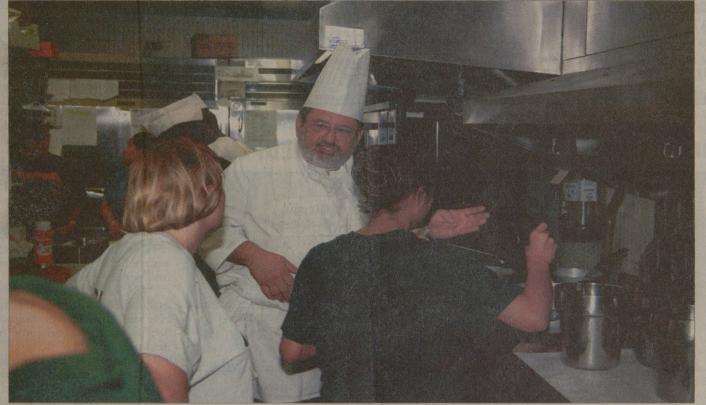
Opinion

 Sex and the rural college town: Is casual sex too casual

ttalion News Radio: 7 p.m. KAMU 90.9

ww.thebatt.com

Cooking class



Chef Mike Chonyak, chef at the Faculty Club, instructs at-risks youths from the Academy Rehabilitation Motivation for Youth (A.R.M.Y.) boot camp. Chef Mike has been running the program for four years every

Police suspect woman of drowning her five children

HOUSTON (AP) — A cer arrived, he was met at the woman who was said to be on medication for depression was arrested Wednesday on suspicion of drowning her five children, ages 6 months to 7 years,

The 36-year-old woman, whose name was not immediately released, had called police to her home and was wet when she answered the door, police said.

"When our responding offi-

door by the woman, who was breathing heavily, and you could tell she was disturbed," police spokesman John Cannon said. "At that time she said to the officer, 'I killed my children."

Cannon said the officer asked where the children were and was led on a grisly tour. Found under a sheet on a bed were Mary Yates, 6 months, and three of her brothers, Luke, 2; Paul, 3; and John, 5.

The fifth child, Noah, 7, was in the bathtub.

"It is just rather unimaginable," Cannon said. "It's difficult to deal with when you are talking about five little kids who were killed, probably systematically."

Authorities believe the children died from being drowned one by one, though the cause of death would not formally be known until after autopsies were conducted.

Police gave no motive for the

slayings, but the woman's husband told police she had been on medication to treat postpartum depression for the past two years, since the birth of their fourth child, Luke.

for Children's Protective Services, said records indicate the woman attempted suicide two years ago, on June 18, 1999. Five days later, CPS was called

See Drowning on Page 2.

Energy is not a concern in Texas

Officials say state can meet demand

AUSTIN (AP) - With demand for electricity rising like the temperature in the hot summer months, Texas should have plenty of energy to cool off, state officials said Wednesday.

Rising electric bills, however, could make residents a little hot under the collar.

With summer's official start on Thursday, Public Utility Commission officials said Texas should have plenty of electricity to meet the demand for air conditioning.

The summer peak demand is expected to hit about 67,000 megawatts, well below the statewide capacity of 83,000 megawatts.

Public Utility Commissioner Brett Perlman pointed to the 50 new plants built or under construction since 1995 as a major factor in meeting demand.

"We're in good shape because we have plenty of supply," Perlman said.

Texans will likely pay higher electric bills this summer, how-

Electricity bills are expected to increase because of the higher cost of natural gas, which makes up 45 percent of the fuel used to generate electricity in Texas.

State law allows utilities to pass Judy Hay, a spokeswoman along higher fuel costs to customers as long as the utility does not make an additional profit.

Utilities surveyed by the PUC predict a typical household electric bill will increase by about 18

See ENERGY on Page 2.

Mother of 8-vear-old her rights

DALLAS (AP) — The mother of an 8year-old girl locked in a closet and starved near death has agreed to relinquish her parental rights so that the girl can placed with the East Texas couple that tried to adopt her

Barbara Atkinson's attorney issued a statement Wednesday that Atkinson would voluntarily give up her parental rights for daughter Lauren in favor of Bill and Sabrina Kavanaugh of Canton, if approved by Judge Cheryl Lee Shannon and Child Protective Services

Authorities said the girl was imprisoned in a urine- and feces-contaminated closet for at least four months in Atkinson's home, located south of Dallas in Hutchins. Police also are investigating evidence that the girl — who weighed only 25 pounds — was sexually abused.

The Kavanaughs had custody of the girl but had lost a chance to adopt her after Atkinson changed her mind and wanted the baby back after birth. They have planned to attend Tuesday's hearing and ask for custody of the girl.

Barbara Atkinson and the girl's stepfather, Kenneth Ray Atkinson, were arrested last week on charges of injury to a child, a felony that carries a prison term from five to 99 years.

The Kavanaughs could not be reached for comment Wednesday but their attorney said they were "ecstatic."

"It's the right move," David Cole told Dallas-Fort Worth television station KDFW. "I'm hopeful that she (Atkinson) has had the time for reflection.'

Cole said the Kavanaughs can provide the

See CLOSET on Page 2.

'Aggie Angels' reach out

The Battalion

Minnie Olivarez is a night shift cus-

todian in the Langford Architecture Building, where she cleans the hallways and the bathrooms for Aggies who usually come and go without taking much notice of her.

But one night that changed when a student she calls her "Aggie Angel" chose to care.

"I have had a very strenuous and troubling last three years and I was working at the Langford Architecture Building when Amy Schepens, a student here at A&M, could tell I needed someone to talk to," Olivarez said.

"She talked to me, said a prayer with me and gave me a very sincere hug and her phone number. It was just what I needed to get me through the night, and every time I saw her after that we would hug and say a prayer together."

Olivarez, a single mother with four children, began to rely on her meetings with Schepens, a junior interdisciplinary major, to help her through

"One night after my car broke down and I had no where else to turn, I called Amy for someone to talk to," Schepens said. "She asked me where I lived and showed up at my house an hour later with a bag of groceries and a Bible with an envelope in the back with a \$100."

Olivarez said that \$100 Amy and her roommate gave her fixed her car and gave her hope.

"I read the Bible they gave me everyday and I tell people my car is held together by a prayer-aid," Olivarez said. "They were very sincere ladies and they gave me a light when it was very dark.

Olivarez, who is in a Twin Cities

gets help, faith from students

Mission program, said she was thankful for the support the two girls gave her and could not believe how much they helped her even though they had not known for very long.

Olivarez's "Aggie Angels" are not the only Aggies who support the Twin Cities Mission. In fact, Ron Crozier,

Night custodian director of community relations for Twin Cities Mission, said the Mission would not survive without help from A&M students and faculty.

"The biggest eye opener I have had since I have been here is the amount of support we get from the Aggies," Crozier said. " Most of the students who volunteer for us live out of town — yet while they are here, they make a difference in lives of the people that live here."

Crozier said Twin Cities Missions

-Minnie Olivarez

See ANGELS on Page 2.

To my angels with wings: Late one night, I was all alone, lost spiritually But yet in the auditorium I cleaned, There was a bright light that came to me from the Lord, Guided, from the Lord's guided hand. She sat, she listened, she prayed. And soon there was another bright light. That made it two. Two Aggies with my Lord, my God Leading them to hold my hand And brighten the path. To rekindle my faith, and restrengthen my strength. In the short time I have known these two They have been there for me and my four children. So with a lot a love, from all my heart, Amy and Summer, my two angels with God bless you and keep you. Just a small prayer for you, day to day. Lord hear our prayers. Love my Aggies with wings.