

THE BATTALION

107 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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News in Brief Campus

Extension Service getting new name

The Board of Regents approved Friday a proposal to change the name of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service to the Texas Cooperative Extension.

"The new name ties the agency's roots to the broader services it currently offers and will offer in the future," said Chancellor Howard D. Graves. "Our hope is that more Texans will take advantage of the variety of programs and services available through extension."

The Extension Service is a joint federal- and state-sponsored organization that offers outreach programs and continuing education services to Texans. Ed Hiler, director of the Extension Service, cited its commitment to servicing urban as well as highly agriculturally based communities as part of the motivation for the name change.

Nation

Steam engine kills four in explosion

MEDINA, Ohio (AP) — A steam engine exploded at a county fair Sunday, killing four people and injuring dozens when it blasted shrapnel and hot oil across the fairgrounds.

The engine was being moved into place for an outdoor exhibit about antique trains and tractors when it exploded at about 6:30 p.m., Medina County Sheriff Neil Hassinger said. Two of the men killed were close to the engine, and the third man was found 30 feet away. A fourth person died later at a hospital.

Shrapnel was found in a parking lot about 100 yards away, said Fire Chief Bill Herthneck.

Last year, about 30 people who attended the fair or a later Halloween attraction called the Carnival of Horrors at the Medina County Fairgrounds became ill with potentially deadly E. coli. A report from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggested that water and ice used by food vendors may have become contaminated with standing water from the animal barns.

Apartment explodes, injuring at least 7

EMPORIA, Kan. (AP) — An explosion and fire destroyed a building with five apartments on Sunday, killing one person and injuring seven. Another person was missing.

At least one woman was seen jumping from a second-story apartment as flames roared through the roof. Witnesses also reported hearing a loud blast followed quickly by a fire.

Construction set to begin on West Campus garage

Stuart Hutson
The Battalion

After years of planning, construction will begin on the West Campus parking garage in one month — just in time to be an inconvenience to the thousands of students flocking to A&M this fall.

The Texas A&M System Board of Regents awarded the \$40 million garage construction contract to J.T. Vaughn Construction Co. Inc., of Houston during its meeting Thursday.

The parking garage, which

was first proposed in 1998, will occupy an area now taken up by 1,000 parking spaces north of the Student Recreation Center.

The six-story garage will offer at least 3,190 spaces — sufficient parking space for three high-occupancy facilities: the Student Rec Center, Reed Arena and Kyle Field.

The project will include a pedestrian walkway connecting main and West campuses via an underground tunnel beneath Wellborn Road. The walkway, which will begin at

the garage and extend to Kyle Field, will replace "the rainbow" archway near Joe Routt Boulevard. The archway, which does not meet with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, will be torn down at the beginning of Fall 2001.

Tony Heger, director of the Texas A&M System Facilities Administration Division, said the construction should last approximately 21 months but will be designed so as to cause as little disruption as possible.

"President Bowen made a

point to express to the committee how much possible disruption this construction may cause during football season. This is going to be happening for two years, so it is going to cause some problems for two seasons," he said. "However, one of the winning points of the contractor who was chosen was his ability to schedule phases of construction so that they interfere as little as possible."

"He has been doing great work with the medical center in Houston where he has been

working in tight, cramped quarters but in such a way as to allow the functioning of the medical center to continue unimpeded."

Heger said Wellborn will have one lane closed at a time, but John Kimbrough Boulevard extending from Wellborn to Olsen Boulevard will be closed during the entire time of the construction.

It has not yet been determined how many of the parking garage spots will be allocated for student contract parking.

Helping hand



Andrienne Lewis of Brazos Valley Golden Retriever Rescue comforts Jada, a two-year-old retriever, while she is dried at a dog washing fundraiser Saturday. The

group rescues golden retrievers that have been abandoned or mistreated and finds loving homes for them. Jada was rescued after being shot with a pellet gun.

STUART VILLANUEVA/THE BATTALION

Police: Attacks are not related

DALLAS (AP) — Several assaults in affluent south Tyler have some fearing that a serial rapist is at work in the East Texas city, although police say they believe the attacks are unrelated.

Police Chief Gary Swindle said the four attempted sexual assaults and two rapes in a five-mile area of upper- and middle-class neighborhoods are "nothing so special or out of the norm."

But after being asked for detailed information on Tyler's incidence of rape, the chief acknowledged that the department's statistical data tracking sexual assaults is flawed and inaccurate. *The Dallas Morning News* reported in a story for Monday's editions.

Police spokesman Chris Moore said the department's computerized crime reporting system cannot map where rapes have historically occurred, and the department cannot accurately say how many attacks or attempts have been reported this year or last.

"I know a lot of people are scared to death. What's taking place is unusual for Tyler."

— Jack Skeen
Smith County district attorney

A *Dallas Morning News* review of year 2000 case summaries shows 35 rapes and three attempted rapes reported, but few led to arrests or prolonged investigation. Sixty-nine percent were closed or cleared because victims were considered unbelievable, lacked evidence or dropped charges.

Thirty-two percent of 25 rape cases reported last year in surrounding Smith County were closed for similar reasons, according to the Smith County Sheriff's Department.

Moore told the newspaper that many of last year's rape complaints were simply false.

The first of six attacks began in October, with four since early May. They have prompted an increase in demand for gun and self-defense courses, along with orders for home security alarms.

"I know a lot of people are scared to death. I get a lot of questions," said Smith County District Attorney Jack Skeen.

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Officials alarmed by worm

Government, businesses try to protect against 'Code Red'

WASHINGTON (AP) — In an unprecedented show of force against an extremely virulent Internet attack, government and private officials on Monday will implore worldwide organizations to protect themselves from the "Code Red" worm.

Representatives from the White House, FBI, Microsoft and others have decided to take the step in the face of one of the largest ever dangers to the Internet. The worm, similar to a virus, could cause widespread slowdowns and sporadic outages.

"The Internet has become indispensable to our national security and economic well-being," said Ron Dick, head of the National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC), an arm of the FBI. "Worms like Code Red pose a distinct threat to the Internet."

Along with posting various warnings on their Websites, government officials and representatives from Microsoft were holding a news conference Monday afternoon to publicize their efforts.

The government routinely works with private companies to issue warnings about new hack attacks and viruses, but never before have they made such a high-profile stand.

While the actual infection rate is unknown, it is believed to be in the hundreds of thousands of Internet-connected computers. In just the first nine hours of its July 19 outbreak, it infected more than 250,000 systems.

The government-funded Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) said

the worm is predicted to start spreading again Tuesday evening.

"This spread has the potential to disrupt business and personal use of the Internet for applications such as electronic commerce, email and entertainment," a CERT advisory warns.

The officials are frustrated that even though a software inoculation was made available over a month before the worm's first attack, many computers are still defenseless. The patch, which will protect computers, can be found on Microsoft's Website.

The worm defaces Websites with the words "Hacked by Chinese." While it doesn't destroy data, it could be modified

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Residents vote to stop bombing

VIEQUES, Puerto Rico (AP) — Residents of Vieques voted overwhelmingly for the U.S. Navy immediately to stop bombing on this Puerto Rican island. The referendum is nonbinding, but the Puerto Rican government hopes it will influence Washington.

Sixty-eight percent of voters supported an end to the bombing and the Navy's withdrawal from the island that is home to its prized Atlantic range. About 50 percent voted for the Navy to stay and re-

sume using live munitions, according to the electoral commission.

President Bush's plan to pull the Navy out of Vieques in 2003 and allow training with inert bombs to continue in the interim mustered less than 2 percent — 81 votes.

Islanders celebrated what they called "a victory for peace in Vieques" with whoops of joy, blaring car horns and the waving of Puerto Rican and Vieques flags.

Puerto Rico Gov. Sila M.

Calderon has said the results have no legal standing but do carry "moral force" that she hopes will influence the U.S. government.

But after the results were announced, the Navy said it would continue its training, due to resume on Vieques on Wednesday, and keep looking for an alternative for when it leaves the island in 2003.

"The outcome of this referendum, organized by Gov. Sila Calderon, will have no impact on the Navy or our focus," said

Lt. Cmdr. Kate Mueller, a Washington-based Navy spokesperson.

Dozens of people lined up outside polling stations that opened at 8 a.m. and 75 percent of the 5,900 registered voters had cast ballots within four hours, the electoral commission said.

Calderon's referendum was called to give islanders the option of asking for an immediate stop to the bombing that began

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