

aggieplanet 2002

IF YOU ORDERED A 2002 Aggieplanet and will not be on campus next fall to pick it up, you can have it mailed. To have your yearbook for the '01-'02 school year mailed, stop by room 015 Reed McDonald Building or telephone 845-2613 (credit cards only) between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and pay a \$7 mailing and handling fee.

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Egg-cited about eggs

Incoming freshman poultry science major Ross Windham gathers eggs from a nest-box at the Poultry Science Center on FM 2818. Students gather more than 300 eggs each day to be sold or used for teaching and research.

BRIAN RUFF • THE BATTALION

Medical center recalling body parts

GALVESTON, Texas (AP)—A medical center is recalling body parts from research facilities around the country that might not have been properly tested for infectious diseases, such as HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Embalmed body parts, which carry no risk of infection, are primarily used to train doctors in surgical techniques, but University of Texas Medical Branch officials said Tuesday that unpreserved parts, such as feet, knees and elbows, might have been sent to researchers at 60 programs around the country.

Officials didn't have figures on how many parts might have been shipped. They said they could not guarantee the parts did not pose a risk to transplant patients, but said the school's tissues typically are not sent to programs that would use them in transplant patients and use the risk to public health is "negligible and probably zero."

The school has asked research programs and private clinics that received parts from its Willard Body Program during an 18-month period to either destroy the parts or send them back at UTMB's expense. Letters were mailed over the weekend and notifications continued arriving Tuesday, officials said.

"We deeply regret this has happened. We make no excuses for it," said Steven Lieberman, UTMB associate dean for educational affairs. "We've been very proactive in letting people know what happened. We're not trying to hide anything."

Lieberman said he could not account for how many body parts had been shipped during the period from November 2000 until May 2002. He said UTMB is not legally required to test parts for infectious diseases. However, he said, the testing is an expectation within the medical community.

UTMB officials were not sure whether any researchers received the body parts or were exposed to, or infected with, hepatitis B and C. They urged researchers to take precautions and protect themselves when handling parts from UTMB.

"With these precautions, risks go way down. The impact on public health is negligible and probably zero," Lieberman said. "Any risks to individuals are extremely low."

— Steven Lieberman
UTMB associate dean

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Child immunizations increased in last year

AUSTIN (AP) — Nearly 75 percent of young Texas children were fully immunized against seven diseases in 2001, according to a new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study.

The 2001 figure is up from 69.5 percent the previous year, moving Texas out of last place to 43rd in the nation for the number of children ages 19 months to 35 months who have received the vaccinations.

The vaccination series in the study includes four doses of diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis (DTaP), three doses of polio and one dose of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR).

"It is very good news that we are coming up in our immunization levels," said Linda Linville, chief of the Texas Department of Health Bureau of Immunization and Pharmacy Support. "Having been ranked last, it's good to move up some points."

The national immunization rate was 78.6 percent, up from 77.6 percent in 2000. Linville said Tuesday that the department's goal for next year is to at least meet the national average.

Dr. Eduardo Sanchez, Texas Commissioner of Health, said some factors that led to the increased numbers were the department's enhanced involvement with local immunization coalitions, an additional 200 clinics in the Texas Vaccines for Children Program and an increase in awareness of the importance of immunizations.

Gov. Rick Perry said Texas has made improving the immunization rates a priority and the numbers show the state is making progress.

"While the improved numbers are welcomed news, our efforts must continue," Perry said.

By 2010, the goal is to have 90 percent of the state's children fully immunized, Linville said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Young Democrats first black president

AUSTIN (AP) — The president of the Texas Democrats is the first leader of the group, the Democratic Party announced Tuesday.

Sean Bradley also is the Texas field director for the Sanchez gubernatorial campaign. Bradley's goals are to encourage the youth vote for Democratic candidates this November and encourage Texas youth to participate in the political process.

The group's political committee raises money for young people to work internships with legislative congressional candidates in Texas.

Last year, the program more than \$40,000 for internships.

"It's a great opportunity for young people to learn about the political process up close and personal," Bradley said.

Marathon Oil to start expensing stock options

HOUSTON (AP) — Marathon Corp. announced Tuesday that in 2003 it will join a handful of other companies in expensing employee stock options. The Houston-based company was the latest to adjust its accounting and expense stock options over a period in which they matured, based on the value of day they were granted.

The change responds to pressure from investors for more transparency in financial reporting after shady or questionable accounting fueled implosion of Enron Corp., WorldCom Inc. and other companies.

Only a few companies expensed stock options as expenses, others that recently announced plans to do so include Coca-Cola, General Electric, Amazon.com and Boeing Co.

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