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Workers unaffected by retirement law

By Jacquelyn Spruce
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M University System employees will not be affected by recent changes regarding retirement qualifications, said Steve Hassel, associate vice chancellor for human resources.

The Texas Legislature passed two bills last session changing the years of service and age requirements for employees wanting full retirement benefits.

Hassel said a request was sent to Attorney General Greg Abbott asking for an explanation of the bills, because

although they increased retirement requirements, they seemed to conflict. The request was also an attempt to find out if current employees are grandfathered or exempt, Hassel said.

"With the grandfather clause, the benefits our current employees have will remain current," Hassel said.

The old law allows employees to receive full benefits when they reach age 55 and have five years of service, or meet a "rule of 80," when their age and years of service add up to 80.

However, under the new law, employees must be 65 years old and have at least 10 years of service before becoming eligible.

Hassel said only employees hired

on or after Sept. 1 will be affected by the changes. Those hired before Sept. 1 are still eligible for full benefits.

Since so many people could have been affected by the new law, Hassel said he is pleased that Abbott took time to address the problem.

"Throughout the whole University System we would have had about 2,100 employees affected by the new law," Hassel said. "These people already had between five and 20 years of service."

Some employees would have been forced to retire early or take other action to ensure full benefits for themselves and their families, Hassel said.

"Expecting individuals at this point

in life to adjust to the changes is a hard thing to do," Hassel said. "We are very pleased to have the grandfather clause approved."

Barbara Becvar, office associate for department of sociology, said she has already begun the retirement process.

"I had already sent off the paperwork," she said. "I was planning on retiring and finding work elsewhere, because I wouldn't have been able to retire without those benefits."

She said she is relieved to hear about the grandfather clause because she has been working hard to be eligible for

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CHANGES IN RETIREMENT LAWS

OLD LAW
Employees can receive full benefits when they reach the age of **55** and have **five years** of service

NEW LAW
Employees must reach the age of **65** and have at least **10 years** of service

Current employees not affected by new law

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: TEXAS A&M HUMAN RESOURCES

Modern golf



SHARON AESCHBACH • THE BATTALION

Senior accounting and management information systems major **Derek Henry** practices his putting skills at the disc golf course at Research Park Monday. Henry is a member of the

Aggie Disc Golf Club, which competes throughout the year. Disc golf was first designed and implemented in 1975 in Pasadena, Calif.

Task force develops energy-saving ideas

By Karen Yancey
THE BATTALION

Several projects have begun to develop energy saving ideas that will involve Texas A&M faculty, staff and students.

A report from a temporary energy task force appointed earlier this year by Charles Sippial, vice president for administration, recommended the creation of a permanent energy task force.

Sippial said the task force was created to come up with ideas of how the University can get consumers to conserve energy by turning off copiers over the weekend or using a sleep mode on computers.

The report said most of the

low-investment solutions to conserving energy have been implemented. The most difficult task will be communicating how to participate in energy-saving techniques and how it will benefit the energy consumers on campus.

"The yearly utilities bill for operations is \$58 million," Sippial said. "All energy savings get passed onto the customers so there is an indirect financial benefit to conserving energy."

A&M has spent several years trying to find ways to cut energy costs, Sippial said. It currently has a \$63 million utilities capitol plan, of which \$33 million in energy saving

See **Energy** on page 2

Texas A&M's ENERGY SAVING Campaign

The System Board of Regents approved three projects:

- \$1.4 million chiller for central utility plant
- \$1 million boiler for West Campus plant
- \$1.9 million for the management and metering of energy consumed

Projects total \$4.3 million

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMINISTRATION

Troop entertainer Hope dead at 100

By Lynn Elber
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Bob Hope's one-liners gently poked fun at presidents, blunted the sting of combat for American soldiers from World War II to the Gulf War, and ultimately made him the most revered of American comics.

Hope, who turned 100 on May 29, rode a genial wave of success in movies, radio and television to a position unique among entertainers. He died Sunday of pneumonia at his Toluca Lake home, publicist Ward Grant said Monday. His family was at his bedside.

As the 20th century's good humor delivery man for U.S. troops, Hope took his show on the road to bases, field hospitals, jungles and aircraft carriers around the world, peppering audiences with a fusillade of brief, topical gags. One of them centered on former President Nixon and the Watergate scandal.

"I bumped into Gerald Ford the other day. I said, 'Pardon me.' He said, 'I don't do that anymore.'"

Hope's humor lacked malice, and he made himself the butt of many jokes. His golf scores and physical attributes, including his celebrated ski-jump nose, were frequent subjects:

"I want to tell you, I was built like an athlete once — big chest, hard stomach. Of course, that's all behind me now."

"It's hard for me to imagine a world without Bob Hope in it," said Woody Allen, who cited Hope's 1942 film "Road to Morocco" for pointing him toward comedy.

"The nation lost a great citizen," President George W. Bush said Monday. "Bob Hope served our nation when he went to battlefields to entertain thousands of troops from different generations. We extend our prayers to his family. God bless his soul."

He was "the best loved, most admired and most successful entertainer in all of history. He is quite simply, irreplaceable," longtime "Tonight Show"

Bob Hope 1903-2003

Many roads taken in Hollywood films

Comedian and actor Bob Hope died Sunday. He appeared in dozens of movies, most notably a series of seven "Road" movies with his longtime friend Bing Crosby.

1938 "The Big Broadcast of 1938" "College Swing" "Give Me a Sailor" "Thanks for the Memory" 1939 "Never Say Die" "Some Like It Hot" "The Cat and the Canary" 1940 "Road to Singapore" "The Ghostbreakers" 1941 "Caught in the Draft" "Nothing but the Truth" "Road to Zanzibar" "Louisiana Purchase" 1942 "My Favorite Blonde" "Road to Morocco" "Star-Spangled Rhythm" 1943 "They Got Me Covered" "Let's Face It" 1944 "The Princess and the Pirate" 1945 "Road to Utopia" 1946 "Monsieur Beaucaire"	1947 "My Favorite Brunette" "Where There's a Will" 1948 "Road to Rio" "The Paleface" 1949 "Sorrowful Jones" "The Great Lover" 1950 "Fancy Pants" 1951 "The Lemon Drop Kid" "My Favorite Spy" 1952 "Son of Paleface" 1953 "Road to Bali" "Off Limits" "Here Come the Girls" 1954 "Casanova's Big Night" 1955 "The Seven Little Foys" 1956 "That Certain Feeling" "The Iron Petticoat" 1957 "Beau James" 1958 "Paris Holiday" 1959 "Alias Jesse James" 1960 "The Facts of Life"	1961 "Bachelor in Paradise" 1962 "Road to Hong Kong" 1963 "Critic's Choice" "Call Me Bwana" 1964 "A Global Affair" 1965 "I'll Take Sweden" 1966 "Boy Did I Get a Wrong Number" 1967 "Eight on the Lam" 1968 "The Private Navy of Sergeant O'Farrell" 1969 "How To Commit Marriage" 1972 "Cancel My Reservation" 1979 "The Muppet Movie" 1985 "Spies Like Us"
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SOURCE: Associated Press

host Johnny Carson said.

Steve Collins, an Army helicopter pilot who served in Vietnam, met the comedian when he ferried troops to one of Hope's 1968 Christmas shows at an Air Force base.

"You knew where the guy's heart was. He really felt for us," said Collins, 56, of San Diego.

The English-born Hope began in vaudeville and ended up conquering every medium. When Hope

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Democrats leave for New Mexico, Perry calls second special session

By Natalie Gott
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — Democratic state lawmakers fled Texas on Monday for the second time in three months to thwart a Republican drive to redraw the state's congressional districts.

Eleven of the 12 Democrats in the state Senate left for Albuquerque, N.M., as a first special session called by the governor to address redistricting drew abruptly to a close and he called a second special session, which began Monday afternoon. The second session could last up to 30 days.

"We're availing ourselves of a

tool given to us by our Texas Constitution to break a quorum," Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos of Austin said at a hotel in Albuquerque, where the 11 Democrats met with reporters. "It's not about Democrats, it's about democracy."

"This is not an action that we take lightly. There are not many issues that would rise to this kind of action," said Leticia Van de Putte, chairwoman of the Senate Democratic Caucus.

Standing in front of a Texas flag, Van de Putte said more than 1.4 million minorities in her state would lose effective congressional representation if the Republicans redistrict

according to their wishes.

New Mexico state police guarded the hotel, partly out of concern that "bounty hunters" might show up to whisk the lawmakers away.

"There was some concern that our (Republican) leaders would attempt to use off-duty officers, security guards, bounty hunters" to forcibly bring the lawmakers back to Texas, said Sen. John Whitmire.

Asked how long the group might stay in New Mexico, Sen. Judith Zaffirini of Laredo said: "Thirty days. More if it's necessary. Our commitment was 30

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Student indicted for campus thefts

By Melissa Sullivan
THE BATTALION

A Texas A&M student and former walk-on football player was indicted on four charges of theft Thursday after police said he admitted to stealing \$130,000 worth of equipment from campus locations last month.

Jonathan Wesley Mayfield, a junior speech communications major, was indicted on the theft of between \$100,000 and \$200,000, theft of between \$1,500 and \$20,000 and two counts of burglary of a building.

Mayfield is accused of breaking into the media van belonging to KAMU-TV and taking audio and video equipment valued at about \$113,000 and

breaking into other campus locations, according to University Police Department reports.

Mayfield told police he took a projector from Kyle Field in April during a power outage, a computer from the Langford Architecture Building and \$8,300 worth of equipment from Rumours Coffee House.

Mayfield said he took the equipment because he wanted to start a video production company with a friend, according to police.

An indictment does not indicate guilt, but means a grand jury believes there is enough evidence to warrant a trial.



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