

KINGSVILLE RECORD AND BISHOP NEWS

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LONE STAR REPORT
Texas economy better than most
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Enrollment increases at A&M-Kingsville

By Julie Navejar
Texas A&M-Kingsville

Enrollment numbers at Texas A&M University-Kingsville continue to look up as the number of students attending rose over six percent from spring 2009 to the current semester, spring 2010.

Presently there are 5,508 students enrolled in the spring semester. In spring 2009, 5,178 students were enrolled, an increase of 6.4 percent.

Following a fall semester that saw a jump of 3.7 percent, especially in the freshman class, numbers stayed up with more students remaining in school for the spring. In fall 2009, A&M-Kingsville had one of their biggest freshman classes at more than 1,100. Of those over 83 percent remained in school.

"One of the factors behind the increase in our fall semester came from our growth in new students and our recruitment efforts," said Manuel Lujan, vice president for enrollment management. "The number of fall students continuing to enroll this spring was larger than last year.

"Another factor is what appears to be a pretty nice increase in our retention rate among our new freshmen between the fall and spring semesters. Preliminary data show that our freshman class was retained four percentage points higher than last year between the fall and spring semesters. That is a very positive sign," he said.

"A third factor is that we enrolled more new students this spring compared to last year at the same time," Lujan said.

"That increase again is a result of recruitment activities. All these numerical factors results in our overall enrollment growth this spring. But there are other factors including the new residence halls, the new recreation center that will open soon and the overall momentum the university is experiencing with all the positive changes that are taking place," he said.

"It is all these things that are helping us to attract and keep students here."

Hoggies' Project Ex game salutes James Jefferson

By Shane Meling
Texas A&M-Kingsville
Sports Information Director

The Javelina football team is kicking off a new and exciting tradition on Thursday at the annual Spring Football Game that starts at 7 p.m. at Javelina Stadium. Each year the Javelinas will attempt to bring back one of their former star student-athletes to participate and play in the game.

This year's 2010 Project Ex is former Javelina, James Jefferson. Jefferson, from Kingsville, played for the Javelinas from 1982-85 and also ran on the track team for two years. He was a running back and defensive back during his collegiate career. As a senior, he was named the Lone Star Conference Defensive Back of the Year and earned Football News All-America Team honors. He earned his bachelor's degree in Kinesiology.

Jefferson played for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers of the Canadian Football league from 1986-88 before being signed by the Seattle Seahawks in 1989. He played five seasons with the Seahawks before finishing his career with the British Columbia Lions of the CFL. He was the AFC Player of the Week twice in 1990 and was on two Canadian Grey Cup Championship teams, once in Winnipeg and once in British Columbia. He was selected to the all-CFL squad in 1987 and 1988.

After his pro career, Jefferson coached one year for Alabama State and became a scout for the New Orleans Saints in 2000. He also served as a Javelina assistant coach during two periods, 1995-96 and 1998-00.

Jefferson is currently an assistant coach at Academy High School in Kingsville. He has two daughters, Ashley and Amber, and is the son of Sandra Jefferson, the former Director of the University Police Department at Texas A&M-Kingsville.

Jefferson will play in a minimum of four series on defense in the Spring Football Game. Javelina fans can sponsor Jefferson to help raise money for the Football Locker Room Improvement Fund in a variety of ways including; Jefferson's participation in the game, per tackle, per pass break-up, per pass interception, per touchdown, etc. Contact Joe Biedron at 593-2692 or joe.biedron@tamuk.edu to get involved.

Inside This Issue Printed on Recycled Paper




Javelina Highlights
Soybean Ink

Mayor Fugate is unopposed in May 8 Kingsville election

At KISD, the deadline is the deadline

By Erika Hernandez

Mayor Sam Fugate will go unchallenged for a fourth term in office, but if supporters of a proposed amendment to the city's charter have their way, this would be the last time Kingsville voters get to choose their mayor.

The deadline to file as a candidate in upcoming city and school elections was 5 p.m. Monday.

The election is May 8 for the City of Kingsville, City of Bishop, Kingsville Independent School District, Bishop Consolidated Independent School District and the City of Driscoll.

A petition is being circulated to place a proposed charter amendment on the May 8 Kingsville ballot that would convert the present five-member Kingsville city commission to seven city council members, each representing one of seven geographic areas within the city limits.

The mayor of Kingsville would be chosen by the seven elected city council (See Election, Page 8A)



Bishop Centennial Celebration

Have you heard? Bishop is sprucing up for the Centennial Celebration on May 14-16, 2010. The Bishop Pride Project is off and running with different clubs, organizations, and individuals picking projects to complete before the big event. For information or to choose a project, an individual or organization can visit the Centennial Celebration web site www.bishoptx100.org, then click on "Bishop Pride" and choose a project, or contact the Bishop Pride Committee chairman, Jan Senecal, at 522-0367. The City of Bishop's Economic Development Committee has chosen to install a fountain downtown in the Mary Louise Hardin Park. With more work to be done on the project, committee members Justo Suarez and Ellen Suggs show off the fountain and promise more to come, with the placing soon of old fashioned light poles flanking the fountain.

Kingsville teen pleads guilty to manslaughter in traffic death

Santiago Cardenas III, 19, of Kingsville, pleaded guilty on Friday to the charge of Manslaughter with a Deadly Weapon (automobile).

Cardenas was placed on 10 years deferred adjudication probation for the second degree felony.

If his probation is revoked,

he is facing up to 20 years in prison.

Judge Martin Chiuminatto also ordered Cardenas to spend 180 days in jail, served day for day, as a condition of the probation as recommended by District Attorney John Hubert. Cardenas was also fined

\$5,000 fine.

The charge stemmed from a Nov. 2, 2008 traffic accident that killed longtime local resident Maria Hernandez, 65.

Evidence submitted showed that the defendant admitted to drinking one beer at a party in Ricardo

earlier, Hubert said.

Toxicology reports did not show any alcohol but did show a small amount of the prescription drug, alprazolam, according to Hubert.

During the hearing, the defendant admitted to taking (See Guilty, Page 8A)

Students training to help students adjust to school life

By Erika Hernandez

Two students from H.M. King High School are in the process of implementing a new program, called Student 2 Student, on campus to assist incoming or outgoing military children and/or new students adjust to their surroundings.

H.M. King Freshmen Max Laguna and Brittany Pena along with KISD Director of Accelerated Programs Martha Ramirez and NAS Liaison Jeanie Alexander attended a workshop in San Antonio sponsored by the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) January 21-24 in order to receive information and training about the organization.

Student 2 Student begins when a team from a school campus is trained to return to their home campus to provide leadership for training other students on methods to support students who are transitioning to or from their school.



Pictured are H.M. King High students Max Laguna and Brittany Pena, who are spearheading a new program called Student 2 Student, which would help new students better adjust to the school surroundings and environment through the Military Child Education Coalition program.

The team is composed of advisors and students and the focus is student-centered, and student-led, with close supervision.

The development of stud-

ent trainers who can return to their home campus to train other peers is critical to the success and credibility of the program.

Through the program

for the incoming students, the team provides a forum for students to quickly feel welcomed, comfortable, included and accepted into (See Students, Page 8A)