

# The Ranger

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Gov. Rick Perry spoke on campus Sept. 4 on first generation grants.

## News in Brief

**College Night** at the Tri-State Fair is tonight. Students will receive two-for-one ride tickets with college identification.

**Bat found in Durrett Hall** and the engineering building at the start of the semester was a Brazilian or Mexican Freetail bat.

**Tuition Increased** by \$2 per semester hour this fall.

**Amarillo Opera** presents "Pirates of Penzance" at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Amarillo Civic Center.

**Jim Rauscher Faculty Recital** at 3 p.m. Saturday at the Concert Hall Theater.

**Baptist Student Ministries** holds free lunch on at noon Wednesdays at 22nd and Van Buren.

**The Amarillo College Classified Employees Association's** new board members are:  
Cynthia Urbina-president,  
Diana Gatlin-vice president,  
Nan Kemp-secretary, Joy Connors-treasurer, Debbie Webb-historian.

**New Student Government** campus council representatives are as follows:  
ATC-James Kemper  
Brent Hill  
Josh Ommen  
West Campus-April Patterson  
Sabra Weber  
David Chavez  
Washington-Jennie Bauman  
Simone Semple  
Ken Brown

**Voter Registration Drive** will be held by Voices of Choice Thursday in the CUB with free pizza and soft drinks.

**Media Mania** speaker Todd Gillman, a Dallas Morning News reporter, spoke at AC Thursday about covering 9/11.

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## Enrollment reaches record highest

By TORI DURST  
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Amarillo College enrollment increased by 7 percent this fall, making enrollment the highest ever at 9,229 students.

Our goal was 9,058, said Brad Johnson, director of enrollment management. We continue to see a larger and larger number of students, that in the past would have started their college at a university, now beginning at Amarillo College, Johnson said.

This includes many top-performing students who are realizing the benefits of a school where instructors focus on one thing: instruction.

Peggy Southall, director of college relations, said, There was a 29 percent increase in students who received honor scholarships or were in the National Honors Society.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board estimat-

ed that AC enrollment would be only 8,336 for the 2002 year.

According to the THECB Web site, thecb.state.tx.us, enrollment in 2005 at Texas universities should increase to 446,000 students. Community colleges are predicted to have higher enrollment at 480,000 students.

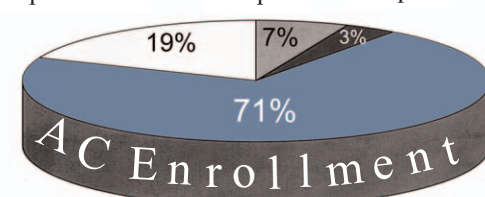
Anita Loshbough, registrar at West Texas A&M University, said WT enrollment as of Tuesday was 6,814. The official enrollment numbers will be released on the 20th day of classes according to state requirements.

Loshbough said she thinks more students are going to community colleges first. Combined there are roughly only 2,429 students enrolled as freshman and sophomores at WT, she said.

AC President Bud Joyner said, It is not a fair comparison. They are two institutions that serve two different missions, and they do a fine job.

Some AC students were surprised at the difference in AC

Washington St. Campus West Campus ATC Campus Moore Campus



and WT enrollment numbers.

Wow, said Sherwood Foley, a secondary education and computer science major. Foley said the enrollment numbers surprised her because WT is a larger university and we are just a community college.

Ali Knowles, a physical therapist major, said, I am kind



Matt Darrah / photographer



Tiffany Carlile / Issues Editor

Banners reading **United We Stand** in memory of the one-year anniversary of Sept. 11 were rotated around the college campuses for students to sign. Pictured above, Robert Jackman, a travel and tourism major, signs the banners that will be sent to the Pentagon and New York City from Amarillo College. Left, the armed forces joined with local firefighters, police and former members of the armed forces to participate in the memorial of Sept. 11 at the courtyard with AC students.

## Options available for purchasing textbooks

By KELLY AARON  
The Ranger Reporter

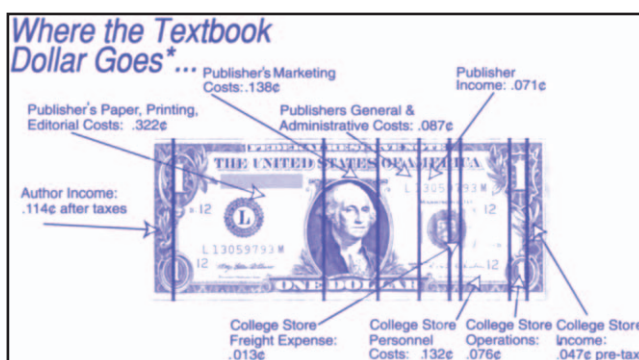
The Amarillo College Bookstore, Barnes and Nobles online and the Adult Students Program are several ways to accumulate the textbooks students need each semester.

My college math book was \$80; in high school, it was free, said Roger Trimmer, an engineering major. The average cost of a book at the AC bookstore is \$89.50, said Connie Windows, AC Bookstore manager.

Most of the money from the sale of books goes to scholarships here at AC, Windows said.

One of the biggest competitors of the college bookstores is online shopping. I don't see the online sales as a threat, Windows said. We operate our business with high integrity, and I believe you reap what you sow.

Barnes and Nobles online, www.bn.com, has free shipping when you order two or more



books."The books were cheaper on the Internet," said Stephanie Leard, a medical data specialist major. The average life of an AC textbook is 18 months. The prices are outrageous for the short time you use them, said Charlie Hill, a mass communications major.

Barnes and Nobles has a buy-back policy for a vast number of books. If the books can be bought back, they will send a shipping label out to the customer. It works, it's pretty convenient

actually, said Brandon Purcell, a graphic design major.

Another alternative to getting textbooks is Adult Student Program. We target single or married adult students at least 24 years old who have children, said Nancy Brent, Adult Student Program coordinator.

The adult program allows individuals who are qualified to check out up to five books from the library each semester at no cost. Funding for the books is made available by a portion of the Perkins bill and the AC Foundation.

If I wasn't in the program, my books would have been as much as my tuition this semester, said Kim Sims, a nursing major. The next deadline to apply for the adult program is Oct. 29. We're very fortunate to have this program, Brent said. There are not many other programs as successful as ours.

## Parking problem grows with enrollment

By JASON WILLIAMS  
The Ranger Reporter

Enrollment figures show 6,626 students enrolled at the Washington Street Campus; there are only about 3,000 parking spots.

We know parking is a problem, said J.R. Couser, dean of student services. As enrollment grows, so does the problem.

I do not want to sound like I'm downplaying the problem, but parking is the No. 1 complaint on almost any college campus.

Some students on campus would say there is not a parking problem, but a walking problem. If you don't mind walking, it is not bad, said Jason Nettles, a business major. I am only five blocks away today.

Some students do not see parking as a walking problem, but as a problem that needs to be solved. Parking is nonexistent, said Ed Hubbard, a biology major. It is a tribute to the school that many students want to come here, but they might not if they knew about the parking situation.

Some students are arriving earlier before their classes to evade the problem. I get here at 7:30 a.m. almost every day, Hubbard said. I don't even have class until 9:25 a.m. Vicki

Guzman, an office technician major, said, Normally I get here between 7:15 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. just to avoid the problem.

Faculty is faced with much the same problem as students. As the campus grows, the faculty has to grow as well, and their parking lot hasn't grown either. When faculty parking fills up, I have to park with the students, said Gerald Schoen, a business management professor. I like to walk, so it's not really a problem for me.

One faculty member has his own parking spot reserved just for him but refuses to use it.

I've never used it, said Dr. Bud Joyner, president of the college. I enjoy walking, and it also gives me a chance to have a feel for what the students are going through.

Students have even found space to park at the Toot n Totum on 22nd and Washington. We've had a couple of students a day park and walk across the street, said Jennifer Priest, assistant manager. Some are even professors, but there is not enough parking here to cause a major problem.

Students and faculty aren't the only ones battling the parking problem. Local residents are also affected by the lack of parking at the college. Students walk through our yard breaking sprinkler heads and trample right through our flower beds. We might as well be a state park, said local resident Jerry Jones. I come out and ask them to walk around and get

obscurities yelled back at me on my own property.

After putting a small fence around his house, Jones thought he had found the solution to his problem. Students open the gate and still walk through the yard, kicking over signs in our yard to keep out, and leave their trash with it. We pay taxes to AC just to be miserable.

AC police also have been busy this semester dealing with parking violators. Police Officer Steve Chance said, People are parking in areas not even marked and blocking students from entering or leaving areas of the parking lot.

A bill is being sent to the college board to raise the amount of parking tickets from between \$4 to \$7 dollars to \$10.

The college has tried to offer solutions to the parking problem, in the past. Last fall the college offered parking downtown with shuttles that would pick up and drop students off right under the bridge on 24th Street, Couser said.

The most people we ever had was 40. It was a good idea, but most students never really took advantage of it. Other solutions are there but take a little longer to develop. We buy property around the college anytime it goes on the market, Joyner said. As soon as we have a lot big enough we try and make more parking available to the students.

The space just isn't there, Chance said. I guess that's the price you pay to go to a good school.