Web site redevelopment to use Tech feedback

By RALSTON ROLLO STAFF WRITER

For the first time in five years, Texas Tech administrators are making efforts to improve the functionality and design of Tech's Web site.

In an e-mail sent to the Tech community, President Guy Bailey said the changes are necessary as Tech continues to seek status as a National Research University.

Bailey said in the e-mail a Web Executive Committee was formed to ensure the success of efforts to improve the Web site. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to voice their opinions through any of three available forums so the many voices of the Tech community are heard throughout the process.

Information Technology and chief information officer, said much effort during the process of

redeveloping Tech's Web site will be devoted to compliance with Texas House Bill 2504.

The bill was adopted during the 81st Legislature of the Texas House of Representatives and requires certain information and links to be available and easily accessible within the Web sites of all

public institutions of higher education, he said. Sally Post, director of Communications and Marketing and member of the Web Executive Committee, said research for the Web site redevelopment project will not be conducted in the

'We want input, we welcome input, and it's Sam Segran, vice president of the Division of really important that the community has their say," she said.

Jerry Hudson, academic dean of the College of

Mass Communications, also is a member of the committee and said members of the Information Technology Division working within the college suggested a study to determine the functionality and user friendliness of the Web site.

Post said the study requires subjects to find certain information on the Web site and the manner in which those subjects find that information is closely monitored.

the information), how long it takes them, and what problems they have," she said.

Segran said one example of a potential adjustment to the user-friendliness of the Web site is the implementation of cross-indexing. The addition of cross-indexing will make search results

WEB SITE continued on Page 2

FEEDBACK METHODS

Web site redevelopment project's open forum A blog for students, faculty and staff to obtain information and voice their opinions about the Tech Web site. www.refresh.ttu.edu

Refresh.ttu.edu Web Survey

An online survey for students, faculty and staff to 'We are looking for how (the subjects) get (to provide electronic feedback to the Office of Communications and Marketing and the Office of the Chief Information Officer.

www.depts.ttu.edu/itts/assessments/ttu

Interactive Web site Usability Study

Students, faculty and staff can participate in a handswithin Tech's Web site more relevant and up to on study to help find problems with the user-friendliness and navigation of Tech's Web site.

Registration can be found at the Technology Support

PART TWO OF A FIVE-PART SERIES ABOUT ALCOHOL AND ITS IMPACT

Drinking causes short- and long-term effects on body



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador

By ALEXANDRA PEDRINI STAFF WRITER

Some consequences of alcohol consumption are less noticeable than slurred speech or a Facebook page of lessthan-flattering photos, and can have short- and long-term

Blacking out does not mean losing consciousness, said Sheila Garos, associate professor of psychology. Someone experiencing an alcoholic blackout may appear as if they are aware of his or her actions, but in reality his or her brain is not recording the memories.

'The alcohol is basically

brain, one of which is the memory center," Garos said. "You're actually shutting off the part of the brain that records short-term memory."

Alcohol intoxicates the blood flow throughout the body and brain, which initially causes higher thinking and judgment to go away, said Peter Syapin, pharmacology and neuroscience professor. As the amount of alcohol in the blood increases, the areas of the brain affecting motor coordination temporarily stop working because the cerebellum isn't operating correctly.

"It causes mental impair- body including the stomach,

shutting down parts of the ment," said Bryan Stewart, a paramedic shift supervisor. "Alcohol is a depressant and changes the chemistry in the brain. Reactions are slowed, judgment is impaired and depending on the person's tolerance, it causes blackouts and goes out the window."

judgment is affected before the ulcers within the stomach," person's coordination because of the sensitivity of areas of the brain. Some are more susceptible to alcohol than others.

Moving down from the brain, high quantities of alcohol affect other parts of the

heart, kidneys and liver. Gastritis can develop in the stomach when a person consumes large amounts of alcohol, he said.

"When it gets into your stomach, it actually stops emptying of your stomach and so passing out. Their judgment that alcohol sits there in your stomach for a longer period of He said someone's better time and it can erode and cause Syapin said.

> Alcohol's effects on the heart are not all bad, he said. Low levels, such as one to two glasses of wine a day can be beneficial to the heart.

ALCOHOL continued on Page 5

Haiti judge frees 8 of 10 American missionaries

By FRANK BAJAK THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Eight American missionaries were freed from a Haitian jail Wednesday, nearly three weeks after being charged with kidnapping for trying to take a group of children out of the quake-stricken

The eight — looking bedraggled and sweaty — walked out of the Haitian iail escorted by U.S. diplomats just after dusk. They waited until they were safely inside a white van before flashing smiles, waving and giving a thumbs up to reporters.

Hours earlier, judge Bernard Saint-Vil told The Associated Press that eight of the 10 missionaries were free to leave without bail or other conditions after parents testified they voluntarily handed their children over to the missionaries.

"The parents of the kids made statements proving that they can be released," he said, adding that still wants to question the group's leader and her nanny.

The group planned to fly out of Haiti late Wednesday, defense attorney Aviol Fleurant said. Their destination was not immediately known. Kimberly Flowers at the U.S. Embassy would not confirm that the Americans were leaving on a U.S. government chartered plane, citing privacy law. She said that as U.S. citizens, they were entitled to evacuation flights.

The missionaries, most from two Baptist churches in Idaho, are accused of trying to take 33 Haitian children to the Dominican Republic on Jan. 29 without proper documents. Their detentions came just as aid officials were urging a halt to short-cut adoptions in the wake of the earthquake.

The missionaries say they were on a humanitarian mission to rescue child quake victims by taking them to a hastily prepared orphanage in the Dominican Republic and have denied accusations of trafficking.

Group leader Laura Silsby originally said they were taking only orphaned and abandoned children, but reporters found that several of the children were handed over to the group by their parents, who said the hoped the Baptists would give them a better life.

Fed: Unemployment will stay high over next 2 years

By JEANNINE AVERSA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve expects unemployment will stay high over the next two years because recession-scarred Americans are likely to stay cautious, making for only a moderate-paced economic recovery.

Fed policymakers said in a forecast released Wednesday that it will take "some time" for the economy and the jobs market to get back to normal. They did not spell out how long that would be. Previously they suggested it could take five or six years for economic conditions to return to full health. A "sizable minority," however, thinks it could take more than five or six years for the economy and the job market to return to normal.

In updated economic projections, the Fed said the unemployment rate

this year could hover between 9.5 percent and 9.7 percent. Next year, it will drop to between 8.2 percent and 8.5 percent. By 2012, the jobless rate will range between 6.6 percent and 7.5 percent.

Although those forecasts are little changed from projections the Fed had released in late November, the figures show that unemployment will remain elevated heading into this year's congressional elections as well as the presidential election in 2012. A more normal unemployment rate would be between 5.5 percent and

Fed policymakers "expect that the pace of the economic recovery will be restrained by household and business uncertainty, only gradual improvement in labor market conditions and a slow easing of credit conditions in the banking sector," according to the forecast.

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effects on the body.

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WEATHER



Mostly Sunny



Friday

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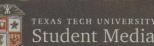
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BRIEF

STATE

2 Amarillo men die when small plane hits building

thorities say a pilot and his passenger were killed when their twin-engine plane crashed into Amarillo.

Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper Gabriel Medrano said the two Amarillo men in their 50s died Wednesday morning when their plane went down in the southeast part of the Panhandle city.

Medrano says the cause of the the 30-foot-tall structure.

AMARILLO (AP) - Au- crash is sought. Federal investi: gators were being dispatched to the scene.

Names of the victims were a concrete storage building in not released, pending notification of next of kin.

> Medrano says it was not immediately known if the plane left an Amarillo airport or was arriving.

> Most of the wreckage was on the ground near the building, but part of the plane remained atop

NATION

US govt to investigate Toyota Corolla

Transportation Department plans to open a formal investigation into the 2009-2010 Toyota Corolla over potential problems with the car's power steering, a department official said Wednesday.

The preliminary investigation is expected to be opened on Thursday and involves an estimated 500,000 vehicles. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the department had not yet notified Toyota

Toyota Motor Corp. said at a news conference in Japan earlier

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Wednesday that it was looking into complaints of power steering problems with the Corolla and was considering a recall as one option. Toyota said there have been fewer than 100 complaints.

In the U.S., the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has received about 150 complaints from drivers about the issue. The complaints are small compared to the number of vehicles involved: The department said the investigation involves about 363,000 vehicles from the 2009 model year and about 136,000 vehicles from the 2010 model year.

WORLD

Dutch Cabinet deadlocked over Afghanistan mission

Dutch Cabinet was deadlocked Wednesday over extending the Netherlands' mission with NATO in Afghanistan, and it appears likely to reduce its 1,600 troop presence there.

Deputy Prime Minister Wouter Bos said his Labor Party will oppose a formal NATO request to remain in the restive southern province of Uruzgan. The Dutch mission ends

The departure of the Netherlands would be a blow to hopes that NATO's European members will expand operations in Afghanistan the year," Bos told reporters.

AMSTERDAM (AP) - The before beginning to withdraw in

Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende and his Christian Democrats want to extend the mission for a year, possibly in reduced

But Bos' highly public stand Wednesday makes it unlikely without risking a political crisis that could bring down the coalition

"The promise we made to the Dutch voter two years ago must be kept, that the last Dutch solider must be gone from Uruzgan by the end of

Corrections

editors strive for accuracy in the newsgathering process. However, mistakes

It is The DT's policy to correct mis-

The Daily Toreador's reporters and takes in this spot as soon as possible. If you feel there is an error in a

story, please call Editor-in-Chief Kevin Cullen at 806-742-3395 or e-mail kevin.m.cullen@ttu.edu.



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Obama says stimulus bill saved troubled economy

nomic stimulus law as an accom- run Congress acted. plishment that staved off another Great Depression and kept up to recounting a section of his State 2 million people on the job.

doesn't yet feel like much of a fail to applaud the idea. recovery."

the \$787 billion American Re- esting to watch," Obama said. covery and Reinvestment Act, Obama aimed his message at people skeptical about the expensive relief measure and Republican about it.

To the public, Obama exmost Americans along with help lion. for state governments, extended social service benefits and huge and infrastructure.

"One year later, it is largely second depression is no longer a possibility," Obama said.

who say the bill was a costly, generate jobs and a recovery. debt-financed blunder that has not delivered on the promise of them to take up the case with the stimulus.

WASHINGTON (AP) - people who have stayed em-President Barack Obama hailed ployed or have found help solely Wednesday's one-year-old eco- because he and the Democratic-

Obama even delighted in of the Union address last month Still, with millions still out of in which he talked of the tax work and losing patience, Obama cuts from the stimulus plan and acknowledged that to them, "It watched Republican lawmakers

"They were all kind of squirm-Marking the anniversary of ing in their seats ... It was inter-

And Obama made sure to commend himself and his own team for taking action.

The United States has lost an lawmakers who voted against it astounding 8.4 million jobs since and continue to hammer him this recession began in December 2007.

Obama said the stimulus plan plained, as he has many times is on target to create or save 1.5 before, that the stimulus plan million more jobs, bringing up was composed of tax cuts for the estimated total to 3.5 mil-

But he sought to remind people that the goal of law was investments in energy, education never to restore every job. The government can build confidence and demand and rescue people thanks to the recovery act that a in hard times during a severe economic slide, Obama said, but it will always be businesses of To his Republican critics, the private sector that ultimately

Obama made repeated references to how well, in his view, job creation, Obama challenged his government has done with

SQUAT SESSION

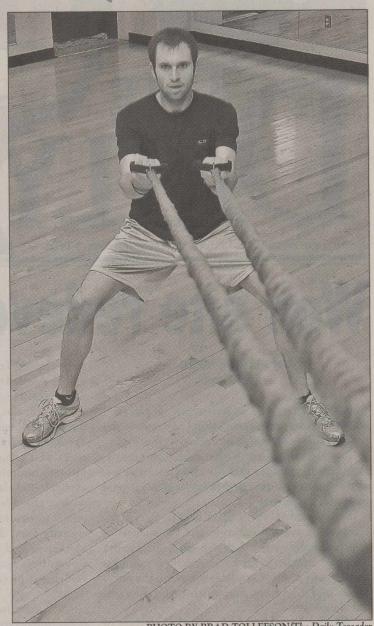


PHOTO BY BRAD TOLLEFSON/The Daily Toreador

9:00 p.m., odor of burned marijuana

1:54 a.m., criminal mischief in Mur-

12:55 p.m., theft of a purse from a

1:15 p.m., verbal altercation between

3:49 p.m., odor of burned marijuana

12:12 a.m., public intoxication in

12:32 a.m., theft of an iPhone in the

1:47 a.m., theft of a decorative rear

2:48 a.m., criminal mischief in the

3:47 a.m., criminal mischief in Wey-

Feb. 17

Feb. 16

in Weymouth Residence Hall.

vehicle in the F-3 parking lot.

in Murdough Residence Hall.

students in Stangel Residence Hall.

dough Residence Hall.

BLAINE RUCKER, A senior exercise and sport sciences major from Boerne, works out on squats during the weekly Core Pole class Tuesday in the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center.

POLICE BLOTTER

Intoxicated individual attempts to gain entry to Weymouth Residence Hall

11:32 a.m., accident with minor injuries in the 1700 block of Flint Residence Hall. Avenue.

12:53 p.m., medical call from the Education Building.

Feb. 11

8:25 a.m., accident without injuries the Z2-D parking lot. in the 3100 block of Marsha Sharp

8:47 a.m., medical call from the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

Student Union Building.

4:00 p.m., criminal trespass warn- via Facebook and e-mail.

gel/Murdough Residence Hall. 7:42 p.m., criminal mischief in

Weymouth Residence Hall. 10:35 p.m., verbal confrontation parking lot.

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in the lobby of Coleman Residence Hall.

Feb. 12

12:15 a.m., accident without injuries mouth Residence Hall. in the Z4-M parking lot.

6:20 a.m., accident without injuries in mouth Residence Hall.

7:10 a.m., criminal mischief in Murthe Z4-P parking lot.

dough Residence Hall. 9:13 a.m., criminal mischief in the in Coleman Residence Hall. Z3-B parking lot.

9:15 a.m., documentation of unwanted 3:31 p.m., theft of a backpack in the Facebook comments.

5:36 p.m., breach of computer security

8:17 p.m., damage to an unoccupied 5:45 p.m., theft of an iPod in Stan-vehicle in the C-11 parking lot.

1:17 a.m., possession of marijuana ent Residence Hall. and drug paraphernalia in the Z5-C

2:37 a.m., intoxicated individual Murdough Residence Hall. 10:55 a.m., criminal mischief to a 10:35 p.m., medical call from Clement attempts to gain access to Weymouth vehicle in the R-19 parking lot. Residence Hall.

4:59 a.m., criminal mischief in Wey-9:48 a.m., criminal mischief in Wey-

4:33 p.m., accident without injuries in

6:41 p.m., odor of burned marijuana

Feb. 14

12:04 a.m., possession of alcohol by a minor in Weymouth Residence Hall.

6:59 a.m., criminal mischief to a vehicle in the Flint Avenue Parking Garage.

8:27 a.m., criminal mischief in Wey- Knapp Residence Hall. mouth Residence Hall.

9:10 a.m., criminal mischief in Clem- library. 7:05 p.m., theft of a debit card at the view mirror cover in the Z5-C parking

Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation lot. 11:34 p.m., odor of burned marijuana Athletic Dining Hall.

in Murdough Residence Hall. Feb. 15

C-10 parking lot.

10:35 a.m., theft of a textbook in >>ralston.rollo@ttu.edu

mouth Residence Hall. 7:45 a.m., damaged property in the 4:46 a.m., criminal mischief in Chitwood Residence Hall.

Web site ← **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

The Office of Communications and Marketing is working in close collaboration with the Information Technology Division, Post said, to ensure the success of the research and the redevelopment things like Raiderlink," he said.

project as a whole. universities have much more user-friendly certain university policies. Web sites and online application pro-

cesses, especially in terms of housing applications.

Roland Zamarripa, a sophomore pre-engineering major from Austin, said navigation is the main problem with Tech's Web site.

"Sometimes, to avoid the hassle, I have to memorize the exact address of

Zamarripa said although the appear-Zach Haskin, a sophomore Spanish ance of Tech's Web site appealed to him major from Wichita Falls, said Tech's while he was applying for admission, he Web site is designed designed and other had difficulty finding degree programs and

>>> ralston.rollo@ttu.edu





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THURSDAY, FEB. 18, 2010

Italian TV chef enjoys cat stew, faces suspension

ROME (AP) — Italian state TV has suspended a cooking show host who shocked the nation by saying cat stew is a Tuscan delicacy he swears he has enjoyed

RAI TV confirmed on Wednesday that it had suspended Beppe Bigazzi, the 77-year-old host of a popular morning program that offers food tips and recipes in a country fiercely proud of its cuisine.

When his 27-year-old female co-host looked stunned as Bigazzi said he has eaten cat stew "many times," the white-haired, grandfather figure defended his tastes.

"Why, people maybe don't eat rabbit, chicken, pigeon?" Bigazzi said. He could have added horse meat, which many butchers and supermarket meat departments stock.

"Who's not fat, kills the cat," is how Bigazzi began his lighthearted prattle about cat stew.

Bigazzi claimed cat stew was a Tuscan specialty near the Arno river valley, but co-host Elisa Isoardi looked so embarrassed she ducked behind a cart of fresh salad greens whose healthy virtues the two were supposed to be chatting about.

"Cat, soaked for three days in the running water of a stream" in Tuscany "comes out with its meat white, and I assure you — I have eaten it many times — that it is a delicacy," Bigazzi continued.

His critics included Health Ministry Undersecretary Francesca Martini.

"Cats are pets protected by law," Martini noted, specifically against "cruelty, maltreatment and abandonment."

She lamented in a statement issued by the Health Ministry that Bigazzi's advocating cat stew "hurts sensibility, which is fortunately steadily growing, of citizens toward animals."

The director of the RAI channel the show runs on, Mauro Mazza, called the decision to suspend Bigazzi for an unspecified amount of time as "painful but inevitable."

Ash Wednesday Mass begins Lenten season

By HALLIE DAVIS STAFF WRITER

Facebook and candy would seem to have nothing in common with smoking and being angry, but all are things some Texas Tech students are giving up for the next 40 days.

Ash Wednesday Mass was hosted in the Student Union Building on Wednesday for a full house of students, said Greg Ramzinski of the Catholic Student Association, which hosted

Normal Mass is celebrated every Wednesday in the SUB, giving busy students the opportunity to practice their religion on campus, Ramsinski said. This was a special service marking the start of the Lenten season. The Mass is conducted like a regular Catholic Mass, with the addition of the participants receiving ashes on their foreheads from a Eucharistic minister before communion.

Ash Wednesday begins Lent. and is observed every year 40 days before Easter, which is determined by a complex method involving the equinox and full moons, Ramsinski said.

People observing Lent usually sacrifice something important to them, as well as meat on Fridays, to spend more time with God.

Ramsinski is giving up music in the car to increase his prayer life. He said many students were giving up sodas, TV and Facebook, and he thought most

Cassie Coopwood, a junior accounting and pre-nursing major from Austin, is giving up dessert and being angry. This was her first Catholic Ash Wednesday Mass, and Coopwood said she thought it was beautiful.



PHOTO BY RIANNON ROWLEY/The Daily Toreador

RENE PEREZ, A priest at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Lubbock, draws a cross with palm-leaf ashes on the forehead of Brian Prewitt, a graduate student and altar server from Lubbock, during an Ash Wednesday service in the Matador Room of the Student Union Building. Ash Wednesday is a Catholic holiday signifying the first day of Lent, the season leading up to Easter.

Although Coopwood is in the would take it seriously and follow process of converting to Catholicause I see it as personal sacrifice," before, she said.

"I'm pretty good at giving up being angry will be more of a challenge, but it's a conscious choice."

others what they are giving up.

cism, she participated in Lent said Andy Castillo, a senior architecture major from San Antonio.

Castillo, who holds the title dessert," Coopwood said, "Not of Extraordinary Minister of Holy lic Student Association, said he closer to Christ." Some, however don't share with believed most people would keep up their Lent sacrifices, although ashes on their foreheads, ready to >>hallie.davis@ttu.edu

"I choose not to tell people be- he knew it would be a struggle for undertake the next five-and-a-half

Coopwood said she planned to carry out her 40 days, and hoped others would do the same.

"It is something serious," Coop-Communion within the Catho- wood said. "It should bring you

Students left the Mass with your lifestyle."

Kelly Fitzgibbons, a CSA member and a junior nursing major from San Antonio, is giving up smoking

"I'm so ready," Fitzgibbons said, "It's a good time to revamp

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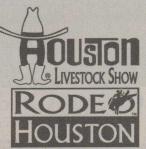
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Tuesday, March 16, 10:15 p.m. Two Tons of Steel Wednesday, March 17, 10:15 p.m.

Josh Abbott Band Thursday, March 18, 10:15 p.m. **Candy Coburn**

Friday, March 19, 10:15 p.m. **Eleven Hundred Springs** Saturday, March 20, 8:30 p.m. **Scott Wiggins Band** Sunday, March 21, 8:30 p.m. **Jamie Richards**

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March 2 - 21, 2010

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Other countries could learn from Western school system

onfucius once said, "Do something you love and you will never work a day in your life." If he had been alive today, he would have been bereaved to find that in today's fast-paced, scrambling-to-get-to-thetop rat race-like business-oriented world, this paradigm is a subject of ridicule, much less something to be ence regardless of whether you were followed.

countries, the burden to succeed placed on young minds is very great. Everything is relative. Dad says, engineering." Mom interjects, "Look back home. at Gillian, our neighbor's daughter. She's topped her class and is now preparing to go to medical school." Both parents exclaim, "And what about you, just 97 percent? What will you do with your life now?"

This situation, although alien to households. The two major special-



any good at it — were engineering In some Asian and European and medicine. Period. Fields such as arts, social sciences, commerce and 100. and the like were considered to be Bosco, he's got 99 percent and is face a staggering amount of stress at now preparing to major in electrical school and even more when they get

Their solution: suicide.

The Journal of American Indian friends after Education at Arizona State University states, "Every one hour and 46 minutes somewhere in the United States one young person takes his or and educaher life. According to (Centers for tors have the West, is prevalent in many Asian Disease Control, 1995) Suicide is a massive now the third leading cause of death influence izations you could take up after high of 15-24 year olds in the United school — where you majored in sci- States. Every year almost 5,000 young child's deli-

people aged 10-24 years old take their tunity to make breakthroughs that own lives (CDC, 1995)."

2008: an astounding 16 suicides a day were the official, reported numbers. A good deal of suicides go unreported and it is reported for every suicide, there could be suicide attempts ranging from anywhere between 20

souls to take the final plunge:

"I will come back as a ghost and harass my teacher."

"I cannot face my parents and my ciency in diverse aspects of learned

failing this exam.

Parents

cate mind. Although striving for

success and excellence, inherently, is not fallacious reasoning; im- excellent career in sales. posing your unfulfilled goals on your finally self-annihilation.

Thoreau once said, "The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation." This is utterly true when kids have no say in what they are studying or as diverse as fisheries and wildlife is fleeting. conservation to criminology.

research and development is also plentiful, giving students an oppor- >>> alan.dsouza@ttu.edu

could serve mankind better. Alumni According to another statistic in dedicated to their alma mater, busithe Times of India, dated March 17 ness tycoons interested in a particular area of research or standing for a were recorded in 2006. This figure cause, federal and state governments does not do justice to the fact these donate bountifully to ameliorate places of higher learning.

From a tender age, kids are taught to stand for what they believe in and to be independent in making decisions. Career development resources also facilitate in The suicide notes from some of fostering a perfect match between for fatuous people. The situation is those who killed themselves had an individual's skills and a profesreferring to his boss' son, "Look at compounded by the fact children clues to what drove their tortured sion or industry they would want to get into.

> Aptitude tests are commonplace and demonstrate levels of profi-

> > and natural skills, such as quantitative ability, that may come in handy in the financial industry or an extroverted personality

that may be the stepping stone to an

A student enrolled in these excelchildren may in the long-term lead to lent educational institutions would low self-esteem, dissatisfaction and not be faced with a dilemma of going along with the crowd and choosing a major that is the norm.

I believe educational systems the world over have a lot to learn and improve upon from the West, espebeing able to chart a course for their cially in the areas of aptitude testing future. That being said, the educa- and preconceived notions of success tional system in Western countries in certain careers. Like they say, strive offers an abundant supply of choices for excellence and not material sucand opportunities to advance in fields cess in whatever you pursue. Success

The number of resources for **Dsouza** is a graduate finance major from Mumbai, India.

DAILY TOREADOR

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Today's

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numbers 1 to 9 must

be in every row,

logic to define the answers.

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The Daily Toreador welcomes letters from readers.

Letters must be no longer than 300 words and must include the author's name, signature, phone number, Social Security number and a description of university affiliation. Students should include year in school, major and hometown. We reserve the right to edit letters. Anonymous letters will not be accepted for publication. All letters will be verified before they are published. Letters can be e-mailed to dailytoreador@ttu.edu or brought to 211 Student Media. have enough time to verify and edit the submission

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The Daily Toreador accepts submissions of unsolicited all columns, the authors of those selected will be notified. Guest columns should be no longer than 650 words in length and on a topic of relevance to the university community, Guest columns are also edited and follow the same guidelines for letters as far as identification

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FEBRUARY 2010

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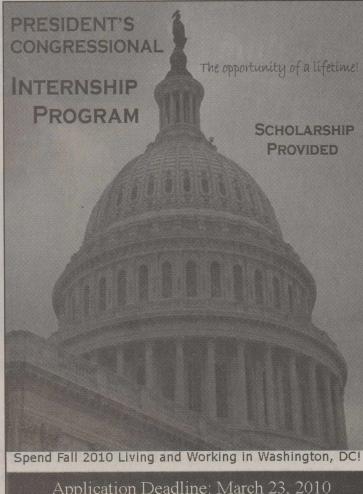
Judge deals setback to lawsuit by former WA opinion editor

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge has dealt a blow to a lawsuit Ricardo M. Urbina denied Miniter's by the former opinion editor of The request to block the Times from trans-Washington Times, who claims he was unfairly dismissed.

Richard Miniter claims Times executives pressured him to attend a hide assets. Unification Church event and harassed him when he refused to sign a fraudulent document to help a manager. His lawsuit alleges breach of contract, emotional distress and damage to his reputation.

On Tuesday, U.S. District Judge ferring assets while the case is pending. Urbina said Miniter failed to offer any evidence that the Times intended to

He said Miniter also didn't show he was likely to win the case. In particular, the judge faulted the former editor for failing to submit a copy of the contract he claims was breached.



Application Deadline: March 23, 2010

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the Texas Tech Student Government Association to become more transparent to students and provide the SGA.

News Editor Jon Vanderlaan met with SGA President Suzanne Williams and Internal Vice President or the general public. Sarah Saunders to discuss concerns regarding the openness of the governing body of Tech students.

Williams and Saunders expressed interest in learning more about laws including the Texas Open Meetings government level. Act and the Texas Public Informa-

SGA always has shown a great willingness to cooperate with The DT, and showed it yet again by agreeing to make some changes to comply with the Open Meetings Act. In a further the editorial board act of good faith to be transparent >>> dailytoreador@ttu.edu

The Daily Toreador editorial board with students and the Tech community, would like to recognize the efforts the officers are making plans to ensure made by the executive officers of future members of the governing body will be knowledgeable about the laws.

Anyone who wishes to view an agenda of the student senate's meetings easier access to those interested in now can view the document 72 hours before the meeting in the SGA office Editor-in-Chief Kevin Cullen, on the third floor of the Student Union Managing Editor Alex Ybarra and Building. The officers also agreed to set up arrangements for future Texas Public Information Act requests from The DT

We believe the steps the SGA's executive officers have promised to take not only show a dedication to being open with their constituents, but it also displays an acceptance of that cover governing bodies in Texas, responsibility well beyond the student

As a governing body that often deals with student money, we believe this The executive branch of the responsibility is of utmost importance and we are pleased the top officers in the SGA agree.

■ News Editor Jon Vanderlaan for

Organizations help improve job chances

ild parties, beautiful people and minimal adult supervision. This is why we all came to college, right?

Not exactly, although I am sure some of our classmates would agree with this. Spring is just around the corner and it is going dents. The amusement park next to the Robert H. Ewalt Student soon and students will start to put their studies on the back burner. It main objective as students.

Going to college should be and become ecstatic with a C, I am afraid you may be wasting your time. Unless you have a family business waiting for you upon productive members of society. graduation (or dropout) it will market.

are reporting record enrollments. I hope you didn't think people finally started thinking clearly and began flocking to Texas Tech. The truth is there are more and more developed while enrolled. people pursuing college degrees ingly more competitive. Keep that hiring decisions want to see. in mind when you start looking at are there are thousands more who look just like you on paper.

This is why it is important to tiate yourself from others who may be competing for the same job, internship, advanced degree, university such as Tech is the wide variety of organizations, programs and extracurricular activities students can participate in to maxi-

If we confess our sins, He {Jesus Christ) is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. - I John 1:9 - Pr. 15:2 • 2/16- Pr. 16:2 • 2/17 - Pr. 17:2 2/18 - Pr. 18:3 - 2/19 - Pr. 19:2



to be difficult for some of us to mize their collegiate experience. All stay focused on our tasks as stu- of us should be involved with at least one of these, if not more.

Greek life at Tech has a strong Recreation Center will be opening | following, which is good for all those involved. I know some fraternities and sororities that are very active in is important we do not forget our the community and do great work in representing Tech with honor.

As for the underclassmen whose about so much more than merely biggest dream is to become a member passing classes. If you are someone of that special fraternity or sorority who takes the minimal number of don't limit yourself to acceptance of hours, only attend class for tests just one group. There are many other organizations that might not be as large as the fraternities or sororities but are just as honorable in being

We all should strive to seize every probably be extremely difficult opportunity we are given as students for you to succeed in today's job of Tech. Employers want to see we are capable of more than studying a Many universities nationwide book and taking a test. Unless you want to become a teacher, odds are you will not use the majority of the things you learn while in college. What you do use are the skills you

Being able to provide proof you are every year. The job markets in capable of thought outside the classevery field are becoming increas- room is what the people who make the

The tough part is getting the your resume or transcript. Odds interview to show them your intellectual capacity. If the only thing on your resume is you attended college for five years and were an active do what is necessary to differen- member of Greek life while maintaining the required 2.5 GPA, what have you really accomplished?

It is never too early to get inetc. The great thing about a large volved with an organization or activity that may set you apart from your peers. Grades are very important but so are communication skills. These can be enhanced greatly by active participation in any of the numerous opportunities Tech has

> **■** Ellington is a junior business major from Midland.

>>> travis.ellington@ttu.edu



THE 7-DAY WEEKEND..

... because Olympic hockey games won't be playing all weekend

TODAY

Riverdance • Celebrate the one month until St. Patrick's Day by channeling your inner Irish and checking out Riverdance. You have mocked it, but you're secretly dying to see the real thing. It's the Farewell tour, so this is your last chance to see the show you meant to see in 2000.

WHEN: 7:30 p.m. WHERE: City Bank Auditorium COST: \$25 to \$45

FRIDAY Red Raider Classic Baseball Tournament • Get your heckling skills ready as Texas Tech's baseball season begins. They are hoping to surprise Big 12 coaches and prove their last-place ranking wrong. Tommy Tuberville will make his first public

appearance on a Tech

athletic field when the

throws out the first pitch.

WHEN: All day WHERE: Dan Law Field COST: Free with student ID

SATURDAY Sibling Weekend 2010 • She stole your Barbie

and he tore its head off, but you've come to forgive your little sister and brother. Enjoy having a little bit of home with you this weekend as Tech plans for some sibling and school bonding. You'll get to take your siblings to the men's basketball game against Texas on Saturday.

WHEN: Starts 3 p.m. Fri-

WHERE: Various Loca-

COST: \$45 per participant

SUNDAY Texas Tech Women's Basketball vs. Kansas

• Think pink, cheer for red and black. Put on your best pink top, and put off your homework for a few more hours. Support breast cancer awareness and the Lady Raiders as they take on Kansas in another conference matchup.

WHEN: 5 p.m. WHERE: United Spirit Arena COST: Free with student ID

MONDAY Bouldering at the Rock Wall

•Some boots were made for walking; others reach greater heights. Put your climbing shoes on and belay your way into Body and Soul Week on 53 feet of one of the best rock walls in Texas. You can even take home a free T-shirt souvenir to remember your conquest. Just don't look down. WHEN: Noon

WHERE: Rock wall at the Robert H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center COST: Free

TUESDAY Magnetic Street Signs

You've been eyeing that street sign between 68th and 70th for some time now. So, if you missed the poster sale or your walls are still bare, come by and make your own street sign. There's not even a risk of being caught by the police.

WHEN: 11 a.m. WHERE: Student Union Building West Basement COST: Free

WEDNESDAY Ice Skating

• Were you inspired by the figure skating pairs? Is your idol Apolo Ohno? Do you want to try your hand at skating but absolutely hate the cold? TAB is bringing ice skating to the SUB with an artificial rink, and you don't event need to bring skates.

WHEN: 3 p.m. WHERE: Student Union Red Raider Ballroom COST: Free

West Hollywood moves to ban dog, cat sales

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP) — The vote to ban the sale of dogs and cats in this famously liberal enclave will likely have more bark than bite, since no pet stores in the city currently sell animals.

But officials hope that Tuesday's unanimous city council vote will be seen beyond West Hollywood as a symbolic stand against puppy mills and kitten factories.

"You have to start somewhere," said Michael Haibach, deputy to Councilman Jeffrey Prang, who sponsored the legislation. "The more people who jump on the bandwagon the better."

This famously quirky city has a reputation as a trailblazer in animal welfare rights.

It became the first city in the country to prohibit cat declawing in 2003, a measure that has since spread to dozens of other cities, including Los Angeles. Another West Hollywood ordinance officially terms pets as "companion animals" and gives their "guardians" a local tax deduction for pet adoption fees.

Since the pet sales ordinance was introduced earlier this month, the city has received dozens of inquiries from other municipalities across the country interested in replicating it, Haibach said. Some information requests came from Europe, he said.

Pet shops would only be permitted to offer animals from shelters for sale once West Hollywood's ordinance goes into effect in September. South Lake Tahoe adopted a similar ban

Alcohol ←

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Somehow it protects your heart against heart disease," Syapin said. "We aren't sure why that is, but it seems like at those lower levels of alcohol, it increases the defense mechanisms in your heart. Those lower levels of consumption can be beneficial, but if you start going higher to what an alcoholic drinks, it. can be bad."

When alcohol reaches the brain, an antidiuretic hormone is affected, causing the kidneys to produce more urine. This hormone makes the kidneys retain water and the alcohol blocks the release of this from the brain causing a person to urinate more, he said.

"You drink and you pee more, in addition to the fact that you're drinking a fluid, there's an additional component," Syapin said.

The liver serves as a filter system for blood in the body, Stewart said. It also manufactures bile and keeps blood sugar levels constant. Drinking regularly can cause a fatty liver, but the condition can go away if the person stops drinking, Syapin said.

"It takes a while for alcohol to pass through the blood and prolonged drinking can cause cirrhosis of the liver and it doesn't let it function as it is supposed to and can cause long-term medical problems," Stewart said.

Everyone's alcohol tolerance differs, causing the effects on people to be different, he said.

"Some people get drunk off of one beer and some can drink a six-pack and not be drunk," Stewart said. "It all depends on their body build up."

» alexandra.pedrini@ttu.edu

Tablets, smartbooks aim to fill PC-phone gap

this year for the motorcycles of the phone heritage. gadget world: devices that are big-

to do so even before Apple's an- hours between charging. nouncement in January.

hundred dollars.

the world's largest cell phone trade broadband service for the iPad.) show. At first glance, HP's Compaq

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) devices and gives away for free. Rather and Telefonica have not announced — If you've got a car and a bicycle, than using a computer processor their prices yet.) do you need a motorcycle too? from Intel Corp. or Advanced Micro you do. They're making a big push from Qualcomm Inc. that has cell

category is Apple Inc.'s iPad, which when it's in standby mode with the lid year. comes out next month. But many closed. Because the Qualcomm chip other manufacturers are crowding uses a lot less power than a PC chip, into the niche, and were planning HP says the AirLife can be used for 12

Some of them are making key- another way: Wireless carriers will sell board-less "tablet" computers in the them. Spain's Telefonica will sell the vein of the iPad. Others are making AirLife in Europe and Latin America small laptop-like things known as sometime this spring. There are no "smartbooks" that will sell for a few plans for a U.S. launch, but HP competitor Lenovo Group has revealed celona at Mobile World Congress, U.S. (AT&T will also provide wireless cale spokesman Steve Sperle.

Rather than using Microsoft usually come with a monthly service that they'll be sold by wireless carriers, Corp.'s Windows software, the fee, in exchange for which carriers will said spokesman Shawn Adamek. smartbook runs Android, which subsidize the purchase prices, perhaps Google Inc. created for mobile in the \$200 to \$400 range. (AT&T

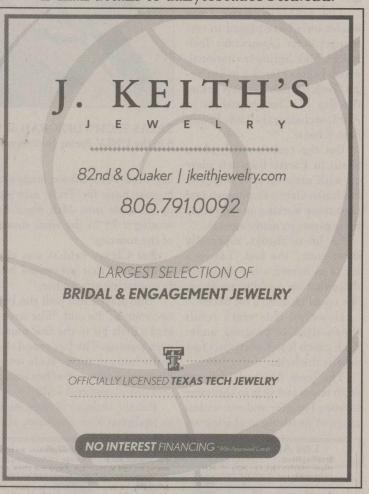
Dell Inc. is using the same tech-Wireless carriers are betting that Devices Inc., the AirLife uses a chip nology — Android software running on a Qualcomm chip — for a tablet computer with a touch screen that is The AirLife works somewhat like 5 inches on the diagonal. An iPhone ger than a phone but smaller than a cell phone as well: It's ready to use screen is 3.5 inches, so the Mini 5 is as soon as you flip the lid open. Like reminiscent of a big iPhone. It's set The most famous entrant in the a phone, it receives your e-mail even to be released in the U.S. later this

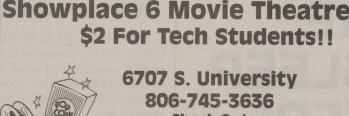
Freescale Semiconductor Inc. was at the show to demonstrate the types of "in-between" devices that can be made using its chips, including a pro-Smartbooks are like cell phones in totype tablet that slides into a docking station with a keyboard. It also showed the "Qooq," a French tablet designed to show recipes in the kitchen, for things like "les cupcakes."

'There's definitely a space between handsets and laptops, and I think it's Hewlett-Packard Co. showed a very similar device, the Skylight, great for us that Apple has validated its first smartbook this week in Bar- which AT&T Inc. will carry in the that space, as well as HP," said Frees-

Chip maker Nvidia Corp. brought The carriers will sell smartbooks six tablets and two smartbooks run-AirLife 100 looks just like a net- because the devices have built-in ning its chips. They're made by book — a small laptop — but the modems for Internet access on cel- Asian manufacturers that are largely inner workings are quite different. lular networks. That means they'll unknown to the public, and the idea is

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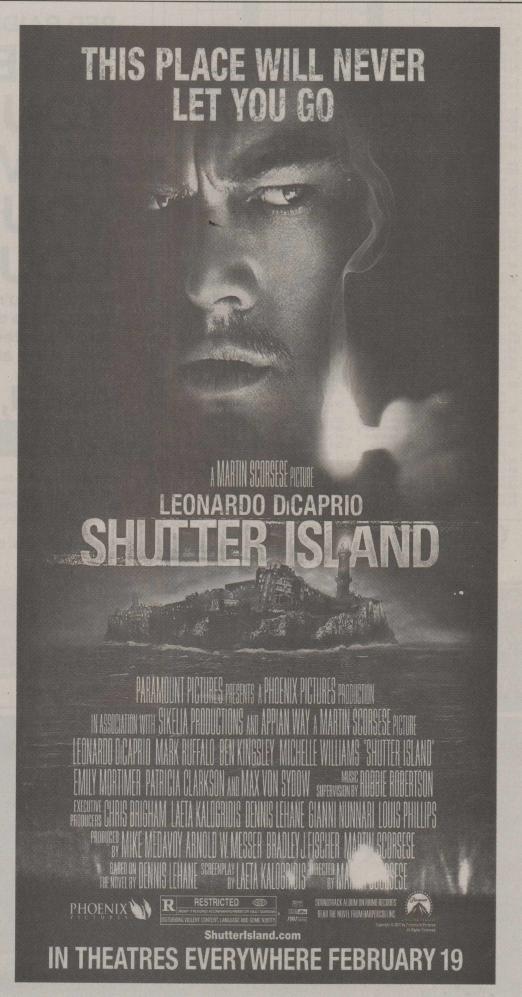
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Tech women's golf utilizing time off

By JOSE RODRIGUEZ STAFF WRITER

Two-and-a-half weeks separate the Texas Tech women's golf team and its next opportunity

So the team isn't wasting any time on the golf course, considering the players had limited practice time before the recent Lady Puerto Rico Classic in Puerto Rico, where Tech finished ninth.

Tech assistant coach John Cleary said the team will get some more repetitions in coming weeks prior to next month's tournament.

"We played well for our first tournament without a whole lot of practice," he said. "It was good to get off to a pretty decent start. We're going to get some good practice in these next couple of weeks. The weather looks good, we're getting on the course a

The problem is the Lady Raider only have played in one tourney so far. Up next for Tech is the UNLV Spring Invitational, which begins March 8 in Las Vegas. Tech has five tourneys before the Big 12 Championships in April, including the Lady Puerto Rico Classic.

But the team's ninth-place finish in Puerto Rico left players with some areas to improve. Freshman Gabby Dominguez said biggest push for Tech, moving earning a spot in the top half. players are working on improving up 15 spots into 24th place by their games in many aspects.

"A lot of things, especially of the tourney. short game," she said. "I know a there that we could've made up. from placing any higher. We could've done a lot better.'

shows signs of progress under Tech coach JoJo Robertson's first with putting. The last round she year at the helm.

of 16 teams last year in this same and just played real solid." tourney last year and was within range of finishing in the top six as freshman Kim Kaufman, also



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH'S DEBORAH de Villa and the Lady Raiders do not participate in a tournament until March 8 in the UNLV Spring Invitational in Las Vegas.

last week. Alex Gibson made the realize how close they were to scoring a 73 in the final round

lot of us missed a few shots out short game that prevented her

'She played real well the last However, this 'year's result two rounds," he said. "She struggled a little bit in the first round really hung in there, made some The team finished 15th out birdies near the end of her round

But the younger players, such

"It was definitely an improvement from last year," Kaufman said. "One shot away But Cleary said it was the from sixth which is pretty

heart-breaking. I think we're off to a decent start."

Robertson was not in Lubbock Wednesday and was not available to comment. » jose.l.rodriguez@ttu.edu

REMAINING SCHED

3/8 - 3/10 **UNLV Spring Invitational** 3/15 - 3/17 **B-12 North Invitational** 3/26 - 3/27 Mountain View Invitational 4/12 - 4/13 **Baylor Invitational**

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

22 "In the netherworld 24 Think the world of 25 Pocket protector contents 26 Clinton was one 27 Ginormous 29 Lets out, maybe 30 Some defensive linemen

31 Storm part
32 Eggs, to Agrippa
33 Lions, on a
scoreboard
34 "Use bank
"protection"
36 Hist. majors'
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degrees 39 Allotment word 40 Coll. dorm overseers
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53 *Place where a driver may be required to stop
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56 Bat head?
57 Wrap up

56 Bat Read / 57 Wrap up 59 Savings plan for later yrs. 60 Larger-life link 61 Do over 62 Indian bread 63 Part of CBS: Abbr. 64 Hi- graphics

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A N E A T R A Z R 1 Cookout site 2 Responded to, as a stoolie's tip 3 *Climber's support
4 Concurs
5 Songwriter
Jacques
6 Incite to pounce (on) 7 Bun-making site 7 Bun-making site 8 Tugs' burdens 9 Shore flier 10 Delayed 11 Large wardrobe 12 Star of "I'm No Angel" (1933) 15 Builder of tiny cities

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41 Indian garb
42 Bettor's concern,
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SPORTS SHORTS

Top seed ousted in 1st round for second time

MARANA, Ariz. (AP) — Without even showing up, Tiger Woods' prints were all over the Match Play Championship.

Word that Woods was going to speak publicly for the first time Friday dominated the conversation Wednesday, even as 32 matches were being played across the high desert on Dove Mountain.

The day ended with Ross McGowan — who only got into the 64-man field because Woods isn't the top four seeds to lose.

playing — becoming only the second player in the 12-year history of the event to knock out the No. 1 seed in the opening round.

McGowan rolled in a 30-foot par putt on the 19th hole to beat Steve Stricker, who was coming off a victory at Riviera and was the top seed in Woods' absence.

Stricker, the top seed by default because of Woods' indefinite break from golf, was the only player among

Rodriguez, Astros go to arbitration hearing

— Pitcher Wandy Rodriguez has gone to a salary arbitration hearing against the Houston Astros, asking to be paid \$7 million this year instead of the team's \$5 million offer.

The 31-year-old left-hander was 14-12 last season with a 3.02 ERA, ninth in the NL among qualifiers. He struck out a career high 193, also ninth, and made \$2.65 million. His 192 hits allowed also were a career high and 21 homers allowed were one shy of his worst.

Arbitrators Richard Bloch, Elizabeth Neumeier and Fredric Horowitz were expected to issue a decision

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) Thursday, a day after hearing the

Players and owners have split four cases decided thus far, with Milwaukee outfielder Corey Hart (\$4.8 million) and Florida outfielder Cody Ross (\$4.45 million) winning, and Tampa Bay outfielder B.J. Upton (\$3 million) and Washington reliever Brian Bruney (\$1.5 million) losing.

Four more players are scheduled for hearings this week: Los Angeles Angels shortstop Erick Aybar and catcher Jeff Mathis; Washington left-hander Sean Burnett; and Chicago Cubs shortstop Ryan Theriot.

Houston women's basketball coach out of hospital

women's basketball coach Joe Curl has been released from a Dallas hospital four days after he was admitted with chest pains.

A school spokesman says the 55-year-old coach was on his way back to Houston on Wednesday, but there was no timetable for his return

DALLAS (AP) — Houston to the bench. Curl missed the 2007-08 season because of a heart attack.

> Assistant coach Wade Scott replaced Curl in Houston's 73-67 victory against SMU on Sunday. Houston plays at Southern Mississippi on Thursday night.

> Curl is in his 12th season as Houston's head coach.

Stephen Jones: Cowboys don't plan to spend wildly

ARLINGTON (AP) — Dallas Cowboys vice president Stephen up in those deals, Jones says the Jones says the team doesn't plan to spend wildly on free agents if the NFL has no salary cap in 2010.

Jones said Wednesday the Cowboys agreed to expensive, longterm deals with the likes of Tony Romo and linebacker DeMarcus Ware to keep them off the market in a year when teams might have no limit on spending.

Because of the money tied Cowboys aren't interested in a spending spree. He also said they don't see a need for major changes after their first playoff win in 13

The NFL will play without a salary cap next season unless a new labor deal is reached. The current collective bargaining agreement expires in March 2011.

NASCAR'S TV partners offer more positive coverage

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DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) - NASCAR wanted more positive coverage from its television partners, and Fox Sports seemingly delivered with its best cheerleading effort in years during the Daytona 500.

Announcers Mike Joy, Larry McReynolds and Darrell Waltrip gushed Sunday about all the ontrack changes NASCAR made during the offseason and raved about nearly every aspect of the opener. Even that pesky pothole — the one that delayed the race twice for more than two hours and sent fans scurrying to the exits — couldn't get the Fox guys to say anything negative.

"I don't think a soul has left," Waltrip said after the first

The stands, parking lot and traffic on Speedway Boulevard said otherwise.

"You've got to give a thumbs up to everyone involved," McReynolds said after the sec-

The coverage probably got a thumbs up from NASCAR, which says it met with its TV partners during the offseason and expressed concerns that announcers and analysts at Fox and ESPN/ABC had become too critical.

Several drivers and team owners echoed NASCAR's message, and TV coverage quickly became one of NASCAR's hottest topics leading up to the Daytona 500.

Tech men's golf taking hot start in stride Griner lifts Baylor

By ADAM COLEMAN SPORTS EDITOR

After two tournaments to begin the spring season, coach Greg Sands knows his team has yet to reach its potential.

But any way he analyzes it, the Texas Tech men's golf team still is winning.

"It's hard to explain," said Sands, whose squad is coming off a second consecutive win at the UTSA Invitational Tuesday. "It's like when you're running a race against some really good runners, you may finish third or fourth and run your best race. Then you may line up against some other guys, thinking I don't have to really run my best race to win.

"I didn't think we were quite as sharp as I've seen but then again, we had some pretty big things happen like Tyler (Weworski) shooting a 66 and guys stepping up and rising to the occasion."

ry about now that the first big break of the spring season has arrived.

> After the first two tourneys of the

spring, Tech is in a good spot the Red Raiders have a seventhplace finish in the Mauna Lani Invitational and a first-place finish in the UTSA Invitational, which ended Tuesday.

Tech escaped the UTSA Invitational with the win, edging out Southeastern Louisiana State by

Additionally, Tech sits at No. 11 in the nation, according to the golfweek.com rankings.

But just when Tech starts to get rolling, the Red Raiders have to wait until March to get back out on a course.

The Southern Highlands Invi-The Red Raiders do not have tational starts March 12 and ends one in Las Vegas, but Tech opted

Tech 22 days to practice, among other things.

have given some inexperienced up on academics. Players were off guys a platform

to perform, most notably Weworski.

The sophomore, who had never played in a -tourney before this spring, shot a 79 at the Mauna Lani Invitational in Hawaii, but notched a career-best 1-under 70

in the UTSA Invitational. Sands said the Red Raiders were going to compete in a tournament in Austin before the

March 14 in Las Vegas, giving to skip it with a sudden course

Sands said the weeks off also The first two tourneys also will be used for golfers to catch

> Wednesday, but will be

> back on the

course Thurs-

The po-

tential of the

team could

be revealed

when the

next tour-

ney comes

around,

"The re-

ality is, it

doesn't mat-

ter how you

prepare," he

said. "There's

Sands said.

day.

There's some things that you may not feel like you've got you're A-game and you've got find a way

> **GREG SANDS** GOLF COACH

TEXAS TECH

to win.

over Lady Raiders



PHOTO BY DANIEL CERNERO/The Larian

GUARD CHAYNNA BROWN goes up for a shot against Baylor during

the Lady Raiders' 65-48 loss Wednesday in Waco.

like you've got you're A-game and you've got to find a way to win.' WACO (AP) — Brittney Griner >>> adam.coleman@ttu.edu

Ashley Field added 13 points

Ashlee Roberson scored 12 points

and 10 rebounds for Baylor (18-7,

and grabbed 10 rebounds for Texas

Tech (15-10, 3-8). Jordan Barncastle

had 11 points and Chynna Brown

With the game tied at 8, Baylor

went on a 21-4 run to take a 29-12

lead with 6:37 left. Griner went to

the bench with two fouls midway

through the run and didn't play the

After Texas Tech picked up its

11th foul of the first half, coach

remainder of the half.

5-6 Big 12).

Accused coach shooter's mom says son had delusions

ALLISON, Iowa (AP) — The shooting. mother of a former football player accused of fatally shooting his high school coach testified Wednesday that her son suffered from severe bouts of depression and occasionally violent episodes.

Joan Becker said her son, Mark Becker, was hospitalized for mental issues three times before he was accused of gunning down Aplington-Parkersburg coach Ed Thomas in

The first episode, in September 2008, began when Mark Becker began calling her "horrible, horrible names" and threatened to kill himself, she said.

"There was lots of swearing, which he did not ever do in front of me," Ioan Becker said. "It went on for hours and hours. He kept asking, can't you see, can't you see?

"He thought he was being turned into our coon dog, Chief. Just extreme, bizarre behavior."

Becker, 24, is charged with first-degree murder in the death of Thomas and has pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity. His attorneys have said that they will try to show he is a paranoid schizophrenic who had not taken his prescribed

Assistant Iowa Attorney General Andy Prosser asked Joan Becker whether her son's apparent delusions ever focused on Thomas. Joan Becker said that during the first episode, Mark Becker tore down a poster of Thomas in his brother's room. Later, she said during an episode that Mark Becker claimed Thomas was in his room and trying to sexually assault him. There has been no suggestion that any of what Mark Becker said during the episodes his mother described on Wednesday ever took place.

"He said 'Coach Thomas is behind me, get him off me, he's raping me," Joan Becker said. "He would refer to it during episodes, (saying) 'Get them off me, get them

The Thomas and Becker families attend the same church. Joan Becker said after high school, Mark Becker only interacted with Thomas "in passing" at church.

The most recent time Becker was hospitalized came after he threatened a Cedar Falls man and damaged his garage, then led police

on a high-speed chase on June 20. Joan Becker said she wasn't able

when her son was released from the Waterloo hospital the night before the June 24 shooting.

Defense attorneys on Wednesday showed a videotape of Mark Becker in a Butler County sheriff's office interrogation room after the June 20 chase. Becker is shown in the video sitting for more than an hour and only speaking for a few

"What did you do to me, God?" Becker said on the video.

Without specifying who he was talking about, Becker said "He's forcing me to be evil and I'm not. I work for God, I don't work for

Some of the comments Becker made to Butler County Sheriff Jason Johnson in the video were similar to those he made after the shooting four days later, when he told police he shot Thomas "for you cops."

"I want to work with you," Becker said to Johnson in the video. "Everyone's hypnotized right now. None of it's real."

Johnson responded: "This part's

In a controlled voice, Joan Becker described her son's descent from an outgoing child to a severely medication the night before the to reach a mental health counselor depressed and withdrawn college

student who didn't recognize his parents during his episodes. While testifying about his change in personality, she looked at her son and gave a tight smile that lasted several

some things that you may not feel

She said her son suffered a second episode in November 2008, when he was arrested after a fight. Joan Becker said she picked him up from jail and was driving him home when he began to shout at her, grabbed for the steering wheel and broke her cell phone in half. She forced him to get out of the car.

"He showed up at the house, apologizing, crying, saying 'It wasn't me, it wasn't me, Mom," Joan Becker said. "He explained to us that in these episodes, he would be up in the air and he would look down at his body and have no control over it.'

Dr. Mark Lassise, a Mason City psychiatrist who treated Becker in September 2008 and November 2008, said Becker experienced intense hallucinations that seemed to worsen between episodes.

"Mark felt he was receiving telepathic messages," Lassise said. "He was mad at his parents, I think he felt like he was receiving messages from them."

Kristy Curry was whistled for a technical foul while walking away scored 19 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to help No. 18 Baylor beat after talking to an official. Field then Texas Tech 65-48 on Wednesday hit four consecutive free throws for a 33-14 Baylor lead.

> Griner didn't play the final 8:15 of the first half after picking up her second foul. Without her, Baylor outscored Texas Tech 18-11 the rest of the period. With 7:30 remaining, Baylor had 21 rebounds to Texas Tech's five, and the Red Raiders were shooting 16 percent from the field. Texas Tech finished the game shooting 32 percent and made just 9 of its 18 free throws.

Griner, who is second in the country in blocked shots with 6.2 a game, had just one. She blocked a layup attempt by Barncastle with 16:22 left in the game.

Shani Davis wins gold in speedskating

RICHMOND, British Columbia (AP) — This time all that mattered was the color of the medal, not the color of his skin.

With a furious kick on the final lap Wednesday, Shani Davis stuck his skate across the line and won his second straight gold medal in 1,000-meter Olympic speedskating.

Four years ago at Turin, he became the first African-American athlete to Games. This time, he simply wanted to be known for his skating. Period.

"It's always nice to go out there

and do it again," Davis said.

The Americans broke their medal drought at the Richmond Olympic Oval with a flourish, claiming not just one but two spots on the podium. Chad Hedrick, the Spring, Texas resident who won three medals at the 2006 games, claimed a surprising

Davis swung both arms twice on the final backstretch, knowing he win an individual gold at the Winter needed a little more speed to catch South Korea's Mo Tae-bum. The American found just enough, posting a time of 1 minute, 8.94 seconds.

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LEARN TO FLY

SPORTS

Tech softball enjoys success with long ball early in season

By TOMMY MAGELSSEN STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech softball coach Shanon Hays likes to say hitting is conta-

Hays' team proved him right when they hit a record-tying five home runs in a single game.

"Once you get momentum hitting," he said, "it seems like kids their adrenaline gets up and they do a better job looking for good pitches, and relaxing, and settling down and swinging the bat — not pressing. All we do is, we just want to hit it hard."

Tech softball hit five home runs in a 9-1 win against Southern Utah on Friday in the Arizona State University Kajikawa Classic.

The Red Raiders went 4-1 in the season-opening series, and part of their success has been because of the long ball.

In four wins, the Red Raiders have eight home runs and zero in their

Sophomore Emily Bledsoe, who hit her first two home runs of the season against Southern Utah, said fundamental hitting is the reason for all the early season four-baggers.

"If you go up looking for a home run, more than likely you're going players are producing. to be under the ball or something bad is going to happen," she said. almost all the "So you're just looking for solid way through

Bledsoe said she did not antici- have girls who pate all of the home runs, but when can hit the long they kept coming, everyone wanted ball," she said. to join the rally.

Four different Red Raiders hit think base hit home runs last weekend, with per- and think gaphaps the biggest one coming from pers and let the sophomore Raven Richardson.

Richardson hit a three-run blast pen. against Oregon in the top of the seventh to give the Red Raiders the way through our lead, and the win.

Tech assistant coach Kristie Fox great athletes d one of the things she empha- who have a lot of po sized last weekend was jumping on this year we'll have a lot of girls hitting sons? Act like winners.



FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreadon

"Try to act like it happens ev-

act like that, teams then think

drea — just to expect greatness."

Tech leads the Big 12 Conference

Although the season is still young,

Tech players probably should

"There's just a lot of excitement,"

TEXAS TECH'S HOLLEY Gentsch and the Red Raiders have eight home runs so far this season. Tech had 13 last season, the fewest in the Big 12 conference.

them early and not letting up and it's the ball over the fence." a lot easier to do that when multiple

ground, helping Arizona win two national There's just a lot of our lineup we excitement. Everyone is just so "I want them to pumped up and ready to go.

"But all the

lineup we have

home runs hap-

INFIELDER TEXAS TECH

MIKEY KENNEY

championships that you expect it. And that's one

in her four years of the things that I learned from playing collegiate (Arizona head coach) Mire Cansoftball. Although Fox now wants

Fox comes from a good softball back- eryday," Fox said. "And when you

to make a name in home runs, and freshman Mikey for herself in Kenney is tied for the conference coaching, she does try to teach herplayers things feel confident right now — the Red she learned dur- Raiders accounted for 13 home runs ing her time at all of last season. one of the most successful soft- Kenney said. "Everyone is just so ball programs in pumped up and ready to go. They just

can't wait to get up to the plate and

>>> tommy.magelssen@ttu.edu

lead with three.

Tuberville to throw first pitch

If fans haven't had the chance to meet new Texas Tech coach Raider Club Tommy Tuberville, they'll have also has set up that opportunity when Tech base- luncheons with ball begins its season.

Tech athletics officially an- featured guest nounced Tuberville will throw for early March the first pitch prior to when the in Lubbock and Red Raiders take on Jacksonville Midland. State at 4 p.m. Friday at Dan Law

14th head coach when he signs sociation and the Red Raider Club autographs on the concourse beginning at 3 p.m.

According to a news release, fans are asked to bring one item per person. Fans can bring cameras for the Red Raider Club are cophoto opportunities as well.

Tuberville has been busy since his hire in January. The coach just and Centennial Plaza. brought in Tech's 2010 recruiting class earlier this month and has met with fans and supporters in Houston and Dallas this month

The Red Tuberville as a

The Lub-

bock Chamber Fans can meet Tech football's of Commerce, Tech Alumni Aswill host The Lubbock Community Welcome Event on March 2 in the Lubbock Civic Center.

> The Alumni Association and hosting the luncheon in Midland on March 9 at the Midland Center

> Tuberville will have his first chance with the team on the field when spring training begins March 22.

Tiger to talk after silence Friday

MARANA, Ariz. (AP) — Tiger a "small group of friends, colleagues and Woods will end nearly three months of close associates," who will listen to Woods silence Friday when he speaks publicly for apologize as he talks about the past and the first time since his middle-of-the-night what he plans to do next. He said three car accident sparked stunning revelations wire services have been invited — The

However, his agent said Woods will not take any questions from a small group sociation of America to recommend pool of media.

"This is not a press conference," Mark Steinberg said Wednesday.

It will be Woods' first public appearance since Nov. 27, when he crashed his SUV into a tree outside his Florida home. Woods' only comments since then have been made through his Web site.

"It will be good to see Tiger's face again, and see that he's actually out there somewhere," Stewart Cink said. "I think this is the beginning of the comeback process for him.'

from the clubhouse at the TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., home of the PGA Tour.

berg said. "He's looking forward to it."

appearance, typical of Woods' career.

Associated Press, Reuters and Bloomberg - and he asked the Golf Writers As-

Only one camera will be in the room to provide live coverage via satellite. Steinberg said other writers with proper credentials could watch from a hotel ballroom more than a mile away.

"The first time out, he's better controlling it," Padraig Harrington said. "Over time, there will be questions. At the moment, the best thing is a more controlled environment and gradually ease his way

Steinberg said in an e-mail an-Woods is to speak at 11 a.m. Friday nouncing the public appearance, "While Tiger feels that what happened is fundamentally a matter between he and his wife, he also recognizes that "This is all about the next step," Stein- he has hurt and let down a lot of other people who were close to him. He also Still, there was strict control over the let down his fans. He wants to begin the process of making amends and Steinberg described the gathering as that's what he's going to discuss."

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Vonn, Mancuso go 1-2 for US in Olympic downhill

WHISTLER, British Columbia (AP)

when she won the Olympic downhill by the six downhills this season, she was an back. more than half a second Wednesday, with overwhelming favorite. childhood rival and American teammate Julia Mancuso taking a surprise silver on her," said Vonn's husband and chief ished eighth. Andrea Fischbacher of medal.

and hoped for," Vonn said, her voice choked with emotion. "I gave up everything for this."



— If this is how Lindsey Vonn skis with pre-Olympic training in Austria and had a bruised shin, then the rest of the field hardly skied over the past two weeks. Still,

adviser, a former U.S. skier who also "This is everything I've wanted serves as a personal coach. "People were basically hanging the medal around her Britt Janyk of Canada sixth. neck before the start. That's incredibly hard to deal with."

> embraced in a hug that lasted for 30 seconds when they reunited at the finish.

ever seen," Thomas Vonn said.

In a race characterized by several standout Anja Paerson — Vonn's sped and the first time in 26 years.

Vonn hurt her right shin Feb. 2 during down Franz's Downhill in 1 minute, 44.19

Mancuso finished 0.56 seconds as the two-time defending overall World behind, and Elisabeth Goergl of Austria Vonn showed no signs of discomfort Cup champion and the winner of five of took the bronze medal, 1.46 seconds

Maria Riesch of Germany, Vonn's "She had the weight of the world best friend and usual rival of late, fin-Austria placed fourth, Fabienne Suter of Switzerland fifth and Whistler local

The comfortable margin was in sharp contrast to the men's downhill Thomas Vonn was up at the top of the Monday, when only 0.09 seconds hill before his wife's run, and the Vonns separated the winner, Didier Defago of Switzerland, from the bronze medalist, Bode Miller. That was the tiniest margin "It was one of the most clutch runs I've between first and third place in Olympic men's downhill history.

It's the third time Americans have crashes — including one to Swedish finished 1-2 in an Olympic Alpine race,



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