

Crime near campus continues to be prevalent

Establishment of task force still ongoing

By CAITLAN OSBORN News Editor

Bar fights in Lubbock are not uncommon, but some feel local police could do more to prevent assaults that happen to Texas Tech students near campus.

The parents of one such student are requesting information, and offering a \$500 reward for the arrest and conviction, in regards to an assault on their son and his friend outside of a bar, Rocky LaRues, at 1 a.m. March 3.

"My son — at around 1 o'clock him and a buddy were walking south toward campus and two guys started mouthing off and wouldn't stop, and just kept bugging them," said Mitch*, who requested his family's name not be revealed. "My son turned around and saw his friend on the ground and two guys were beating him up, kicking him in the face to where two of his front teeth had been partially knocked out."

One of the victims, Adam*, said he went to help his friend when four

more people ran out of the bar and beat him to the ground, knocking him unconscious — resulting in eight stiches

According to the Lubbock Police Department's report on the case, the suspects threw one of the victims into a nearby window before running away.

Adam said the owners of Rocky LaRues could not provide a description of the attackers, but he remembers they were driving a blue Mustang and they did not leave the scene in the vehicle.

"See, that's the thing," he said. "That's what we're most upset about. No one knows anything, no one saw anything; none of the bars want any liability."

Adam said if there were security cameras or security officers moderating places like Broadway Avenue, he knows the people who attacked him would have been caught.

"I'm sure this stuff happens quite a bit," he said. "I'm not sure of this magnitude, but I've seen plenty of fights that happen at bars around Lubbock and nothing happens. They could have caught these guys."

However, Mitch said he believes it is the police officers who need to

be responsible as well — not just the to miss work, miss school; and I have a bar owners.

"I've talked to a lot of people at Tech, including Kent Hance and some other people," the student's father said. "One of the things I haven't been that happy with is — I read a lot of articles, information about Tech here and there — I was surprised there was no police presence over there because apparently that night there was a lot of activity. I talked to one of the bar owners and there was like 15 people that were thrown out that night.

"But the fact of the matter is, he was assaulted, he had stiches, he had

real issue with, when you've got three guys kicking someone's head in and knocking someone's teeth out, that I believe this band of thugs — whatever you want to call them — have probably done this kind of thing before."

Col. Kenny Evans, chief of police for the Texas Tech Police Department, said any accidents that occur to students off-campus does not fall under university jurisdiction, though the officers do their best to combat crimes occurring to Tech students.

CRIME continued on Page 3

Tornadoes devastate Dallas/Fort Worth, surrounding areas

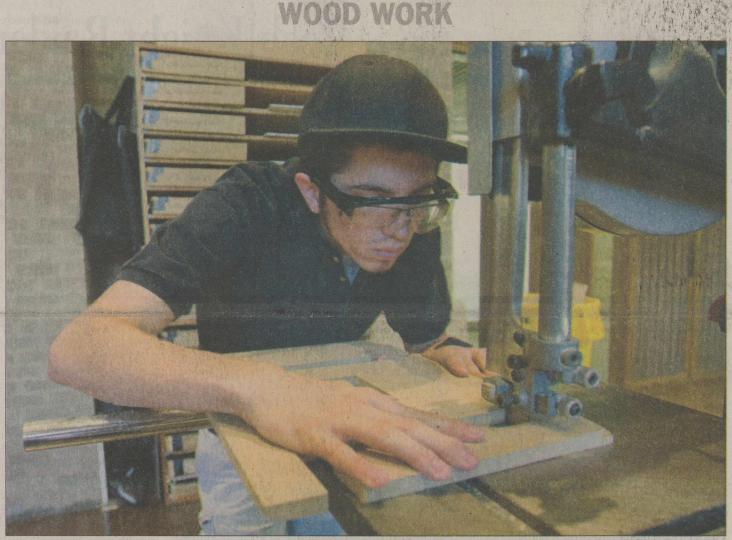
At least 12 tornadoes reported, speeds between 100-150 mph, cause damage

By CAROLYN HECK Staff Writer

Tornadoes touched down in Dallas and the surrounding areas Tuesday, wreaking havoc and causing damage across the Metroplex.

Todd Lindley, a meteorologist for the Lubbock National southeast Oklahoma and the Arka-Tex area."

The National Weather Service in Shreveport, La., released tornado warnings for several counties in northeast Texas, including Franklin County, Western Titus County, Mount Pleasant County, northwestern Bowie County and southeastern



Weather Service, said the worst damage occurred in Arlington and in the southeast suburbs of Dallas.

As many as 12 tornadoes have been reported so far, he said, but the number is preliminary and will most likely change.

"Some of these will be multiple reports of the same tornado," he said, "and some have not gone reported and damage tracks will, may, be found later."

The tornadoes began to touch down at 1 p.m. and continued appearing into the afternoon, he said.

Though no ground survey assessment teams have released any information yet, Lindley said, the tornadoes appeared to be moving more than 100 mph and at speeds upward of 150 mph.

"From what we're seeing on television and some of the images of the damage," he said, "I would say that the tornadoes are considered strong, or I guess you could say significant."

Severe weather continued into the evening, he said, but moved east as the day progressed.

"It has shifted more east of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex now," he said, "but will continue in the evening hours across northeast Texas and into

Red River County.

Linda Godfrey, a junior disciplinary studies major from Arlington, said she has family and friends back home, but so far no one has been hurt.

"I heard back from my parents and they're alright," she said, "and our house is alright. There's just a lot of debris and stuff, and a lot of debris on the streets and everything."

The tornado damaged her old high school and the homes surrounding it, which, she said, is only five minutes from her house.

"I've seen a lot of pictures that people have posted on like Twitter and Facebook," she said, "and most of the damage is like trees that have fallen over onto houses and like cars and stuff. And then, there's a lot of damage to people's roofs."

Even though the power is out at her home and the surrounding area, the tornado has not affected her Easter plans, Godfrey said, and she still plans to drive home for the holiday.

Alison Gilliland, an apparel design and business major from Allen, said her friends were unharmed and some were even excited about the storm.

TORNADOES cont. on Page 3

PHOTO BY LAUREN PAPE/The Daily Toreador

RYAN GALLEGOS, A freshman architecture major from Lubbock, uses a band saw to cut a piece of wood for his studio architecture class in the Architecture building Tuesday. Gallegos has used the same piece of wood throughout the semester in different projects, drawing on and cutting the board to be used for different purposes.

Tech community discusses specific tuition fees

By ASHLYN TUBBS Staff Writer

A simple swipe is all it takes for food, entertainment and access to facilities Red Raiders.

Not without a cost, though.

Students are able to use facilities, and other services and utilities on campus because they have already paid for them in advance through student fees.

Chris Cook, managing director of communications and marketing for Tech, said these fees are actually benefitting students.

"These fees are essential to providing high-quality services to students," he said, "and we encourage students to utilize them."

Some of the services students have paid

for through student fees include the Robert on parents because it's one big package," H. Ewalt Student Recreation Center, the he said. "It also ensures that you can use library, athletic games, transportation and medical services.

Some of the fee costs are as follows: around Texas Tech campus for all current student athletic fee — \$57.20; library fee — \$329.50; medical services fee — \$75; student recreation fee - \$75; student transportation fee - \$48, which are all flat rates for students enrolled in four or more semester credit hours for each fall and spring semester.

> All students also pay an International. Education fee of \$4.

Alex Alston, president-elect of the Student Government Association, said he does not mind paying the fees because it is less hassle.

"It's part of your tuition and it's easier

these facilities without having problems."

Alston's brother attends Oklahoma State University and he has to pay to get into all the athletic games. Alston said Tech is one of few campuses within the Big 12 Conference that allows every student to attend athletic games through student fees.

Alston said there are certain fees students can opt out of, such as graduate students with the Rec Center and athletic games.

He said even though he does not attend the Rec Center often, his fee helps maintain the facility, which helps overall campus image.

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NEWS

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Community Calendar

TODAY

Jewelry and Crafts Fair Time: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Where: Student Union Building, Matador Room So, what is it? Enjoy shopping for unique, homemade jewelry at the SUB presented by Tech Activities Board.

Free Movie Night Time: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Where: Student Union Building, Allen Theatre So, what is it? Enjoy the feature film, "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" presented by TAB.

Mark Morton Time: 8 p.m. Where: Hemmle Recital Hall So, what is it? Enjoy this faculty recital presented by the School of Music.

THURSDAY

Death in the Province: Mortuary Practices and Roman Imperialism in Syria and Lebanon Time: 5:35 p.m.

Where: College of Arts and Sciences, Room 113 So, what is it? This event features Lidewidje de Jong, as assistant professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Texas Tech Baseball vs. Texas Time: 6:30 p.m. Where: Rip Griffin Park So, what is it?

Support the Red Raiders as they compete against the Longhorns.

Trombone Ensemble Concert Time: 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Where: The Legacy, Great Hall So, what is it? Enjoy this trombone ensemble concert presented by the School of Music.

After Hours: Open Mic Night Time: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Where: Student Union Building, Barnes and Noble Cafe So, what is it? Come out and enjoy perfor-

mances at Open Mic Night.

To make a calendar submission email dailytoreador@ttu.edu.

Events will be published either the day or the day before they take place. Submissions must be sent in by 4 p.m. on the preceding publication date.

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FIRE WORKS

PHOTO BY ISAAC VILLALOBOS/The Daily Toreador EMILY REEVE, A senior mechanical engineering major from Mesquite, evens out the corners on her senior project in the mechanical engineering

Tech Knight Raiders win second national championship, prep for move to St. Louis

By NICOLE MOLTER STAFF WRITER

shop Tuesday morning.

Susan Polgar, head coach of the Knight Raiders and director of the Susan Polgar Institute for Chess Excellence, led the Texas Tech chess team to a second win at the Final Four national competition in Washington D.C.

Polgar is the first woman in history to lead a men's Division I team to two straight national championships.

"It feels really good," Polgar said. "We proved ourselves that

last year was not an accident." The competition began Friday and concluded Sunday, to draw this game so the team with the Knight Raiders claiming the title of the country's top intercollegiate team at the President's Cup, the main Final Four of College Chess event. "It was a really close competition between UT Dallas and UMBC," Polgar said. "We

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scored eight points and UT and major from Hungary, and Vitaly UMBC tied second with seven- ' and-a-half. We just won by half a point."

Anatoly Bykhovsky, a sophomore finance major from Israel, said UT Dallas and UMBC were tough competitors, but it felt great to have finished in first place, despite the closeness of the competition.

Andre Diamant, a sophomore economics major from Brazil, competed at nationals with the team last year, as well.

said. "I played the last game and I had a worse position. I needed gets to be a champion." Bykhovsky, Diamant, Georg Meier, a freshman finance major from Germany, and Elshan Mordiabadi, a business graduate student from Iran, participated in the tournament. Denes Boros, a sophomore psychology

Neimer, a freshman finance major from Israel, were two alternates who also attended.

After this year, all eight members of the "A" team, including Diamant and Bykhovsky, will be transferring with Polgar to Webster University in St. Louis this fall.

'The SPICE team, as you know, many of them are transferring to Webster University, along with the SPICE program," Polgar said, "but the SPICE "This year was harder," he team is trying to win, of course, in the future as well. I know we

University, we got the news that the donor agreed to continue the funding," she said. "In addition, Texas Tech also decided to allocate a substantial amount of money for annual chess scholarships. If this would have happened timely, the entire team and the SPICE program would have remained at Texas Tech."

Polgar said the Knight Raiders would have no trouble securing funding after her leave. She said she currently does not know who will take her place.

"The new director of the Texas Tech chess program and the new head coach will have more institutional scholarship dollars next year than what I had in the entire first four years," she said. "I hope that with the abundant scholarship budget starting next year, the Knight Raiders will continue to thrive and make the Final Four next vear to defend its title and for many more years after that." Webster University is located in St. Louis, home to the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of St. Louis, the World Chess Hall of Fame and U.S. Championship Chess. St. Louis is an area rich in chess history, which will provide a welcoming atmosphere for the SPICE program. Under the coaching of Polgar, the chess team won a total of 15 national, two state and two regional titles in four years, qualifying for the Final Four each year when competing in Division I and winning back-toback Final Four titles. "Texas Tech now has a serious reputation of excellence in the chess community," Polgar said. "This should make the recruiting process of chess stars and superstars much easier than when we began from scratch in the fall of 2007. I am very thankful for the opportunity to be a part of this wonderful institution in the past five years. It has been an incredible experience and we made a lot of history together." >>> nmolter@dailytoreador.com

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have many competitors in the future."

According to the Webster University Chess website, the university previously has never had a chess team on campus. Better funding provides opportunities to maintain the high level of the SPICE program and recruitment of student players.

"For the first four years of the program, we basically relied on a large donation from one generous donor to fund a little bit more than four full scholarships which is equivalent to \$80,000 per year," Polgar said.

The money was divided between 21 students currently in the SPICE program, she said. The donation was running out, which would prevent many of the Division I National Championship team from graduating.

"My family and I are very fond of Lubbock and Texas Tech and we would have loved to have the opportunity to remain with Tech for years to come,' Polgar said. "But the welfare of my students comes first and that is why I had to look for various alternatives for them. They played their hearts out for me and I had to make sure that they all can graduate from school."

SPICE would have preferred to stay at Tech, Polgar said.

"Only after SPICE and the entire Division I national championship team made a commitment to move to Webster



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NEWS

Large tornadoes, damage reported in Dallas area

tore through the Dallas area said Kennedale police Chief Tuesday, peeling roofs off homes, tossing big-rig trucks into the air and leaving flattened tractor trailers strewn along highways. and parking lots.

The National Weather Service confirmed at least two separate "large and extremely dangerous" tornadoes. Several other developing twisters were reported as a band of violent storms crept through the metropolitan area, destroying mobile homes and forcing hundreds of flight cancellations at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

There were no immediate reports of injuries.

"The officers were watching

DALLAS (AP) — Tornadoes the tornadoes form and drop," Tommy Williams. "It was pretty at the damactive for a while." age after the

> Highway video cameras storm passed. showed a l'arge, dark funnel cloud moving on the ground not Norwood said far from a busy Dallas interstate he was at his. early Tuesday afternoon. Big-rig Lancaster tractor trailers crumpled like home when soda cans littered an industrial he heard the parking lot, and flattened trailers storm sirens. clogged the sides of highways and He said he access roads. made a quick trip to a

In Lancaster, south of Dallas, television helicopters panned over exposed homes without roofs and flattened buildings. Broken sheets of plywood blanketed lawns and covered rooftops. Residents could be seen walking

down the street with firefighters neighborhood. and peering into homes, looking "I didn't see any damage

Devlin

nearby store

when he saw

the funnel-

shaped torna-

do lower, kick

The officers were watching the tornadoes form and drop. It was pretty active for a while. **TOMMY WILLIAMS** KENNEDALE CHIEF OF POLICE

up debris and head toward his into fences and toppled trees.

Branches and limbs scattered across lawns and residential until I got streets, and in one driveway, a tow-behind RV was left torn We had trees apart and crumpled.

back home.

destroyed,

student.

'Obviously we're going to fences down, have a lot of assessments to boards d'own, make when this is done," Dalboards penlas County spokeswoman Maria etrating the Arita said.

roof and the Dallas Police spokeswoman house, shin-Sherri Jeffrey said an appargles dament twister also touched down aged," said and caused damage within the Norwood, 50, city's southern limits, though an accountant the extent was not immediately and graduate known.

American Airlines canceled The storm nearly all its departures from its pushed cars hub at DFW on Tuesday evening and diverted others to different

airports. Spokeswoman Andrea Huguely said the airline also was pulling dozens of planes out of service to inspect them for hail damage.

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DFW spokesman David Magana said there were no reports of damage to the airport itself. Magana said employees pulled passengers in the terminals away from glass windows during the storms and directed them to stairwells, stores and restaurants in the inside area of the airport.

Flights also were canceled at Dallas Love Field, which is a big base for Southwest Airlines. That airline canceled more than 45 flights in and out of the airport by Tuesday evening.

\$4.5M spent on Texas FLDS prosecution

the four years since Texas authorities swarmed the polygamist ranch of sect leader Warren Jeffs, state prosecutors have spent more than \$4.5 million racking up swift convictions against him and 10 loyal followers on child sex and bigamy charges, according to records obtained by The Associated Press.

Combined with other state agency costs surrounding the April 3, 2008 raid, documents show the price tag is approaching \$20 million for what began as a chaotic roundup of nearly 400 children and grew into one of the largest criminal cases in recent Texas history.

The saga is now all but over. Last week, state prosecutors convicted the last of 11 men arrested at the Yearning for Zion Ranch. All received prison time, including a life sentence for Jeffs.

"This was never about validation," said Jerry Strickland, spokesman for the Texas attorney general's office. "... It was always about, first and foremost, protecting children. There were a lot of people who wanted to make this about something it was not."

Jeffs, 56, is the head of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and is still considered

SAN ANTONIO (AP) - In God's spokesman by his followers despite being in prison. He and several of his convicted followers still face separate charges of bigamy.

> Strickland said Tuesday his office has not yet decided whether to also prosecute the bigamy allegations. When asked whether spending more taxpayer dollars would factor in that decision, Strickland said he did not know

Spending records obtained by AP were broken down by year, not by defendant, though the biggest expenses by far came during the run-up to Jeffs' highly publicized two-week trial in August. The attorney general's office spent more than \$1.8 million in 2010 and another \$884,000 last year.

By comparison, Strickland said the attorney general's office spent \$19.5 million total on all criminal prosecutions in 2010 and 2011.

Driving up the FLDS case costs was more than 21,000 case hours spent by investigators sifting through a staggering amount of evidence hauled off the secretive ranch in remote Eldorado. Authorities seized nearly 1,000 boxes of physical evidence and another 6 terabytes of digital files. Strickland said Tuesday the man-

power the case required makes it the largest ever in the decade since Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott took office

The most disturbing evidence wasn't revealed until Jeffs finally went to trial. Prosecutors played lengthy audio tapes of Jeffs allegedly sexually assaulting one of his 12-year-old brides, and jurors saw wedding photos of the polygamist leader posing with other underage wives.

Among prosecutors' expenses was more than \$24,000 to Utah-based Beall Psychological Services for expert testimony. The state also paid Rebecca Musser, a former FLDS member who was once a wife Jeffs' father, Rulon, more than \$17,000. Strickland said the payment was for her testimony and assistance with the investigation.

All but three of the 11 arrested FLDS members went to trial; the others accepted plea deals. All of the jury trials appeared to end as nothing short of uncompetitive cakewalks for prosecutors - in only one case did juror deliberations last more than two hours. Jeffs fired several high-powered attorneys during the course of his trial, and at one point represented himself in the courtroom.

JEWELRY JAMBOREE



WENDY DE LA Rosa, a senior biology and psychology major from Denver City, looks at a necklacce hanging from a jewelry display at the Student Union and Activities Jewelry and Craft Fair in the Student Union Building on Monday. The fair will continue until today.



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 "We have a Tech alert system, but that is used when there is an imminent threat to the campus community," said Chris Cook, director of communications and marketing at Tech, "so you're talking about a weather incident, an active shooter, just things like that, and there are some that are more severe and less severe that would be included on that. But right now we're doing those, we don't alert the community in a case like this. It has to be an imminent threat to the campus, do not fall under university jurisdicto the community. So, that's how our tion, Mitch said, often students' alert system works.' However, Cook acknowledged that the university is still working on near Tech. implementing a task force to educate students about crimes that happen to Tech students off-campus, after administrators learned last fall that approximately 1,600 students had been victimized off-campus in 2009. By law, Lubbock police are not required to notify university police of crimes concerning students. However, Tech President Guy Bailey and Chancellor Kent Hance said they are willing to work with the Lubbock Police

they are making progress," Cook said, "and right now they're working on

mean technically it's not on campus, but you would think that when you have that many students at that time of night and that some of them are out heavily drinking, that they wouldn't at least be able to keep a lid on it. So, if they haven't made it a top priority then they're really not doing as well as they think they are."

university students away from campus. "It's still a work in progress, but

ways to inform the public and get that information out to the public and communicate with them. So that's - currently where they are.

Department to better the protection of

"This is definitely still ongoing. Putting something like this together and organizing it isn't something that can be done overnight. But we're still very committed to seeing this through."

While he is aware certain crimes actions off campus carry over to on campus, especially with so many bars

"A line was crossed and I talked to the Tech police and the people at Tech, and obviously they don't know if it's a student or not," he said. "I know it's not Tech jurisdiction, but right across the street stuff spills over to campus and there's been a lot of other accidents.

"If you can't provide protection - at least be able to keep a handle on things — then that's not a good situation. It's a responsibility, and I

More than anything though, Mitch said, he just wants to find the people who hurt his son and make sure it does not happen again.

"I just hope people will be more protective with things like this,' Adam said. "There's just so many kids getting DWIs and things like this happening over and over again. I think it should be more of a joint venture. I don't think Lubbock police or Texas Tech police, whether it happens here or there, I think they both need to be more cooperative with each other and try to find a better way to come together to (protect people)."

It is requested that anyone who has information regarding the incident contact Detective McClure at 806-775-3701.

*Names changed at the request of the family so it will not interfere with the ongoing investigation. >>> cosborn@dailytoreador.com

brand new student living

Tornadoes 🛁 **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

"I just saw a bunch of Facebook posts today saying, 'Yay, thank you tornado for canceling my chemistry test," she said.

One incoming freshman from Friona, Roy Burns, is attempting to start a relief fund for those affected by the tornadoes.

"I have family from Dallas and they weren't hurt," he said, "but I'm trying to start and get together a relief fund, like where people can donate household stuff for people. I'm trying to get friends to get the word out."

He and two friends decided to start the fund to donate common household items and money to those affected, Burns said, and he even plans to make a trip down to Dallas.

"We'll actually take a trip down there on the weekend or something," he said, "and just, at least, help move supplies and help move stuff."

The relief fund is currently in the planning stages, he said, and he needs help from other students to get it going. If students would like to help Burns organize and plan the relief fund, they can contact him at 575-218-5747. »>check@dáilytoreador.com





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PAGE 4 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2012

OPINIONS

Recycling program could benefit Tech

e all understand the importance of conserving our environment and what it means to be "green" these days.

However, being eco-friendly sometimes comes at a price, whether for a school or a community. It may come as a surprise to many that Lubbock and surrounding areas actually produce less waste than most other regions of the state. Furthermore, the waste produced per-capita is 400 pounds per person lower than the national average.

Impressed? It is definitely a tribute to the citizens of Lubbock and the students of Texas Tech for their ability to minimize their waste compared to the rest of the state and nation. Yet, much could be done on the recycling front to completely revolutionize waste management in West Texas and become a leader in eco-friendly communities.

I believe it is important for Lubbock to dramatically improve its recycling because of the benefits for the community and vantage that the city will have



for Tech. It is important for Lubbock to be on the cutting-edge of the environmental movement.

Cities are rapidly becoming more eco-friendly and are, therefore, increasing the cost of living and the value of the community. Texas Tech could benefit from increased recycling by becoming a leader in campus recycling and environmental protection. This would, in fact, serve as a unique asset toward achieving tier-one status.

Lubbock happens to be the only major city in the state of Texas not to have city-sponsored curbside recycling. There is a service here called "Green Queens" that performs curbside recycling, yet it costs \$30 per month. This is a major disadto face if it wants to grow.

Few remember the environmental predicament Lubbock experienced in the 1970s, when the Scrub-A-Dub Barrel Company went under investigation almost all available areas. Refor waste emissions. Their failure cycling is non-existent in most to recycle their waste properly led to the seepage of hazardous substances into nearby Macken-

zie Park. In 2011, the EPA began a \$3.5 million project to clean what the barrel company had contaminated. This incident proves Lubbock has not always kept out of the pub-

mental protection.

Lubbock's population has increased steadily since 1995 and will incur long-term damage to the regional landfill if recycling is not increased. The more re- ing. Most trash bins I have no-

cycling options made available for citizens, the more likely they will use them.

As for the campus of Texas Tech, recycling is lacking in apartment complexes around Lubbock, where most of the waste produced in the city comes

from.

It seems reasonable that It is important for there could at Lubbock to be on least be recycling bins the cutting-edge of placed in these apartments. the environmental This way it will cost the city about as much movement. money as going door-to-door.

The resident lic eye when it comes to environ- would just have to separate recyclable materials from other waste and walk outside to dispose of both.

This could be a huge relief for on-campus and off-campus hous-

ticed in these housing areas are state. overflowing and get especially full during move-out periods. Recycling bins would keep the campus and surrounding areas cleaner and reduce waste produced by Tech students.

Many universities in Great Britain have already started a "zero-waste" program. This program promotes environmental improvement and the reduction of the waste a university produces.

Tech could become a leader in environmental protection within the state if recycling is increased. The university would then be able to advertise this and begin to diversify its assets. Becoming a tier-one university would be an easier accomplishment, along with other national recognitions.

The difficulty lies in persuading the Lubbock community to move toward increased recycle usage. Most people might not accept recycling because of how little waste Lubbock produces compared to major parts of the

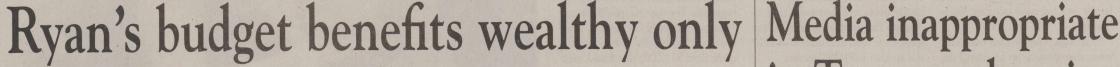
The culture in West Texas has always been reluctant to change and accept "big-city" formalities (see dry county issues). This type of venture would be no exception. A strong marketing campaign would be needed in order to persuade Lubbock residents.

I suggest those who agree with me on this issue to contact the Lubbock City Council and ask them to propose a solution soon. Lubbock is growing and, because of how our citizens currently handle waste, a plan of action is quickly needed.

By completing an environmental overhaul, recycling would grow throughout the city and the costs toward the city would begin to decline. This would give Lubbock an eco-friendly appeal to prospective residents and prospective students interested in living in our community.

Maggio is a senior English major from Austin.

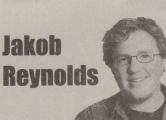
>>> nmaggio@dailytoreador.com



hat a week The mainstream media networks have spent what seems like innumerable hours covering either Trayvon Martin or the ludicrous statements of conservative presidential hopefuls (still) in a grinding manner — almost on par with that of players of massively multiplayer role-playing video games.

If you get bored with the frenzy of all the racially and emotionallycharged rhetoric being broadcast over the airwaves, I recommend taking a look at one important bill making its way through Congress.

I'm referring to the national



no Democrats voting in favor and four Republicans voting against it. Ryan claimed the plan would reject "the relentless government spending, taxing and borrowing that are leading America, right at this mo-

ment, toward a debt-fueled economic crisis

ise.

single loophole that he plans to close, but the language in the proposal definitely shows no intention of closing the ultra-low capital gains tax rate, one most beneficial to the wealthy.

Moreover, the Ryan plan repeals the Alternative Minimum Tax and repeals all of the health care taxes contained in the Affordable Care Act, which, coupled with closing the yet-to-be-determined loopholes, Ryan assumes will free up a few trillion

dollars in the federal budget. At the same

time, the Ryan

budget low-

ers the top in-

dividual and

corporate tax

rates from 35

to 25 percent

and shifts to a

territorial tax

system, thus

protecting mul-

tinationals from

Ryan may not have named a afford it. Ultimately, 32 million Americans are likely to lose their health insurance if this budget goes into effect.

> However, these cuts still won't cover the deficit in spending. It's pretty clear that unless the GOP has a change of heart down the road and raises the corporate and high-income tax rates — needless to say, this is highly unlikely — the only other way they will cover the deficit is by cutting tax breaks to the middle and lower classes or raising taxes on them. Otherwise, this budget will be just another classic example of the GOP's ultimately empty promises of helping everybody while their rich backers benefit from it. Either way, if you are a corporation or wealthy individual, time to break out the donations to your GOP puppets in the House for a job well done. If you aren't a corporation or otherwise moneyed, it isn't time to fret just yet. The "Path to Prosperity" contains all the staples of the perfect Republican bill, - such as draconian cuts in spending — but only to social programs that help the needy, as well as liberal tax cuts, mostly to corporations and the wealthy and - above all promises to balance the budget and eliminate the deficit. However, a look into this fantastic proposal shows that it is just that: fantastic and far-fetched. Fortunately, this bill will probably not make it past the Senate or the White House as long as President Obama is at the desk, but it does provide us with a fine illustration of just how irresponsible, dishonest and irrational the Republicans in Congress will be when it comes time to actually pass our next budget.

in Trayvon shooting

By THE LARIAT EDITORIAL BOARD THE LARIAT (BAYLOR U.)

No matter who ends up the victim in the Trayvon Martin and George Zimmerman case, the media is going to go down in history as the bad guy.

Once the sensational nature of the story began to die down, various news outlets began turning on each other to reveal shortcuts and manipulations that they took to skew the events of the night Martin died. One of the most noticeable is

the selection of photos almost every

news syndicate used when the story

broke. A smiling, young Martin ap-

pears in stark contrast to a frowning

Zimmerman wearing a distinctly or-

ange shirt. The photos carry a heavy

suggestion of who is the victim and

len-looking Zimmerman to the 911

call transcript NBC's Today Show

provided. In the transcript, Zimmer-

man said Martin looked suspicious

because Martin was black, and the

case reveals itself as at least fueled by

As it turns out, however, that

Monday NBC told The Washington

Post that it has launched an internal

investigation into the editing deci-

sions made for the story. Zimmerman

never said Martin looked suspicious

because he was black. The only time

Zimmerman described Martin's race

was when the dispatcher directly

The shooting occurred on Feb.

racism, if not a hate crime.

Add the appearance of the sul-

who has committed a crime.

ing are not black and white. From the first news reports, a relatively informed citizen could have reasonably believed that Zimmerman, acting as a vigilante neighborhood watchmen, took his job a little too seriously and shot a young black man in a hoodie who was on his way home with some candy.

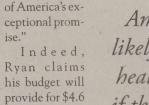
As more information has come to light, it is harder to assume such a simple story line. Conservative news outlets have published pictures and tweets that show a less innocent Martin than his mug might suggest. Jewelry and traces of marijuana were found in the backpack Martin was carrying when he was shot.

and the demise

budget, passed by the House of Representatives Thursday, proposed by Chairman of the House Budget Committee Paul Ryan, a Republican from Wisconsin, in response to President Barack Obama's own proposal.

With an emotional and apocalyptic introduction, coupled with alarming graphs showing copious amounts of debt for the United States in the future, Ryan proposed his budget — seductively titled, "The Path to Prosperity."

Ryan's proposed budget which he claimed to be bipartisan - passed the House on an almost party-line vote of 235-193, with



provide for \$4.6 trillion in tax deductions, exemptions and credits, but conveniently forgot to specify which

ones in the proposal. It also promises to close tax loopholes and shelters, wishfully predicting an estimated \$700 billion annually in revenues by 2022.

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> Have questions? Email us at: editor@dailytoreador.com

Americans are likely to lose their health insurance if this budget goes into effect.

... 32 million

having to pay U.S. taxes on foreign profits.

When it's all said and done, the Ryan budget plans to cut revenues from taxes on corporations and the top tax tiers by around \$3 trillion over the next 10 years and to, somehow, reduce the deficit.

Ryan insisted these cuts wouldn't blow holes in the budget. How, then, will he attempt to lower the deficit?

For starters, his budget plans to phase out Medicare — the single payer system which guarantees seniors health care — during the next 10 years by giving seniors vouchers to give to private health insurance companies that may or may not accept them.

So, if you're under 60 now, start saving. It also plans to cut \$771 billion of Medicaid, which provides subsidized health insurance to low-income families who can't

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26 but did not appear in the national media until March 10 when Martin's parents appeared on Good Morning America. That's when the discussion of a racially-charged crime first hit the news stands. Unlike the first story that ap-

asked that question.

peared, the facts in the Feb. 26 shoot-

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Again, these details neither confirm nor deny that Martin was anything other than an average teenager who made harmless, though possibly poor, decisions.

Nobody but Zimmerman knows what happened that night, but it isn't the role of the media to fill in gaps in the timeline with conjecture. Unfortunately for the entire institution, that is exactly what seems to have happened. If the gaps have not been positively filled in, the possibilities for the missing pieces have been altered by selective editing and biased photo choice.

It might be the case that Zimmertranscript was selectively edited. On man acted aggressively because he racially profiled the young black man walking home late at night.

> It might also be the case that Martin decided to pick a fight with an armed night watchman living in a stand-your-ground state who exercised his right to shoot his attacker.

> It has not ever been, and never will be, the role of the media to determine which of those scenarios took place. It is instead the role of the media to report accurate facts gathered from reliable sources and presented fairly so that the public can stay informed and draw its own conclusions.

> It's time all news syndicates, conservative or liberal, get back to that model of journalism.

Toreador, Box 43081 Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409.

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 emailed to dailytoreador@ttu.edu or brought to 211 Student Media. Letters should be sent in before 3 p.m. to ensure the editors have enough time to verify and edit the submission

Guest Columns

The Daily Toreador accepts submissions of unsolicited guest columns. While we cannot acknowledge receipt of all columns, the authors of those selected for publication 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 and submitta

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Van Dusen

said one phone

donated equals

about two hours

of calling time

for the soldier.

has a broken

cellphone or

something," he

said, "so, this

is just an easy

way to serve

the community

— the national

community

of our veter-

ans — because

just a couple

of minutes to

call home is in-

valuable when

you're deployed

overseas. It's

just a small, easy

way, a token to

"Everyone

PAGE 5 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2012

Veterans Association urges for cell phone donations

By PAIGE SKINNER STAFF WRITER

People can go and dig through their desk drawer and find their old 1980s, heavy, Saved By the Bell, Zack Morris-type_cellphone because it could help a soldier tremendously.

The Veterans Association at Texas Tech is hosting Cell Phones for Soldiers, a drive to collect and recycle old, used or any cellphones to resell and earn money for calling cards for soldiers overseas.

Monty Trimble, the president of the VATT, said the program that takes old cellphones and recycles them, was started by two teenagers.

The teenagers wanted to give back to military members and troops overseas, so they found a company that could take the phones, refurbish them, sell them as new and use the proceeds for calling cards for troops.

Ryan Van Dusen, assistant director of military and veterans programs, said he is a supporter of the drive.

"The company that we send them to refurbishes and recycles the phones and then the money they make is what goes to buy the calling cards for the soldiers," he said. "It's not actually cellphones for the soldiers, it's the money generated from that will buy calling cards for

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

gram, it's almost like a contribu-

"If you don't utilize the pro-

Fees -

for students

as well as

incoming

students,'

he said. "It

helps bring

students in

from outside

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get to see

what an awe-

some campus

we have. We

have one of

the soldiers."

mester.

was such a short

period of time,"

said the senior

electrical engi-

This is the second semester Tech has hosted this drive. Last semester, about 280 phones were collected, but the VATT

is looking to collect more. Trimble said the drive will last four weeks because of the interest in the drive last se-

"We're hoping to get a lot more this semester because as soon as the program ended, we had a lot of people contact us and say, 'Oh, I had four cellphones at home, but I didn't know it

PRESIDENT VETERANS ASSOCIATION AT TEXAS TECH

neering major from Pampa. "So, that's why we're doing it for four weeks.'

Drop-off stations will be at all

students do not have much control where their fees are being spent, which is one of the reasons he ran for student senator.

When he serves his term in the fall, Tew said, he plans to tion to help better the facility give students more representation regarding

fees

"Some of

how much

If you don't utilize the the fees are necessary program, it's almost and do offer value to the like a contribution to students," he said, "but help better the faculty I personally for students as well as want to see a little more acincoming students. countability to where and

TAB events for the rest of the se- and no personal information can be mester, as well as the VATT office taken from the cellphones, Trimble and designated tables in the Free Speech Area.

The easiest way for us to help them get in contact with their families is by collecting these phones and then having the phone cards flown to them, so they can call home. **MONTY TRIMBLE**

opportunity to call home."

furbished, all the data is wiped off

a way for married students who are already paying for health insurance and are double paying through this fee, to opt out of it," he said.

Alston said there is also a way SGA allocated student fees back to organizations through funding interviews. The budget and finance committee allocates money back to the organizations based on how much they spend and how much the organization is going to utilize for the upcoming year.

"A lot of people don't realize they can spend their money and get rid of their money so they can get their money back, so we try to push that," Alston said.

said.

Trimble said he thinks donating old cellphones is a good way to help soldiers out when they are fighting overseas

"Currently, we're no longer in Iraq, but we're still in Afghanistan and there's 14-hour time difference between there and here," Trimble said. "Trying to coordinate when you're in Afghanistan with someone at home and then trying to find the money to pay for that phone call to call back, it's difficult for our military members to do.

"The easiest way for us to help them get in contact with their families is by collecting these phones and then having the phone cards flown to them, so they can call home."

Trimble wants everyone to know any cellphone could be of use and the organization will take any phone.

"Doesn't matter if it's an old one from the 1980s, if it has a big antenna on it, if you can't even fit it in your pocket," he said. "Or if somebody has a new iPhone they don't want anymore, we'll take any phone and recycle it and we're looking for anyone to donate anything to help us out."

>>> pskinner@dailytoreador.com

Spring break still on despite tourist unease

CANCUN, Mexico (AP) -Tinkling drinks in hand, New Yorkers Lauren Levy and Jacob Schum settle onto lounge chairs a few feet from the Caribbean's lapping waves. Levy adjusts her yellow bikini. Schum smooths his blue Bermuda shorts. They smile at each other and sigh softly.

"I've never seen turquoise

water like this before. It's a beautiful thing," Schum says.

The couple had heard of Mexico's cartel killings, casino firebombs, bribery and corruption. But like millions of other Americans craving a break this spring, these workaholics couldn't resist the low prices, flowing drinks and sunny, 80-degree escape.

"We know not to leave the resort, drink the water or eat the vegetables," says Levy. "We arranged for a shuttle from the airport, we wouldn't get in a taxi. And yeah, we feel safe."

Plus they got a great deal, adds Levy: Just \$1,500 for five days, four nights - food, drinks, airfare, transportation, everything.

CELLPHONES ARE BEING collected throughout April for Cell Phones for Soldiers. The proceeds are used to provide soldiers calling cards to use overseas.

TROOPS CALL HOMI TIONS PHOTO BY BRAD TOLLEFSON/The Daily Toreador



give our soldiers and sailors that When the cellphones are re-"I would like to look at for

the better looking campuses in the Big 12, and that's been partially due to student fees."

Jeffery Tew, a sophomore engineering major from Houston pursuing his second degree, said

Dave, Craig in late night through 2014

NEW YORK (AP) - Relax, all you fans of David Letterman and Craig Ferguson. They'll be staying put in late night awhile longer.

CBS announced Tuesday that both Dave and Craig have re-upped to keep hosting their respective hours — "Late through 2014.

During the run of this agreement, Letterman will clinch his title as the longest-running, late-night talk-show host in TV history (although on two networks), the network noted. He surpasses Johnny Carson's record of a few months less than 30 years at NBC's "Tonight Show." Letterman, who turns 65 next week, began on NBC in 1982 with "Late Night," before switching to CBS in 1993 after Jay Leno edged him out for the "Tonight Show" crown upon Carson's retirement.

No salary figures were disclosed. But as part of the new deal, "The Late Late Show" will be upgraded from its famously matchbox-size studio to a larger stage at Los Angeles' CBS Television City, the network said.

"David Letterman is a late-night legend with an iconic show and Craig Ferguson continues to evolve the genre in exciting and innovative ways," said CBS Entertainment President Nina Tassler in making the announcement.

The Scottish-born Ferguson, 49, had been a musician, actor, writer, director and comedian when he took over "The Late Late Show" in 2005. He has been guaranteed the earlier slot when Letterman decides to retire.

Originating from Manhattan's Ed Sullivan Theatre, "Late Show" has won nine Emmy Awards. In addition to an Emmy nomination, "The Late Late Show" won a Peabody Award in 2009.

ALEX ALSTON PRESIDENT-ELECT STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

those fees are going towards." Tew would

like to see a reduction in fees. One fee he finds a problem with is the medical services fee regarding married students, such as himself.

Alston encourages students to appreciate and take advantage of the facilities student fees cover.

"A lot of students sit there and don't realize what their fees are going to and how beneficial their fees are," he said. "They really help them out." >>>> atubbs@dailytoreador.com

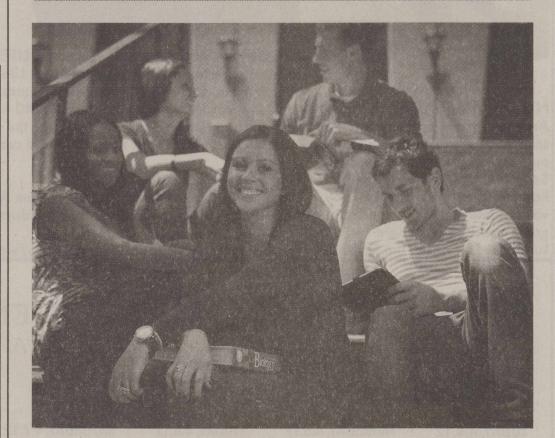
Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS 1 "Survivor" host Probst 5 Dan Patrick's former employer 9 Treble and tenor 14 Leap on skates 15 By way of, in verse verse 16 "Groundhog Day" director Harold 17 *Stand to reason 20 Product design dept. 21 Lace place 22 *Show with Sharks 26 Sunset feature 27 Frigid 28 Maritime military ord 20 Manufile millitary org. 29 Liver, for one 31 Part of MoMA 32 Move like a bee 36 "Immature 40 On a clipper, say 41 "Mike Tyson's Punch-Out!!" video game By Ju video game console 42 Salk vaccine target 43 Aleppo's land: 44 It may precede a treaty 46 Swiss river 47 *"The Impossible Dream" musical 51 Speedily 53 __male 54 19th-century American 7 Exc American American doctrine suggested by the phrase formed by the first words of the answers to starred clues 19 Beg 59 Turn ____ ear 60 Place with slips 23 Bio and sloops 61 Juggle conflicting demands 62 Word before bad 30 Sar 31 Mai 63 Canadian singe Murray 64 Offended DOWN 1 Binge 2 Prefix with star Thomas 35 Birch of "Ghost World")mbuds Office A safe place to bring concerns and find solutions.

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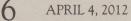
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WE NEED SUMMER CAMP COUNSELORS!

We are looking for some great people to be Summer Camp Counselors at the Rec Sports Youth Summer Sports Camp! Camp is from 8:00am - Noon everyday. Learn more at the info sessions next week!

Info Sessions: April 10 & 11 at 6:00pm in Rm. 201 of the Rec

Heartbeats

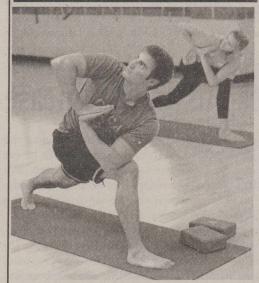
A quick look at what is going on in the Rec Sports world

INTRAMURAL MAKE-UPS Open and Co-Rec Games from March 21 rescheduled for TONIGHT at the same time, on the same field. Women's Games from March 21 rescheduled for Wednesday, April 18 same time, same field.

REC SPORTS MARKETING Rec Sports is looking for graphic design student workers to start next fall. If you know what a vector graphic is and how to make one, apply by emailing the Marketing Director your resume at recsportsmarketing@ttu.edu. Applications must be turned in by Friday, April 13 for consideration.

BIKE REPAIR SERIES Next class is tomorrow from 5:00pm - 6:00pm in the OPC.

Fit/Well



RAIDER X2 SESSION 2 There are still a few select spots available in your favorite Raider X2 classes! Stop by the Fit/Well to view the available classes and to register today!



4 ON 4 FLAG FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

To register for 4 on 4 Flag Football, the team captain MUST attend the 4 on 4 captains meeting/registration. This is the only time teams will be registered for 4 on 4 Flag Football! The meeting will be Wednesday, April 18 at 7:00pm in Rm. 201 of the Rec Center. For rules, please go to http://bit.ly/4on4flag.

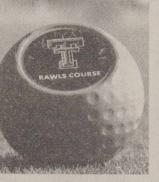
WWW.DAILYTOREADOR.COM

SAND VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

Bump, Set Spike! Register NOW! for the Sand Volleyball Intramural League. Register by April 11 in the IM Office, Rm. 203 of the Rec Center. This is a free event, and we can't wait to get out and hit the ball around!

This is the last team sport for the 2011-12 school year, so get your team together and play some football!

FRIDAY NIGHT SOFTBALL Sign your team up for the Friday Night Softball League NOW! This four week league will only be on Friday Nights, and is a separate league than the normal spring softball season. So get some friends together, make a team, and get registered in the Intramural Office! Games start on Friday, April 13th.



2 PERSON GOLF SCRAMBLE

Register by Friday, April 20th for this great chance to play on the 5th best golf course in all of Texas! The Scramble will be held on Sunday, April 22 with check in starting at 10:00am and a shotgun start at 11:00am. The Scramble is only \$44 per person and includes 1/2 of the cart, green fees, lunch, and a bucket of range balls. Registration is limited to the first 16 teams, so get over to the Rec Center and register today!

For more information, go to http://bit.ly/recgolf or stop by the IM office, Rm. 203 of the Rec Center.

Outdoor Pursuits Center

WICHITA MOUNTAIN ROCK CLIMBING Trip Dates: APRIL 20 - 22

Early Deadline: TODAY!

We're headed to Oklahoma's Wichita Wildlife Refuge for a weekend of great climbing, great food, and nights under the stars. All climbing levels are welcome, as this trip will be tailored specifically for those who sign up.

INTERMEDIATE KAYAKING

Trip Dates: April 27 - 29 Early Deadline: April 18

Aquatics

This trip, to the Pilar section of the Rio Grande, is to get you comfortable paddling in class III whitewater. You will kayak the "Race Course", considered the best intermediate run in New Mexico. Intro to White water Kayaking is a prerequisite to this trip. Grab your paddle and get ready for some rapids! Trip requires 3 pre-trip pool sessions.

NEW BUCK CREEK MOUNTAIN BIKING Trip Dates: APRIL 14 Early Deadline: TODAY! Early Cost: \$45.00 Late Deadline: April 11 Late Cost: \$50.00

Don't miss out on joining us for a new mountain biking venue! We're headed to Abilene, TX to ride the local Buck Creek Mountain Biking Trails. With a 13 mile loop of single track, this will be a fantastic opportunity for experienced beginners to be challenged and advance their skills. For competent riders, this trip will give you an opportunity to test your skills, improve technique and try out a new place! We'll ride for most of the day, and be back in the evening.

Interested riders should speak with the trip leaders to learn if this trip is for you!

Special Events





NEED A MASSAGE?

Are tests, group projects and school in general stressing you out? Schedule a massage for only \$40 an hour with one of our licensed massage therapists. You will not find a better value for a great massage anywhere in Lubbock! Register in the Fit/Well



BECOME A RED CROSS CERTIFIED LIFEGUARD! Become a certified American Red Cross Lifeguard. This course includes lifeguard techniques, standard First Aid, and CPR/AED for Lifeguards. The cost is \$140 for Texas Tech students and faculty/staff and \$150 for the community. Fees include course materials, instruction and certifications.

Register by Wednesday, April 11 Class Dates: Saturdays and Sundays from April 14 - April 22 Class Times: 8:00am - 5:00pm on class days

Lubbock! Register in the Fit/Well. For more information, go to http://bit.ly/wdziXK

(Dash and Splash)

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Individual: \$23 if received by April 26, \$28 after April 26 Team: \$40 if received by April 26, \$45 after April 26



SPORTS

PAGE 7 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2012

8-run inning carries Tech past Angelo State

By BRETT WINEGARNER MANAGING EDITOR

It was a bumpy start for the Red Raiders, facing an early three-run deficit, but Texas Tech's bats came alive to cruise to a 13-7 victory against Angelo State.

To go along with the 13 runs, the Red Raiders picked up 15 hits, giving them at least 10 plus hits in seven straight midweek games. This was the first time any Tech baseball team had accomplished the feat since 2006.

It was nice to get the win after recent struggles against a solid Division II team, Tech relief pitcher Jerad McCrummen said.

"It was just good to come out and get a win on the midweek," he said. "We played a good opponent tonight. I mean, we didn't take them mildly and we had a good approach and we did that. For the most part we played a good ballgame and got the (win)."

Making his third-straight midweek start, Tech's Brannon Easterling had a rough go of it, as he gave up three runs in just one inning of work.

The Red Raiders gained some

the second when Mason Randolph blasted a home run over the left field wall to plate two runs and shrink ASU's lead to one.

However, the Rams didn't waste any time in getting those runs back, as they countered with two runs of their own in the top of the third to push their lead back to three.

It was then, in the bottom half of the third, that the Tech bats erupted to bring eight runs across to jump out on top 10-5. The eight runs were as many as the Red Raiders had scored in the entire Kansas series last weekend. In the inning, five different Tech players knocked in at least one RBI including Bo Altobelli, who started the scoring for the Red Raiders with a single to knock in Barrett Barnes.

Big innings like the third helped get the Red Raider bats going, Altobelli said.

"That's big," he said. "You know, you always want those big innings and that's something we didn't get in the past."

McCrummen then came in for Tech and settled things down for the Red Raiders. He had the strongest outing of the seven relievers, as he

ground back in the bottom half of threw 3.2 innings of no-hit ball to earn himself the win. Two runs in the fifth inning also helped extend Tech's lead to seven.

> The Red Raiders' bats are potent enough to win games if the pitching staff can keep the other team off the board as much as possible, McCrummen said.

> "You just want to put up zeros and give our hitters a chance because we know they are going to score and if we can run up zeros, then I think we have a chance to win," he said.

It wasn't until the top of the seventh that Angelo State was able to get on the board again. The Rams chalked the bases loaded and brought two runs in on an RBI single, but an ASU runner was thrown out at the plate to end the inning with Tech still holding on to a 12-7 lead.

Tech, however, responded once again as Altobelli knocked in his second RBI of the game out of the three spot in the lineup to extend Tech's lead back to six. The top three hitters in the lineup — Jamodrick McGruder, Barnes and Altobelli combined for seven RBIs and five runs out of Tech's 13 runs scored.



PHOTO BY EMILY DE SANTOS/The Daily Toreador

TEXAS TECH INFIELDER Stephen Hagen slides back to first base during the bottom of the second inning of Tech's 13-7 victory against Angelo State on Tuesday at Rip Griffin Park.

eighth game played outside of a the win. weekend series.

Tech coach Dan Spencer said it

up its seventh midweek win in its do things right and come out with worry about Texas Tech and not "I think that our issues are not

our opponents, I think they are our doesn't matter who the Red Raiders own," he said. "We just need to take With the victory, Tech picked are facing, it is up to the team to care of the baseball on our side and

worry about Angelo State, Texas, or TCU or Baylor. If we just take care of our game then we'll be fine with whoever we play.'

>>>> bwinegarner@dailytoreador.com

Saints' Payton, Loomis, Vitt appeals hearing set for Thursday

NEW YORK (AP) - Saints head coach Sean Payton, general manager Mickey Loomis and assistant head coach Joe Vitt are set to have their NFL appeals heard Thursday regarding the punishment they've received for their roles in New Orleans' bounty system.

League spokesman Greg Aiello confirmed the hearing schedule in an email to The Associated Press on Tuesday afternoon, about two hours after Payton's agent, Don Yee, said the coach and NFL were "trying to schedule a mutually convenient time for the proceedings" that would not interfere with people's plans for the upcoming religious holidays.

Aiello also said former Saints defensive coordinator Gregg Williams, who has since taken a job as defensive coordinator with the St. Louis Rams, did not appeal his indefinite suspension.

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell suspended Payton for all of next season. Loomis was suspended for eight games, Vitt for six, and the Saints were fined \$500,000 and docked two second-round draft picks.

The unusually tough penalties whether players who were involved

concluded that from 2009-11 the Saints offered improper cash bonuses for big hits that either knocked opponents out of games or left them needing help off of the field.

Payton's suspension - due to start last Sunday — has been on hold pending his appeal, allowing him to get in a few extra days of work as he rushes to create a plan that's as detailed as possible for the Saints' 2012 season.

Beyond the punishment for Saints coaches and executives, the NFL still has to determine

disciplined.

Speaking at a press event Tuesday for new NFL uniforms created by Nike, Goodell said the NFL met with the players' association representatives on Monday to discuss the league's investigation of the Saints.

"We shared more information with them so they're up to speed," he said.

Goodell added that he expected to speak with NFLPA chief DeMaurice Smith again as soon as Wednesday.

stemmed from an NFL probe which in the bounty program will also be decisions soon," Goodell said.

"I believe in getting as much information as possible," he said. "We respect the players. This is important because it's a player safety matter. We think that we need to get some input from them."

According to the league, Saints linebacker Jonathan Vilma offered \$10,000 to any New Orleans player who sidelined Minnesota Vikings quarterback Brett Favre during the 2010 NFC championship game. No other players involved have been publicly identified by the NFL.

Saints running back Pierre "I hope to be able to make some Thomas, who was modeling his

team's new uniform at the NFL's fashion show, called possible player suspensions by the league "ridiculous."

"We're players. We're going out there to make plays. That's what the game is about," he said. "You play defense, your job is to tackle.

"They can say they put a bounty out on me when I got knocked out against San Francisco in the playoffs. You can say they put a bounty out on me. Who knows?" But they're just targeting us right now," he said. "But I'm not faulting the guy that hit me. It's the nature of the game. That happens."

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No damage at Rangers Ballpark after storms

ARLINGTON (AP) — Ian posted a video taken from the dug- up and forming something." Kinsler was on the way to Rangers Ballpark with teammate Michael Young when they saw the warnings on highway signs to take shelter immediately.

With heavy storms moving through the region and producing multiple tornadoes Tuesday afternoon, the Texas Rangers stars heeded the warning.

'We were on the way here and we turned back around and went back home," Kinsler said when he finally arrived at the ballpark.

Workers at Rangers Ballpark took shelter in hallways during a pair of tornado warnings when the strong storm front passed through the area hours before the twotime defending American League champions played the Mexico City Red Devils.

Team spokesman John Blake said there was no structural damage at the stadium.

out by catcher Zach Zaneski, a nonroster invitee still with the team for the exhibition game.

"While they were out there, I was inside being safe," Napoli said. "I'm not going outside in a tornado."

Zaneski said he and several other players who had arrived at the stadium early went to the dugout when they heard what was happening. He immediately pulled out his phone and started shooting some video.

The video showed dark clouds rolling through the sky above the stadium. Gusty and swirling winds lifted up the tarp that was covering the field.

"We were just videotaping the sky and all of a sudden it was almost like a train wreck, and the wind got so crazy inside the stadium and it started to pick the tarp up," Zaneski said. "We didn't see any funnel cloud, but you could see where it Rangers catcher Mike Napoli was picking the water from the tarp I trusted Kinsler."

Such weather was a new experience for Zaneski, who is from Connecticut.

"The tarp was in the ground with stakes, and it just got pulled completely out," he said. "Some of those stakes could have gone flying and we wouldn't have even known. It was a lot more dangerous than we really thought."

Young said he and Kinsler left North Dallas early for the ballpark, and it was raining pretty hard before they saw the warning signs on the highway. Kinsler said there wasn't any damage to their homes.

After waiting at Young's house for about a half-hour while the storm passed, they picked up teammate Adrian Beltre and got to the stadium in plenty of time to prepare for the game. Young even napped while Kinsler drove.

"He just drove slow," Young said. "I fell asleep on the way here.

Texas introduces Aston as women's basketball coach

AUSTIN (AP) — Former Texas women's basketball assistant Karen Aston is taking over the Longhorns with a mission to turn the program back into a national championship contender.

Aston, the coach at North Texas last season, was introduced at a campus news conference in Austin on Tuesday after a whirlwind courtship in which she was the only candidate interviewed on campus.

And she left no doubt about her expectations:

"I expect to go to the Final Four," she said. "I'm thrilled to be back. My job is to make Texas proud of the women's basketball program."

Aston, 47, succeeds Gail Goestenkors, who resigned March 20 after the Longhorns failed to advance past the first round of the NCAA tournament for the fourth straight year.

Aston, who was a Texas assistant from 1998-2006, is just the fourth head coach in program history and got a five-year contract.

Salary details were not immediately released but will be made public and subject to state open records laws. Texas pays its coaches with athletic department revenue, not state money.

Goestenkors was one of the highest-paid coaches in the country and resigned with two years left on a seven-year contract that paid her \$1.25 million per year.

In hiring Aston, Texas gets a coach who brings instant credibility in the fertile recruiting grounds of Houston and Dallas where she mined talent for Texas during her previous stint with the Longhorns. She was

Texas' recruiting coordinator when Texas made the 2003 Final Four.

She also had two stints as an assistant at Baylor from 1994-1996 and 2006-2007. She left Baylor to be the head coach at Charlotte and spent one season at North Texas. Her career record as a head coach is 101-63.

Her assistant coaching career allowed her to apprentice with three Hall of Fame coaches: Texas' Jody Conradt and Baylor's Kim Mulkey and Sonja Hogg.

Each taught her valuable lessons. Conradt showed her how to run a program and Mulkey how to push players to be their absolute best, Aston said.

"Every time I've made a step, it's been under someone who is in the Hall of Fame. I'd have to be dumb to not have learned something," Aston said.

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