

TUESDAY
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News in Brief

Campus

Football season ticket sales set new record

The Texas A&M football program has set a record for season ticket sales for the third straight year since the expansion of the north end of Kyle Field.

Through the week of June 10th, general public season ticket orders reached 34,179.

The previous record set last year was 30,337 tickets sold.

Wally Groff, Texas A&M athletics director, says 27,581 students purchased season tickets last year and he expects a similar number of sales this year.

Groff says the biggest excitement for next season seems to be the Notre Dame and Texas home games.

Community

Blinn System to get \$40 million in funds

The Blinn College System will receive more than \$40 million in state funds over the next two years.

That is an increase of more than 11% over the last two years.

Despite the increase, Blinn officials believe they will have a tight budget because state funding is not keeping pace with enrollment.

Blinn's Bryan campus has added more than 1,000 students in the last three years.

More than 80% of the state money given to Blinn is allocated for academic programs.

Blinn College operates three campuses, in Bryan, Brenham and Schulenburg.

The Blinn System is the 10th largest of 50 community college districts in Texas.

State

Jury decides not to indict woman in the death of her child

DALLAS (AP) — A Dallas County grand jury decided Monday not to indict a North Texas woman over the heat-related death of her 5-month-old son.

Carisa Beth Fletcher, 25, of Plano was arrested May 31 and charged with second-degree injury to a child after her son died when he was left inside a car for nearly six hours while she worked in a nearby building.

An autopsy showed Ethan Fletcher died of hyperthermia March 21 after temperatures inside the car neared 100. Temperatures outside that day reached the 70s.

Fletcher told police she believed she had dropped the boy off at day care before going to work at a shopping center across from NorthPark Center in North Dallas.

HIV/AIDS testing free Wednesday

Elizabeth Raines
The Battalion

There are currently 30,600 people living with HIV/AIDS in Texas. Health care officials estimate that as many as 9,000 of those do not know they carry the incurable disease.

"Last year alone, over 5,600 new cases of HIV/AIDS were diagnosed in Texas," said Trish Langley, volunteer coordinator for the AIDS Services of Brazos Valley. "It is vitally important that any person who has ever been at risk for contracting HIV get tested."

To promote HIV testing in the Brazos Valley, the AIDS Services is taking part in the 7th Annual National HIV

Testing Day Wednesday, June 27. The AIDS Services will be at four different locations in the B-CS area to give free, anonymous testing to anyone who wants it. To make testing more convenient for the students, faculty and staff at Texas A&M, testing will be available from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in 141 MSC.

"I believe that everybody had done something in their past to make them [susceptible] to HIV," said Marla McClure, director of the AIDS Services of Brazos Valley. "The scariest part is taking the test, but it is much better than not knowing and affecting and re-affecting others."

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FREE HIV TESTING LOCATIONS

Health For All
214 N. Main • 9 a.m. - Noon

Brazos County Health Department
201 N. Texas Ave. • 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Texas A&M Campus
Memorial Student Center • 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

AIDS Services
1702B S. Texas Ave. • 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Every Thursday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., AIDS Services and Beutel offer free testing at Beutel.

RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

Breathing easy



BERNARDO GARZA/THE BATTALION

John Smith open and closes the air valve on a breathing apparatus at the fire school as part of a training program he and other firefighters from Savannah, Georgia, undertook Tuesday.

Mosquito population increasing

Stuart Hutson
The Battalion

Senior psychology major Darcy Moudouni enjoyed a warm summer night with her family on the back porch of her College Station home last weekend — for half an hour.

"The mosquitoes got so bad that we had to go in right after we went outside," she said. "I thought maybe it was just our backyard, but there wasn't any standing water or anything for them to breed in."

A day later, Moudouni, who is slightly allergic to mosquito bites, counted more than 30 swollen bites on her arms, hands and ankles after the half-hour exposure.

Residents of the Bryan-College Station area are being bombarded with high numbers of floodwater mosquitoes triggered by the downpours brought by tropical storm Allison, said Jim Olson, a

medical entomologist and professor of entomology at Texas A&M.

"This is the worst I have seen the mosquito population since the early '80s," he said. "We have seen a surge in the population. There are eight or nine species of the mosquito in the area that are all blood-hungry."

Floodwater mosquitoes lay their eggs in dry areas and then must receive moisture from floodwaters to hatch. Olson said many have hatched in the lowland areas outside of the cities and were then attracted to the urban areas by city lights and heat. The mosquitoes are

known to be able to travel as far as 35 to 40 miles from their hatching site.

"They first move into the tree line surrounding the town and then make their way in," he said.

"It's going to be bad for 10 days to two weeks, and then they will die off."

As annoying as floodwater mosquitoes may be, Olson said they pose little threat of spreading disease. The threat of disease will come in three-to-four weeks, when the population of stillwater mosquitoes, which lay and hatch eggs in stagnant water, is expected to explode.

"Still water mosquitoes tend to carry viruses like strains of encephalitis because they are more likely to feed on birds, which often carry the viruses," he said. "Floodwater mosquitoes tend to only feed on large mammals, which includes us."

Olson said the threat of viruses increases as the West Nile Virus, which caused thousands of illnesses in New York last year, continues to travel southward. Current flu shots do not offer protection from this virus, which can be deadly to those with weakened immune systems.

"It's not a question now of whether or not it will reach us, — it is a question of when," Olson said. "It may be this year, or it may be five years from now."

To protect one's self from mosquito

See MOSQUITOES on Page 2.

AVOIDING MOSQUITOES

1. Wear repellent
2. Stay indoors from dusk to 11 p.m.
3. Cover as much skin as possible
4. Empty containers holding stagnant water
5. Turn off outside lights

RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

Supreme Court refuses to hear Hopwood case

AUSTIN (AP) — University of Texas officials said they were disappointed by the U.S. Supreme Court's refusal to hear their challenge to the Hopwood decision, but vowed to continue "vigorous efforts to enroll students of all races."

"At some point, the court will take a case involving these issues and will resolve them for the nation as a whole," said university President Larry Faulkner. "For now, we will keep searching for creative and legal ways to serve all of the populations of Texas."

By declining the school's request to consider their case, the court let stand a 1996 order prohibiting any consideration of race for admissions to the university's law school.

The case stems from a 1992 lawsuit in which four white students sued after they were denied admission to the UT law school. The case is named after Cheryl Hopwood, one of the four students.

The students said they were denied because the school gave preferential treatment to less-qualified Hispanic and black applicants. While parts of their argument

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— Larry Faulkner
University of Texas president

were rejected, a federal judge found the university had an unconstitutional admissions policy.

Later, former Attorney General Dan Morales interpreted the rulings to apply to scholarships and financial aid as well.

The UT system and most oth-

er state universities in Texas stopped using affirmative action for scholarships and financial aid. Many blamed that for a subsequent drop in minority enrollment across the state.

Since then, universities have been able to boost minority enrollment through laws that grant automatic admission to the top 10 percent of high school graduates.

Law school Dean William Powers said the school will continue to push for a diverse student body.

The law school now considers a range of factors, including grades, test scores, work experience, military service, regional origin and past economic or social disadvantage.

"We will continue our vigorous attempts to enroll students of all races within the limits imposed by the courts," Powers said.

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Bush promises changes to his social program

DETROIT (AP) — President George W. Bush and Republican supporters promised changes Monday to his plan to open government social-services programs to religious charities, hoping to nudge it through a tangle of critics in Congress.

In his visit to a meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, Bush won a generally worded endorsement from the nation's mayors and announced that civil rights heroine Rosa Parks also backs his "faith-based initiative."

"Together we're going to convince the skeptics," Bush declared.

His speech here — coupled with behind the scenes concessions to Democratic mayors — was designed to allay criticism of the legislation, sponsored in the House by Reps. J.C. Watts, R-Okla., and Tony Hall, D-Ohio, which is still in committee there and yet to find a Senate sponsor.

"We recognize that the funds will be spent on social services, not worship services," Bush said. "We respect the separation of church and state."

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