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Gov. Greg Abbott waves to the crowd during the inaugural parade Tuesday. (Below) The Ross Volunteers march at the Capitol.

Photos by Shelby Knowles — THE BATTALION

New chapter for Texas

Corps of Cadets lends hand in Gov. Abbott's inauguration

By Nikita Redkar

The south lawn of the Texas Capitol buzzed Tuesday afternoon with an estimated crowd of 17,000. Excited chatter and hopeful spirits filled the air while performances from the Texas Longhorn band and the Providence Catholic School choir hyped up the grand Oath of Office ceremony. A hush fell across the crowd as Gov. Greg Abbott was sworn into office.

"I am living proof that we live in a state where a young man's life can literally be broken in half and yet he can still rise up and be governor of this great state," Abbott said in his inauguration speech that highlighted the promise of allowing motivated Texans access to endless opportunities, no matter their background or condition. Abbott is paralyzed from the waist down and relies on a wheelchair for mobility.

Abbott also emphasized campaign promises and his determination to fight the federal policies being appointed in Washington, if necessary.

"I will continue my legacy of pushing back against Washington if they spend too much, regulate too much or violate our state sovereignty," the new governor said.

Agribusiness senior Jordan Garcia was just 8 years old when Rick Perry was elected governor of Texas. Today, he got to help usher in Perry's replacement in the Texas Aggie Band as it marched in the governor's inaugural parade.

"[The Aggie Band] does a lot of performances throughout the year, but nothing as big as a governor's inauguration," Garcia said. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime kind of thing."

Garcia said the band's extensive practices during football season prepared them to perform at the parade.

INAUGURATION ON PG. 4



INAUGURATION TAKEAWAYS

1 The journey: "During this month 30 years ago I laid in a hospital bed recovering from injuries that broke my back and left me forever unable to walk," Abbott said. "The journey from that Houston hospital to the Texas Governorship was possible because of two powerful forces." He said his journey was made possible through the grace of God and through the good fortune of being born in Texas.

2 "The Land of Opportunity": Abbott said Texas is the place where the improbable becomes possible. "To this day Texas has been filled with legends who started humbly and succeeded spectacularly," Abbott said.

3 "There is still work to be done": Abbott said some of the areas he intends to focus on include bettering transportation services, water services, education services and care for veterans. "And we must do more for the millions of Texans who are tired of seeing our state sovereignty and the rule of law ignored by a federal government that refuses to secure our border," Abbott said.

4 Continuing the fight: Abbott said he would continue his legacy of pushing back against Washington "if they spend too much, regulate too much or violate [Texas] state sovereignty." Abbott said for too long Washington has tried to remake America in its image.

BATTASKS

What are your thoughts on Greg Abbott taking office Tuesday?



"I'm cool with it because he's pro guns. So growing up in a family that hunts, that's awesome."

Rachel Mozingo, biology junior



"I think Greg Abbott being elected is good for Texas because he challenges some of Obama's acts and reforms that he's passed, which may be better for everybody."

Tyler Tomasino, business administration sophomore

ENGINEERING

Classrooms get greener twist with new complex

By Trey Reeves

Engineering students greeted the first completed portion of a massive facilities overhaul Monday as a new 600-seat education complex opened its doors.

The Engineering Activities Buildings are a set of eight greenhouse-inspired buildings dedicated to engineering undergraduate education. The facility is the first phase in a campus-wide effort by the Dwight Look College of Engineering to make its infrastructure capable of handling 25,000 undergraduates by year 2025 — the backbone of the 25 by 25 Initiative.

The new facility — which sits between the Student Computing Center and the Commons — is a mixture of classroom and office space. Six buildings house 100-seat classrooms each, and the other two contain offices. The total facility

GREENHOUSE ON PG. 2



Eight greenhouse-inspired buildings, which opened this week, serve as additional space for engineering classrooms.

M. BASKETBALL

A&M glad to be home as Mizzou date awaits

By Conner Darland

Texas A&M returns to College Station for a Wednesday matchup with the Missouri Tigers with momentum on its side after a thrilling win in Baton Rouge.

"We're excited to be back home," head coach Billy Kennedy said. "We're looking forward to a good crowd, hopefully, with the students being back. There's a little more enthusiasm on campus and we have a big game coming up against the Missouri Tigers, who are coming in here hungry and are ready to play."

Missouri (7-10, 1-3 SEC) leads the all-time series with Texas A&M (11-5, 2-2 SEC) 16-11. The last time these two programs faced each other was in the second round of last year's SEC Tournament on March 13. The Tigers came away with the 91-83 victory in double

MISSOURI ON PG. 2

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