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World's largest telescope rolls on

Giant Magellan Telescope nears fundraising goals, construction

By John Rangel

The stars have never been closer to Texas, as 2014's final months brought the world's largest telescope to the threshold of construction.

The Giant Magellan Telescope will be 10 times stronger than the Hubble Space Telescope when it sees first light in 2021, surpassing any previous observatory. Texas A&M and the University of Texas are two of 11 international partners who hope to start construction in the Chilean desert before summer — a goal nearly realized over the past six months with millions in donations, a hiring spree and infrastructure development.

The GMT's latest contribution came from the University of Arizona, which received a \$20 million gift from



Provided by GMT Corporation

Construction to house the 200-250 workers needed to build the Giant Magellan Telescope has already begun.

A&M SYSTEM

Abbott wastes no time, taps 2 new A&M regents

By Lindsey Gawlik

► Newly inaugurated Gov. Greg Abbott appointed two new members to the Texas A&M Board of Regents Thursday, according to a release from the governor's office.

The appointment of the two new regents, William "Bill" Mahomes Jr., Class of 1969, and Robert L. "Bob" Albritton, Class of 1971, is subject to Senate approval and would be effective Feb. 1. Abbott also reappointed current board chairman Phil Adams.

Albritton, who is the chairman of the Board & CEO of RCL Services Group and co-founder and CEO of Mayfair Petroleum & Minerals LLC, said as a graduate from Texas A&M the thought of coming back and serving on such a prestigious



Bill Mahomes



Bob Albritton

REGENTS ON PG. 4

W. BASKETBALL

Georgia too much on road for No. 10 A&M

Aggies fall 54-51, turn to No. 1 South Carolina

Staff report

► The No. 10 Texas A&M women's basketball team fell 54-51 to No. 22 Georgia on Thursday night despite three Aggies scoring in double figures at the Stegeman Coliseum in Athens, Georgia.

Texas A&M (16-4, 4-2 SEC) went 1-of-2 from the free throw line while the Bulldogs (17-4, 4-2) sank 13 of their 18 shots from the charity stripe.

Courtney Walker led all Aggies in scoring with 12. Courtney Williams and Jordan Jones trailed shortly behind with 11 each.

A three-pointer by senior Tori Scott gave the Aggies

their first lead of the second half. However, the Bulldog attack, led by leading scorer Mackenzie Engram with 16, proved to be too much to handle for head coach Gary Blair and the A&M squad.



Gary Blair

Williams brought the Aggies to 52-51 on a late jumper with 18 seconds remaining, but Georgia's Marjorie Butler sank both free throws on the

next possession to lead the Bulldogs to the 54-51 final.

After the loss, the Aggies will regroup and prepare for their next game against No. 1 South Carolina. The away match for A&M is scheduled to tip at 6 p.m. Monday.

MORE AT THEBATT.COM

Civil rights activist Diane Nash: 'Selma' marginalizes the march's key players

By Lindsey Gawlik

► Accurately depicting the civil rights movement to younger generations is crucial, stresses 1960s activist Diane Nash.

At the 8th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast, she tried to do just that. She spoke about her friendship with Martin Luther King Jr. and the differences between the reality of the civil rights movement and the way it is depicted in popular films such as "Selma."

Nash, who drew around 100 to 200 people for the three-hour event Thursday morning, was a founding member of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee and a member of the Freedom Riders.

Nash said King Jr. was a source of inspiration in her life and she came to know him well.

"I can say I have the distinction of having double-dated with Martin Luther King," Nash said laughing. "My former husband and I accompanied him to Parella in the Bahama Islands."

Nash also said King Jr. would often get annoyed with her because she pushed him when she didn't think he was moving fast enough.

"In terms with working with him, I think I used to get on his last nerve," Nash said. "I would be very outspoken and kind of say, 'This is what I thought we ought to do.' ... We disagreed vigorously about strategy."

Still, she said they agreed on the cause and tolerated their disagreements out of mutual respect.

As for her portrayal in "Selma," Nash said her character was marginalized.

NASH ON PG. 2



Shelby Knowles — THE BATTALION

Activist Diane Nash said Thursday she used to get on Martin Luther King Jr.'s "last nerve."

HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

Mini Med School takes health to community

By Wade Feilin

► With the goal of educating community members, Mini Medical School, put on by the Texas A&M Health Science Center, tackles health-related topics with weekly lectures.

Thursday's lecturer was Dr. Ruth Bush, vice dean for academic affairs. Her lecture covered the topic of healthy legs and blood circulation.

"I think the important take-aways from this are that people need to realize there are a lot of different things that can cause their leg pain," Bush said. "As I said in the beginning, I think there's a misnomer in saying that I have generic circulatory prob-

lems. People need to realize that there's different things that can cause the arterial and different things that can cause the venous circulatory disorders."

In 2006, Brenda Long, director of alumni and community relations at the College of Medicine, was approached by the dean about creating this program through the National Institute of Health.

"[The dean] wanted the community to know that the College of Medicine is here and he wanted to bring people into the college to showcase our faculty," Long said.

The program takes place every Thursday until Feb. 19. At these sessions, Texas A&M lecturers give presentations that are approximately 45 minutes of lecture

followed by 30 minutes of question-and-answer.

Long said the benefits of the program show in the types of questions people ask.

"The majority of our attendees are retired community members," Long said. "They are like sponges — they just soak everything in and they're worried about their health. You can tell by a lot of questions that they have gone through some of these things personally or know someone who has."

Bush said the program gives members of the community the chance to spend time with somebody who's an expert in the field.

"I think what it's done is raise

MINI MED SCHOOL ON PG. 4

Dr. Ruth Bush, vice dean for academic affairs, speaks Thursday about healthy legs and blood circulation.



Shelby Knowles — THE BATTALION