

THE BATT

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Deon Lendore PAGE 2
takes his last lap

Tanner Garza — THE BATTALION

SILVER TAPS



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Sarah Anne Yager page 4

Ross Volunteer urges students to attend Silver Taps

An Open Letter to the Aggie Family,

Howdy, Ags. To those who've returned back to Aggieland this semester, welcome back! At this institution, we talk a lot about selfless service; willingly and joyfully sacrificing our time and resources while expecting nothing in return. In fact, this university and its traditions are rooted in service and self-sacrifice; just take a walk through the MSC. Throughout our history, Aggies have found ways to boldly serve this nation, state and most importantly, their fellow man.

Silver Taps is the most special and intimate tradition on this campus. It is traditions like this that make being an Aggie special and the Aggie family real. To simply be in attendance is the most selfless act you could perform for the loved ones of your fellow Aggie. The gesture of standing in total darkness with your fellow Aggie on a Tuesday night is powerful and greatly appreciated by the visiting families. When there is no elbow room on the grass in front of the Academic Building, and the only sound is the wind through the Century Tree, it's easy to see what the Aggie family is all about.

Unfortunately, we again must perform the amazing act of solidarity that is Silver Taps. Attendance for Silver Taps is traditionally strong in September because of the Fish Camp groups and the excitement that accompanies the beginning of a new year. Slowly but surely, the numbers dwindle until only the Corps and a few truly dedicated Aggies come to share in the embrace of the families. We owe it to our brothers' and sisters' families to be standing there when we tell them that we cared about their loved one and what they did with their life.

To be clear: There is nothing "in it for you." Silver Taps is solely another medium through which Aggies experience the hidden joy and value in the tradition of selfless-service.

In the past, the square area between Nagle, Bolton Hall, the YMCA Building and the Academic Building was full of Aggies standing together to honor those at Silver Taps; that was when the university had significantly less students. How much larger could our symbol of respect be with a student body of 50,000 Aggies?

Please, on behalf of the families of the fallen, I ask that you carve 30 to 45 minutes out of your busy life on a Tuesday night to be an engaged member of the Aggie Family. The simple fact is that surrendering that time to the grieving families is what Silver Taps, being an Aggie and selfless service is all about. Show up at Academic Plaza on Tuesday night. The ceremony starts precisely at 10:30 p.m.

Your presence alone is an amazing act of compassion and selflessness.

How many people would you want to comfort and serve your family at Silver Taps?

Respectfully and dutifully at your service,

Firing Squad Commander '15
Ross Volunteer Company

M. BASKETBALL

SEC PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Texas A&M junior guard Danuel House has earned SEC Player of the Week honors after his performances in wins over Auburn and Vanderbilt. House averaged 17.5 points per game and shot 72.7 percent from 3-point range to help move the Aggies into second place in the SEC standings.



Shelby Knowles — THE BATTALION

Alaa Elwany and his team received a grant for \$500,000 from NASA in order to pursue research on shape-memory alloys, or "smart metals."

NASA grant funds 'smart metals' project

Professor's team works on shape-memory alloys

By Spencer Davis

Three Texas A&M professors are pursuing crucial research on shape-memory alloys — materials that can mend their shape in response to their environment.

Shape-memory alloys are popular in a range of industries including aerospace and health, and their development was accelerated last month when NASA awarded a \$500,000 grant to the A&M team to study their production. These alloys, sometimes

called "smart metals," are lightweight materials that can be deformed and restored to their original shape when heat is applied.

"These are materials that literally have a memory," said Alaa Elwany, principal investigator of the team. "If it is subjected to some temperature or some abnormal stress then it regains its original shape."

These alloys are already being used as heart stents in cardiovascular surgery and are replacing complex parts in airplane engines, said Raymond Arroyave, a materials science professor and team member. In fields that require complicated machines

and precise movement, fewer moving parts often mean less failure.

These special alloys are produced by a process of additive manufacturing, better known as 3D printing, that allows advantages otherwise not feasible by conventional techniques.

"The advantage of additive manufacturing is that it provides the flexibility to basically design the shape you need to meet the functional requirements," Arroyave said.

The problem, Elwany said, has been perfecting the 3D printing manufacture technique.

"It's a material that has a lot

GRANT ON PG. 3

ENVIRONMENT

A&M works to relocate Kyle Field bat population

Conservationists question environmental issues, removal continues

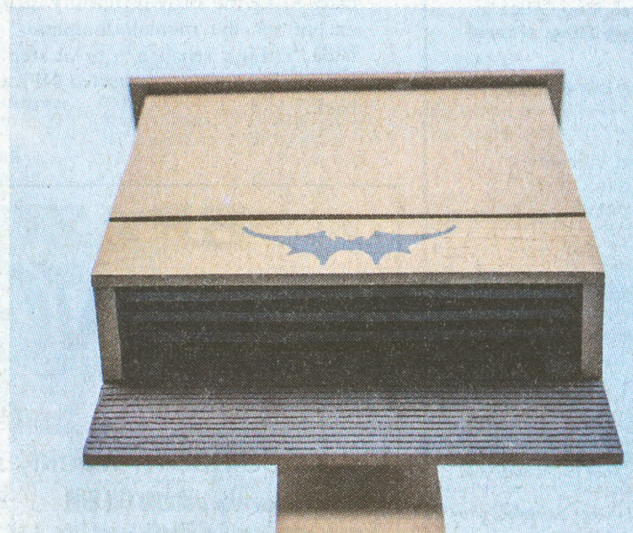
By Spencer Davis

When completed, Kyle Field's renovation will seat 102,500 screaming football fans as the largest stadium in the SEC. However, the renovated stadium will no longer welcome some of Kyle Field's quieter inhabitants — 250,000 Mexican free-tailed bats.

The native bat population has lived in the crevices of Kyle Field since it was built 87 years ago. Texas A&M and Manhattan-Vaughn have sought to relocate the bat population since the stadium's renovation began in the fall of 2013.

Cleaning up after the bats costs A&M approximately \$150,000 per year, said Phillip Ray, chief business development officer of Texas A&M.

"The total cost to undertake bat-exclusion measures



Tanner Garza — THE BATTALION

As part of the bat relocation efforts, "bat houses" have been built in order to conserve the free-tailed bat population as they are forced from Kyle Field.

throughout the redeveloped Kyle Field is not yet determined," Ray said.

While university officials question the cost of such question the environmental costs

of getting rid of the bats.

Thomas Lacher, a bat expert and conservation biologist in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, said the bat exodus from

BATS ON PG. 2

SPORTS

Manziel enters treatment facility

By Milkyas Gashaw

Heisman Trophy winner and former A&M standout Johnny Manziel checked into a treatment facility early Wednesday morning.

"Johnny knows there are areas in which he needs to improve in order to be a better family member, friend and teammate, and he thought the offseason was the right time to take this step," adviser Brad Beckworth said in his statement.



FILE

Johnny Manziel

Beckworth did not specify the type of treatment sought by Manziel or how long he would remain at the facility. The news comes on the heels of a rookie season in which Manziel saw action in only three games — throwing for 175 yards with zero passing touchdowns and two interceptions — and was fined by the team for missing treatment on his injured hamstring prior to the Dec. 28 season finale.

Cleveland Browns general manager Ray Farmer came out in support of the Browns quarterback.

"We respect Johnny's initiative in this decision and will fully support him throughout this process," Farmer said. "Our players' health and well-being will always be of the utmost importance to the Cleveland Browns. We continually strive to create a supportive environment and provide the appropriate resources, with our foremost focus being on the individual and not just the football player."

Manziel came into the NFL as a polarizing figure, stemming from his playing days at Texas A&M. After he became the first freshman in NCAA history to win the Heisman trophy, Manziel became instant news, with media outlets from across the country covering him at his every move. Some argued that Manziel became just as polarizing and as talked about as another former Heisman trophy winner, Tim Tebow.

When Manziel entered his final season at A&M in 2013, the Aggies received buzz as national title contenders and Manziel was a candidate to win back-to-back Heisman trophies. The Aggies finished 9-4 with a dramatic victory in the Chick-Fil-A bowl over Duke and Manziel again returned to New York as a Heisman finalist, though Florida State's Jameis Winston took home the award.

As his NFL pro day came and went, the draft buzz was all about where Manziel was going to go in

MANZIEL ON PG. 2

CAMPUS

BOARD OF REGENTS

The Texas A&M Board of Regents will meet Tuesday afternoon in a special telephonic meeting to possibly announce the names of the finalists for the position of the president of Texas A&M University. The meeting will take place at 5:30 p.m. in the Board of Regents annex of the Memorial Student Center.