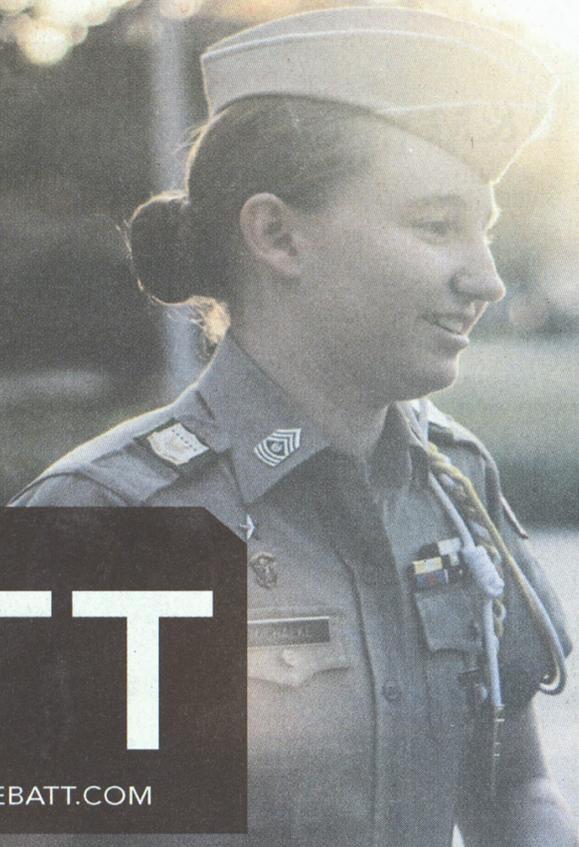


Alyssa Michalke will officially take on the position as Corps Commander at the 2014 Final Review.



MEET MICHALKE, THE FIRST WOMAN TO LEAD THE CORPS

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Shelby Knowles — THE BATTALION

STATE

Texas' first gay marriage muddles legal discussion

Austin-area judge allows couple to marry due to health concerns

By Lindsey Gawlik

► Texas' first same-sex marriage took place Thursday morning as a probate judge allowed a couple to marry for health reasons.

Just days after Travis County Probate Judge Guy Hermann ruled Texas' ban on same-sex marriage unconstitutional, Sarah Goodfriend and Suzanne Bryant were granted a one-time court order to expedite their marriage due to Goodfriend's poor health, the Austin American-Statesman reported. Goodfriend has been diagnosed with and treated for ovarian cancer.

A rabbi married the couple, who have been together for almost 31 years, while their two daughters served as witnesses.

Their marriage is a one-time affair for the state of Texas — at least for now. Hours after the ceremony, the Texas Supreme Court issued an emergency order blocking other gay couples from obtaining marriage licenses. According to the L.A. Times, Attorney General Ken Paxton said the court's order should make the license void.

Mary Penrose, professor of Law at the Texas A&M School of Law, said the marriage further complicates the marriage landscape in Texas. Penrose said the Tuesday ruling is an unusual case and that probate judges do not usually make such calls.

"It is rather remarkable, legally speaking, that a state probate judge would issue a ruling on the constitutionality of same-sex marriage," Penrose said. "But there are occasions where a probate issue requires the resolution of issues that are tangential to will and estate contests."

Penrose noted the filing made by Paxton was made quickly as a cautionary move, since the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans is reviewing the Texas ban on same-sex marriages.

"And the United States Supreme Court has agreed to hear arguments in an unrelated case addressing the constitutionality of denying state marriage licenses to same-sex couples, [so] the Texas attorney general has filed an emergency request with the Texas Supreme Court seeking to block Judge Herman's order," Penrose said.

In February 2014, a federal judge overturned Texas' ban on same-sex marriage, but he held his ruling pending appeals, so it has not gone into effect.

Same-sex marriage is legal in 36 states and the District of Columbia.

ARMED FORCES



Gen. Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, speaks at the 60th MSC Student Conference on National Affairs Thursday in Rudder.

Cody Franklin — THE BATTALION

Gen. Dempsey talks 'moral courage' in leadership

By Spencer Davis

► The highest-ranking member of the U.S. Armed Forces stepped on campus this week for the first time.

Gen. Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, conducted a review of the Corps of Cadets Wednesday and spoke Thursday morning at the 60th MSC Student Conference on National Affairs, an annual event that hosts student

delegates from around the nation to discuss national issues.

Dempsey became chairman in 2011 and is now the principal military advisor to President Barack Obama. In that role he continues to directly influence American military and counterterrorism policy. His speech surveyed important topics of security concerning Russian aggression

DEMPSEY ON PG. 2

Cadet reflects on experiences that led her to the Corps' top leadership role

By Lindsey Gawlik

For Alyssa Michalke, the first female Corps commander in 139 years, this last week has been a whirlwind.

Michalke, an ocean engineering junior and current Corps sergeant major, said taking the role means helping to write a new chapter in A&M's history.

"In the back of my mind I knew if I did this it would be almost the final chapter in the book," Michalke said. "This is one of the final chapters in the book of women's history here at A&M and in the Corps."

Coincidentally aligning with the 40th academic year since women were integrated into the Corps, Michalke's appointment came just days before this weekend's anniversary celebration.

"When I met all these women in the fall, they asked 'Hey are you going to apply for commander? You have got to apply, you are it, you are it,'" Michalke said.

When she came to A&M, she said joining the Corps was a tough decision because she wasn't sure how she would like the military lifestyle.

"But I quickly adapted to it and I learned that it's a challenge, but it's one that is going to make me a lot stronger of a person, a lot better person as a leader and as an individual," Michalke said. "It's been a great experience so far and hopefully next year holds a lot of the same."

When she started at Texas A&M three years ago, she said she never expected she would become the commander, but said it has been an exciting blessing.

"Freshman year I really looked up to the [commanding officer] of my outfit, and I was like, 'That's what I want to be one day, that's what I want to

MICHALKE ON PG. 3

CORPS OF CADETS

40 years in, women reflect on Corps

Weekend event to bring together past and present cadets

By Kylee Reid

► The history of females in the Corps of Cadets has not always been one of acceptance, but this weekend past and present female cadets will gather on campus to reflect on how the organization has changed in the last four decades.

Put on by the Corps of Cadets Association, the weekend-long event "40 Years of Women in the Corps" is a time for people to get together and share memories, said event coordinator Amanda Fleming.

Sandy Barth, Class of 1983 and former cadet, said she will not be able to attend the event, but thinks the opportunity to share experiences is important.

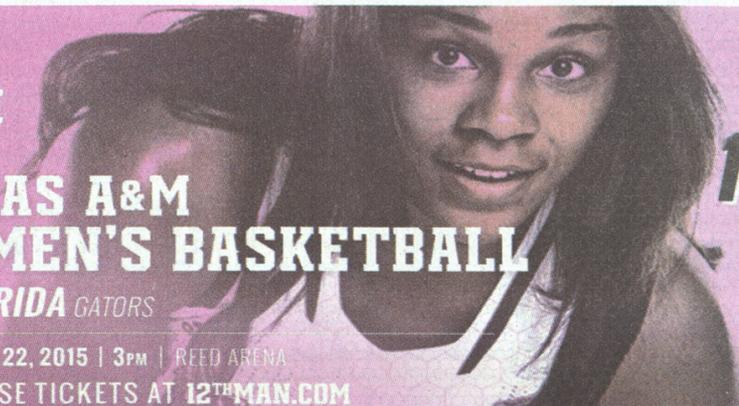
"I remember an incident that happened just to me and I've never forgotten about it after all these years because I just couldn't grasp it," Barth said. "We were going to some kind of function and we

40YEARS ON PG. 3



Alison Bradshaw — THE BATTALION

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the integration of women, the Corps of Cadets Association is holding a weekend-long event.



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