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WILEY LECTURE SERIES

Child abduction survivor to speak on campus

Activist Elizabeth Smart to talk empowerment

By Bradley D'Souza

Elizabeth Smart will share her story of abduction and empowerment on campus Thursday.

Smart was abducted as a child in 2002 and subjected to physical and sexual abuse for nine months. Following her rescue, she published a book detailing her experiences and has advocated for child abduction recovery programs.

Smart's presentation is hosted by Maggies and the Wiley Lecture Series. Adrienne Bryant, Maggies' program coordinator for the lecture and psychology senior, said she was initially inspired by Smart's story after reading her book. Bryant said she was particularly moved by how Smart was able to thrive after her experience, and wanted to help spread that message to students on campus.

Haley Mathews, director of symposia for MSC Wiley and political science senior, said she hopes those attending will be inspired by Smart's story.

"I think that the most important thing to take away from her story is that when we go through a hard time or trial, there are ways to take it, and that you can better your own life," Mathews said. "It's go-



PROVIDED

Elizabeth Smart is set to speak about her 2002 abduction Thursday.

ing to be a conversation about empowerment and perseverance, and I think that that's going to be important for students to take away. Her experience is extreme, but its the principle of persevering through hard times, turning it on its head and using it to empower your life."

Mathews said many aspects of Smart's story will be received by a diverse audience with a broad range of interest.

SMART ON PG. 4

Q&A

Koresh: The artistry and outreach of dance



PROVIDED

The Koresh Dance Company is known for its performances as well as its outreach dance programs.

The Academy of Visual and Performing Arts is bringing the Philadelphia-based Koresh Dance Company to Rudder Theatre at 7 p.m. Thursday. The Battalion Life & Arts editor Katie Canales sat down with the company's artistic director Ronen Koresh to discuss Koresh's outreach program, touring lifestyle and dance techniques.

THE BATTALION: You're stationed in Philadelphia. What does your company do for the community?

KORESH: We have a big, big school in Philadelphia and the center city. We cater to children's classes from the ages of two and a half, three to the age of 17 and then we also offer classes to people who are adults and also for aspiring professionals and nonprofessionals. And then every day, seven days a week, we do a lot of outreach programs. We go to schools in the area for underprivileged kids and we actually give classes. It's part of our mission. So I think we deal with four different

schools that we go to and we're hoping eventually to have it part of the curriculum that we will be teaching them on a continuous basis, not just offering classes randomly as opposed to having it. If you're in a certain grade, the next year you can have the class and continue studying. So it becomes part of what you do in the school since there's hardly any art and culture in the schools these days. That's just part of what our mission is. And when we're on the road we do lectures and demonstrations or masters classes and lectures and performances so we're really

KORESH ON PG. 2

Ryan Palmer tees off at The Masters with high hopes

Maroon on the green



Ryan Palmer

By Lawrence Smelser

SAN ANTONIO — It has been three years since Ryan Palmer's last Masters appearance, 10 since his first showing, 15 since his graduation from Texas A&M.

And as one of golf's most prestigious and historic events, The Masters, prepares to start Thursday in Augusta, Georgia, the Aggie said he feels good about his chances.

"I'm excited about Augusta," said Palmer, who sits No. 23 in the world and will enter The Masters for the first time since 2012. His best of four previous finishes came in 2011, when he tied for 10th. "I haven't been there the last two years, so I'm looking forward to it — especially the way I'm playing. It sets up good for me, and it's nice going to majors when you're playing well."

His journey hasn't always been an obvious one. Palmer said the idea of becoming a professional golfer didn't occur to him until late in high school, and he played a year at the University of North Texas before transferring to A&M.

A&M's head golf coach at the time, Bob Ellis, said Palmer reached out to him and it was clear he was determined to play for the Aggies.

"At a tournament in Mexico, he showed a strong desire that he wanted to come to Texas A&M," Ellis said. "Ryan always wanted to

PALMER ON PG. 2

TENNIS

Freshman Catanzariti makes splash on SEC circuit for streaking Aggie men

By Alex Scott

▶ AJ Catanzariti last lost more than a month ago, has won 11 straight matches and is the back-to-back-to-back SEC freshman of the week.

The Pittsburgh native has spent less than a year at Texas A&M, but already he has staked a leading role on the young, talented A&M tennis team. His unconventional path to College Station began when he first learned the game of tennis, following the trend set by his older sister.

"I picked up a racket when I was three and started playing competitively when I was around seven," Catanzariti said.

Coming from Pittsburgh, head coach Steve Denton said it would have made sense for Catanzariti to attend a more northern school recruiting him, like Illinois or Ohio State, both of which are closer to home. After a campus visit, though, he came away with the connection he needed.

"Thankfully for us, he chose [A&M]," Denton said. "Maybe he wanted to get out of the cold and come to a warmer place."

Catanzariti's freshman campaign has been nothing short of impressive. He is on an 11-match singles winning streak and is 32-8 this season, 9-2 in the SEC. He has also been part of 17 doubles matches, losing only two.

As a team, A&M is on a nine-match

CATANZARITI ON PG. 4



Cody Franklin — THE BATTALION

For three straight weeks, **AJ Catanzariti** has been named SEC freshman of the week and has won 11 straight matches.

HISTORY

Civil War statues to join local memorials in Veterans Park

By Evan Flores

▶ A statue depicting the end of the Civil War for opposing sides will join the ranks of American war memorials in Brazos Valley Thursday.

The statues are brought to the community by the Brazos Valley Veterans Memorial. The newest memorial will depict two soldiers going their separate ways — a Confederate soldier going south and a Union soldier headed north, symbolizing the return home after the war, said Steve Beachy, project leader and BVVM board member.

"We wanted to focus on

the end of the war," Beachy said. "[The soldiers] that survived had to go home and rebuild their lives and then help rebuild the country."

The newest addition is part of the half-mile trail on the Lynn Stuart Pathway at Veterans Park lined with memorials dedicated to conflicts the United States has faced over the last 200 years. Beachy said these additions to Veterans Park are a continuation of works done by citizens of the Bryan-College Station area. The statues to be unveiled Thursday were created by local artist J. Payne Lara.



PROVIDED

The statue will depict both a Confederate soldier and a Union soldier going their separate ways to symbolize their return home after the war.

CIVIL WAR ON PG. 3