

THE BATT

THE BATTALION | THEBATT.COM

Ring Day(s) in Aggieland

Junior Alex Hill shows off his ring with three generations of Aggie alumni.

Mary Reyes — THE BATTALION

Storms complicate record-setting Aggie Ring Day

By Jennifer Reiley

Although the clouds rolled in and storms divided Ring “Day” across two days, College Station saw its largest Aggie Ring Day turnout yet.

At the Clayton Williams Jr. Alumni Center, 4,811 Aggies students received their rings Friday and Saturday.

The Association of Former Students estimated 30,000 people visited the Alumni Center over the weekend — an average of

about six people per student getting a ring.

Kathryn Greenwade, vice president of the association, said the ceremonies Friday had to be moved to Saturday because the weather was too much of a safety concern for people waiting outside to receive their ring.

“Two lightning delays and the weather that is on its way is looking severe,” Greenwade said. “We did not want to endanger people with being outside in those conditions. We are very sorry we had to suspend activities for today.

If we could have continued them we would but we really couldn’t.”

Despite the weather, about 75 percent of students picked up their rings Friday. One of these students was Tonee Anderson, animal science senior and first generation Aggie. Like many others, Anderson said she was excited to get her ring.

“It’s this feeling that I’m almost done,” Anderson said. “That’s really nice you know. It’s just great.”

RING DAY ON PG. 3

SCIENCE

Rice-sized research



Allison Bradshaw — THE BATTALION

Two A&M research labs run by Gerard Cote and Melissa Grunlan are working to develop a new way to track blood glucose levels.

A&M diabetes research could end painful insulin tests

By Zach Grinovich

Finger pricks and continuous glucose monitors may be things of the past if A&M researchers succeed in developing a new way to measure a diabetic’s glucose levels through fluorescent light.

Two research labs aim to develop a device the size of a rice grain that can be implanted in the skin and will glow certain colors when fluorescent light is shined upon it. The colors will correspond to the diabetic’s glucose level, allowing an individual to monitor their health without the invasive, and sometimes painful, procedures available today.

Heading the labs that seek to develop this device is Gerard Cote, director of the Center for Remote Healthcare Technology, and Melissa

Grunlan, director of undergraduate programs in the Department of Bio-medical Engineering.

“We are working on a device that you can implant just underneath the skin that will change its color or its fluorescence, if you will, with changes in glucose concentration,” Cote said.

When the device is implanted under the skin, it is probed by shining a certain color of light on it. The person using the implant can painlessly and unobtrusively correlate the color changes with their blood sugar level.

This would provide a way for diabetics to continuously and noninvasively measure their blood glucose. The device’s design is a joint project between Cote’s and Grunlan’s labs.

Diabetes is a demanding disease to deal with. Individuals with diabetes sometimes have to prick their finger or forearm at least four or five times

DIABETES ON PG. 2

TENNIS

A&M men clinch SEC title on home court after rain-soaked weekend

By Alex Scott

The Texas A&M men’s tennis team completed its campaign for a second straight SEC tournament championship Sunday when it defeated the Georgia Bulldogs 4-2 at the Mitchell Tennis Center.

Head Coach Steve Denton, whose team split the SEC regular season title with Georgia last week, said he couldn’t be happier for his team following a championship match prolonged by inclement weather.

“This one feels as good as the first,” Denton said. “Our guys competed their tails off today against a great Georgia team.”

The ever-important doubles point was not easy to come by Sunday when the two teams faced off in front of the Aggie home crowd. At line one, the Georgia Bulldogs presented the No. 1 doubles team in the nation, consisting of Ben Wagland and Austin Smith, against A&M’s Harrison Adams and Shane Vinsant, the No. 11 pair in the country.

Although most of the focus was on court one, it was the freshman pair of AJ Catanzariti and Arthur Rinderknech to first retire their opponents, 6-3. Almost simultaneously, A&M (21-4) secured the



Cody Franklin — THE BATTALION

The Aggie men’s tennis team wrapped up the SEC tournament Sunday by topping Georgia despite rain delays.

point on court two, 6-3 while the top ranked Georgia group recorded a win on court one 6-3. It was seniors Jeremy Efferding and Jordan Szabo who clinched the point for the Aggies.

“You see it time and time again, the difference maker in a match comes down to that doubles point,” Efferding said.

Upon advancing to singles play, it was not long before the Bulldogs gained ground and tied the score at 1-1 with a 6-2, 6-3 win on court four, Harrison Adams falling for A&M.

With the intensity rising, the two star freshmen for the Aggies, Catanzariti and Rinderknech, defeated their opponents in straight sets to give A&M a 3-1 lead.

“They’re poised, they don’t play like freshmen anymore, we’ve played enough tennis this year that I try not to call them freshmen,” Denton said. “They believe in themselves, they are aggressive players, serve well and they think they’re going to win and that’s the mindset you have to have if you’re going to compete at this level.”

TENNIS ON PG. 2

BASEBALL

Rain, Razorbacks doom No. 1 A&M in series loss

By Seth Stroupe

Maybe it was the weather delays or just something in the air, but for the first time this season the No. 1 Texas A&M baseball team showed signs of mortality Sunday against the visiting Arkansas Razorbacks.

In the series’ decisive finale, the Aggies were unable to overcome an opening inning in which they dug themselves into an early 6-0 hole en route to a lopsided 8-2 defeat. Sunday sealed the first series loss for the Aggies (35-5, 12-5 SEC).

The loss came hours af-

ter A&M gave up six unanswered runs in the last three rescheduled innings of the postponed game two.

“We show up [for game two] and have a five run lead and nine outs to go and all of the momentum,” Childress said. “But Arkansas did a great job of taking that away from us there in the 8th inning when they scored five runs with two outs.”

The team will have a chance to rebound in Tuesday’s 2 p.m. home matchup against UT-Arlington.

FULL STORY AT
TX.AG/BATT44

GOLF

A&M dominates SEC championship field

By Lawrence Smelser

The Texas A&M women’s golf team brought home the SEC championship Sunday after shooting a historic 13-under par and garnering a total score of 851 over the three days.

The 2015 title is A&M’s first since 2010 and its first as a member of the SEC. With it, the Aggies have now won a total of six conference titles.

No. 13 Texas A&M achieved the lowest under-par finish in SEC championship history with its 13-under par performance. The team’s 851 score total is the second-lowest three-round total in SEC history.

The individual champion and runner-up of the tournament both were Aggies. Sophomore Bianca Fabrizio took the title with a score of nine-under par 207, and teammate Maddie Szeryk, who is a freshman, finished in second with a score of seven-under par 209.

“Bianca and Maddie were solid this

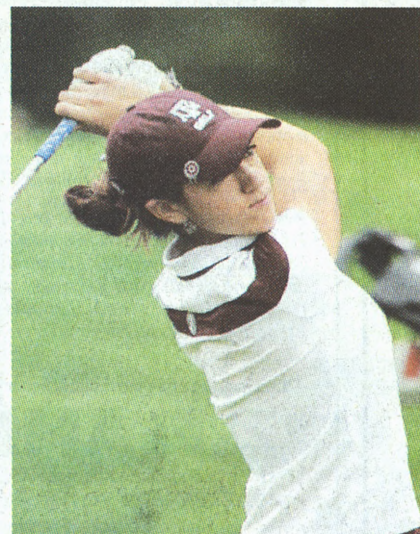
week,” McCombs said. “I can’t be more proud of how they stepped up and played their hearts out.”

The Aggies dominated the competition, finishing 12 strokes ahead of second place South Carolina, who are No. 2 in the nation. Vanderbilt, Tennessee and Alabama rounded out the top five, finishing third, fourth and fifth.

“I am so proud of these girls and how they came through in tough conditions the last three days,” said head coach Trelle McCombs. “They did such an amazing job of being a team this week, everyone contributed and gave it their all.”

The A&M women’s golf team had not finished higher than seventh in any previous SEC Championship and no individual had made it higher than 19th place.

With the SEC championship title, the Aggie women now automatically qualify for the NCAA championships. Regionals will take place May 7-9 and the Championships begin May 22.



PROVIDED

Sophomore Bianca Fabrizio won the individual title Sunday as part of A&M’s convincing SEC title-winning weekend.