



WE'RE THERE WHEN YOU CAN'T BE

The Baylor Lariat

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Last chance

Students' last opportunity to get their picture in the Round Up yearbook will be March 27-30. Seniors must schedule an appointment for March 20-24 online at www.ouryear.com and enter school code 417. March 20 and 21 dates will be held from noon to 6 p.m. during Bear Faire at the Ferrell Center. Freshman, sophomores and juniors can walk in on a first-come, first-serve basis on these dates from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the CUB of the Bill Daniel Student Center.



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New lines are drawn
Federal court release of Texas' new voting district maps makes way for long-delayed primaries

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Honored in style
Austin City Limits will honor the 80th birthday of country music legend Johnny Cash in an April concert

Theater premieres four plays in one

By ROB BRADFIELD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baylor Theatre's latest production gives audiences a glimpse into the world of contemporary plays, as well as a chance to see two premieres from the Baylor Theatre community.

“Quartet with Grand Piano: An evening of Four Short Plays,”

directed by Dr. Deanna Toten Beard, associate professor and graduate program director for Baylor Theatre, runs this week in the Hooper-Schaefer Fine Arts Center.

Student actors will perform four short plays in Theatre 11 — Baylor's black box theater. The four plays, while different on the surface, are united by central themes. “They share themes of

memory, loss and the power of beauty to help us be brave,” Beard said.

The premieres include “Aftermath,” written by Baylor theater professor Thomas Ward, and “The Trapeze Artist,” by Baylor alumna Mary Laws.

“Aftermath” shows a disturbed young man's reaction to his father's death, and “The Trapeze Artist” deals with a troubled re-

lationship between a father and daughter.

These plays are joined by “Johannes, Pyotr & Marge,” by playwright Jeffery Essman, and “Little Airplanes of the Heart” by playwright Steve Feffer.

According to Toten Beard, instead of each play being performed as an individual production, “Quartet With Grand Piano” will be presented as one work,

showing how each play connects to the other.

The production features a large cast and crew, which is what Toten Beard said drew her to the form of combined plays. Using contemporary plays also gave the cast and director a chance to work without having to conform the performance to past productions.

SEE **PLAYS**, page 6

Baylor students rise up

Two contestants advance in Japanese speech competition

By LINDA WILKINS
STAFF WRITER

Two Baylor students who were finalists in the Feb. 11 Dallas Regional Japanese Speech Contest are now preparing for the next part of the competition, which will take place March 10 at Rice University in Houston.

Contestants had to write a speech in Japanese and deliver it in front of an audience and judges. The competition was hosted by the Dallas Japanese Association and the Japanese Teachers Association of Texas.

Dallas sophomore Ryan Smith took first place in the competition, and Bethesda freshman Gus Holdrich took second, which qualified them to advance to the state round in Houston.

Currently, the two are working with Yuko Prefume, lecturer in Japanese at Baylor, to prepare for the next round. Smith said both he and Holdrich are revising and editing the speeches they wrote in order to prepare.

Smith and Holdrich were part of a group of six Baylor students who participated in the competition.

“All of the students did very well, and I am proud of all six of them,” Prefume said. She also noted how hard Smith and Holdrich worked in order to prepare for the competition.

“They were already busy with their other school work, and they were working very hard as honors students,” Prefume said. “They put a lot of time and effort into this competition.”

The first- and second-place winners from five Texas regional competitions advance to the state round in Houston, Prefume said, meaning Smith and Holdrich will compete against eight other students.

Smith said the state competition is different from the regional competition in that it does not include a preliminary round. The regional competition began with nine students and narrowed that number to five, he said. Baylor took the first three spots with Smith, Holdrich and El Paso freshman Miki Wang, who won third place in the competition.

But the state competition will not feature that preliminary round, he said.

“We only get one chance,” Smith said, referring to the state contest.

After delivering their speech, each contestant will also have to answer questions from the judges. Those questions could range in topic and are meant to test the student's skill in the language, he said.

SEE **CONTEST**, page 6



DAVID LI | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

Blinded by the lights

Several film and digital media students helped Vincent Young, a lighting designer, test a variety of L.E.D. lights on Tuesday at the Castellaw Communications Center.

First BU health awareness fair to begin

By BRE NICHOLS
REPORTER

Several Baylor student organizations are coming together to present a night of food, fun and inflatables with Be a Healthier U: 1st Annual Health-Fair Extravaganza” from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday in Fountain Mall.

The event will wrap up Baylor's Health Week, which has included five days of events, lectures and campus displays aimed at raising awareness of issues relating to health and nutrition. Proceeds from the extravaganza will benefit the Dallas Children's Medical Center's fund-raising event, the Red Balloon

Run and Relay.

The extravaganza will feature a carnival theme with cotton candy, popcorn, games, live music of Baylor Upioar artists and more, Sherman senior Carla Hugus said.

Hugus served on the Campus Health Fair Committee, which organized the event. The committee includes members from the American Medical Student Association, the American Student Dental Association, Alpha Epsilon Delta, the Multicultural Association of Pre-Health Students, BU Medical Ethics Discussion Society and the Medical Service Organization.

Hugus said the committee came up with the idea for the carnival-themed extravaganza in

order to integrate the promotion of Healthcare in a social environment.

“We really want to promote healthcare on a campus wide level and increase awareness, especially with all the new national reforms going on and ground-breaking research [in healthcare] going on nowadays,” Cypress senior Alexeis Baqui, head chair of the committee, said. The group wants to encourage students who are not pre-med or pre-dental to go and receive health-related information.

The carnival will feature 26 booths, each promoting aspects and information relating to Healthcare. Booths are sponsored by local community and student organizations. Local physicians and dentists will also be on site to give free health and oral hygiene screenings, he said.

Baqui said although this is the first year for a campus-wide

health fair, the idea has been floating around among pre-health student organizations for a few years.

“I thought during my senior year I would step up and lead along with my fellow student organization leaders,” Baqui said, in order to present the first “campus wide collaborative health fair.”

Baqui said he hopes the extravaganza will encourage and inform participants on matters of health and nutrition in all aspects of life.

The committee will be selling T-shirts in the Bill Daniel Student Center this week and during the carnival for \$10 each. Cotton candy and popcorn will each cost two tickets. Health-related games, jousting inflatables and moon bounce inflatables will cost one to two tickets each, depending on the activity.

More information on the Health-Fair Extravaganza can be found at www.amsabu.com.

Where: Fountain Mall
When: 6-9 p.m. Friday
Tickets for food and entertainment will be sold during the event for 50 cents each

Execution date set for ‘Texas 7’ leader

By MICHAEL GRACZYK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HUNTSVILLE — An inmate already saddled with 17 life prison terms told a jury he deserved death for organizing the largest-ever jailbreak from a Texas prison and then killing a suburban Dallas police officer while a fugitive with six others who escaped with him.

Prosecutors insisted George Rivas actually was trying to manipulate jurors and use reverse psychology on them to avoid the death chamber. But if that was the prisoner's plan, it didn't work.

Jurors decided he should die, and now the 41-year-old Rivas is set for lethal injection Wed. evening in Huntsville.

Rivas was the first of his prison-break gang, which became known as the “Texas 7,” to be tried for the fatal shooting of Irving police officer Aubrey Hawkins on Christmas Eve of 2000.

All of the inmates received death sentences for the killing.

With his appeals exhausted, Rivas has seen his request for clemency rejected by the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles. He's acknowledged he's ready to die for the killing.

“It's bittersweet,” he told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram from death row. “Bitter because I hurt for my family ... Sweet because it's almost over.” He declined an interview with The Associated Press.

Former Dallas County assistant district attorney Toby Shook told the AP that Hawkins' wife is not expected to be at Rivas' execution.

Shook said she asked him to attend. Some of her husband's former colleagues also will be witnesses.

“She can't go through that anymore,” said Shook, who prosecuted
SEE **EXECUTION**, page 6



ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Wednesday photo, George Rivas speaks about his part in the crime rampage by the Texas Seven from death row in the Allan Polunsky Unit prison in Livingston, Texas, on Dec. 13, 2000.

Troops messed up; Obama’s apology was right

Editorial

A decision by some NATO troops in Afghanistan has escalated to riots and the deaths of at least 29 people.

The troops, stationed at U.S. military base Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan, burned Qurans to dispose of them. A military official told CNN last Tuesday the Qurans had “an appearance that these documents were being used to facilitate extremist communications.”

After reports of the incident reached civilians in the area, various protests have combined to kill at least 29 people. That number includes two NATO service members who were killed inside a secured part of the Afghanistan Ministry of Interior.

In the troops’ defense, Gen. John Allen, commander of NATO’s International Security Assistance Force, said last Tuesday, “It was not a decision that was made with respect to the faith of Islam. It was a mistake. It was an error.”

We don’t think the burning of Qurans justifies deadly protests, but more importantly we think the burning and subsequent riots teach a lesson we learn over and over yet manage to forget.

Say what you want about political correctness, but there are words and gestures we know offend people.

We stay away from them, because there are often other things we can say or do to convey a mes-

sage or complete a task.

Many followers of Islam, a religion followed by 99 percent of Afghanistan according to the CIA World Factbook, find the Quran so holy that they must wash their hands before picking it up. Burning that book in that part of the world can’t be a good idea.

That act should not grant permission to violently protest, but surely somebody at Bagram Airfield had to think somebody else in or around the military base would take offense to such desecration of a holy book.

As if burning Qurans wasn’t bad enough, Rick Santorum and Mitt Romney left us shaking our heads with their responses to President Barack Obama’s apology for the NATO troops’ actions.

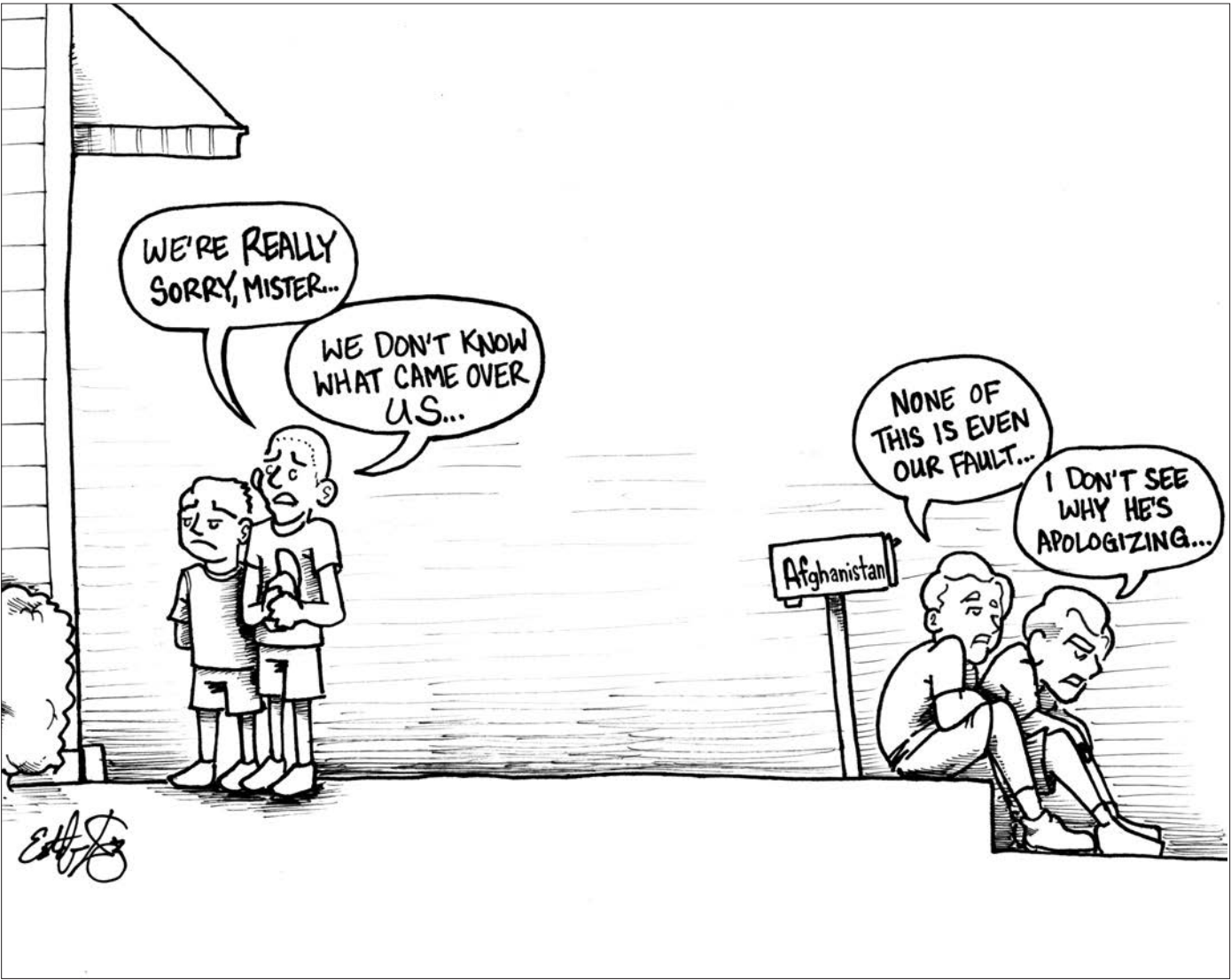
Obama sent a three-page letter to Afghanistan president Hamid Karzai discussing several issues, one of which was the destroyed Qurans.

“I wish to express my deep regret for the reported incident,” the letter said. It later added, “The error was inadvertent. I assure you that we will take the appropriate steps to avoid any recurrence, to include holding accountable those responsible.”

Santorum and Romney attacked Obama for his apology.

On ABC’s “This Week,” Santorum said, “to apologize for something that was not an intentional act is something that the president of the United States, in my opinion, should not have done.”

Romney said Sunday on Fox News, “We’ve made an enormous



contribution to help the people there achieve freedom, and for us to be apologizing at a time like this is something which is very difficult for the American people to countenance.”

Santorum’s statement lacks

common sense. Think about every time you’ve bumped into somebody on the sidewalk accidentally and apologized — you apologize without even thinking about it.

People apologize all the time

for unintentional acts, and we don’t think the American people have a problem with doing that.

People might, however, appreciate an apology from Karzai for the U.S. troops killed in the protests.

Apology or no apology from Karzai, though, we can’t deny that the NATO troops did something wrong even if they weren’t trying to. Obama made the right move and took accountability for a mistake.

Would I vote for an astrophysicist for president? Sure

On “The Daily Show with Jon Stewart” Monday night, Jon Stewart jokingly suggested that Neil deGrasse Tyson, a prominent astrophysicist, should run for president of the United States. While Stewart was largely joking and Tyson is unlikely to actually run, let me ask this question: why not?

Quite frankly, with the possible exception of how much Ron Paul has motivated his supporters, it’s difficult to imagine a candidate who could better excite people about the democratic process than Tyson.

Tyson is the Frederick P. Rose Director of the Hayden Planetarium at the Rose Center for Earth and Space. He also serves as a research associate in the department of astrophysics at the American Museum of Natural History. He is perhaps best known, however, as a



Joshua Madden | A&E Editor

science communicator and fierce advocate for space exploration and scientific funding.

As a libertarian, I usually like to argue against increasing the in-

volvement of government in anything other than national defense, which initially allowed me to be skeptical of some of Tyson’s views. However, as his major issue is increasing the amount of funding for NASA — something that has profound impacts on national defense in terms of research — I have eventually come around to believing that Tyson’s views on the issue are largely compatible with my own on the role of government.

I think it’s important to point out, however, that the major appeal of Tyson would not be his actual political beliefs but more his ability to speak to our greater values. Anyone who has seen an interview with Tyson — particularly his extended interview with Stephen Colbert in 2010 at Montclair Kimberley Academy — understands how great Tyson is at

motivating people to believe in a better future.

Tyson pointed out in the interview on “The Daily Show” that while the Cold War served as a motivator to fund scientific research, peace has not provided the same motivation, despite the fact that it is this very research that has made peace in America so much more prosperous and long-standing. I don’t know anyone who could disagree with these points.

Scientific research in America has been lacking; I am frequently surprised to see how few American students are interested in science and technology. Particularly from my viewpoint as a graduate student in information systems, I am fascinated by the seeming lack of interest in something that affects so much of the rest of our lives.

There is a fierce anti-intellectual streak amongst the voting populace that legitimately scares me. I have plenty of disagreements with President Obama, but I still get genuinely upset when people criticize him for having been a professor or being too much of an intellectual. Rick Santorum, for example, has suggested that going to college is not necessarily a positive and that it doesn’t need to be encouraged. Since when did a desire to understand a subject thoroughly become a negative in this country?

This is something deeply upsetting to me because when a populace no longer believes in intellectual pursuits, it becomes a populace no longer capable of pursuing anything and such a populace is doomed to failure. There is no argument to make that

being an intellectual is a bad thing — if a leader is out of touch with his constituents because of an intellectual nature, the problem lies not with the leadership, but with the followers.

I believe that Tyson — or someone like him — is capable of changing that in America. This is something that we desperately need to see happen and I believe that someone like Tyson, with the depth of knowledge he has, would be capable of showing us how great we can all be if we are willing to put effort into understanding the world around us.

So Neil deGrasse Tyson 2012? That’s a candidate I could actually see myself voting for.

Joshua Madden is a graduate student from Olathe, Kan., and is the Lariat’s A&E Editor.

Young Americans must reject government’s military draft

“Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.”

— Wendell Phillips, 19th century abolitionist

My great worry is my generation is not vigilant enough. By that I mean we haven’t given enough thought to ideas that potentially threaten our ways of life, and thus we leave the door open to political exploitation.

Perhaps the greatest threat to any group of young Americans in the modern age is the institution of a military draft, which would compel millions of people to risk their lives against their own wills for the benefit of those wielding political power.

Although today’s military is staffed by voluntary employees, young men are well aware this could change at a moment’s no-

tice. At the age of 18, every American male is required to register with the U.S. Selective Service System, which holds on file the names of more than 15 million people in case Congress should choose to reinstate the draft and conscript them into service.

We are told it is our civic duty to register, merely one of the many necessary inconveniences of adulthood. We are assured conscription would only be used as a last resort when the volunteer military is insufficient.

In reality, the registration list makes it dangerously convenient for Congress to jeopardize the lives of innocent American citizens and disrupt their careers, relationships and personal ambitions.

Imagine the public reaction if the state had a registry of a care-

fully selected class of individuals who could be forced to uproot their careers and families and work as field-hands in the event of a massive increase in the demand for farm crops. Does this registry serve as anything but a means to enable the state to institutionalize slavery in the future?

I know some would respond that slaves historically did not receive payment for their work while conscripted soldiers have, but what does that matter? Would slaves in the 19th century have been any less enslaved if they received paychecks but were still forced to labor under the whip of their masters?

Let’s not be mistaken: Good things don’t happen to soldiers who refuse to serve or attempt to escape during wartime.

Despite the diversity of po-

litical viewpoints in America throughout its history, people are never more prone to abandon their convictions and fall in line with government propaganda than they are during wartime. This propaganda typically takes the form of fear-driven campaigns that equate all forms of support for the military apparatus with freedom, liberty and security.

If we are to avoid the mistakes of the past and summon sufficient political pressure to prevent the institution of another draft, we have to convince this generation that military conscription isn’t just an inconvenience or a “necessary evil,” but a wrong.

We are not the property of the state. We are not simply capital to be expended at the whim of politicians and military commanders. We should categorically reject a



Daniel C. Houston | Staff writer

policy of kidnapping young people and forcing them into the involuntary servitude of a political state that claims to be protecting them.

Although freedom from a

draft will never be completely secure, there are steps our generation should take to minimize the future risk of conscription.

In the short run, we should call for the abolition of the Selective Service System and its full registry, which serves as the sole great enabler of government conscription.

In the long run, we should remain vigilant and willing to apply peaceful political pressure in opposition to military draft proposals. We can’t afford to wait until a congressional declaration of war to make up our minds on the issue, because we can’t afford to fall in line when the time comes to debate the draft.

Daniel Houston is a senior journalism and philosophy major from Fort Worth and is a staff writer for the Lariat.

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Federal court offers Texas redistricting solution

By PAUL J. WEBER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN ANTONIO — Clearing the way for the twice-delayed Texas primaries to finally land in May, a federal court on Tuesday handed the state new voting maps for the 2012 elections that satisfied Republicans who flexed their majority but soured Democrats who wanted more seats.

The political repercussions rippled across the state almost instantly. Candidates dropped out of races, incumbents resigned themselves to difficult re-election bids, and GOP leaders renewed hope that Texas may have a say in deciding the Republican presidential nominee after all.

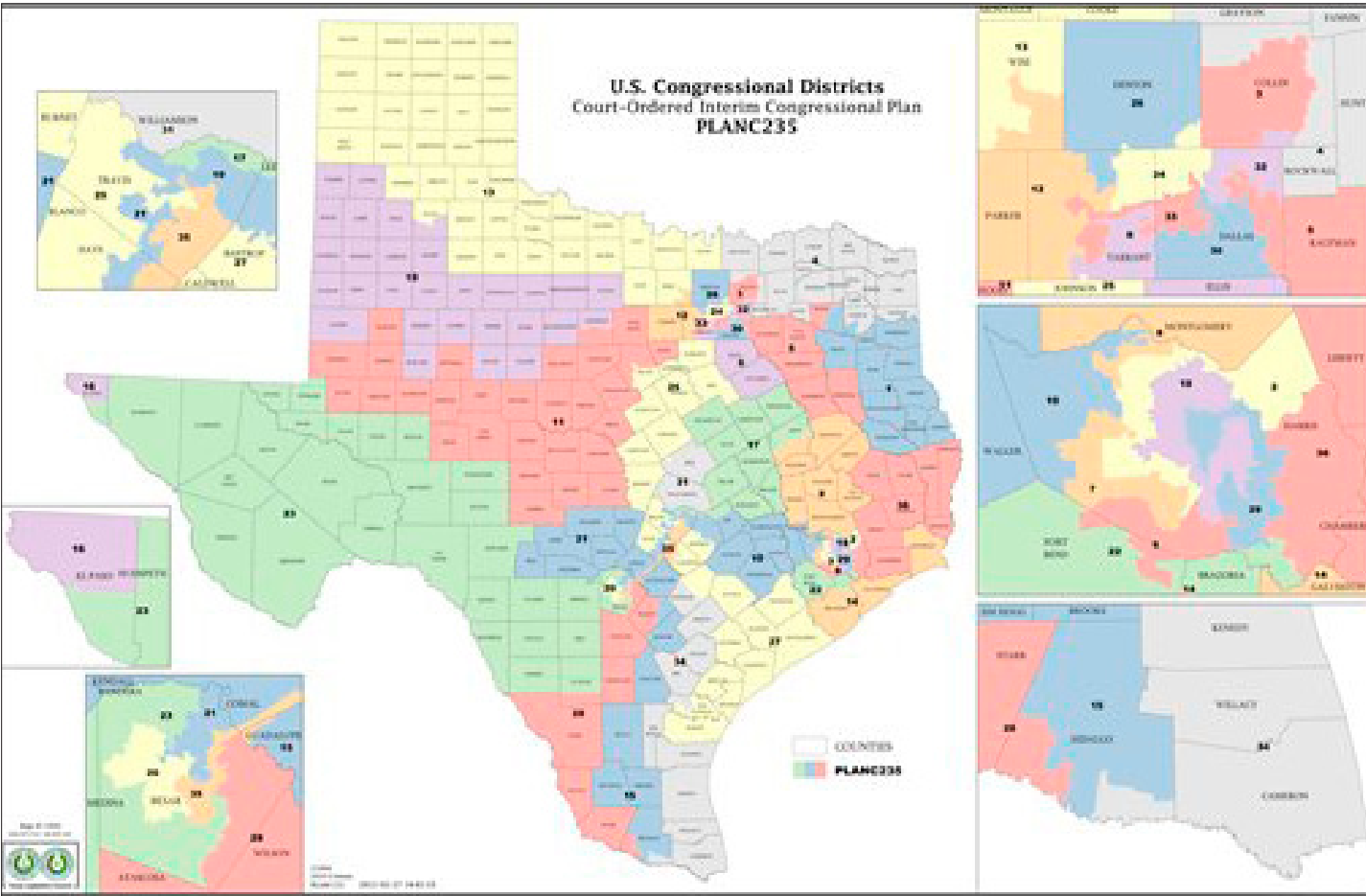
A May 29 primary date is still not guaranteed. But barring any appeals by a coalition of minority rights groups that sued the state over the original Republican-drawn maps, the chances of the Texas primaries falling into June or later appeared to dim.

Democrats expressed frustration, but there were no immediate vows that the maps would be challenged. The contentious Texas redistricting clash has dragged on since last summer, reaching all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court in a political battle that has national ramifications because the state was awarded four new congressional seats based on the 2010 census.

Who wins those seats could alter the balance of power in the U.S. House.

Under the congressional map unveiled by the court Tuesday, Democrats and Republicans were poised to split the four new seats.

“The new interim maps issued late today are a substantial improvement from maps previously issued by the San Antonio court,” Texas Attorney General Gregg Abbott said. “As a result of the U.S. Supreme Court’s unanimous, clear direction to the district court, these new interim maps more accurately reflect the decisions of



A federal court in San Antonio issued new Texas congressional and state House maps on Tuesday just in time for the state to hold its twice-delayed primary on May 29.

elected Texas legislators.”

Minorities made up 89 percent of the population growth in the state, and the Legislature’s map would have led to only one new minority elected to Congress from Texas. Minority rights groups accused the Legislature of drawing maps that discriminated against them, and Democrats hardly cheered what the court delivered Tuesday.

“These maps may be slightly better than those passed by a radical Legislature, but they still grossly misrepresent the demographics of our state,” the Texas Democratic Party said in a statement.

The judges released the maps without an opinion but said one would be forthcoming. Trey Marti-

nez Fischer, chairman of the Mexican American Legislative Caucus, said the lack of an opinion for now made it difficult for his group to consider its next move.

“Make no mistake we believe that any map, even an interim plan, must acknowledge 3.7 million new minority Texans,” Martinez Fischer said.

The Republican Party of Texas celebrated the fact that there were maps and that a May 29 primary remained possible.

The Texas primaries originally loomed as the biggest prize of next week’s Super Tuesday before the redistricting fallout forced the state to push the back the primary date. Texas has the most delegates of any state besides California, and

the state wants the chance to play kingmaker in the Republican presidential primary before the race is settled.

“This is what we’ve been waiting on for about three months now,” party spokesman Chris Elam said Tuesday. “We’ve been anxiously awaiting maps, and this is a great step forward in finally moving ahead with the primary.”

Analyzing the changes the court made to the state House map was harder to discern. Texas Democrats did not get as many seats in the 150-member House as it expected. The court made no changes to districts in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, but made significant changes in Houston that appeared to aid Democrats. Based

on past voting patterns, out of 150 districts, Republicans could expect to win 85, Democrats will likely win 50 and 15 are up grabs.

In the Dallas-Fort Worth area, the court fundamentally redrew the Legislature’s congressional map to create a majority Hispanic Congressional District 33, which runs through the center of the Metroplex. Republican Rep. Joe Barton’s District 6 creates a right-handed hook through the mid-cities that separate Dallas and Fort Worth.

The court did make significant changes to Republican Rep. Quico Canseco’s Congressional District 23, which stretches from El Paso to the western suburbs of San Antonio. The changes reflected those requested by Hispanic groups, but

it was unclear if they were enough to hurt Canseco’s election chances.

In the Austin area, the court kept the Legislature’s map of dividing heavily-Democratic Travis County into five districts from the existing three, virtually guaranteeing that an Austin Democrat could not win re-election. The only potentially Democratic district, Congressional District 35, has the majority of residents living in the San Antonio area.

The court-drawn map made no change to the congressional districts in the Corpus Christi area, where Hispanic groups complained their votes were being diluted. Under the Legislature’s map, Hispanics were expected to be able to elect a candidate of their choice in one out of the four new districts. In the court-drawn map, they appeared to pick up at least two.

Time is running out for Texas to hold primaries, and the maps are intended to get Texas through the 2012 election cycle. The fight over redistricting has already seen the Texas primaries delayed from March 6 to April 3 and now May 29. The last day Texans could vote is June 26.

The latest maps come after months of legal wrangling in three federal courtrooms, including the U.S. Supreme Court. The court threw out the last set of maps the San Antonio judges drew saying they did not adhere closely enough to the maps originally drawn by the Legislature.

The ruling does not resolve the two court cases still pending, but is only an interim measure. The San Antonio court must still make a decision on whether the original maps drawn by Republicans last year discriminates against minorities and needs to be changed. That decision is dependent on separate lawsuit in the Washington, D.C., federal court on whether the original maps are legal under the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Washington court said it would probably issue a ruling sometime in March.

Sabbath conflict could end Jewish school’s playoff run

By CHRIS DUNCAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — A Texas agency has turned down a request by an Orthodox Jewish school in Houston to reschedule a championship game that could involve the school’s boys’ basketball team because the game time falls during the Jewish Sabbath.

The Beren Academy advanced to the semifinals in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools’ 2A tournament with a 23-5 record and was scheduled to play Dallas Covenant at 9 p.m. Friday.

Beren players observe the Sabbath between Friday night and Saturday night and won’t play basketball during those hours.

The academy appealed to TAPPS to have the game time moved, but the agency’s nine-member board unanimously voted to deny the appeal.

Dallas Covenant will instead play Kerrville Our Lady of the Hills, the team that Beren defeated in the regional final. The Beren team, meanwhile, will continue practicing this week, the players hoping that TAPPS will move the game to an earlier time on Friday.

“They say the inconvenience of rescheduling the games outweighs any other factors,” Beren coach Chris Cole said on Tuesday. “I don’t know where that decision goes. That’s a decision for people who are a little higher than I am. The main thing for us is to do the best we can, keep working hard and just be hopeful. We feel like it’s still Tuesday, and things can still happen.”

TAPPS director Ed Burleson

said Tuesday that he doesn’t expect the agency to reverse its course. Burleson said he has received hundreds of emails and phone calls from as far away as Canada, accusing him of bigotry and anti-Semitism since word spread of the agency’s decision.

Burleson said the decision had nothing to do with religion, but rather the organization’s policy since its inception in 1978 not to change the playoffs date.

Beren joined TAPPS last year, and Burleson said the school was told then not to expect TAPPS to adjust its postseason schedule.

“We think it’s clear-cut,” Burleson said. “They were advised, up front, that TAPPS would not change that, and they chose to join TAPPS anyway. There was never any indication from TAPPS that their appeal would be approved.”

Cole, the coach since the 2002-03 season, acknowledged that he was aware of the possibility of such scheduling conflicts but was still hoping TAPPS would make an exception.

“It was our feeling that we could complete the playoffs,” Cole said. “There was no reason we saw (not to compete), other than changing the game times. We felt like we could make those changes, and the request was reasonable.”

Cole argued there was a precedent to Beren’s request. Last year, the soccer team at Arlington Burton Adventist Academy reached the TAPPS semifinals and faced a similar conflict with the Sabbath.

Burleson said the logistics were much easier for the soccer tournament, which has one classification and is played on a single field. The basketball tournament involves

five classifications for both boys’ and girls’ teams for a total of 40 teams playing 30 games in two days.

“It’s a big affair and requires a lot of planning and scheduling and coordination to play that many games in that narrow amount of time,” Burleson said. “We have to rent facilities and we’re limited in the amount of time we have to rent those facilities.”

TAPPS is comprised of 220 schools, and Cole said the benefits of joining outweighed the drawbacks when Beren decided to apply for membership.

He says most schools have been “very understanding and accommodating” in adjusting game times to allow the Beren players to observe the Sabbath.

Now, they realize they’ll have to watch others vie for a championship that could have been theirs.

The lure of championship glory, though, isn’t enough to uproot the players’ deep-seeded beliefs.

The enrollment at Beren is only 274, and most of the students have grown up together, in a culture where faith and religion trump virtually everything else.

“There’s nothing in the Jewish religion that doesn’t want us to play basketball,” said Beren senior point guard Isaac Mirwis. “But it’s tradition, it’s principle, and we stick true to our principles and that’s what makes an identity ... God doesn’t take a week off from us, so we can’t take a week off from God.”

Harry Sinoff, a rabbi and the headmaster of the Beren Academy, says he thinks his school’s request is reasonable and he doesn’t understand why TAPPS remains so rigid.

Former Cowboy sues NFL over head injuries

By P. SOLOMAN BANDA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — A former Dallas Cowboys defensive lineman has sued the NFL, alleging concussions have affected his short-term memory and caused migraine headaches and other health problems.

The Cowboys drafted Michael

Myers was drafted by the Cowboys in 1998 and played six seasons for Dallas before finishing a 10-year career with the Cleveland Browns, Denver Broncos and Cincinnati Bengals.

Myers’ lawsuit was filed Friday in U.S. District Court in Houston. It accuses the NFL of negligence, fraud and conspiracy in its han-

dling of head injuries.

An NFL spokesman said Tuesday the league hadn’t seen Myers’ suit, but added that any allegation it intentionally sought to mislead players has “no merit.”

The complaint is the latest in a series of suits by former NFL players alleging they’ve been impaired by concussions.

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‘Taco Z’ offers cheap, tasty food for all

By **BONNIE BERGER**
GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

Bereft of fine dining establishments, LaSalle Avenue rarely crosses the ravenous college student's mind when he or she prowls for nourishment. Yet nestled between a humble transmission repair shop, an unfinished furniture store and a competing Mexican restaurant, sits Taqueria Zacatecas, a dash of flavor along the formerly bland street.

Commonly known as “Taco Z” to frugal feeders and Mexican food fanatics, this glorified taco stand sells authentic quesadillas, tacos, burritos and more for a modest price. Once based out of a taco truck, owners Jose and Griselda Ramirez transitioned into a more permanent location at 2311 LaSalle Ave. in early 2010.

The glass panes surrounding the walk-up window are decorated with home-printed menus boasting 13 different protein options and \$1 tacos. A handful of picnic tables are situated under the well-lit, open-air patio where you

RESTAURANT REVIEW

can wait for your order to arrive. Should you shy away from this minimal amount of human interaction, Taco Z offers a convenient drive-thru, too.

Taco Z is open from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday to Thursday. Hours are extended until 3:30 a.m. Friday and Saturday, catering to the rowdy night crowd and bleary-eyed students breaking away from their textbooks.

With items ranging from \$1 to \$5, a true feast is easily affordable. The extensive meat options range from tame choices like beef fajita to more adventurous orders like “lengua,” or tongue. While the chicken fajita is above average, the “al pastor,” or spicy pork, stands out as a thoughtfully seasoned cut.

Tacos are available with your choice of meat, homemade corn or flour tortillas and are fully dressed with chopped cabbage and fresh cilantro. Depending on your luck of the draw, red or green tomatillo

salsa accompanies your meal.

In true taco truck fashion, entrees are wrapped in foil and served on a Styrofoam plate for maximum mess control. Proper table etiquette doesn't need to be your focus at this establishment.

Tearing into a foiled-wrapped taco unleashes an explosion of taste. Absorbent tortillas are fortified with crisp cabbage, spicy pork and smeared with lime-infused tomatillo salsa. Although the chicken fajita is a little overcooked, an extra slathering of salsa adds both moisture and additional spice. The moist “barbacoa,” or brisket is smoky and hearty but lacks the authentic taste of its Mexican counterpart. But, for the price, there's no need to be picky.

Oozing with melted cheese and warm chicken, the quesadillas make up for their lack of flavor in substance. A filling option, these toasted tortillas are salvaged by whichever salsa accompanies your order.

Ingredients are fresh, and everything tastes homemade. Flavors



Taco Z offers a variety of tacos for \$1 a piece. Now located at 2311 LaSalle Ave., owners Jose and Griselda Ramirez originally ran the business from a taco truck.

meld together to create a satisfying memory with no one seasoning taking center stage.

The tomatillo salsa is mild enough for the faint hearted while

not leaving spice lovers disappointed.

Wash down your entrée with a cool cup of spiced “horchata,” a traditional Mexican beverage derived

from ground rice grain and cinnamon. Though tones of cinnamon were strong, a small glass made a sweet accompaniment to a savory meal.

‘Awake’ on NBC offers conflicting thrills

By **GAIL PENNINGTON**
McCLATCHY-TRIBUNE

A horrific car crash turned Michael Britten's life upside-down. His wife died. His son died.

Or not.

Britten, a Los Angeles police detective played by the great Jason Isaacs, finds himself living in two realities in NBC's engrossing new puzzler “Awake.”

“So tell me how this works,” asks his therapist, Dr. Lee (B.D. Wong), in the series opener.

“I don't know,” Britten tells him. “I close my eyes and open them, just like you.”

But when Michael Britten goes to sleep with his wife, Hannah

(Laura Allen), they're mourning their dead son Rex (Dylan Minnette). When he wakes up, he eats cereal with Rex, a teen who remains deeply shaken by the loss of his mother.

That's right — in one of Britten's realities, his wife died, but his son survived. In the other, his son died, but his wife survived.

No wonder his police-assigned shrink is puzzled. So is his other, alternate-reality shrink, Dr. Evans (Cherry Jones).



Isaacs

Each assumes he's dreaming half the time — but which half?

“I can assure you this is not a dream,” Evans tells him.

“That's just what the other shrink said,” he responds.

Back at work, with only his shrinks (and, in one reality, his wife) knowing his secret, Britten isn't particularly interested in solving his problem.

He is happier this way, he knows, than he would be with one of his loved ones permanently out

of his life.

Beyond this big mystery, which gets deliciously more complicated over the course of four episodes sent for preview, “Awake” is also an absorbing police procedural.

With different partners (Steve Harris and Wilmer Valderrama), Britten investigates different cases each week, but clues from one begin to bleed over into the other, something that's useful but hard to explain.

To keep his two worlds straight, Britten wears a rubber band on his wrist — red for days with his wife, green with his son.

The two worlds are also shot in a slightly different visual style, with different color saturation, so

as puzzling as “Awake” is, it's rarely confusing.

Acting is strong throughout, particularly from the reliable Harris (“The Practice”) and surprisingly intense Valderrama (“That '70s Show”).

Creator Kyle Killen, who previously brought us the shockingly short-lived “Lone Star,” is fascinated by dualities.

In “Lone Star,” his protagonist was a swindler living a double life to defraud. “Awake,” though, benefits from a much more sympathetic hero.

Michael Britten doesn't want to fool anybody, except possibly himself.

He's a man who is struggling

with grief, confusion and the need to move forward in spite of all that.

“Awake” also benefits enormously from the talent of Isaacs, who has been outstanding in everything from PBS “Case Histories” to the “Harry Potter” movies (as evil Lucius Malfoy).

Here, he's completely believable as a manly man making the most of a situation he doesn't understand.

Is Michael Britten crazy? Is he dreaming half of his life, and if so, which half?

Or, maybe, are wife, son and even husband all dead, living in some “Lost”-like purgatory?

“Awake” viewers will have all those questions, and will surely enjoy getting the answers.

Johnny Cash to be honored in Austin

ASSOCIATED PRESS

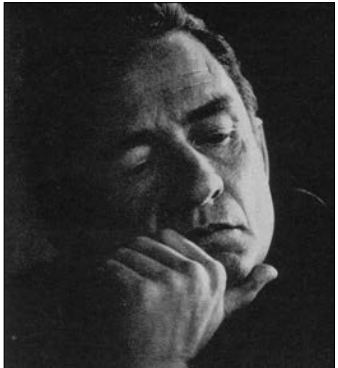
NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A diverse all-star lineup will celebrate the 80th birthday of Johnny Cash with an April concert.

Kenny Chesney, Kris Kristoferson, Lucinda Williams, Ray LaMontagne and Jamey Johnson are among the performers scheduled to appear in “We Walk the Line: A Celebration of the Music of Johnny Cash” on April 20 at the Austin City Limits Live venue

in Austin.

Chris Cornell, Ronnie Dunn, Carolina Chocolate Drops, Amy Lee and Shooter Jennings also will perform. Tickets go on sale today.

Though Cash died in 2003 at 71, interest in his music and legacy continue. Several celebrations are planned. Members of the Cash family gathered Sunday in Dyess, Ark., on what would have been Cash's 80th birthday for the groundbreaking on a museum at his boyhood home.



Cash

A&E Brief

‘Troubadour, TX’ comes to Waco, TX

“Troubadour, TX” is a new television series by London Broadcasting that highlights and follows the live of Texas songwriters and musical performers

Friday, Be entertainment, the agency behind the event, will be showcasing some of their artists at Common Grounds.

Uproar Records will have a presence at the event, Faulkner said.

“We’re always looking for better contacts for our program and through that search we came across Be entertainment,” Faulkner said.

Artists performing at the event include Kylie Rae Harris, Zane Williams, Woody Russell and Little Brave and Ryan Edgar, who Faulkner interviewed for the Uproar blog, uproarverb.com, which launches Thursday.

The performances begin at 8 p.m. Friday at Common Grounds and tickets to the event are \$5.

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FUN TIMES

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Across

1 Defense lawyers' adversaries, for short
5 Otherwise
10 Smidgen
14 Certain
15 Motored
16 Agitate
17 Member of Hook's band
18 Ear-related
19 Time-half link
20 Shooter of soft confections
23 Gp. that issues canine pedigrees
24 Blue wearer, usually
25 In reserve
26 Satchel __, aptly named dog in the comic "Get Fuzzy"
28 Make fun of
31 Beatty of "Deliverance"
32 Formal coif, perhaps
33 More sleazy
36 Minor motoring mishaps
40 Exercise popularized by Jim Fixx
41 Tennis do-overs
43 JFK alternative in NYC
46 Certain stove filler
47 In a convincing way
48 Palmer with an army
50 Show about Capote
52 Avenues of access
53 Strains credulity
58 Rock's partner
59 "... never see __ lovely as ...": Kilmer
60 Build a tree house
62 Chevy subcompact
63 __ firma
64 Möttley __
65 Greenhorn
66 Overwhelm, or a relative of the first syllable of 20-, 36-, or 53-Across
67 Overdone publicity

Down

1 Obstinate beast
2 Dolt
3 Alaska's 907, e.g.
4 Clairvoyant
5 Where Moscow is
6 Dowdy dresser
7 Author Ephron
8 Racetrack
9 Tattle
10 Sketched
11 Welcome, as a new year
12 Moniker for Mussolini
13 Hit with a pitch, in a way
21 Academic inst.
22 Seeped
23 Kwik-E-Mart proprietor on "The Simpsons"
27 "And" or "or," e.g.: Abbr.
28 Overly enthusiastic
29 "I'm all for that!"
30 Pizazz

33 Bell-shaped lily
34 Therefore
35 Depend (on)
37 Fastening pin
38 Oil plant
39 Gets to one's feet
42 Jun. grads
43 Maze runner
44 Old-style "Cool!"
45 Rod-and-reel wielder
47 Mooch, as a smoke
49 Domed home
50 Heat unit
51 Plot anew
54 Welcome sign for a hungry traveler
55 Eject, as lava
56 When tripled, a 1970 war film
57 Waistline unit
61 Golf bag item

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No. 22 senior pitcher Trent Blank beats the batter to first to get an out against Sam Houston State on Tuesday at Baylor Ballpark. The Bears won 6-2.

Bears beat SHSU under the lights with four-run inning

By GREG DeVRIES
SPORTS WRITER

The Baylor baseball team remained perfect at home with a 6-2 win Tuesday over the Sam Houston State Bearkats.

The winning pitcher was senior right-handed pitcher Trent Blank (4-0). Blank threw five innings and allowed one run on three hits. With this win, the Bears moved to 7-2 on the season.

"I thought [Blank's performance] was great," head coach Steve Smith said. "Trent has just gotten off to a great start. He's just throwing strikes."

Blank credited his teammates behind him for his performance.

"With the help of my teammates, I thought it was a great win. I'm just glad to be out there," Blank said. "If I can get a comfortable lead, I can just go out there and throw strikes and let the defense work."

Junior first baseman Max Muncy extended his on-base streak to a career-high 27 games with a first-inning double to the right field wall.

In the third inning, sophomore second baseman Lawton Langford reached on an error.

Freshman right fielder Logan Brown's bunt advanced Langford

to third, and Brown also reached on a fielder's choice. Junior designated hitter Nathan Orf's RBI single to left field scored Langford to make it 1-0. Junior third baseman Cal Towey drove in Brown on an RBI single to right field.

"Everybody is comfortable. Everybody is swinging it good. You put six runs up, you should win the game."

Jake Miller | Junior shortstop

Muncy then grounded out, but drove in the third run of the inning for the Bears. Senior catcher Josh Ludy also grounded out, but scored Towey from third.

Junior shortstop Jake Miller opened the fourth inning with a double down the right field line. Langford followed with a single. With runners at the corners, Brown laid a bunt down the first base line to score Miller. A double steal with Orf at the plate would lead to an error on a throw.

Langford crossed home plate to extend Baylor's lead to 6-0.

"Up and down the lineup, everybody is confident in the box. I

think we had 11 hits tonight. That's pretty good," Miller said. "I think we had quite a few positive plate appearances, which is what we're looking for. Everybody is comfortable. Everybody is swinging it good. You put six runs up, you should win the game."

The shutout wouldn't last, however.

In the top of the fifth inning, Bearkat right fielder Jake Arrington's single scored first baseman Ryan O'Hearn from second base for Sam Houston State.

A Bearkat RBI triple by left fielder Luke Plucheck would cut Baylor's lead to four. The Bears would end the inning on the next play, holding a 6-2 lead.

The score remained 6-2 until junior right-handed pitcher Miles Landry recorded the final out for the Bears.

Baylor will next play at 6:05 p.m. Friday at Baylor Ballpark against the University of California-Irvine to kick off the QTI Baylor Classic. The Bears will play three games in four days.

"We scheduled it, so we look forward to it. It'll challenge us pitching-wise," Smith said. "Everybody is going to go through it. We've still got a couple of young guys, more than a couple, that need to get out there."

Track finishes in middle, but athletes excel at Big 12

By SAVANNAH PULLIN
REPORTER

Baylor didn't bring home the Big 12 Team Indoor Championship title last weekend — the women finished fourth, and the men fifth — but was supported by great individual performances.

Sophomore Tiffani McReynolds claimed the 60-meter hurdles Big 12 Indoor Championship for the second year in a row.

"It feels really good," McReynolds said. "It shows that I'm consistent and I work hard. It's not something that's easy."

McReynolds said one of her goals this year was to go indoors and defend her Big 12 title. She accomplished and exceeded those goals in College Station when she won her race with a season-best time of 8.15 seconds.

McReynolds said the competition was fierce and anyone could have won.

However, McReynolds had been in the position before and understood how the pressure felt, leaving her confident in her ability to win.

"Before the race I was less nervous," McReynolds said. "I feel like I was more confident this year."

She said it was an amazing feeling to reach such a huge milestone in her track career.

"I couldn't help but smile after I accomplished one of my goals. It's just fulfilling," McReynolds said.

The key to her success, she said, was just going out there and having fun. Earlier, she had started to look at running more as a job than as a way to have fun.

Last weekend, McReynolds said, she went out on the track and had fun running and competing; she wasn't worried about winning or losing.

Another great performance came from junior Eric Bostick, who broke the Baylor school heptathlon record with 5,017 points.

"Our guys in the heptathlon kind of typified the whole effort for the weekend," head coach Todd Harbour said. "They fought right down to the wire, and finishing just one point ahead of sixth, we needed everything they gave us. It was huge."

Along with Bostick, sophomore Hunter Brook also broke the heptathlon record, which he had previously held, finishing all-conference in eighth, right behind Bostick who finished seventh.

"[Breaking the school record] is kind of like a personal competition," Bostick said. "Somebody breaks it every time we compete, and it's going to be nice to hold it until next year."

Bostick said he looked to his teammates, after a poor performance in the high jump, to get him back on the winning path. He said he was inspired by Brook's incredible performance and used that to his advantage.

After watching Brook, he was able to perform at his highest, allowing him to break the school record.

As the team prepares for the outdoor season, Bostick said he learned something from his performance at the Big 12 Championship.

Harbour said.

Grace, native of McKinney and product of Dallas Adams High School, opened the current outdoor season with personal bests in both the 100-meter hurdles and the 300-meter hurdles. His time of 13.83 in the 100-meter hurdles is the fastest in the nation so far this season.

"We wanted somebody who we felt could score at nationals, and we feel that Bryce, in time, will do that," Harbour said.

Coming off his junior year, Grace held district titles in both hurdle disciplines, and a regional

"I learned to stick with it if you have a bad event," Bostick said. "You can't let one bad thing get you down."

Overall, Harbour said he was satisfied with the performance of his athletes during the championship.

"We were very pleased," Harbour said. "You obviously always want to win the Big 12, but sometimes that's not realistic, so you go for as high of a finish as you can."

The distance medley relay team felt the pressure when junior Gavyn Nero was unable to race due to illness.

"A lot of people picked up slack and stepped it up so we were able to recover," Harbour said.

In addition to McReynolds picking up a win, the men's 4x400-meter relay team finished in second, along with freshman Patrick Shoenball, senior Jessica Ubanyionwu and junior Skylar White, who each posted runner-up finishes in their events.

Juniors Cate Westenhover, Drew Seale and Brittany Ogumokun all finished third in the middle distance races.

Westenhover finished with a career-best mile of 4:45.65, the fastest for the Baylor women in three years.

"It's tough every year. [The Big 12] is one of the top conferences in the nations, and you know what you're getting in to," Harbour said. "I won't say we exceeded expectations; I think we met our expectations."

Baylor starts its outdoor season March 17, when it travels to Fort Worth for the TCU Invitational.

Baylor track adds talented hurdler

By SAVANNAH PULLIN
REPORTER

Throughout the season, Baylor track and field head coach Todd Harbour has continually admitted the lack of depth on his men's team.

But the team could slowly be turning around as standout hurdler Bryce Grace was added to Harbour's National Letter of Intent signees for the 2012-2013 academic year.

"We looked at the areas we have a need in, and we definitely would love to have a big hurdler, but we wanted to pick the right one,"

Harbour said.

Grace, native of McKinney and product of Dallas Adams High School, opened the current outdoor season with personal bests in both the 100-meter hurdles and the 300-meter hurdles. His time of 13.83 in the 100-meter hurdles is the fastest in the nation so far this season.

"We wanted somebody who we felt could score at nationals, and we feel that Bryce, in time, will do that," Harbour said.

Coming off his junior year, Grace held district titles in both hurdle disciplines, and a regional

title and state 4A runner-up finish in the 100-meter hurdles.

He also had the 10th-fastest time in Texas, and a top-50 time nationally in the high hurdles.

Grace, who was highly recruited by assistant coach Michael Ford, comes from parents who are both teachers and athletes. Harbour said he thinks Grace will be a great fit for Baylor because he has a great family, is a great person and boasts a strong academic record.

Grace is among 12 other athletes who make up the 2012-2013 recruiting class for Baylor track and field.

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PLAYS from Page 1

“It’s different from a traditional full-length play; we created this,” Toten Beard said.

Toten Beard and the actors also had the opportunity to work with a playwright during the rehearsal process.

Thomas Ward, a member of the Baylor theatre faculty, began writing “Aftermath” over a year ago and got to see his work come to life on the stage for the first time early this semester.

Ward said his play was intended to come across much darker than it does, but seeing the early performances changed his percep-

tions about the work.

“The most surprising thing is that the play is funny,” Ward said. Seeing a new play staged can be important for the playwright.

According to the Woolly Mammoth Theatre Co., a Washington, D.C.-based theater company that focuses on new play development, an audience is essential to “activate and refine” new plays.

Ward, who has premiered both plays and films, is still excited to see his new work performed, especially because of the opportunities to work with the actors and director during rehearsals.

CONTEST from Page 1

The judges make their decisions based on content of the speeches, delivery, pronunciation and presentation, Smith said, and each of those elements are important to doing well.

Contestants were free to choose their own speech topics, and Smith and Holdrich chose to reflect the Japanese culture and language in the speeches they authored.

Holdrich said he wrote about a Japanese poetry collection called Hyaku-nin-issu. He was introduced to the poetry when he vis-

ited Japan with his high school.

“The gist of my speech was how I was introduced to it, and what it was like when I finally translated one [a poem] on my own and discovered the amazing richness in such a short five-line poem,” he said.

Smith said he wrote his speech about his experience with the Japanese language, and how his studies in other languages helped him in learning Japanese.

Reflecting on the regional competition, Smith called it

EXECUTION from Page 1

ed Rivas for capital murder. “She wants the cases obviously to move forward. She’s frustrated it’s taken a long time on appeal.”

On Dec. 13, 2000, Rivas’ gang overpowered workers at a prison in Kenedy, about 60 miles south of San Antonio.

They stole the workers’ clothes, broke into the prison armory to get guns and drove away in a prison truck. They committed several robberies, including two in Houston, more than 200 miles to the east.

Then, 11 days later on Christmas Eve, they gunned down the 29-year-old Hawkins another 200 miles to the north.

The officer, who had been on the force just more than a year, interrupted their holdup of a sporting goods store.

He was shot 11 times, with some of the gunfire being from Rivas, and was run over with a stolen SUV driven by Rivas.

The escaped inmates stole \$70,000 in cash from store, 44 firearms and ammunition, and winter clothing. They also took jewelry and wallets from store workers who were closing up for the evening.

The fugitives were caught a month later in Colorado, where one of them, Larry Harper, killed himself rather than surrender.

Rivas will be the second member of the gang to be executed by the state. Michael Rodriguez, 45, volunteered for lethal injection and was executed in 2008.

“We all knew it would end up here eventually,” Rivas’ trial lawyer, Wayne Huff, told the AP. “They

“It’s a really amazing thing for me, because the whole process from beginning to end was a collaboration,” Ward said.

“Quartet with Grand Piano: An evening of Four Short Plays” began Tuesday and runs through March 6. Showtimes are at 7:30 p.m. each night, with 2 p.m. matinees on March 3 and 4.

Performances before March 6 are sold out, but tickets may become available, according to the Baylor Theatre.

Tickets and information can be obtained by calling the Baylor Theatre box office at (254) 710-1861.

Texas doctor among accused in \$375 million fraud scheme

By JUAN A. LOZANO AND
NOMAAN MERCHANT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — The owner of a Texas medical service provider was among seven people indicted in a massive health care fraud scheme that allegedly bilked Medicare and Medicaid of nearly \$375 million, authorities announced Tuesday.

The federal indictment accused Jacques Roy, a doctor who owned Medistat Group Associates in DeSoto, of leading a scheme that billed Medicare for home health services that were not medically necessary or were not done.

Also indicted were Roy’s office manager as well as the owners of three home health agencies.

A federal indictment unsealed Tuesday accuses the agencies of using Roy to rack up millions of dollars in false claims.

The indictment alleged that from January 2006 through November 2011, Roy or others certified 11,000 Medicare beneficiaries for more than 500 home health services — more patients than any other medical practice in the U.S.

Investigators for the U.S. Health and Human Services department noticed irregularities with Roy’s practice about one year ago, officials said.

Roy had “recruiters” finding people to bill for home health services, said U.S. Attorney Sarah Saldana, the top federal prosecutor in Dallas.

Some of those alleged patients, when approached by investigators, were found working on their cars and clearly not in need of home healthcare, she said.

Medicare patients qualify for home health care if they are confined to their homes and need care there, according to a federal indictment.

Saldana said Roy used the home health agencies as “his soldiers on



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Daniel R. Levinson, Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, pauses during a news conference Tuesday in Dallas. Officials announced federal charges in what they called the largest case of medical fraud in U.S. history.

the ground to go door to door to recruit Medicare beneficiaries.”

“He was selling his signature,” she said.

For example, authorities allege Charity Eleda, one of the home health agency owners charged in the scheme, visited a Dallas homeless shelter to recruit homeless beneficiaries staying at the facility, paying recruiters \$50 for each person they found.

A message was left Tuesday at Eleda’s Dallas-based company, Charry Home Care Services, Inc.

Phone messages and emails left with Medistat, located just south of Dallas, were not immediately returned on Tuesday.

Roy, 54, is charged with health care fraud and conspiracy to commit health care fraud.

He and the other defendants have been taken into custody and were expected to appear Tuesday afternoon before a judge in Dallas federal court.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services also announced the suspension of an additional 78 home health agencies associated with Roy.

The agencies were collecting about \$2.3 million a month, said Peter Budetti, CMS’ deputy administrator for program integrity.

Until recently, HHS could not effectively track data to identify the kind of fraud now linked to Roy, who was billing beneficiaries “off the charts” for more than five years, officials said.

The department’s inspector general, Dan Levinson, told reporters the department’s technology “has not come online as quickly as we’d like to see.”

The department is now beefing up its data analysis and tracking other cases, Levinson said.

It has also established task forces in several U.S. cities to track Medicare fraud, officials said.

“We’re now able to use those data analytic tools in ways — in 2012 and 2011 — that no, we really could not have done in years past,” Levinson said.

Health care fraud is estimated to cost the government at least \$60 billion a year, mainly in losses to Medicare and Medicaid. Officials say the fraud involves everything from sophisticated marketing schemes by major pharmaceuticals encouraging doctors to prescribe drugs for unauthorized uses to selling motorized wheelchairs to people who don’t need them.

“These are public programs, and we must protect them for future generations,” Saldana said.

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