



See how the Horned Frogs performed in last night's conference matchup against Wyoming. Sports, page 6



The IRS investigates some universities to see if they're abusing nonprofit status to avoid paying certain taxes. Tomorrow in News



Radio-TV-film makes progress toward adding sports broadcasting major to the university catalog. Tomorrow in News

GAS DRILLING

Chesapeake proposes off-campus site

By Chilton Tippin
Staff Reporter

Chesapeake Energy Corp. unveiled a comprehensive master development plan that could potentially produce the minerals under campus and several neighborhoods without a well on campus, according to a news release issued Friday.

The master plan, called the "Meerkat Mounds to Seminary" plan, proposes a means for the university to lease the minerals under campus while averting the prob-

lems associated with the former drill site, according to the news release.

Robyn Walton, head of the Colonial Hills Neighborhood Association gas drilling committee, said the neighborhoods had been concerned about gas flows in their backyard.

"The City Council made it clear that they were not going to grant any high impact permits where there were homes less than 300 feet away," Walton said. "There's really not any place on campus like that."

Kristi Weisman, a council aid speak-

ing on behalf of City Council District 9 Councilman Joel Burns, said the plan is a culmination of a process that has taken place over many months of deliberation between Chesapeake, the neighborhoods and campus officials.

"It takes a well site that would have potentially been 220 feet from residents out of the picture," Weisman said.

Jerri Robbins, public relations manager for Chesapeake, said the plan allows his company to produce the minerals of 5,000 acres, including those under campus.

"It can successfully produce the minerals of several neighborhoods and businesses south of Interstate 30 beyond Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary," Robbins said.

Seven drill sites, three of which have already been permitted, will be used to tap into the gas reserves, Robbins said. With permission for the remaining four, Chesapeake will be able to implement the master plan, he said.

SEE GAS · PAGE 2

HARDCOVER FICTION
BEST SELLERS

- 1 Plum Spooky by Janet Evanovich
 - 2 The Host by Stephenie Meyer
 - 3 Black Ops by W.E.B. Griffin
 - 4 Scarpetta by Patricia Cornwell
 - 5 The Story of Edgar Sawtelle by David Wroblewski
 - 6 Cross Country by James Patterson
 - 7 Fire and Ice by Julie Garwood
 - 8 The Hour I First Believed by Wally Lamb
 - 9 Eclipse by Richard North Patterson
 - 10 The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows
- The New York Times



Porn industry bailout request begs for introspect.

Opinion, page 3

PECULIAR FACT

OTTAWA — An exotic goat in Canada's Calgary Zoo accidentally hanged itself after it became entangled in a rope and then fell off a log, CTV television reported Sunday.

— Reuters

TODAY'S WEATHER

78 56
HIGH LOW
Mostly sunny
Tomorrow: Partly sunny 74 / 36
Saturday: Partly sunny 45 / 31



Please remember to recycle this newspaper.

OH, SNAP!



A Coca-Cola truck clipped an overhanging branch about 3 p.m. Wednesday while traveling south near the Bailey Building on University Drive. The impact caused a portion of the tree to split and fall onto the street, causing a traffic jam. Cpl. Brad Murphey of the TCU Police said no injuries were reported.

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

Eatery hosts weekly open mic night

By Naheil Qudah
Staff Reporter

In an effort to give students an alternative to common Thursday night activities, 1873 Cafe & Sports Grill started an open mic night to be held every week, the campus activities director said.

Campus activities adviser Brad Thompson said the open mic night is another means for students to have fun, hang out and listen to live music.

"It's a simple setup that gives people another option to just going out and doing something they don't want to do, or something they'll regret tomorrow," Thompson said.

James Parker, campus activities director, said performers are being considered for a spot in a university battle-of-the-bands style music contest that will take place at the end of the semester. The process for candidate selection and what they will be competing for will depend on the number of musicians who show interest in performing during the semester, he said.

Thompson said the idea was formed a week before the start of the spring semester, so some details have not been discussed yet.

Whether musicians outside of the student body will be allowed to perform and the exact details surrounding the Battle of the Bands competition are factors that need further discussion, he said. The future of the event depends on the level



Wesley Gentle Band members Tyler Bush, left, Travis Hildenbrand, center, and Wesley Gentle perform at the open mic night at 1873 Grill on Jan. 15. Campus Activities began hosting the event Jan. 15 to give students more activities on Thursday nights.

of interest musicians exhibit and the response the student body offers, Thompson said. Student response will determine factors such as whether the open mic night will eventually encompass other performing acts, extend into other nights of the week or become a recurring event in coming semesters.

Musicians on campus have already shown enthusiasm with the event booked through the next four weeks, Thompson said.

Arlecia Onick, an 1873 staff member, said the dining hall was more full than

University Open Mic Night

When: 10 p.m. Thursdays
Where: 1873 Cafe & Sports Grill
Contact: James Parker, j.parker@tcu.edu, 817-257-6799

usual during the band's performance and student turnout is expected to be enthusiastic. The added aspect of entertainment may have the side effect of increased patrons at 1873 on Thursday nights, she said.

STUDENT ACCOUNTS

School bills paid despite economy

Colleges nationwide report hike in unpaid accounts

By Mark Bell
Staff Reporter

The number of students who are able to pay their school bills has not declined despite the economic recession and a national survey that shows otherwise, a university official said.

An e-mail survey conducted by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers reported that more than 65 percent of the 43 college registrars who responded said they had noticed an increase in unpaid bills this year, but financial officials have yet to see the trend at TCU.

Mike Scott, director of scholarships and student financial aid, said the financial aid department has seen an increase in students asking for help recently.

The university increased the undergraduate financial aid budget by 25 percent at the beginning of the year allowing the department to make a substantial increase in the institutionally funded financial aid this year, Scott said.

Cheryl Wilson, university controller and associate vice chancellor for financial ser-

SEE BILLS · PAGE 2

ALCOHOL SALES

Manager: liquor users undeterred by recession

By Curtis Burrhus-Clay
Staff Reporter

The recession may be compelling many Americans to alter their spending habits, but it certainly isn't keeping students from purchasing alcohol.

While many businesses around the nation are experiencing alarming decreases in sales, sales at a local liquor store have been relatively stable.

Lee Labovitz, liquor store manager at Kings Liquor on West Berry Street, said sales have increased about 5 percent from last year, and he's not at all surprised.

"Typically, people tend to drink in good times and in bad times," Labovitz said. "We've actually shown a gain from last year."

Labovitz said that many of his customers aren't even limiting how much they spend. He said that for the most part current purchases have been consistent with those in the past, possibly because of the natural gas industry supporting the North Texas economy.

According to a study conducted by the Perryman Group, an economic and financial analysis firm in Waco, the Barnett Shale has created more than 80,000 jobs and pumped more than \$8.2 billion into the local economy

SEE ALCOHOL · PAGE 2

NEWS

GAS

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"This will allow for the max development of natural gas from a minimum number of pad sites," Robbins said. "If one of those permits doesn't go through, the plan won't work because you need a large contiguous area. You can't have a master plan without a piece of the puzzle."

Shawn Kornegay, the university assistant director of communications, wrote in an e-mail that campus officials approved of the new plan.

"Throughout this process, TCU has always tried to collaboratively work with all parties to arrive at the most effective and responsible method to produce our minerals," Kornegay wrote in the e-mail. "This announcement of a master development plan is reflective of that approach."

Robbins said of the three pad sites that have been approved, the Thornton site, located near Old Granbury Road, will access the minerals under campus. The pad site called Structural Steel is in the plans to access minerals under campus, but it awaits permis-

sion from the City Council, Robbins said.

Senior Assistant City Attorney Sarah Fullenwider said the wells will have to meet the gas drilling regulations.

"If wells are proposed to be located within 600 feet of a protected use, either waivers from the City Council or the protected use property owners would be required," Fullenwider said.

If Chesapeake does not obtain all the waivers from property owners who are affected by the drill sites, they will have to gain the approval of the City Council, she said.

"If Chesapeake can demonstrate that the plan provides for the extraction of minerals from the property leased by the neighborhoods with less impact to those areas, that will probably weigh in favor of council approval," Fullenwider wrote in an e-mail.

Weisman said although Burns cannot predict what his other eight colleagues will do, he thinks that the remaining four sites will be permitted, but not until April or May.

Kornegay said while work still remains to ratify the plan, campus officials hope many will view the plan as a positive development.

ALCOHOL

continued from page 1

since 2007.

Sam Frichithavong, owner of Bluebonnet Liquor on Bluebonnet Circle, however, said he may not be seeing the same purchasing power at his local liquor store.

Frichithavong said that he was not comfortable with the subject matter of the interview before he said his store is "going through a tough time."

Summer McGowan, a junior modern dance major, said she was taken aback to learn that the alcohol industry is fairly unscathed. She said that she would expect alcohol sales to drop and was surprised to hear that students were not cutting

back on alcohol in these times of financial uncertainty.

"I wouldn't expect people to spend money on something like alcohol," McGowan said.

Labovitz said that Kings Liquor, which is owned and operated by the Labovitz family, has been a staple in the community since the 1960s and that loyal student-customers have kept his family's business thriving.

Many students agree that alcohol will continue to be a constant at social gatherings regardless of what the economy looks like.

Britton Lee, a sophomore communications major, said that the ailing economy won't keep him out of the liquor stores.

"We're in college," Lee said. "Everyone's going to buy it."

NEW ADMINISTRATION

Executive orders part of first full day

By Margaret Talev

McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Chief Justice John Roberts was ushered into the Map Room of the White House on Wednesday night to re-administer the oath of office to President Barack Obama because the original oath on Tuesday had a word out of sequence.

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said the move was made out of "an abundance of caution" in consultation with White House Counsel Greg Craig. Obama's second swearing-in, devoid of the pomp of the initial event, took place at 7:35 p.m. in the presence of a few aides and a press pool. The chief justice was wearing a court robe. "Are you ready to take the oath?" Roberts said. "I am," Obama said, "And we're going to do it very slowly."

It capped a packed first full day for the 44th president, and comes on the heels of Obama's expected signing of an executive order, as soon as Thursday, shuttering the terrorism detention facility at Guantanamo Bay.

Obama began the day by attending a prayer service at the Washington National Cathedral, a tradition for new presidents.

He also celebrated a political victory as his former presidential primary rival, Hillary Clinton, was confirmed by the Senate as secretary of state, with a vote of 94-2.

He appeared to be moving full steam ahead on plans to halt military commission trials at the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba detention camp and to close the facility within a year. The new president on Tuesday ordered a 120-day halt to military tribunals there. A draft order of the closure plans was circulating around Washington on Wednesday; the American Civil Liberties Union posted a copy on its Web site.



Chief Justice John Roberts administers the oath of office a second time in the Map Room of the White House on Wednesday.

Obama also found time to call four Middle Eastern leaders on Wednesday morning: Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Jordan's King Abdullah II and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said in a statement that Obama emphasized protecting a cease-fire in Gaza in part by blocking arms smuggling to Hamas and in part through reconstruction efforts.

Gibbs said that Obama thought it was important "on his first day in office to communicate his commitment to active engagement in pursuit of Arab-Israeli peace from the beginning of his term, and to express his hope for their continued cooperation and leadership."

Later, Obama announced during remarks at a swearing-in ceremony for White House staff and Cabinet officials that he would freeze the pay of White House employees who make more than \$100,000 a year. He told his senior staff that given the economic climate, "It's what's

required of you at this moment."

He signed two executive orders and three memoranda to implement the pay freeze, ethics and public records changes.

The executive order on ethics prohibits executive branch employees from accepting gifts from lobbyists. It prohibits anyone who works for the administration to leave and lobby the executive branch "for as long as I am president," Obama said. It also precludes lobbyists hired by his administration from dealing with agencies on matters they lobbied about for two years.

A second order revokes an executive order signed by former President George W. Bush in 2001 that limited release of former presidents' records, and replaces it with new language aimed at more transparency. Obama's order could expand public access to the records of Bush and former Vice President Dick Cheney, as well as other former leaders, in the years to come, said Steven Aftergood, the director of the Project on Government Secrecy at the Federation of American Scientists.

"It's extraordinary that a new president would address this issue on his first full day in office," Aftergood said. "It signifies the great importance he attaches to open, accountable government. The new order suggests President Obama will take a narrow view of executive privilege and assert it in a much more limited way than what we've seen in the recent past."

Another Obama memo issued on Wednesday appears to rescind a 2001 memo by Bush's then-Attorney General John Ashcroft giving agencies broad legal cover to reject public disclosure requests.

"For a long time now, there's been too much secrecy in this city," Obama said. "This administration stands on the side not of those who seek to withhold information but with those who seek it to be known," Obama said. "The mere fact that you have the legal power to keep something secret does not mean you should always use it."

"Transparency and the rule of law will be the touchstones of this presidency."

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

Campus tries to expel squirrels

By M.S. Enkoji

McClatchy Newspapers

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — If your life centered on foraging for nuts and neat places to hide them, wouldn't the woody confines of a placid college campus seem divine?

No natural enemies to speak of for miles around.

Lots of trees to scurry up and down.

Occasional tasty handouts from people, just for swishing your bushy tail and looking cute.

That's what about 400 Eastern fox squirrels must be thinking as they make themselves at home on the rambling campus of the University of California, Davis.

"The population is exploding," said Sal Genito, the school's director of buildings and grounds.

UC Davis has a scientific project under way to reduce the population — the squirrels, after all, are pests — and it won't involve either firearms or poison.

"Nobody gets hurt; everybody's happy," Genito said.

The squirrels, unlike the Western gray squirrel, are not natives of

the campus; they're not even native to the West, hence the name Eastern fox. They have taken up residence in cities on the West Coast, though.

In the past few years, on the Davis campus, they've multiplied so that they've worn out their welcome.

Speed-racing up tree trunks is damaging bark on 100-year-old grand dames. On occasion, some of the emboldened varmints will saunter into campus buildings, causing a stir. One apparently zoomed across the path of a bicycle going full tilt, causing a nasty spill.

Unchecked, a burgeoning population could upset the environmental balance, overrun the school's research orchards and even injure people if the squirrels start grabbing for food.

Wildlife experts at the school have launched a birth-control project that should reduce the population within a decade to a smaller, more manageable population.

Scientists and students have set cage traps to capture the squirrels, mark them with black dye and release them. To understand how the squirrels behave, scientists are

observing the marked squirrels as they romp across lawns.

In the summer, the squirrels will be recaptured. Some will be injected with a hormone to stop reproduction, and others will get a placebo. If the hormone works without problems, the squirrel population will taper off and a new method will be born to use on other mammal pests.

Aboard a golf cart, Genito motored down walkways canopied by trees this week in search of those twitching, auburn tails.

A fifth of the 5,000-acre campus is essentially parkland, complete with streams, meadows and, of course, nut-bearing trees.

Stopping before a thick-waisted redwood, he pointed out deep furrows in the bark caused by squirrel traffic.

He passed under heavy branches where, at times, some of the culprits would peer down, watchful, but relaxed.

Clearly, they're too comfortable in their adopted home, Genito said.

So are bats, rabbits, mice, rats and feral cats.

They could be next.

BILLS

continued from page 1

vices, said she attributes much of the success in students' being able to pay their bills to the financial aid department.

"I think it's a testament to financial aid," Wilson said. "I know that the financial aid office is being extra sensitive in helping meet students' needs this semester especially in light of what's going on in the economy."

According to the financial aid Web site, 70 percent of students receive some kind of financial aid.

The financial aid department has taken a proactive stance on contacting students and has done more one-on-one work with students this year than in years past, Scott said.

Financial aid and financial services departments have also been very sensitive in coordinating ef-

forts this year, Wilson said.

The two offices stay in close contact all through the day identifying students who are struggling to pay tuition bills and steering them to financial aid, Scott said.

Student accounts are supposed to be paid off before enrollment for a new semester, but students are allowed to register for classes if they owe less than a few hundred dollars, Wilson said.

Efforts made by the financial aid department seem to be working to keep students enrolled and paying their bills on time, Scott said.

"Every day we're looking at students on a case-by-case basis to help and find additional funding to help them," Scott said, "so far it seems we're at least keeping our head above water with what's going on with this economy."

Financial aid may not be the only factor contributing to students' paying their bills on time,

"... the financial aid office is being extra sensitive in helping meet students' needs this semester especially in light of what's going on in the economy."

Cheryl Wilson
university controller and associate vice chancellor for financial services

Scott said.

"Students want to stay here and that's a big part of it as well," Scott said. "For most students it becomes a value proposition: is what I'm getting worth what I'm paying for?"



Life without The Skiff



Life with The Skiff

TCU
DAILY SKIFF

OPINION

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The Skiff View

Drill proposal makes effective compromise

After a protracted debate concerning a proposed on-campus drilling site that involved the city of Fort Worth, Chesapeake Energy, neighborhood and university officials, Chesapeake finally unveiled a plan that — for now — looks like it will satisfy all parties.

The “Meerkat to Seminary Plan” would allow Chesapeake to produce the minerals of some 5,000 acres, including those belonging to the university, a company spokeswoman said.

That means the university can lease its minerals without Chesapeake having to construct nearby rigs to reach them. Though the plan has yet to be finalized, it serves as a vast improvement over previous proposals.

First of all, it satisfies the concerns of nearby homeowners who don't want noisy and, some fear, dangerous, installations a mere football-field distance from homes. Instead, an alternate rig to the southeast of campus near Granbury Road will access the minerals.

Peace of mind is a quality any homeowner wants in his or her neighborhood, and maintaining a good relationship between these residents and the university is essential for keeping a high profile in the community.

Additionally, the plan allows the university to tap into substantial gas revenues. No matter how big the endowment is, it never hurts to have more money flowing in, especially if some of the revenues can be put to use in the form of financial aid, sustainable energy products or other methods of improving the student environment.

Although having a drilling site near campus would have been beneficial for students in the Energy Institute and for others hoping to gain knowledge of an increasingly essential part of the local economy, opportunities for partnerships still exist for students and energy companies. Overall, the benefits of accessing the minerals from afar outweigh the potential drawbacks.

Editor-in-chief Max Landman for the editorial board.

The Skiff View represents the collective opinion of the editorial board.

Economy must improve for Obama to win again



TYLER ZODROW

If the economy doesn't dramatically improve in the next two to three years, President Barack Obama could very well be a one-term president.

Just days after he assumes power, there is no doubt that the economy will be Obama's greatest domestic and political challenge.

It will greatly define not only his presidency, but his legacy.

Obama is inheriting a wide spectrum of weak economic figures including steep unemployment, a credit crisis, and a dismal housing market. All of which require his immediate attention.

The Associated Press reported Jan. 12 that the new president has already called for the release of the remaining \$350 billion in federal bailout funds. He is also urging lawmakers to act quickly on another massive economic stimulus package worth a total \$825 billion.

According to the Washington Post, the package includes \$550 billion to “build new schools and highways, invest in energy and health-care projects and provide

unemployment and health benefits for out-of-work Americans” and \$275 billion in tax cuts.

While the idea of economic stimulus sounds appealing, it has to be managed correctly.

In times of severe economic challenge such as these, sacrifices need to be made and this bill does nothing but give things to people.

This type of exuberant government spending is simply not sustainable.

New York Times correspondent Peter Baker phrased it well when he said Obama has seemed reluctant to call for austerity in a challenging economic moment.

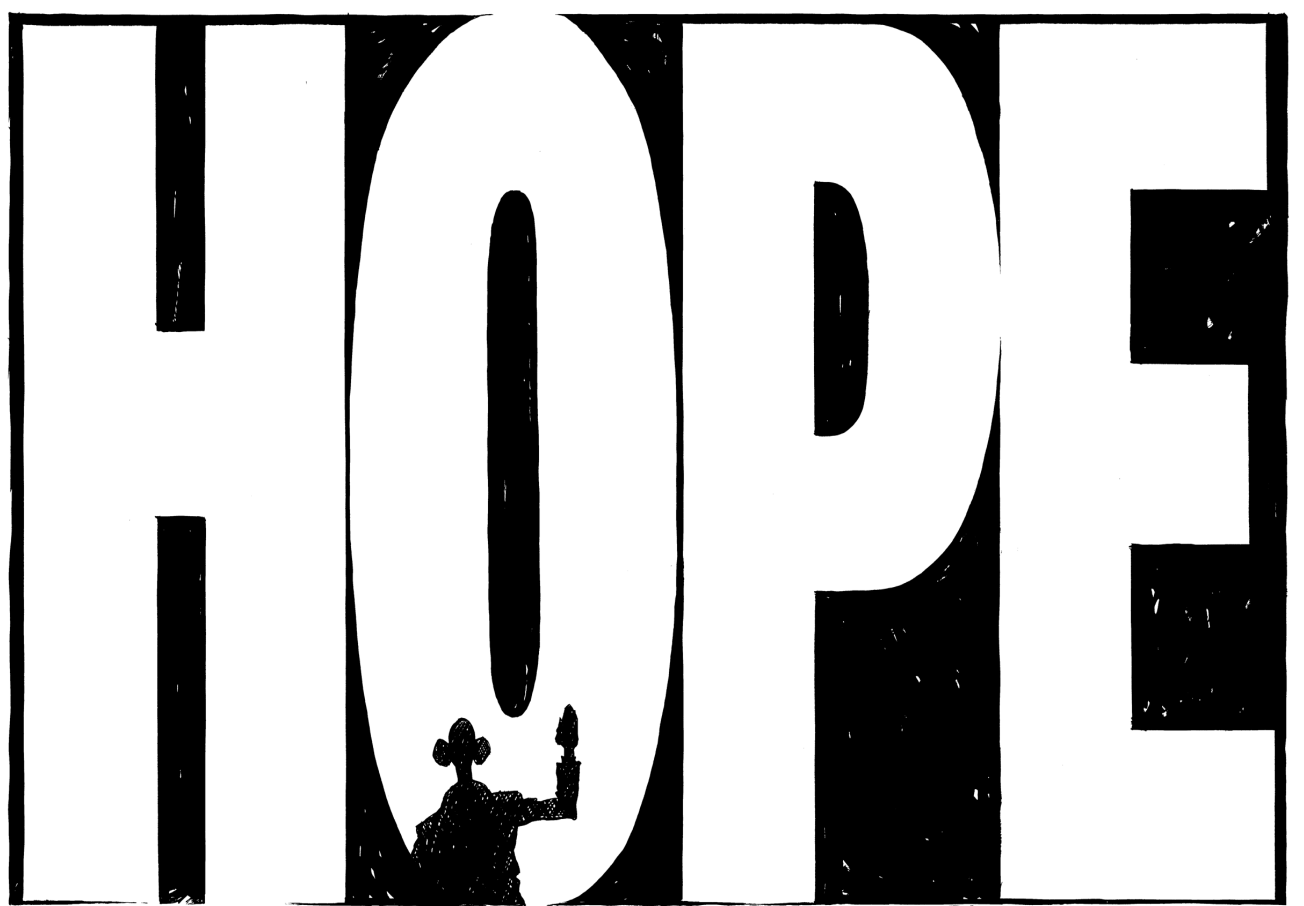
The current economic wildfires in this country shouldn't be doused by pouring money on them; they should be made to never ignite again.

It is up to President Obama and the 111th Congress to guide America through this treacherous and uncharted territory. If unsuccessful, Obama and his democratic allies will face an impatient America in 2012.

The same economy that helped elect Obama in 2008 may very well bring him down in just four short years.

Obama's “change” momentum will only last so long if he's unable to change what is most important to Americans: the economy.

Tyler Zodrow is a junior finance major from McKinney.



BLUR The Washington Examiner of CAGELCARTOONS.COM

Nate Beeler is the editorial cartoonist for The Washington Examiner.

Gaza cease-fire leaves much to be desired for both sides

On Sunday, Israel began withdrawing its troops from Gaza after three weeks of war, claiming it had met all of its goals. After initially refusing Israel's cease-fire, Hamas leaders agreed to a weeklong halt in the fighting.

To call this cease-fire tenuous would be a flagrant understatement. It could end with a fresh salvo of rockets from Gaza into southern Israel before you read this.

But for the moment, there is a break in the heavy fighting. So what has each side gained in all the bloodshed?

Israel can point to a new agreement with the United States and some of its NATO allies to shut down weapons smuggling into Gaza by disrupting such trafficking across the Middle East. Egypt also looks to be more serious about preventing the pervasive tunneling from its side of the border.

Israel also has dealt a punishing blow to Hamas' leadership, killing several of its leaders and pulverizing its military infrastructure. The Hamas rocket fire into southern Israel — which provoked the war — dwindled.

Overall, however, Israel gained only a marginal improvement in its security at a significant cost — more than 1,200 Palestinians killed, including 410 children, according to Palestinian officials. Israel counted 10 soldiers and three civilians killed.

Now Hamas — and the people of Gaza — should be wondering what they gained from this war. The answer: Hamas gained nothing and its people paid a heavy price.

Hamas was left Sunday demanding that all the entries to Gaza be opened — just what it was demanding before the fighting began.

Hamas wrested control of Gaza on the promise that it would govern more effectively than its corrupt rival



SHASHANK BENGALI / MCT

A police officer stands in rubble of the destroyed parliament building Tuesday in Gaza City, Gaza Strip.

Fatah. It promised Gazans prosperity. Instead, by provoking this war, it showed again that it would eagerly sacrifice its people's lives and security in the name of its terrorist goals.

Hamas leaders also may be wondering about Hezbollah, its Iranian-backed allies in Lebanon. It may have hoped they'd complicate Israel's battle plans by opening a second front in this war. That didn't happen. When a few rockets were fired from Lebanon, Hezbollah immediately disavowed them, taking pains to tell Israel and the world that it did not fire them. Even if Israel “lost” the war that Hezbollah started in 2006, the price Lebanon paid was high. Hezbollah clearly was not spoiling for a rematch.

Hamas is bloodied, but not defeated. It will maintain political and military control of Gaza if only because it

has no strong rival there. Israeli leaders should be under no illusion that Hamas can be toppled militarily.

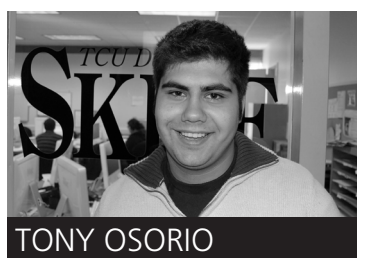
So what now? On Sunday, Egypt hosted a peace summit that should help speed the flow of humanitarian aid to Gaza. Now, a new American administration has taken office, promising a bold new diplomatic effort in the Middle East. President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton have to know, though, how this region has vexed and frustrated their predecessors.

After three weeks of war it's hard to see concrete political or military gains. It's easy to see the grievous price paid by the Palestinian people.

Small gains and great misery.

This editorial appeared in the Chicago Tribune on Monday. It was distributed by McClatchy-Tribune News Service.

Porno bailout just another form of wasting tax dollars



TONY OSORIO

With the current slump in America's economy, it seems even the pornography industry has fallen into hard times and yet, the CEOs of the industry continue to bring in the money.

Larry Flynt, Hustler magazine publisher, and Joe Francis, Girls Gone Wild founder and CEO, have appealed to Congress for a \$5 billion bailout to rejuvenate the adult entertainment industry.

At first glance this seems vulgar, repulsive and could be construed as an attempt to make a mockery of a serious problem in our economy.

But look deeper and you will find a silver lining. This bailout brings attention to the expanding bailout umbrella and the lack of integrity in our country.

Francis attained the “American Dream.” He created a multi-million dollar franchise with very little work, in which he obtained his fortune by taking advantage of inebriated young girls and offering them nothing more than a T-shirt as reward for baring their bodies.

Lacking in talent and creativity, Francis is an example of how someone of lower intelligence and even lower moral standards can become a millionaire in our current version of

American society.

Flynt admitted to CNN that the \$100 million Hustler franchise's DVD video sales have slumped recently but said Hustler's Internet revenue has more than filled the void for the losses in DVD sales.

I see this as another stunt composed by Flynt to input some satire and awareness into American culture.

Flynt and Francis know well that they will not receive any money from a bailout, but why not ask for it? Why not strike while the iron is hot?

As this story plays out on news stations around the country, we should take it as it is — a joke — yet this punch line has a point. It shows us a logical view.

Are we, the taxpayers, going to continue to put money into the

pockets of the already incredibly wealthy?

Some of these bailouts are serious issues.

However, some of our money is just further padding the pockets of those who do not need it, taking away the money that could be spent on more productive things.

I see this as the point of the request for the bailout and a truly valid point at that.

While we are throwing millions upon millions of dollars at corporations with billionaire CEOs, why not give to those who have earned their fame and fortune at the expense of others? They would like a new jet too, you know.

Tony Osorio is a freshman news-editorial journalism major from Cleburne.



SXC.HU

NEWS

WAR IN IRAQ

General says peaceful elections key

By Leila Fadel
McClatchy Newspapers

BAGHDAD, Iraq — One day after President Barack Obama pledged that America would begin to “responsibly leave Iraq to its people,” Gen. Ray Odierno, the commanding U.S. general in Iraq, said that if the country held peaceful elections this year, the relative calm that had settled on Iraq would be “irreversible.”

Iraq is to hold provincial elections Jan. 31 and national elections at the end of this year.

“If we get through this second set of elections — provincial and national elections — I think we’ll be beyond that,” he told McClatchy Newspapers on Wednesday as he toured a sprawling marketplace in the poor Shi-ite Muslim district of New Baghdad. “We’re slowly getting there now, but the proof will be in the elections. If we do that peaceful transfer of power, and there is peaceful conduct of legitimate, credible elections, I think that will be irreversible, frankly.”

The area he toured once was completely controlled by Shiite militants who protected — and intimidated — residents.

Odierno spoke to McClatchy hours before Obama was to sit down with his top military advisers to discuss the U.S. military mission in Iraq and a likely escalation of the American military presence in Afghanistan.

However, because the Army and Marine Corps are stretched thin by the two wars, any significant U.S. troop buildup in Afghanistan requires a drawdown in Iraq, which in turn requires both continued calm and improved Iraqi Security Forces.

“Now what’ll be interesting to see is what happens after the elections — the 60 days after the elections — for those where the elections didn’t turn out quite the way they wanted them to turn out.”

Gen. Ray Odierno
commanding U.S. general in Iraq

The elections this month could turn violent, especially in Nineveh province, where a Kurdish-dominated council leads the mostly Sunni Muslim Arab population, and in Diyala province, where a mostly Shiite provincial council rules a largely Sunni Arab province. Already, candidates have complained that the government in Diyala has issued arrest warrants for Sunni candidates for

political reasons. “Now what’ll be interesting to see is what happens after the elections — the 60 days after the elections — for those where the elections didn’t turn out quite the way they wanted them to turn out,” Odierno said. “So what will they do? We hope they will deal with it in a peaceful way, continue to try to work with the elected officials. Or will some try to resort to violence? That’s what we’re prepared for.”

The current provincial councils largely excluded Sunnis from power in Diyala and Nineveh provinces. In Anbar, the largest Sunni political party, the Iraqi Islamic Party, could lose power to the Sunni tribal groups that are largely credited with suppressing the Sunni insurgency in the once-violent western province.

In the southern provinces, the most powerful Shiite party in Iraq, the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq, is fighting to maintain power in most of the provinces it rules as the party of Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki pushes into its territory.

Despite a small uptick in bombings this month in Baghdad, Odierno said that violence over the past eight weeks was at its lowest level since the summer of 2003, after the U.S.-led invasion.

Odierno also is dealing with a new era for American troops in Iraq under the new U.S.-Iraq security agreement, which took

effect Jan. 1. The accord calls for American troops to withdraw from Iraqi cities by the end of this June and from Iraq by Dec. 31, 2011.

Odierno visited the U.S. military base at Rustamiyah in northwestern Baghdad on Wednesday, which will revert to Iraq by March. It’s unclear whether American combat troops will remain on Joint Security Stations with Iraqi Security Forces in cities after the June deadline.

“We’re in the process of deciding how (the Joint Security Stations) will work,” he said. “Whatever decision it is, it will be made between us and the Iraqis.”

One challenge is to ensure that the Iraqi Security Forces are psychologically ready, so they won’t fall back on the U.S. military, Odierno said Wednesday in a briefing with soldiers.

“We don’t want to move backwards,” he said. “We need to make sure that they can take it over and that we’re here to assist if they ask us.”

Odierno has spent five of the past six Christmases in Iraq, and he could be the commanding general who metaphorically turns on the lights on the U.S. war in Iraq.

“I think there is a potential here for us to end this thing — for Iraq to be a strategic partner of the United States and Iraq to be a stabilizing influence in the region,” he said.

TWIN CITIES

Healthy Living

Avoiding trans fats

New laws require food processors to list the amounts of “trans fats” in their products because they increase the risk of heart disease.

Keywords that indicate a product contains trans fats

- Vegetable shortening
- Partially hydrogenated fat
- Hydrogenated fat

Trans fat content of 1 tablespoon (14 g)

Stick margarine	2.8 g
Margarine spread	2.7 g
Soft (tub) margarine	0.6 g
Butter	0.3 g
Liquid margarine	0 g
Vegetable or olive oil	0 g

Source: U.S. Food and Drug Administration, MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Melina Yingling



Ordinances could outlaw trans fat from restaurants

By Chris Havens and Steve Brandt
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

MINNEAPOLIS — Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn., are preparing ordinances to ban chain restaurants and other dining outlets from using trans fats, which have been linked to heart disease and elevated cholesterol levels.

Ordinances are also in the works in both cities to require calorie labels on menus and menu boards.

The proposals could go to the two city councils next month.

A number of cities, counties and states across the nation have imposed or explored bans and labels in the name of public health. New York City imposed an all-out ban on trans fats in restaurant-prepared food. California will require chain restaurants to list calorie information on menus by 2011.

Americans have been eating out more and eating more processed foods, and obesity rates are increasing. The two trends underscore the need to have information readily available for consumers to make healthful choices, health advocates say.

Critics argue that the regulations are another step toward the creation of a nanny state. Still, many national restaurant chains — from Applebee’s to KFC to Subway — already have eliminated or are working to cut out trans fats.

Trans fats are found in deep-fried foods, snack foods and shortening. They’re created by adding hydrogen to liquid vegetable oil, and they lengthen shelf life, keep foods crispy and provide the “mouth feel” that food scientists say improves flavor.

But trans fats also have been linked to heart disease. Studies also have shown that trans fats raise LDL, the so-called “bad cholesterol,” and lower HDL, the “good cholesterol.”

The Food and Drug Administration required that food nutrition labels show trans fat amounts in 2006.

The Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support conducted a survey last year looking at how easy it was to find calorie information at chain restaurants. Of 203 establishments, about half provided at least limited information and 23 percent had information at the point of purchase. About 26 percent provided calorie information upon request. None, the survey found, posted calorie informa-

tion on menu boards.

The St. Paul ordinance would apply to chain restaurants that have at least 15 locations nationwide. Foods containing vegetable shortening, margarine or any partially hydrogenated vegetable oil would be affected. The ordinance wouldn’t affect prepackaged foods with nutrition information labels.

The calorie-labeling ordinance would apply only to food establishments with at least 15 locations nationwide and only to standard menu items. The labels would be required on menus or menu boards.

The Minneapolis proposal likely would apply the trans-fat ban to restaurants, groceries and bakeries, with different phase-in periods for each, said Councilman Ralph Remington. Some one- or two-outlet businesses might be exempted.

A separate caloric labeling requirement for menus in Minneapolis would apply only to restaurants with at least 15 outlets nationwide.

A metro-wide group, the Healthy Menu Coalition, supports the labeling ordinance.

“Of the two issues, I’d say menu labeling is more controversial,” said David Siegel, executive vice president of the Minnesota Restaurant Association.

Many — if not most — of the businesses in the industry have recognized the bans are going to progress and have switched away from trans fats or are in the process, he said.

As for the labeling initiatives, Siegel said a growing patchwork of inconsistent rules is causing frustration.

“Let’s give information to consumers and create a national standard like we did in grocery stores,” Siegel said.

The National Restaurant Association has supported a federal proposal, the Labeling Education and Nutrition Act, that would apply a national standard for providing nutritional information at restaurants. It wouldn’t necessarily require calorie information on menus or menu boards, but on another sign or as an insert.

Siegel said there are “legitimate cost issues” with requiring labels on menus and menu boards. Plus, he added, the labels can mean clutter.

Siegel also said that more education beyond calorie labels is needed to fight obesity.

“Where does personal responsibility come in as opposed to regulating people’s behavior?” he asked.

IMMIGRATION

Report challenges conventional wisdom

By Susan Ferriss
McClatchy Newspapers

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Flor Gutierrez has a bird’s eye view of how immigrants — 37 percent of California’s labor force — are reacting so far to a punishing recession.

She runs El Mercadito Latino in Elk Grove, Calif., where Mexicans and Central Americans shop and wire money to family back in home countries. In December, she said, customers wired the same amount of money as they always have during a holiday month.

But Gutierrez is bracing for a plunge. “They definitely are buying less for themselves,” she said. “We may see people getting by with less here, so they can continue to help out those back home who are even worse off.”

Gutierrez’s observations mirror what researchers at the Migration Policy Institute, a nonpartisan Washington think tank, describe in a report issued last week.

“Immigrants and the Current Economic Crisis” reviews statistical research and other information and concludes that there is no hard evidence of illegal or legal immigrants leaving in droves because jobs have dried up.

In addition to agriculture, immigrants are concentrated in construction, manufacturing and services — industries that have been battered by the downturn.

No doubt, tough times have already prompted some to leave U.S. soil, and produced a “flattening” in the estimated number of illegal immigrants entering to seek jobs since 2007, said Demetrios Papademetriou, president of the Migration Policy Institute, which studies U.S. and global migration trends and policies.

But home countries, especially those tightly linked to the U.S. economy, such as Mexico and Central America, are not hospitable places to search for work either.

Drug trafficking violence and crime in Mexico are disincentives

to returning — along with immigrants’ strong sense of responsibility to provide for family, the report says.

“What we don’t know,” Papademetriou said, “is if the economy is going to become so bad here that to barely subsist in a much friendlier atmosphere — back with one’s family — will tip the scales.”

The report examines immigration patterns as far back as the early 1800s. Trying to predict the recession’s impact on foreign workers, it says, “is daunting because there has been no comparable crisis in recent memory.”

The report does offer the new administration food for thought.

Researchers contend that U.S. policies encourage undocumented workers to remain in the United States and cling to whatever work they can find and wait out a downturn. In contrast, they say, the European Union’s policy of free transit among EU citizens affords migrant workers “the ease of circulation.”

Poles and other Eastern Europeans, for example, were able to legally fill labor needs in Ireland and Great Britain in the last decade. Ireland’s foreign-born population rocketed from 1 percent in 1997 to 14 percent in 2007, Papademetriou said.

But when the Western economies slowed in 2007 — and the Eastern economies improved — laborers left Ireland and Britain in large numbers.

The key to the migrants’ deci-

sion to leave, Papademetriou said, is that they knew they could return legally if job opportunities became available.

Spain, Papademetriou said, is in a fix comparable to the United States. Africans and South Americans were drawn to work there, legally and illegally, when the economy was healthy. Now the immigrants don’t want to leave because they don’t have guarantees of return.

One Sacramento Valley construction worker, 27, is debating whether to return to Mexico.

He has worked as a building and home insulation installer for

“My company let me go last week. They said that once things get better, they’ll call me back.”

Demetrios Papademetriou
president of the Migration Policy Institute

seven years.

He hesitates to leave primarily, he said, because he knows how hard it will be to return. He requested anonymity because he fears being identified.

“My company let me go last week,” he said. “They said that once things get better, they’ll call me back.”

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ETC.



TODAY IN HISTORY

In a historic decision, the U.S. Supreme Court rules in *Roe v. Wade* that women, as part of their constitutional right to privacy, can terminate a pregnancy during its first two trimesters. — **History Channel**

JOKE OF THE DAY

Q: What do you call a pig with three eyes?
A: A piig.

Bliss by Harry Bliss



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4		6	3	7		5			
						1		4	
	5	4				8	3		
2		3							
		9		3	6	7		1	
7				2					
	2				9		8		

Directions
Fill in the grid so that every 3x3 box, row and column contains the digits 1 through 9 without repeating numbers.

See Friday's paper for sudoku and crossword solutions.

Wednesday's Solutions

6	7	4	9	2	3	5	8	1
9	8	2	4	1	5	3	7	6
5	1	3	7	6	8	4	2	9
2	5	8	3	4	9	6	1	7
7	4	6	8	5	1	9	3	2
3	9	1	6	7	2	8	5	4
1	2	9	5	3	6	7	4	8
4	6	5	1	8	7	2	9	3
8	3	7	2	9	4	1	6	5

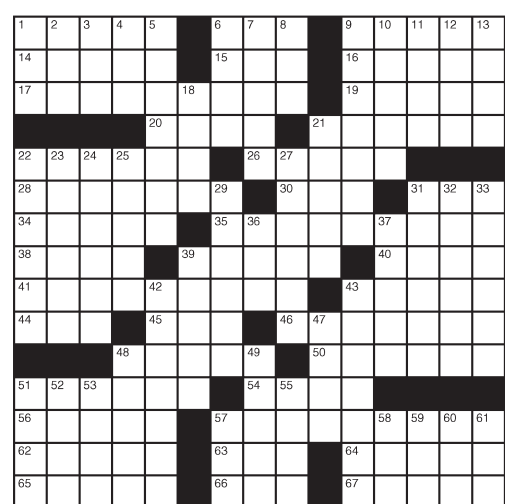
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- ACROSS**
1 Sleeping child
6 Epitome of messiness
9 Keen
14 Rental agreement
15 Miss West
16 Vowels
17 Hard hat's potty
19 Thick
20 Kind of dancer
21 Winter apple
22 Begin to grow
26 Turn inside out
28 Maria of Austria
30 Old-time high note
31 Sheep sound
34 Ponselle and Parks
35 "A Way in the World" writer
38 Town on the Firth of Lorn
39 Women's sweethearts
40 Formerly, formerly
41 Singer O'Dowd, to fans
43 A la
44 Curve type
45 Lb. parts
46 Murkier
48 Blackthorns
50 Bean and Welles
51 One-time French royal house
54 Very long time
56 Be jubilant
57 1989 Jane Fonda movie
62 Singer Shore
63 Hawaiian staple
64 Mito of "The Verdict"
65 Alda and Arkin
66 Letters that blast
67 Never existed



By Tom Pruce Chicago, IL 1/20/09

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

F	L	A	M	E	S	S	I	R	A	M	O	S		
L	A	R	E	D	O	T	I	O	R	E	A	P		
U	N	I	T	E	D	A	D	M	A	S	T	O		
B	E	D	A	N	D	B	R	E	A	K	F	A	S	T
			S	E	E	A	N	N	A					
C	M	V	I	N	S	C	C	E	T	E	R	A		
A	E	I	O	U	O	R	I	E	L	D	E	C		
P	L	O	U	G	H	M	A	N	S	L	U	N	C	
E	E	L	L	I	S	Z	T	S	L	A	T	E		
S	E	A	A	I	R	Y	E	S	A	S	I	S		
			D	E	E	S	R	I	B					
A	F	T	E	R	D	I	N	N	E	R	M	I	N	T
L	I	E	S		O	D	A		R	O	O	N	E	Y
A	B	E	T		U	L			R	I	O	T	E	R
E	S	N	E		T	E	T		A	L	G	O	R	E

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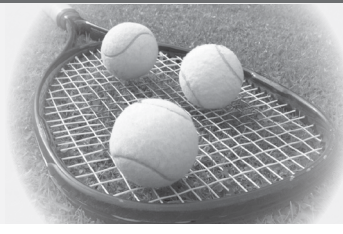
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SPORTS



The women's tennis team returns to action this weekend in Virginia. Tomorrow

MEN'S BASKETBALL • TCU 79, WYOMING 78

NAIL-BITER



Junior forward Zvonko Buljan celebrates TCU's 79-78 overtime victory against Wyoming after making a defensive stop in the closing second.

OT thriller lifts team over Cowboys

By Lizzy Karoly
Staff Reporter

The men's basketball team pulled out a narrow victory at Daniel-Meyer Coliseum Wednesday night, beating the Wyoming Cowboys 79-78 in overtime.

With 19 seconds left in overtime, junior forward Edvinas Ruzgas hit a three-point shot to put the Horned Frogs in the lead for good. Senior forward Kevin Langford passed the ball to junior guard Keion Mitchem at the top of the key who then swung the ball to Ruzgas in the corner for the open shot.

"I was wide open and confident, shot it and made it," Ruzgas said. "I tried to keep myself confident and make the shot."

Langford led the Horned Frogs with a career-high 36 points. He was two rebounds shy of a double-double.

"It was good to get the points but even better to get the win," Langford said.

Mountain West Conference points per game leader Brandon Ewing of the Wyoming Cowboys was held to 16 points, two points less than his season average. Ewing was almost silent in the first half, scoring only two points in the first 20 minutes.

Senior guard Sean Ogirri and senior forward Tyson Johnson led the Cowboys in scoring with 18 points apiece. Ogirri shot 44 percent from three point range and set Johnson for the three-pointer that would send the game into overtime.

The Horned Frogs depth came through in the game as the team scored 20 points from the bench as opposed to the Cowboys' four.

"I think it's important anytime you get a squad off the bench that helps you," said TCU head coach Jim Christian. "Especially when some of the key starters weren't playing well offensively, so it was big for us. Those guys gave us a good lift."



To view a slideshow of the game, go to DailySkiff.com.

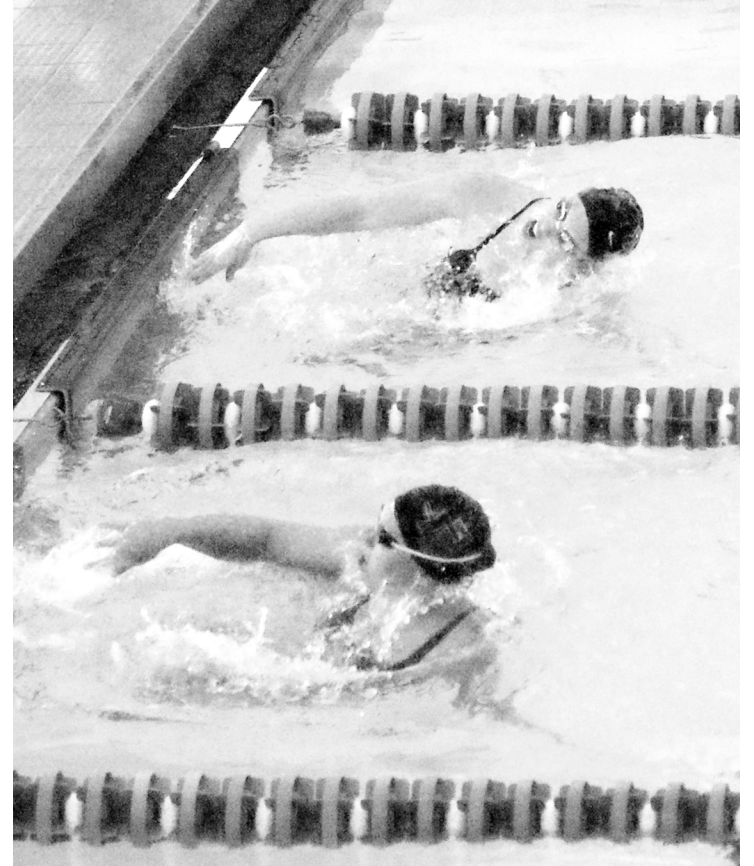
TCU opened the game with a 7-0 run and controlled the game for the first 10 minutes. The Cowboys were able to get back in the game off second chances from offensive rebounds. They finished with 19 second-chance points while TCU only managed five.

TCU led the entire game until under three minutes left in the second half.

The Horned Frogs were able to hold the Cowboys to 31.3 percent shooting behind the three-point line, which is slightly above their average of 30.4 percent.

With the win, the Horned Frogs move to 13-6 on the season, including a 4-1 mark in conference play, topping the Mountain West.

SWIMMING AND DIVING



TCU senior Katie Rosen, top, and SDSU freshman Jeanette Engzell push off after their final turns during the 200-yard breaststroke. Rosen finished second in the event.

Coach: Women 'on a roll' as they head west for meet

By Patrick Burns
Staff Reporter

Fresh off home wins against San Diego State University and Centenary College of Louisiana over the weekend, the women's swimming and diving team will travel west to face the University New Mexico on Friday for its final conference meet of the season.

The women own an overall record of 6-3-1, and have a conference record of 3-3-1. With a win, the women will go above .500 in the Mountain West Conference for the first time since Nov. 13, when they won against the Air Force Academy. Since losing to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas on Jan. 6, the team has gone 2-0-1, with the tie coming against undefeated conference rival Utah.

Head coach Richard Sybesma hopes to close out conference play with a win.

"It's our last conference meet, and we're hoping to go to Albuquerque to get a win," Sybesma said. "I think our girls right now are on a roll, so as long as we do what we need to, we'll have an opportunity to get a win."

Sybesma also said he was impressed by the women finishing 1-2-3 in events twice during the meet against SDSU and Centenary, which he said helps add to the overall point total.

"We're not only better at swimming than last year, but we're more supportive to each other as well."

Maria Alvarez
sophomore swimmer

"It's like scoring a touchdown and getting a two-point conversion," he said.

Sophomore Maria Alvarez, who won in the 500-yard and 1,000-yard freestyle events Saturday, said the team improved dramatically during last season.

"It's a lot better this year," Alvarez said. "We're not only better at swimming than last year, but we're more supportive to each other as well."

Sophomore Brittney Martinez swept the backstroke events, and broke her personal record in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 58.22. Martinez said the key to victory is to carry the confidence they gained since the Utah meet.

"The atmosphere that day against Utah was incredible," Martinez said. "So we know we can bring that intensity. We just need to be confident, but not too confident."

POINT • COUNTER POINT

Should seventh-graders be defined as prospective college athletes?

Basketball programs, young athletes will benefit under new rule



MICHAEL CARROLL

Under a new NCAA rule adopted last week, seventh- and eighth-grade male basketball players are now defined as prospective athletes. The old rule stated that any player entering the ninth grade could be considered as a prospective basketball athlete.

While this new rule might sound a little outrageous at first, closer examination will reveal that it was made with good intentions in mind.

The truth is, the greatest young basketball players in the nation were probably already on the radars of top college basketball programs.

Coaches with a limitless amount of resources had the ability to reach out to these players

through a variety of different methods, usually by hosting elite, private youth summer basketball camps.

You can see how this was a disadvantage for colleges and universities without the resources of larger, more renowned programs. It was also unfair to the young athletes who were only being presented with a limited amount of options as to where they could continue their careers at the next level.

This rule will clearly fix a number of problems that needed addressing.

The NCAA's move should allow for more parity in college basketball, as each program will now have, in principle, equal opportunities to recruit these young basketball players.

More importantly, the new rule will protect these young athletes from being unfairly taken advantage of by these select, elite programs. Now the athletes can examine all of their options, taking both athletics and their educational futures into consideration.

The NCAA's move should allow for more parity in college basketball, as each program will now have, in principle, equal opportunities to recruit these young basketball players.

There will be those who argue that 12- and 13-year-old boys are far too young to be subjected to the brutal world of collegiate recruiting, and they may be right. But the NCAA is big business, and teams across the country deserve a fair shot at landing a player who can help their program, no matter the player's age. It may sound ridiculous, but it's just the way the world works today.

Sports editor Michael Carroll is a senior news-editorial journalism major from Coppell.

Children shouldn't have to face pressures of recruitment so early



BILLY WESSELS

Seventh grade is a difficult time for everybody. You are 12 years old and trying to get adjusted to the junior high school lifestyle.

The last thing you need is to have people breathing down your neck about your future.

Well, thanks to an NCAA rule change, that is what is happening to seventh- and eighth-grade boys' basketball players.

Last week, the NCAA adjusted its definition of a prospective basketball player from any player entering ninth grade to any hooper starting seventh grade.

I understand their reasoning for it, to keep high-profile coaches from attending elite basketball camps where they begin planting

seeds in young athletes' minds that they have a future at a top-25 basketball program.

But one aspect of the players' lives NCAA officials are overlooking is the fact they are barely — and in some cases not even — teenagers.

These kids should be listening to Kidz Bop or playing Pokémon. Do kids still play that? They should not be working on their hops and handles until dinner is cold and trying to impress scouts.

It's unfortunate that the best, most fortunate players get to go to the elite camps, while a kid who could be just as talented but from a broken home doesn't even have a hoop dream. But that is how the game is played off the court.

And big-name college coaches like Roy Williams at the University of North Carolina and Mike Krzyzewski at Duke University have the resources to scope out these great, young players — sometimes too young — from all around the country, but that is just another game.

It's unfortunate that the best, most fortunate players get to go to the elite camps, while a kid who could be just as talented but from a broken home doesn't even have a hoop dream.

Hopefully, if given the chance, these kids will grow up and know what their future will hold come their senior year of high school and pick a college that works best for them, whether they will be fighting to reach the Final Four or studying their butts off to become a doctor or lawyer or business executive.

But they should be given the chance to grow up off the court.

Billy Wessels is a senior news-editorial journalism major from Waxahachie.