

The Eagle

Vikings sail past Temple

Diaz, Munoz each score twice in Bryan boys soccer team's 6-2 victory **SPORTS, B1**



CS triumphs

Lady Cougars down Montgomery **SPORTS, B1**



PARTLY SUNNY 55 • 36 FORECAST, A2

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2023

theeagle.com

Bryan-College Station, Texas

Pence had classified docs too

Discovered in former VP's Indiana house

JILL COLVIN
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Documents with classified markings were discovered in former Vice President Mike Pence's Indiana residence last week, his lawyer says, the latest in a string of recoveries of papers

meant to be treated with utmost sensitivity from the homes of current and former top U.S. officials.

"A small number of documents," taken into FBI custody last Thursday, "were inadvertently boxed and transported" to the former vice president's home at the end of the last administration, Pence's lawyer, Greg Jacob, wrote in a letter to the National Archives shared with The Associated Press.

He said that Pence had been "unaware of the existence of sensitive or classified documents at his personal residence" until a search last week and that he "understands the high importance of protecting sensitive and classified information" and stands ready to cooperate with "any appropriate inquiry."

The revelation came as the Department of Justice already was

investigating the discovery of documents with classification markings in President Joe Biden's home in Delaware and his former Washington office, as well as former President Donald Trump's Florida estate. Democrat Biden has indicated he will seek reelection, Republican Trump is already a declared candidate, and Pence has been exploring a possible 2024 campaign that would put him in

direct competition against Trump, his former boss.

The newest discovery thrusts Pence, who had previously insisted that he followed stringent protocols regarding classified documents, into the debate over the handling of secret materials by officials who have served in the highest ranks of government.

Please see **PENCE**, Page A8



LOGAN HANNIGAN-DOWNS, THE EAGLE

Jason Bondi, left, and Nathaniel Bass talk about one of the manufacturing processes they used in Team Eclipse during a presentation Friday.

A&M project bound for moon

Student-designed DNA capsule slated for space next year

BAILEY BROWN
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Five mechanical engineering students at Texas A&M University were tasked with a seemingly simplistic project — create a capsule that can hold DNA crystals that would survive on the moon — that evolved into a year's worth of ultimately successful work, according to Nathaniel Bass.

"Our team was unique in that we were all willing to do what we needed to make the project succeed, and also willing to give a degree of grace and mutual support that I haven't seen a lot of in other teams," said Bass, a master's student at Texas A&M.

The five students were enrolled in a senior capstone design course from fall semester 2021 through May 2022, and were given a list of projects to choose from that would result in engineering something of their own design.

"Capstone is a really an important section of the mechanical engineering program because it is the first time that you get to use a good cross section of your skills to make an actual engineering artifact, or a plan for an artifact, to be used with the skills that you learned beforehand," Bass said.

The project students chose involved the Texas Space, Technology, Applications & Research [TSTAR] engineering group, which acted as the sponsor for their group, the Eclipse Team, and their customer, Space Crystals LLC of Houston, which

needed a design.

Space Crystals wanted the Eclipse Team of Bass, Jason Bondi, Tara Brown, Tyler Haygood and Matthew Plummer to build a capsule that would hold its product — a unique crystal created in space that contains human DNA — and is able to live on the moon forever. In order to achieve that, TSTAR tasked the Eclipse Team with the design and production of a container for crystals and a memory storage device that will be attached to a lander and sent to the lunar surface early next year.

Kevin Heath, founder of Space Crystals, explained that a DNA Space Crystal is a scientific process used to extract participants' DNA from hair samples and infuse the DNA into two crystalline solutions. The solutions are then launched into space and while on

orbit, traveling over 17,000 miles per hour in a weightless environment, they grow two unique synthetic crystals infused with the DNA. Their current formula results in a crystal similar to an amethyst.

The container must be able to withstand thermal fatigue, radiation, shockload and abrasion, according to their final report. They narrowed the capsule down to two designs and ultimately chose the one that had a rectangular format with circle openings in the corners for clamping bolts, and an extended base plate that will hold up to four layers of crystals and memory storage. The team was allotted about \$5,000 to complete the project and prototype and their final expenditures came out to about \$2,600,

Please see **CAPSULE**, Page A8

A&M plays vital role in fusion success

Energy source could be wave of the future

ALEX MILLER
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When Yu Ding saw news about a nuclear fusion breakthrough last month, he grabbed his phone to show his daughter.

Ding is a professor of industrial and systems engineering at Texas A&M University and associate director of the A&M Institute of Data Science. He was excited because he had played a small role in making the decades-long anticipated breakthrough happen.

"That was surreal," Ding said.

Ding and Satish T.S. Bukkapatnam are two A&M faculty members, among many other scientists and engineers, who played a part in a fusion ignition breakthrough on Dec. 5, 2022, by California's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's (LLNL) National Ignition Facility (NIF).

In the days following the test, U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Jennifer M. Granholm said: "It's the first time it has ever been done in a laboratory anywhere in the world — simply put, this is one of the most impressive scientific feats of the 21st century."

Multiple former A&M students who work at the LLNL played roles in the first-time feat, including Kelli Humbird who works at the LLNL as a design physicist.

"I think for the field of fusion energy, fusion science, this was a



Humbird

Please see **FUSION**, Page A6

Texas leads lawsuit vs. Biden

Paxton argues new migration policy illegal

URIEL J. GARCIA
The Texas Tribune

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton filed a lawsuit on Tuesday against the Biden administration, claiming a new immigration program the president announced last month that would allow 360,000 people a year from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela to enter the country is illegal.

Texas, which is leading a coalition of 20 states, filed the lawsuit in a federal district court in Victoria.

Last month, Biden and U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas announced a parole program that would allow 30,000 people per month to legally enter the U.S. from the four countries if they apply from their home countries, pass a background check and prove they have a financial supporter in the U.S.

If they're approved, they can stay in the country for up to two years and get a work permit. Once in the country, they would be able to request asylum.

As part of the plan, the Biden administration also began to use the emergency health order known as Title 42 to expel the

same number of migrants from those four countries to Mexico if they attempt to enter the U.S. illegally. According to the Department of Homeland Security, Mexico agreed to accept up to 30,000 migrants a month from those countries under Title 42.

The lawsuit says the parole program was modeled after the same program that allowed Ukrainians to enter the U.S. after the Russian invasion in February 2022. But the latest parole program does not meet the criteria for it to be legal, the lawsuit claims.

"The parole program

Please see **BIDEN**, Page A6



ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton has filed a lawsuit against the Biden administration for its policy on allowing 30,000 migrants per month from four countries to enter the United States.



I'm smiling because... "The Lady Cougars won!"

Ava Lyon, Courtney Ewing, Makenzie Salter and Riley Novasad,
College Station

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Patrick announces he'll run for 4th term

PATRICK SVITEK
The Texas Tribune

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick said Tuesday he will “absolutely” run for reelection in 2026, a reversal from previous comments he made saying this would be his final term.

“I really love what I do,” Patrick said, praising the collegiality of the state Senate he leads. “I’m in good health, and I just won by 850,000-some thousand votes, so why wouldn’t I come back? I think we’ll be in good shape in ’26 in the primary and the general.”

Patrick won a third term last year by 12 percentage points, defeating Democrat Mike Collier. Patrick said prior to that election cycle that if he won reelection in 2022, “that’ll be my last term.”

“That’ll be time,” Patrick said in July 2020. “I’m kind of a term-limits guy. That’ll be 12 years as lieutenant governor, if I’m blessed enough to win again.”

While the 2026 election is over three years away, Patrick’s announcement is particularly notable given the logjam of ambitious Texas Republicans who have been waiting for an open statewide office. That group includes a number of GOP senators in Patrick’s own chamber.

Patrick made the comments at a daylong conference in Austin hosted by The Texan, a Texas political news site started by former GOP state Sen. Konni Burton.

As part of the interview, Patrick also clarified a comment he made in his campaign that concerned some advocates for school choice, which is poised to be a major issue this legislative session. Patrick had said on a radio show that lawmakers would “bracket out rural Texas” in a school choice program, nodding to longtime resistance from rural Texans who fear such initiatives undermine their public schools.

On Tuesday, Patrick said he made the comment “on one of my 15-hour days and I really didn’t say that right.”

“What I meant by bracketing – I wasn’t talking about bracketing out the parents,” Patrick said. “What I was talking about was finding a way to bracket the schools so that we can get the bill passed and so that parents can still have school choice, but we have to do something to get those votes to convince those Republicans to vote for it by telling their school superintendents, ‘You’re not going to lose money by losing a handful of students.’”

Patrick has long championed programs that allow parents to use state dollars to send their kids to schools outside the traditional public school system, including private schools. But the cause has new momentum this session with clearer-than-ever support from Gov. Greg Abbott. Patrick

said during his inaugural address earlier this month that he and Abbott are “all in on school choice” and promised they would protect rural schools.

Such legislation is likely to come down to the House, where rural Republicans have typically been key to block school choice proposals. Patrick has had an acrimonious relationship with House Speaker Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont, and he signaled Tuesday that more conflict could be coming as the Senate gets to work for the 140-day session.

“I look forward to working with the speaker, but I make no apologies for passing a conservative agenda to the House,” Patrick said. “I try to stay out of fights, but I’m not going to let people stand by and make excuses.”

Phelan recently defeated a push by a small group of House Republicans to ban Democratic committee chairs, a practice that Phelan has defended as a worthwhile tradition. Patrick noted he was “eight years ahead of this movement” when he took office in 2015 and significantly reduced the number of Democratic committee chairs in the upper chamber. He unveiled his latest committee appointments Monday, and only one panel, the Criminal Justice Committee, will continue to be led by a Democrat, Sen. John Whitmire of Houston.

Patrick defended Whitmire, saying he is the dean of the Senate and “most importantly” an expert on prisons. Patrick reiterated that if Whitmire leaves the Senate – Whitmire is running for Houston mayor in a November election – the lieutenant governor would replace him with a Republican.

Patrick repeatedly said he wanted to stay out of House business, but he suggested there would be conflict if a conservative priority in the Senate gets held up in a Democrat-led House committee.

“If a Democrat’s controlling a major committee anywhere and we can’t get a bill out, that’s a problem,” Patrick said.

In addition to the 2026 election, Patrick addressed the 2024 presidential election, where he is backing former President Donald Trump’s comeback bid. Patrick, who chaired both of Trump’s previous campaigns in Texas, was asked about the potential candidacy of Ron DeSantis, the Florida governor who has emerged as Trump’s most serious threat in the primary.

“I just don’t know Ron DeSantis,” Patrick said before briefly praising his governorship in Florida. “I have nothing negative to say about him – I think he’s done a really good job – but I’m a Trump guy.”

gangs. The U.S. has imposed economic sanctions on the countries and some of their political leaders, accusing its governments of human rights abuses and political corruption.

Texas has filed more than 20 lawsuits in federal court against the Biden administration, many of them targeting the president’s immigration policies.

A majority of the lawsuits have been filed in courtrooms overseen by Trump-appointed judges.

Fusion

From A1

key demonstration that it is possible to get more energy out than you put in through laser-driven fusion, which has been the huge question for decades and especially since the [NIF] started doing experiments,” Humbird said.

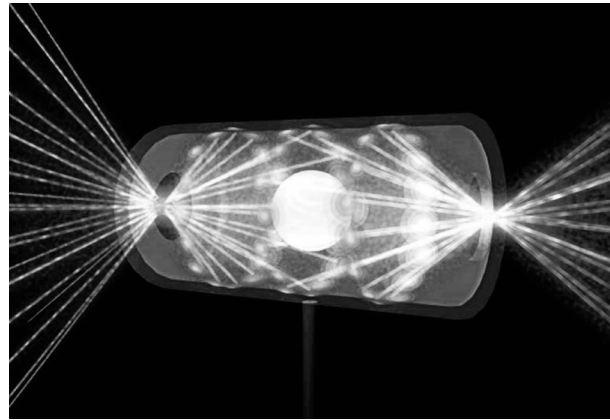
Humbird, who has bachelor’s and master’s degrees in nuclear engineering from A&M, moved to the lab in 2017 and did most of her Ph.D. work there before she completed her degree in 2019 and became a staff scientist.

The team Humbird has worked on for this experiment focused its efforts on finding ways to improve computer models that would be more reflective of what is seen in reality. For the Dec. 5 experiment, her team predicted for the first time ever a greater than 50% chance of the design achieving ignition. Humbird said it was an exciting, yet bold claim, since it hadn’t happened before.

At around 1 a.m. Dec. 5, scientists used 192 lasers to perform the first positive net energy fusion experiment in history. Humbird said within minutes they received initial experiment numbers that looked encouraging, but were still preliminary and subject to change.

“It was really exciting because we knew it was going to be a big result compared to any other shot we had done immediately, but we didn’t know how big,” Humbird said. “So, it was really exciting and I was pretty anxious and impatient to hear that final number.”

On Dec. 13, the DOE announced the official results of the experiment and that it surpassed the fusion threshold by delivering 2.05 megajoules (MJ) of energy to



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY TEXAS A&M/LLNL

An experiment aided by Texas A&M engineering students and faculty helped produce the first net positive fusion reaction in December.

the target, resulting in 3.15 MJ of fusion energy output. Humbird arrived to an auditorium at LLNL at 6:30 that morning to watch the press conference, two hours before she usually arrives for work. When the results were announced, Humbird said the whole auditorium burst into applause.

“It was a really cool feeling and you just know there were people in that auditorium that have spent their entire careers waiting for this moment,” Humbird said.

Back at A&M’s main campus in College Station, Bukkapatnam and Ding have collaborated with the LLNL to create the fuel capsule used in the experiment’s ignition. They have worked alongside A&M graduate students to study the process of polishing the delicate capsules. Ding explained how the capsules are 2 millimeters in diameter and are polished to 10-20 nanometers.

“Our contribution has been to study how the surface gets polished and what are some ways to avoid pitfalls during the process so that you don’t get cracks or any other kinds of defects on the surface,” Bukkapatnam said.

Lab work was done at A&M’s Energy Technology Building, and Bukkapat-

nam said over the last two years they met every other week with team members at LLNL.

“We were working mostly from here to look for ways to make the machine that much more intelligent in detecting the quality issues as well as finding out when would be the appropriate time to stop the polishing process,” Bukkapatnam said.

Bukkapatnam said it was rewarding to see their work be a part of the project and noted he said he hopes more Aggies find themselves working at the LLNL. Ding added he and Bukkapatnam have a common goal to make their technology more robust, reliable and efficient. The dream of those who work on fusion is to produce a clean energy source that’ll power the energy grid at a cheaper cost.

“We want to take this technology further and I think it will have a lot of ramifications, both in terms of understanding how these shells get polished as well as trying to impact this monumental effort in some ways,” Bukkapatnam said.

At the LLNL, Humbird said the next step for her program is to start probing the physics of the successful experiment.

“Can we do it again? Can we push the energy up even



Lasers generate X-ray heat, causing the outer capsule to implode into the inner shell containing the deuterium and tritium mix. The resulting shock compresses the inner shell to generate the fusion reaction needed for energy-producing ignition.

higher? And what physics regimes can we start learning about?” Humbird said. “We’re creating conditions that can only be found at the center of giant stars, so there’s a lot that we can learn by studying these implosions that you can’t learn in any other laboratory.”

While there is still lots of work to be done, Humbird said last month’s successful experiment is an illustration of things that can be achieved by playing the long game.

“The good things take time and it’s a cool field to be learning in,” Humbird said. “As a nuclear engineer at A&M, it was always the joke that fusion energy is going to be 20 years away and it’s not something that we were taught to think much about or to consider a career in, so I hope this changes that.”

“I hope other nuclear engineering students that don’t want to go work at a fusion power plant see this result and see that there’s this whole other field of physics that I can go do research in that’s really exciting, and hopefully we can recruit more people to come join us in the future.”

BRYAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, & CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2022

	GENERAL FUND	DEBT SERVICE FUND	CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	NONMAJOR FUNDS
REVENUES:				
Local and Intermediate Sources	\$92,008,185	\$26,627,634	\$512,239	\$3,046,490
State Program Revenues	64,467,200	167,789	-	3,127,393
Federal Program Revenues	3,675,206	-	-	37,709,813
TOTAL REVENUES	160,150,591	26,795,423	512,239	43,883,696
EXPENDITURES:				
Instruction	97,632,821	-	-	18,979,916
Instructional Resources & Media Serv	1,517,480	-	-	49,102
Curr Dev and Instructional Staff Dev	3,298,110	-	-	5,481,395
Instructional Leadership	3,732,556	-	-	643,696
School Leadership	10,375,300	-	-	800,361
Guidance, Counseling & Evaluation Serv	5,835,502	-	-	1,807,692
Social Work Services	315,184	-	-	769,764
Health Services	2,218,956	-	-	960,227
Student Transportation	7,147,853	-	-	102,150
Food Service	1,864	-	-	9,800,655
Cocurricular/Extracurricular Activities	4,201,742	-	-	830,560
General Administration	4,153,006	-	-	138,855
Plant Maintenance and Operations	15,183,507	-	184,868	688,045
Security and Monitoring Services	1,593,027	-	-	10,257
Data Processing Services	2,206,853	-	-	27,137
Community Services	99,663	-	-	154,141
Debt Service Principal on Long-term Debt	\$738,224	17,515,000	-	-
Debt Service Interest on Long-term Debt	\$96,381	8,752,275	-	-
Capital Outlay - Fac Acquist & Constr	-	-	44,961,105	-
Juvenile Justice Alternative Ed Prg	34,945	-	-	-
Other Intergovernmental Charges	1,037,161	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	161,420,135	26,267,275	45,145,973	41,243,953
Exc (Def) Rev. Over (Under) Expend.	(1,269,544)	528,148	(44,633,734)	2,639,743
Sale of Real or Personal Property	2,407,573	-	-	2,973
Transfers Out	(2,000,000)	-	-	-
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	407,573	0	0	2,973
Insurance Recovery for Storm Damage	244,828	-	-	-
Restoration Costs for Storm Damage	(792,271)	-	-	-
Total Extraordinary Items	(547,443)	0	0	0
Net Change in Fund Balances	(1,409,414)	528,148	(44,633,734)	2,642,716
Fund Balances - Beginning	49,292,815	5,617,458	110,288,057	4,194,518
Fund Balances - Ending	\$47,883,401	\$6,145,606	\$65,654,323	\$6,837,234

This annual statement is published as required by the Texas Education Agency. A full report is available on the District website or by contacting the Bryan ISD Finance Department at 979-209-1008.

Biden

From A1

established by the Department fails each of the law’s three limiting factors. It is not case-by-case, is not for urgent humanitarian reasons, and advances no significant public benefit,” the lawsuit says.

Many people leaving Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela are fleeing political instability and violence from local

gangs. The U.S. has imposed economic sanctions on the countries and some of their political leaders, accusing its governments of human rights abuses and political corruption.

Texas has filed more than 20 lawsuits in federal court against the Biden administration, many of them targeting the president’s immigration policies.

A majority of the lawsuits have been filed in courtrooms overseen by Trump-appointed judges.

meet
a pleased patient

This patient attended Texas A&M University where she received her bachelor’s degree and later attended the University of Texas at San Antonio. She currently works in facility management at TAMU. She is very active, enjoys country western dancing and being with family and friends. After her senior year volleyball in high school, she felt a catching in her knee and avoided movement that would make it worse. She was her weakness in her quads was causing the problem. She

was eventually evaluated for the pain and was told that her body was aging and to basically “deal with it”. “I was told to focus on stretching and strengthening and give a knee sleeve to wear. The pain increased and spread to other activities. It was painful to walk, drive, work-out...I had to be very cautious in my movements and it took a long time to get to sleep.” Her family eventually recommended she go to the Sports, Back & Pain Management Clinic for help. She was evaluated and

given a treatment plan that included, dry needling, exercises, manual therapy, and stretching. The Doctor at the clinic took the time to ask questions and listen to her comments about my knee and how other areas were also affected. They explained what was happening and explained some of the anatomy. “It was a great first visit.” The patient was given home exercises to do and continues to do because to keep her pain away. “The staff was great, the schedule was flexible and there was no

judgement from anyone.” This patient came into the clinic with a pain level of 6 and left with a pain level at three or less. “I really loved the needling, it was very effective. What I want others to know is that you should listen to your body, it is providing you information on what is going on and what can be done to help.” If you or a loved one are experiencing any pain, don’t wait and call the Sports, Back, and Pain Management clinic for an evaluation or a free consultation today!

CALL FOR A FREE CONSULTATION

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