

FOR THE LOVE OF COMPETING

Young track, field athletes earn spots in state amateur meet



ROD AYDELOTTE PHOTOS, TRIBUNE-HERALD
Aubrie Aleman soars during a practice jump Saturday at the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation's Region 5 qualifying meet at the Gilbert Sanchez Sr. Track and Field Complex in Waco, formerly known as the Hart-Patterson complex. Aubrie finished second in the long jump in the girls 8-and-under division and will head to the federation's Games of Texas which runs July 31 to Aug. 2 in College Station.



Teams make a handoff in a 4x400 meter relay heat Saturday during the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation Region 5 meet in Waco.



Members of the Parsee family received the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation's Contributors Appreciation Award for 16 years of commitment to the Team Waco summer track program. The federation's state track and field commissioner, Cynthia Simms, left, presented the award.



Coleman McDaniel, of Franklin, takes the win in the boys 14-and-under pole vault.

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY LGBTQ research grant stirs controversy

BU returns funds for study on marginalized groups in churches

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Baylor University's decision to return a more than half-million dollar research grant that would have examined the church experiences of women and LGBTQ adults has put the university's attitude toward LGBTQ subjects back in the public eye.

The \$643,601 grant from the Eula Mae and John Baugh Foundation, a frequent contributor to Baylor causes, was to fund a study by the Center for Church and Community Impact in Baylor's Diana R. Garland School of Social Work.

The research was aimed at informing churches how to create a more welcoming, inclusive environment for young gay adults and women often marginalized by the church. It would have continued work by a previous 2018 congregation discernment study by the center, also funded by the Baugh Foundation, meant to guide churches in members' discussion of their stance on LGBTQ+ inclusion.

Nine days after that grant announcement, Baylor President Linda Livingstone said in a statement the grant had been returned voluntarily by School of Social Work Dean Jon Singletary and professor Gaynor Yancey, the Center for Church and Community Impact's director, with the approval of Livingstone and Provost Nancy Brickhouse.

"We remain committed to providing a loving and caring community for all — including our LGBTQIA+ students — because it is part and parcel of our University's mission that calls us to educate our students within a caring Christian community," Livingstone said in the statement.

While the study was intended to help churches interested in becoming more welcoming, Livingstone said it would

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Appraisal hearings wrap up on 24K local properties

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People who own more than 24,000 properties in McLennan County protested their appraisals this year, including owners of about 90 properties who got a chance to speak their minds at Appraisal Review Board hearings which wrapped up Saturday.

With the protest process winding down, the McLennan Central Appraisal District next week will start tallying results and certifying appraisals. State law says local taxing entities, including cities, school districts and counties, must have certified totals in their hands by July 25.

School boards, city councils and county commissioners use the numbers to prepare budgets and set tax rates. It's a "sausage-making" process that arrives each year like clockwork, critical to paying teachers and law enforcement, repairing streets and purifying water.

Chief Appraiser Jim Halbert said he was not surprised protest numbers jumped from 18,000 last year to exactly 24,001 this year. They go up every year, he said, and trends in the protest process encourage participation. He said agents representing protesters have become more active. He noted a national company, Ownwell, represented people protesting values on more than 4,200 residential and commercial properties locally.

Halbert said agents typically file protests on behalf of hundreds, even thousands of property owners, then cull the client list. Sometimes they negotiate settlements early in the process. More often they withdraw protests when they look more closely at individual properties. The McLennan Central Appraisal District must administratively deal with

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