Rough river walk in San Antonio
Wayne State Wildcats end season in Elite Eight
by university with loss to Bentley University

By Kayla Clark
Lifestyles Editor
SAN ANTONIO—The top-ranked Wildcats lost a heartbreaker at the Bill Greehey Arena Tuesday afternoon, falling to Bentley University 72-67 in the quarter-final round of the NCAA Division-II women’s basketball Elite Eight.

The Wildcats held the lead for much of the game, though Bentley came within one point on multiple occasions. The Wildcats fell to 32-3 with the loss, but still return to Wayne, America as history makers.

Senior Eva Benson kicked off the scoring for the Wildcats, hitting a two pointer on the first possession 11 seconds into the game, followed

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Amir Hekmati granted complete retrial in Iran

BY MEGAN TOMASIEWICZ
Staff Writer
There may be hope yet for Amir Hekmati.

Two months ago, Hekmati, whose father Ali taught biology at WSC from 1986 through 1991, was sentenced to death by an Iranian court.

In August 2011, he was visiting his grandmother in Tehran, where he was detained and accused of

being a CIA agent and spy for the United States.

On Jan. 9, 2012, he was sentenced to death, but a date for his execution was never set. Tensions were running high—Iran has had a track record for speedy executions—but the story quieted down and major news outlets stopped reporting on it.

Near the end of January, Hekmati’s mother was allowed to travel to Iran and see her son. While shocked with the circumstances, she reported that he was in generally good health.

It has also been revealed by Hekmati’s parents that Iranian officials urged them to keep quiet about their son’s ordeal in exchange for his later release. They refused and went public, outraged by what they say are false accusations against Hekmati.

However, on March 5, the Iranian Supreme Court handed down a ruling for a complete retrial of Hekmati’s case, citing “shortcomings” in the original trial’s proceedings. This decision by one of Iran’s most powerful governing bodies brings new hope to once bleak prospects.

Good wishes and messages of encouragement can be directed to Hekmati via his family’s website: www.freeamir.org/contact.

The family plans to pass these messages on to Hekmati, a U.S. citizen and former Marine.

Legislative Forum moves venue to Majestic Theatre to increase community involvement

By Mark Vrbicky
Copy Editor
Location, location, location.

What works in real estate doesn’t necessarily work for all parties involved when it comes to politics.

Such is the case concerning the recent Legislative Forum held in Wayne earlier this month.

The 22nd annual Legislative Forum, sponsored by Wayne Area Economic Development’s Government Affairs Committee and Wayne State College, was held in the Majestic Theater this year.

The change of venue didn’t quite sit right with Nebraska Legislature Speaker Mike Flood, who told The Wayne Herald that the move from the WSC campus to the Majestic seemed kind of odd, and that he would look into accusations that the site was changed by an official at the Nebraska State College System’s central office in Lincoln.

“I feel like, if it’s at all true that this was moved (to the Majestic) so the faculty wouldn’t attend (the forum) on the Wayne State campus, that is a disservice that should be remedied, and I intend to check into it when I get back to work next week,” Flood said in The Herald.

The forum is normally held on the Wayne State campus to the

community involvement with the Majestic, it made perfect sense to host the forum there,” Flood said. “Because the committee had been concerned that we were not attracting local merchants and the business community to the event when it was hosted at the college, we decided to change the venue. This was not an attempt to exclude anyone from the event.”

The theater is just a few blocks down the street anyway, though Flood said that the future location of the forum is still uncertain.

“I will continue working with Wayne Area Economic Development to showcase local venues and provide a voice for all residents at the annual forum,” he said.

Wayne State Wildcat senior Ashley Arlen sheds a tear after a five-point loss to Bentley University at the Elite Eight Tournament in San Antonio, Texas. Arlen ended her senior season as a First-Team Daktronics All-American.