

# West devastated



LM OTERO | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Videos of West blast and full coverage at [www.baylorlariat.com](http://www.baylorlariat.com)



WACOTRIB.COM @WACOTRIB  
UPDATE ON WEST EXPLOSION: "... EVERY HOUSE WITHIN ABOUT FOUR BLOCKS IS BLOWN APART."

WACOPOLICE @WACOPOLICE  
SURREAL SCENE IN WEST. HELICOPTERS HANGING OVER THE CITY FIRE POLICE AMBULANCES EVERYWHERE.

HEATH NIELSEN @HEATHNIELSEN  
BAYLOR CELEBRATING #DIA TOMORROW DOESN'T SEEM VERY IMPORTANT ANYMORE. #DIADELOSO #BUCAMPUS

GLENN ROBINSON @GLENN\_HILLCREST  
THANK YOU FOR THE AMAZING SUPPORT. WE ARE SO PROUD OF OUR PHYSICIANS, NURSES AND STAFF THAT HAVE RESPONDED THIS EVENING.

WILLIE NELSON @WILLIENELSON  
WEST HAS BEEN IN MY BACKYARD ALL MY LIFE. MY HEART IS PRAYING FOR THE COMMUNITY THAT WE CALL HOME. #WESTTX

ASHNSTONE 1:07PM VIA TWITTER FOR IPHONE  
YESTERDAY I WAS THINKING HOW NICE IT WOULD BE GO BACK AND CELEBRATE #DIADELOSO. TODAY I'M PROUD TO WATCH IT TURN INTO #DIADELWEST.

MIRANDALAMBERT 1:02AM VIA TWITTER FOR IPHONE  
#PRAYFORWEST.... I DON'T UNDERSTAND ALL THIS CRAZINESS IN THE WORLD RIGHT NOW. LORD PLEASE HEAL THE BODIES AND HEARTS.

## Search and rescue ongoing after fatal plant explosion

By CAROLINE BREWTON  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
AND ASHLEY PEREYRA,  
REPORTER

WEST — The investigation is still ongoing into the Wednesday night explosion that destroyed the West Fertilizer Plant and rocked the small Texas community. Buildings bore traces of the blast, black plastic trash bags covering the places where panes of glass shattered, some taped to hold them in place. It is a city showing signs of life after Wednesday's disaster, which resulted in the call for a voluntary evacuation of the small town, population 2,849.

More than 100 were injured, and al-

though officials have confirmed there are fatalities in connection to the accident, no official number is yet available. Initial reports put the number of fatalities around 15, but later in the day, authorities backed off and refused to confirm any early estimates. Many news organizations and some officials have reported a variety of numbers that only serve to heighten the confusion surrounding reports of the disaster. Search-and-rescue operations continue amid the rubble as citizens, crews and officials search for answers.

The disaster began around 7 p.m. with a fire at a fertilizer plant just outside of the small Czech community. The fire led to an explosion 50 minutes later as chemical

tanks were ignited. Buildings surrounding the plant were severely damaged. Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott, who conducted a fly-over of the scene, described the site as "total devastation" in a press conference earlier Thursday evening.

"It was very disturbing to see the site," Abbott said. "At the time the explosion took place, people sat around the dinner table. At that time, their lives are instantaneously changed."

Abbott described seeing nearby railroad tracks "fused together" with nearby homes blown apart and blown over. Two nearby schools were also severely damaged in the

SEE WEST, page 10



MATT HELLMAN | LARIAT PHOTO EDITOR

Top: Firefighters respond in the early morning hours on Thursday to a destroyed apartment complex near the fertilizer plant that exploded Wednesday in West. Bottom: West residents injured in on Wednesday night are treated by emergency responders from all over McLennan County on the West High School football field. The blast displaced nearly all of the town's 2,849 residents.

## Baylor, county unite to aid relief efforts

By REUBIN TURNER  
FOCUS EDITOR  
AND SANMAI GBANDI  
REPORTER

The Baylor and Waco communities joined efforts to help victims affected by the fertilizer plant explosion, which occurred Wednesday in West, 17 miles north of Waco.

Thursday evening, two storage trucks full of food, clothes and other personal hygiene products lined the front of the Ferrell Center as more than 100 students and others from the Waco community poured in an attempt to assist with West relief efforts.

According to an email sent out to University faculty, staff and students, Baylor is a cooperating organization with the McLennan County Office of Emergency Management.

Coincidentally, the explosion happened one day before Diadeloso, an almost 80-year-old tradition at Baylor University in which students enjoy a day from classes with live entertainment and time to relax with friends, according to the University website.

Local worship pastor of Harris Creek Baptist Church Drew Greenway assisted the Baylor community to help with relief efforts.

Greenway said he and Baylor students from Harris Creek found out

SEE RELIEF, page 10



JOE BERTI | ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Wednesday photo a plume of smoke rises from a fertilizer plant fire in West, Texas after a massive explosion at the West Fertilizer Co. Rescue and relief efforts from have been ongoing since the explosion.

## Adversity makes us stronger as humans

The tragedies occurring in Boston on Monday and West on Wednesday have brought to light the several devastating things that can happen in societies not only across the world or in third-world countries, but also right here at home. My heart has gone out to the people who have suffered and are still suffering and it amazes me every day the generosity and kindness that human beings can show toward their fellow men and women.



Mashaal Hashmi | Copy editor

Impacts of both tragedies have been seen around the world, with people from Kabul and other countries sending prayers and holding vigils for those in Boston and many other states in the United States sending as much aid as they can manage during the last few days.

The social media has been a big part of sending as many updates and prayers to both tragedies — an amazing use of a tool that is usually saved for frivolous, marketing or creative needs.

The range of human help that has been given during times like these reminds us that adversity makes us stronger, as humans, as friends and families.

Our everyday lives can be changed in a split second with calamities that cannot be stopped. The ability to keep fighting on and helping, to donate and spread awareness is something that humans can excel in and do in most times.

Humanity has hope. I have faith in us. We are strong and can withstand adversity. We are smart and able to help both ourselves and other people; we can do things for each other without any benefit to ourselves. Go out there and do your best as a human, contribute to your society and show how good we can all be.

Mashaal Hashmi is a junior English major and a Lariat copy editor from Fort Worth.

### LARIAT LETTERS

Sarcastic columns offend

I'm writing in response to a viewpoint column "Gun laws ridiculous; Texas should secede" that was published on April 12. In the column, the author presented a sarcastic case for gun control and Texas succession.

In my Writing for Media Markets class last semester we stressed the importance of being professional in our writing.

Professionalism comes from writing columns that inform an audience. The author would have been more professional in her viewpoint if she would have actually informed the readers of her own view of gun control.

Instead she used sarcasm to make fun the current gun control debate and implied Texas should secede from the United States because of it.

The Lariat's own website says that it's published "as a service to the Baylor community and as a laboratory newspaper for aspiring journalists."

The paper is doing a disservice to aspiring journalists by publishing sarcastic columns that poke fun at current events instead of publishing columns that inform the readers.

The Lariat should be focused on publishing professional columns that help aspiring journalists sharpen their journalism skills and leave the sarcastic pieces to personal blogs and the Rope.

- Dustin Rutledge,  
McKinney senior

## Unity rises from the ashes after West tragedy

### Editorial

It is with heavy hearts that we give our deepest condolences to those who were affected by the explosion in West on Wednesday night. The news releases speculate as to how many people were lost, but there are no exact words to truly express the magnitude of our grief and the grief of those who are

At approximately 7:50 p.m. on Wednesday, a fertilizer plant in West (19 miles north of Waco) exploded and lit up the sky for miles around.

The explosion devastated the immediate area, including houses, a school and a nursing home. According to an email from the office of President Ken Starr, 13 students, 43 faculty and staff and 262 alumni live in or are from West.

Injuries from the blast have ranged from minor to fatal. The small town, and the number of casualties reported so far has rocked the community as well as those at Baylor and in Waco who have close relatives and friends in West.

There is no way to put this tragedy in a positive light. There is no reason we should try.

There are too many unknowns about the explosion and its cause for this to be anything other than a mind-numbing time of grief. The exact number of casualties and how the devastation will affect

Waco and the surrounding areas have yet to be determined. We have all taken time to pray for the living and do what we can to keep people informed of the facts.

It is admirable the way Baylor, the Waco community and West have banded together to help alleviate the pain of this tragedy. Blood drives, food drives, shelters, donations, all in the name of unity in the face of unexpected horror. Baylor students and various departments have mobilized to help in relief efforts and some have not left the

*"...We are tasked with being strong for our friends who are injured or without homes or who are lost in their grief."*

scene of the explosion since it began. We commend those students, faculty and staff who have taken time out of their day to help where they can and bring a little peace to those who are in need.

There is no doubt that Diadelloso has been marred by this event, and students may find it hard to celebrate this tradition the day after such tragedy has taken place. However, we must remember that we are blessed beyond measure to be able to offer aid and our prayers.

Rather than the superficial partying and lighthearted fun that

usually accompany Dia, we are tasked with being strong for our friends who are injured or without homes or who are lost in their grief. Everyone from off-duty firemen and police to students forgoing their usual Dia activities have pitched in.

It is only to provide contrast that we regretfully mention that members of the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kan., have decided to protest the funerals of those who died in the explosion. The church is known for its hateful and militant ideologies, particularly against homosexuals.

They have tried to spread their hateful message after almost every tragedy that has occurred in the past few years. Though the church's hateful messages have no place here in the midst of our grief, we mention it to highlight the powerful contrast this brings into play.

The love that our community and the West community has exhibited has far eclipsed anything the Westboro church could think to conjure. The love of God is no more evident than in times of tragedy and crisis and there is nothing Westboro Baptist Church can do to dilute that.

Instead of Westboro's hate and any others who may try to politicize this event, focus on loving your neighbor. Donate blood, money, food or any other service you can think of. Every cent and every ounce of blood towards relief counts in this unspeakable tragedy.

Driving to Carter Bloodcare Thursday morning and seeing the long line of people just waiting to offer up their lifeblood and then watching donation boxes being carried around campus for the victims has been incredibly moving.

## Remember American spirit in time of tragedy

My mom says she, along with countless other parents in Oklahoma City, were in a panic, scrambling to make sure their children were safe. I was 2 years old when it happened, and so naturally I have no exact recollection of that day.

Others searched to see if their loved ones would be one of the 168 lives claimed as a result of the Oklahoma City bombing of the Federal Murrah Building in downtown Oklahoma City.

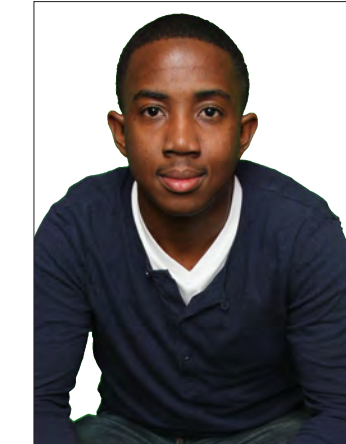
Almost 18 years after the attack, yet another bombing has rocked the nation at an event that in the past has elicited feelings of fulfillment and accomplishment.

Tuesday, three explosions went off at the annual Boston Marathon in Boston, Mass. According to the New York Times, the finish line, "normally a festive zone ... was like a warzone." Some marathon runners, who were close to the finish line when the explosions occurred, lost their legs as a result of the bombs and there were also three fatalities. Disbelief, bewilderment and most certainly anguish fill the hearts of many Americans as the story unfolds about the tragedy.

President Barack Obama seemed to embody the spirit of the country when he said those behind the bombings will "feel the full weight of justice."

And if history is any indicator, they will. Not because they will most likely be caught and apprehended and taken into a holding cell where they'll await a cold and unsympathetic judge and grand jury.

Not because they most likely, in the event they are tried and found guilty, will be sentenced to at the very least life without the possibility of parole. And not because they will be subject to years of judgment and disdain by those from both



Reubin Turner | Focus magazine editor

the national and the international communities. But because whatever they set out to accomplish, they've already failed.

The city of Boston is already rallying around the families of victims, offering words of solace and comfort in an effort to immediately start in the path to rebuilding.

Obama has informed Boston Mayor Tom Menino and Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick that the government is ready to provide any needed support "as they respond to the incident."

Although I may not remember much about the Oklahoma City bombing that occurred almost 18 years ago, but one thing certainly stands out in my mind: Oklahoma City is a stronger because of it.

And I have no doubt that Boston, like any other American city that has or will face in the future tragedies such as these, will rise above this through continued prayer and support. It will not define them. That is not the spirit of America, and it is in times like these, we are most reminded of it.

Reubin Turner is a sophomore Economics major from Edmond, Okla.

### Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor should include the writer's name, hometown, major, classification and phone number. Non-student writers should include their address.

Please try to limit your response to 300 words.

Once submitted, each letter is given a headline that is intended to capture the main point of the letter and is in no way intended as a statement of fact.

Letters that focus on an issue affecting students or faculty may be considered for a guest column at the editor's discretion. If you are chosen to be featured in a guest column, you will need to submit a mugshot to run alongside the column. All submissions become the property of The Baylor Lariat.

The Lariat reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, length, libel and style.

Letters should be e-mailed to Lariat\_Letters@baylor.edu.

### Corrections

The Baylor Lariat is committed to ensuring fair and accurate reporting and will correct errors of substance on Page 2.

Corrections can be submitted to the editor by sending an email to Lariat\_letters@baylor.edu or by calling 254-710-1712.



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# Churches provide shelter, relief for explosion victims

By ASHLEY PEREYRA  
AND REBECCA FIEDLER  
REPORTERS

Many places in the Waco community are taking donations and offering shelter to people affected by the West explosion. In particular, some Waco churches have been organization centers for the road to recovery.

The Church of the Open Door in Waco has opened its doors for anyone needing help, including anyone needing a place to stay. The church can house the people until they can make other arrangements. However, no one has yet utilized this offer.

The church first heard about the explosion around 8 p.m. Wednesday while the church's pastor, Ronnie Holmes, was giving a sermon. His wife came on stage and whispered the news in his ear. Holmes and his wife live seven miles away from West. His extended family lives in West in the countryside.

The church also has people in their congregation who are from West.

"We attempted to make contact with those in our church,

first of all, to make sure they were OK," Beth Marrow, secretary of the Church of the Open Door said.

Holmes said no congregation members have been hurt as far as he knows.

The church doors opened immediately after they heard about the explosion, offering help for those in need. Marrow said the church is dealing with broad needs such as food, clothes and shelter.

People and businesses such as Smarty Pants and the Bellmead Police Department have called the church to give references of help for people and pass information on about donation opportunities. The city of Bellmead informed Marrow to send donations to the West Auction Barn in West.

Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches offered sandwiches. One bank called the church offering resources. McLennan County Health District gave the church its number. Briar Cove Apartments contacted the church. They even got a call from World Hunger Relief in Dallas.

Marrow said these people ex-

pected more refugees to be at the church. Holmes said he thinks most of the people who were displaced or affected are staying with family and friends outside of the area because these are more comforting places than a gym or church.

"I think the bedrock thing is that God is described in the Bible as a God of hope," Holmes said. "When crisis comes and tragedy strikes like this, for most of us it serves as a time to re-evaluate and re-prioritize our personal lives. What really matters isn't always what consumes us, and this provides an opportunity to look at that freshly."

Another church, Central United Methodist Church, has also offered its services to those effected by the blast. On Wednesday, Pastor Brad Brittain went to Hillcrest after hearing the news of the explosion.

Members came and opened the church to get it ready for donations and refugees. Donations have come in for West over the last day. The church has also not received any refugees, however it does have several showers for refugees to use if necessary.



Members of the Victorious Life Church sort through clothing donations in their gym facility Thursday afternoon.

Patrick Stroman, a volunteer at Central United Methodist Church, said the church re-focused today on their efforts to help West.

"We anticipate we will be a drop station for donations and a rest center for families who have waiting room fatigue or for employees who come stressed," Stroman said.

The church can provide snacks and beverages for people affected by the explosion. Hospital employees are welcome to come take a break at the church.

Donations such as bottled water, food, clothes and money are being collected. Money donations will go towards gift cards to help people buy things like food, clothes and home repair supplies.

Stroman said church efforts are ongoing and that the road to recovery for West seems long.

"It's a work in progress. We'll keep on going," Stroman said. "It's not a sprint. It's going to be a marathon for probably the next two or three years to get folks back to some level of normalcy. We're going to be here. We've been here a long time. We'll be here a long time. We appreciate the opportunity to serve."

At Victorious Life Church, a full kitchen and 50 cots are available for use. Jody Claridy, a coordinator at the Victorious Life Church, said the church is very involved in helping out refugees. On Thursday they held a dinner at the Best Western Czech Inn in West.

The inn is giving free three-night stays to people displaced from their homes. Many donations, ranging from food and beverages to diapers and clothes, are also being collected.

# Hodges wins student body president; EVP runoff Tuesday

By TAYLOR REXRODE  
STAFF WRITER

Richmond senior Wesley Hodges was announced as the 2013-2014 student body president at Thursday night before the Five For Fighting Benefit Concert. Arlington sophomore Dominic Edwards also won the office of internal vice president.

"The best part of this campaign is all the support and everyone I've met in these past three years believing in me," Hodges said.

The race for external vice

president has resulted in a runoff between Farmers Branch junior Lexington Holt and Fort Worth sophomore Dallena Nguyen. Neither of the candidates received 50 percent of the votes. A runoff election will be held on Tuesday.

Holt said she was not surprised by the close number of votes.

"There were three candidates, and it's hard to come up with one candidate with over 50 percent of the vote," Holt said. "I think both candidates left are very qualified. The runoff will tell how the students feel the future of the univer-

sity should be."

Nguyen said she is anxious to see the final results. "I'm glad both of us worked so hard in this campaign week," Nguyen said. As of Thursday's results, Holt received fewer than 36 percent of the vote and Nguyen gained approximately 34 percent of the votes.

Hodges will assume office June 1 along with Edwards and the external vice president runoff victor. He said that he plans to start where exiting student body president Kelly Rapp left off.

"I want to get a good grasp on what he wants to continue,"

Hodges said. "I don't want a jagged move from person to person; I want it to be as streamlined as possible."

Hodges said he did not want to identify specific projects until consulting with Rapp. One of the first areas Hodges said he hopes to improve is undergraduate research. He won the election with just under 61 percent of the votes against Schertz senior Raechel Adams.

Soon-to-be Internal Vice President Edwards won his position with approximately 69 percent of the votes. He said he plans

to start by staying true to his platform of putting students first and maintaining transparency.

"I felt really led to run for this position," Edwards said. "What helped me win was displaying that spirit to the student body. I want to make sure students are first."

Student Senate will hold its next meet at 5 p.m. Thursday in 203 Cashion Academic Center where Hodges, Edwards and the new external vice president will be sworn into office and the transition to new leadership will begin.

## Businesses providing relief efforts for victims of West explosion

- To check on injured residents admitted to Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center call (254) 202-1100
- For family inquiries about patients at Scott & White call (888) 394-4947
- Family inquiries about patients at Providence Health Center (254) 761-7200
- The Extraco Events Center will take donations starting at 9:00 am. today. For information call 254-776-1660
- Carter Blood Care Center will accept donations in Waco.
- First Baptist Church of Lott has room for anyone needing a place to stay. Call (254) 829-2321
- Sykora Family Ford in West has opened for residents who need a safe place to rest.
- Town Hall Estates in Hillsboro taking in displaced residents.
- The Home Depot store in Bellmead will be open all night for those who need plywood, generators, etc.
- Both Peas & Tots and Smarty Pants consignment stores in Waco accepting clothing donations in all sizes.
- The Salvation Army has four emergency disaster kitchens on site responding to the explosion in West. Donations may be made at [salvationarmydwf.org](http://salvationarmydwf.org).
- Financial Donations accepted at Point West Bank: PO Box 279 West, TX 766691 Attn: Victims of West Fertilization Plant Fire (254) 826-5333
- **Donation Sites:**  
Glitz & Glamor 121 Waco Street in Hillsboro  
West Civic Center  
Greg May Chevrolet  
Items needed: Food, clothes, baby items, flashlights, water, blankets, toiletry items

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West residents look on as emergency workers fight a house fire after a fertilizer plant exploded Wednesday.



SANJAY GBANDI | ROUNDUP PHOTOGRAPHER

Baylor students gather around Waco Hall for candlelight vigil early on Thursday morning to pray for victims of the fertilizer plant explosion that occurred around 7:50 p.m. Wednesday in West.



MATT HELLMAN | LARIAT PHOTO EDITOR



Residents and emergency workers load people, including many elderly from the West Rest Haven Nursing Home, into school buses to evacuate late West Wednesday night after an explosion.

Volunteers work tirelessly through the night on Wednesday following the explosion in West. Surrounding cities flocked to the town to help those who were injured.



MATT HELLMAN | LARIAT PHOTO EDITOR

Lead singer and songwriter John Ondrasik of Five for Fighting gives a brief statement asking for support of the West Relief Fund during the benefit concert hosted by Baylor and held Thursday in the Ferrell Center.

# Rock for West

## Baylor dedicates Diadeloso concert to disaster relief effort

By PAULA ANN SOLIS  
STAFF WRITER

The musical entertainment portion of Diadeloso had a different purpose this year. Rather than just celebrating the end of the semester, the Diadeloso final concert became another way for the Waco community to remember and raise money for those affected by the explosion in West.

President Ken Starr offered opening remarks before the Diadeloso headliner Five for Fighting took the stage.

"This is our Dia for West," Starr said. He commended the Baylor community for the quick and united response to the devastation 17 miles north of Baylor campus.

"You responded in such an overwhelming way," Starr said. "Maybe you and I weren't called to be first responders but we were called to respond and I'm so proud." At the time of publication, \$15,000 has been raised.

Thursday's concert, which was free to the public, was originally set to take place on Fountain Mall but in order to accommodate a larger crowd and to accept donations, the event was moved to the Ferrell Center said Chester, N.J. senior Pauline Minnaar, the chairman for Diadeloso.

"We sat down with Baylor officials this morning and decided that a benefit concert would be a great way to honor those affected in West," Minnaar said.

Minnaar said the two bands that were scheduled to close out the day—Green River Ordinance and Five for Fighting—were contacted about the changes and, according to Minnaar, both bands were happy to help raise money for the cause.

"That just speaks volumes of their character and shows that we chose the right performers for Dia," said Dallas sophomore Dominic Edwards.

Edwards, who was also named the new internal vice president for student government Thursday, said this year's Diadeloso had a different tone than Diadeloso of the past. "But it's a good different because this year it's about showing the spirit of Christ," he said.

Dr. Kevin Jackson, vice president for student life, offered opening remarks before the first band Green River Ordinance took the stage.

"I have never been more proud of Baylor than I am tonight," Jackson said. Jackson

commended the Diadeloso event staff for being able to put a benefit concert together in less than 24 hours following the event in West. "That is what Baylor University is about," he said.

Singer-songwriter John Ondrasik of Five For Fighting sat at the piano before his performance, spoke to the audience and reflected on the recent events around the country.

"We've probably had the worst week in America since 9/11," Ondrasik said to the Baylor and Waco community in attendance. Ondrasik also said he has been amazed by the display of Americans to help one another in their times of need and was happy to help Baylor raise money for West.

"I'd like to start with this little song here thinking about the victims but also thinking about those emergency workers," Ondrasik said. "Those first responders some of them, just 24 hours ago, who gave their lives for people they never met."

Ondrasik then opened his performance with his 2001 hit "Superman (It's Not Easy)" which he also performed at a benefit following the terrorist attacks in September 2001 at The Concert for New York City.

Baylor students and the Waco community stood as the first song was played. Many in the audience were also wearing the black and red ribbons that were handed out at the doors. Other people wore shirts that read "God Bless West." The black and red colors are the school colors of West High School.

The Baylor community offered relief Thursday night though many other ways, such as donating food, clothing, toys and household goods to Caritas of Waco, a non-profit that accepts goods for those in need. According to Noel Jones, a driver for Caritas, an entire 26-foot-long truck was filled with goods donated by the community.

Purchases at concession stands at the Ferrell Center Thursday evening also benefited West. For every purchase, \$1 will be donated to the West relief effort.

An official attendance was not available at the time of publication, but one member of the Ferrell Center staff said that based on seats occupied, close to 2,000 people attended the relief concert.

For those who would like to contribute to the monetary relief effort being conducted by Baylor University, visit [www.baylor.edu/relief/give](http://www.baylor.edu/relief/give).



MATT HELLMAN | LARIAT PHOTO EDITOR



SANMAI GBANDI | ROUNDUP PHOTOGRAPHER



TRAVIS TAYLOR | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

st. Responders and volunteers from sur-

Volunteers work Thursday morning to collect food and clothing for the victims of the West fertilizer plant explosion on Wednesday.

Volunteers work to organize donations at the Best Western Old Czech Inn Thursday in West following an explosion Wednesday that left the majority of West citizens displaced.

# 20 years later: Remembering Branch Davidian siege

## Waco still in spotlight from siege

By JASMINE WARIBOKO  
GUEST CONTRIBUTOR



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Aerial of the Branch Davidian compound taken just two months before ATF agents raided it. Four agents and six Davidians were killed in the shootout 20 years ago.

Since then, Waco is often only thought of in relation to the siege.

"Waco became synonymous with excessive government power," Bradfield said.

Robert Darden, an associate professor in the journalism, public relations and new media department at Baylor, shared his frustrations about this perception of Waco.

"They use the word Waco as a verb. I'm not sure that's fair," Darden said.

Darden, who co-wrote a book about the siege titled "Mad Man in Waco," was in Waco at the time of the siege and interviewed Davidians, FBI agents and victims. Darden said he is upset at how people mention the siege when referring to the subject of gun control.

"For Waco to become an example of how the government should take away our guns is by people with an agenda and do not have a really good background of what happened that day," Darden said.

Darden, who has actually spoken to members of the Davidians who live in Waco and don't have a connection to the events that surrounded the siege, said members of the group don't like how their religion was negatively publicized in the media.

"I know that some of the Davidians and the Branch Davidians I've talked to years ago resent the fact that all of this attention was on

Koresh," Darden said.

The group is still upset about the siege and the effect it has had on how other people view their religion.

"They don't want anything to do with what happened to Koresh or be related to that," Darden said.

Regardless, businesses saw Waco as an economic opportunity, and Waco experienced a burst of commercial growth. Bradfield said chain stores now had a chance to expand their market. Even years after the siege took place, members of the community avoid talking about it.

"We have struggled to find people who are willing to talk about the effect this had on Waco," Bradfield said, "but there have been television specials and documentaries in recent years that recount the Waco Siege."

Darden said the city of Waco hasn't tried to do anything to remember the siege.

"Waco hasn't tried to capitalize on this," Darden said, "If you want to get directions on how to get out there (Mt. Carmel Center), you're not going to find them at the tourist information office."

However, Bradfield said he believes Waco should try to shed light on the siege in an honest way. "There should be a museum to put the event into American historical context," Bradfield said.

## Professors explore three conflicting siege narratives in BU conference

By MADISON FERRIL AND JOSH DAY  
REPORTERS

On April 19, 1993, the world watched as the Branch Davidian complex burned to the ground.

The Institute for Studies of Religion held a day-long conference Thursday to commemorate the disaster.

The series, called "Reflection on an American Tragedy: The Branch Davidians 20 Years Later," featured seven speakers who focused on different perspectives of the event.

According to Dr. J. Gordon Melton, professor of American religious history, three narratives tend to emerge when thinking about the Waco siege.

"What we do know to start with is that the primary stories we've told each other over the last 20 years about what happened at Mt. Carmel quickly fall apart with the least bit of examination," Melton said.

The first two blame the Branch Davidians: the destructive cult story, in which they were a small religious group with evil intentions, or the deluded psychopath story, in which an unstable religious fanatic led his followers to their deaths.

"In both of those stories, the folks at Mt. Carmel got their just results, more or less," Melton said.

The third narrative puts the federal agencies at fault, highlighting a government seeking to oppress religious groups.

"Those stories just don't work for very long once you start looking at the evidence," Melton said.

Melton suggested instead the narrative should not see the groups in terms of heroes and villains, but as people who were fallible and misinformed.

Phillip Arnold, executive di-

rector of Reunion Institute in Houston and founder of the Religious Crisis Task Force, asked the audience to place themselves in the shoes of the Branch Davidians to understand why David Koresh believed he was a prophet.

"He thought he had received a revelation about the seven seals of Revelation," Arnold said.

Arnold said Koresh and the Branch Davidians originally planned on surrendering, but Koresh felt he needed to complete his writings before he went to jail. When the FBI broke into the compound, Koresh interpreted the attack as a rejection of his revelation from God.

Dr. Catherine Wessinger, a professor of religious studies at Loyola University, interviewed four survivors about their lives and experiences. She said when people refer to religious groups as "cults," they dehumanize the people involved with the group.

At the end of her speech, Wessinger brought Sheila Martin and Clive Doyle, two survivors of the siege, to answer questions. Martin lost her four eldest children and her husband in the siege. Doyle escaped when the compound caught on fire and was put on trial with other survivors.

When asked about the trial after the siege, Doyle said he felt those involved in the trial, including the defense, discriminated against the surviving Branch Davidians.

"The defense felt they didn't have to prove us innocent," Doyle said. "They just needed to cast doubt on the evidence."

Gary Noesner, a retired chief of the FBI Crisis Negotiation Unit, began the second half of the series with a speech focusing on the challenges of negotiation in the Waco siege.

For the first half of the Waco siege, Noesner led a team of negotiators whose mission was, according to Noesner, "to de-escalate the violence."

The major challenges to his team's goal came from both David Koresh and from the FBI itself.

"I would say the latter was the harder of the two negotiations," Noesner said.

Throughout his speech, he did not excuse the actions of the FBI and ATF during the Waco siege, but argued their actions were not part of a broader, nefarious plan.

"We are not jack-booted thugs who are trying to deprive Americans of their rights and liberties or deny them of their religious freedom," Noesner said. "That being said, that does not mean that the FBI is not fallible."

He said the situation collapsed due to a combination of David Koresh's ambivalence to lead his followers from the house and the FBI commander's needlessly aggressive strategy against the Branch Davidians.

Noesner said he believes Koresh decided to stay in the compound instead of surrendering because he was afraid to face the consequences of his actions.

"He knew what he was facing in terms of criminal prosecution," Koresh said.

Koresh's slow progress to end the stand-off combined with the increased attention of the news media caused Noesner's commander to lose his self-control.

"When I reported to the on-scene commander, he about had a heart attack," Noesner said.

The commander began issuing orders to cut off the Branch Davidians' power, to blare loud music, and to move tanks

SEE DAVIDIANS, page 10

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# BU faculty join local children to produce art gala

By JOSH GILL  
GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

The Baylor and Waco community will find art is a way for people to show off their talent today.

The Baylor Piper Children's Art Gala and Auction, featuring photographs and paintings by children at the Piper Center for Family Studies and Child Development and other pieces by various Baylor faculty artists, will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. today in the Martin Museum foyer of the Hooper-Schaefer Fine Arts Center. The art gala is free and open to the public.

The event will feature a silent auction for the photographs and paintings made by the children, who range in age from 2 months to 5 years old. There will also be art donated by various Baylor faculty artists, such as the ceramic bowls made by professor of art Paul McCoy and glazed by the Piper children.

There will also be activities for children to enjoy, such as print-

making and making their own cards, story time, and a kids' "Create and Explore" center.

The art gala and silent auction will be put on through a joint effort by Baylor and the Piper Center for Family Studies and Child Development.

"We are a lab school for the department of family and consumer sciences and our specific area is child and family studies," said Barbara Crosby, director of the Piper Center. "I think the main thing is to support what we're doing here with our students at Baylor, giving them a premier hands-on experience for what they're doing in the classroom. It's so that students will have greater understanding of what quality childcare is and support to families is. That's very important."

The Piper Center is the only childcare facility in Waco accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

H. Jennings Sheffield, assistant professor of art in the department of fine arts, is helping organize the event.

She has had two children attend the center. She said her oldest son has recently graduated from the Piper Center and her 3-year-old son is currently attending the center.

"We hope that a lot of people from Baylor will come," Sheffield said. "It's just to support the children and for them to get their artwork out there. I also think it's a great reminder that art is fun, or should be, I guess."

Sheffield will be organizing the photography to be auctioned. The

photography was taken by the Piper children. Sheffield and Virginia Green, associate professor of art in the department of fine arts, will be running the printmaking activities for the gala.

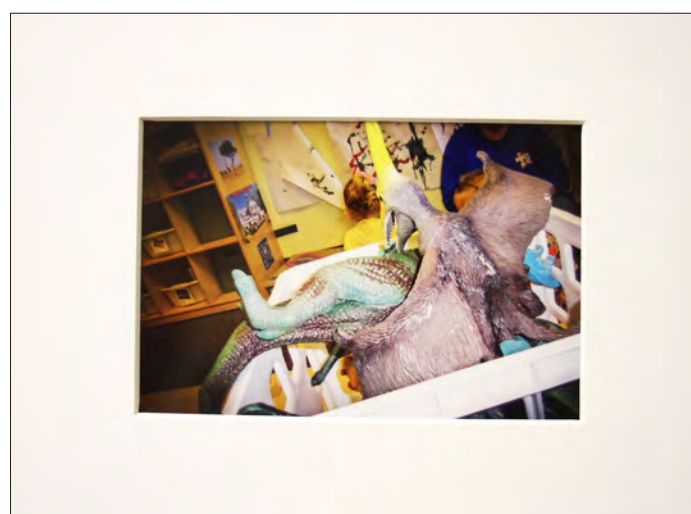
A number of other Baylor faculty members have also donated art pieces to be sold in the silent auction.

"It helps with the activities that we do for children like the fall festival, the Christmas party and then, like this spring, we're doing a butterfly release," Crosby said. "We do different activities each day to celebrate children just this one week each year. This week is the week of the child and it culminates in this art gala."

Crosby and Sheffield said they encourage people of all ages to come have fun.

"Our goal is to make this family friendly so that parents can enjoy and family can enjoy," Crosby said.

Not only is it designed to entertain all age groups, but it will also provide an opportunity for people

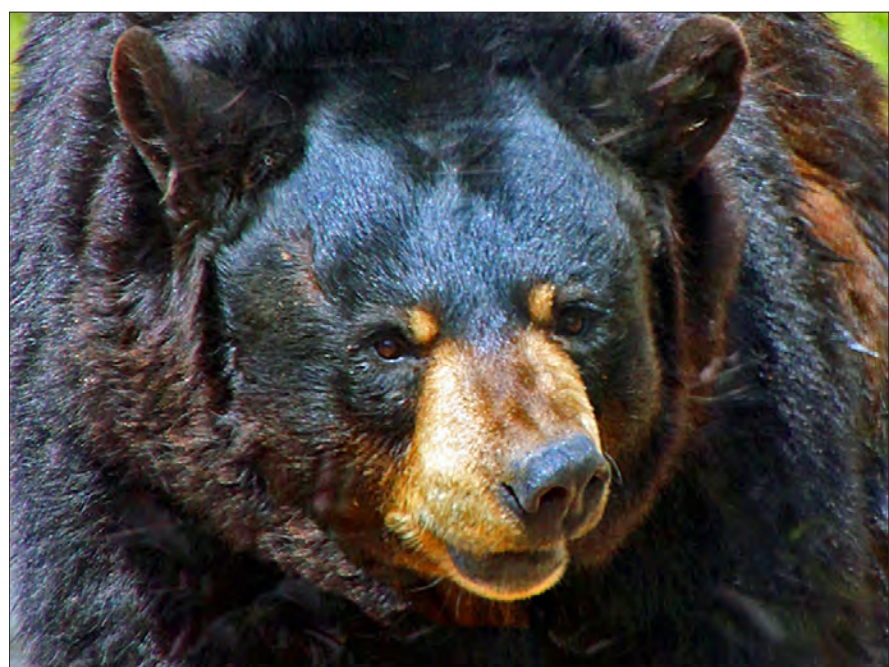


Above: This is photograph by 6-year-old Mary Jane Vorderkunz is one of several photos on display at the Piper Children's Art Gala. Cutout: Bowls sculpted by professor of art Paul McCoy and glazed by the Piper children will also be on display at the gala.

to support local artists. "I think it's a great opportunity to get art from these professors," Sheffield said. "It's a great opportunity to go buy art from your local artists who are showing interna-

tionally." People with questions about the art gala or about the Piper Center for Family Studies and Child Development can call the center at 254-710-4373.

# Cameron Park Zoo teaches visitors about Earth, bear awareness



COURTESY PHOTO

Cameron Park Zoo will host its annual Beasts 'N Blooms & Earth Day at 9 a.m. Saturday. This year, the zoo will have a special focus on how to protect bears.

By REBECCA FIEDLER  
REPORTER

This Saturday the Cameron Park Zoo will teach visitors about stewardship of the Earth, and specifically about how to protect a "Baylor" bear.

The zoo is celebrating Earth Day with its annual zoo event, Beasts 'N Blooms & Earth Day Too, and this year will have a special focus on the zoo's black bears in honor of Baylor and a bear awareness week celebrated by members of the Black Bear Conservation Coalition in Texas.

Earth Day events will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., said Connie Kassner, education curator for the zoo. Bear awareness events will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Twelve organizations, such as Keep Waco Beautiful and the Lake Waco Wetlands, will be at the zoo talking about Earth Day and encouraging visitors to take care of the planet and themselves, Kassner said.

A special portion of events will be dedicated to teaching visitors how to help

preserve the Louisiana black bear. Bears are a passion of Krista Seeburger, a Cameron Park Zoo mammal keeper. She said she wanted the zoo to host a day where she could educate the public about the bears. Kassner said she is this event's coordinator and mastermind. She found out about the bear conservation week that other zoos in Texas are recognizing.

Kassner said this focus on bears will be something relevant to Baylor students. Kassner also said the zoo will offer a \$1 discount off the regular ticket price of \$9 on the day of the event to Baylor students, faculty and staff with their Baylor ID.

"So we thought, OK, this is perfect. We have a zoo in Waco," Kassner said. "Let's go ahead and coordinate, and so we thought, OK, well, let's talk about the bears, but then how do we get Baylor people to come out to the zoo on Saturday?"

There will be zookeeper talks about the bears and enrichment demonstrations at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Kassner said.

"Enrichment is anything that stimu-

lates an animal mentally or physically," said Rachael Chappell, a mammal keeper at the zoo. "Animals in captivity don't have a whole lot to do for themselves that they would have to in the wild."

The zoo provides the animals with food, shelter, medical care and companionship with another animals, and that can lead to a lot of down time for them, Chappell said, and in some animals that can manifest to boredom and pacing. Some animals can even self-mutilate, Chappell said.

For all animals at the zoo the goal is enrichment twice a day, and will consist of anything that stimulates any of the five senses. Spraying perfume for the animals to sniff and providing the animals with a puzzle-opening feeder are just two examples, Chappell said.

"It's a passion for a lot of us. It's a very important part of their daily husbandry," Chappell said.

There will be a jar for donations to purchase future enrichment items for the zoo's black bears, Chappell said.

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Difficulty: Difficult

		6						4
		4	7				2	8
			9				3	6
8			4	1				5
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	3			6	9			4
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## DAILY PUZZLES

Answers at www.baylorlariat.com

- Across**
- 1 Invitation reminder letters
  - 5 Tape player button
  - 10 '80s pop duo with an exclamation point in its name
  - 14 Renaissance painter Guido
  - 15 Indian city
  - 16 Sharpen
  - 17 #2: Abbr.
  - 18 Like some checking accounts
  - 19 Cry after being tagged
  - 20 \*Web page index
  - 22 "Keep in touch!"
  - 24 Start of a boast
  - 25 "Middle of Nowhere" director DuVernay
  - 27 Prohibit
  - 28 Restaurant survey creator
  - 29 Tease
  - 30 Smacked, biblically
  - 31 Steven Chu's Cabinet dept.
  - 32 Mononymous "Rumour Has It" singer
  - 34 Used peepers on
  - 35 "Firework" singer Perry
  - 37 Exile isle
  - 39 Debacle
  - 42 Soda buys
  - 46 Mac interface
  - 47 \*Comics supervillain whose real name is Charles Brown
  - 51 Start to push?
  - 52 Clarified butter
  - 54 "\_\_\_ Believer": '60s hit
  - 55 Retailer T.J. \_\_\_
  - 56 Knock out of contention
  - 61 Personal partner?
  - 64 It goes around the world
  - 68 Flat container
  - 69 Ice cream treats
  - 70 With 71-Across, what the answers to starred clues contain?
  - 71 See 70-Across
- Down**
- 1 Lingerie spec
  - 2 "Absolutely!"

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
14				15							16			
17				18							19			
20			21				22		23					
24					25	26			27					
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39	40	41							42		43	44	45	
46				47	48	49	50				51			
52					53			54			55			
					56	57	58			59	60			
61	62	63							64			65	66	67
68									69					
70											71			

- 3 Treading the boards
- 4 \*Vampire victim's souvenir
- 5 Flamboyant Dame
- 6 Where to find a lot of answers?
- 7 Impish sort
- 8 Like some vitamins
- 9 Cake level
- 10 \*Chicken choice
- 11 Inner city buddy
- 12 Produce, as cartoons
- 13 Like most cabs
- 21 Was introduced to
- 23 Passports, e.g.
- 26 Contend
- 32 Yours, in Tours
- 33 Big name in scat
- 36 Cry from Cathy of comics
- 38 Trash repository
- 39 Weather for low beams
- 40 Moderating suffix
- 41 Terminate
- 43 Green org.
- 44 T. \_\_\_
- 45 What F or M may denote
- 48 "It takes a licking ..." watch
- 49 U.K. record label
- 50 Leonine neck features
- 53 Sought morays
- 55 Gettysburg general
- 57 Brain part
- 58 "And the race \_\_\_!"
- 59 Blue hue
- 60 Mao Tse-\_\_\_
- 61 Seat, in slang
- 62 NYG NFL rival
- 63 Fish-and-chips fish
- 65 Basking goal
- 66 Where age always goes before beauty, briefly
- 67 The ANC's country

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**OBIVION** [PG13] 1100 1200 105 140 240 420 530 600 700 810 900 1000  
**THE PLACE BEYOND THE PINES** [R] 1030 130 430 730 1030  
**3D OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL** [PG] 1035 1245 305 535 750 1015  
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# Baseball looks to continue hot Big 12 play vs. TCU

BY DANIEL HILL  
SPORTS WRITER

The Baylor Bears are just a half game out of first place in the Big 12 with a 7-4 conference record and a 19-18 overall record. Baylor travels north to Fort Worth this weekend for a crucial three-game weekend series against the TCU Horned Frogs.

"We know what we have to do," senior right-handed pitcher Max Garner said. "We have to win games. We don't really have to look at the standings. We're a half game out of the conference lead and right now we are trying to keep the conference championship here and that's the main goal."

This will be the first Big 12 series between the two teams. They did meet in the Southwest Conference in 1996.

Overall, the Bears lead the series against TCU 137-110, so there is plenty of history on the diamond between these two teams.

With all the history between Baylor and TCU, it's natural that there's a solid rivalry between the schools.

"Ever since I got here, people didn't like them and I guess I just got bred into not liking them," se-

nior shortstop Jake Miller said. "I don't know whether it's just another Christian university in the state of Texas or because they're always good and we're always good, so people just want to be on top."

On Friday, the Bears will go with Garner on the mound to open up the first game of the series. Garner has a 2-4 record and a 3.56 ERA with 39 strikeouts in 55 and two-thirds innings of work this year.

"Seeing TCU with a Big 12 patch on their jersey will be new," Garner said. "It's fun. I think they're great for the conference in every sport so I think it's going to be good."

When head coach Steve Smith looks at TCU's team, it's almost like looking in the mirror at his own Baylor squad.

"I see a team that, they were one-two in the league in all the preseason polls for the same reason because both of them were returning," Smith said. "They've played an incredibly tough schedule to start off with. I think the two of us, we have followed very similar scripts. We went to Ole Miss. We went to Irvine. They hosted Fullerton and UCLA. Both of us could have done something en-

tirely different and probably our overall records would be better but I don't know if we'd be better. I don't know if we'd know who we are. Your guys want to play the best and I respect that in them. That's what we've always done and I think they'll be standing at the end of the day."

On Saturday, sophomore right-handed pitcher Austin Stone is slated to take the mound.

Stone has a .500 winning percentage at 2-2 and has a 3.95 ERA in 27 and one-third innings of work.

On Sunday, the Bears will turn to their ace in junior right-handed pitcher Dillon Newman. Newman has a 3-2 record and an impressive 2.83 ERA in over 57 innings of work.

Newman has the second best strikeout-to-walk ratio in the nation with just two walks to his 43 strikeouts.

After hitting two home runs, a walk-off homer and a grand slam, to propel the Bears to a 2-1 series victory in a three-game series against Oklahoma, senior third baseman Cal Towe is peaking at the plate for the back stretch of Big 12 play.

After an 11-game home stand,



MATT HELLMAN | LARIAT PHOTO EDITOR

Sophomore outfielder Adam Toth lays down a bunt Saturday against No. 8 Oklahoma. Baylor won the series against Oklahoma 2-1.

the Bears have just four more games at home and eleven on the road for the remaining season schedule.

"You just have to get used to the crowds," Towe said. "You can't

let it bother you. You just have to treat it the same way as home. Just be comfortable and it helps a lot when you can put up some runs early and get more comfortable so that you can try to tack on later in

the game. You just kind of have to get used to it."

After struggling early in the season, the Bears are catching their stride and vying to repeat as Big 12 champions.

# Track team set for Michael Johnson Classic at home

BY PARMIDA SCHAHHOSSEINI  
SPORTS WRITER

The No. 25 men's and No. 17 women's track and field teams are competing at the 2013 Michael Johnson Dr Pepper Classic on Saturday. The event will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the Hart-Patterson Track Complex in Waco.

The event will feature top runners from 16 schools, including four schools in the Big 12.

The schedule begins with field events at 9:30 a.m. and concludes with evening running events, which will begin at 5 p.m. There will also be afternoon running

events that will overlap the field events.

"Well, it's always a special weekend and it's getting more and more special every year," head coach Todd Harbour said. "This is our last tune-up before the Big 12 meet."

Baylor is coming off a strong showing at the Texas Invitational. Baylor took wins in three events, and junior thrower Erin Atkinson broke the school record in the hammer throw with a distance of 213-2.

Senior thrower Skylar White won the shot put and discus competitions at the same meet, marking this the second time she has

*"I feel like the discuss is going well. It's better than shot put, but right now I'm coming along in the shot put. I have everything that I need to improve and get better in shot put, so I need to stop putting it to the side and go ahead and do it."*

Skylar White | Senior Thrower

done that this season. She recorded a 181-0 mark for the discus, which ranks No. 4 nationally. White also throwing the shot put 55-2, which is a season-best thus far. However, she is looking to get better at the shot put.

"The discus is always number one in my heart," White said "I feel like the discus is going well. It's better than shot put, but right now I'm coming along in the shot put. I have everything that I need to improve and get better in shot put, so I need to stop putting it to the side and go ahead and do it."

Along with the shot put and discus, the field events include javelin, hammer throw, pole vault,

long jump, high jump and triple jump.

Atkinson's record-breaking performance ranks No. 7 nationally. Senior thrower Jasmine Adekoya also will take part in hammer throws.

Junior sprinter Blake Heriot along with senior sprinter Justin Allen led the men's team in the sprints. Heriot ran a 10.45, a personal best, in the 100-meter dash to take second place. He also got second in the 200-meter dash with a time of 20.86. He will also run in the 400-meter dash this weekend.

"I'm excited because it's the 400 again and I've been looking good in practice this whole week, and

we've got a big one, a big practice today and I'll look even better," Heriot said.

Baylor is finished in the top five, in several other sprinting competitions. In the women's 4X100 relay, senior sprinter Idia Omogiate, freshman sprinter Justise Dayries, sophomore sprinter Ashley Fields and junior sprinter Justine Charbonnet finished in second place with a time of 45.37.

Sophomore distance runner Rachel Johnson was fifth in the 1,500 with a 4:36.56 time.

Baylor will hope to improve before beginning the Big 12 Outdoor Championships that run from May 3 to May 5.

## Griner opens up about personal life

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Britney Griner, the dominant and decorated Baylor Lady Bears basketball star who was taken as the No. 1 pick in the WNBA draft earlier this week, discussed being gay in an interview published Wednesday.

In a conversation about athletes and sexuality with Sports Illustrated, Griner discusses coming out, saying, "It really wasn't too difficult. I wouldn't say I was hiding or anything like that. I've always been open about who I am and my sexuality. So it wasn't hard at all. If I can show that I'm out and I'm fine and everything's OK, then hopefully the younger generation will definitely feel the same way."

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# NBA Playoffs to begin Saturday; matchups set

## NBA's West highlighted by top-seeded Oklahoma City Thunder

## James, Miami sit atop Eastern Conference, seek another title

By GREG DEVRIES  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Western Conference seeding wasn't established until the very last day of games. The Utah Jazz just barely missed out on the postseason, the Los Angeles Lakers avoided having to play the Oklahoma City Thunder in the first round and the Houston Rockets slipped from the No. 6 spot down to the No. 8 spot in just two games.

The Oklahoma City Thunder will have home-court advantage in their opening series against the NBA's youngest and second-highest-scoring team, the Houston Rockets. Oklahoma City finished 2-1 against the Rockets this season. In the loss, former Thunder and current Rocket James Harden scored a career-high 46 points.

After finishing the season winning just three games out of their last 10, the San Antonio Spurs have backed into the No. 2 seed and will take on the Los Angeles Lakers in the first round.

Superstar Kobe Bryant tore his Achilles and will not be able to participate in the playoffs.

After the addition of Dwight Howard, many predicted that the Lakers would play the Miami Heat in the finals, but the Lakers fought until the end to make it into the top eight in the West.

All of San Antonio's aging "big three" are listed as day-to-day, but are expected

to play. That being said, the Spurs are loaded with discipline and playoff experience.

The 3-6 matchup between the Denver Nuggets and the Golden State Warriors will likely be one loaded with high-scoring games. Denver Nuggets have the NBA's highest-scoring offense and finished the season with a 57-25 record despite failing to send a single player to the 2013 NBA All-Star game.

Golden State, the NBA's seventh-highest-scoring team, is led by Stephen Curry. Curry averaged nearly 23 points per game this season and set the all-time record for 3-pointers made in a season this year.

The Memphis Grizzlies and the

Los Angeles Clippers met in the playoffs last season, and Los Angeles won in seven games. In the first game, Chris Paul and the Clippers overcame a 27-point deficit.

The Grizzlies are one of the worst offensive teams in the NBA, but allow a league-low 89.3 points per game. Tony Allen and Marc Gasol are two of the league's best defenders, but they will be taking on a Clippers team that likes to get up and down the floor.

The Clippers are led by point guard Chris Paul. Through Paul, high-flying players like Blake Griffin and DeAndre Jordan thrive. Los Angeles will likely try and speed up the pace of the game, and the Grizzlies will likely try and slow the game to a crawl.

By GREG DEVRIES  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Miami Heat are the clear favorite in the East. Miami posted a 66-win season, and 27 of those came in a row, the second longest winning streak in NBA history. The heat finished the season 12 games ahead of the No. 2 team in the Eastern Conference, the New York Knicks. LeBron James might win another MVP Award this season and when the Heat are firing on all cylinders, they can seem like a varsity team playing JV opponents.

The Heat will take on the Milwaukee Bucks, the only team to make the playoffs with a sub-.500

record. The Bucks have a strong guard duo of Brandon Jennings and Monta Ellis, but Milwaukee won just four of its last 16 games, including losses to the two worst teams in the league, Orlando and Charlotte.

One of the most compelling series of the playoffs is Boston and New York. While New York is the favorite, Boston will be playing with heart after the Boston Marathon tragedy. The Celtics have Championship experience, but New York tallied 13 more wins on the year. Despite being considered one of the best players in the NBA, Knicks forward and 2012-2013 scoring champion Carmelo Anthony has never advanced to the second round of the playoffs.

The Indiana Pacers lost forward Danny Granger for all but a few games this season. Seemingly out of nowhere came Paul George to the rescue. Now an All-Star, George led the Pacers to a 49-win season. The Pacers are a team centered on defense and toughness, and they will be taking on the Atlanta Hawks.

The Hawks lost guard Joe Johnson to free agency last summer. With forward Josh Smith's contract expiring at the end of the year, the Hawks are in a bit of a transition period. Atlanta has managed a 44-win season despite the doubts, but the Hawks have lost five of their last seven games to end the regular season.

The Chicago Bulls, much like the Memphis Grizzlies, are a team centered around defense. They managed to reach the No. 5 spot in the East despite playing the entire season without All-Star point guard Derrick Rose.

Rose has been cleared to play by team doctors, but he remains on the bench. If he returns in full form, the Bulls have a serious chance to make a run at the Miami Heat.

Their first obstacle, however, will be the No. 4 Brooklyn Nets. The Nets are going into the playoffs with a lot of momentum, having won six of their last seven games. Brooklyn has been resting its starters, so the Nets should have fresh legs and momentum behind them.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MATT HELLMAN | LARIAT PHOTO EDITOR

# NFL events chief tours Houston

By CHRIS DUNCAN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — NFL vice president of events Frank Supovitz came to town Wednesday for a "voyage of reacquaintance" as he sized up the city's bid for Super Bowl LI.

Owners are expected to vote at the league's spring meeting next month on host sites for the 2016 and 2017 Super Bowls. Miami and San Francisco are in the running for the 2016 Super Bowl and the runner-up will compete with Houston for the game the following year.

Supovitz got an aerial tour of the city in a helicopter and toured Reliant Park after flying in from New York City. He made stops in downtown Houston, where leaders of the city's bid committee envision a massive outdoor gathering spot for fans coming for the game.

"One of the things we offer to all of our clubs and all of the regions that participate in our Super Bowl bidding process is the opportunity to put their best foot forward," Supovitz said. "Sometimes, that means coming into market, having a look around, helping them vet some of the ideas that they have so that we can help guide them along the pro-

cess." Houston and Reliant Stadium hosted the Super Bowl in 2004. Much has changed since then, most notably increased development downtown and the addition of the Discovery Green, a grassy area that Supovitz said could serve as a centerpiece for Super Bowl festivities. Also in the works downtown is a 1,000-room hotel slated to be opened in 2016.

"Downtown has definitely changed since the last Super Bowl here," Supovitz said. "The young folks are moving into town, the more urban residential environment really creates a center of gravity for Houston that really wasn't as obvious (in 2004) as it is now."

If Houston gets the votes, Texans owner Bob McNair hopes to draw fans from around the state to events on the weekend before the big game.

"If there's one spot where you have most of the activities happen, that's more convenient for everyone," McNair said.

Ric Campo, a Houston businessman and head of the bid committee, joined Supovitz on his helicopter tour. When the helicopter landed at Reliant Park, a Segway was waiting

for Supovitz to use.

"Since then, we've been on a tremendous voyage of reacquaintance," Supovitz said.

Cheerleaders, a pep band and a red carpet greeted Supovitz at the stadium entrance. While trying to woo Supovitz, the Texans are trying to enhance their bid by installing two giant video boards, which will be ready for use in Houston's first preseason game in August. Cowboys Stadium in Arlington currently has the biggest screens, and Houston's will be about 30 percent larger than those.

"We've added quite a bit since 2004," McNair said. "We have some resources now that we didn't have then."

Supovitz said the 2004 game was successful, but said the Super Bowl would offer a much different experience if it was here in 2017.

"Certainly when you come back to a city where the Super Bowl has been to before, you change things," he said. "You don't want it to be the same way it was the last time you were here. (The) Super Bowl just continues to grow, we're looking at more and more ways to engage fans, we're going to have a lot more events at the coming Super Bowls."

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## WEST from Page 1

blast. One suffered a caved-in roof. The other Abbott called “damaged beyond recognition.”

“Had this explosion taken place during school hours, there would have been mass devastation of children,” Abbott said. Other buildings, including an apartment complex and a nursing home, were also destroyed. Seismometers, recording the shaking of the earth during the time of the explosion, recorded a magnitude of 2.1 on the Richter scale. However, estimates that only include ground waves severely underestimate the explosion’s energy, one Baylor professor said.

Dr. Jay Pulliam, a W.M. Keck Foundation Professor of Geophysics at Baylor, wrote in an email to the Lariat that much of the energy in the air or atmosphere is not directed into the ground. A magnitude of 2.1, which was recorded by the seismometers, does not accurately reflect the size

of the explosion. Pulliam said he suspects much of the damage was caused by “shock” waves that traveled through the air.

Jody Claridy, a coordinator at the Victorious Life Church in Waco, was in West at the time of the explosion for her sister-in-law’s birthday celebration at the Pizza Inn. She described hearing a “giant boom” that lifted the patrons out of their chairs.

“It felt like the whole building came up off its foundations. At the time, we saw this big mushroom cloud of smoke,” she said. The sister-in-law took off running — she had an aunt who was a resident of the nursing home close to the plant. Claridy followed.

“We got into our vehicle to go after her, and as we were going into the town we saw that houses were demolished, some were on fire, bricks were off the building, holes in the roof and flying debris,” she said.

Claridy said she was shocked at the

devastation at the explosion site. She helped to evacuate people in the area in the wake of the blast, including patients from the nursing home.

“There was this huge wall of black smoke and people were coming out of it. It reminded me so much of 9/11,” Claridy said. “People were coming out with shirts on their faces. People were holding their babies, glazed because of the shock. Make-shift tourniquets on their heads and just injuries. So we started grabbing people and transporting them out. It’s an experience. It’s like a war zone. I’ve never seen anything like this in my entire life.”

For Ryan Anderson, 41, the disaster also hit close to home. Anderson’s house is located about two miles away from the plant. Anderson, who held up a picture of his injured son on his cell phone to show the press, said he witnessed the disaster from his truck along with his son, whom

he had just picked up from his religion class. He and the boy were headed home when Anderson said they noticed flames. At first, he said, they were interested in looking at the fire, but when he noticed the fire was coming from the fertilizer plant, he attempted to maneuver the vehicle away. The blast blew the vehicle off the road. The windows were blown out and his son was injured. Anderson described his vehicle at that point as “disabled,” but said he was still able to get away and seek help.

“We’re truly, truly blessed,” he said. In addition to his son’s injuries and his own, all of the windows of the house were blown out. Despite that, he repeatedly said he feels blessed that the only things he lost were material.

Volunteers and donations to support victims of the disaster have poured in from West itself and surrounding communities. Many efforts have been coordinated

through social media as larger organizations struggle to organize themselves.

Dustin Olson, a junior from Manvel, spent the day in West with a volunteer group from a Waco church. The Victorious Life Church collected donations including food, water and clothing. Thursday, a group from the church brought the donations to West, where Olson said they planned to operate a food truck to prepare meals to serve to those affected by the blast. The group found themselves at the Best Western Czech Inn, a hub of donations, where several West families are staying in the wake of the explosion.

“You can see already the beginnings of the community working to piece itself back together,” Abbott said.

Rob Bradfield, Linda Wilkins and Madison Ferril contributed to this report.

## RELIEF from Page 1

about the efforts through various social media sites.

“I think it’s coolest thing that many students are giving up their Dia in order to help with such a worthy cause,” Greenway said. He added that the food and supply drive in front of Ferrell was student-led.

The university administration also helped with efforts for West relief by enacting many changes regarding the highly anticipated Diadeloso.

In addition to a delayed start and a prayer vigil held in the Barfield Drawing Room of the

Bill Daniel Student Center, the headliner event that featured Five for Fighting and Green River Ordinance was moved to the Ferrell Center in order to convert it into a benefit concert.

Dallas freshman Allyson Cope said that she thought it was a great move by the university to change the Diadeloso performance into a benefit concert for West.

“It makes me so proud to be apart of such a community,” Cope said.

President Ken Starr said that as of 5:30 p.m. Thursday, the university had received almost \$15,000 in

donations.

Student Life set up a Bear Trailer on fifth Street to collect items of greatest need, including water bottles, baby formula and personal hygiene products.

Amarillo senior Austin Tiffany, a member of Baylor Chamber, helped accept donations at the trailer.

“We weren’t sure what to expect, especially since it was short notice, but the outpouring of support has been great,” Tiffany said. He added that the number of donations and supplies has far exceeded their expectations.

In an email sent out to residents of the Honors Residential College, Chris Kirk, residence hall director, also informed students of the supply drive sponsored by the residence hall, and encouraged them to donate as much as possible to the cause.

In addition to donating supplies, Baylor students and various members of the community went out to donate blood.

According to Kristin McGinty, director of field-recruitment in Waco’s Carter BloodCare, approximately 300 people had been in and out since they opened their doors

at 9 am.

“The wait is long,” said McGinty. “We got a lot of donors.”

Wait times to donate averaged around 2 1/2 to five hours.

Linda Goezler, public relations director for Waco’s Carter BloodCare, encourages people who want to donate to be patient and not be discouraged with the long wait times, stressing how crucial blood drives in the community are and how helpful it can be in times of disaster.

Goezler added there were many Baylor students waiting to give blood.

Colorado senior Brooke Borgias, who had never donated blood before, said she saw what happened in West and knew she wanted to do something to help.

“It’s just sad, and this is something I can do,” Borgias said. “We should all do anything we can to help during this awful time period for our area, and the country.”

Those wanting to give monetary donations can do so by visiting the West Relief Fund at Baylor University and donating at [www.baylor.edu/relief/give](http://www.baylor.edu/relief/give).

## DAVIDIANS from Page 6

closer to Mt. Carmel. According to Noesner, the strategy sent a conflicting message from the FBI that hurt their relations with the Branch Davidians and cost the FBI chances to end the siege peacefully.

After four weeks and the release of a few children from the compound, Noesner was replaced by another negotiator and sent to another assignment. When he arrived back in the U.S., he was told that the FBI would be breaching Mt. Carmel the next day.

“I saw the fire, I was disgusted and I walked out without asking

for permission,” Noesner said.

Dr. Stuart Wright Professor of Sociology from Lamar University spoke on the role of governmental militarization in the Waco standoff, saying that the initial ATF raid on Mt. Carmel was both deliberate and misguided.

“One of the most confounding questions surrounding Mt. Carmel is why a relatively small, benign religious sect would invoke such an aggressive and sustained military-like response from the authorities,” Wright said.

Citing statements from the U.S.

government’s report on the ATF, Wright said that the ATF’s decision to assault the Branch Davidian compound was made more than two months before any surveillance efforts had begun.

“It appears that ATF officials were determined to conduct a paramilitary array, irrespective of intelligence operations that showed that Koresh could be apprehended away from Mt. Carmel or that the element of surprise was lost only minutes before the incursion,” Wright said.

Wright said the Waco siege

stands as a symbol of excessive force from governmental agencies.

“The impact of Waco on American culture has been substantial and far reaching,” said Wright. “It served to galvanize the militia and patriot movements in the nineties and the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in 1995 in Oklahoma City by Timothy McVeigh and his associates was made in retaliation for Waco.”

Dr. Philip Jenkins, Baylor’s distinguished Professor of History, ended the series with his speech concerning a broad variety of top-

ics concerning the effects of the Waco siege in politics and popular culture, including its effects on how America views terrorism.

“As odd as this may sound, there is a road that runs from Waco to Sept. 11,” Jenkins said.

In his speech, Jenkins traced the media coverage of the Waco siege and its depictions in books, movies and TV shows.

Over time, the Waco siege in combination with the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, created the idea in politics and popular culture that the terrorist to be feared was

the one next door.

“Everyone knew in those years that the great danger was people like Timothy McVey and David Koresh,” Jenkins said. “Waco reshaped ideas about terrorism and brought it home.”

According to Jenkins, it was the popular concept that terrorism was a primarily domestic problem that was to be fought domestically that caused America to ignore the international threats that led to the Sept. 11 attacks.

## LARIAT WALL OF FAME



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