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Thursday | January 30, 2014



CONSTANCE ATTON | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHE

Reaching the heights

San Diego, Calif., senior Andre Jackson makes his way through the Baylor Challenge Course at Eastland Lake on Wednesday. The course consists of many different obstacles and trust exercises and is available to the public.

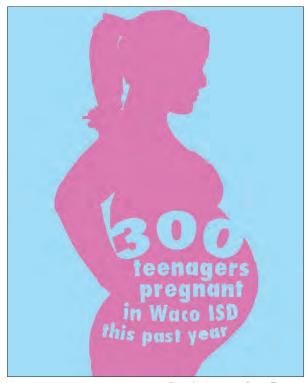


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CARLYE THORNTON

Program aids local teen moms in crisis

By Emily Ballard and Shannon Findley REPORTERS

Three hundred — the number of Waco ISD students who participated in the district's Pregnancy Education and Parenting program during the past year.

Waco ISD's high teen pregnancy and parenting rate, approximately 300 in the past year, reflects the state of Texas' teen pregnancy rate, 43,335, which is the third highest in the country, behind New Hampshire and Vermont, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's Office of Adolescent Health.

However, Waco ISD had no pregnancyrelated dropouts in the past year, according to Julie Coston, a social worker for University High School in Waco ISD. To address

the teen pregnancy issue, Waco ISD offers a mentorship program in Waco high schools to ensure the success of teen mothers and fathers as students and as parents.

Coston's social work and pastoring background prepared her to lead University High School's PEP program. She offers regular mentoring sessions to both expecting mothers and fathers and helps these students navigate the Medicaid system and attends to transportation and childcare services.

"Our main goal is to give them a support system," Coston said.

She also said that expecting mothers and fathers are not required to participate in the program but they are welcome to come to Coston with questions and concerns.

SEE **TEEN**, page 6

TX Board of Ed votes to drop algebra II

By Will Weissert ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN, Texas — The Texas Board of Education on Wednesday voted again to drop algebra II as a requirement for high school graduation as the members began to finalize an academic curriculum overhaul that could reshape public classrooms statewide.

Eliminating the algebra II mandate for many students was part of a sweeping law approved overwhelmingly in May by the state Legislature that scrapped many course requirements in advanced math and science while cutting the number of standardized tests high schoolers must pass from 15 to five.

The changes were meant to give

students more flexibility to focus on career and vocational training - not just college prep courses — but critics accuse Texas of dumbing-down its graduation standards.

The board's 10 Republicans and five Democrats cast a similar vote in November and must still provide final approval to the new curriculum standards on Friday. Discussions on last-minute chang-

es will continue until then, and large modifications are still possible. The new graduation rules take ef-

fect in September.

Just eight years ago, Texas became the first state to require that most of its high school students pass algebra II, and nearly 20 states have since fol-

SEE ALGEBRA, page 6



Math teacher Tracy Popescu, right, helps high school junior Carter Buono, 17, with a problem in an algebra II class at Flower Mound High School in Flower

OSHA reviews death of worker

STAFF WRITER

Occupational Safety and Health Administration has began investigating the death of Jose Dario Suarez, 55, who died Tuesday night after machinery at the McLane Stadium construction site dragged him 16 feet into the Brazos River, said Lori Fogleman, Baylor's assistant vice president for media communications.

Suarez was one of two employees for the Derr and Isbell Construction Co. working on a pedestrian bridge that connects the Baylor Law School to the McLane Stadium. The two workers were tethered to a manlift that was on top of a floating construction barge. When the manlift fell off the barge into the Brazos River, it took the two men

Sgt. Patrick Swanton, the public information officer for Waco police, said at a press conference Tuesday evening that one man was able to release himself from the harness without sustaining any major injuries. He was rescued by nearby construction workers and transported to Providence Hospital, where he was treated for hypothermia and has been released.

Houston first-year law student Taylor Giusti said that during a class review session word of the incident spread around campus and students could see the commotion from their classrooms. He said he saw a man pulled out of the river and covered with a blanket by other construction

The incident occurred at approximately 3:56 p.m. Waco police, along with the Waco Fire Department, Baylor Police Department, East Texas Medical Center EMS and Texas Parks and Wildlife responded to the call for assistance shortly after 4 p.m.

Texas Parks and Wildlife game wardens used side sonar search methods to help locate Suarez's body. Swanton said in a press release that divers from Morgan's Point

SEE BODY, page 6

Chapel to collect money to help African orphans

By Madi Allen and ASHLEY ALTUS REPORTERS

In what began as a philanthropic effort by Phi Kappa Chi, Baylor students have taken on a new ambition with the founders of ILoveOrphans.com, Inc.

Baylor students will be challenged to "Change the World in a Day" by donating \$10 to ILoveOrphans.com, Inc. February 5 to raise \$40,000.

A donor will match the funds given in Chapel to raise Phi Kappa Chi's total anticipated amount of \$80,000.

"There are 3,500 students enrolled in Chapel," said Dr. Burt Burleson, university chaplain. "If they don't drink two cups of coffee that week, they could have the money and could change the world for kids in orphanages."

The money will fund an education building and dining facility to complete a primary school for more than 80 children between the ages of 6-12, Burleson said.

Houston sophomore Josh Philip, philanthropy chair for Phi Kappa Chi, came to Burleson this past spring for

a way to raise the money for the fraternity's philanthropy. "I wanted to bring LeCrae to Baylor to host a concert," Philip said.

Because of the difficulties of organizing such an event, Burleson instead suggested a pass-the-plate service in chapel to "Change the World in a Day" so all the money

SEE CHAPEL, page 6

Inside —

WEB

The BRIC is giving students the opportunity to test out their best innovative ideas.



NEWS p. 3

A school teacher was arrested for hoarding hundreds of living and dead snakes in his home.



A&E p. 4

When Waco hot spot Treff's shut down, its popular pianoman moves on to other venues.



The Baylor Lariat

It's nuts to make sperm donor pay child support

Editorial

When someone makes a transaction on Craigslist, they often don't get quite what they bargained for.

This, however, is not the case for Kansas resident William Marotta, who answered an ad posted by two lesbian women seeking a sperm donor.

Despite having signed an agreement releasing all responsibility for the kid that would be conceived with his sperm, Marotta is the state's target for child

Marotta says he was intrigued by the advertisement and subsequently delivered three cups full of his genetic material to the two women, one of whom gave birth to a daughter.

He assumed that once he made the handoff, he was off the hook for any paternal responsibility as stated in his contract with the

That changed when the women separated.

One stopped working and filed for state financial help, sparking the government to go after her sperm donor for child support until the daughter turns 18 and for the approximately \$6,000 in assistance the government has paid

In most cases, the state would not have any legal ground to force a sperm donor to pay.

What makes this case unique is that the two women chose not to use a licensed physician for the insemination.

Instead, the women performed a series of self-inseminations, which, according to the state, makes him responsible for the child despite the agreement he signed with the couple.

Under section 23-2208(f) of the Kansas code, a "donor of semen provided to a licensed physician for use in artificial insemination of a woman other than the donor's wife is treated in law as if he were not the birth father of a child thereby conceived, unless agreed to in writing by the donor and the woman."

District Court Judge Mary Mattivi ruled Marotta was responsible for ensuring that the women went through the proper channels to carry out the impregnation.

The state says it must assume that the lack of a physician's signature makes it impossible to determine that he was a sperm donor rather than the sexual partner of the girl's mother.

This assumption should not be made. The fact that all three parties say he was a donor is sufficient to prove that he isn't either of the women's sexual partner. By assuming Marotta is the sexual partner of the woman that eventually gave birth, the state of Kansas is choosing to assume something that every party involved knows is completely false.

It is not fair that Marotta is being held responsible for a 4-yearold child that he has only met in passing just because he gave the sperm as a good deed to a couple

He signed the contract, which he assumed was binding and would alleviate his legal and familial bonds to the baby.

The state should hold the women who received Marotta's sperm responsible, since they were the ones who initiated the transaction and chose not to use a physician. The legality of Marotta's actions shouldn't hinge upon the actions of two women that he couldn't control. Since he signed over his semen to the couple, Marotta should not be expected to control who the recipients chose to carry out their insemination.

When filing for welfare, the biological mother of the child attempted to withhold the name of her sperm donor.

After finding out she would not receive any money without doing so, the woman gave up Marotta's

Still, though, she insists that she does not want any responsibility to be forced on him because "introducing a virtual stranger into the family unit would violate the right to family integrity."

The former partner of the child's biological mother also objects to Marotta being declared responsible. She says he, as a presumptive parent, would be replacing her in the family structure,



I HEARD YOU WERE BUILDING A ROBOT! HERE'S THAT LAST BOLT YOU NEED!

since Kansas does not allow a child to have three legal parents.

Being that all parties involved in the conception of this child agree on the fact that Marotta should not have any ties to the child, financially or otherwise, the state should back off.

Because Kansas has historically been opposed to same-sex marriage, it seems as though Kansas is using this case to send a political message that would deter people from helping lesbian couples conceive rather than doing what is best for the child. It is true that in legal terms,

there is a big difference between being a sperm donor and a father. Kansas has chosen to blur those

We agree that if Marotta wanted to be nothing more than the former, he shouldn't have made

arrangements to conceive a child over Craigslist. At the same time, the state should honor the contract agreed to by the three adults. By forcing a stranger into this family structure, it could potentially do more harm than good to the mental welfare of the child.

ASHER FREEMAN

His contract should be honored, and the women should be the ones held responsible for not using a physician.

Weather shouldn't impact Super Bowl

Super Bowl XLVIII should not be played outdoors at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. The pinnacle of professional football should not be a

game subject to giving one team a decided advantage over an-

The general consensus among pro football analysts is that windy, snowy or rainy conditions at MetLife Stadium on Sunday would give the Seattle Seahawks an advantage over the Denver Broncos because of Seattle's ground attack with Marshawn Lynch and the Broncos' re-

liance on the passing game with Peyton Manning at quarter-

Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson can throw a football up to 55 miles per hour and has an advantage over Man-

Daniel Hill | Sports Editor

ning when it comes to arm strength. In Manning's eight career starts when the wind exceeds 20 miles per hour, he has thrown five touchdowns to nine in-

terceptions according to Stats LLC. Timothy Gay, a professor of physics at the University of Nebraska, said a 30-yard pass can move 37.8 inches off course in wind of 20 miles per hour or

Fans deserve to watch a championship game that epitomizes competition at the highest level.

In the regular season, most teams enjoy a certain home field advantage because general managers and front offices will construct their teams to suit the environment in which they play.

An example of this is the New Orleans Saints and the Detroit Lions. Both teams feature high-octane passing attacks to utilize playing on field turf sur-

> faces in indoor stadiums where weather is not a factor.

designed for success in the elements. A perfect example of this is the Seattle Seahawks.

Behind the bruising style of Lynch and the NFL's No. 1 defensive unit, the Seahawks are built to play in the elements and are perfectly suited to play in any imaginable weather conditions

with their conservative

Denver, on the other hand, has a strong reliance on Manning's ability to grip the football and throw accurate passes. If Super Bowl Sunday calls for rain or snow with a strong wind, then Denver's best-laid plans could be

No championship should ever be decided because the playing conditions gave one team an advantage over the

Hardcore football fans will argue both teams have to play in the elements, so no matter what the weather calls for, it is a fair game. This is not the case in the Super Bowl. A season and a championship could be changed completely because of the elements. Weather should never affect the outcome of a game or who will be crowned champion of the

The NFL decided to hold an open-air

Super Bowl in a cold environment.

This was a massive gamble on behalf of America's most profitable professional sports league. Maybe the weather on Super Bowl

Sunday will be calm and a non-story,

but hosting an outdoor Super Bowl in

a frigid east coast city in February is ar unnecessary gamble as well. California, Florida and Texas each possess numerous world-class stadiums, such as Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, which would offer the NFL a grand stage and a controlled, temperate environment that would have no effect on the

game on the sports calendar. I understand the NFL wanted to play in close proximity to New York City to enhance the stage.

outcome of the most important football

The Super Bowl has proven that it does not need to be puffed up by the NFL; the Super Bowl is already America's biggest sporting event of the year.

No matter who wins on Super Bowl Sunday, if the weather impacts a scoring play or changes the way one team normally plays, then the Super Bowl will undoubtedly have an asterisk next to it.

If the Seahawks win, the media will argue it was because Manning struggled in the elements. If the Broncos win, the media might say it was because the wind blew a Wilson pass to a Broncos

There is a plethora of ways that Mother Nature could impact the football game. For the most important gridiron contest of the year, in which no team is given or has earned home field advantage, weather should not be a part of the story line.

Daniel Hill is a senior journalism and English double major from Seattle. He is the sports editor for The Lariat.

Nothing new from Obama

Danny Huizinga | Guest Columnist

It's the time of the year where the president lays out a grand new vision for the country, an innovative set of policy goals and an inspiring message for a bright future.

Or at least, that's what was supposed to happen. But Tuesday night's State of the Union address fell flat with political commentators and the general public.

It's worth noting this isn't a unique phenomenon. The State of the Union usually has little effect on public opinion. That being said, it is still interesting to note how an Obama admin-

istration that promised changed politics has ended up perpetuating the same old pitfalls as before.

For example, the president claimed he would "act on my own to slash bureaucracy and streamline the permitting process for key projects." But where was such a commitment when he blocked the Keystone XL Pipeline? It would have created thousands

On raising the minimum wage, Obama commented that it was beneficial to "not involve any new bureaucratic program."

Yet, on every other issue, the president has shown a deep skepticism for any policy initiatives that are not undertaken by the federal government. He wishes to push for universal pre-K education, job training, high-tech manufacturing and family policies — all through government summits, committees, initiatives and executive orders.

Instead of trying to change the country on his own, perhaps the president could pursue policies that made life easier for entrepreneurs blocked by excessive regulations, business owners oppressed by unfair taxation and average families stuck in a cycle of poverty.

After all, he said it was "you, our citizens, who make the state of our union strong."

> And yet, the president's actions reflect a mindset that change can only happen in the way he envisions - through his presidential power of the "pen and the phone."

One friend commented on Facebook that "without regard to the policies and politics that are involved," Obama had "awesome ideals to strive for."

However, this comment misses an important point.

Though nice-sounding goals are important, they sometimes forget the reality of a country with problems. Assuming away the disastrous consequences of well-intentioned government programs

doesn't automatically make them successful. When is the last time you described a politician as "a person who keeps prom-

Political talking points usually don't match up with the reality. We live in a real country with real consequences, and government action almost never measures up

to the ideals. If the president would focus on policies that let Americans flourish rather than singlehandedly undertaking summits and presidential commissions to advance his purposes, we could truly see the state of our union become much greater.

Danny Huizinga is a junior Business Fellow from Chicago. He is a guest columnist for The Lariat. Follow him @HuizingaDanny on

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Snake neglect leads to arrest

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A California schoolteacher was arrested Wednesday after hundreds of living and dead pythons in plastic bins were found stacked floor to ceiling inside his stench-filled home in suburban Orange County.

As investigators wearing respirator masks carried the reptiles out of the house and stacked them in the driveway, reporters and passers-by gagged at the smell. Some held their noses or walked away from the fivebedroom home to get a breath of air.

"The smell alone — I feel like I need to take a shower for a week," said police Cpl. Anthony Bertagna. "They're pretty much in all the bedrooms - everywhere."

Officers said they found more than 400 snakes - at least 220 of them dead — as well as numerous mice and rats, in the Santa Ana home of William Buchman after neighbors complained about the smell. He was arrested for investigation of neglect in the care of animals, Bertagna said.

Buchman, 53, was still in custody Wednesday afternoon, Bertagna said. The Newport-Mesa Unified School District, where he works, declined comment, saying it was a



While interviewing Sondra Berg, Santa Ana Police Animal Services supervisor, television reporters Bobby DeCastro and Wendy Burch plug their noses to avoid the stench emanating from the house with of dead and decaying snakes.

Buchman has not yet had a court appearance or been formally charged and it wasn't clear if he had an at-

Authorities said he lived alone, and neighbors said his mother, who had lived with him, had passed away within the past few years.

Sondra Berg, the supervisor for the Santa Ana Police Department's Animal Services Division, said four bedrooms in the home were stacked from floor to ceiling and wall to wall with plastic bins on wooden and metal racks. The bins were packed so tightly, Berg said, that they didn't require lids because there was no room for the snakes to slither out.

Each snake was catalogued by name and type, and Berg said Buchman told authorities he was involved in a snake-breeding enterprise.

infestation of rats and mice all over the house. There are rats and mice in plastic storage tubs that are actually cannibalizing each other."

Bertagna said animal control authorities had tried to work with Buchman for several months after neighbors reported the smell. He said they sought a warrant after they were not allowed inside the home.

Berg said Buchman told authorities he was involved in a type of snake breeding called "morphing," in which owners try to breed different color patterns in the reptiles.

It was a very popular and lucrative enterprise 10 years ago but has declined, she said.

"There was a lot of fast money in it, but now the bottom pretty much fell out of the market because there are so many of these snakes out there," she said.

Alpha Phi Alpha to host step show competition

By Josh Gill REPORTER

There's rhythm on the Burning Sands, with stomping feet and clapping hands.

So if that sounds fun, you should know of Alpha Phi Alpha's step show.

Alpha Phi Alpha is presenting the step show, Battle on the Burning Sands this Saturday in Waco Hall to support its mission of service and scholarships. The event will be hosted by social media celebrity King Keraun.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. in Waco Hall, and the show will begin at 7:06 p.m. Tickets may be purchased in advance at the Bill Daniel Student Center Ticket Office for \$10 or purchased on Saturday for \$20 at Waco Hall. The event is open to the public. Proceeds from the event will go toward the renovation and resupply of the local Boys and Girls Club as well as toward Alpha Phi Alpha's Tribute Scholarship.

Ft. Worth senior Donte Williams, president of the Tau Alpha chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha at Baylor, said the step show is a series of short dance performances where the rhythm is generated by a choreography of stomps and claps put on by various teams who compete against one another in the categories of Fan Favorite and Best Performance.

"Each performance is anywhere between five and 10 minutes," Williams said. "We're actually introducing a new section this year called Fan Favorite. All of those in attendance will determine the winner. Judges will determine the grand prize winner."

Killeen senior Alfred Rucker, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha who helped organize Battle on the Burning Sands, said step show teams will be University of Oklahoma AKAs."

While most of the teams performing will be from National Pan-Hellenic Greek organizations, Rucker said this is not the case for all

'We have this team called Elite Step Team and they're non-Greek," Rucker said. "They're a step team out of Dallas."

Williams said the event is geared toward all people of all ages.

"People think that because we're a predominantly African American organization that this is only for black people, but that's not true. I want everybody to come out to this."

Williams said any Greek organization that would like to attend as a group should let Alpha Phi Alpha know in advance and a section will be reserved for them. Garry Williams, Donte Williams' brother

and an alumnus of Baylor, said Battle on the Burning Sands is meant to support Alpha Phi Alpha's mission to promote service and aca-

"We're kind of based on service and academics," Garry said. "First of all. Servants of all. We shall transcend all."

The majority of the proceeds from this event will go to the Weldon Youngblood Branch of the Boys & Girls Clubs. "We just want to restore it," Williams said.

"We want to replace as much of their supplies as we can and we'd like to renovate the building. That's where most of the money is going."

The rest of the proceeds will be allotted toward the academic part of Alpha Phi Alpha's

"Our main scholarship is the Tribute Scholarship," Garry said. "Historically it's called Tribute to a Black Woman, but it's a tribute to all women. It is for any young woman who wants to apply and will be decided this Saturday based on GPA and the essay they submit."







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The Baylor Lariat



Treff's Bar and Grill's former performer Russell Boyd, known as the "Piano Man" will move to Scruffy Murphy's for Thursday night performances.

Treff's closes; Piano Man moves on

By KAT WORRALL REPORTER

With the closing of downtown Treff's Bar and Grill, Scruffy Murphy's has gained a new Thursday night act -Russell Boyd, more commonly known as the "Piano Man."

Treff's, located on Austin Avenue, was a popular Thursday night destination for students to see Boyd's performance. Treff's opened in 2001, but business recently "dropped out of the bottom," owner Pat Treff said.

"It wasn't doing well enough to pay the bills," Treff said. "I just decided to move on to bigger things."

Robert Johnson, who owns the building, said Treff, who operates another club in San Marcos, was having difficulties maintaining both locations.

As a result, Johnson said the inside of the building aesthetically declined and needed repairs on the flooring, drywall, and paint as well as the common complaint of leaving Treff's and smelling like smoke.

However, Treff's still brought in students and locals on Thursday nights, as a result of the "Piano Man."

"I think that was directly attributed to him and how good he was at performing," Johnson said. "That was despite the inside of the building not being up to the standard that I would've liked or that Pat would've liked."

Boyd said the way Treff's room sloped down to the stage helped focus attention on the band and was "one of the best rooms" he's ever performed in.

He said he recalled a few "golden years" when there would be a line outside Treff's every night and the bar would be occasionally shut down because of fire codes, but he said he had seen a decrease in traffic recently.

UH, I'M RUNNING

"In general, it's been consistently good," Boyd said. "I've never been like, 'Oh great, I'm going to Treff's again. Nobody is going to be there, even if it's not crammed over fire code every

Boyd noticed the economy take a toll on Treff's over the years, starting

club in San Marcos, where he lives, but has enjoyed in his time in Waco.

"It's been great," Treff said. "From 2001 to 2014 was the time of my life. I loved every minute of it."

Boyd first heard about Treff's closing through an unusual way.

"The way I found out about Treff's

"It never even crossed my mind to not play in Waco again," Boyd said.

Starting Thursday, February 7, Boyd will resume Piano Man at Scruffy Murphy's. While the room is smaller, Scruffy Murphy's holds more people than the upstairs of Treff's, and Boyd said he is excited for the new oppor-

"I hate that it ended, but I think sometimes when you move from something in life that's not working that well to another way that's just the same, it gives you an excuse to get excited again," Boyd said.

Kevin McBride, manager of Scruffy Murphy's, has re-arranged the club's nightly performances to accommodate

The usual Thursday night performer, DJ Jamen, will be pushed back to Friday night.

McBride said they plan to set up Boyd's piano on the stage in the back room and are looking to add more patio tables for seating.

"Hopefully we can keep this good live music going for Scruffs," McBride

Cincinnati, Ohio, senior Taylor Dixon is curious how Scruffy Murphy's set up will handle Piano Man, but is happy his performances will be closer to campus.

"Personally, I enjoyed Treff's," Dixon said. "I'm not surprised they're closing, though, because of the distance."

As for the future of the building, the new downtown construction, in businesses such as Dichotomy Coffee & Spirits and Muddle, has Johnson

"The timing is great for new tenants," Johnson said. "We plan to invest some money into the building to bring it back to its former glory."

what's

>> Jon Foreman concert

8 p.m. **Friday Common Grounds**

Jon Foreman, lead singer of Switchfoot, will perform at Common Grounds. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. VIP tickets are \$50, giving ticketholders early access to the concert and a meet and greet with Foreman. The doors open at 8 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at facebook.com/ cg.wacotx or at Common Grounds.

>>Sacred Harp Sing

9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8 George W. Truett Theological Seminary

The 13th annual Baylor Sacred Harp Sing is an event focused on the participatory singing of hymns. The event will start with a coffee and doughnut introduction and singing school where the tradition of shaped note singing, the tradition employed in the event, will be explained. The event is free and open to the public for both participants and observers.

>>Music for the Heart

2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8 **Armstrong Browning Library**

Armstrong Browning Library will host its 2014 Valentine's Day Extravaganza where attendees can enjoy music by Train, Journey, The Beatles and more. Desserts will be provided in the Cox Reception Hall.

General admission tickets:

\$50 per couple

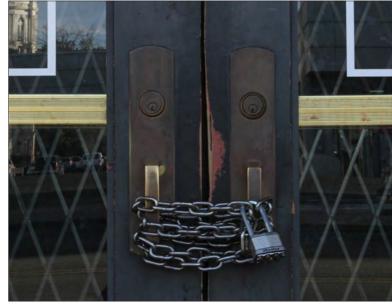
\$30 per individual

Student discounted tickets:

\$35 per couple

\$20 per individual

Tickets may be ordered online at baylor.edu/ abl or by calling (254) 710-4968.



CARLYE THORNTON | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

Treff's Bar and Grill, located on Austin Avenue, closed its doors for good after 13 years of service in downtown Waco

"dropped off a little bit." Treff said the bar's income changed from \$80,000 per month to \$40,000, and he got behind on rent.

He also received two \$5,100 citations for employees being intoxicated and one \$2,100 citation for serving after hours from the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

Treff said he plans to focus on his

Piled Higher & Deeper Ph D.

in 2009 when everywhere he played closing was by getting a job offer," Boyd said.

> Waco Cinema, a local club Boyd calls a "young professional place," reached out to Boyd through Twitter after hearing rumors of Treff's closing.

Treff later confirmed to Boyd through text message. Boyd said he is hoping to perform at Waco Cinema on Tuesday nights. Soon after, Scruffy Murphy's contacted him.

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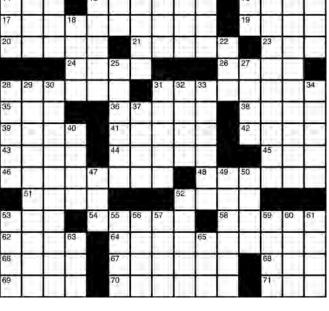
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Answers at www.baylorlariat.com



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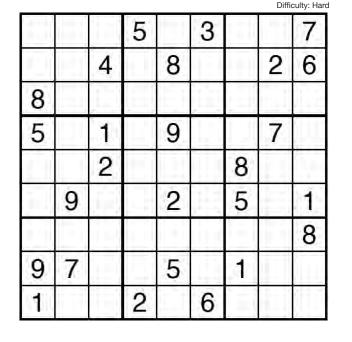
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Austin overcomes blind eye on court

By Shehan Jeyarajah Sports Writer

Fans knew there was something different about Isaiah Austin's eyes. You could see it when he played. It was hard to place exactly what, but it was obvious. On Jan. 18, Austin made everything clear in a feature that aired on ESPN's College Gameday.

Isaiah Austin, former five-star prospect, All-Big 12 and future NBA player, is blind in his right

When Austin was in middle school, he went up for a dunk while warming up for a game. The effect was immediate: Austin could see nothing but red as he came down. He went to the hospital and learned he had aggravated an injury he had received while playing baseball and had, as a result, torn the retina in his right eye.

Austin would undergo four surgeries to try and restore his vision. After each of them, his vision would return for a while, before disappearing again shortly thereafter.

"I just remember the vision in my right side kept getting redder and redder until it was just gone," Austin said. "After the second surgery, I kind of had the idea that I was probably going to lose my sight."

The defining moment from the

ESPN feature came when Austin's mother, Lisa Green, recalled telling her then-16-year-old son that he had two choices.

"You can make it your excuse, or you can make it your story," Green said.

Throughout the recruitment process, Austin was terrified coaches would stop recruiting him if they knew of his condition. To cope, he kept it a secret. In fact, Austin said Baylor head coach Scott Drew and assistant Jerome Tang were the only two coaches who knew about his condition while being recruited.

"I learned about Austin's condition when he was in high school," Drew said. "At that point there was still some hope that he would be able to get it restored, but that never really came along. But you knew that you really respected him for how he was competing and how he never used it as an excuse."

Through hard work and learning to play basketball without depth perception, Austin left high school as a top five player in his class and top two center prospect. His freshman year for Baylor, Austin averaged 13.0 points, 8.3 rebounds and 1.7 blocks per game en route to being named All-Big 12.

After the ESPN feature, there was a tremendous outpouring of support for the sophomore.

"I got a lot more support than I

expected," Austin said. "Everybody from coaches to other team's fans. Texas coach Rick Barnes came to me before our game against UT and said I inspired him."

Sophomore forward Rico Gathers said the shared knowledge of Austin's struggle has brought the team closer together.

"I look at it like that's my brother," Gathers said. "I have to fight to protect my brother while I'm out there. I've never looked at him any differently. He's a great basketball player, has a great IQ and makes me better every day. He goes hard every day. He's a kid with one eye, but who has a big heart every time he steps out on the floor."

If Austin declares for the draft after the season, he could be a first-round pick as a 7-foot-1 player with a soft shooting touch and length. Like his mom said, his story may just be getting started.

"Isaiah has a chance to be a great role model for so many kids," Drew said. "I know my son Peyton wears glasses and looks up to Isaiah because he wears glasses. I know a lot of people can look up and be inspired and motivated by looking at Isaiah and seeing what he's been able to overcome."

The Bears return to the court with a road showdown versus No. 8 Oklahoma State at 1 p.m. Saturday at Gallagher-Iba Arena in Stillwater, Okla.



TRAVIS TAYLOR | LARIAT PHOTO EDIT

Sophomore center Isaiah Austin elevates to block a shot from Oklahoma senior forward Cameron Clark. Austin is blind in his right eye and was All-Big 12 last season and could be a first round selection in the 2014 NBA Draft.

CONTRACTORS CONTRA

CARLYE THORNTON | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

Freshman guard Ieshia Small utilizes a screen from teammate freshman forward Nina Davis to blow by a Texas Tech defender in Baylor's 92-43 win over the Red Raiders on Wednesday at the Ferrell Center.

Lady Bears crush Texas Tech 92-43

By Jeffrey Swindoll Sports Writer

It was clear in the first few possessions that Texas Tech was going to be in an uphill battle against the No. 9 Lady Bears. Baylor handily defeated Texas Tech 92-43 at the Ferrell Center Wednesday.

The Lady Bears (17-3, 7-1) started the half with poise, finding quality looks for senior guard Odyssey Sims, senior guard Makenzie Robertson and freshman forward Nina Davis throughout the half.

Sims and freshman guard Niya Johnson tallied six assists in the first half. The Lady Bears felt the momentum behind them and the confidence was noticeable in their 19-0 run to start off the game, shooting 50 percent from three-point range.

After nine minutes, Texas Tech (6-14, 0-9) finally got on the board, making it 19-2, but the body language from the Lady Raiders showed they knew it was going to be a long night against the Lady Bears in Waco.

Baylor's full court press in the

first half made it difficult for Texas Tech to produce anything. The Red Raiders missed several open looks, turned the ball over 10 times, and made eight of 25 shots from the floor.

Comfortable with a massive double-digit lead, Baylor head coach Kim Mulkey rotated the bench into the game with 2 minutes left in the first half, giving young players valuable playing time and experience for the coming games.

Baylor made shots all over the court and all game long, shooting 50.7 percent from the floor and 50 percent from downtown.

The outcome of this game was evident before the halftime buzzer.

As Baylor's lead grew larger, the youth in the Lady Bears started to show. Even after missing shots and trick passes, Mulkey could not say much to get her players to be a little more serious about their play. The Lady Bears were all smiles and enjoying the game.

Players from the starting lineup jumped and cheered for their teammates from the sideline. The Lady Bears cruised on their way to their seventh Big 12 win this season.

"I think you've got to give Baylor a lot of credit, they're a good team and they've played well," Texas Tech head coach Candi Whitaker said. "We played timid. We've got to be more aggressive. That's the only way to play the game."

Texas Tech picked up its ninth straight Big 12 loss on Wednesday night, shooting just under 31 percent against Baylor.

Robertson made three out of seven three-pointers and finished with 11 points in her second-straight game with double-figures.

Sims earned 25 points, 12 from downtown and dished out six assists in her 31st-straight game scoring in double-digits.

"I've always trusted [my team]," Sims said. "I feel like it's less of them just watching me now. We've got a good freshmen group and it was just fun to watch on and off the court tonight."

For the first time in the past four games, Baylor outscored the opponent in both halves, taking care of the ball and shooting over 48 percent from the floor in both halves. The Lady Bears had five players in double figures against the Lady Raiders.

"We actually put two halves together, and that's a plus, especially for coach," Sims said with as Mulkey chuckled beside her.

The Lady Bears' average attendance ranks in the nation's top 10, and Wednesday was another strong showing from the fans with 6,700 in attendance. Mulkey expressed her appreciation for their loyal support of the Lady Bears.

"Most fans that have teams that go up that much at halftime just leave," Mulkey said. "Most of the people came out tonight stayed all game. Our fans appreciate our effort, and we appreciate their support."

The Lady Bears play the Texas Longhorns at 6:30 p.m. Saturday at the Ferrell Center. The game will be on Fox Sports Southwest.









SHIZUO KAMBAYASHI | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Black belt to white collar

College pep squad members perform at a ceremony to launch their job-hunting Wednesday at Tokyo's Hibiya Park in Tokyo. Students also sang their school song together during the joint pep ceremony.

GOP leaders face challenge on immigration

By Donna Cassata Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Republican leaders poised to revive efforts to overhaul the immigration system with new broad policy principles are facing a direct challenge from a GOP senator who is warning against a headlong rush toward reform.

Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions, the top Republican on the Senate Budget Committee, delivered a 30-page package to all 232 House Republicans on Wednesday that offers a point-by-point rebuttal to the expected standards that House Speaker John Boehner and other leaders plan to circulate this week among GOP members at their annual retreat.

Sessions warned of the negative impact of proposed changes to immigration policy on U.S. workers, taxpayers and the rule of law as the House leaders look at legalization for some of the 11 million immigrants living here illegally. Sessions and other opponents argue that legal status and work authorization still amounts to amnesty.

The GOP starting point is a statement of principles that is expected to focus on border and interior security, legalization with the requirement that immigrants pay fines and back taxes, and ensuring that President Barack Obama enforces any law, according to law-makers, congressional aides and outside advocates, speaking on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to pub-

licly discuss the principles being drafted.

Republican leaders plan to circulate the principles on Thursday at the GOP caucus' retreat in Cambridge, Md.

Responding to Obama's renewed call for immigration legislation and the positive signals from House GOP leaders, Sessions said Republicans "must end the lawlessness — not surrender to it — and they must defend the legitimate interests of millions of struggling American workers."

The package, including a memo from Sessions, an analysis from his staff on the Senate Budget and Judiciary committees and a summary of opposition from conservatives, was delivered shortly before House Republicans left Washington.

"We're going to outline our standards, principles of immigration reform and have a conversation with our members, and once that conversation's over we'll have a better feel for what members have in mind," Boehner told reporters this week.

Separately, several lawmakers are working on legislation dealing with children of parents in the United States illegally, and visas for guest workers.

Republicans insist that the party must pass reforms and address the issue of the 11 million immigrants living in the United States illegally to be competitive in presidential elections. In 2012, Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney, who suggested that immigrants "self-deport," won just

27 percent of the Hispanic vote.
"It's no secret we have millions

of people who are here, who are unlawful and we can't deny that and I think that's something that has to be dealt with," said Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, R-Fla., who has been working on legislation, "but lot of components have to be dealt with."

The Senate last year passed a comprehensive, bipartisan bill that addressed border security, provided enforcement measures and offered a path to citizenship for those living here illegally. The measure stalled in the GOP-led House, where leaders want to take a more piecemeal approach.

Sessions' analysis said increasing the number of immigrants would hurt an already weak economy, lower wages and increase unemployment. He cited White House adviser Gene Sperling's comment earlier this month that the economy has three people looking for every job opening.

He said the House GOP leaders' plan that's taking shape would grant work permits almost immediately to those here illegally, giving them a chance to compete with unemployed Americans for any job. He said it would lead to a surge in the future flow of unskilled workers and would provide amnesty to a larger number of immigrants in the country illegally, giving them a chance to apply for citizenship through green cards.

"House Republicans, in crafting immigration principles, should reply to the president's immigration campaign with a simple message: Our focus is to help unemployed Americans get back to work, not to grant amnesty or to answer the whims of immigration activists and CEOs," Sessions said in his memo.

The Associated Press obtained a copy of Sessions' critique.

Notably, two members of the House leadership, Boehner and Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Wash., spoke about dealing with the broken immigration system in their responses to Obama's State of the Union address. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., told reporters Wednesday that she spoke to Boehner about the principles but not specific legislation.

"I believe it is a good-faith effort to find common ground, and we look forward to seeing what they are," Pelosi said.

Democrats and many immigration overhaul proponents, including labor unions, have pushed hard for a path to citizenship and may not be satisfied with legalization.

Unclear is how rank-and-file Republicans will respond, especially with a great deal of GOP wariness about whether Obama can be trusted to enforce an immigration law.

Obama's waiver or suspension of provisions of his four-year-old health care law have increased suspicions among Republicans, and Sessions' analysis highlighted the president's State of the Union comments that he might act unilaterally on some issues if Congress balks.

BODY from Page 1

Dive Team, located in Belton, recovered Suarez's body at 8:15 p.m., four hours after he was taken under with the manlift.

Suarez was still attached to the manlift with his safety harness and flotation devices still on him, according to the Waco police press release. Justice of the Peace Kristi DeCluitt arrived on scene at approximately 8 p.m. and pronounced Suarez dead at 8:18 p.m. His body was then taken in for an autopsy.

Waco Police Department Chaplains and Victim Services were outside of Baylor Law School to assist when Suarez's family arrived on scene.

"Our thoughts go out to the Suarez family at this terribly sad hour," said Baylor President and Chancellor Ken Starr in a press release. "All of Baylor Nation extends our deepest sympathies as we remember in our prayers Jose Suarez and all those whom he loved."

Fogleman said the university is cooperating with OSHA's investigation in every way possible. Starr sent an email to Baylor student and faculty Wednesday evening, further expressing his

regrett for Suarez's death.

"This is a terrible tragedy that saddens us all," Starr said. "It is at difficult times like these that we are encouraged to remember that we serve a loving God who cares for the brokenhearted and is near to the downcast."

The cause of the manlift's fall into the Brazos River remains unknown. The death is being classified as part of an industrial accident, Swanton said.

CHAPEL from Page 1

raised could go to the organization. Money will be collected by passing buckets in Chapel and also providing a way to donate online

Founders of ILoveOrphans. com Inc., Baylor alumni Nick Martineau, Matt Flanigan and Geoff Price presented their mission and ongoing ministry work in Uganda on Wednesday in chapel. These alumni went on a mission trip about 10 years ago organized by the former university chaplain.

Baylor students and Phi Kappa Chi members participated in the trip.

Burleson said their experience inspired them to do something to care for the orphans and start a nonprofit organization to support Arise Africa Inter-

national, an existing Ugandan ministry, in its efforts to build a children's center in Bukaleba, Uganda.

According to ILoveOrphans. com the goal of the organization is to serve the helpless, restore lives and awaken a place of hope and love for the children of Africa. If things go well, other nonprofits will be able to apply for this spot for the spring chapel and students in a committee will select an organization to have a "change the world in a day" offering of their own, Burleson

"The end goal is for this event is to become a Baylor tradition," Philip said. "I'd love to raise the full amount, and even if we don't make our goal, is that really a loss?"

TEEN from Page 1 —

"Some of them I call into my office and ask, 'what's going on with your grades? Where have you been the past 400 days?" Coston said, humorously.

PEP also offers home delivery of assignments by homebound teachers who pick up the assignments, as well. This enables the girls to keep up with their work and even get ahead in school.

"We help them graduate early if possible, depending on their credits," Coston said.

Becoming pregnant in high school can be taxing on young girls and the fathers of their babies.

"I think they are just overwhelmed," Coston said. "We do a lot of encouraging."

Once the pregnant girls reach a point in their pregnancies that require them to stay home, the PEP program has an Through the Passport to Success program, an extension of the PEP program, girls have the opportunity to earn diapers and other needs serves as an incentive for getting good grades and participating in mentoring group discussions. Along with the PEP program every April, Waco ISD hosts an Adolescent Parenting Workshop, lead by Dr. Margaret Baier assistant professor of family consumer science department, and her

parenting class.
"This isn't just about the

mothers," Baier said. "Fathers are important and we encourage them to learn how they can get involved."

Expecting fathers receive the same counseling tools as the expecting mothers. Coston explained these young men have a hard time understanding their role in the process when they don't live with the girlfriend and the baby.

"Unless he talks about it, no one knows that he's expecting, too," Coston said.

The workshop includes stations focusing on things such as "Baby-Proofing a Home" or "The Importance of Involving Fathers in Children's Life."

"The high school students look forward to these workshops," Baier said.

Karen Baier, Margaret Baier's sister-in-law and family consumer science teacher at University High School, has received positive feedback from students who have participated in the workshop.

"I've had both guys and girls and most of the time when they come back they've loved the interactions they've had with the college kids," Karen Baier said.

Coston also attends the workshops and said, "There was a good connection between Baylor students and our students. I think it's inspiring."

ALGEBRA from Page 1

lowed suit. Now Texas is bucking the trend it started.

Board member Ken Mercer, R-San Antonio, said in an interview that the skills learned in algebra II are vital for the SAT and ACT college entry exams.

He said he hoped to include an "applied algebra" course among those classes that students pursuing a variety of high school diploma plans could take, suggesting it would teach algebra skills in realworld situations such as accounting.

"I don't want to water down the curriculum. I want there to be rigor there," Mercer said. "But I want it to have things (students) can use."

The board's latest vote didn't include an applied algebra course, but its members delayed action on key portions of the new curriculum, meaning there is still time to include it before final approval Friday.

Many experts say algebra II is a key prerequisite for success both in college and life beyond.

But supporters of the new law noted that even the curriculum standards being replaced had allowed students to forgo the current requirement by earning a high school diploma on the minimum plan — and about 20 percent of young Texans did so.

Meanwhile, a coalition of industry and trade groups argued that plenty of high-paying jobs are available without a college degree, but that algebra II is so difficult that it was forcing many students to drop out before finishing high school

Algebra II would still be required of students who want "distinguished" high school diplomas that allow them to qualify for automatic admission to any state public university in Texas.

It will also be mandated for those who choose coursework focusing on science, technology, engineering and math.

But the algebra II requirement would no longer exist for students who choose diploma paths focusing on arts and humanities, business and industry, multidisciplinary studies or public service, unless a change Friday means it lives on in a hybrid course such as the one backed by Mercer.

The new rules also would let students earn "foundation" diplomas that don't include higher math or science requirements and don't focus on a particular discipline.

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