

The Baylor Lariat

baylorlariat.com

WE’RE THERE WHEN YOU CAN’T BE

Wednesday | November 5, 2014

Abbott breaks a 14-year mold

By PAUL J. WEBER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — Texas overwhelmingly elected Republican Greg Abbott as the first new governor in 14 years on Tuesday night and elevated tea party leaders to powerful statewide offices in a forceful rejection of the most optimistic and heavily funded challenge from Democrats in decades.

Wendy Davis, whose national political star power outshined her flickering performance as a candidate, was flirting with possibly faring no better than the last Democrat who ran for Texas governor in 2010. Her lopsided loss was a sobering reality check for Democrats and delighted Republicans, who relished running up the score on a high-profile opponent whose campaign was co-piloted by the architects of President Barack Obama’s re-election.

Early returns showed Abbott, the state attorney general since 2003, soundly beating Davis by a 3-to-2 margin.

“Texas is standing its ground,” said Andrea Anderson, 31, who voted for Abbott in Davis’ hometown backyard of suburban Fort Worth.

Final turnout figures were not expected to be in until as late as Wednesday, but steady Election Day showers across Texas may have deterred some voters to de-



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Republican Greg Abbott was elected as the first new governor of Texas in 14 years on Tuesday, defeating Democrat Wendy Davis.

press the number of ballots cast despite a record 14 million registered voters.

Four years ago, Gov. Rick Perry

won his final re-election bid by 13 points over a Democrat with far less name recognition and resources than Davis. Perry did not seek a

record fourth full term but is still mulling another White House run in 2016.

Abbott, 56, will become the first

elected governor in the U.S. to be in a wheelchair since 1982. Paralyzed from the waist down after being crushed by a falling tree during

a jog as a law student, Abbott made his biography the cornerstone of a campaign that aggressively courted crucial Hispanic voters with an emphasis unmatched by a Texas Republican since George W. Bush left for the White House.

Abbott will be sworn into office in January carrying an agenda of bare-knuckled Texas conservatism.

He will govern alongside Dan Patrick, a strident conservative talk radio host and founder of the tea party caucus in the Texas Legislature, who voters easily elected lieutenant governor despite shunning reporters and confrontational rhetoric that even other Republicans have condemned.

In many ways, the outcomes farther down the ballot said more about the state of Texas politics than the marquee and near-record \$83 million race between Abbott and Davis at the top.

Ken Paxton, another tea-party fixture who got a rare and coveted endorsement from U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, coasted to victory in the attorney general’s race despite the prospect of a criminal investigation into his work as an investment adviser. Republican Sid Miller hired shock rocker Ted Nugent as his campaign treasurer in his run for agriculture commissioner — the job where Perry got his start — and also beat a cattle rancher

SEE ABBOTT, page 4

Hot races, high stakes on big night for GOP

By CALVIN WOODWARD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Republicans rolled up the string of victories they needed Tuesday night to seize control the Senate, the biggest prize in the midterm elections. North Carolina put them over the top.

This, while seeing two vulnerable GOP governors defeat their challengers in marquee races in Wisconsin and Florida.

Altogether, Republicans needed to gain six seats to win back the Senate majority they lost in 2006. They swiftly achieved that, and maybe more.

THE PATH

Republicans switched West Virginia, South Dakota and Montana to their column, as widely expected, then added Arkansas, where incumbent Democrat Mark Pryor lost a closely fought race.

Colorado made it five pickups, as Democratic incumbent Mark Udall lost to Rep. Cory Gardner.

Meantime Democrats’ push for a turnover in Kentucky failed when GOP Sen. Mitch McConnell won re-election in his closely watched race. And their hopes of seeing an independent defeat Sen. Pat Roberts in

SEE GOP, page 4



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., celebrates Tuesday with his supporters at an election night party in Louisville, Ky.

McLennan stays red

By JON PLATT
REPORTER

McLennan County elections resulted in a Republican-leaning local government.

On Tuesday, McLennan County voters elected many, but not all, of the Republican candidates to local offices.

“We’re really fired up this year to keep Texas red,” said Toby Walker, spokeswoman for the McLennan County Republican Party. “People want jobs, lower taxes and to keep their Texas values. We’ve placed those issues at the top of our concerns.”

One race many watched closely was between the McLennan County District Attorney campaign between incumbent Abel Reyna, a Republican, and attorney Robert Callahan.

The race was kept under the public eye because Callahan campaigned as a write-in candidate and gained a large following of constituents.

Reyna, incumbent district attorney, was elected with 100 per-

SEE MCLENNAN, page 4

Student works on second novel for writing month

By HANNAH NEUMANN
STAFF WRITER

Kingsville senior James Herd, an already published novelist, is using November’s National Novel Writing Month as an opportunity to launch the start of his second book series.

Herd’s first published novel, “I am the Darkness,” is the first book of a planned seven-book series called “The Intermine Legacy,” which he began his sophomore year at Baylor. Herd is now halfway through his second book of the series, which he plans to release between January and March of next year. For this year’s writing month, he will deviate from the series to start on a new one.

According to the National Writing Month organization’s website, the monthlong event values enthusiasm, determination, a deadline and is for anyone who has ever thought fleetingly about writing a

SEE NOVEL, page 4



HANNAH NEUMANN | LARIAT STAFF WRITER

Kingsville senior Jamer Herd participates in National Novel Writing Month by typing up part of a novel for a second series.

Gas prices hit record low since Dec. 2010

By ELLY SPENCER
REPORTER

Gas prices in Central Texas are at the lowest point since December 2010, just in time for holiday and travel.

Texas’ monthly average is at \$2.76 per gallon, according to AAA Texas, and is predicted to go even lower during the coming months.

However, Waco’s average prices this week are even lower than the state’s at \$2.61 per gallon.

“Worldwide demands on gasoline are low, so prices are getting low,” said Tom Kelly, Baylor’s director of the Center for Business and Economic Research.

For the first time in years, the

global supply of gasoline is higher than the demand for the product. Libyan oil production, lower-than-expected demand in Europe and Asia and a new United States oil production has sent provisions soaring.

“The United States’ oil production have outweighed any concerns to geopolitical instability,” said Doug Shupe, AAA senior public affair specialist for Texas and New Mexico.

Shupe said another reason for the recent drop in gas prices is also in part because of a seasonal trend.

“Production for winter-blend gases begin in September,” Shupe said. “This blend doesn’t have to meet the emission standard of the warmer months, making it cheaper.”

SEE GAS, page 4

Red Cross’ response, solutions matter in wake of criticism

Editorial

Hurricane Sandy devastated thousands of people two years ago. The American Red Cross, as in many other disasters, was one of the main responders. The organization had several official endorsements that assured people that it could and would help relieve the affected areas of the East Coast. Even President Barack Obama publicly endorsed the Red Cross, saying that the organization knew what it was doing.

Why, then, did NPR and ProPublica report last week that the Red Cross appeared more concerned with its appearance during the disaster than with actually helping the victims? These news outlets reported that the Red Cross wasted various materials and seemed to want to make its presence known for public relations reasons.

If this is true, which documents and witnesses affirm, then the American Red Cross has disappointed thousands of Americans.

For an organization that wants to help people, it should not be concerned with its image so much as ensuring it is helping to the best of its ability.

According to NPR, the organization struggled to meet the basic needs of victims in the first weeks

after the storms. For any organization, it can be difficult to ensure its help is beneficial in every disaster situation. Even the Red Cross would have some struggle at some point.

But NPR quoted Gail McGovern, the president and CEO, who said, “I think that we are near flawless so far in this operation” two weeks after the storm. Optimism is not and should not be uncommon in the aftermath of a storm. Believing recovery is possible is just one step to actually recovering. However, there is a difference between optimism and misinformation. The country followed the relief efforts after Sandy closely, and to tell Americans that everything is under control when it may not be is wrong.

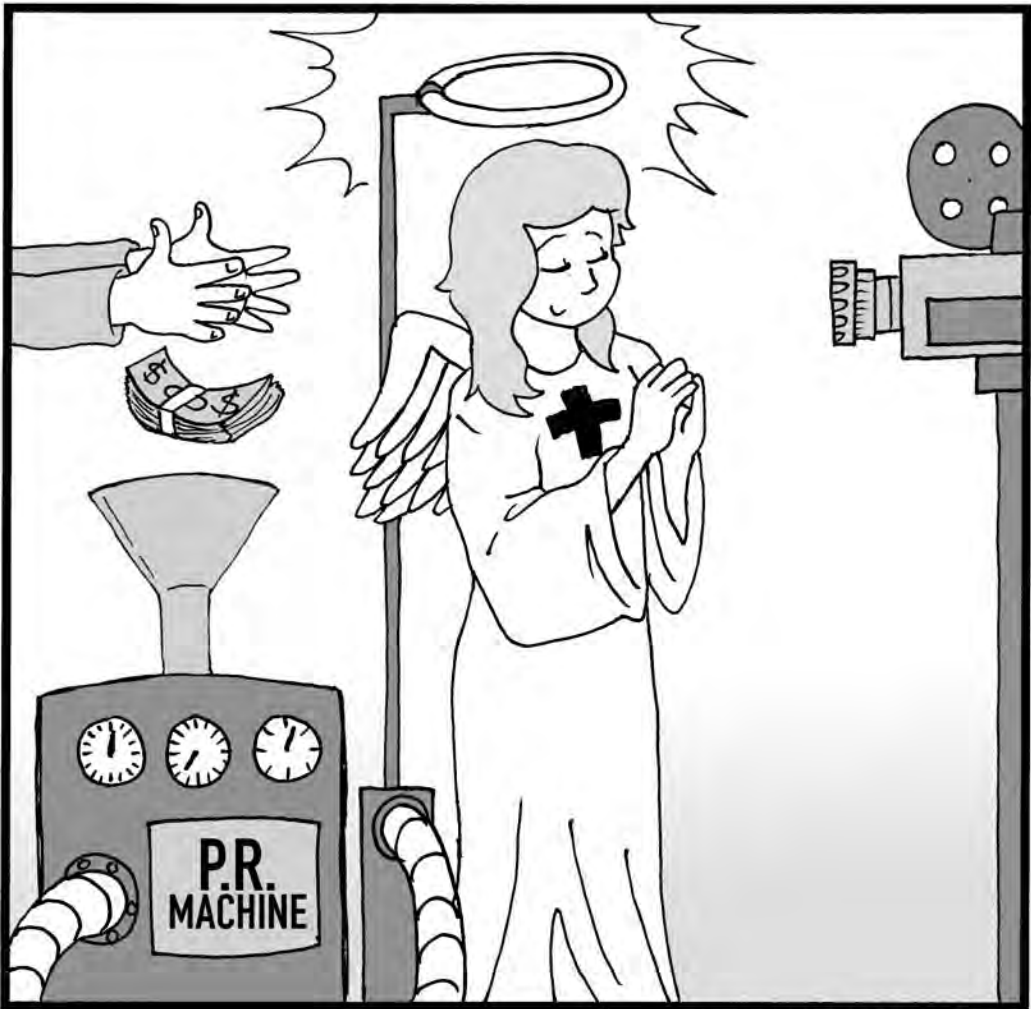
According to a “Lessons Learned” report from the Red Cross, there were several things that went wrong during the Sandy relief efforts. As with any organization, this report documents a meeting to examine what went wrong and what went right during an event. The Red Cross also included suggestions on how to fix the problems for future disasters, which is something NPR did not report.

One problem was that the Red Cross staff on site did not know the procedures to follow when it came to sex offenders. The offenders

were dispersed all over the dorm, when they should have been allotted to a particular area. In addition, the Red Cross mentions failures to keep up with food distribution. There were problems tracking the food made by volunteers. In one case, there was an entire trailer of food left to waste “that no one knew about until we got the bill.”

Then, many emergency response vehicles arrived on scene empty, instead of with life essential items such as snacks, water, etc. The Red Cross also pushed items into areas where they were not needed, mainly because the Red Cross was not aware of the actual need.

Some of the problems NPR cites are not actually a direct result of problems with the Red Cross. For example, the distribution of food was not efficient. The report states that the “state took too long on decision of kitchen locations,” which caused the loss of over three days of hot food deliveries. In this case, it appears to be the state’s fault. The Red Cross mentions the state several times in the report. It seems the Red Cross assumed the state would play a bigger role in coordinating the relief efforts. When the state did not, the Red Cross was left to figure out what needed doing on its own, which led to miscommunication and poor resource allotment.



ASHER FREEMAN

Then, there are always considerations for first-time volunteers who may not have known every procedure. There was a surplus of volunteers, so many that the Red Cross did not know where and who they were or when they needed food or shelter. The report states that many volunteers just went home because they did not have food or a place to stay.

While there were many more issues the Red Cross raised on its performance during Sandy, there were just as many solutions the Red Cross proposed to solve its own problems. Some may say

the Red Cross is experienced and should have known how to handle a disaster from the get-go. This is a valid argument. Much of what the Red Cross states as solutions are things that should have already been worked out. However, every disaster is different and not every plan will work for every relief effort.

At this point, it’s obvious the Red Cross made many errors in disaster relief. However, it seems the organization has examined what went wrong and should be prepared to avoid these mistakes in the future. Overall, the organi-

zation did help people in the disaster and continues to help in various locations all over the nation. In this case, the problems the Red Cross caused and endured were publicized. The Red Cross should take this opportunity to admit its failings, but also promote its solutions, assuring people that it has taken the time to implement the changes it generated.

The Red Cross is not a perfect organization. It will fail. However, it’s how the Red Cross moves forward from this criticism and issues that will define how people view the Red Cross in the future.

Relax, it’s National Stress Awareness Day!

How do you handle stress?

At the Lariat, we know stress. Meeting deadlines, balancing school work and a job, working all hours of the day and night and a lack of sleep can certainly take its toll by way of stress.

In honor of National Stress Awareness Day, members of the Lariat staff and the reporting class shared how they deal with stress on a daily basis. Can you identify with any of us? Share how you handle stress on Twitter to @bulariat.

“I get a Baja Blast from Taco Bell while listening to Tuesday by iLoveMakonnen.” - Kevin Freeman, photographer

“I reenact the scene from Footloose where Kevin Bacon angry dances around the warehouse and that always perks me right up.” - Julia Eckardt, reporter

“I like to handle stress by going to the SLC and playing basketball or working out. I feel it’s constructive to utilize a few of your favorite things in order to deal with the stress of school and everyday life.” - Ryan Finn, reporter

“If I’m feeling stressed out, I get in my car and I blast my favorite songs and sing along until I’ve forgotten what I was worried about. Then I worry about my empty gas tank.” - Paula Ann Solis, city editor

“I eat a lot. After that I start to think about what to have for my next meal. Yes, I have to stay alive till the next meal!” - Viola Zhou, reporter

“I don’t.” - Shehan Jeyarajah, sports editor



“When I get stressed I cook and then clean. It’s nice to see tangible results when I feel out of control.” - Sara-Katherine Johnson, reporter

“I’ve found an awesome stress outlet in yoga and running. It’s great to be able to do something productive and healthy for myself instead of turning to my normal junk food binge or Netflix marathons.” - Elly Spencer, reporter

“If I just need to unwind, I’ll brew a nice cup of peppermint tea. However, when I need to shake off the hater, I jam to T. Swift, of course.” - Jon Platt, reporter

“When I need to relieve some stress, I do one of two things: 1) grab my Nintendo 3DS and play Super Smash Bros., or 2) grab my laptop and play some games on Steam. Stress relieved in no time! Fun fact: I also do that when I’m not stressed.” - Jeffrey Swindoll, sports writer

“I like to let stress out by playing video games, talking to my girlfriend or taking a nap, when I have time. I am also very fond of tubs of ice cream.” - Sergio Legorreta, reporter

“I handle stress by stopping to think what I can and can’t do at the time. Whatever I can do, I make sure to do it. Whatever I can’t, I just stop worrying about it. Things tend to work out in the end anyway!” - Abby Loop, staff writer

“I work well under pressure, but I try not to push things off to where I’m crying in a corner. I usually play tennis or volleyball to ease my stress and after that, I do my favorite hobby: sleep.” - Cody Soto, sports writer

“Playing with animals, especially cats, is always good.” - Linda Wilkins, editor-in-chief

Facts about Stress

- Stress affects the mind, body, health and well-being.
- Unmanaged stress can lead to an increase in health problems - both mental and physical.
- Obesity, illness, diabetes, heart disease, depression and other anxiety disorders are problems affected and potentially increased by stress.
- Getting enough sleep can reduce stress.
- To reduce stress, avoid caffeine and energy drinks. Did you know it’s possible to overdose on caffeine?
- 44 percent of Americans feel more stressed than they did five years ago
- Work stress causes to percent of strokes.
- Three out of four doctor’s visits are for stress-related ailments.

Sources: Health Education Center, The American Institute of Stress

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CARLYE THORNTON | LARIAT PHOTO EDITOR

I won’t turn a blind eye to the oppressed

When I think about my time here at Baylor, I think about a whirlwind of incredible experiences: listening to Sandra Day O’Connor speak, cheering on an amazing football team and consuming copious amounts of spicy jalapeno dip at Chuy’s. But I also think about that gnawing question: What in the world am I going to do after I leave here?

Although the question is the quickest way to get any senior’s heart pounding and palms sweating, I, like many of you, have several ways I could answer it. I could look for a job in politics, I could stop toying with the idea and just apply to law school, I could go to Europe or Asia and teach English. I have choices.

But the question of what I could do after graduation actually has a second part – what should I do? And as I turned each choice over in my head, none of them felt quite right.

The truth is, I lead a pretty privileged life. As overwhelmed as I feel knowing I have so many post-graduate choices, I also know I’m incredibly lucky. I worked hard to get to and through college and faced struggles along the way, but I went to a high school where kids were expected to graduate and we had plenty of extra support and resources to help us plan our next chapters.

Whenever I needed support, I never had to look



Hannah Adams | Senior

far. And it wasn’t just my family and teachers that encouraged me.

Examples of successful people who look like me were all around, from the people I saw on campus during college visits to the majority of government leaders and actors I watch on TV. Everywhere I turned, society told me I could be successful.

But I know that the same isn’t true for kids all across the country. When I was growing up, I couldn’t wait to wear a college hoodie or lug important-looking philosophy books across a picturesque campus.

But too many kids lack the opportunity to even imagine a fulfilling future for themselves.

That in no way reflects kids’ capabilities. It’s a result of deeply entrenched systems of oppression that have denied low-income kids equal access to opportunity for decades.

I know that I can use my experiences to help kids battling these odds imagine an ambitious future they define for themselves, and make that future a reality.

More importantly, I believe I should.

I applied to Teach For America because I believe that privilege is an undeserved gift, but also a responsibility. I didn’t have a summer in Italy, the chance to help a professor with research for a book and an unending supply of Starbucks coffees because I earned them. I had all that because I was born into the re-

sources and support I needed to secure them.

I want to be part of both creating a more just system – both through my own efforts and those of the students I can’t wait to meet.

I didn’t decide to teach because I think I’m going to be a hero. This work will be incredibly challenging and I will have to push myself harder than I ever have to give my students the education they deserve. I will need to learn from the parents, teachers and community members who have been working toward justice and equity long before I arrived.

But I don’t want a job that lets me turn a blind eye to the injustice kids face every day. I want one that forces me to feel uncomfortable and outraged as I look injustice in the face and fight it with all my heart.

I want one that holds me accountable for the injustices that plague our communities – because, although I did not create them, I’d still bear responsibility if, knowing them, I chose not to act.

When I become a Teach For America corps member after graduation, I’ll be joining a network of more than 47,000 people working relentlessly to make access to opportunity equitable. It’s a network of leaders vastly diverse in background and experience, working across sectors to create change.

But we are all united around the fundamental belief that a quality education is not a privilege – it is a right.

We can fight to ensure all students get to enjoy that right. As you think about what in the world you’re going to do after you leave here, I hope you’ll join us.

Hannah Adams is a senior University Scholar at Baylor. She is also the President of The Pulse Research Journal and a 2014 Tri Delta Sing Chair.

Opinion

The Baylor Lariat welcomes reader viewpoints through letters to the editor and guest columns. Opinions expressed in the Lariat are not necessarily those of the Baylor administration, the Baylor Board of Regents or the Student Publications Board.

Editorials, Columns & Letters

Editorials express the opinions of the Lariat Editorial Board. Lariat letters and columns are the opinions of an individual and not the Baylor Lariat.

Lariat Letters

To submit a Lariat Letter, fill out the Letter to the Editor form at baylorlariat.com/contact-information. Letters should be a maximum of 300 words. The letter is not guaranteed to be published.

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Kurds help IS militants

By BASSEM MROUE
QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIRUT — Ethnic Kurds are helping members of the Islamic State group in the battle for the key Syrian Kurdish town of Kobani, sharing their knowledge of the local terrain and language with the extremists, according to Iraqi and Kurdish officials.

It is not clear how many Kurds are aiding the estimated 3,000 Islamic State militants in the Kobani area — and fighting against their own Kurdish brethren — but activists say they are playing a major role in the 7-week-old conflict near the Turkish border.

A top military commander for the extremists in the town is an Iraqi Kurd, known by the nom de guerre of Abu Khattab al-Kurdi, helping them in the battle against fellow Kurds.

Officials with the main Syrian Kurdish force known as the People's Protection Units, or YPG, say they became aware of the Kurds among the mostly Sunni Muslim extremists early in the fighting.

As Kurdish fighters were defending the nearby Syrian village of Shiran in September, two Kurdish men with different accents and wearing YPG uniforms infiltrated their ranks, Kurdish officials said. Upon questioning, however, they were captured and admitted to fighting for the Islamic State group, the officials added.

Iraqi and Kurdish officials say many of the Kurdish fighters with the Islamic State group are from the northeastern Iraqi town of



In this Oct. 30 file photo, Iraqi Kurdish peshmerga fighters stand at a staging area across from the Syrian town of Kobani.

Halabja, which was bombed with chemical weapons by Saddam Hussein's forces in 1988, killing some 5,000 people.

Shorsh Hassan, a YPG spokesman in Kobani, said although most of the Kurdish jihadi fighters come from Iraq, some are from Syrian regions such as Kobani, Afrin and Jazeera. He added that the number of Syrian Kurds is small compared with the dozens of Iraqis fighting with the IS group.

"The fighter who is from Kobani is not like someone who hails from Chechnya with no idea about tracks and roads," he said.

Thousands of militants from all over the world have traveled to Syria and Iraq to join the ranks of the Islamic State group. Turkish nationals are among them, but it is unknown if any are fighting in Kobani.

Hassan said many of the Iraqi fighters were from Halabja, including al-Kurdi. Websites affiliated with the Islamic State group

recently published several photographs of the young, bearded man, including some of him wearing the traditional Kurdish garb of baggy pants, and others of him standing in front of Kurds killed in Kobani.

An Iraqi security official said al-Kurdi is also from Halabja and is wanted by Iraqi authorities. He refused to give the man's real name when pressed.

"Our latest information is that he is in Syria fighting in the Kobani area. He is an expert in mountainous areas," the Iraqi official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

"He is commanding the Kurdish group within Daesh because he is a Kurd," he added, using an Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group.

In the past three decades, Muslim preachers have become active and have turned it into one of Iraqi Kurdistan's most religiously

conservative areas. Still, most of the Kurds are moderate and secular-leaning Muslims. Many Kurds in Iraq were stunned when they learned that Kiwan Mohammed, the 25-year-old goalkeeper of Halabja's soccer team, was killed last month in Syria while fighting for the Islamic State group in Kobani.

Dana Jalal, an Iraqi journalist who follows jihadi groups, said the Iraqi athlete left Syria in July 2013 and had not been heard of until his death.

Some 70 Iraqi Kurds, mostly from Halabja, went to fight in Syria with the Islamic State group, Jalal said.

Nawaf Khalil, the Europe-based spokesman for Syria's powerful Kurdish Democratic Union Party, said Kurdish fighters within the Islamic State group are invaluable in the Kobani battle because they know the geography, as well as the language and the mentality of fellow Kurds.

United CFO to share advice

By BROOKS WHITEHURST
REPORTER

John Rainey, chief financial officer of United Airlines, is scheduled to share business insights with students today as part of the First Wednesday series hosted by the Hankamer School of Business' professional development program.

Rainey said he plans to discuss changes in the airline industry that have progressed over the last two decades, how students can maximize their Baylor education and how to succeed in a future career.

The event will be at 5 p.m. in 510 Cashion Academic Center.

Rainey received his bachelor's degree and master's in business administration from Baylor in 1993 and 1995, respectively. He said that he hopes to show students what it takes to be successful.

"I want to convey to students that careers don't just happen to people," he said. "You have to go make them happen."

Rainey said that with students' lack of experience, it can be hard to know what success looks like, but that he hopes to give students a more realistic perspective.

"What it takes to be successful is very different than what is often portrayed," Rainey said. "How you treat people has just as much to do with being successful as anything you'll learn in a book."



John Rainey

Houston junior Pearson Brown said that he's excited to hear Rainey speak because he is an example of just how far a Baylor education can take someone.

"It's really exciting because it shows that a Baylor education is limitless," Brown said. "A Baylor education means that you can take your career all the way to the top."

Brown is a member of the Hankamer School of Business professional development committee and extended the initial invitation to Rainey to have him come and speak.

"We were looking for someone who catered to all fields of business, someone who had a proven track record of success," he said.

Brown said that he thinks Rainey will motivate students to take an active role in preparing themselves for a future career.

"Students are going to see ways to further themselves professionally," Brown said. "They'll also hear about motivating themselves for their careers and how to aim high early on."

Rainey said that he will share experiences from his own life that shaped him into the businessman he is today, along with leadership principles that make for a successful college graduate.

"I was a regular kid from a rice farming community near Houston, and now I get to be the CFO of a fortune 100 company," Rainey said. "I think there's a recipe for success there."

Hall leaves Baylor

By ABIGAIL LOOP
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Ken Hall, Baylor's senior vice president for university development and strategic initiatives, will no longer serve as a member of the Baylor community, according to an announcement by Baylor President and Chancellor Ken Starr.

Starr sent an email Tuesday evening informing Baylor's faculty and staff of Hall's departure. Starr wrote that Hall was a great asset to the Baylor campus, a wise counselor to his executive counsel colleagues and that his position on the Presidential Search Committee is what led Starr to becoming Baylor's 14th president.

"He effectively reorganized and refocused our University Development office, and his en-

ergy and creativity have helped Baylor reach historic milestones in private giving," Starr wrote in the email.

Starr went on to write that even though Hall is leaving, the University Development office is still capable and leadership in the department is still strong.

According to a report made by Baylor Media Communications, Hall was involved in the Baylor Board of Regents and also served as chair of the Advisory Committee to the Presidential Search Committee. He was hired as the senior vice president for university development and strategic initiatives in 2012.

Lori Fogleman, assistant vice president for media communications, said no comment was available at the moment regarding the possible refilling of Hall's position.



Voters complete their ballots inside a polling center on Election Day Tuesday in Boulder, Colo. Colorado's close Senate race not only could determine the balance of power in the U.S. Senate, but also whether Republicans can say they have a viable future in similar swing states.

Voter mood cranky yet hopeful

By JENNIFER C. KERR
ASSOCIATED PRESS

With the U.S. Senate at stake, millions of voters went to the polls Tuesday with a mix of concern about the nation's future, skepticism about gridlock in Washington, and, for some, a little enthusiasm about the day.

Voters in Illinois, Kansas, North Carolina and elsewhere registered dissatisfaction with the choices on the ballot, saying they picked the best candidate they could in a cast of some so-so choices.

Others expressed disgust about Washington stalemate, saying change is desperately needed to shake up the nation's capital — whether it is a shift to solid GOP control of Congress or a president who takes a harder line with the opposition.

Others, such as Janet Saint-Aubin of Danville, California, weren't quite so cranky at all on Election Day. Saint-Aubin said she liked voting because it's "fun."

Some quotes from around the nation.

BEST OF A HO-HUM CHOICE:

- In the closely-watched Kansas Senate race, Ron Buck, a 44-year-old independent, self-employed roofing contractor from Fairway voted for Republican Sen. Pat Roberts. Buck said of the candidates on the ballot: "They both seem kind of like leftovers you don't want to eat, but he (Roberts) just seems a little bit better. I'm not crazy about either of them. I wouldn't give either of them money."

- George Butler voted for

GOP congressional candidate Tom MacArthur in Toms River, New Jersey, but said he wished for better options.

"The Republicans are too much to the right, and the Democrats are too much to the left," Butler said.

WASHINGTON SHAKE-UP:

- Julie English, a 54-year-old office manager, mailed her ballot in the Denver suburb of Arvada. She described herself as a conservative independent who voted for all of Colorado's Republican candidates, hoping it would help turn control of the Senate to the GOP.

"It's gone far to the left," said English. "Under this administration, it's totally going the opposite of what this country is founded on."

Yearbook Portraits!

November 4-7
9 a.m. to 6 p.m
CUB of the
Bill Daniel
Student Center

Get Your Pictures Taken Now!

Students are encouraged to schedule their appointments online, but walk-ins are welcome. Sign up at thorntonstudio.com using school code 03545.

The remaining portrait sessions are for all classes, including seniors.

Worship Weekly

Find peace. Find Love. Find a home away from home.
Look for our Worship Weekly section every Wednesday to find Answers.

Join us for free food and fellowship!

Today at **6:30**

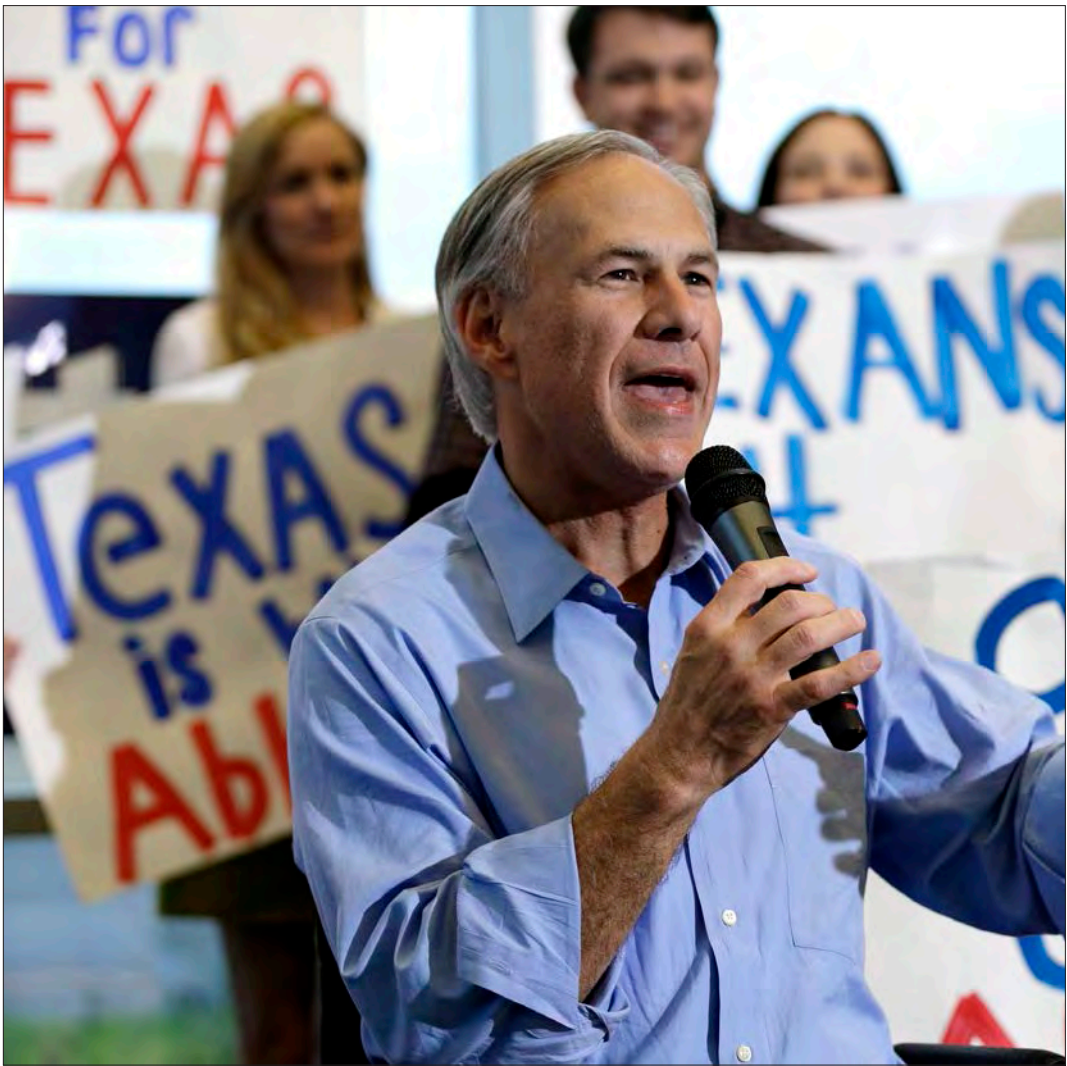
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Or email nathan_burrow@baylor.edu

Let the Baylor Lariat help you welcome the Baylor community to your congregation.

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

Texas Attorney General and Republican candidate for governor Greg Abbott speaks during a campaign stop Monday in Austin, Texas.

who was the Democratic nominee simply because the party didn't put up any other candidate. It helps explain why Texas Democrats haven't won an elected statewide office in 20 years, the longest such losing streak in the nation. Yet that Texas Democrats would wheeze to Election Day and not measurably close the gap seemed inconceivable just 17 months ago when Davis became a national sensation with a nearly 13-hour filibuster over Texas abortion restrictions and catapulted her

own political career on a new trajectory. Nearly a quarter-century after spitfire Ann Richards was elected Texas' last Democratic governor, the party saw similarities in Davis: a charismatic candidate with the ability to energize a sagging base and fund raise prolifically nationwide. But the race with Abbott was never really close. Davis struggled with strategy and the press early, changed campaign managers during the summer and aired risky television spots

come fall, including one that highlighted Abbott's use of a wheelchair that made even some Democrats wince. She kept Obama at arm's length for nearly a year then welcomed him in the final stretch in hope of energizing Democrats. By the end, Abbott had a 3-to-1 advantage in cash to bury whatever hopes remained of Davis' chances. "This whole flipping Texas blue thing sounds good. I would love that," said Russell Dreyer, 33, a former firefighter near Austin who voted for Davis. "But this is Texas."

McLennan from Page 1

cent of precincts reporting, according to reports from the McLennan County website. Reyna with 83.8 percent. "We're thrilled Abel won by such a large margin," Walker said. Another closely watched contest was for McLennan County district clerk, which was between Republican John Gimble, an intelligence analyst, and incumbent Karen Matkin, a Democrat. Gimble defeated Matkin by a margin of 2.4 percent, according to reports from McLennan County. "If Matkin lost to a guy with only a few accounting courses from MCC, when she's a very qualified lawyer, we're probably back at ground zero," said Mary Duty, party chair for McLennan County Democrats. "I'm absolutely devastated at the loss of Matkin. It's a sad

day when unqualified people are elected to office." The McLennan County justice of the peace for precinct one, place one race was also on many voters' radar. This justice of the peace's governance includes Baylor University. Republican Dianne Hensley was elected to this position, trumping Democrat Adam Byrd and Libertarian Gary Cunha, according to reports from McLennan County. Democrat Freddie Cantu defeated Republican Sal Romero by 7.6 percent in the race for the position of precinct five's constable, the information McLennan County reported. Matkin said it is now her party's job to assess the numbers from this election and create a plan for the election in 2016. She also said her

party would be holding the newly elected officials highly accountable. "We're officially all red," Matkin said. "I guess it won't be the Democratic Party you blame. We have no one to look to buy our Republican friends." Also on the ballot was a constitutional amendment, called Proposition Number One. The approved proposition allocates more funding to the repair and restructuring of Texas infrastructure. The state released a list of over 1,700 roadways that needed repair. One of the roads included in the report was Valley Mills Drive. Proposition Number One was approved in McLennan County, according to reports from McLennan County.

GOP from Page 1

Kansas — one possible path to keeping Democrats in charge of the Senate — came to nothing. Then came North Carolina, the most expensive Senate race in the nation. Republican Thom Tillis beat Democratic incumbent Sen. Kay Hagan to clinch Senate control for the GOP. Voters also were picking a new House of Representatives, choosing governors in three dozen states and deciding more than 100 ballot measures. Democrats entered the night with a 53-45 Senate majority, plus two independents who usually have supported them. Thirty-six seats were contested. Senators serve six-year terms, meaning those elected Tuesday will serve through the next president's first term. Outstanding races held further possibilities for the GOP, Alaska and Louisiana among them. They failed in New Hampshire, where Democrat Jeanne Shaheen held off a high-profile challenge from Republican Scott Brown. Democrats had hoped to see Republicans defeated in Georgia as well as Kansas but the GOP held on.

IN THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE Republicans now hold a 234-201 majority in the House. Every election puts all 435 House seats in play. No one doubts the GOP will keep control of that chamber; the question is how many seats they'll gain. Some two dozen Democrats, along with four Republicans, are seen as vulnerable. If Republicans defeat the most endangered Democratic incumbents and win open seats in North Carolina, Utah and New York, they might end the night with as many as 246 seats, the most for the party since World War II.

AT THE STATEHOUSE The GOP is defending 22 governor's seats, Democrats 14.

Many of the nation's incumbent state CEOs were vulnerable, more so than usual. A half-dozen Republican governors who swept into office, some with tea party support, in 2010 faced fierce challenges in the campaign. Among them: GOP Gov. Sam Brownback in solidly Republican Kansas. But another, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, on the ballot for the third time in four years, defeated Democratic challenger Mary Burke. That cleared a huge hurdle for Walker as he prepares for a possible run for the Republican presidential nomination in 2016. Democrats and their labor allies had salivated at the prospect of defeating the governor who effectively ended collective bargaining for most public workers in the state after his election in 2010. In Florida, GOP Gov. Rick Scott also held on to office in the nation's largest swing state despite a strong challenge from Democrat Charlie Crist, a former GOP governor who changed parties to run for his old job. But in Pennsylvania, GOP Gov. Tom Corbett fell to Democrat Tom Wolf. Several Democrats entered the day struggling to win election, most notably in reliably blue New England. Topping that list is Martha Coakley, who ought to be a shoo-in as a Democrat in Massachusetts. But the state's attorney general, who also lost a bid for Senate in 2010, could fall to Republican Charlie Baker.

VOTING HICCUPS Voters experienced sporadic glitches but there were no immediate signs of anything serious enough to affect the outcome of an election. Virginia officials reported problems with 32 machines that prevented voters from immediately casting accurate ballots. A

Georgia website designed to help voters locate polling places directed many users instead to an error messages. A Connecticut judge ordered two polling places in Hartford to stay open a half hour late. Crist's campaign for Florida governor filed a motion to extend voting by two hours in Broward County. It was denied.

TURNOUT Americans historically vote in lower numbers in midterm elections than when motivated by a presidential race. Both parties used sophisticated methods to find and recruit voters from the 2008 and 2012 campaigns. Democrats had the most at stake, since their voters are more likely to drop off in a midterm. There were signs the strategy was working. More than 20 million people in 35 states had voted in advance, either in person or by mail, according to figures compiled as of early afternoon Tuesday.

MORE RACES TO WATCH In Connecticut, Democratic Gov. Dannel Malloy and Republican Thomas Foley are in rematch of their 2010 race, which Malloy won by fewer than 6,500 votes. In Colorado: Democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper and Republican Bob Beauprez were in a tight race going into Election Day.

ALSO ON THE BALLOT Among nearly 150 ballot measures being decided Tuesday: legalization of recreational marijuana use in Alaska, Washington, D.C., and Oregon. Anti-abortion measures in Colorado, North Dakota and Tennessee. Labeling requirements for certain genetically modified foods in Colorado and Oregon.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

McConnell won a sixth term in Washington, with his eyes on the larger prize of GOP control of the Senate.

Gas from Page 1



SKYE DUNCAN | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

The average gas price in Waco is lower than the state average of \$2.76 per gallon, with this week's average at \$2.61.

While a drop in gas prices might normally mean more opportunity for traveling, it is the decrease in traveling during autumn months that also produces a reduced price at the pump, Shupe said. "They're normally cheaper after a busy summer traveling season and a future winter traveling season," Shupe said. Cheaper gas prices also means good news for the economy, at both the local and national level, Kelly said. "The lower prices allow people to buy other things," Kelly said. Kelly said there has been a 7-8 percent boost in Waco's local re-

tailer sales in the recent months. Baylor students are now free to make more traveling plans for the holidays, instead of the normal option of airlines. "I recently drove to St. Louis," said Wamego, Kan., senior Bailey Bettencourt. "It was so much cheaper than the ticket I could've flown with." In the coming weeks, Central Texas drivers should expect gas prices to stay low, Shupe said. "Motorists could expect to pay even less in the coming weeks," he said. "Many analysts believe that prices will go down, barring any major disputes."

Novel from Page 1

novel. On Nov. 1, participants started working toward the goal of writing a novel by the end of the month, using the site to fuel their determination. The Waco community chapter of National Novel Writing Month, who call themselves the Waco Wrimos, has 586 members each currently working to meet a Nov. 31 deadline for their own novel completion and will participate in events together throughout the next few weeks to review and critique each other's work. Herd said the challenge is to write 50,000 words for a novel by the end of the month. "They always say that the goal isn't necessarily to get a publishable novel in that month, but just to get something done," Herd said. "As the information age progresses, people are reading less and less, but I have a feeling we can reverse it and make books and creativity a thing again, and I think part of National Novel

Writing Month's goal is supporting that process and that hobby." Herd said he encourages anyone who shares his passion to join the National Novel Writing Month community and accept the challenge this month. "I know a lot of people don't have the time and it's not exactly feasible to devote all of your time to writing a novel," Herd said. "But I still strongly encourage everyone to get involved and with Waco having their own group, people can get in contact with other writers and have that peer system going on. It's a lot of fun to write something and have someone else critique it. Especially when they really know what they're talking about." Baylor alumnus David Umstattd said while of course a person doesn't have to be part of the National Novel Writing Month community to write a novel, it is a very useful tool for the process. "The big reason is not only the

community aspect but also the establishment," he said. "It's almost more of a custom and it makes writing a novel not only more exciting but also easier, psychologically." Umstattd also said he attributes a lot of his passion in writing to his time at Baylor, including one of his common subjects, Anime. According to the Anime-world website, Anime is a style of animation originating in Japan that is characterized by stark colorful graphics in action-filled plots often with fantastic or futuristic themes. "I was exposed to a lot of great writing in my Baylor academic career," he said. "Aside from my Great Texts courses, which have been really helpful, I found Anime at Baylor, which, over time, I've started to consider the greatest literary art form of the modern era." For the National Writing Month contest, Herd will write

the first book of a new potential series called "From Atop the Tower of Babel." "Essentially the idea is that in the near future, America is taken over and reformed into more of a republic of nations that consists of Canada, North America and South America," he said. "It's that against Europe and there's a whole political history plot going on. It'll be interesting to dabble in this new project." Herd said his end goal, whether it be for his first series, the series he is now beginning to create or anything he writes in the future, is to bring his characters to life. "Whenever I was little, and even to this day, I find that I have the most creative process when I'm alone in my room and in my head I go through these dialogue conversations for characters," he said. "I feel like I have a duty to make these characters' stories known."

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Alum fosters talent for Sing, Pigskin

By Madison Miller
Reporter

Behind All-University Sing and Pigskin acts is one man who is instrumental to the event's execution: musical arranger Jason Young. After 30 years, Young has seen so many acts that he's convinced he knows the formula for an act that can win it all.

What do you do for Baylor in regards to Pigskin and Sing?

I don't work directly for Baylor. Instead, I work directly with each group to make sure that the music aspect of Sing comes off as smoothly as possible. Practically speaking, I meet with the groups to help them develop their ideas, select and refine songs, work out order, cuts, and flow and generally help structure the act in a way that feels organic. It needs to pull the audience along emotionally and sound like it is the most natural thing in the world. However, actually making this happen can sometimes be very hard since the songs often fight with each other and have to be reordered, recut or changed to fit. It's a difficult process to make it work sometimes.

Why does this work intrigue you so much?

The more I compose and arrange, the more I realize what an amazing vehicle music is for touching the emotions of an audience. Putting two completely different songs next to each other in order to get a distinct emotional reaction is fascinating to me. It's a huge challenge finding that magic spark that communicates in just the right way. When it's done right, it feels natural and obvious and I'm always proud to see it work. We don't really have words in the English language that tap into these concepts in a satisfying way. But seeing this, well, numinous thing happening in the combination of the songs is always pretty thrilling to me. Yes, I used numinous in a sentence.

How many years have you been working as an arranger?

I have been arranging for Sing since 1991, so the Sing 2015 show



SKYE DUNCAN | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

Jason Young helps Baylor students prepare for the annual musical events All-University Sing and Pigskin. Young helps the musical groups develop ideas, select song order and structure the acts. Young began arranging for Sing in 1991 and completed his 300th Sing act this year.

will mark 24 years. Just this year I completed my 300th Sing act. I am pretty proud of that.

Do you have a favorite Sing or Pigskin act?

Well, the audience never sees the dead ends that we went down during the six to nine months we're developing a show. They only see the final result. But often there will be successful acts that were just incredibly difficult to make work. Polishing a difficult act to where it shines is extremely satisfying. I will admit that some of my favorite music arrangements haven't been the best from a Pigskin, no Pigskin standpoint.

But I can still sit back and smile because the musical aspects worked so well. The other thing that most people don't realize is that, of all the people in Waco Hall, I don't actually watch much of the act. I'm head-down in the music, giving cues and making sure that the band holds together. So often people will ask me what I thought and I'll have to tell them that I actually didn't watch much of the show.

How and when did you decided to pursue a career as an arranger?

In 1987, when I was a senior in high school, I saw a video-

tape of this thing called Sing at Baylor. When I came here as a freshman the next year, I was assigned as the Pit Troll in Waco Hall. The Pit Troll gives the band cues at the start of the act and then helps communicate between the pit and the rest of the Waco Hall technical crew. In 1991, I wrote some music for my friend Jane Hampton's student choir. She loved the Christmas carol arrangement I had done and called me one day to ask if I would be their Sing arranger. I said yes and the rest is pretty much history. In one way or another I've been involved with Sing for almost 30 years now. It's crazy.

What is your favorite part of your job?

Far and away, working with the students and helping them develop their leadership skills is my very favorite thing to do. I love writing music and creating the acts, and it's a ton of fun to help develop the show, but sharing the journey and process of Sing. That I get to use my God given skills in music and all this experience I have accumulated is a giant blessing in my life that I never, ever take for granted. I'm incredibly grateful.

What do you consider to be the hardest part of your job?

Knowing that everybody works equally hard but not everybody will win or go to Pigskin is difficult. There are a lot of hours put in by everybody and it's tough to see good acts not get picked for Pigskin. Usually, the perspective of time helps the chairs when they become alumni, though. Seeing Pigskin this past weekend and knowing that we'll never see those acts again is also very bitter sweet.

What is the most important thing you look for in a Sing or Pigskin act?

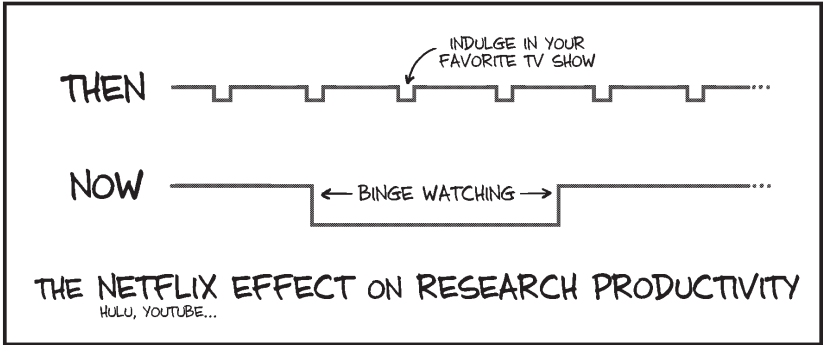
You need good music obviously. You also need great vocal talent on stage. But more and more I'm convinced that what makes a successful act is confidence and a strong work ethic. The Sing chairs have to know that they have put their all into the development of the act and that the act is good enough, and then they have to communicate that confidence to the rest of the group and get them on board. If the group doesn't catch the vision and enthusiasm and commit to the work then a great act will go nowhere. But if you have a huge work ethic and sense of confidence as leaders, and can get the rest of your organization to pull for you, well, I'm convinced that this is a secret to success. And it applies far beyond Sing as well, which is something I'm trying to communicate to the chairs. The lessons they learn in Sing are the same ones that they'll use once they graduate and go on to other things.

How much longer do you plan on keeping your current post?

As long as I can. It's funny, but I didn't feel like I got really good at this until somewhere around year 15. Really. I'm finally hitting my stride. As long as the groups want to keep working with me, and as long as Baylor is happy with my contribution. I hope to be around. The show keeps improving and I hope to keep right on improving with it. We've got a great leadership team in place and the show is running really smoothly. It's a pleasure to be a part of it.



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DAILY PUZZLES

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- Across
- 1 Makeup or final
 - 5 Olympics segment
 - 10 Elaborate dance
 - 14 Golf clinic topic
 - 15 "The Lincoln Lawyer" actress Marisa
 - 16 With 41-Across, plant source of cosmetic additives
 - 17 Rowboat pair
 - 18 Hot-looking dude
 - 20 GPS part: Abbr.
 - 21 Yeses in Congress
 - 22 Labor day arrival?
 - 23 Powerful engine
 - 25 650, to Augustus
 - 26 Unsavory-sounding Cajun side
 - 31 Does a general's job
 - 35 "Be that ___ may ..."
 - 36 Work in the cockpit
 - 38 ___-de-sac
 - 39 Maker of the Air Max athletic shoe
 - 40 Rich cake
 - 41 See 16-Across
 - 42 Extremity sporting a ring, maybe
 - 43 Lyricist Johnny
 - 44 "Terrible" ruler
 - 45 Come next
 - 47 Taiwanese LPGA star who is the youngest golfer to win five major championships
 - 49 '60s militant campus gp.
 - 51 Fax button
 - 52 Slacks measure
 - 55 It's cut before dealing
 - 58 Most like it hot
 - 60 Nook Tablet rival
 - 62 Angler's artificial fly, e.g.
 - 63 Monogram ltr.
 - 64 Yuppies co-founder Hoffman
 - 65 Major exporter of handmade carpets
 - 66 "What did I ___ deserve this?"
 - 67 Takes a chance on
 - 68 Country, and word that can be appended to the three-letter ending of 18-, 26-, 47- or 60-Across
- Down
- 1 Self-perceptions
 - 2 One of Superman's powers

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- 3 Bombing attacks
- 4 AWOL pursuers
- 5 Online marketplace for handmade goods
- 6 Cast a ballot
- 7 Flightless birds
- 8 Actor Beatty
- 9 Like a mouse
- 10 Confuse
- 11 A, in radio code
- 12 Pork cut
- 13 Pre-Easter season
- 19 Ben or Sam
- 21 "___ luck?"
- 24 Suffix with kitchen
- 26 "Inferno" poet
- 27 Hourly charge
- 28 Old piano key material
- 29 About, in dates

- 30 Moth-___: tattered
- 32 Pet detective of film
- 33 "Hungry Like the Wolf" rockers
- 34 "Hit the road" or "hit the books"
- 37 Actress Hatcher
- 41 Workbench clamp
- 43 Reward for a hero
- 46 At ease with
- 48 "Shame on you!"
- 50 Eyeliner problem
- 52 "Just joking"
- 53 Boy, in Bogotá
- 54 Bad mood
- 55 "That's mine!"
- 56 '70s-'80s heartthrob Estrada
- 57 So-so grades
- 59 Curve in the road
- 61 G-man's org.
- 62 "___ Abner"

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Difficulty: Difficult

Lady Bears power past MSU 99-56

By JEFFREY SWINDOLL
SPORTS WRITER

In the dawn of a new era for Baylor women's basketball, the No. 8 Lady Bears downed Midwestern State University 99-56 in an exhibition game at the Ferrell Center on Tuesday night. For many newcomers to the team, the game was a chance to get valuable playing time before the regular season. For head coach Kim Mulkey, it was an opportunity to test her players in different spots on the floor.

Right from the get-go, the Lady Bears controlled the game against their NCAA Division II opponent Tuesday night. Junior guard Niya Johnson fit right into her role from last season, commanding the tempo of Baylor's offense. Whether in transition, off an in-bounds pass or a fast break, Johnson was the player the Lady Bears looked to begin each attack. Johnson totaled 11 points and 15 assists against the Mustangs.

"I was just going with the flow and getting teammates involved," Johnson said. "I was very proud of the way we produced out there and played aggressive."

Sophomore guard Alexis Prince played her first game since the early portion of the 2013-14 season for the Lady Bears. Johnson and Prince entered the Lady Bears program together in their freshman year and were reunited on the court, playing side-by-side as the starting guards for Baylor.

"It felt good [to play again]," Prince said. "I've just been waiting for this day for like a whole year. I feel good, like 100 percent. It was tough, but I never got down. I kept rehabbing, being positive. The trainers and rehab staff helped me get through it."

Sophomore forward Nina Davis and sophomore guard Imani Wright sat out the full night for reasons Mulkey did not disclose on Tuesday.

"They know why they didn't play," Mulkey said.

In absence of Davis and Wright, as well as some injury issues with other players from last season, Mulkey played just eight players in the rotation Tuesday. Mulkey said her players had to play more than they



SKYE DUNCAN | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore guard Alexis Prince goes up for a layup during Baylor's 99-56 win over Midwestern State on Tuesday. Prince scored 20 points in her return.

probably are used to playing, but she was proud with how her team held up.

"I thought that we played hard, but I didn't think we played all that intelligent in the first half," Mulkey said. "We fouled too much. You've got to adjust, and we didn't adjust. I appreciate that they played hard, and I want them to, but we've got to quit fouling. Obviously, you can't put people at the foul line as early as we did."

Sophomore post Khadijah Cave led her team with 26 points and 18 rebounds. Mulkey said Cave's been an outstanding rebound player since her freshman year, but is working on improving her abilities to finish plays at the basket.

Freshman guard Kristy Wallace, an international student from Australia, shined bright in her Lady Bears debut with 13 points and 5 assists, including a behind-the-back pass that thrilled the fans at the Ferrell Center Tuesday night. All five of Mulkey's starters scored in double figures against the Mustangs.

All in all, Mulkey said she got everything she wanted out of Tuesday night's exhibition game. The team has plenty of growing to do, but her players' performance against Midwestern State is positive step to start the season.

Baylor athletics should continue charitable community projects

By CODY SOTO
SPORTS WRITER

SPORTS TAKE

No. 12 Baylor football raised over \$6,000 in last weekend's Touchdown Pledge Drive to fund research for cerebral palsy through the team's Uplifting Athletes chapter.

By scoring touchdowns, something that the Bears seem to do frequently and in mass quantities, the team was able to bring hope to thousands of people with cerebral palsy where funds are being allocated to other more notable diseases.

After the game, senior receiver Levi Norwood talked to me about the outcome of the event, and I couldn't help but notice the smile that he had on his face. The heartfelt words he spoke along with several other players at last Monday's press conference concerning the pledge drive showed me that this team truly rallied behind the event.

Teams like Baylor football show the nation that being a part of something bigger than themselves is beneficial not only to the cause, but to the fans, the college football image and the players as well.

Becoming involved with organizations outside the normal school clubs is great for teams to develop a good image. The Uplifting Athletes organization and Baylor Bears football team work well together because they are able to promote each other in the most positive way. When there is positivity in the publicity that is released about the team and what they are doing, athletic programs are seen as respectable.

So many athletes have been in the media because of the bad decisions that they have made over the past few years; those problems range from illegal drug use to illicit behavior. With Baylor football supporting cerebral palsy research through Uplifting Athletes, it gives society the reassurance that there are responsible and well-behaved young men who still play football.

When the Bears rally behind a cause like cerebral palsy awareness and research, they are using their national spotlight in the right way. Baylor is one of the most improved college football programs in the country, and the team is currently ranked in the Top 25, so it's important for the team to realize that all eyes are on them.

The rise of interest in Baylor football should provide an incentive for the players to make a difference.

Fans will follow in the footsteps of the teams that influence them. The fact that college football players have that much influence in the hands is incredible, and it's their job to make something of it.

With the team as their advocate, organizations that raise money for worthy causes are able to greatly benefit. More people are drawn to the cause when they have sports teams promoting their events, and in turn, more money is donated to the organization. Because sports are a big part of American tradition, organizations need to team up with teams to raise money and awareness.

While everyone at a game may not necessarily donate money for research, the likelihood of knowing the reason for the event will leave an impact on him or her. Baylor football has been able to raise money for cerebral palsy through two Uplifting Athletes events, and it has brought a lot of attention to the community of Waco.

The impact of raising awareness and money for cerebral palsy also benefits the players that are involved. The involvement brings the student-athletes down to earth after sometimes getting engulfed in all the attention while playing for a college team.

Because they have a big influence on the community, especially teenagers and young kids, it's their responsibility to take what they've been given and give back. Like Norwood said last Saturday, every student-athlete has been given a blessing to play a sport that they love. If they weren't going to give back, he said that would be wrong.

That's the mentality that every student-athlete should have. When they remain grounded and participate in community and national campaigns for rare diseases, it gives players something intangible to leave with after they graduate from college.

Baylor football is performing well on the field, and their efforts off the field are not going unnoticed. With the Touchdown Pledge Drive finished, the Bears have an experience that they won't be able to replicate.

Raising research money and scoring touchdowns in the game that they love is a win-win for Baylor football and the thousands who suffer from cerebral palsy. They are taking the blessings that have been given to them to support a great cause. Who wouldn't want to root for a team like that?

Bryce Petty is "Ready for OU"

By JEFFREY SWINDOLL
SPORTS WRITER

Senior quarterback Bryce Petty threw three touchdowns and 277 passing yards in a 60-14 thrashing of the Kansas Jayhawks on Saturday. However, Petty was given attention on social media feeds not for his actions on the field, but for his actions from the postgame podium.

Petty entered the media press conference room at McLane Stadium after the game on Saturday in his usual manner, but his answers to the reporter's questions were out of the ordinary. Petty answered every single question with little or no variation of, "We're ready for OU."

After about five questions, the media realized they weren't getting much out of Petty. Speechless and seemingly dumbfounded the reporters refrained from asking more questions of Petty. Shortly after, Petty made his way back to the locker room, leaving the media with virtually no real questions about the Kansas game answered.

Twitter lit up with responses from all over the college football spectrum after Petty's comments aired on TV and radio. Fans, reporters, players tried to figure out why Petty answered the questions the way he did.

Baylor head coach art Briles, perhaps the closest man to all things Baylor football, was asked after the Kansas game about what he thought about Petty's robotic responses just minutes after the incident occurred. Briles first answered with a tongue-in-cheek comment, suggesting that he "should do the same" as Petty did for interviews.

"I'm proud that his focus and his energy and his vision and his direction are right there right now," Briles said during Monday's press conference. "Because he understands that it's going to be a great college football game between two great college teams that are playing. So that's exactly where he needs to be."

At the Bears' weekly press conference with the media on Monday, Briles expanded his thoughts on the "Ready for OU" responses from Petty.

"I don't take anything from it,"



SKYE DUNCAN | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior quarterback Bryce Petty (14) surveys the field during Baylor's 60-14 win over the Kansas Jayhawks on Saturday. Petty made waves during the postgame media conference when he only replied "ready for OU."

Briles said. "I take he's focused and ready and he's in a no-nonsense attitude, which I appreciate wholeheartedly, and that's the way our whole football team needs to be. We'll play around in January. Right now it's business."

Some might say Petty made those remarks after the Kansas game due to frustration with his recent spell of incomplete passes and failing to link up with senior receiver Antwan Goodley.

"I don't have any doubt as to the player Antwan is or our connection," Petty said. "We're going to link back up; it's just a matter of time. It's just about going out there and taking each play one play at a time. What we can't do is get frustrated. We kind of both are in that sense because we want it to happen so bad, but he's a great player on and off the field, so he's got my back and I've got his. It's going to happen sooner rather than later."

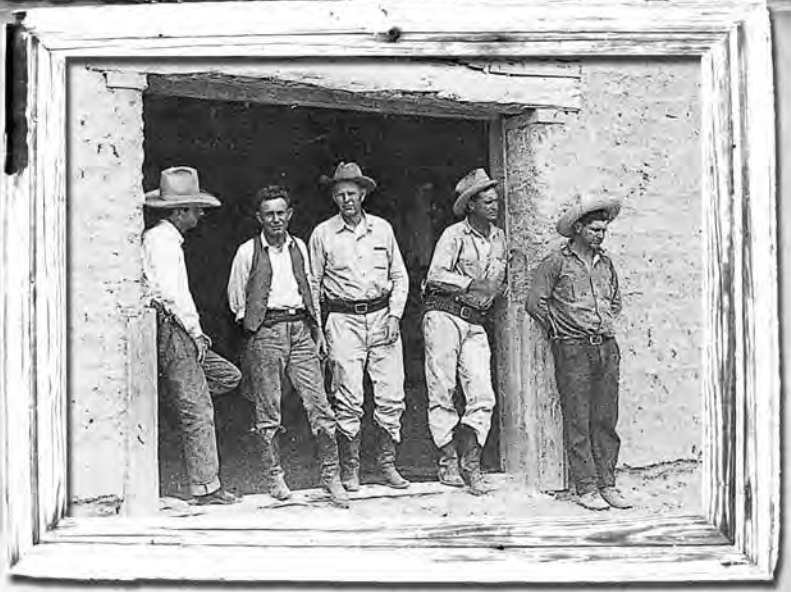
Petty and Goodley were one of the nation's top quarterback-receiver duos last season, but this season has not clicked in the way last year did, Petty said.

"I don't see it," Briles said. "Check the percentages of winning quarterbacks in Baylor history and I would guess he's number one. I think his record is 17-3. It'd be 18-3 if he'd started against Northwestern (State)."

Petty recognizes the impact and confusion he caused with his "Ready for OU" responses. Baylor football's Twitter account even started a hashtag for fans to use ahead of the critical road game in Norman, Okla. on Saturday – #ReadyForOU. All he really wanted to communicate was his excitement for the Bears' game against the Sooners on Saturday, Petty said.

"I never wanted to come off like Kansas wasn't important," Petty said. "They're a really good team, so anytime you get a big win like that, it's huge for us, but I'm really excited about this week [against Oklahoma]. It's a big opportunity for us and a big opportunity for them, so there's a lot of hype around it. So I didn't mean anything by it. I didn't mean to come off as rude or obnoxious or mocking at all. Like I said, I'm excited."

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The Texas State Historical Association's Handbook of Texas Online says that the "regular Rangers," along with hundreds of special Rangers appointed by Texas governors, killed approximately 5,000 Tejanos (Mexican-Americans) and Mexicans between 1914 and 1919.

Written/Directed/Produced by
Kirby Warnock
Baylor Alumnus

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6:00 pm

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