



Looking forward

Bears pay no mind to rankings as they focus on the upcoming game against OSU on Saturday. Sports, Page 6



It's a bird...it's a man

Birdman gives super heroes a run for their money.

A&E, Page 5

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The Baylor Lariat

WE'RE THERE WHEN YOU CAN'T BE

Wednesday | November 19, 2014

Tuohys tell tale of compassion

By HANNAH NEUMANN
STAFF WRITER

Nearly 10 years ago, life for the Tuohy family was forever changed with two simple words. Those two words became the foundation of a new mindset that changed not only their own lives, but the lives of many.



Leigh Anne

Sean and Leigh Anne shared this story with Baylor on Tuesday night as part of "On Topic With President Ken Starr," series with the notion of giving alive in their hearts.

On Nov. 24, 2004, Sean and Leigh Anne Tuohy were driving with their daughter, Collins, and son, Sean Jr., to get food for their Thanksgiving meal the next day. En route, they saw a kid standing outside of the school, something strange for a holiday break.



Sean

"The truth is, I'd have driven past him at 35 miles an hour and wouldn't have even bothered to stop," Sean said. "But my wife said two

words to me as we passed him and those two words changed our lives. She looked at me and she said, 'Turn around.'"

Leigh Anne became increasingly aware of the young man's circumstances.

"I said 'Well here's the deal. I'm not leaving and you're not staying here so we better figure out something very quickly,'" she said.

After agreeing to drop him at a bus stop, the Tuohy family drove away, but he stayed in Leigh Anne's mind the rest of the break. Monday morning, she went to the school in search of the boy with the intention of bringing him warm clothes. After several failed attempts, she found herself in the principal's office.

"He looked at me and he said, 'He's not going to make it. He's struggling in every class, he's struggling, he's not going to make it. Don't get involved,'" Leigh Anne said. "Those were three words that probably shouldn't have been said to me."

Sean and Leigh Anne decided to take matters into their own hands, finding the young man, Michael Oher, and eventually taking him home.

Sean said their decision to get involved was what changed their lives, what changed the life of Oher and what is still today changing the lives of people across the world.

"I don't care where you are in life right now or what you're doing," he said. "If those two words my wife said can have the impact that they've had on this world, imagine what you

SEE TUOHY, page 4



SKYE DUNCAN | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

Dreams do come true

Sugar Land junior Aamir Sohani flips a table Tuesday on Fountain Mall to help deal with stress. Delta Epsilon Psi held the event and accepted donations toward their philanthropy organization JDRF, for juvenile diabetes.



COURTESY ART

Jessica Cox stands next to a plane she pilots. She is the first certified pilot with no arms and also has a black belt in Taekwondo.

First certified armless pilot to share her story of triumph

By ABIGAIL LOOP
STAFF WRITER

Jessica Cox was born without arms, but it wasn't a limitation in life, just another way to distinguish herself.

Cox is the first armless person in aviation history to earn a pilot's certificate. The Baylor community will have the opportunity to hear Cox's story of breaking records Thursday during her campus visit.

The free event, co-sponsored by Baylor's Academy for Leader Development and Baylor's Institute for Air Science, will begin at 6:30 p.m. on the fifth floor of Cashion Academic Center. Cox will deliver a lecture titled "Think Outside the Shoe" and share her personal story of triumph despite what some may have called barriers.

When she was 14, Cox earned her black belt in the International Taekwondo Federation, according to Cox's

personal website. She went on to later receive a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Arizona and received a Guinness World Record for being the first person certified to fly an airplane with only their feet in 2008.

"I was just doing what I love to do. The titles I've received are just the icing on top."

Jessica Cox | Pilot

Although she has become known for such achievements, Cox said these are just normal aspects of her life.

"I was just doing what I love to do. The titles I've received are just the icing on top," Cox said. "I want to be able to

use my story to change perspectives on disabilities."

Dr. Trey Cade, director of the Institute for Air Science, said event coordinators wanted to bring Cox to Baylor because of her inspiring story.

"She's a very motivational speaker on overcoming challenges and very sought after," Cade said. "I think she'll bring an inspirational message to students about how she's gotten to where she is now and to have done something that no one else has done."

Cox said when speaking at Baylor's campus this week, she hopes to bring a message to the audience that inspires them. Her message will convey three points about life: desire, persistence and fearlessness. She will be speaking about the creativity required of her to become a pilot as well as the challenges she faced in the process.

SEE PILOT, page 4

Perry case to continue; judge will not void case

By WILL WEISSERT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — A Texas judge refused on Tuesday to quash on technicalities two criminal felony indictments for abuse of power against Gov. Rick Perry, ruling that the case against the possible 2016 presidential hopeful should proceed.

The governor's defense team had sought to have the matter thrown out, arguing that the special prosecutor, Michael McCrum, wasn't properly sworn in and some paperwork wasn't correctly filed. But a written

ruling from District Judge Bert Richardson, who like Perry is a Republican, sided with McCrum.

"This court concludes that Mr. McCrum's authority was not voided by procedural irregularities," Richardson wrote.

An Austin grand jury indicted Perry in August on charges of abuse of official power and coercion of a public servant. He's accused of publicly threatening, then carrying out, a veto of state funding for public corruption prosecutors after the

SEE PERRY, page 4



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rick Perry speaks during a conservative rally Oct. 24 in Smithfield, N.C. On Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2014, a Texas judge refused to quash two felony indictments for abuse of power.

Baylor mourns student death

By REUBIN TURNER AND
REBECCA FLANNERY
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR AND
STAFF WRITER

A Baylor student was found dead Tuesday afternoon at L.L. Sams Lofts at 2000 S. First St.

Sgt. Patrick Swanton, public information officer for the Waco Police Department, said around 2:30 p.m. a per-

son placed a call reporting the death.

Swanton said the student appeared to die of natural causes. No other information was available at press time.

"This is a tragic loss for the Baylor community, and our hearts and prayers are with the family at this time," said Lori Fogleman, Baylor's assistant vice president for media communications.

Professors, hold yourselves to same standards as students

Editorial

Thanksgiving break is just around the corner, and many students' grade standing in some classes is unknown. Assignments have been submitted, but the turnaround from professors is at a standstill. Without knowing grades, students have no means of knowing how to prepare for the last stretch of the semester.

Some students arguably work as hard if not harder than professors and manage to juggle 12 to 18 and, for a select few, 20 hours of classes. To maintain this quality of work, they must be able to plan ahead and know exactly what is needed throughout the semester to succeed. Since students balance so many classes, work and private lives, professors should respect the deadlines that they set for returning papers.

Professors also have their own private lives to deal with besides their responsibilities at Baylor. Professors could be every bit as busy as students, but ultimately, professors should respect the student enough to return graded work in a timely manner. If the professors set deadlines for returning graded papers, then their students can know when to expect papers — just like professors expecting students to turn in assignments.

Grades are motivational for a lot of people. For example, if a student makes a B, then he or she will most likely strive for an A and adjust study habits, among other things, to achieve that. On the other hand, if students don't know they made that B, their habits and amount of study time is likely to remain stagnant, ul-

timately resulting in another B. If professors give an assignment, they should grade and hand it back in a reasonable amount of time so students have the opportunity to learn from their mistakes.

Teachers have complete control over what they assign, and they have the opportunity to know exactly how much time they have to devote to grading. If teachers say they will have it graded, they should have it graded. If a student turns in an assignment late, there would be a penalty. It is a double standard to expect any less from those doing the educating. Professors should hold themselves to the same standard, even if a penalty won't come for delayed grading.

It is important to note that while a student only turns in one 10-page paper, a teacher may have 20 10-page papers to grade. While it is hard to equate these workloads, both parties have a hefty load and both are working hard. However, deadlines should not be thrown to the wind just because the work piles up.

Professors should not forsake grading thoroughly just to meet a deadline, though. An avenue of transparency between students and professors needs to be opened in this circumstance. If the professor doesn't have the grading done, then simply let the students know.

We can acknowledge that everyone busts deadline, including professors. While it is not OK, once a semester is understandable. Most students will be late to class or turn in a homework assignment late at some point. But, as in any situation, making habits out of



ASHER FREEMAN

bad behavior is when the problem begins. For either students or teachers to value the others' time, the respect must be and should be mutual.

For a class to run smooth, it is imperative that

teachers hand assignment back in a timely manner and in doing so they should give themselves a reasonable deadline to have it graded.

Value secular education without religious bias

We should support secular public schools, just as Rufus C. Burleson, the second president of Baylor, did almost 100 years ago.

The reasons public education is important remain largely the same as those presented in a 1915 Baylor homecoming speech titled "Baylor People in Public Education." The speech states that our country's citizens are able to become independent, intellectual thinkers without fear of being proselytized through secular public education. Through this education, we are able to make educated decisions not based on superstition, and importantly, education is beneficial to us all, without costing us our freedom.

As the speech states, "All true Baylor people and patriotic American citizens ... demand that no religious denomination in Texas shall ever receive State aid for its schools, it matters not what its pretenses ... Baylor people demand that all creeds shall be equally free and equally protected in their right to build their own schools ... but for that common good all shall help support the State schools."

President Burleson was one of the staunchest supporters of secular public education. Without pay, he traveled and lectured in 116 Texas counties, urging citizens to unite behind public education. He wrote to every mayor in Texas for this same reason, and he organized the Texas State Teachers Association, whose mission was to strengthen public education. He did all this and more while also using his personal finances and time to further build Baylor University. Another Baylor president, Samuel Palmer Brooks, was also in favor of public education and was an active member of the Texas State Teachers Association.

But secular public education has come under attack in recent years. Various articles earlier this year, from the Huffington Post to Slate, show that public schools in Texas



are teaching a particular brand of Christianity as science.

Some students are learning that the Bible provides scientific evidence that the Earth is 6,000 years old. In 2007, the Texas Legislature passed a law setting guidelines for public schools in teaching Bible courses.

While the Bible was meant to be analyzed as literature—not scripture—in the courses, the guidelines in the law have not always been followed. A 2013 report titled "Reading, Writing & Religion II: Texas Public School Bible Courses in 2011-12" documents the widespread failure to follow proper protocol. In many of the Bible courses, teachers lacked the proper required training. The courses reflected the teacher's personal religious views, often a conservative Protestant, and were at times anti-Semitic, pseudoscientific and even racist, with many teachers claiming the Bible is literally true.

A problem beyond the fact that this goes against the foundation of secular public schooling is that many of these religious claims are being presented as science or truth, when they go against scientific consensus. The National Center for Science Education sums this up concisely:

"The purpose is not to change the students' religious views. I cannot stress this too clearly: public schools must be religiously neutral. It is unconstitutional to promote or denigrate religion in the public schools — although it is legal to teach about religion... It would be unethical as well as illegal to tell students that any particular position on the continuum is religiously superior to another. However, it is not unethical nor illegal to distinguish between fact claims made by holders of certain views on the [creation/evolution] continuum (such as Young-Earth Creationist views of a 6,000 year old Earth) and the standard scientific consensus on such views

(in this case, that the Earth is billions of years old)."

Creationism came to a head with science in February's debate between creationist Ken Ham and educator Bill Nye "the Science Guy." Nye warned about the dangers of teaching pseudoscience in the classroom and how it can affect our nation's future. Two moments were particularly telling in how we should analyze the two camps.

For one, Nye showed that creationism is at odds with science such as geology and biology, science with predictive power that has allowed us to create much of the modern technology we enjoy today. Perhaps more importantly, both Nye and Ham were asked what it would take to change their mind about their current stance. Nye said "evidence." Ham said "nothing."

Creationism, as a set of religious beliefs, has room to be taught at any religious institution, and we are free as citizens to create these institutions and to speak to others about our beliefs in our lives. The issue is that creationism is definitely based in religion and is not scientific, and thus should not be taught in public schools, and it should definitely not be taught in science classrooms.

Attacks on secular, public education do not seem to be going away. As recently as late September, a history teacher in Arlington posted a picture of Jesus in the classroom and told his students that carbon dating is wrong and the Bible is the only source of information about ancient civilization.

Each of us should today show the level of commitment our former presidents Burleson and Brooks did for this important issue. We should report incidents of abuse, we should write to our politicians and we should hold our administrators accountable.

When one group tries to establish its religion in public schools, we all suffer. Everyone's freedom and common good are at stake.

Sergio Legorreta is a senior business journalism major from Kingwood. He is a reporter and regular columnist for the Lariat.

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.

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Don't let a screen replace faces

The main form of communication today is texting. It's fast, easy and simple. Whether being used to make and form plans between friends or connect with a potential new love interest, texting is today's way of interacting with one another. However, while there are the upsides and benefits to be able to send quick messages to friends, family and loved ones, I find that excessive texting doesn't add to a relationship, but rather detracts from one.

While I believe texting is still a great way to connect with people, I think it also gives people a way to interact with one another in a way they wouldn't be able to do in person. Using text messaging as a way to apologize, settle disagreements or make decisions instead of actually talking about the problem in person just does the opposite of enhancing whatever relationship you have with said person.

Also, I know some people who will have relationship-shaping conversations over texts with someone and interact with a person 24/7 over text and develop an "emotional connection" with someone through these messages. I have a friend who is constantly texting a certain person. They exchange texts nearly all day and that's the only way they com-

municate. Seeing how actual conversations have now been replaced by words through a phone screen is an example of today's main form of interaction. Replacing letters, phone calls and sometimes face-to-face interactions, excessive texting can become somewhat of a crutch in communicating with one another. We begin to see more of a screen than the person we're texting and important conversations just turn into quick texts we send.

According to a recent Intel survey, more than 70 percent of young people say technology enhances their relationship. However, in that same survey, more than 60 percent of young people also said that they rely on technology too much and it can be dehumanizing. Even today's pop culture is making light of this factor, with Kristen Bell and the a cappella group Straight No Chaser just releasing a song called "Text Me Merry Christmas",



a song making fun of the impersonal messages we receive that are replacing meaningful conversations. Besides text messages like "Merry Christmas!", we're all guilty of sending quick messages such as "Happy Birthday," and "I Love You." Sending these messages isn't a bad thing, but frequently doing so can become detrimental as people stop actually communicating.

I think texting should still be used and is an ideal and useful way to get in touch with people today. However, as we begin to move into texting as the only way we talk with people, maybe it's time to realize that there are still other ways to communicate with one another rather than just sending someone a text message.

Abigail Loop is a senior journalism major from Brownsville. She is a staff writer and regular columnist for the Lariat.

From the Lariat blog



"I hereby announce—without shame and without regard for the friends who might turn against me—that I am a Taylor Swift fan."

-Austin senior Ada Zhang
Lariat blogger

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International culture show to unite, celebrate groups

By Sergio Legorreta
Reporter

In an effort to unite different cultures at Baylor, the first International Culture Show will showcase 11 cultural performances with more than 100 students competing for a grand prize of \$500.

The free show, presented by Omega Delta Phi, will begin at 7 p.m. today at Minglewood Bowl.

Buda senior Miguel Lopez, president of Omega Delta Phi, said the event is an effort to encourage members of different cultural groups to interact.

"They're all separated into their own factions," Lopez said. "There's a whole big world out there that needs to be seen. You realize that we're not all that different. Some dance that you see is maybe similar to your own culture."

El Paso senior Adrian Galvez, social chair of Omega Delta Phi, said he hopes the event will get people more involved in the future.

"From what I've been told and seen, cultural organizations and people that attend the events are always limited to that group of people, even though they're always open to the public," Galvez said.

This event is not just about attendees stepping outside their comfort zone, however. Members of Omega Delta Phi have also ventured into new territory in organizing it on their own.

Galvez said this is the largest event the fraternity has ever organized, and the idea to make it happen came when they hit a low point.

"We tried to host fundraisers, blood drives, service day events, but something just always ended up falling through," Galvez said. "We were very discouraged."

The turning point came late one night, Oct. 1, when Lopez came up with the idea for the International Culture Show.

Galvez said the show was fitting for the multicultural fraternity.



Students in Delta Kappa Delta, an Indian subcontinental sorority, practice a traditional Indian dance for the first-ever International Culture Show today.

"That night we thought of every single detail, and the next morning, we were at multicultural affairs and student activities and said 'This is what we want to do,'" Galvez said.

Lopez said the event has been daunting to organize in such a short period of time because Omega Delta Phi is a small organization.

Galvez said the organization managed to keep the event as scheduled after receiving support to fund the competition, which he believes is a good way for cultures to show their talent.

Groups performing at the event include Latin Dance Society, African Student Association, Delta Kappa Delta, Alpha Kappa Delta Phi, Swing Dance Society, Brazilian Student Association, Korean Student Association, Heavenly Voices, Zeta Phi Beta and Baylor Taal.

Free food and drink from local businesses, including Pizza Hut, Raising Cane's, Aramark and Tres Mexican Restaurant, will be provided at the event.

Door prizes, including T-shirts, gift cards and Baylor merchandise, will also be given. In

addition to the general grand prize, which will be announced at 9 p.m., there will be two \$100 subcategory prizes for best dance performance and best song performance.

Organization members will sell black long-sleeve T-shirts displaying the flags of the countries represented for \$10.

Proceeds will go to the fraternity's philanthropy, Court Appointed Special Advocates, or CASA. CASA is a national organization that supports court-appointed advocates for abused and neglected children.



Henderson senior Valerie Vaughn signs a beam in Jones Lobby that will be used in the Paul L. Foster Campus for Business and Innovation.

Business students make their mark

By Brooks Whitehurst
Reporter

Baylor business students are picking up permanent green markers and writing on school property, but they have permission.

The Hankamer School of Business's student beam signing event today is the last chance for students to "make their mark." The event will take place today from 2-4 p.m. in the Jones Lobby of the Cashion Academic Center. This event allows students to permanently place their names on the frame of the coming Paul L. Foster Campus for Business and Innovation. Students can sign their name on a steel beam that will eventually be part of the building's structure.

"We wanted everyone involved in Hankamer to have some way to be involved in this special process," said Dusty Bedwell, senior director of development in the Hankamer School of Business. "This gives an opportunity for everyone to get involved."

Bedwell said the beam is open to all undergraduate and graduate business students to sign.

This section is among several others that have been signed by faculty, staff and donors.

The sections will be bolted together Friday at a topping out ceremony for the Foster Campus.

Bedwell said he hopes the beam signing helps students feel connected to the new campus.

The new business building is scheduled to be finished in July 2015.

"Everybody likes to leave their mark in some way," Bedwell said. "We thought this would be a cool way to allow people to do that."

Mason, Ohio, sophomore Andrea Scholsser said she was prompted to sign the beam through Baylor's social media.

"I wanted to come because I found out about the event on Baylor's Instagram, and I can't afford a brick," Scholsser said. "I'm really excited for the Foster campus because it means I won't really have to leave that area of campus."

Pearland junior Shenbaga Shankar said she is excited to be able to use the Foster campus for one year, and she said she appreciates the opportunity to leave a legacy.

"I'm a transfer student, I know how much it means to leave your legacy," Shankar said. "I travel a lot and my family taught me to leave my mark wherever I go, even if it's only in a small way."

Amid criticism, Texas fails to approve new history textbooks

By Will Weisert
Associated Press

AUSTIN — The Texas Board of Education couldn't muster the votes late Tuesday to grant preliminary approval for new history and social studies textbooks for classrooms across the nation's second-largest state, failing to act amid stinging criticism of the proposed books from both the right and left. Academics and some liberal-

leaning activists have complained for months that many of the books up for adoption overstate the influence of religion on early American democracy, including exaggerating biblical figure Moses' importance to the founding fathers. But conservative groups worry that many of the same books promote pro-Islam values.

That sets up a potentially tense final vote Friday, when the board will have to approve the books or

miss the deadline to get them to the state's 5 million-plus public school students by September 2015. Texas is such a vast textbook market that much of what is produced here can end up influencing materials used in other states.

Board members stressed that they still have time to successfully pass books — but also conceded that no one expected Tuesday to end with no action taken.

The failing vote came after

hours of public testimony, where the board heard many of the same complaints about the books that it has for months — that the texts present political and religious beliefs and ideologies as facts.

MerryLynn Gerstenschlager, vice president of the influential conservative group Texas Eagle Forum, said books should describe the "forced wealth distribution" imposed by the United Nations via misleading propaganda about cli-

mate change.

Retired school teacher Anthony Bruner warned that they would indoctrinate students with communist tenants.

That organization used dozens of volunteers to raise more than 1,500 complaints about the books. It noted that the achievements of President Ronald Reagan were omitted from some while arguing that others ignored Islam's occasional glorification of violence —

including beheadings.

Roy White, a retired Air Force pilot and Truth in Texas Textbooks' chairman, said he supports all religions but "the political side of Islam, the part that threatens you and me ... that's not a religion."

Textbooks for Texas can affect books sold in other states — but that influence may be waning. Since 2011, its school districts have been allowed to buy textbooks with or without board approval.

Small plane crashes into home

By Jason Keyser
Associated Press

CHICAGO — A small twin-engine cargo plane crashed into a home on Chicago's southwest side Tuesday, killing the pilot but sparing a couple who were asleep just inches away.

The Aero Commander 500-B slammed nose-down into the front of the home around 2:40 a.m., punching through the ground floor into the basement and leaving about a third of the aircraft, including the tail, sticking straight out of the red-brick home.

"The wreckage was about 8 inches away from them," Assistant Chicago Fire Department Commissioner Michael Fox said of the home's two residents. "It's very lucky. They were in a bedroom next to the living room and the living room is gone."

Both told first responders they were fine and refused any medical attention.

After stabilizing the house, crews recovered the body from the wreckage. No one else was on board. The Cook County Medical Examiner's Office did not immediately release the pilot's name.



The wreckage of a small plane which crashed stands upright in a home in Chicago early Tuesday.

The pilot reported engine trouble shortly after taking off from Midway International Airport and asked to return to the airport. But the plane crashed about a quar-

ter mile short of the runway, said Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman Elizabeth Isham Cory. Fire crews found aviation fuel leaking from the wreck but there was no fire or explosion, and the airframe was mostly intact, investigators said. The National Transportation Safety Board expects to have a preliminary accident report within a week.

The airport is closely bounded by densely populated neighborhoods. Those living near the crash site said the impact shook houses.

Luz Cazares, 62, who lives next door, ran to check on the neighbors she's known for more than 20 years, fearing that the couple in their 80s did not survive.

She called out for them, jumped a fence and found them just inside the back door. The woman was asking, "What happened? What happened?" Cazares said.

The pilot had been intending to fly to Ohio State University Airport in Columbus, Ohio.

The aircraft was built in 1964 and owned by Central Airlines Inc. Central said it was cooperating with investigators but still gathering information and did not know if the plane was carrying cargo.

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-Ecclesiastes 12:12

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Pilot from Page 1

"It used to be my greatest fear to fly and to lose contact with the ground and I believed that actually flying would help me get over it," she said. "I've now been a certified pilot since 2008."

Besides flying planes and trav-

eling the country as a motivational speaker, Cox is currently bringing her life story to the big screen with a documentary called "Right Footed." With her speaking events and documentary, Cox hopes to make an impact on a number of

audiences, especially at Baylor.

"I am thrilled to speak for the first time at Baylor," she said. "The best part of using my story to help others and have people come away with a different way of thinking."



COURTESY ART

Jessica Cox is coming to Baylor Thursday to speak. Dr. Trey Cade, director of the Institute for Air Science, said event coordinators wanted Cox to speak because of her highly inspirational story.

Tuohy from Page 1

could do with just more than two words."

Leigh Anne said it is too often that people would rather turn the other way than extend their hand and offer help.

"If Michael would have fallen dead on the sidewalk there isn't a single person in this world who would've cared," she said. "Society deemed Michael 100 percent valueless."

With the Tuohy family's adoption, love, guidance, support and affection, Oher went from homeless, to a hometown, and eventually, universal inspiration.

Going on to play college football for the University of Mississippi and earning unanimous All-American honors, Oher was drafted in the first round draft in the 2009 NFL Draft. His triumphant road to success was the subject of Michael Lewis' book, "The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game" and the Academy Award-winning

film, "The Blind Side," starring Tim McGraw and Sandra Bullock as Sean and Leigh Anne.

Leigh Anne said with one single act of kindness, Michael's life and position in society was forever changed.

"If someone as valuable as Michael Oher almost falls through the cracks, can you imagine who gets left behind?" She asked.

With this notion, the Tuohy family started their foundation, Making It Happen. According to their website, the mission is to bring hope and support to families that are fostering or adopting children and young adults.

"We benefited far more than Michael ever did," Leigh Anne said. "We thought we knew about giving and about what being a giver was. We got to give every single day, unconditionally and it was life changing. We learned about loving someone that looks different from you."

Friday, Baylor will participate in National Adoption Day. According to the website, National Adoption Day is a day of celebration of adoptive families and an opportunity for courts to open their doors and finalize the adoptions of some of the 140 thousand children in America who need a forever family.

"These kids are worth it," Sean said. "The important thing is to never give up. We didn't do anything for Michael other than letting him become the person he was supposed to become."

When asked about the risk Leigh Anne felt in bringing Michael Oher into her home, she said risk is an important and inevitable part of life.

"We all take risks every single day," she said. "We have blowouts every day in this country, bridges collapse, it's just what you choose to take a risk on. Take a risk on somebody. Turn around."

Perry from Page 1

unit's Democratic district attorney refused to resign following a drunken driving conviction.

Perry made his first court appearance Nov. 6. He calls the case a political witch hunt and says he'd issue the veto again.

His attorneys have also sought to have the charges against Perry dismissed on constitutional grounds, but Richardson has yet to have a hearing on that challenge and isn't expected to rule on it for weeks.

The day before Richardson's ruling, Perry's defense team filed a 28-page brief asserting that the case shouldn't continue because Perry's actions were protected by the constitutional powers of his office. They also bristled at McCrum's past suggestions that the governor wasn't above the law in

arguing that his fate should be decided by a jury — just like any criminal defendant.

"This invalid prosecution cannot go to trial — not because Governor Perry is above the law, but because everything he is accused of this case is absolutely protected," the attorneys wrote Monday.

Perry didn't seek re-election but is seriously considering a second White House run after his 2012 bid flamed out in a series of memorable gaffes. He said he may announce a decision by May or June.

Top national Republicans initially lined up to praise Perry and decry the criminal case against him, but they've been less vocal about their support as the case drags on.

In arguing that it should be

tossed out because of technicalities, Perry's lead attorney, Houston-based Tony Buzbee, had repeatedly cited the U.S. Constitution and said it should apply to all matters, no matter how small.

"If you're going to take away someone's freedom, it's not too much to ask you follow the letter of the law," Buzbee said in Richardson's courtroom this month. "If we start picking and choosing which parts of the Constitution that we're going to follow, that's utter chaos. That's anarchy."

McCrum countered that he'd followed procedure and that a jury should decide the case. In court, the special prosecutor repeatedly referred to "Mr. Perry," rather than calling him governor.

Four deaths blamed on major New York storm

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Four people died during a storm that dumped more than 4 feet of snow around Buffalo and forced motorists in 150 vehicles, including a women's basketball team, to ride it out on a day when temperatures dropped to freezing or below in all 50 states.

One person was killed in an automobile accident and three others had heart attacks, including two believed to be shoveling snow at the time, Erie County officials said.

The snowstorm stranded cars, trucks and buses on a four-mile section near Buffalo. By late Tuesday night, many — but not all — had been freed.

Some motorists had been trapped for nearly 24 hours. Officials said freeing the vehicles was delayed after two tractor-trailers jack-knifed as they were being moved.

"It seemed like a nightmare. It just didn't feel like it was going to end," Bryce Foreback, 23, of Shicora, Pennsylvania told The Associated Press by cellphone 20 hours into his wait for help. "I haven't slept in like 30 hours and I'm just waiting to get out of here."

Members of the Niagara University women's basketball team were napping on and off 17 hours into their wait. Some got so thirsty they drank melted snow, said Coach Kendra Faustin, who was traveling with her 1-year-old.

Team spokeswoman Chelsea Andorka said the bus, with about 25 players and coaches aboard, was headed back from a loss in Pittsburgh when it came to a halt at 2 a.m. Tuesday.

"We were told the National Guard was coming by but haven't seen any signs of life," Andorka said. "The first time they came they told us to be prepared to stay for a while. One tow truck passed

six or seven hours ago."

In a region accustomed to highway-choking snowstorms, this one is being called one of the worst in memory. Snow blown by strong winds forced the closing of a 132-mile stretch of the Thruway, the main highway across New York state.

Meteorologists say temperatures in all 50 states fell to freezing or below on Tuesday. They say the low temperatures were more reminiscent of January than November.

In New Hampshire and elsewhere, icy roads led to accidents. Lake-effect storms in Michigan produced gale-force winds and as much as 18 inches of snow, and canceled several flights at the Grand Rapids airport.

Schools closed in the North Carolina mountains amid blustery winds and ice-coated roads. In Indiana, three firefighters were hurt when a semitrailer hit a fire truck on a snowy highway.

In Atlanta, tourists Morten and Annette Larsen from Copenhagen were caught off-guard by the 30-degree weather as they took photos of a monument to the 1996 summer Olympics at Centennial Olympic Park.

"It's as cold here as it is in Denmark right now. We didn't expect that," Larsen said, waving a hand over his denim jacket, buttoned tightly over a hooded sweatshirt.

In Buffalo, Brian Krzeminski watched the snow pile up outside the south Buffalo convenience store where he worked overnight and served free coffee to the motorists and pedestrians who came in off the city streets to get out of the blinding snow.

"There are people that came out to get a few things. We had some people who came in just to get a 30-pack of beer, which is kind of odd," he said. "We've

had EMTs whose ambulance got stuck. I'm constantly seeing cars get stuck."

The National Weather Service warned that the snow, generated by cold air blowing over the warmer Great Lakes, would continue through Wednesday and could eventually total 6 feet in places. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo deployed 150 member of the National Guard to help clear snow-clogged roads and remove abandoned vehicles.

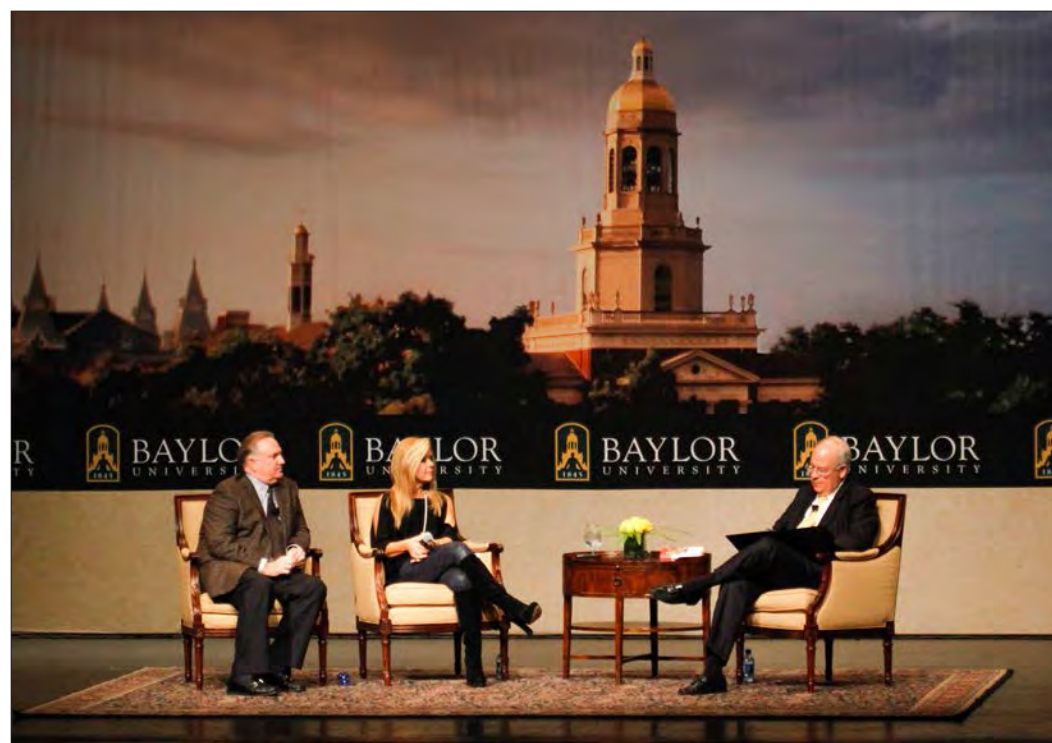
"We have tried to get out of our house and we are lucky to be able to shovel so we can open the door. Basically, that's it, open the door," said Linda Oakley of Buffalo. "We're just thinking that in case of an emergency we can at least get out the door. We can't go any further."

"All around us, it's a solid 4 feet of snow that is so thick and so heavy you can hardly move it with a shovel," said Oakley, whose son Todd was with her, unable to make it to work just three miles away.

Jim Lehmann was hunkering down with his wife in their town of Hamburg home, while outside his neighbor's house was barely visible through the blowing snow.

"The main thing to do now is sit in the house and wait it out," Lehmann said. "My neighbor works for a satellite dish company and he tried to get out this morning and he got stuck 80 feet down the street. And he was there for three hours."

The town of West Seneca recorded 45 inches by late morning and Alden, to the east, had 48 inches. But typical of lake-effect snow, areas just a few miles away, including downtown and north Buffalo, had just a couple of inches.



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President and Chancellor Ken Starr speaks with Leigh Anne and Sean Tuohy during On Topic.

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FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

The film "Birdman" tells the story of former movie star Riggan Thompson as he attempts to revive his career with a Broadway production. Thompson's character exhibits strange abilities such as flight as the film progresses.

'Birdman' gives superheroes run for money

By SEAN CORDY
CONTRIBUTOR

Director Alejandro Iñárritu's films have always followed a similar production method: a disjointed narrative to tell an epic tale of connection. But Iñárritu's latest venture, "Birdman," takes a turn to a linear production, yet it retains all the originality and complexities that his earlier features have exhibited.

MOVIE REVIEW

We're introduced to Riggan Thompson (Michael Keaton), a former movie star of the fictional superhero franchise "Birdman." He is at the bottom of his life, trying to vindicate his tarnished career by creating an ambitious Broadway production.

We don't know why he's at this point, but thanks to a gritty performance from Keaton, we immediately know there's something that went wrong in his life. Soon on, we meet his daughter Sam (Emma Stone) and learn of their troubled relationship as she returned from drug rehab. But that's just the beginning.

"Birdman" presents time in film like few others, following one character and event to the next without ever changing scenes.

As we move from our introduction with Riggan, we pick up on every nuance of his character's situation since the camera never leaves the story, meeting many characters on the way.

One of the main attractions for audiences is Zach Galifianakis from his popularity with the "Hangover" trilogy. But the Galifianakis in "Birdman" is far from what we're used to. He's a trim man, still toting his iconic facial hair, but he's not the inept character he's

typecast as. He plays Riggan's production manager, trying to guide Riggan through the crazy production while often overridden by Riggan's ego - though there are plenty of moments to laugh at with him.

The ego of Riggan is one of the main storylines of the film. As much as Riggan has to deal with the complex situations with his daughter and ex-wife (Amy Ryan), it's more about an internal struggle to find himself in show business. One side of him wants to leave the artistic venture he's exploring to be seen as an artist, but he struggles to find acceptance. Whereas, returning to the world as Birdman will bring him the attention he's always sought from audiences that flood to the theaters for superheroes and sequels.

It's this inner battle of Riggan where we find some of the most psychedelic moments in the film. Both he and audience see himself as a man with superpowers, controlling things with his mind and flying, among

other things. It begs the question of what is reality. In the end, we're left to decide that for ourselves - art doesn't bend reality for just the audience, but for the artist as well.

"Birdman" also shows how difficult it is to produce art in the first place: dealing with self-absorbed actors, handling the press and all the small problems before curtain call. It all appears to be a nightmare, floating from one scene to the next in a non-stop, spectacular visual fashion among all the chaos.

This is Iñárritu's attempt to speak to both general audiences and critics alike - much like Riggan. The film appeals to a more analytical breed of audience, and threatens to skip over audiences interested in superheroes and blockbusters. Fortunately, incredible performances and a darkly satiric stance on the entertainment industry mean "Birdman" is certainly worth a standing ovation, no matter what you're looking for in a movie.

Actor Tracy Morgan battling severe brain injury following crash

DAVID PROTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRENTON, N.J. — Tracy Morgan is fighting to recover from a severe brain injury suffered in a high-way crash more than five months ago, and it's uncertain if he will be "the Tracy Morgan he once was," his lawyer said Tuesday.

Benedict Morelli said the former "Saturday Night Live" and "30 Rock" star suffered a traumatic brain injury in the June 7 crash on the New Jersey Turnpike, in addition to a broken leg, nose and ribs.

"He's fighting to get better, and

if there's a chance for him to be back to the Tracy Morgan he once was, he's going to try to do that," Morelli said. "But we just don't know because of the severity of the injuries that he sustained and the fact that he had such a severe brain injury."

Lawyers were in court in New Jersey for a scheduling conference in Morgan's lawsuit against Bentonville, Arkansas-based Wal-Mart Stores Inc., whose truck was involved in the crash. Morgan wasn't at Tuesday's proceeding, during which lawyers met with the judge to settle on a schedule.



Tracy Morgan

A Wal-Mart truck slammed into a limo van that was carrying Morgan and several friends on their way back from a show in Del-

aware. One person was killed, and three others were injured, two seriously. Morgan spent several weeks in a hospital and in rehab.

Morelli didn't discuss specific aspects of Morgan's condition but said he hasn't fully recovered.

"When you have a traumatic brain injury it takes a very long time to find out how you're going to do and how much you're going to recover," Morelli said. "You just don't know. So that's where he is. He's still fighting and trying to live his life at the same time and trying to get better, and he's just not better. We're hoping and praying to

get him back to where he was. But the jury's out."

A comedy series Morgan was to have begun filming in August for FX Network was put on hold after the accident.

Morgan sued for punitive and compensatory damages. In a response to the lawsuit filed in late September, Wal-Mart contended the victims' injuries were partly due to the fact that they weren't wearing seat belts.

Attorneys representing Wal-Mart didn't comment after Tuesday's proceeding.

Georgia truck driver Kevin

Roper, who is not named in Morgan's lawsuit, was charged with death by auto and four counts of assault by auto in state court. Last Friday, he filed to have Morgan's lawsuit delayed while that case proceeds. That matter is scheduled to be ruled on next month.

A preliminary investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board released in June said Roper was driving 65 mph in the minute before he slammed into the back of the van. The speed limit on that stretch of the New Jersey Turnpike is 55 mph but was lowered to 45 mph that night because of construction.

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Across

- 1 Italian scooter
- 6 Weird
- 11 "This is so frustrating!"
- 14 Sharon of Israel
- 15 Old-timey "Yikes!"
- 16 Coventry bathroom
- 17 Like a fajita pan
- 19 Perrier, to Pierre
- 20 Casual Friday top
- 21 FAO Schwarz specialty
- 22 Turn away
- 24 ___ vivant
- 25 Tiny bit
- 27 Daisy-plucking words
- 33 Farm or home ending
- 34 Troubles
- 35 "Now ___ me down to sleep ..."
- 37 James of "The Godfather"
- 38 Count Chocula wear
- 39 Turn on a pivot
- 40 Start of many Internet addresses
- 41 Actor Thicke
- 42 "I can take ___!"
- 43 To the point
- 46 Bonny girl
- 47 Owned
- 48 Hangout for some
- 38-Down
- 51 Word spoken while pointing
- 53 Short change?
- 56 Month after avril
- 57 Not a likely chance, and, literally, a hidden feature of 17-, 27- and 43-Across
- 61 Pre-holiday time
- 62 Part of USNA
- 63 "Keen!"
- 64 Twin of Bert Bobbsey
- 65 Picket fence parts
- 66 Barbershop band?

Down

- 1 Like outer space
- 2 Weird-sounding lake
- 3 Clothing label number
- 4 Candy in a collectible dispenser
- 5 With everything accounted for
- 6 Choosing word
- 7 Omelet base
- 8 Cheering syllable
- 9 Binding words
- 10 Real ___
- 11 Delight
- 12 Crowd cacophony
- 13 Defeat decisively
- 18 Prefix with sphere
- 23 Disappeared
- 24 Skinny sort
- 25 Hawaii component
- 26 Siberian city
- 27 Box score numbers
- 28 Moor
- 29 Luxurious homes
- 30 Online finance company
- 31 Stan's partner
- 32 Gibe
- 33 UCLA or USC
- 36 To this point
- 38 Some strays
- 42 Rouses from bed
- 44 Synthetic fibers
- 45 In pumps, say
- 48 "So be it!"
- 49 Volcano output
- 50 Burden for some debtors
- 51 Future atty.'s exam
- 52 Many Manets
- 53 Blacken on the grill
- 54 Four-legged Emerald City visitor
- 55 Halt
- 58 "Friendly Skies" co.
- 59 New Deal energy prog.
- 60 Put in rollers

Johnson, Davis ready to lead young squad

By JEFFREY SWINDOLL
SPORTS WRITER

The No. 8 Lady Bears tracked their steps back from last season against Kentucky on Monday night – an early season loss to a top-25 ranked Kentucky team, exposing issues as well as potential in head coach Kim Mulkey's team. Mulkey said it herself, the Lady Bears can't rely on just one player to carry the team. Instead, she can rely on two of her dark horse studs from last season.

Junior guard Niya Johnson is now in the driver's seat of Mulkey's muscle car, and sophomore forward Nina Davis is the engine. Together, Johnson and Davis can replace the Lady Bears' dependence on Odyssey Sims from last season with a more cohesive, versatile unit for the 2014-15 season.

In the midst of criticism being flung at her team for being too one-dimensional last season, Mulkey went about her business and coached a Big 12 Conference championship-winning team and an appearance in the Elite 8 of last March's NCAA tournament. Furthermore, that successful season was on the back of the Lady Bears' first season without Brittney Griner. Some assembly was required, but the finished product turned out to be one of the country's best women's college basketball teams.

"Everybody's looking to do their part, and roles have got to change," Mulkey said. "And I think they understand that. I don't sit them down and say you've got to average this many, you've got to shoot this much. It evolves."

Mulkey keeps finding ways to win with what she's got, and what she's got going for her now is Johnson and Davis. Last season, Sims ran the show, but performances from Johnson and Davis kept the Lady Bears in games. Time after time, on Sims' off-nights, Johnson and/or Davis would pick up the slack.

Sims put up the most impressive numbers from last season in terms of scoring and assists. However, Davis, albeit as a true



SKYE DUNCAN | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore forward Nina Davis attacks the basket during Baylor's 101-60 win over Oral Roberts University on Friday. Davis leads the team with 20.0 points and 11.5 rebounds per game through Baylor's first two games.

freshman, was more consistent than Sims, the best player in the country last season. Johnson's steadfastness in assists and minimal turnover rate was second to none for Baylor last season.

Because of Sims' evident talent and clear advantage in just about every field she needed to excel in, she occasionally forced the issue, especially towards the beginning of the season. The Lady Bears, specifically Johnson and Davis, are in a similar stage right now – figuring out their roles on this team.

Mulkey sees Johnson doing the same she did last year, finding open players and convert the play into points. In all but three of Baylor's 16 Big 12 wins last season, Johnson showed up big in the as-

sists category, ranging between 5 and 11 assists each game. Johnson also boasted the country's best assist-to-turnover ratio in the country last season (4.0). She also ranks No. 1 on Baylor's single-season assists chart (244).

"I don't expect the assist-to-turnover ratio to change," Mulkey said. "I expect it to get even better. But I think she has to understand that those shots that you passed up last year, don't pass them up. I think her game now, instead of becoming assists-to-turnover ratio as you look at the stat sheet, now you can look at the scoring there, too. So she can add that dimension to her game. And I think she can do it without changing anything."

Johnson said she understands she has

more on her plate this season. She'll have to go against her initial instinct, passing first, more often now.

"I'm still trying to adjust to it, just taking it slowly. I have to think not always pass-first, but shoot as well. Offense first. Just score. If my teammates are open, I'm going to pass it."

Johnson accumulated a whopping 29 assists in just two exhibition games earlier in the year. There was a substantial drop-off in Johnson's assists rate in the loss against Kentucky Monday night. Johnson totaled just three assists and six points. Most of all, Johnson coughed up eight turnovers against the Wildcats.

Most important of all to Johnson is her role as a veteran and leader for her team.

This season, no other player stands in Johnson's way of taking charge of the team.

"I guess you could say it's my team now, because at the point guard position I am one of the captains, and I'm also a leader on and off the court, so I do take that seriously," Johnson said. "And it's a big deal for me on the court, as well as off the court, of encouraging my teammates and making them better."

Davis, on the other hand, is the team's work horse. She did the dirty work in the paint last season, and she looks to continue that job this season. Mulkey admits that Davis' potential spans across multiple positional roles, but her impact on the team will stay just as vital to the team's success this season.

Well aware of the fact that she basically took the nation by surprise last year, Davis knows her matchups, in comparison to last season, will be much more prepared for her this season.

"They will have game tape of me from last year, and they will know my strengths and my weaknesses more so than last year when I was coming in," Davis said. "You just have to go out there and play ball. I think nobody can stop you other than yourself. That's what you work on in the offseason, doing things that they haven't seen you do, like working on your jump shot and doing different kind of moves so that they won't know everything I'm going to do. Once you play a year, people learn your game. That's like anybody on any level."

Davis and Johnson are two pieces to Mulkey's puzzle this season. Her team's identity, just as it did last season, will flourish as the season goes on.

"I just tweak a few things and run a few sets in there, but that team's identity is going to be developed from themselves, not from anything I do," Mulkey said. "The captain role will develop and evolve, who scores. All that will take care of itself, because I always believe the cream will rise to the top as the season progresses, and especially when you play tough teams."



SKYE DUNCAN | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

Head coach Art Briles and senior quarterback Bryce Petty discuss tactics on the sideline during Baylor's 60-14 victory over Kansas on Nov. 1. Petty and the Bears are ranked No. 7 in the CFP committee rankings.

Bears not concerned with playoff

By CODY SOTO
SPORTS WRITER

When a fan talks about the seventh-ranked Baylor Bears football team during their lunch hour, the College Football Playoff is going to be in the conversation.

Head coach Art Briles and the Bears have the opportunity to make their case during the season's final three games, two of which are at McLane Stadium and the other at AT&T Stadium in Arlington.

Since the installation of the new postseason system, Baylor started at No. 13 after its 41-27 loss at West Virginia on Oct. 18. Four weeks later, the Bears have jumped six spots to be ranked No. 7 in the nation.

One conversation that has been at the mouths of many Baylor and TCU fans is this: Who deserves to be in front, and who deserves to make the first college playoff?

Unlike Baylor Nation, the football team isn't discussing the play-off among themselves.

"We're winning to try to win a Big 12 Championship. That's our mission; that's our goal," Briles said. "Whatever comes with it comes with it, but that's where our focus and energy is, and I don't need a calculator to figure it out."

The four-team playoff method is a narrow field, and only four

football teams will be included in the inaugural postseason system. The best way for the Bears to be one of those teams is if they keep on winning, senior quarterback Bryce Petty said.

"You can't get into the playoffs if you don't win, so these next three games are huge for us," Petty said. "People remember November, so this is where we have to be really good and we have to execute."

With Baylor and TCU in a similar situation, the Bears and Horned Frogs need to win out in order to have a Big 12 team represented in the playoff.

Winning the next three games is the focus for Baylor football, and each game is crucial to the Bears' playoff campaign, Petty said.

"I think it's that one week at a time, one game at a time kind of mentality," Petty said. "We can't get to the championship if we don't win this week, so that's what is most important for me and the most important for the leadership on this team: to make sure each guy takes this game seriously."

Senior offensive tackle Spencer Drango said while the team needs to win each remaining game to have the chance to make the playoff, the decision would not be made until Dec. 7.

"If we take care of our business up front and win every game, then

the rankings will take care of itself," Drango said. "It's an opinion for everyone else. I don't know what goes into the rankings for the selection committee, so in the end I think it will take care of itself."

Running up the score on opponents isn't necessarily a way they will move up in rankings. Instead, it's the team's performance that counts, Drango said.

"Our offense does score a lot of points," Drango said. "I don't think we try to run up the score on anybody, but we do score a lot because of our offense. However, because it is opinion-based, it's a week-to-week process and the best teams are at the top. The better you play, the better you should be ranked."

While the playoff talk is almost unavoidable on a college campus, senior receiver Levi Norwood isn't letting the conversation get to his head.

"Everybody keeps track of it a little bit, but there is a difference between tracking it and focusing on it," Norwood said. "For us, we are just keeping track of it. Our focus is on Oklahoma State."

As the Baylor Bears prepare for Oklahoma State on Saturday, winning is their priority, and that will be their goal for the next three weeks. The final poll that comes out on Dec. 7 is what matters, Briles said.

Bears outlast South Carolina

By CODY SOTO
SPORTS WRITER

Baylor men's basketball took a slim 69-65 win over South Carolina on Tuesday afternoon in Columbia, S.C., for its second win of the season.

Veteran players scored 30 of Baylor's second half points to hoist the Bears (2-0) over the Gamecocks (1-1).

Senior guard Kenny Chery led the Bears with 20 points, five rebounds and three steals in the win. Chery previously had only nine points in the team's season opener last Friday.

"I know we have a lot of inexperienced players, first time playing college basketball," head coach Scott Drew said. "It really makes it easy when you have a senior point guard in Kenny Chery controlling the tempo out there."

Redshirt freshman forward Johnathan Motley posted 17 points and five rebounds for Baylor. Motley scored double-digits for the second time in only his second career game.

Junior forward Deng Deng scored six points after committing three first half fouls, and he was benched for a majority of the game. In his Division I debut on Friday, Deng posted 16 points in 16 min-

utes at the Ferrell Center.

Junior guard Lester Medford added 12 points and was 2-for-3 from three-point range in Tuesday's win. Medford also had Baylor's lone block in the early afternoon matchup.

Although senior forward Royce O'Neale only contributed nine points for Baylor, O'Neale had a balanced game with a team-high seven rebounds and seven assists to keep the Bears in front.

The Bears played a sloppy first half and only shot 9-for-24 from the field and only made one of nine three-point shots. Motley, Medford and Deng carried the team along as they combined for 26 of Baylor's 30 first half points in the opening frame. Motley ended the half on a sharp turn around jump shot to put the Bears up 30-26 at halftime.

Chery fired away and scored 18 of the team's 39 second half points in the final 20 minutes, including two important free throws to seal the win.

"We have a lot of young guys as senior leaders, our job is to keep everybody together," Chery said. "I think we're doing a great job."

Baylor will return to Waco and host Prairie View A&M at 6 p.m. on Friday night at the Ferrell Center. The game will be broadcast live on Fox Sports Southwest.



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