



## LIGHT UP THE NIGHT



Sarah Pyo | Lariat Photographer

Students take photos and enjoy Christmas cheer under the lights of the Christmas tree Thursday night on the second floor of the Bill Daniel Student Center. There were also carriage rides, a Christmas tree farm, a Nativity scene, a petting zoo and numerous other activities for Baylor students and Wacoans alike to be a part of in order to celebrate the Christmas holiday. **See the Christmas on 5th photo story pg. A4-5**

### BAYLOR VETERANS

# Gifts for veterans

VETS helps welcome former military men, women home

HELENA HUNT  
Staff Writer

In a typical Baylor classroom there might be a freshman who's left home for the first time and a senior who's trying to figure out what to do when she graduates. There might also be a former Marine Corps gunnery sergeant who's nine months pregnant, or a bearded Army retiree.

There are 130 veterans at Baylor, 85 of whom are undergraduates. They are outnumbered by the 18 to 22-year-olds who make up almost 95 percent of Baylor's undergraduate population. But Baylor is doing its utmost to make them feel welcome here, and to ease their transition into student and civilian life.

Programs like the G.I. Bill, which helps fund an education for veterans, enable them to come to Baylor after serving in the military. But funding isn't all that's needed for college success. Three years ago, Dr. Janet Bagby, a senior lecturer in the educational psychology department, helped to start Veteran Educational and Transition Services (VETS), which fosters the academic success of student veterans at Baylor.

VETS offers a mentoring program for veteran students, a New Student Experience course tailored just for them and a Transition Coach dedicated to ensuring their success, among other academic and professional services. Directed by Bagby, VETS is determined to make Baylor a home to veterans, she said.

At a reception held for veterans on Wednesday night, several attendees noted the helpfulness of VETS and the welcoming atmosphere that Baylor has established for veterans.

"We think you have gone above and beyond the call of duty," said Waco senior Katy Humphrey. "We are adults, and we know what hard work, what dedication is."

Humphrey, a former gunnery sergeant who had a baby last month, said that she was drawn to Baylor because of the sense of tradition shared by both the university and the military.

In a speech given to the assembled veterans, academic advisers and VETS staff, also highlighted the traditions of Baylor, highlighting certain of them that intertwine with the traditions of the military.

"I know here on our campus one of the things I love looking at ... is those beautiful lampposts, those granite lampposts with the names of Baylor veterans," Starr said.

He went on to describe the military history of Judge Baylor himself, who fought in Canada during The War of 1812. He also discussed the sword that Baylor received from his older brother, a sword that is now a part of the university's mace.

"I hope you know and you sense the love that Baylor University has for you," Starr said.

Even though they may not look or act like the typical student at Baylor (Humphrey humorously described several run-ins that she has had with students on their skateboards), the veterans at Wednesday's reception expressed their appreciation for the home that they've found here.

"It's things like this reception that make us feel more a part of this university and campus," said Waco senior Marcus Cisneros.

### SUMMER CLASSES

# Baylor releases 2016 summer class schedule

EMMA KING  
Staff Writer

Due to student requests, the schedule of summer classes for 2016 is now available. In previous years, this information was not released to students until February.

The list of summer courses can be found at

[www1.baylor.edu/scheduleofclasses/](http://www1.baylor.edu/scheduleofclasses/).

Dr. Wesley Null, vice provost for undergraduate education, said the goals for providing earlier access to the course schedule are to increase the number of students taking summer classes at Baylor and to increase the four year graduation rate.

"We want to give students as much time as

possible to be thinking about their summer plans so they are prepared for advising in February," Null said.

He said he knows a lot of summer decisions are made during Christmas break, so the hope is that students will consider their plans while they are

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### CRIME

# More US police charged with murder, manslaughter in 2015

DON BABWIN  
Associated Press

CHICAGO — The number of U.S. police officers charged with murder or manslaughter for on-duty shootings has tripled this year — a sharp increase that at

least one expert says could be the result of more video evidence.

In the past, the annual average was fewer than five officers charged. In the final weeks of 2015, that number has climbed to 15,



Associated Press

**JUSTICE** In this Tuesday photo, Los Angeles police officers check an unoccupied residence for suspects in South Los Angeles. In 2015, murders in Los Angeles are up 12 percent and shootings have jumped 20 percent.

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### >>WHAT'S INSIDE

#### opinion

**Editorial:** Find out what our editorial leftovers look like. Check out **pg. A2**

#### arts & life



**Waco Civic Theatre** brings "Miracle on 34th Street" to the stage until Dec. 13. **pg. B1**

#### news

**Special Guest:** Astronaut Rick Mastracchio visited campus. Find out what he shared with students. **pg. A3**



GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

We want to hear it. Send us your thoughts: [LariatLetters@baylor.edu](mailto:LariatLetters@baylor.edu)

COLUMN

# Scarecrow, I'll miss you most of all

Student publications a  
pillar in college career

TAYLOR GRIFFIN  
Editor-in-Chief

They say don't judge a book by its cover, and the same can certainly apply to a new job.

When I stepped into my role as editor-in-chief, I expected to fulfill the duties fleshed out on the job description — oversee the newsroom operations, cast the vision for the Lariat and run the weekly



editorial board and daily meetings. The editors before me had accomplished their job with seeming finesse and expertise. With the right goals and attitude, I thought, this semester would be another check mark in the books.

What a wake-up call.

To tell the truth, my semester was mostly acting like I knew what I was doing.

I began with a staff of mostly newbies, and the returning members were coming off a rough spring semester of trash talking and hurt feelings. In a total brand overhaul, I had been given the responsibility of completely redesigning the print edition of the newspaper and the updated version of our smart phone app. On top of choosing a new website layout and re-establishing our daily headline inbox service, Morning Buzz, I felt severely in over my head. And that was just the summer.

From there, we hit the ground running, and that first issue of the semester, we rallied together as a new team, barely acquainted with each other, and produced one heck of a Welcome Back paper.

But there's so much more to the job than what the job description states, or what my former editors let on. Being an editor is the truest definition of a servant leader. I've learned to react to problems with tact and composure, to put the team's needs before my own and to lead a group with diverse opinions and personalities. I had to make hard decisions for the good of the staff, praying they would support and trust me in return.

I've been so blessed by this staff of dedicated, talented journalists who challenge me daily, and I owe a lifetime of debt to my coworkers and advisers at the Lariat.

I've spent all four-and-a-half years of my college career in student publications, both here and at my junior college. Journalism was never a part of my plan entering college, but somehow, every significant moment in those years can be linked back to StuPub. I'm awestruck at God's perfect plan and sovereignty that is so much more spectacular than anything I could have fathomed.

Whenever I doubted myself or needed some ears to bounce off ideas, my advisers were there to give me a judge-free zone or a piece of advice to steer me in the right direction.

Many nights were spent up in the newsroom working well into the night, sometimes even curling up under my desk for a cat nap before class the next morning. But every hour I logged in this office — in work, study and play — has been significant. I walked out the door each time having been enriched by the people inside.

The Lariat is my home, my sanctuary to create meaningful, impactful things. Above producing stellar content, my vision for the team was to maintain an environment that fostered the same encouragement I'd been given over and over. I hope more than anything I've accomplished that.

I will miss the late nights, the pressing deadlines, the daily grind of putting out a paper and the healthy competitive atmosphere. Most of all, I will miss my StuPub family. I'm a better version of myself because of them than I ever imagined my college experience would make.

*Taylor Griffin is a senior journalism major from Tyler. She is the editor-in-chief of the Lariat.*

EDITORIAL



# Who says leftovers are bad?

The Lariat discusses editorial topics that didn't make the cut

*Throughout the semester, the editorial board meets weekly to pitch ideas and vote on four topics to supply the editorials for the following week. After much debate on each issue, the members then take a stance on the topics, flesh out the details and examine counterarguments. Our sharp cartoonist then summons his wit with every single editorial and draws a new comic for each print issue.*

*While some weeks we're bone dry on good ideas, other times it's a struggle to narrow it down to just four. Some were proposed in the board several times but never quite made the cut.*

*Here are some of the Lariat's favorite reject ideas and our quick-and-dirty stances on each:*

## KUDOS TO DEXTER

Last fall, a maniac murdered his girlfriend by stabbing her, dismembering her and wrapping her remains in cling wrap. Sound familiar? The boy claimed he was inspired by his television hero, serial killer Dexter from Showtime's series of the same name.

While a couple of the board members agreed that this was another example of our culture's desensitized consumption of media, the others were just really impressed by this guy's dedication to the craft. You can guess who the show's fans were.

## MOUNTAIN DON'T

Have we mentioned how much gall Baylor must've had to swap out our 23 flavors of Dr Pepper for...Pepsi? In Waco? The nerve.

What's next, Mountain Dew Hour on Tuesdays?

## THE WEEKND'S TUNES

Trust us: The Lariat loves The Weeknd, and many of the newspapers this semester were brought to you by his album, "Beauty Behind the Madness."

But as the world sings along to his croons, do we not also hear the demeaning, derogatory lyrics against women he sings over and over on a catchy tune? Are feminists upset about this, too? We have so many questions.

## NO HEALTHY FOOD IN WACO

With all the new food joints popping up in Waco — In-N-Out Burger is a God-send — one thing is very apparent: The amount of healthier options close to campus is next to zero.

Yes, we're happy with the new Zoe's Kitchen, especially as an alternative to the daily Panera Bread. Especially on late nights, though, when Subway doesn't sound good after the 12th time that week, we spend most nights livin' in a fast food paradise. And our waistline is telling on us.

## SQUATTY POTTY

The Lariat cares about your colon health, and you should, too. If a plastic toilet stool makes you poop like a unicorn, we're in.

Our editor-in-chief really rallied behind this one, but everyone thought it was a crappy idea.

## FREE AND FOR SALE

Baylor's Free and For Sale page on Facebook is a marketplace for reasonably priced bookshelves and frat house couches. It is not, however, a place for angry Bears to air out grievances following a controversial issue — most recently, the TCU defeat.

Can we not just get back to buying/selling our garbage in peace? If you want to talk smack, Yik Yak will absolutely appreciate it.

## COLLEGE IS NOT A DAYCARE

Oklahoma Wesleyan's president Everett Piper is fed up with hurting your feelings in the college setting. We couldn't agree more.

In an open letter to the students, Piper wrote that society has trained students to resort to victimization rather than self-actualization.

Face it, Millennials: We're all a bunch of narcissists and egotists. How dare he say those things that accurately describe us.

## ICEBERG NEWSROOM

We know it applies to no one outside the staff, but winter coats indoors during the early part of September is a bit much. Those aren't the sounds of keyboard clicking; that's the sound of our teeth chattering under mounds of blankets. We can only drink so much hot coffee without our hearts stopping.

## PARKED ON A FEELIN'

[Insert another inflated argument about how parking for cars/mopeds/bikes/motorcycles/magic carpets still sucks at Baylor. But we REALLY mean it this time.]

## Meet the Staff

\*Denotes a member of the editorial board

### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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Trey Gregory

### WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Sarah Scales

### ASSISTANT WEB EDITOR

Rachel Toalson

### COPY DESK CHIEF

Rae Jefferson\*

### ARTS & LIFE EDITOR

Rebecca Flannery\*

### SPORTS EDITOR

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### PHOTO EDITOR

Richard Hirst

### NEWS EDITOR

Dane Chronister\*

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### ASSISTANT BROADCAST NEWS PRODUCER

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### SPORTS WRITERS

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## 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, the student body 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, email [LariatLetters@baylor.edu](mailto:LariatLetters@baylor.edu). Letters should be a maximum of 400 words. The letter is not guaranteed to be published.





Richard Hirst | Photo Editor

**SPACE** Astronaut Rick Mastracchio visited the Baylor BRIC Thursday to talk about Spaceflight 101. He will be in the McClinton Auditorium in the Paul Foster School for Business and Innovation at 1:30 p.m. today to talk about space suit design.

# Astronaut to talk space suit design

**EMMA KING**  
Reporter

Astronaut Rick Mastracchio spent time answering spaceflight questions Thursday evening in one of two lectures he will give during his time here at Baylor. At 1:30 p.m. today, Mastracchio will discuss space suit design in McClinton Auditorium, room 240 in the Paul Foster School for Business and Innovation. “The technical effort that goes into making something like that work is something that maybe not everyone appreciates,” said Dr. Dwight Russell, associate professor and interim chair of the physics department. He said that getting to hear about a space suit from someone who has spent so many hours wearing one will help listeners become more aware of the technology and skill that scientists had to have in order to create the suits. Russell said he has questions he wants to ask Mastracchio. “We can talk about outer space, but he’s really been there,” Russell said. “We see this in movies, but what is it really like? We can ask him these questions.”

Mastracchio has logged 228 days in space and has performed nine space walks, totaling 53 hours. On his most recent mission, he spent 180 days on the International Space Station, traveling almost 80 million miles and orbiting earth over 3,000 times. Mastracchio’s first mission was in September 2000, on the Space Shuttle Atlantis, where he worked as a mission specialist. He has also flown aboard NASA’s Endeavor and Discovery and a Russian Soyuz spacecraft. Mastracchio was selected as a candidate in 1996, six years after he began working as an engineer for NASA’s Flight Crew Operations Directorate. Before then, he worked with the Rockwell Shuttle Operations Company at the Johnson Space Center. Russell said he wanted to know how his perspective has changed about space and about Earth after having done these things, and that he was curious about what the different re-entries into the atmosphere were like in the different vessels. Russell also said Mastracchio’s speeches give the opportunity for interested students to ask what the career path looks like for an

astronaut. Before his speech tomorrow, Mastracchio will be at a reception with refreshments at 1 p.m. in the Turner Mezzanine of the business school. “It’s very rare that you have the opportunity to meet a current astronaut,” said Dr. Truell Hyde, Baylor’s vice provost for research and the director of Baylor’s Center for Astrophysics, Space Physics and Engineering Research (CASPER). He said it’s an experience students may not get to have when they graduate. “That’s one of the wonderful things about being at Baylor,” Hyde said. He said CASPER brings in people all the time to speak to students and community members. He said a lot of the people they invite are personal connections of his or his faculty inside CASPER. Russell said he has actually met a couple of astronauts before, but that the experiences they’ve had in space are always different. “You get to learn something new every time you meet someone like that,” Russell said. “It’s always an exciting experience.”

# Police question third-grader for hours, family files lawsuit

**MICHELLE R. SMITH**  
Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — A third-grader was taken off a school bus and questioned for hours by police because another girl falsely reported the 8-year-old had chemicals in her backpack, her family said in a lawsuit Thursday. The American Civil Liberties Union of Rhode Island, which filed the federal lawsuit against the town of Tiverton, compared the case to that of a Texas teenager who was arrested for bringing a homemade clock to school in September. The group said such actions terrorize and traumatize children. The family’s lawyer, Amato DeLuca, said police essentially arrested the girl with no evidence. They had already searched her backpack and found nothing when school officials allowed them to put her in the back of a police cruiser and take her alone to the police department, where she was questioned, he said. “What we’ve stooped to in the name of public safety is arresting third-graders,” he said. “It’s so un-American. It’s

so police state. It’s so Gestapo. I never thought we’d do things like that here.” Town Administrator Matthew Wojcik said he had not yet seen the lawsuit, and was still conducting an internal investigation. “I’m a little disappointed, because I think there are other solutions,” he said. He declined to comment further. The child is identified in the lawsuit only by the initials J.A. Her parents, Lisa and Peter Andromalos, are also suing. According to the lawsuit: At school on Oct. 24, 2014, J.A. misheard what a friend told her. “It sounded like you said, ‘We’re going to play with chemicals,’” she told the friend, and both girls laughed. Two other girls told a fourth-grade teacher that J.A. and her friend were talking about chemicals. The teacher sent them to report it to a guidance counselor. The guidance counselor asked J.A. and her friend about it as they stood in line to go home on the bus. The two girls were upset and confused, but the counselor sent all four children on their way. After the bus left school, one of the other girls then

reported to a bus monitor that J.A. and her friend had chemicals in their backpacks. The bus driver stopped the bus and called police. Officers met the bus, as did two school superintendents. Police took J.A. and her friend off the bus and looked through their backpacks, finding no chemicals. Officers detained the girls and took them to a police station. At some point while the girls were at the station, their parents were called. Police held and questioned the children for several hours before they were released into the parents’ custody. DeLuca said while they are asking for unspecified compensatory damages, their focus is to get the school and police departments to adopt rules that would prevent the same thing from happening to another child. “The kid was just terrified. Upset, crying. It’s a little girl. They both were. They didn’t know what they did wrong. They felt intimidated by the police,” DeLuca said. “If somebody told you that police arrest third-graders, you’d say, ‘Nah, can’t be.’ But yeah, they do. In Tiverton, anyway.”

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# Christmas in Baylor Nation

Campus celebrates Christmas on Fifth Street with tree lighting, Santa and other festivities

Trey Honeycutt | Photographer



Trey Honeycutt | Photographer

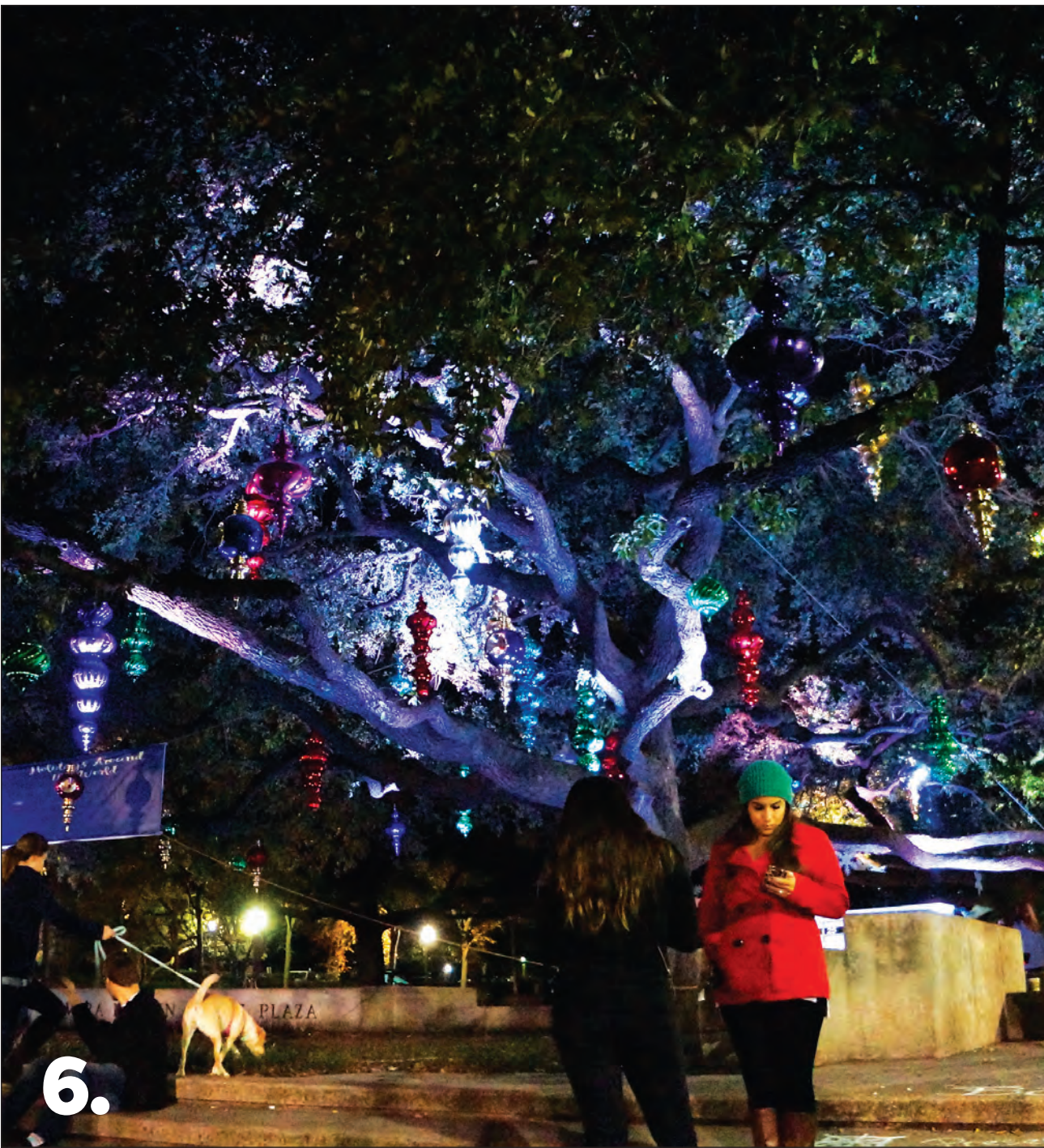
1. Kappa Omega Tau celebrates its 50th annual Christmas tree lighting Thursday evening.
2. Columbus Avenue Baptist Handbells performs carols for guests to enjoy on Vara Martin Daniel Plaza.
3. Hot chocolate and coffee are served to students and families in the Bill Daniel Student Building.
4. Waco Baylor grad student Billy Baker and his wife Kayla dress as Mary and Joseph for the live nativity scene in front of the Bill Daniel Student Building.
5. Alexandre Thiltges, a French professor, leads students singing traditional Christmas carols in French at Christmas on Fifth Street.
6. Trees in the SUB Bowl are adorned with large ornaments in red, green and other colors.
7. Faculty and students enjoy rides down 5th Street in horse-drawn carriages.
8. Baylor's Freshman Class Council hosts its annual Christmas Tree Farm. Organizations could purchase the right to decorate a tree that would be judged by Freshman Class Council. The trees will be donated to needy families around Waco. North Russell Hall was the overall winner this year.



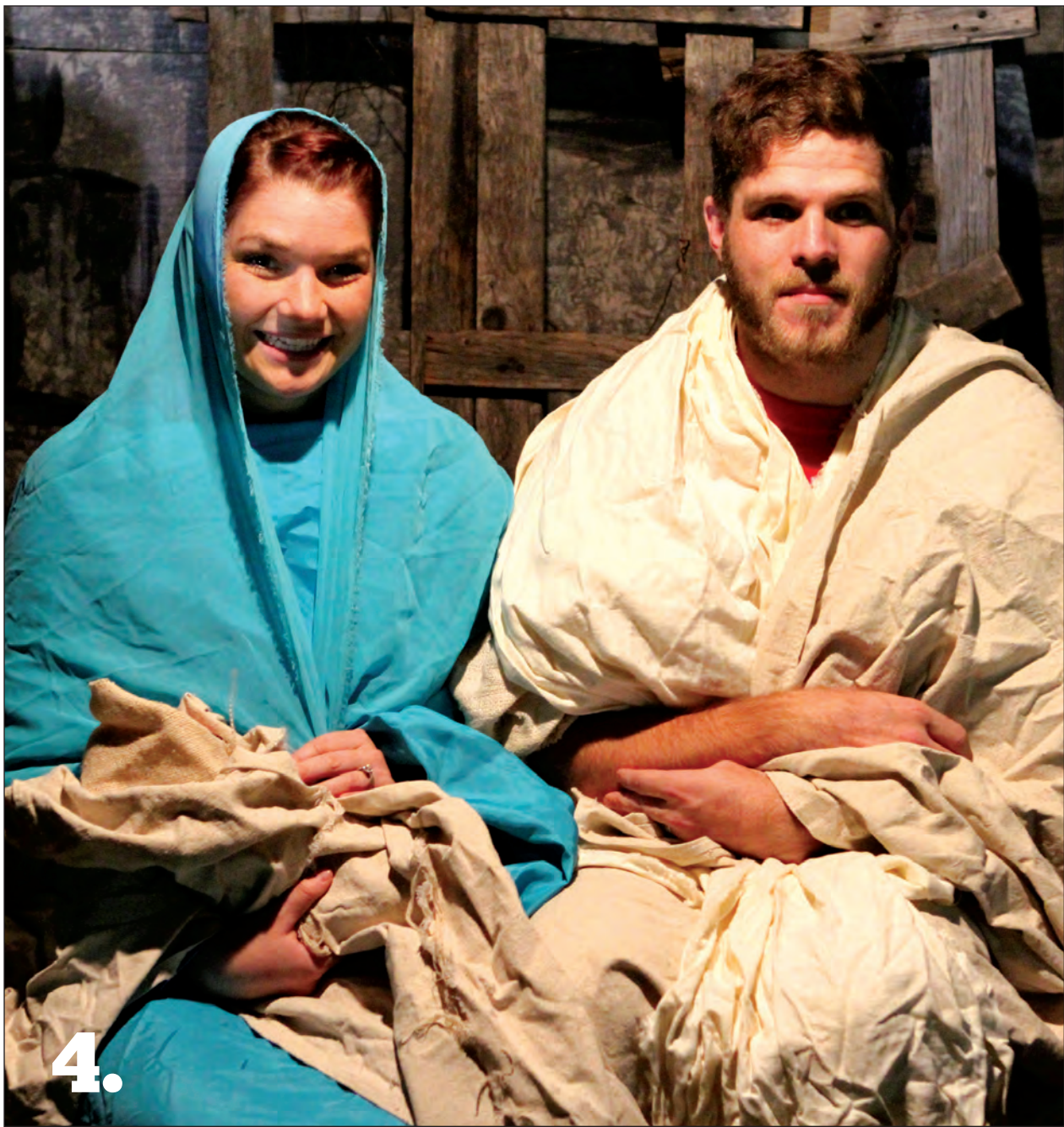
Penelope Shirey | Photographer



Richard Hirst | Photo Editor



Sarah Pyo | Photographer



Trey Honeycutt | Photographer



Trey Honeycutt | Photographer



Trey Honeycutt | Photographer



# Innovation meets design

Theme Park Engineering and Design club challenges limits of creation

**JILLIAN ANDERSON**  
Reporter

Can you make a bridge out of paper cups, plates and paper clips? Better yet, can you tell a story about it? This is the challenge the Baylor Theme Park and Engineering Design club faces in its monthly meetings. However, these challenges are just for fun. The club focuses on the imagination and innovation in creating theme park attractions.

Apple Valley, Calif. junior Chad Regensberg, a mechanical engineering major, founded the club after discovering his own career path. Unsure of the engineering field that he wanted to pursue, he looked to something familiar.

“I was really interested [in theme parks],” Regensberg said.

From there, Regensberg discovered the ways professionals can help develop and keep theme parks running. The club was founded on the idea that it takes more than an engineer to make a theme park. Regensberg’s goal was to gather like-minded people who enjoy the technical aspects of creativity.

“Many people are surprised that parks like Disney hire veterinarians. Well, they have horses to draw the carriages. There’s so much more than you would think,” Regensberg said.

The Baylor Theme Park



Courtesy Photo

**INNOVATION** In a meeting challenge, students in the Baylor Theme Park and Engineering Design club were tasked with building a bridge out of common materials such as cups and plates. They also had to invent a story to accompany the bridge.

Engineering and Design club was officially chartered this fall. The hope is that the club becomes a stepping stone to careers with different companies, as well a fun place for people to gather. There are multiple majors in the club. Half the members are

engineering majors, while the other half is divided among other fields, such as art and design, Regensberg said. All members participate in the meeting challenges.

“The challenges are really fun. They get a different type of thought process,” Shreveport,

La. sophomore Madeline Stephens said.

Another aspect of the challenges is to come up with a story for each project. In one meeting, each group received a special object in addition to their construction materials. That special object—which

ranged from a straw to a handful of marshmallows—was to be the central focus of their bridge. Participants had to build a story around connecting an island back to the mainland.

“It’s a really good way to be an engineer and to blend the

imagination with the technical way of thinking,” Regensberg said.

The bridge that won the challenge was the one built after the attack of the marshmallow giant. Its chewy remains were used as construction material.

The club is looking to grow in the future in terms of people and goals. It hosts monthly meetings and participates in various competitions, such as Disney Imaginations. One far-off goal for the club is the creation of a Diadeloso roller coaster. For right now, the design club is looking to expand its membership to all majors on campus.

“I love the opportunity I have to work with art majors and interior design and photojournalism and whatever else comes. It’s the ability to work with [people] who have somewhat similar interests to see what we can come up with that’s awesome and that can make someone’s day,” said League City junior Heather Foskit.

Regensberg, Foskit and Stephens hope to foster understanding between the technical engineering majors and other creative majors.

“It’s fun to meet like-minded people that bring their creative side to engineering and working on projects. It’s magical,” Stephens said.

The club is open to all majors and can be contacted through its Facebook page or at BTPED@baylor.edu.

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News

POLICE from Page A1

with 10 of the cases involving video.

“If you take the cases with the video away, you are left with what we would expect to see over the past 10 years — about five cases,” said Philip Stinson, the Bowling Green State University criminologist who compiled the statistics from across the nation. “You have to wonder if there would have been charges if there wasn’t video evidence.”

The importance of video was highlighted last week with the release of footage showing a Chicago officer fatally shooting a teenager 16 times. The officer said he feared for his life from the teen, who was suspected of damaging cars using a small knife. He also had a powerful hallucinogen in his bloodstream.

“This had all the trappings of a life-threatening situation for a law-enforcement officer — PCP-laced juvenile who had been wreaking havoc on cars with a knife,” said Joseph Tacopina, a prominent New York defense attorney and former prosecutor who has represented several police officers. “Except you have the video that shows a straight-out execution.”

When he was charged with first-degree murder last week, officer Jason Van Dyke became the 15th officer in the country to face such charges in 2015.

Over the last decade, law-enforcement agencies have recorded roughly 1,000 fatal shootings each year by on-duty police. An average of fewer than five each year resulted in murder or manslaughter charges against officers, Stinson found.

The cases are often difficult to prove. Of the 47 officers charged from the beginning of 2005 through the end of last year, about 23 percent were convicted, Stinson found.

“For forever, police have owned the narrative of what

happened between any encounter between a police officer and a civilian,” said David A. Harris, a University of Pittsburgh law professor who has written extensively on police misconduct. “What video does is it takes that power of the narrative away from the police to some extent. And that shift in power of control over the narrative is incredibly significant.”

In case after case, that is exactly what has happened this year.

Stinson said Van Dyke would “never, ever” have been charged without the video. He said the same is true for Ray Tensing, the white University of Cincinnati police officer who is charged with murder and voluntary manslaughter in the July 19 death of Samuel DuBose, a black motorist whom Tensing shot to death after pulling him over for a missing front license plate.

Tensing’s attorney said the officer feared he would be dragged under the car as Dubose tried to drive away. But, Stinson said, the video from the officer’s body camera shows that his explanation “doesn’t add up.”

Other cases around the country also reveal just how important the video is.

In Marksville, Louisiana, for example, two deputy city marshals were charged with second-degree murder after authorities reviewed video from one of the officers’ body cameras, which showed a man with his hands in the air inside a vehicle when the marshals opened fire. The man was severely wounded and his 6-year-old autistic son killed.

Just how dramatically a video can shift the balance of power was apparent in North Charleston, South Carolina, when officer Michael Slager shot and killed Walter Scott, an unarmed black man as he ran away after a traffic stop.



Associated Press

**DODGING FIRE** Firefighters in training crouch in a hallway fighting a test fire on Thursday in Fort Worth. The Fort Worth Fire Department’s old burn building and tower has been out of service for the past 15 years, but a new one is helping service now.

Early Christmas for Ft. Worth firefighters

MONICA S. NAGY  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Propane-fueled flames raced across ceilings like ghosts as shouting Fort Worth firefighters blasted them with water hoses.

But this fire was different — the firefighters were happy to have it.

For more than a decade, Fort Worth firefighters had to travel elsewhere for basic training because their practice structures had been condemned by the city.

But now they’re starting (and putting out) fires at home. The Fort Worth Star-Telegram reports the department’s new training center — at the \$97 million Bob Bolen Public Safety Complex, shared with city police — has what firefighters call the best live fire facilities in the nation. An eight-story fire tower and a separate burn building are stable enough to handle all the wood and trash trainers throw at them.

The concrete in the old practice tower and burn building at the Fire and Police Training Center began to crack under the heat of ordinary combustibles such as wood, paper, fabric and trash as far back as the 1980s.

Metal sheets were added to the walls, but the heat warped them. The buildings off North Henderson Street near White Settlement Road were condemned in the early 2000s.

Firefighters still used them for rescue drills with theatrical smoke, but they couldn’t do any actual live fire training.

“So we had to go to different facilities,” Jackson said, including some in Johnson County.

The new building, called “The Tower,” may look like a hotel

to people passing by. It has balconies, narrow hallways and stairs, kitchens, living rooms and bedrooms with furniture made of steel.

Outside, a tank filled with 13,000 pounds of propane sets fires in The Tower that can be seen for miles. A mock trash bin, delivery truck and car also can be set ablaze.

In the burn building 50 yards away, fires are manually lit with torches and fueled by wood products, hay bales and excelsior made of aspen wood strips.

Elsewhere in the Bolen center, Fort Worth police use a 30,000-square-foot tactical village to teach recruits the Texas Penal Code one day and active-shooter training the next.

The Tower and burn building are giving firefighters the same kind of real-life training.

Next door to the center, Fire Station 17 will open by spring.

“They all have an opportunity to do way more than what previous firefighters were able to do,” Jackson said. “They are better prepared; they have a better understanding tactically.”

Veteran firefighters from Fire Station 14 gave a Star-Telegram reporter and photographer a close look at training in The Tower on a recent November night.

The men crawled down a narrow hallway on the building’s third floor in helmets and gear weighing 45 pounds.

Their faces were covered in sweat and red from the heat — the temperature in the rooms hit 400. Ceilings can reach 800. Once the rooms heat up to 500 at 5 feet above the floor, the propane cuts off and fans kick in as a safety precaution.

“We are supposed to stay low inside buildings,” said firefighter Jake Horwedel, who has been with the department for 8½ years. “House fires get a whole lot hotter and harder to see.”

SUMMER from Page A1

home with family and friends.

“We think that’s the best way for the decisions to be made,” Null said.

He said even though students are adults, they should consult their parents, especially if the considering changing a major or studying abroad.

“It is really helpful to have the Christmas break to speak to your family about study abroad and the financial situation and whether or not it’s feasible,” said Waco sophomore Drew Mackenzie.

Null said moving up the course announcements required moving up processes for study abroad, too, which will give students more time to save or raise money. He said he wants to increase the number of students who study abroad.

In addition to announcing courses sooner, Null said there are also going to be more courses offered, both online and in the May mini-mester.

“We’ve seen an increase in the number of students taking summer courses at Baylor the last three summers,” Null said.

He said the mini-mester has been growing too and that students who study over the summer usually get ahead.

“I think it’s important for students, especially after their first semester of freshman year, to see what’s being offered in the summer, because it helps you fill out a four year degree plan,” Mackenzie said.

Null said changing the release of summer courses is a win-win situation.

“This is something that started over a year ago, we had student government leaders and other students request that we get the summer classes out earlier so they can plan earlier,” Null said.

Now, he anticipates that the number of students participating in Baylor studies from May to August will continue to go up.

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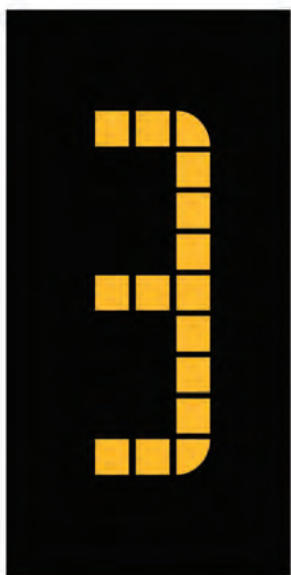


2015



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Big 12 Rival Total - 3 Crowns



**BAYLOR**  
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*Sic 'Em  
Bears!*



AGE IS JUST A NUMBER

In her new album, '25,' the 27-year-old Adele sings of heartbreaks past. **pg. B2**



ONLINE

Find all the Diners Drive-By's and Dives, Cookbook Confessions and album reviews from the semester. **BaylorLariat.com**

I did it all. ONE REPUBLIC, I LIVED

Lyrics to best define the last week of publication for the fall semester at the Lariat.

On-The-Go >> Happenings: Follow @BULariatArts and look for #ThisWeekinWaco on Twitter BaylorLariat.com



SCREEN TO STAGE The classic Christmas movie, "Miracle on 34th Street," is adapted for the stage and will be performed at the Waco Civic Theatre through Dec. 13.

'Miracle' on Lake Air Drive

Civic Theatre kicks off holiday season with classic

LAUREN FRIEDERMAN Reporter

Having trouble feeling the Christmas spirit amidst the stress of finals? Waco Civic Theatre has the perfect remedy with its presentation of "Miracle on 34th Street." The show runs until Dec.13 at the Waco Civic Theatre at 1517 Lake Air Drive. Many of the shows have sold out, but there are still tickets available to

the 2:30 p.m. show on Saturday and 12, as well as the 7:30 p.m. show on Dec. 10. Tickets are \$16 for students, military and seniors, and \$18 for adults. Tickets are available online at wacocivictheatre.org. "The show is sentimental, and you know it's coming, but you still feel it," said Waco Civic Theatre director Eric Shepard. "I think it's a show you want to like and you end up liking despite yourself."

The Civic Theatre rotates its Christmas shows to give its audience and performers variety, Shepard said. The secular nature of "Miracle of 34th Street" appeals to a broad audience, which makes the show a good fit for the community. The play makes much of childlike wonder, which is something Shepard said he thinks the audience will enjoy.

CLASSIC >> Page B3

This week(end) in Waco:

>>Today

11 a.m.-Midnight — First Friday, Downtown Waco

7-11 p.m. — Baylor Swing Dance Society Yule Ball, Barfield Drawing Room in SUB (\$5 for non-members)

7:30 p.m. — Opening night of 'Miracle on 34th Street,' Waco Civic Theatre

7:30 p.m. — People for Peace Vigil, Heritage Square

8 p.m. — Jimmy Needham and Art Wellborn concert, Common Grounds

8 p.m. — Dueling Pianos, Waco Hippodrome

>> Saturday

9 a.m.-1 p.m. — Downtown Waco Farmers Market

11 a.m. — Baylor v. UT, McLane Stadium

6 p.m. — Tree lighting ceremony and Waco Wonderland kickoff, Heritage Square

>> Sunday

1-5 p.m. — Free Sunday, Mayborn Museum

8 p.m. — Patio Jams, Waco Hippodrome

GROWING UP "Whether a visitor is strolling through the rose garden amongst the chattering guinea hens or stopping by to catch up with an old friend that works there, Bonnie's has the kind of charm that makes it easy to lose track of time."



Sarah Scales | Web and Social Media Editor

Bonnie's Makes it Big

Local nursery to be featured on next season of 'Fixer Upper'

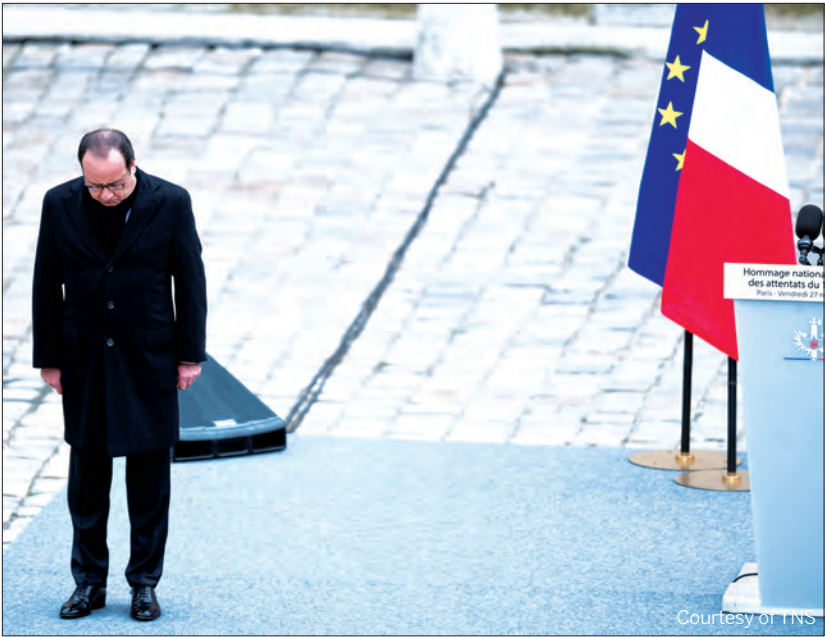
SARAH SCALES Web and Social Media Editor

Soon, Waco natives won't be the only ones to mosey down the pothole-infested gravel road to Bonnie's Greenhouse. HGTV's Fixer Upper will feature the backyard business in this upcoming season, and with that owners Sandra and Johnny Killough said they are excited to see an increase in their already growing business. "[Joanna Gaines] has shopped here for years," Johnny said. "Even before they got their show, she has always shopped here."

It's easy to see why. Whether a visitor is strolling through the rose garden amongst the chattering guinea hens or stopping by to catch up with an old friend that works there, Bonnie's has the kind of charm that makes it easy to lose track of time. Despite not having the wide-scale reputation of franchises like Home Depot or Lowe's, Bonnie's offers locals something more. "When someone walks in the gate, we meet them," Johnny said. "People know they can come here, and they can get the answers they want." Throughout the years, the couple has developed countless friendships with their customers.

"You touch so many people with this," Sandra said. "It's not about making the million bucks, it's about the friendships that we make along the way." Sandra began working at Bonnie's Greenhouse when it was still owned by the original Bonnie herself. "She was a mentor to me," Sandra said. "She taught me everything I know." With her husband working as a truck driver, Bonnie Murphy had some time on her hands. She had been in various garden clubs, and soon she started her backyard business when she got the idea to sell her

GARDEN >> Page B3



JE T'AIME PARIS French President Francois Hollande delivers a speech during a ceremony to honor the victims of the Nov. 13 Paris attacks at the Invalides in Paris on, Nov. 27.

Downtown open mic and vigil to promote peace

MATT DOTSON Reporter

At 7:30 p.m. today at Heritage Square in downtown Waco, the Waco Poet Society will host a special open mic and vigil titled "People for Peace." Jenuine Poetess, the society's founder, said the event is being held in response to recent events such as the attacks in Paris and this week's shooting in California. The event is designed to be a celebration of people from different cultures, backgrounds and beliefs. "Waco is a diverse city. We need safe spaces where people of all beliefs, races and identities can gather, grieve, process and stand in solidarity with one another," Poetess said. "The tone is peace building, solidarity and healing. Hate speech of any kind is not a welcome or productive part of the community."

VIGIL >> Page B3



# HELLO from the other side

Adele's latest album  
doesn't trump her  
previous body of work

**HOW WE USED  
TO BE** The album  
cover for Adele's  
'25' keeps with the  
theme of her other  
albums: a closeup  
of her face.



Courtesy of Amazon

**JOHN TIMPANE**  
The Philadelphia Inquirer

## ALBUM REVIEW

There must have been overwhelming pressure on Adele, already 27, to give an adoring world something to keep up the adoration. She responds confidently and in full voice, with a coherent concept, sustained bouts of excellent songwriting, and brave singing against some of the best production your ears can find.

She and "25" do too much of the same thing a little too often. But it's likely not to matter to the people who bought "19" and "21" (28-30 million).

"Hello" kicks it off, and it is brilliant, a classic as soon as it dropped. Everyone on the streets seems to be singing it. Dramatic opening chords, those trademark Adele background vocals, and a pulsing chorus that is as black as it is blue. She reflects on the "million miles between us," the tumultuous changes year by year in your 20s. Incredibly brave singing. You could hardly ask for a better opener.

Then comes "Send My Love," stripping down to a single guitar

ostinato, a very wise choice. (One complaint is that, as the album wears on, there's too much tsunami-of-sound, full-in-the-face, late-era-Barry-Manilow-drums stuff. Adele can do this only so much, and she does it slightly too much.) "We both know we ain't kids no more," she sings, driving home this album's message: Time passes, we don't stay the same, and we hope against hope that love will comfort us.

Back to whomping drums on "I Miss You." It's another piece of excellent songcraft. "I want to step into your great unknown" is one of many telling lines in this album; Adele is well-known and should be better known as a fine lyricist. I'd say this tune is too much like "21" \_ except it's so committed, so resolute. She's not breaking up; she's wondering what, if anything, is next.

The central tune might well be "When We Were Young." She tells the beloved, "You look like a movie and sound like a song," still, just as you used to. "Let me photograph you in this light / in case it is the last time that we might be / exactly like we were before we realized" we can't stay the same. It's fear of aging, of losing the perspective of "19" and "25." Believe me, many millions will hear these lines and nod: "I so know." She isn't where she used to be and will never be again. More reckless singing, with one memorable, stratospheric note.

"Remedy" takes the theme and kicks it forward: "I remember all of the things I thought I wanted to be." This sounds different, a sprightly waltz with piano. That's all it is, voice and piano, and

that, in a frequently dark, crashing album, is welcome. Delivered with total assurance. People can comfort one another through the pain and being urged into future selves. It's a moving exploration for all ages.

"Water Under the Bridge" may well be a future single. Another welcome change-up, with a gentle dance beat. It gets a little Euro-celestial for me, but a lot of people will love this track. Adele has long been a leader, with original lead-chorus interactions, and that brilliance is on display here.

"River Lea" is the last real standout until the end. Adele grew up in Tottenham, where the Lea does flow, and she ponders the paradox of being rooted (the river is "in my roots, in my veins, in my blood") yet being carried forward. She can't go back, but she's also always there.

And then, well ... "Love in the Dark," not the strongest song. "Million Years Ago" has an interesting Jobim-era samba sound, but retreads much-treaded ground, alas. "All I Ask" is similarly undistinguished, except for a single, searing line: Let's "play pretend we're not scared of what is coming next"

"Sweetest Devotion" is the most cheerful moment on this album, a sweet verse to a swingin' six, a woo-hoo chorus, a promise of commitment. Forward! To 28 ... 29 ... and ... ulp ... 30? It ends with the one bit of fun here, a baby's voice, perhaps Adele's 3-year-old, Angelo. Devotion is the last word, because it has to be. Adele is Adele, and this is no "21." But it's worthy.

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A&L

CLASSIC from page B1

“We try to reach a variety of audiences, and this is right down the middle of the road. It’s geared toward families and it’s around holiday time,” Shepard said. “It’s part of our mission to reach as many people as possible.”

The show allows for 12 children in the Waco community to get involved in the cast.

“We have to train ‘em up young,” Shepard said.

Director Shelby English said working with kids poses a different challenge for her than when she works with adults.

“I love to get on their level of thinking and wrangling and stuff,” English said. “They’ve only lived so much life, but the easiest thing for them is to relate it to something they can attach it to.”

“Miracle on 34th Street” was first made as a movie in 1947 before it was

adapted for the stage. Shepard said the strong female lead represented in Doris’ character put the show ahead of its time.

“One of the great things that Maureen O’Hara did in the original movie is that she managed to portray a very tough-minded person who is also sympathetic,” Shepard said. “You have to take special care to the characterization of Doris because you never want to doubt that she’s a good mother, you never want to doubt that she’s committed to her career, you never want to doubt that the decisions that she makes are really for the best interest of the child even if they’re strange.”

The piece reflects a certain time period. In accordance with the 40s and 50s, the actor playing Doris must adopt the mindset of a woman living in that time.

“As a period show, she has to have a

way of standing and a way of gesturing which is appropriate for the time,” Shepard said. “That helps us participate in the magic of the show.”

Shepard said the twist of Santa being put on trial evokes a creativity when directing. In “Miracle on 34h Street,” the jurors must decide whether or not to preserve the idea that Santa is real. Shepard said he believes this difficulty causes adults in the audience to think hard about the magic of Christmas.

“We all play along. We know it’s a lie, but we tell it anyway. Why do we do that? Why is it important to us?” Shepard said. “I think it’s a question that’s intriguing to an adult and they’re going to think about why they do that with their kids. Their sense of wonder and joy in the Christmas season will be evoked.”



**SCREEN TO STAGE** The classic Christmas movie, “Miracle on 34th Street,” is adapted for the stage and will be performed at the Waco Civic Theatre through Dec. 13.

GARDEN from page B1



**GROWING UP** Bonnie’s houses thousands of species of plants at their location north of Waco.

surplus flowers.

Bonnie’s became known for its antique roses, irises, daylilies, hibiscuses and herbs. As the business has blossomed, what have stayed the same are the close-knit relationships among employees and customers.

“I didn’t treat my workers as employees, I treated them as friends,” Murphy said.

Sandra and Johnny purchased the business from Murphy in 2007 and have been running it with a “hands-on” approach ever since.

“It was a good transition,” Sandra said. “She said she would only sell it to me because I had worked here all these years and loved it like it was my own.”

Many loyal customers were

concerned for the future of Bonnie’s when Sandra and Johnny took over.

“A lot of people told me it’ll never be like it was,” Sandra said. “So we wanted to keep it the same sweet place, but we wanted to make it better.”

Since purchasing Bonnie’s, they’ve added trees, shrubs, vegetables and Sandra’s popular, whimsical decorations called “fairy gardens.”

Over three quarters of the plants they sell are grown themselves, and some are more exotic than others. For example, the Hojo Santa, informally called the “Root Beer plant,” gets its name for the distinct fragrance it produces.

While Bonnie’s is not certified

organic because the process involves “a lot of red tape,” they don’t use chemicals on any of their plants, Sandra said.

“They might not be the prettiest or the biggest you could find at other places, but they’re grown without chemicals,” Sandra said.

Additionally, Bonnie’s offers classes that teach customers everything from how to make Sandra’s fairy gardens to plant cuttings and propagation.

Tune in to HGTV at 8 p.m. on Tuesday nights to watch for Bonnie’s Greenhouse’s special appearance.

“This is the fairy land,” Sandra said. “It was just a sweet little job, and now I don’t know how to do anything else.”

VIGIL from page B1

The event will showcase poetry, songs, reflections, spoken word and prayers. Warm refreshments will also be provided. The event is free to the public.

For others like open mic host and Waco resident Kiera Collins the event also provides a strong emotional benefit.

“The purpose is to provide a safe space where individuals can come together and share while receiving comfort and healing. Like one of those ‘bright light in a dark room’ type of deal,” Collins said. “With everything going on in the world, at home and abroad, it seems like there’s a lot of hate and not enough peace and understanding.”

The Mission Statement of Prayer for Peace states, “In light of recent events in our own country and around the world,

we gather in peace, to speak truth, guided by love, and working toward justice for all people—especially those who are targeted and harmed because of race and/or beliefs.”

Poetess said she hopes the event will bring a positive influence into the community after the recent terrorist attacks around the world.

“There are many responses to the attacks on Beirut, Paris, Nigeria and to the racism taking place on campuses like Yale and Mizzou,” Poetess said. “Many of the responses are born out of fear, hate and ignorance. This ‘People for Peace’ open mic and vigil is intended to add another kind of voice to the chorus of responses - one of love, truth, justice and compassion.”

The goal of the event is to provide a safe haven for artists and members of the community to share pleasant and friendly conversations together about the tragedies.

Setting up events like this is no easy feat, but the local communities’ efforts minimized the difficulty, Poetess said.

“It’s a collective effort to create the name, write the copy on the flyer, do outreach, share and invite others, bring supplies, help set up, host the event and set the tone and energy of the space with healing intention,” Poetess said. “This event has been planned quickly because it’s in response to a current event, but we’re able to pull it off with short notice because it is a community effort.



**JE T’AIME PARIS** French President Francois Hollande delivers a speech during a ceremony to honor the victims of the Nov. 13 Paris attacks at the Invalides in Paris on Friday, Nov. 27, 2015.

### Today’s Puzzles

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Across

1 Game piece associated with 71-Across

8 “C’m on, Let’s Play” store

15 Estate planner’s suggestion

16 Chess grandmaster Karpov

17 Cancún’s peninsula

18 Copied

19 “Nurse Jackie” network, briefly

20 Attempt

22 Org. concerned with the AQI

23 VW hatchback

24 Way out

26 Selective socializer, perhaps

29 Geologic periods

31 Soulful Franklin

33 Catch

34 Swallow up

36 Asks for more

38 Fish used as bait in bass fishing

40 Dagger of yore

41 Apple music player

45 Chess play

49 \_\_ Mahal

50 Much of Oceania

52 Cut with teeth

53 Pass over

55 Recital numbers

56 Cool one

57 Tampa NFLer

59 Polynesian beverage

61 Spam holder

62 Like some skinny jeans

65 The United States, to Mexicans

68 Carrier to Tehran

69 Critical

70 Training units

71 Word that can precede the word in each set of puzzle circles

Down

1 Sound from a crib

2 Fourth-most populous U.S. city

3 Dürer work

4 Former Labor secretary Elaine

5 Word with press or mess

6 Historic stretches

7 Many a talk show caller

8 Wage earners’ concerns

9 Person

10 Easily maneuvered, at sea

11 Bus schedule listings

12 1987 film loosely based on “Cyrano de Bergerac”

1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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13 Suffix with glob

14 Australian airport, in itineraries

21 “Timber!” yell

23 Awe-full expression?

25 Revealing beachwear

27 Wake maker

28 Small shot

30 Sought damages

31 Repeated notes in Chopin’s “Raindrop” prelude

32 Square measure

35 Dunham who created and stars in the HBO series “Girls”

37 Reps. counterparts

39 Hoodwinks

41 Jurist Lance

42 Spray on a pan

43 Lake Huron natives

44 Earthenware pot

46 Martini & Rossi parent company

47 “Include me”

48 Demolition stuff

51 Dance music provider

54 Chances to play

58 Trendy hi

60 Six-time All-Star Moises

61 Firm: Abbr.

62 Rap name adjective

63 Mine output

64 Committed thing

66 \_\_ de plume

67 Neurologist’s tool, briefly

For today’s puzzle results, go to [BaylorLariat.com](http://BaylorLariat.com)

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UNDEFEATED LADY BEARS

No. 4 Baylor (7-0) takes on Northwestern State pg. B7



NO. 25 BEARS HOST VANDY

Baylor (5-1) faces SEC's Vanderbilt at Ferrell Center pg. B6

Somehow, Baylor has turned the tables on Texas in the past few years.

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Plenty to play for
Bears seek Sugar Bowl bid with win over Longhorns

TYLER CAGLE
Sports Writer

With the 2015 season whittling down to the last week of games, the Baylor Bears find themselves in a vastly different position than they have been the last two seasons. After suffering a loss to TCU last week, the Bears are not the Big 12 champions for the first time since 2013. For the Baylor seniors, the game represents the end of their era, which was the most prolific in Baylor's history. "You look back to the guys who have been here five years - they've seen Baylor win a Heisman Trophy with RG3 in 2011, they've been involved in two Big 12 Championships, and they have the possibility to be a part of four-out-of-five 10-win seasons, and potentially play in a New Year's six game. So that's a big, big deal," said head coach Art Briles. Senior left tackle Spencer Drango, who has been a starter when healthy his entire Baylor career, knows the gravity of this game. With the Longhorns coming into the game with no hopes of a bowl game, the Bears can send off the seniors in winning fashion. "We have a big game this weekend and it's senior night, so hopefully we can send all the seniors off on the right note," Drango said. The bowl mentioned by Briles is in fact the Sugar Bowl. Due to the Big 12's policy on tiebreakers, point differential comes into play before head-to-head. The Bears own the tiebreaker for second place in the conference, and with conference champion Oklahoma in the playoffs, the Bears are off to New Orleans. However, they must first finish off the season with a victory against a Texas Longhorns team that is hungry and desperate. "We know they're going to pull out everything for us, so we can't play with emotions going into this Texas game. We just have to go out there



Penelope Shirey | Lariat Photographer

SECRET WEAPON Senior tight end LaQuan McGowan celebrates a touchdown catch during the game between Baylor and Oklahoma on Nov. 14 at McLane Stadium. McGowan will play his final home game for the Bears on Saturday.

and execute, and whatever happens with the bowl situation happens," said sophomore nickelback Travon Blanchard. The Longhorns will surely pull out all the stops against the Bears. Texas is 4-7 on the season in Charlie Strong's second year as head coach, yet still fields some talented players on both sides of the ball. "Playmaking ability is high on the list, and experience, in [quarterback Tyrone] Swoopes' case. He's been their off-and-on starter for about two years, and I would guess [Jerrod] Heard has started maybe eight of their games this year, so those are two very, very good quarterbacks," said Briles of the Longhorns' two-QB system this season. In the backfield, freshman running back Chris Warren has exploded onto the scene, rushing for a freshman record against Texas Tech last weekend. The Bears are coming off back-to-back good performances against the run, allowing just eight to Oklahoma State two weeks ago. If the Bears can force the Longhorns to pass the ball on second and third and long downs, expect the Bears to control this game throughout the day. For the Bears, sophomore quarterback Chris Johnson will receive the start for just the second time in his career. After coming in to relieve an injured Jarrett Stidham in Stillwater, Johnson's abilities were held in check by the downpour against the Horned Frogs. "It was definitely tough. Right after the game I was upset with myself mainly because there were a lot of things that I feel like I could have done differently or done better to help us win that game. But going back and watching film, it gives you a different perspective on things. My head is clear mentally. It's done, so now our focus is on beating Texas," Johnson said. The Baylor offense should get right back to their old selves against a Texas defense that ranks 108th in the country in terms of yards allowed per game. Should the Bears win the game against the Longhorns, it will mark the third straight year Baylor has won at least 10 games. With the trip to the Sugar Bowl, the Bears will have also been to three straight BCS/New Year's Six bowl games as well. Look for Baylor to finish in style and send off the best senior class in school history. Kick off is scheduled for 11 a.m. at McLane Stadium. Coverage of the game will be provided by ESPN.



Sarah Pyo | Lariat Photographer

IN THE TRENCHES Senior offensive tackle Spencer Drango sets a pass protection block during the Bears' game against Northwestern State on Oct. 17 at McLane Stadium. Drango has started since his freshman year and will play his last home game Saturday.

Drango set to play home finale

JOSHUA DAVIS
Sports Writer

Senior left tackle Spencer Drango will set foot inside McLane Stadium one last time on Saturday. It will be the final home game for the lineman, who has had an illustrious career wearing the green and gold. And the final opponent will make it that much sweeter. According to Drango, coming to Baylor wasn't always a foregone conclusion. In fact, there was a time growing up that the Cedar Park native was set on attending the University of Texas. But looking back on it now, after claiming two consecutive Big 12 titles, two bowl victories and being a part of the greatest stretch in Baylor football history, Drango said he made the right decision. "Once I separated the fan and the player in me, it was a pretty easy [decision]," Drango said. "The fan wanted me to go to UT, growing up as a fan. But stepping back and looking at it as the player, it made it clear that Baylor was the right choice." Despite breaking all kinds of records while at Baylor, he realizes the groundwork that was laid before him and remains appreciative of those players.



# No. 25 Bears host SEC's Vanderbilt

JOSHUA DAVIS  
Sports Writer

The No. 25 Baylor Bears (5-1) host the No. 16 Vanderbilt Commodores (6-1) on Sunday in what will be the non-conference marquee matchup of the season for head coach Scott Drew's squad.

Last year, the Bears proved to be a tough test for a young and developing Vanderbilt team. In 2014, as part of the annual Big 12/SEC Challenge, Baylor pulled out a 66-63 win over the Commodores in Nashville, Tenn.

This year, the Bears come into the matchup with a record of 5-1. Thus far, Baylor is still undefeated at home, with their only loss coming in Eugene, Oregon, against the then-ranked No. 15 Oregon Ducks.

While the Bears have not been as good on the road, they have found success in the home-cooking of the Ferrell Center. Baylor's average margin of victory at home is 31.8 points.

Drew and the Bears will hope to continue their home-court dominance against Vanderbilt on Sunday.

So far the Bears have shot the ball season exceptionally well at home.

Baylor ranks No. 27 in the nation, with a 50 percent field goal percentage on the year.

The Bears have also taken advantage of their ability to get to the free throw line. As a team, they are shooting 76.2 percent from the charity stripe, an improvement from last year's free throw numbers.

With the physical presence of its forwards, senior Rico Gathers, senior Taurean Prince and sophomore Johnathan Motley, Baylor has been able to dominate on the glass as well. But that may not be the case on Sunday.

For a team that is rarely outsized, the Bears may meet their match in the Commodores.

This year, the Vanderbilt squad looks deeper and more experienced as they head into Waco with one thought in mind – revenge.



Sarah Pyo | Lariat Photographer

**GAME FACE** Senior guard Leser Medford jumps near the basket for a layup during the Bears' game against Prairie View A&M Wednesday night at the Ferrell Center. Medford and the Bears play Vanderbilt at 7 p.m. Sunday at the Ferrell Center.

Like Baylor, the Commodores have only suffered one loss on the season. And it just turns out that Vanderbilt's only loss was against a team that the Bears will play twice this season – the Kansas Jayhawks.

The Commodores lost to Kansas 70-63 in the Maui Invitational tournament championship on Nov.

25. Despite the loss, Vanderbilt was competitive in the contest and even dictated play on the inside at times.

Baylor will have to contend with the Commodores size as they have two players over seven feet tall.

Junior forward Luke Kornet is Vanderbilt's tallest, and perhaps its

most dominant, player. Although Kornet only averages 9.9 points per game and 6.9 rebounds per game, head coach Kevin Stallings said Kornet is the most impactful.

The 7-foot-1, 240-pound Argyle native uses his size to clean the glass and alter shots in the paint. His dominating presence has led

the Commodores to rank third in the nation defensively with a 33.8 opponent field goal percentage.


In a battle of heavyweights, Baylor will look to slow down Kornet and Vanderbilt at 7 p.m. Sunday in the Ferrell Center. The game will be televised on ESPNU.

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# Baylor to test unbeaten streak

MEGHAN MITCHELL  
Sports Writer

The No. 4 Baylor Lady Bears basketball team looks to add on to its undefeated season against Northwestern State at 7 p.m. today at the Ferrell Center.

The Bears (7-0) are coming off a decisive victory against Rice, where they dominated, taking the win 89-38.

The Lady Demons (3-4) look to get the momentum going back their way after a tough one-point loss last Saturday.

The Demons are led by junior guard Beatrice Attura who has played in all seven games this season, averaging 32 minutes a game and 18.3 points.

The Bears will need to keep the fouls to a minimum as the Lady Demons are shooting a .667 free throw percentage.

The Bears are still without their full lineup as several are still on the injury list.

Freshman post Beatrice Mompremier went out late in the first quarter Wednesday night with what appeared to be a shoulder injury.

"Beatrice has the issue with her shoulder," Mulkey said. "She's always had it. It just popped out and came back in. We just need to get her ready for Florida in a couple weeks. She can play with it. I've seen her tape it up and play with it her entire career."

Mompremier should be back in action tonight against the Lady Demons as no further updates on her injury were given.

After playing in her first collegiate game against the Owls Wednesday night, freshman forward Justis Szczepanski should be getting more minutes and experience under her belt. At 6-foot-3, Szczepanski's height should come at an advantage tonight as the tallest Lady Demon is 6-foot-1.

Adding on to the excitement tonight, the Lady Bears will have their 10th annual "Care Bear" drive. A \$5 admission fee and a free Whataburger coupon (will be available to fans donating stuffed bears while supplies last



Penelope Shirey | Lariat Photographer

**MECHANICS** Freshman forward Justis Szczepanski pulls up a three-point jump shot during the Lady Bears' game against Rice on Wednesday at the Ferrell Center

The Lady Bears will deliver the Bears donated to children and patients at Waco's Baylor Scott & White Hospital later in December.

Head Coach Kim Mulkey urges all

the fans to come out and support the No. 4-ranked team.

The Lady Bears will also take on Grambling at 2 p.m. Sunday.

## DRANGO from Page B5

"It's unimaginable, unbelievable [what we've accomplished]," Drango said. "With what this group has been able to do, thanks to the group that came before us, it really is unbelievable and it's so special to be a part of."

He said the best part about Baylor is the camaraderie and family atmosphere of the team. It's something that Drango will miss about playing for the Bears, he said.

We're all one big family, a band of brothers, Drango said.

"I'll miss this team – the guys that I've come to know really well and love. It is a family, and from what I've heard about the next level, it's straight business. So I'm going to miss the family and people here."

After being at a place for so long, there are many memories that have been made, but one in particular stands out in his mind.

"In the locker room after a win is always something special," Drango said. "There's been some videos put out by tweets seeing the excitement of it, but winning the second-consecutive Big 12 title and being able to carry it into the locker room and sit there and look at it, take pictures, was really cool."

Drango said he's disappointed that the team didn't get to do that this year, but made it clear that there was no regret for the way the season played out.

"If you look back, you say would've, could've, should've type thing, but you can't change it now," Drango said. "Just enjoy the positives and learn from the negatives. No regrets though."

Now, the Bears are focused on getting a win against the visiting Longhorns to lock up a Sugar Bowl berth. In a season where the goal was to reach the College Football Playoff, a New Year's Six bowl would be a sweet consolation prize, Drango said.

"That'd be something really, really cool," Drango said. "We've been to some big bowl games, but that would be another big one that we could potentially go to if we take care of business."

The All-American said after a couple devastating defeats in the postseason, it would be nice to go out with a win.

"Being able to send everyone out on a good note, since we haven't been able to do that the past couple years [would be great], but especially for the seniors, we want to finish on a positive note."

Head coach Art Briles agreed with that statement and said he just wants to thank the seniors for all their hard work. There would be no better way to do that than win the final two games, he said.

"It's not on [the seniors] to start the car and drive it," Briles said. "It's on us to get it going, get it warm, and open the door for them and say 'come on, we appreciate what you've done for us; we're going to take care of you.' So that's the way I look at it. If there's a back, they're on ours."

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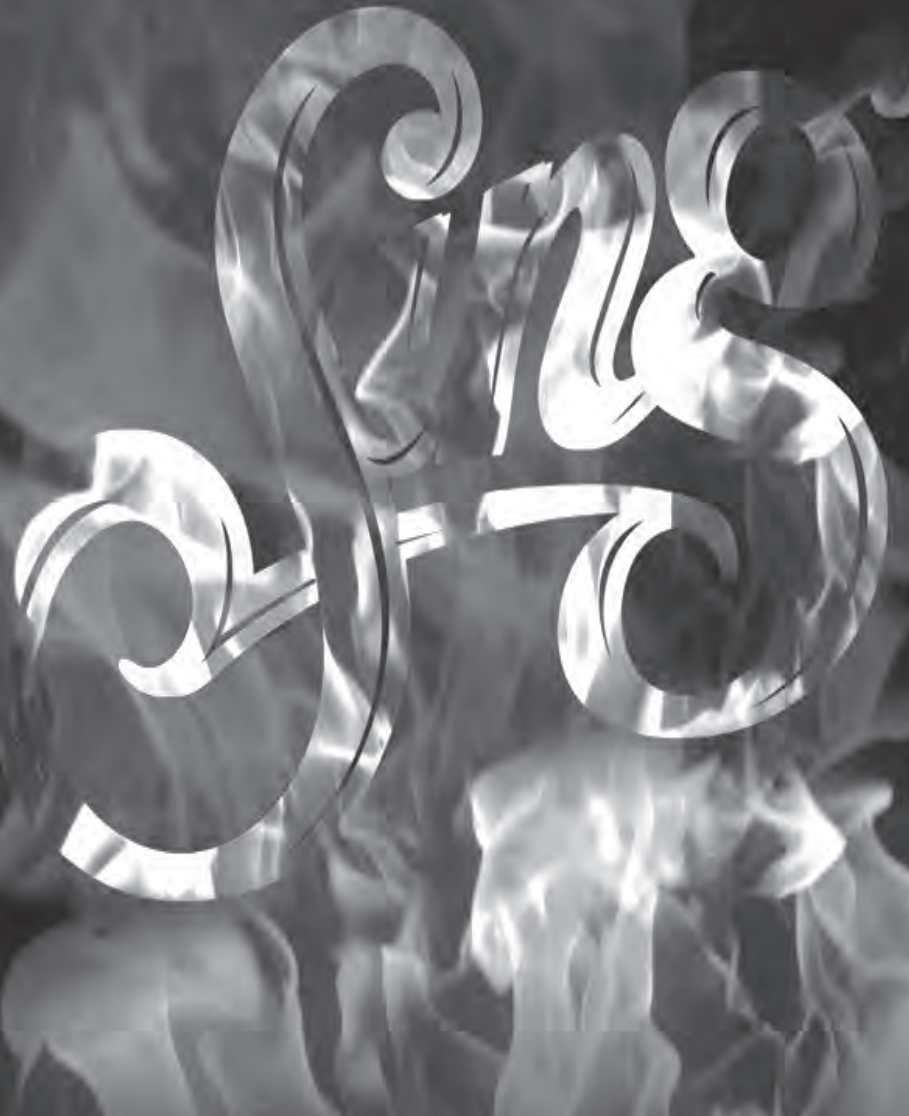
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