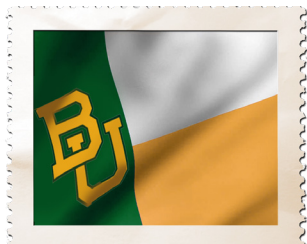


Baylor Lariat

WE'RE THERE WHEN YOU CAN'T BE

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

baylorlariat.com



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CL faith
requirement
should stay



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X-mas flicks
Our staff gives
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**Setting the
pace: Seniors
say goodbye**
Volleyball
finishes with title

2021 NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 X	2 X	3 X	4 X	5 X	6 X
7 X	8 X	9 X	10 X	11 X	12 X	13 X
14 X	15 X	16 X	17 X	18 X	19 X	20 X
21	22	23	24	25	26	27

Thanksgiving Break

Nathan De La Cerda | Multimedia Journalist

A HOPEFUL HOLIDAY Students can look forward to an entire week of Thanksgiving break in two years, thanks to the Baylor Academic Calendar Committee's work.

2021's weeklong break

TYLER BUI
Staff Writer

Baylor's Academic Calendar Committee is extending Thanksgiving break to last an entire week beginning in Fall 2021.

The committee recommends the schedule for Baylor's academic year and is composed of nine faculty members. They meet and discuss topics such as the number of class days, examination days, holidays and non-academic events on campus.

Dr. Wesley Null, vice provost for undergraduate education and institutional effectiveness at Baylor, said the committee has been interested in extending Thanksgiving break for several years.

"The primary reason is that Baylor's out-of-state undergraduate population is approximately 40% at this point, and that number continues to rise each year," Null said. "A full week at Thanksgiving will be most helpful to out-of-state students who must travel home for Thanksgiving. The change also should be most welcome to in-state students who have long distances to drive."

Null said the change will go into effect in Fall 2021, because the academic calendar is planned three years in advance.

"The Fall 2021 calendar was finalized and posted in Fall 2018. Baylor's academic calendar is set three years out from the current term," Null said. "Many institutional calendars throughout Central Texas and countless events like weddings, athletic events and major facilities reservations rely upon Baylor's calendar, which is why the three-year planning approach is helpful to everyone involved."

Madison, Ala., senior Noah Elmore is a student representative on the Calendar Committee. He said he thinks a longer Thanksgiving break would allow students to have more time to travel home and spend time with their family during the holidays.

"Personally, it's something that I have been a proponent of since I got here. I think it would really take the stress off that Thanksgiving break and really let people get their travel plans in," Elmore said. "Overall, I think it would be really good for the student body."

In addition, Null said the committee

has shown interest in eliminating fall break.

"There has been interest on the part of the Calendar Committee for the elimination of fall break, but that break has been retained primarily because, without it, students would have no break from classes between Labor Day and Thanksgiving," Null said. "Such a long stretch, especially for freshmen, is not the best approach in the eyes of many Student Life professionals. That aspect of the calendar, however, continues to be revisited each time we set a fall calendar."

Currently, fall break is held during the middle of the fall semester. Elmore said the committee believes it does not allow enough time for students to travel home.

"As of right now, Thanksgiving break is Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and fall break is usually more central in the semester to give students a mental health break and time to go home," Elmore said. "The general talk of the committee is that the one-day break is not long enough to warrant a lot of students to go home. So many students skip those days anyway, it would be easier on both the students and faculty to have the full week off."



Lariat File Photo

CHRISTMAS ON CAMPUS Baylor's Christmas on 5th celebrations will showcase to the Baylor community a variety of events and activities, including pony ride and a petting zoo, among others.

Baylor celebrates holiday season with annual Christmas on 5th

MEREDITH HOWARD
Staff Writer

Baylor's Christmas on 5th celebration will feature a variety of activities Thursday, such as pony rides, face painting, selfies with Santa, carnival booths, a petting zoo and more.

The long-standing Baylor tradition will kick off at the SUB Bowl with the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures' carols from 5 to 6 p.m., followed by the Baylor Religious Hour Choir Christmas concert at 6:15 p.m., also at the SUB Bowl.

At 8:15 p.m., Kappa Omega Tau will hold the annual tree lighting ceremony. Boerne junior Trip Smith is one of Kappa Omega Tau's Christmas on 5th chairmen, and he said he has always enjoyed the event.

"It has been one of my

favorite events since I was little; my family is a big Baylor family, so we go to it most of the time," Smith said.

Keller junior Aaron Lester is also a Christmas on 5th chairman and said he is enjoying participating in the event.

"There's a lot of tradition within the tree lighting ceremony," Lester said.

Lester also said the tree will be set up the week before the lighting, and that the Golden Wave Marching Band will play in the ceremony.

Kappa Omega Tau's members have been planning for Christmas on 5th for months, and Smith and Lester both said they were looking forward to the Baylor tradition.

The Bill Daniel Student Center (SUB) will also have

5th >> Page 4

New organization advocates for mental health, conversation

SOPHIE ACEBO
Reporter

To Write Love on Her Arms, a non-profit dedicated to giving hope to those struggling with mental health and addiction, has multiple chapters in universities across the country, with Baylor becoming its most recently established chapter.

Their website allows for chapters to be established at different universities, and their goal is to have these campuses "embody the mission and vision of TWLOHA. Through on-campus events, programming, and fundraising initiatives, each chapter serves as a voice of inspiration and education for their peers."

Flower Mount sophomore Hannah Yanowitch serves as the current president of the group and worked closely with Student Activities to bring her dream to life.

"TWLOHA has always been near to my heart, as movements like it exist to spread awareness and show people they are not alone," Yanowitch said. "The Baylor chapter of TWLOHA exists to breed vulnerability, create an atmosphere of acceptance and cultivate a mentally healthier student body."

The group was founded by Jamie



Photo courtesy of TWLOHA

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT To Write Love On Her Arms is a non-profit dedicated to giving hope and resources to anyone struggling with their mental health.

Tworowski, who wrote a viral blog post titled "To Write Love on Her Arms" about spending time with a friend before she entered treatment for addiction and mental health issues. Tworowski's post and the nonprofit that resulted from it promote bringing hope to those struggling.

"We are only asked to love, to

offer hope to the many hopeless," Tworowski said in the post. "We don't get to choose all the endings, but we are asked to play the rescuers. We won't solve all mysteries and our hearts will certainly break in such a vulnerable life, but it is the best way."

Yanowitch discovered the non-profit from current Baylor vice president Emmy Johnson and said she instantly fell in love with their mission and purpose.

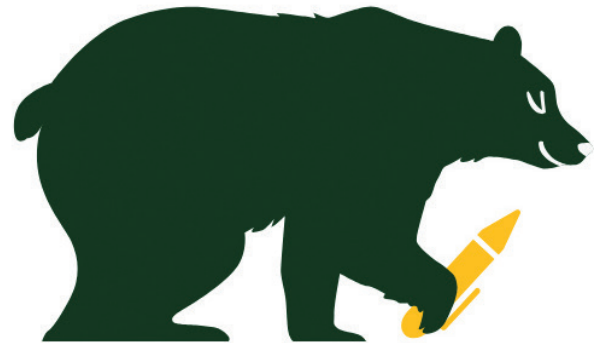
"I loved their push to create an honest conversation about mental health and their goal to decrease the stigma around getting help while also being the people to provide it," Yanowitch said.

Lincoln, Neb., sophomore Greta Gessert serves as the assistant of advocacy for the group and discovered the non-profit through Yanowitch.

"When I heard she was starting a chapter, I read about what it was and very quickly realized that it was something close to my heart," Gessert said. "I have always cared about mental health because my dad has been involved with suicide prevention for a long time, but this semester I

LOVE >> Page 4

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EDITORIAL

Course evaluation feedback helps student experiences too

It's that time of the year — along with finals, projects and last-minute assignments, students are able to partake in one of the semester's most loved and equally dreaded activities: course evaluations.

These evaluations allow students to rate the quality of their professors, courses and overall semester academic experience. Some questions are asked on a scale, with students ranking categories from a one to a five. Others are more open-ended and allow for comments about ways teachers or courses created a successful learning environment or can be improved.

The system allows students to comment on how much they enjoyed their favorite courses and professors while also having an outlet to express ways that other aspects of their academic experience could be improved upon.

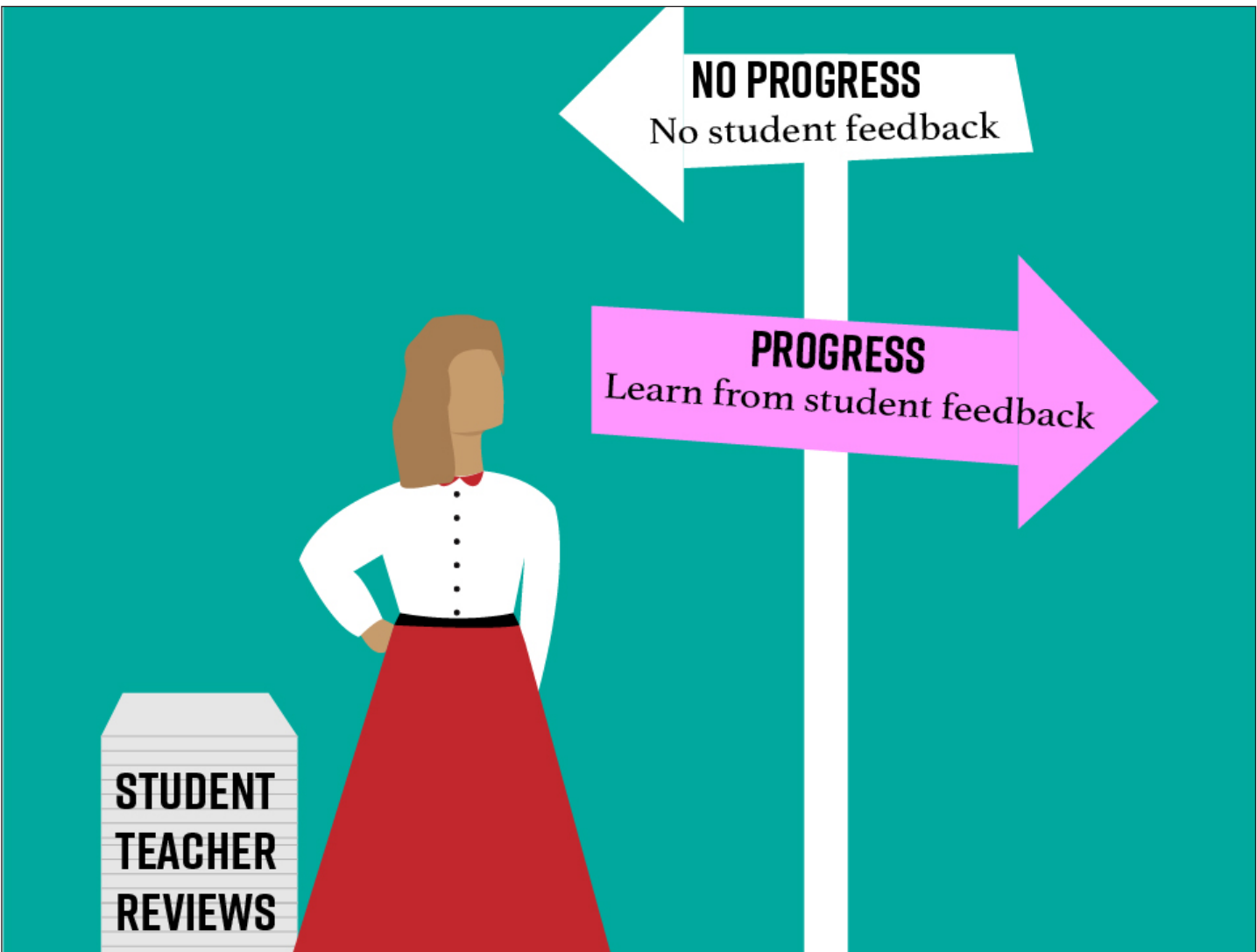
Constructive criticism on a class or professor is helpful when done tastefully, but expressing disapproval can often cross a dangerous line.

Giving reasons for not enjoying a class is OK. Writing about specific ways a course could be improved for the future is OK. Even describing specific instances a professor was disrespectful to students is OK. What is not OK, however, is using course evaluations as a chance to make petty comments or rant about your complaints.

When writing about a course or professor you didn't enjoy, be specific. Avoid generalizations or using extreme words like "terrible" or "the worst." Instead, provide specific examples of ways that you felt a situation was unfair or wrong.

Another important consideration to keep in mind is to not complete course evaluations when you are angry. Instead of completing them with your friends who also don't enjoy a certain class or at a moment you feel particularly hurt, wait for your emotions to die down and consider whether what you are saying is accurate and fair — not an exaggeration or a way to get revenge on a professor. Those reading course evaluations will likely not take a claim seriously if it is filled with extreme wording and has an angry tone.

Also, consider why you are making negative comments on a course evaluation. Ask yourself whether your bad review is simply over-personal resentment about a grade or because a professor



Hannah Holliday | Cartoonist

doesn't cater to your specific learning style.

Additionally, don't let course evaluations be the only time you express frustration or disapproval about a course. Instead of letting it all out on course evaluations at the end of the semester, try speaking to your professor one-on-one first to gain understanding as to why they behaved a certain way or chose a certain method of teaching. This can often be more

insightful and more fulfilling than only sending negative comments through evaluations.

That being said, however, it's incredibly important to complete course evaluations regardless of whether your views of a course were positive or negative. The reviews are read and taken into consideration by faculty and departments and can cause change regarding how courses are taught and how they can best

create a positive learning environment for students. Always complete evaluations — they allow real change to be made and for your voice to be heard.

Just think twice before immediately sending negative comments, and consider whether your evaluation is just a reflection of your immediate emotions or feedback that could improve the course for future students.

LARIAT LETTER

Faith requirement for CLs is justified

Being the oldest continuously operating university in Texas, Baylor is deep in its religious roots. But with a recent increase in a progressive and diverse student body, should the academic institution uphold its morals when hiring staff or is a change required?

It wouldn't make sense for a southern Baptist university to employ a member of a different faith for not only any position, but also specifically one that requires the fostering of relationships and a Christian community. Almost always will a religious establishment hire qualified staff who hold the same morals and values, but at Baylor many are beginning to question whether or not a statement of faith is really necessary in the application process, especially if seeking the job of being a community leader, better known as a CL.

Holding similar duties to a resident assistant, or RA, a CL is responsible for upholding the policies and values of the university while also guiding and mentoring residents. Baylor Campus Living & Learning states that applicants must have an active and growing



Christian faith, which would disqualify students who are members of another religion or belief to get the job. To some this seems to be a form of discrimination or a rule that does not "promote" a welcoming community for all. I strongly disagree.

Let's get one thing straight — a private institution has the legal and fundamental right to uphold its religious beliefs and implement them into the way in which it functions. Baylor is known for its Baptist beliefs that are foundational to its history. Before labeling a policy as "discriminatory," students must understand the severity of this claim. In no way is it prejudice or hateful to require staff to uphold the same religion as the establishment for which they work. Being a CL requires mentorship, and it's crucial that the student body is receiving the right biblical guidance. I pay for a Baptist university, so I expect a school that offers a Baptist community.

The base of the Christian religion is unconditional love, and those who are of the faith are responsible for being accepting and non-judgmental, as Jesus was/is himself. However, nowhere in the Bible does it say we must change our morals in order to please nonbelievers. Yes, you can love, but that doesn't mean you support.

Baylor should absolutely treat all students with the same amount of respect and compassion no

“

In no way is it prejudice or hateful to require staff to uphold the same religion as the establishment for which they work.

APRIL ODDO | FRESHMAN

matter their religious background. However, it is crucial to understand that coming to a private Christian university comes with certain customs and rules. We must respect those of a different

faith and also respect those who hold to their beliefs and implement them into the institution they operate.

From my own experience, I had received faith-based council from my CL and I would not have been able to get through the first month of college if it weren't for her biblical encouragement. Students are advised to seek our community leaders for personal, emotional and even academic help. This requires a person of faith who will correctly know how to spiritually guide a resident.

Unapologetic means holding no regret, and there should be no shame or remorse in standing firm to faith, especially when holding legal and natural rights to do so. When a school publicly proclaims their beliefs, there sometimes will be controversy and people who disagree. It is not Baylor's responsibility to conform to others' opinions in fear of offending them, and such students are aware of the institution's values before attending. Just because some might feel offended does not mean that it is morally wrong. There will always be someone offended. That's just life.

*April Oddo
Freshman
Journalism and political science major*

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Contact Us

General Questions:
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Sports and Arts:
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Advertising inquiries:
Lariat_Ads@baylor.edu
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Opinion

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To submit a Lariat Letter, email Lariat-Letters@baylor.edu. Letters should be a maximum of 400 words. The letter is not guaranteed to be published.



Associated Press

SPEAKING ON HIS OWN BEHALF President Donald Trump speaks with reporters on the South Lawn of the White House before departing, Monday, Dec. 2, 2019, in Washington.

Congress progresses Trump impeachment with nation divided

LISA MASCARO and
MARY CLARE JALONICK

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House is plunging into a landmark impeachment week, with Democrats who once hoped to sway Republicans now facing the prospect of an ever-hardening partisan split over the question of removing President Donald Trump from office.

Lawmakers were getting their first look at the House Intelligence Committee's impeachment report Monday night behind closed doors. The findings are expected to forcefully make the Democrats' case that Trump engaged in what Chairman Adam Schiff calls impeachable "wrongdoing and misconduct" in pressuring Ukraine to investigate Democrats and Joe Biden while withholding military aid to the ally.

For Republicans offering an early rebuttal ahead of the report's public release, the proceedings are simply a "hoax," with Trump insisting he did nothing wrong and his GOP allies in line behind him. Trump tweeted his daily complaints about it all and then added a suggestive, if impractical, question: "Can we go to Supreme Court to stop?"

With the Judiciary Committee set to launch its first hearing Wednesday, the impeachment proceedings are presenting a historic test of political judgment in a case that is dividing Congress and the country.

Departing for a NATO meeting in London, Trump criticized the House for pushing forward Monday with proceedings while he was heading overseas, a breach of political decorum that traditionally leaves partisan differences at the water's edge.

He predicted Republicans would actually benefit from the entire impeachment effort against him, though "it's a disgrace for our country."

For the Democrats, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi faces a critical moment of her leadership as she steers the process ahead after resisting the impeachment inquiry through the summer, warning it was too divisive for the country and required bipartisan support.

Speaking to reporters at the international climate conference in Madrid, Pelosi declined to engage with impeachment questions.

"When we travel abroad, we don't talk about the president in a negative way," she said. "We save that for home."

Possible grounds for impeachment are focused on whether Trump abused his office as he pressed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in a July 25 phone call to launch investigations into Trump's political rivals. At the time, Trump was withholding \$400 million in military aid, jeopardizing key support as Ukraine faced an aggressive Russia at its border.

The report, which the Intelligence panel will vote on Tuesday and make public, also is expected to include evidence the Democrats say suggests obstruction of Congress, based on Trump's instructions for his administration to defy subpoenas for documents and testimony.

The next step comes when the Judiciary Committee gavel opens its own hearing with legal experts to assess the findings and consider potential articles of impeachment ahead of a possible vote by the full House by Christmas. That would presumably send it to the Senate for a trial in January.

The Democratic majority on the Intelligence Committee says its report, compiled after weeks of testimony from current and former diplomats and administration officials, will speak for itself in laying out the president's actions toward Ukraine.

Republicans pre-empted the report's public release with their own 123-page rebuttal.

In it, they claim there's no evidence Trump pressured Zelenskyy. Instead, they say Democrats just want to undo the 2016 election. Republicans dismiss witness testimony of a shadow diplomacy being run by Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani, and they rely on the president's insistence that he was merely concerned about "corruption" in Ukraine — though the White House transcript of Trump's phone call with Zelenskyy never mentions the word.

Jordan declined to discuss details, but said it's the same "lame case" Democrats presented throughout impeachment hearings.

"The president did nothing wrong," Jordan said. "The facts are on our side."

Trump on Monday pointed to Zelenskyy's recent comments as proof he did nothing wrong. The Ukrainian president said in an interview he never talked to Trump "from the position of a quid pro quo," but he didn't say Trump did nothing wrong. In fact, he had strong criticism for Trump's actions in the Time magazine interview.

With Ukraine at war with Russia, he said, its partners "can't go blocking anything for us."

“The whole thing is a hoax. Everybody knows it.

DONALD TRUMP |
U.S. PRESIDENT

Schiff said the GOP response was intended for an audience of one, Trump, whose actions are "outside the law and constitution."

The finished Intelligence Committee report sets up the week's cascading actions.

Democrats could begin drafting articles of impeachment against the president in a matter of days, with voting in the Judiciary Committee next week.

Republicans on the committee, led by Rep. Doug Collins of Georgia, plan to use procedural moves to stall the process and portray the inquiry as unfair to the president.

The White House declined an invitation to participate, with Counsel Pat Cipollone denouncing the proceedings as a "baseless and highly partisan inquiry" in a letter to Judiciary Chairman Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y.

Trump had previously suggested that he might be willing to offer written testimony under certain conditions, though aides suggested they did not anticipate Democrats would ever agree to them.

Cipollone's letter of nonparticipation applied only to the Wednesday hearing, and he demanded more information from Democrats on how they intended to conduct further hearings before Trump would decide whether to participate.

Nadler said Monday if the president really thought his call with Ukraine was "perfect," as he repeatedly says, he would "provide exculpatory information that refutes the overwhelming evidence of his abuse of power."

House rules provide the president and his attorneys the right to cross-examine witnesses and review evidence before the committee, but little ability to bring forward witnesses of their own.

Asked why not have his lawyers participate, Trump said Monday: "Because the whole thing is a hoax. Everybody knows it."

DAILY CRIME LOG

Nov. 21 - Dec. 1

This list is mandated by the Clery Act and is a compilation of all criminal incidents, alleged criminal incidents and fires reported to the Baylor Police Department or received by BUPD from an outside source. Crimes on this list are reported, but not all confirmed and may be pending an investigation. For definitions of listed dispositions and Clery Act information, go to www.baylor.edu/dps. Information may be limited because of federal guidelines.

Date reported: 11/21/2019
Location: Baylor Police Department
Offense(s): Theft of Property
Date Occurred: 11/20/2019
Disposition: Active

Date reported: 11/22/2019
Location: Martin Residence Hall
Offense(s): Alcohol- Minor Consuming Alcohol
Date Occurred: 11/22/2019
Disposition: Cleared by Citation

Date reported: 11/22/2019
Location: 1100 Block of S 8th St.
Offense(s): EPRA- Theft
Date Occurred: -
Disposition: Handled by Waco Police Department

Date reported: 11/22/2019
Location: S 5th and University Parks Drive
Offense(s): EPRA- Accident Failure to Stop and Identify
Date Occurred: -
Disposition: Handled by Waco Police Department

Date reported: 11/22/2019
Location: Martin Resident Hall
Offense(s): CSA- Disorderly Conduct
Date Occurred: 10/28/2019
Disposition: Being Handled by Title IX Office

Date reported: 11/22/2019
Location: Martin Resident Hall
Offense(s): CSA- Disorderly Conduct
Date Occurred: 10/28/2019
Disposition: Being Handled by Title IX Office

Date reported: 11/22/2019
Location: Martin Resident Hall
Offense(s): CSA- Disorderly Conduct
Date Occurred: 10/20/2019
Disposition: Being Handled by Title IX Office

Date reported: 11/22/2019
Location: Martin Residence Hall
Offense(s): Assault
Date Occurred: 11/22/2019
Disposition: Exceptionally Cleared

Date reported: 11/22/2019
Location: Penland Hall
Offense(s): Theft of Property
Date Occurred: 11/22/2019
Disposition: Closed

Date reported: 11/22/2019
Location: Speight Parking Facility
Offense(s): Accident- Failure to Stop and Identify
Date Occurred: 11/22/2019
Disposition: Active

Date reported: 11/22/2019
Location: McLane Stadium
Offense(s): Reckless Damage or Destruction
Date Occurred: 11/22/2019
Disposition: Suspended

Date reported: 11/22/2019
Location: Penland Hall
Offense(s): Criminal Mischief
Date Occurred: 11/22/2019
Disposition: Active

Date reported: 11/23/2019
Location: Cashion Academic Center
Offense(s): CSA- Stalking (Reported to Title IX Office)
Date Occurred: 11/21/2019
Disposition: Being Handled by the Title IX Office

Date reported: 11/22/2019
Location: McLane Stadium
Offense(s): Reckless Damage or Destruction
Date Occurred: 11/22/2019
Disposition: Suspended

Date reported: 11/23/2019
Location: 100 Block of Bagby Ave.
Offense(s): EPRA- Alcohol- DUI
Date Occurred: -
Disposition: Handled by Waco Police Department

Date reported: 11/23/2019
Location: 2000 Block of S 1st St.
Offense(s): EPRA- Motor Vehicle Theft
Date Occurred: -
Disposition: Handled by Waco Police Department

Date reported: 11/24/2019
Location: Allen Residence Hall
Offense(s): Alcohol- Minor Consuming Alcohol
Date Occurred: 11/24/2019
Disposition: Cleared by Citation

Date reported: 11/24/2019
Location: 800 Block of Bagby Ave.
Offense(s): Alcohol- Public Intoxication
Date Occurred: 11/24/2019
Disposition: Cleared by Arrest

Date reported: 11/24/2019
Location: Penland Hall
Offense(s): Criminal Mischief
Date Occurred: 11/24/2019
Disposition: Suspended

Date reported: 11/24/2019
Location: University Parks Apartments
Offense(s): Criminal Trespass of Property
Date Occurred: 11/24/2019
Disposition: Cleared by Arrest

Date reported: 11/24/2019
Location: Collins Residence Hall
Offense(s): Fire- Property Residence Facility
Date Occurred: 11/24/2019
Disposition: Closed

Date reported: 11/25/2019
Location: Dutton Parking
Offense(s): Accident- Failure to Stop and Identify
Date Occurred: 11/23/2019-11/24/2019
Disposition: Closed

Date reported: 11/25/2019
Location: Unknown Location on Campus
Offense(s): CSA- Trans of Sexual Explicit Visual Material
Date Occurred: -
Disposition: Being Handled by Title IX

Date reported: 11/26/2019
Location: McLane Stadium
Offense(s): Burglary of a Building (Forcible)
Date Occurred: 11/26/2019
Disposition: Active

Date reported: 11/26/2019
Location: 1 Block of Daughtrey Ave.
Offense(s): EPRA- Motor Vehicle Theft
Date Occurred: -
Disposition: Handled by Waco Police Department

Date reported: 11/26/2019
Location: S 2nd and Daughtrey
Offense(s): EPRA- Motor Vehicle Theft
Date Occurred: -
Disposition: Handled by Waco Police Department

Date reported: 11/27/2019
Location: 1600 Block of S. Martin Luther King Blvd.
Offense(s): Criminal Mischief
Date Occurred: 11/27/2019
Disposition: Suspended

Date reported: 11/30/2019
Location: S 4th and La Salle
Offense(s): EPRA- Domestic Disturbance
Date Occurred: -
Disposition: Handled by Waco Police Department

ARREST LOG

Nov. 21 - Dec. 1

Provided by the Baylor Police Department

Charge: ASSIST OTHER AGENCY — WARRANT ARREST
Arrest Date: 11/24/2019
Name: Randolph, Reginal Keith Sr
Disposition: Released to Jail
Stat Code: Booked

Charge: CRIMINAL TRESPASS OF PROPERTY
Arrest Date: 11/24/2019
Name: Randolph, Reginal Keith Sr
Disposition: Released to Jail
Stat Code: Booked

Charge: ALCOHOL: PUBLIC INTOXICATION
Arrest Date: 11/24/2019
Name: Hodges, John David
Disposition: Released to Jail
Stat Code: Booked

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Rod Rosenstein said he was ‘horrified’ at Comey’s firing

ERIC TUCKER,
MICHAEL BALSAMO
and COLLEEN LONG
Associated Press

Former Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein told the FBI he was “angry, ashamed, horrified and embarrassed” at the way James Comey was fired as FBI director, according to records released Monday.

Rosenstein was interviewed by FBI agents several weeks after Comey’s firing as part of special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation into ties between Donald Trump’s 2016 presidential campaign and Russia. An FBI summary of that interview was among roughly 300 pages of documents released as part of public records lawsuits brought by BuzzFeed News and CNN.

The records also include summaries of FBI interviews of key Trump associates, including Hope Hicks, Corey Lewandowski and Michael Cohen. They provide additional insight into Mueller’s two-year investigation, which shadowed the first part of Trump’s presidency and preceded an ongoing impeachment inquiry centered on his efforts to press Ukraine for investigations of political rival Joe Biden.

Hicks described efforts to prepare for media scrutiny of a 2016 Trump Tower meeting between Russians and the president’s oldest son. Lewandowski told investigators the president prodded him to tell then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions to make an announcement that the scope of the Russia investigation had been limited to future election interference.

And Cohen, who is now serving a three-year prison sentence for campaign finance violations and lying to Congress, told



Associated Press

‘ASHAMED’ Former Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein told the FBI he was “angry, ashamed, horrified and embarrassed” at the way James Comey was fired.

investigators he advised Trump’s personal lawyer that there was more detail about a proposed deal for a Trump Tower in Moscow than what he had shared with lawmakers.

Cohen said the lawyer, Jay Sekulow, told him that it was not necessary to elaborate or provide additional details and to “stay on message” and to “not contradict Trump,” the FBI said.

Cohen also said he “vaguely recalled” telling Sekulow about a call he had “with a woman from the Kremlin,” and said Sekulow’s response was “in line with ‘so what’ and the deal never happened,” according to the FBI document.

Sekulow told The Associated Press on Monday night that Cohen’s statements were false and that Cohen never told him anything about any call with a woman from Russia.

Rosenstein, who left his Justice Department post last spring, was interviewed about his role in Comey’s May 2017 firing. Rosenstein wrote a memo harshly criticizing Comey for his handling of the Hillary Clinton email investigation, a document held up by the White House as justification for his firing.

Rosenstein said he was asked during a White House meeting one day before Comey’s firing to

produce a memo laying out his concerns with the FBI chief. He said he knew when he left the office that day that Comey would be fired, though he said he did not expect for his memo to be immediately released, and was surprised by the portrayal in the media that the termination was his idea instead of the White House’s, according to the FBI document. Rosenstein also said his goal in writing the memo was not to get Comey fired.

He said he expected Comey would be contacted by either Trump or Sessions so a meeting could be scheduled and he could be fired in person. Comey instead learned of his firing from television while speaking with agents in Los Angeles.

When he learned of how Comey was fired, he was “angry, ashamed, horrified and embarrassed. It was also humiliating for Comey,” an FBI agent wrote of Rosenstein’s reaction.

At one point during the interview, as Rosenstein was describing how he had “always liked Jim Comey” but disagreed with his decisions in the Clinton case, the deputy attorney general “paused a moment, appearing to have been overcome by emotion, but quickly recovered and apologized,” according to the FBI.

Student in custody after shooting at officer in Milwaukee-area school

GRETCHEN EHLKE
and IVAN MORENO
Associated Press

A police officer shot an armed male student in a classroom at a suburban Milwaukee high school Monday morning after the teenager pointed a gun at officers, a police chief said.

Officers performed life-saving measures on the 17-year-old Waukesha South High School student, who is in custody and in stable condition, and no officers or other students were injured, Waukesha Police Chief Russell Jack said.

The shooting happened after another student told a school resource officer that a classmate had a handgun around 10:17 a.m., Jack said. He said the resource officer went to the classroom to confront the teen and move other students in the room to safety. Authorities have not said if other students were in the classroom during the ensuing standoff, and Jack did not immediately respond to an email seeking clarity.

Waukesha police and sheriff’s deputies soon arrived at the school and tried to de-escalate the situation to no avail.

“The suspect would not remove his hands from his pocket and continued to ignore officers’ commands,” Jack said. “The suspect removed his handgun from his waistband and pointed it at the officers. An officer was forced to discharge his firearm, striking the suspect.”

The officer who shot the student is an 11-year veteran of the Waukesha Police Department, Jack said.

Police have not said whether the student ever fired his weapon. Police said the shooting was an isolated incident and that they are not seeking any other suspects.

Andrew Oresick, 16, told the Journal Sentinel that he was outside his Spanish class hanging posters with other students and their teacher when they heard a commotion.

“These kids start running out from the classroom directly across from us, and one of them goes: ‘He’s got a gun,’” Oresick recalled. He said their Spanish teacher immediately got them into the classroom.

Parents gathered outside and hugged

students as they streamed out of the school about 18 miles (30 kilometers) west of Milwaukee. Some students said they took cover under desks and teachers barricaded doors when a drill was announced. They told reporters outside the school that they knew it wasn’t a drill when they heard two or three gunshots.

“It was just really scary,” Alexis Grady, a senior, told the Journal Sentinel.

Waukesha North High School was placed on lockdown after a report Monday afternoon that a student had a firearm, Waukesha police said. The school resource officer determined it was possible the student was inside the school. Additional officers responded and determined the student was no longer on school property.

Officers went to the 15-year-old boy’s home. He was taken into custody without incident and a facsimile firearm was found hidden in the home, police said. No one was hurt.

School shootings have occasionally shone a spotlight on the response by guards and school resource officers. Armed school resource officers have rarely prevented a school shooting.

Last year, armed guards at three high-profile school shootings — Marshall County High School in Benton, Kentucky; Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida; and Santa Fe High School in Texas — were unable to stop the rampage.

In Parkland, the school’s resource officer remained outside rather than enter the building to engage the shooter and try to end the attack.

Gun-rights advocates believe having more armed educators and law enforcement in schools will help stop a shooter in his tracks. Gun-control advocates contend that arming teachers and having more guns in a school will do little to prevent school shootings and that such moves could put kids at greater risk.

An estimated 43% of public schools have an armed law enforcement officer on-site, according to a survey by the National Center for Education Statistics. The survey covered the 2015-16 school year, the most recent year surveyed. That figure doesn’t include schools with armed private security guards or teachers and administrators who carry firearms.

5th from Page 1

Christmas events running continuously from 5-10 p.m. The basement will have \$1 “Jingle Bowl” at the SUB Bowling Lanes, the first floor will have ornament decorating, the second floor will host ‘Christmas Around the World’ and family photos with Santa, and the third floor will hold the Christmas Marketplace, “featuring vendors from around the state selling treats, crafts, and holiday gifts.”

At Fountain Mall, students can enjoy hay rides, a “snowmazing” maze, an Everest Climb and slide, food trucks, a s’mores

“
My family is a big Baylor family, so we go to it most of the time.

TRIP SMITH |
BOERNE
JUNIOR

station and a pretend snowball fight zone.

The Vara Martin Daniel Plaza and the SUB Bowl will be home to the Freshman Class Council Christmas Tree Farm, caroling from the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures, and the Baylor Religious Hour Choir.

A live nativity scene and horse drawn carriage rides will be on 5th Street, and students can go to the Burleson Quadrangle for the tree lighting, Christmas portrait pictures and more.

LOVE from Page 1

dealt firsthand with some mental health struggles. I was fortunate enough to have people in my life who encouraged me to seek help, and TWLOHA also played a role in normalizing my struggles.”

Gessert said the officers and leaders behind the group Baylor are hopeful that this organization will help create a safe space for anyone to come and be open about their mental health.

“We want to help break the stigma around mental health and start a conversation, as well as point people toward resources and fundraise for TWLOHA nationally,” Gessert said. “At

our meetings, we will have open dialogues about mental health.”

As for what the future plans are for the organization, Yanowitch said she is excited to begin meetings and events.

“We want to have events that raise awareness and encourage students to find hope and seek help in their battle with mental illness,” Yanowitch said. “These events will also fundraise for TWLOHA as a whole, as they donate to people who cannot afford the help they deserve.”

The group is also planning on working closely with Baylor’s Counseling

Center to help connect students with this resource.

“We are partners with the counseling center and hope to work with them in bridging the gap between professional help and the students,” Yanowitch said.

Official meetings will begin in the spring and will take place every other Thursday at 7 p.m., and nothing is required to attend. “There is not a required anything to be a part of TWLOHA, as we exist to provide a safe space and transform Baylor’s campus for the better,” Yanowitch said.

Yanowitch said to follow their Instagram for updates.

With all of the books you have to remember this year...

Don't forget the one that will remember you.

The Baylor Roundup yearbook will host photo sessions once in the Fall and once in the spring.

Follow the Lariat to find out when your session is or go to WWW.BAYLOR.EDU/ROUNDUP to find your date and order your book.



Mireya Sol Ruiz | Multimedia Journalist

STAMPEDE Baylor Theatre Arts' production of "Rhinoceros," directed by Chad Kennedy, will show Tuesday through Saturday in the Jones Theatre of the Hooper-Schaefer Fine Arts Center.

REVIEW

'Rhinoceros' probes herd mentality

PRESTON GOSSETT
Reporter

The play "Rhinoceros" is an interesting tale exploring herd mentality and what it means to be comfortable in your own skin. The production provides a much-needed escape from reality and further impresses with the relatability the actors and set provides with a very modern mid-century aesthetic.

Baylor Theatre will perform the play "Rhinoceros" at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday in the Jones Theatre.

"Rhinoceros" tells a story of a French town plagued by rhinoceroses, but these are no ordinary animals. They are townspeople plagued by "rhinocerotitis."

One thing the production does outstandingly well, under the direction of Chad Kennedy, is the actors' portrayal and transformation from man into rhinoceroses, with the help of costume effects.

Two performers stood out to me: Boerme sophomore Shane Cearnal (Jean) and Fullerton, Calif., junior Joshua Bates (Berenger).

Berenger's transformation is truly the focal point of the play. Jean continually encourages Berenger to not surrender to life's pressures, and after Act One, Berenger maintains a sense of responsibility and guilt for the various rhinoceros-metamorphosis happening around him.

What causes Berenger to remain relatively unfazed physically while his close friends and neighbors change, is his unwillingness to give in to crowd mentality; however, he possesses no



Mireya Sol Ruiz | Multimedia Journalist

GRANDMA GOT RUN OVER BY A RHINO Boerne sophomore Shane Cearnal points at the rhinoceros storming through the town in the Baylor Theatre's production of "Rhinoceros."

willpower as he frequently relies on alcohol and daydreaming to cope with the days.

Bates does an outstanding job of bringing Berenger to life and captivating his audience until the very end. At first, he seemed relatively unimportant, but Act Two brought about a whole new side of his character I didn't know I had been waiting for.

Cearnal's performance as Jean was impressive from the very beginning, but I really appreciated his passion and dedication when it became apparent in his transformation scene. Jean is the type of character that appears to have

it all figured out and blends in with the crowd. Jean is the only character who the audience witnesses transform, and I don't think it could have been executed as well if it had not been by Cearnal. The emotion and body language made this a very memorable and riveting scene.

At times a bit confusing and all over the place, mainly in Act One, the passion and lighting, as well as sound effects and the ending scene specifically, make this production a must-see.

Some of the actors, it seems, have fallen prey to the type-cast in Baylor Theatre and tend to

deliver speeches and monologues with the same diction and tone in every production. While they still do a great job of bringing their roles to life, it's hard for me to see past certain characters they have played before.

Another note-worthy performance is by supporting character Botard, played by Fort Hood senior Kristopher Coker-Burrell. Botard is what you would call the conspiracy-theorist of the group. He doesn't trust eyewitness accounts. He doesn't trust the evidence, and he certainly doesn't trust journalists. Other than the few comments Botard made about wretched newspapers and untrustworthy journalists, I enjoyed his performance.

One interesting director's choice I noticed in Act One is an echo effect. Two different scenarios on opposite ends of the stage simultaneously occur wherein each separate group would repeat phrases and sentences to emphasize a certain line or point being made.

The production lasts about two hours and 45 minutes, with a 15-minute intermission. While a bit long, the jokes and humorous interactions make it not seem nearly as long. The actors clearly put a lot of time and effort into their performances, and I strongly recommended this play to anyone who enjoys a playful performance with an abundance of themes to unpack and explore.

"Rhinoceros" posed an interesting question: How does one retain a visage of individuality in a community of like-minded people?

The ending is both horrifying and eye-opening, and the music and lighting really brought the performance to a screeching halt, with Berenger shouting, "I'm not capitulating!"

HOT TAKE

Why the arts are starting to pick up 'STEAM'

MADISON MARTIN
Contributor

In 2001, the U.S. National Science Foundation created STEM, an education curriculum centered on building science, technology, engineering, and mathematics skills in students.

However, a movement has grown for a change in the educational program system called "STEAM," which incorporates adding the "arts" as one of the core subjects for students.

From President Obama, public officials have cautioned providing the arts with equal weight as the sciences would cause students to become distracted and weaken their STEM education, causing the economy to suffer. However, I believe the STEAM movement is trying to enhance student creativity that can be used to strengthen their STEM abilities.

The STEAM movement isn't about taking time away from STEM skills to make more room for art; it's about helping students tap into their imagination and express their individualism. Because the arts refer to a spectrum of different crafts, it opens several doors for future builders, dreamers and innovators. Exploring the use of art creates a pathway of new opportunities for expression.

By adding the arts, students would become more than just an analytical person but a person who is also imaginative, self-expressive and ultimately more well-rounded. The STEAM

movement allows people not to have to side between a part of their brain. Instead, they can enhance both: creative and logical skills.

Sectioning off areas of study and centering focus on only logistical testing is a critical factor in the current low levels of engagement in STEM. Including art into the curriculum is an outlet for students who feel the current system is stifling their creativity by building a sense of enjoyment when learning. STEAM can provide non-science professionals the fuel and drive they need to be a success in the world.

Paving another way for students to learn actively will cause an increase in focus for STEM subjects as they've come to a newfound understanding of science, technology engineering, and math. Connecting artistic mediums allow a more delightful take on education with the absence of a highly pressured environment.

It's easy to view science as above the arts because it's influenced societal progress immensely through technological advancements. But often, artists' fresh ideas and new perspectives inspire scientific advancement.

Leonardo Da Vinci, though best-known for his dramatic artwork, inspired scientific discoveries by sculpting accurate models of muscularity and the circulatory system. He studied chemistry to manifest the perfect paints and anatomy to understand muscularity of the human body. Da Vinci is renowned in several

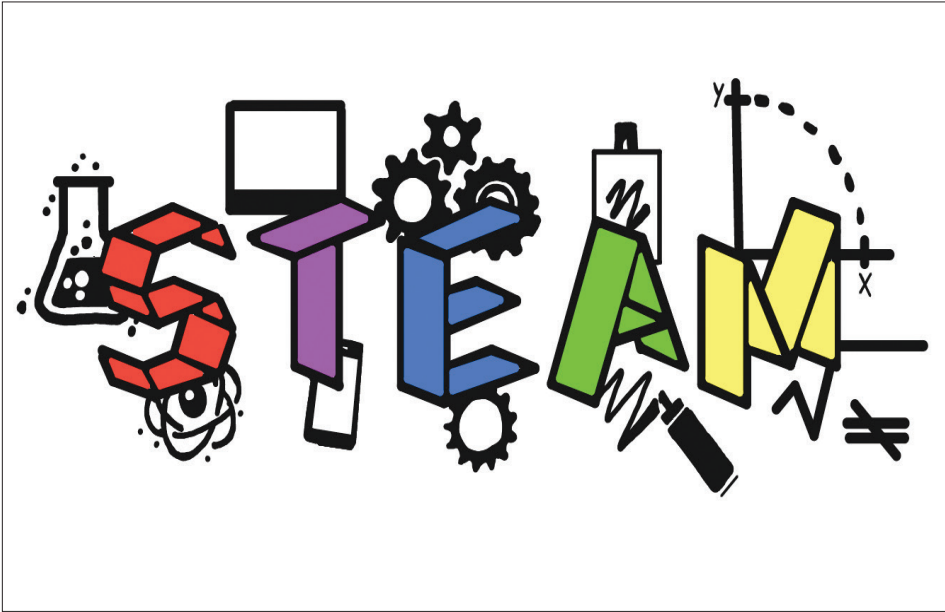


Photo Illustration by Nathan de la Cerdá | Multimedia Journalist

fields of science and serves as a role model for applying the scientific method to every aspect of life, especially the arts.

With technology becoming more efficient and sophisticated, artists provide diverse solutions through creative thinking. The addition of art offers another means of motivation for STEM learning, because STEAM doesn't take anything away from STEM, but

only adds to it.

Art deserves to be weighted equally with STEM, as it's already incorporated throughout our society. It can be seen from the fashionable clothes on a person's back to the next mumble rapper that'll have their 15 minutes of fame. The world needs more innovators and dreamers like the artists that you subliminally admire in your daily life.



Lariat Hot Take

What are the best, worst Christmas films?



“Least favorite [is] ‘Santa Claus 3.’ Jack Frost is the most disgusting, repulsive character in a Christmas movie. I hate him so much, and they just destroy the entire Santa Claus canon.”

MATTHEW SODERBERG |
SPORTS WRITER



“My favorite Christmas movie is ‘Elf,’ even though its overplayed, over quoted and kind of the ‘Mean Girls’ of Christmas movies — it’s just probably overhyped. It will never not be funny.”

BRIDGET SJOBERG |
NEWS EDITOR

WHAT TO DO IN WACO

TUESDAY

World Cinema Series: (Ash Is Purest White) Film Screening
6 p.m. | Bennett Auditorium, 1420 S. 7th St.
| Free

Baylor Theatre presents Rhinoceros
7:30 p.m. | Jones Theatre, Hooper-Schaefer Fine Arts Center | Tickets range from \$17 to \$20

WEDNESDAY

Baylor Theatre presents Rhinoceros
7:30 p.m. | Jones Theatre, Hooper-Schaefer Fine Arts Center | Tickets range from \$17 to \$20

Open Mic Night
8 p.m. | Common Grounds, 1123 S. Eighth St. | Free

THURSDAY

Baylor Singing Seniors present “Sing We Now of Jesus”
4 p.m. | First Baptist Church of Waco, 500 Webster Ave. | Free

Baylor Theatre presents Rhinoceros
7:30 p.m. | Jones Theatre, Hooper-Schaefer Fine Arts Center | Tickets range from \$17 to \$20

McLennan Community College's Highlander Holiday Concert
7:30 p.m. | Ball Performing Arts Center, McLennan Community College, 1400 College Drive | Free

Comics & Crosswords

Crossword solutions found at baylorlariat.com

ACROSS

- 1 No neatnik
- 5 Glacial
- 8 Ranch visitor
- 12 Verdi opera
- 13 Big D.C. lobby
- 14 — about (circa)
- 15 Lusty look
- 16 Battles between gangs
- 18 Reptile with a shell
- 20 Like skim milk
- 21 50-and-over org.
- 23 Part of MPH
- 24 Wind farm machines
- 28 Knocks
- 31 Brit. record label

DOWN

- 1 Pretzel topper
- 2 Stead
- 3 Baltic Sea feeder
- 4 Tavern tally
- 5 The Web
- 6 French vineyard
- 7 Fish story
- 8 Depressing experience
- 9 Fearless
- 10 TV explorer
- 11 Formerly, once
- 17 Dandy guy
- 19 Deposited
- 22 Energize
- 24 Pot brew

- 32 Univ. divisions
- 34 Anger
- 35 PC programs
- 37 Puccini opera
- 39 Camp bed
- 41 Sunscreen additive
- 42 Handsome guy
- 45 Large soup dish
- 49 Toll road
- 51 Zilch
- 52 Shoppe description
- 53 Huge
- 54 401(k) relatives
- 55 Island in a computer game
- 56 Farm pen
- 57 Mater lead-in

- 25 Ref
- 26 Parachute parts
- 27 Game plan
- 29 Expert
- 30 Collection
- 33 “Elephant Boy” actor
- 36 Shakespeare poem
- 38 Aslan’s land
- 40 Gratuity
- 42 Teensy bit
- 43 As required
- 44 Bloodline sharers
- 46 British noble
- 47 Wax-coated cheese
- 48 Astronauts’ org.
- 50 DIY buy



“I WAS KNOCKIN’ ON WOOD FOR GOOD LUCK... AND I GOT A SPLINTER INSTEAD!”

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BITTERSWEET No. 1 Baylor volleyball's six seniors watch a highlight video as well as individual recognition videos by head coach Ryan McGuyre on Senior Day, Saturday at the Ferrell Center.

Set the pace: Seniors paved the way

MATTHEW SODERBERG
Sports Writer



DIGGING IT Senior libero Tara Wulf prepares to make a dig.



HUDDLE UP The Bears come together in a celebratory huddle after a executing a kill against the Horned Frogs.



CONFETTI ANGELS Senior outside hitter Gia Milana and sophomore opposite Marieke van der Mark play in confetti.

Baylor volleyball's senior class sat together Sunday night with their team, coaches and the entire volleyball crew to watch the NCAA Selection Show as a family. When the Bears popped up first, the entire house roared — not for the seed, but as a celebration of all the hard work it took to get there.

This is the winningest senior class in Baylor volleyball history. It's not even particularly close. Fifth-year senior Shelly Stafford has played for head coach Ryan McGuyre from the beginning of his tenure. Tara Wulf, Braya Hunt, Nicole Thomas and Hannah Fluegel have each never missed a playoff in their time at Baylor. Gia Milana transferred in before last season and has been a major part of this team since.

Each player has their strengths. Each, of course, has their weaknesses. Each has a unique way of leading the Bears and helping them find success in their final year on campus.

While the team has had success over the previous three seasons, they aren't done yet. Hunt said past seasons didn't live up to their expectations. "Fun. Not fulfilled," Hunt said. "We've had the same culture here for the past four years, but I think we didn't have all the pieces we needed and the grit that we needed. And so we had a good time, but we didn't reach the potential that we knew that we had."

Now, Baylor is on a quest for glory and greatness, with their first ever No. 1 ranking and No. 1 overall seed in the NCAA Tournament. Wulf said the pieces and mindset finally clicked together.

"What's different about this year is just the way that this team trusts and loves each other," Wulf said. "I think that our feeling is so much higher this year, and each one of us are bought in and believe it 100%."

The senior class has been the driving force behind the buy in. While juniors Hannah Lockin and Yossiana Pressley get the bulk of media attention, the older players set the example. Stafford said it's been the goal of the group to lead and be the backbone for the entire squad.

"I would describe us as ... the rock for this program and this team," Stafford said. "Just something that everyone can kind of come to look up to. We each bring different values to the team that other people are able to feed off of."

The team has been together for months, and they've bonded in ways teams not connected through Christ would. Wulf said it's been one of the best times of her life to be a part of this top-tier team.

"I would say just all the memories that we've created, especially this year — it just seems like we've made history together one day at a time," Wulf said. "It's just been fun — the bus trips, the away trips in the hotels, the team, the team getaways that we've had — just all those memories. I'm going to miss this for sure."

The Bears and their seniors aren't finished just yet. Baylor hosts Sacred Heart, Stephen F. Austin and USC in the first and second rounds of the NCAA Tournament at the Ferrell Center. The Bears will face Sacred Heart at 7 p.m. Friday night.



SERVING FROM THE HEART Fifth-year middle blocker makes a serve during Baylor's sweep of TCU.



CHAMPIONS FOR LIFE Shelly Stafford and her team raise up the Big 12 Championship trophy after a sweep of TCU.



HISTORY No. 1 Baylor volleyball receives its first-ever conference trophy, earning a shared Big 12 title along with No. 2 Texas Saturday.



SIC 'EM The Bears throw a Sic'em after singing the school song following their victory over the Horned Frogs.



Cole Tompkins | Multimedia Editor

SLAM IT DOWN Redshirt junior forward Mark Vital puts the Bears on the board with a dunk to kickoff the first half of Baylor's 72-63 win over Texas State on Nov. 15 at the Ferrell Center.

No. 18 Baylor looks to hold Hawks winless

JESSIKA HARKAY
Sports Writer

When Maryland-Eastern Shore travels to Waco in search of their first victory (0-9) Tuesday night, No. 18 Baylor knows not to underestimate its opponent, no matter who it is.

It's possible to dominate the college men's basketball league and still fall short to the underdog. Just ask Duke who fell to Stephen F. Austin 85-83 last week.

"It's every day there's a name school or power five school getting beat by a mid-major conference opponent," head coach Scott Drew said. "Each and every day you look and there's upsets and that's why college basketball is such an exciting time ... early in the year, those teams are starting to still figure things out. You can't go two or three days without an upset."

The veteran team has seen its fair share of falling short in non-conference matchups. To name a few, last year the Bears fell to Texas Southern (72-69) to open the season and Wichita State (71-63) in early December 2018. With those losses lingering in their heads, sophomore Jared Butler said he knows the importance of playing the full 40 minutes.

"We take every game as an opportunity for us to get better, and you know, we focus on ourselves a lot," Butler said. "We try to improve on that toughness and our mental toughness throughout the game. I think this game is an opportunity to get better, not play the scoreboard and just really lock in."

Locking in is something the team was successful in during the Myrtle Beach Invitational as the Bears went into the Thanksgiving break hot off a 87-78 victory

over No. 17 Villanova on Nov. 24. Baylor will try to extend its win streak to five after dropping a game to Washington 67-64 in the Armed Forces Classic on Nov. 8.

The Hawks come to Waco off a 66-44 loss to Fordham University Sunday afternoon. In their matchup, Maryland-Eastern was only able to tally 15 points in the first half.

The Bears average 80.2 points per game and are 5-0 when scoring 70 points or more this season, and they may add to their streak when they face the Hawks. Maryland-Eastern has fallen short to opponents by an average of 24 points (76.2-52.3), shooting at .363 from the field and .288 from deep. Baylor, on the other hand, is more successful offensively at .461 from the field and .403 on three's.

Another important factor in the matchup will be turnovers. The Hawks struggle with losing the ball, racking up 146 in 9 games and averaging 16.2 per game. Likewise, Drew said the Bears have room for improvement with an average of nearly 12 turnovers a game.

"It's like a marathon race the whole season, and if you're not getting better each and every day, then you're going to get passed," Drew said. "Turnover rates have gradually been improving. We had five against Villanova, which is amazing. Hopefully we can be a single digit turnover team or less."

As improvement comes throughout the season, redshirt senior Freddie Gillespie is focused on the game in front of him and in keeping the Hawks from the upset.

"This team is due for a win, but it's not going to be against us," Gillespie said.

The Bears will tip off at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Ferrell Center. The game will be broadcast on Big 12 Now through ESPN+.

ELITE DEFENSE



Mireya Sol Ruiz | Multimedia Journalist

RECORD TAKEDOWN Sophomore linebacker Terrel Bernarrd hugs junior defensive tackle James Lynch after a sack of Texas quarterback Sam Ehlinger. Lynch set a new career record of 19 sacks during Baylor's 24-10 win over the Longhorns on Nov. 23 at McLane Stadium.

SPORTS COLUMN

Sporterberg on Week 14: Big 12 playoff hopes live

MATTHEW SODERBERG
Sports Writer

Last week, Oregon. This week, Alabama. Things are all falling into place for the Bears to make it to the playoff. Who would've thought such a thing was even possible two months ago — let alone two years.

Playoff Hopes

Baylor came into the week at No. 9 in the playoff rankings — its first time in the top-10 since Week 12 four years ago. The Bears then proceeded to trounce Les Miles-led Kansas 61-6 for their second-best offensive performance of the year and their best defensive. That was step one this week.

Then, Alabama had to lose, and lose they did. The Auburn Tigers took down the Crimson Tide after a missed Alabama field goal with two minutes remaining. There was a myriad of questionable calls, but in the end, Nick Saban's playoff dreams were crushed, and Auburn fans were storming the field.

Utah still won, as did the others in the top-four, but that only starts to matter this coming week. For Baylor to squeeze in, three or four things have to happen. LSU has to beat Georgia, otherwise, both teams are in and no other game particularly matters. Oregon has to beat Utah, giving the Pac-12 a two-loss champion, and a two-loss team has yet to make the playoff.

Finally, the Bears have to beat Oklahoma. Three weeks ago, they came just about as close as it gets, but they let it slip out through their fingers. Since that loss (their only loss), Baylor's defense has been incredible, holding Texas and Kansas to a combined 16 points, and its offense has been impressive. This time the Sooners will have CeeDee Lamb, so coverages and production will probably be different. But if

Baylor can play like they did in that first half, all bets are off on who wins this game.

Oh, and it would help if Ohio State beat Wisconsin, but it may not be entirely necessary for Baylor to make it into the final four.

Other Stuff

Jim Harbaugh should still be the coach at Big Blue in February. Yes, he's lost five in a row to Michigan's arch-rival. Yes, he will have only finished in the top-10 twice in his five years. But, he's led a team to a Super Bowl and has made Michigan at least relevant again.

The Maize and Blue will never again be the Alabama-esque powerhouse it once was. It's simply not relevant enough in the national conversation — especially Michigan's recruiting base cares more about basketball. Plus, Ohio State is cooler. They've had more success, and it seems that their new head coach can keep their success going.

The Wolverines need to strive for success, and that doesn't necessarily mean a national championship run each year. Just being competitive in the hyper-talented Big 10 East, plus a few conference titles every few years, should give the Ann Arbor faithful satisfaction.

The other three top-four schools beat their rivalry week opponents by an average of 41 points. LSU got revenge after their seven-overtime loss in Aggieland last season, locking the Bayou Bengals into the playoff. Clemson rolled over South Carolina, and Georgia beat down Georgia Tech, placing both in "win and they're in" scenarios.

The top-four teams are so clearly better than everyone else. I honestly hope LSU loses so we get the four best teams in, but even I'm not naive enough to believe that will happen. The committee will appease the Big 12 or Pac-12. It's only a matter of who earns their way in.

Power Five Championship Weekend

- **Pac-12 Championship:** Utah vs Oregon: 7 p.m. Friday on ABC
- **Big 12 Championship:** Baylor vs OU: 11 a.m. Saturday on ABC
- **SEC Championship:** Georgia vs LSU: 3 p.m. Saturday on CBS
- **ACC Championship:** Virginia vs Clemson: 6:30 p.m. on ABC
- **Big 10 Championship:** Ohio State vs Wisconsin: 7 p.m. on FOX

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