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Christmas comes to town



Kristen DeHaven | Multimedia Journalist

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION Confetti flew in the air over attendants of Christmas on 5th's tree lighting ceremony Thursday. The tree lighting was only one of many festivities of the night.

# **Fire alarms interrupt Christmas on 5th event**

#### TYLER BUI Staff Writer

Jingle bells weren't the only things ringing at this year's Christmas on 5th. But even an accidental fire alarm didn't deter the holiday spirit at the event, which brought between 5,000 and 8,000 members of the Baylor and Waco communities to attend.

Activities at the 54th annual event included a petting zoo, bowling, pony rides, hay rides, food trucks, photos with Santa and carnival booths. Attendees

were also able to enjoy performances from the Baylor Religious Hour Choir and the modern languages and cultures carolers.

Although most activities played out typically throughout the evening, a fire alarm, which went off on accident around 7:50 p.m., caused an evacuation of the Bill Daniel Student Center.

Piedmont, Okla., senior Payton Strubhar, a member of Baylor Union Board who was helping out in the SUB at the time of the evacuation,

described what occurred when the alarm sounded.

"At first the alarm lights started flashing and everyone was really confused, and then vou could hear a voice telling everyone to evacuate," Strubhar said. "Everyone was reluctant to leave at first because they were in the middle of writing letters to Santa, so the SUB members went around to confirm that everyone really did have to leave. Once the room cleared, we checked that hall to make

BELLS >> Page 4

# **Deck is stacked** against Hong Kong protesters, says **Baylor professor**

#### MATTHEW MUIR Staff Writer

Protests in Hong Kong have raged since June, and now two Baylor faculty members are dissecting the situation and its potential consequences.

Hong Kong's history is that of a territory juggled by two powers. Britain took over Hong Kong in 1842 and leased surrounding land from China in 1898. When the lease expired in 1997, Britain transferred control of Hong Kong to China with an agreement of 50 years of near-autonomy for the territory. Now the territory's values and governmental systems stand in stark contrast to those of China, which is eager to expand its control of the region before the autonomy agreement ends in 2047.

A Baylor professor from Hong Kong spoke about the protests on the condition of anonymity. The professor said the demonstrations show how desperate the protesters are to preserve their own way of life instead of conforming to the Chinese system.

"There are a lot of Hong Kong people who are fearful of the Chinese government, not necessarily the Chinese people but the Chinese government," the professor said. "It's still a communist government, it's still an autocratic government... Hong Kong still maintains kind of a capitalist

environment with quite a bit more freedom than mainland China."

Protests in Hong Kong are nothing new, but the demonstrations swirling in the streets since June are different. The ongoing protests were triggered by the introduction of an extradition bill, which the professor said would have drastic ramifications for the territory's justice system if passed.

"Being tried under the Chinese judiciary system is completely different from being tried in the Hong Kong system, so there was kind of a firewall that was built," the professor said. "Earlier this year the Hong Kong leader decided in all her wisdom [to change] the law to allow China to extradite [people accused of crimes] from Hong Kong... People became very afraid— even a lot of people who traditionally supported the government, especially the business sector, are very afraid of that."

Hong Kong was never a democracy. Hong Kong's chief executive is chosen by a group of roughly 1,200. This group, the professor said, is how China is able to exert control on the territory, as many are "handpicked" by China. While a recent election yielded wins for pro-democracy district councilors, these officials have little power. The professor said Hong Kong's judicial system is one of the only

# Don't sleep away study days, says academic support manager

#### **MATTHEW MUIR** Staff Writer

With finals approaching at an almost breakneck speed, Baylor's studying experts weighed in with tips to survive the last weeks of the semester.

The staff members of Baylor's Academic Support Programs (ASP) specialize in helping students succeed in their studies. Sally Firmin, director of academic support programs, said students need to avoid cramming and break up their study sessions instead.

"I have one really good piece of advice: study in smaller chunks of time, like 45 to 50 minutes, followed by a 10 - minute break," Firmin said. "All the studies show when studying in shorter amounts of time followed by a break, students retain significantly more of the information and learn more deeply than if they study for long periods of time without any breaks."

Trish Baum, ASP's program manager for resources, said students hoping to finish the semester strong need to make sleep a priority.

"Sleep, but don't sleep away the study days; they're called study days for a reason," Baum said. "Pulling all-nighters is not a good thing for you to do... When you get this great night's sleep of seven to eight hours, then it transports everything from short-term into long-term memory... When you pull the all-nighters nothing really sticks into your brain."

Getting enough sleep is just a part of looking after one's health, which Baum said is crucial, especially in the last weeks of a semester.

"I think the most important thing would just be to take care of yourself health-wise,"

Baum said. "When you get the proper sleep and you're eating right and you're going out and getting exercise, it does a wonderful thing to your body. It rejuvenates you, it rebuilds your immune system, it clears your brain, it reduces stress - all of that is great."

Even this late in the semester, Baum said, struggling students can still benefit from a meeting with the ASP staff, and ASP offers services specifically tailored to preparing students for finals.

"One thing that we have, which is very popular during this time, is our finals packet," Baum said. "It is a resource that's printed out for the students. They can actually hold onto it with their hands, and they can use this to guide them throughout the finals preparation. We prefer that they start doing this pre-Thanksgiving holiday, but a lot of them come in at the last moment."

While waiting until December to get help is not ideal, Baum said the ASP staff work to the end of the semester to help as many students as possible.

"It is a huge increase of students who come in, and a lot of them are panicked and stressed and worried and concerned, and we see as many as we can," Baum said.

For students continuing their studies, Firmin said developing proper study skills can yield a lifetime of benefits.

"Students that have been learning and developing their study strategies - that's a lifelong thing," Firmin said. "[Those students] are in a much better place to go into finals than a student that's just trying to cram at the last minute, but we will help a student wherever they are - We're just glad to see them."

ASP's offices are located in the West Wing of the Sid Richardson Building.



Photo courtesy of Gabriella Villa

A PART OF THE FAMILY Spring Lake, N.C. freshman Gabriella Villa lifts her hand in a 'Sic em' with the stone-faced statue of Judge Baylor, a tradition for many students on campus.

# **Freshmen reflect on first year**

#### **MEREDITH HOWARD**

Staff Writer

Many high school seniors can enter college with lofty expectations, but Baylor students have their own unique perspective on balancing these expectations with reality.

Spring Lake, N.C., freshman Gabriella Villa said she made an effort to come into college with a realistic assumption of what life in higher education looks like, despite hearing stories or stereotypes.

"I thought I would be super stressed - that it would be so bad. But when I came here, it was a lot better than I thought, honestly," Villa said. "A lot of people would tell you to study way more than I think you need to. Of course you need to study, but I think you also need to find that balance."

Villa is a biology major on the pre-med track, and she said she was often told that her major would require her to prioritize studying over everything else. She said she found it important to still go to football games and have a social life.

"I think I'm doing OK finding that balance," Villa said.

Villa said one of her college expectations that was exceeded was the social community Baylor offers its students.

"I knew they had activities and things like that, so in that aspect I was kind of expecting some, but not expecting as many opportunities to meet so many different people," Villa said.

Sweeny freshman Heaven Cranford also said that Baylor's community has been one of the best parts of her first semester.

"I'm in BIC, the Baylor Interdisciplinary Core; it's team-taught by professors from all around the university, and those professors are some of the most caring, insightful, loving professors I have. The kindness and insight make it a lot easier to learn and a lot more

#### FRESHMEN >> Page 4





#### **GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?**

#### We want to hear it. Send us your thoughts: Lariat-Letters@baylor.edu

#### EDITORIAL



Rewon Shimray | Opinion Editor

# Don't let finals stress dominate a time for gratitude, reflection

Wake up. Study. Maybe eat. Sleep. Repeat.

During finals season, it can be easy to fall into a monotonous cycle. A veil of stress falls over the way we perceive everything around us. Moody's architecture appears less like a cozy study hub and more like a jail. Hitting the books often necessitates kicking our social life to the curb. The natural tendency during finals season is to fixate on what we have to do, and in the process, we neglect to appreciate what we have already done. Take time this finals season to appreciate the semester coming to a close.

For seniors graduating in December, the end of the semester marks the conclusion of a chapter of life. Even those ambitious to enter the world on the other side of the graduation

people that carried you to this moment makes passing this life landmark all the more satisfying and meaningful.

Finals often dominate the narrative of students' last two weeks of the semester. However, there is much more at play during this time than just exams. This is also the last time you will regularly encounter the people in your class: both your classmates and professors.

Your class, or the small clans you have formed within the larger group, has likely bonded through study sessions, class discussions and joint projects. If you think about it, you may have even spent more time with your classmates than some of your friends; you sat next to each other for about an hour almost every other day for 13 weeks. As you all split off to

You may also never have the same professor again. Studying for the final your professor has written up for you may elicit feelings of frustration or resentment. Rather than viewing the review material as a burden, realize that this new knowledge is a gift. Professors work to impart to you the knowledge of which they are passionate about.

If you've had a professor who has made a significant impact on the way you view a particular topic or facet of life, take the time to thank them. Professors hold office hours during study days during which you can stop by to express your gratitude. You could even take a study break to write your professor a thank you note. Changing your perception of course material from an additional stressor to an finals. Don't forget the path leaving too hastily. Pausing to to say goodbye. Don't forget some additional thing to be grateful you've gone to get to where you for orient you into a mindset to

retain the information better.

As you review old class material, revisit memories from this semester as well. College is about more than the grades you finish with. College is also about the moments in between - the "aha" moments in class, the anecdotes professors share, the laughs you and classmates exchange.

The value of your experiences this past semester can not quantified, though the numerical-based grade system may make it seem that way. Don't reduce the experiences of your past semester to the number on your transcript. Your head may be so deep in your books you don't even realize what's passing by.

The last stretch of a semester is about so much more than

### LARIAT LETTER

# **Inconsistent Baylor** grading policy unfairly penalizes students

Baylor University has no enforced university standard grading policy. As a student, it is frustrating to have inconsistent grading scales across classes.

Some classes consider a 90 or above to be an A, 89-



87 a B+, 87-83 a B, 83-80 a Band so on. In other classes, a 93 or above is considered an A, 93-90 an A-, 89-87 a B+ and so on.

This affects a student's GPA because an A in a class

is a 4.0, however an A- in a class is a 3.67 GPA score. If a student received an A- in all their classes, they would not even make the Dean's List, which has a requirement of at least a 3.7.

Many professors say your GPA does not define you. However, a student's GPA is one of the most important factors in the job interviewing process, admission into graduate school and scholarships.

These institutions are most likely going to look at a student's transcript that has the letter grade and GPA. They will not be able to see the actual numerical grade the student received in the class.

Having inconsistent grading hinders students by not giving them the grade they have earned.

#### **JENNIFER RIVAS | SENIOR**

Having inconsistent grading hinders students by not giving them the grade they have earned. An A should be an A, regardless if it is a 97 or a 91. Students should not have to work harder to receive a grade that is already hard to achieve.

Using the normal grading scale will help students to have a higher GPA. As a result, they will be more qualified for that job, admission into graduate school and scholarships. It will also help Baylor for their students to have a higher GPA, because it will entice new prospective students to come to Baylor for excellent academics.

Baylor should standardize a grading scale. Professors should not decide whether they are going to raise the standard for what is to be considered an A. It should be consistent across all classes in every college.

Jennifer Rivas

stage should be wary of scramble for the final, don't forget recognize the experiences and students graduate in the winter, too.

are now.

Senior Marketing major

### LARIAT LETTER

# Traditional Marigold mascot design is superior

I believe that Baylor needs to ditch the redesign of Marigold and revert back to the original mascot head.

I lived with a Baylor mascot last year, and I spent a lot of time up close with the mascot heads for both Bruiser and Marigold before and after the Baylor United rebranding. While they both changed in their own ways, I have issues with the changes made to Marigold.

When you look at the new Marigold, it's pretty apparent that something is off with her new face.

The first thing I notice is her eyes. The eyes have gone from a friendly and somewhat inviting look to something that more closely looks like worry or surprise.

I believe this has to do with the change in her brow shape. Previously, she had a more uniform brow that

was flat across both eyes, but the redesign has two more individually sculpted brows. When looking at her straight on, these new brows shape her eyes in a way that make her look worried and even a little uncomfortable.

I also think her new chin fur makes her look too masculine because of the way it wraps around her face. When looking at her face straight on, it looks more like a 5 o'clock shadow thananything else. I also don't think I've ever seen a real bear with face markings that resemble the ones on both Marigold and Bruiser, however, I will say that it may be there to make the two of them look more like teddy bears.

The big thing for me, though is her mouth. Reshaping her mouth has been the biggest mistake that I think they made during the redesign

process.

When compared to the old Marigold head, her mouth is now far more open and is showing more teeth. The problem with this is that showing the extra teeth makes her look more aggressive. I personally wouldn't have a problem with this, but the mascots are mostly for the kids. Being around my old roommate I have seen that kids are more scared of the new Marigold than the old one, and I believe it's because they mostly stare into her mouth.

I definitely don't think Baylor needs to go back to the drawing board on Marigold because the old one was perfectly fine, so I think if they just grabbed the old head out of the closet it'd be all the better.

Chris Curby

Senior

Supply Chain Management



Lariat File Photo

Cole Tompkins | Multimedia Editor

MEGA MAKEOVER Baylor redesigned the Marigold mascot as part of their Baylor United rebranding effort announced in April. The right is the new model.

# **Meet the Staff**

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\* Asterisks indicate members of Editorial Board

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





Nathan de la Cerda | Multimedia Journalist

SANTA SELFIE Students and Baylor families lined up to snap a photo with Santa Claus in the Burleson Quadrangle.



Cole Tompkins | Multimedia Editor JOYFUL NOISE It was not a silent night as music filled the Burleson Quadrangle after the Christmas tree was lit.



Nathan de la Cerda | Multimedia Journalist ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS Christmas kiddos could write on a chalkboard what their Christmas wishes were.



SNOW PLACE LIKE CHRISTMAS ON FIFTH The Tree Lighting Show, sponsored by Kappa Omega Tau, took place at 8:15 p.m. in the Burleson Quadrangle and featured fake snow that fell upon the crowd.



FA LA LA A band sang into the night, bringing musical joy to the massive crowd in the Burleson Quadrangle.





Nathan de la Cerda | Multimedia Journalist

Nathan de la Cerda | Multimedia Journalist CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL Carvival game booths covered Fountain Mall in addition to a kid's train ride, a hay ride, food trucks, s'mores roasting, pony rides and more.



n DeHaven| Multimedia Journalist

LIGHT IT UP Christmas lights decorated Old Main and Burleson Hall, between which sat the Christmas tree - the star of the show at Christmas on 5th. The Baylor family busted out the camera phones to commemorate the experience.





Kristen DeHaven| Multimedia Journalist LOVE LINDA Students can't wait to grab a photo with a festive President Linda Livingstone in the SUB.



Nathan de la Cerda | Multimedia Journalist CHRISTMAS CAMELS There were three camels present at the Live Nativity Scene, a crowd favorite.



Kristen DeHaven| Multimedia Journalist



# **BELLS** from Page 1

sure everyone was out and then the police officers on duty went around to check as well."

One of the most anticipated events of the night, the Kappa Omega Tau Christmas Tree Lighting, still took place at 8:15 p.m. in the Burleson Quadrangle.

Tanner Vickers, associate director of student activities for campus programs at Baylor, said Christmas on 5th started in 1965 as just the tree - lighting ceremony. It has since grown into a multifaceted celebration on Baylor's campus.

"The heart of the program is the lighting of the Christmas tree in Burleson Quadrangle, which is a tradition started by Kappa Omega Tau in 1965," Vickers said. "Fifty-four years later, KOT still manages this portion of the program, ensuring it grows each year. Decades later, activities and attractions were added to 5th Street. Each year, the event becomes more popular and new elements are added."

Leawood, Kan., junior Mitchell Paul, Christmas on 5th chair for Kappa Omega Tau, said the event is a great way to kick off Christmas celebrations with the Baylor and Waco communities.

"Quite simply, Christmas on 5th is one big Baylor party where everyone [can] make a lasting Baylor memory with their friends," Paul said. "It's a way Baylor can bring the Christmas spirit and the gospel to the Baylor students as well as to the greater Waco community."

Vickers said the purpose of Christmas on 5th is to reflect and enjoy each other's company at the end of the semester.

"First and foremost, it's an opportunity to slow down at the end of the year and reflect on the beginning of the Advent season, when we, as a faith body, wait expectantly for the celebration of the nativity of Christ, and the redemptive meaning of his arrival in history and in our lives," Vickers said. "Christmas on 5th Street is also a time for Baylor students, faculty, staff and their families to simply have fun together as the university's semester ends."

Vickers said this tradition is important to remind us of Baylor's Christian values and community.

"Christmas on 5th Street provides a time for Baylor to gather together and remember all Jesus has done for us," Vickers said. "As with many Baylor traditions, it's also important for us to simply spend time with one another, have fun and enjoy campus. We must, from time to time, enjoy one another's company as a community, and remind each other who we are, what we stand for, and that, before anything else, people are Baylor University."

Vickers said this years' celebration was larger than it has been in recent years because it offered more attractions and activities for attendees

"We have taken feedback from patrons and offered more attractions on Fountain Mall, in Burleson Quadrangle and every level of the SUB," Vickers said. "In addition to event staples like horse drawn carriages, a petting zoo and pictures with Santa, we are excited to have offered new attractions like a hay ride that picks up in front of Moody Library on Third Street, a fake snowball fight zone, ornament decorating on the first floor of the SUB, \$1 jingle bowling in the SUB and s'more roasting."

# HONG KONG from Page 1

independent government entities.

"Because of the complex system, the deck is always stacked against people who are against the communist government," the professor said. "The judicial system is still relatively independent, so even though Hong Kong [is not] a democracy, it still has separation of powers."

The extradition bill was eventually withdrawn in September, but protests persisted and clashes with police turned violent. Three protestors have been shot by police, a pro-Beijing supporter was set aflame and a pro-Beijing lawmaker was stabbed. The latest flashpoint involved more than a thousand protesters occupying The Hong Kong Polytechnic University for nearly two weeks while police sealed off the campus and, the professor said, offered an ultimatum.

"They said you either surrender and come out and get arrested or you stay here," the professor said. "What makes things worse is the president of that university basically sided with police."

Dr. Richard Jordan, a political science professor at Baylor, said he believed the protestors fear risking total failure if they relent.

"I think at this point people are very much afraid that if they stop protesting, the Chinese overnment will take the opportunity further infringe on their personal liberties," Jordan said. "I assume what they have to be most afraid of is that they'll be treated like the rest of China."

how an outcome to this would be both stable in the long-term and favorable to Hong Kong."

The protests have seeped into every aspect of life in Hong Kong. The professor said differences in views between the younger and older generations have strained relationships within families.

"One story [not talked about] in the US media is the tearing of the fabric of the family," the professor said. "These protests are led a lot by young people: college students, high school students... basically the younger generation. The reason they do that is that they think that this is their last chance [to resist Chinese rule]... On the other hand there's a lot of people in the older generation, especially those who are successful in life or at least have a stable family who are very against the protests."

In late November, president Donald Trump signed a bill supporting pro-democracy protesters designed to impose sanctions on those who commit human rights violations in the region. Jordan said this is likely to be the extent of foreign involvement in the conflict.

"China is a great power... Hong Kong is part of Chinese territory... and an interference with Hong Kong would be a violation of Chinese territory," Jordan said. "[For perspective,] how would we respond if the Chinese wanted to do something within California? It would be unacceptable? Jordan, however, said there was one way to effect change from half way around the world. "You can also pray for them," Jordan said. "This is Baylor— I think that's something that we should all do, but our means of influencing the situation are severely limited."



Jordan also said that while he understood the protesters' motivations, he "[did not] see

# **FRESHMAN** from Page 1

#### enjoyable," Cranford said.

Cranford is a first-generation college student, and she said one assumption she wishes she hadn't brought into Baylor was that she had to achieve the similar grades to the ones she received in high school.

"When I came to college, because of my performance in high school and my lack of expectations for college, I came here dead-set

on getting really good grades. I wanted a 4.0, which I didn't know isn't really as attainable as I thought it was," Cranford said.

According to ACT Research and Policy, "students tend to earn lower GPAs in college than in high school. On average, high school GPA was 0.66 points higher than first-year college GPA (3.36 versus 2.70)."

# DAILY CRIME LOG

Dec. 1-4

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: 12/2/2019 Location: Dutton Parking Offenses: Accident- Failure to Stop and Identify Date Occurred: 9/20/2019 Disposition: Closed

Date Reported: 12/2/2019 Location: 1000 Block of Speight **Offenses: EPRA- Criminal Mischief** Date Occurred: Disposition: Handled by Waco Police Department

Date Reported: 12/2/2019 Location: Texana House Offenses: CSA- Sexual Assault (Reported to Title IX Office) Date Occurred: -Disposition: Being Handled by Title IX Office

> Date Reported: 12/4/2019 Location: 1500 Block of S 4th St. **Offenses: Assault Family Violence- Simple** Date Occurred: 12/4/2019 Disposition: Active

Date Reported: 12/2/2019 Location: 600 Block of Bagby Ave. Offenses: EPRA- Sexual Assault Date Occurred: Disposition: Handled by Waco Police Department

Date Reported: 12/2/2019 Location: Earle Hall **Offenses: Theft of Property** Date Occurred: 11/25/2019-12/2/2019 Disposition: Active

Date Reported: 12/3/2019 Location: 9th and Bagby **Offenses: EPRA- Indecent Exposure** Date Occurred: 12/3/2019 Disposition: Active

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# arts & life

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# Walking in a winter wonderland

WAGO WONDERLAND PREVIEW

# FRIDAY

### Winter Wonderland Gates Open

5 P.M. - 10 P.M.

# Tree Lighting Ceremony & Fireworks Show

### 6:45 P.M.

Features appearances by city leaders, holiday music and a dazzling fireworks show over downtown Waco.



# **The Wonderland Run**

8 A.M. - 10 A.M.

Presented by Family of Faith Worship Center, the Parade will travel down Austin Avenue from 11th to Third streets

# **Wonderland Parade**



**CHRISTMAS CAMEL** In this December 2013 Lariat File Photo, a little girl pets a camel in the petting zoo at the Waco Wonderland event.

# Downtown Waco transforms into scene from snow globe

#### KJ BURKLEY Reporter

The annual Waco Wonderland returns to Heritage Square on 300 Austin Ave. in downtown Waco this weekend with its collection of sights, eats and treats.

The gates are open tonight at 5 p.m. until 10 p.m. The event will feature local favorite food trucks, carriage rides and a Mistletoe Market with a food court and merchant booths. The Tree Lighting Ceremony and fireworks show will start at 6:45 p.m. .

On Saturday, the annual Wonderland 5K and 10K run will start at 8 a.m., followed by the parade at 10 a.m. Available later that day is the Snow Tube Hill, where tubers can tube down a slide made of ice. Train rides, the wonder wheel, downtown horse-drawn carriage rides and a petting zoo are all included with a purchase of a \$5 wristband. Admission as well as other activities offered are free.

This year's parade is sponsored by the Waco Family of Faith Worship Center.

Birmingham Junior Marissa Cook, who loves the cheery atmosphere of the holidays, is looking forward to the festive holiday parade.

"I like when people bring their families and pets to watch and be in the parade," Cook said. "So I know that the Wonderland parade will be great. It's really cool to see local people gather together with their families to share this time. I'm also excited to go because my family is coming in town this weekend."

Along with its many attractions, Waco Wonderland creates a stage for many musical groups to preform. Each day will feature choirs, bands and dance groups from high schools, churches and performance companies. Waco Wonderland's outreach to the community resulted with many partnerships, including H-E-B, the Brazos River Partners LLC, the City of Waco and Baylor University.

Despite its seventh year and its partnership with Baylor, Waco Wonderland is still a surprise to most Baylor students.

San Antonio junior Delaney Sills said she has high expectations who loved that liveliness from the festival correlates with the holiday seasons of December.

"I heard from a friend about Waco Wonderland, and after looking at all of the events online, I decided to go," Sills said. "This is my first time, so my expectations about everything are high. I'm really looking forward to the fireworks show and

### 10 A.M.

Presented by Communities In Schools of the Heart of Texas, the event includes 5K and 10K runs and a 1 Mile Wonderland Walk down Austin Avenue.

## Winter Wonderland Gates Open

10 A.M. - 10 P.M.

### **Snow Tube Hill**

3 P.M. - 10 P.M.



# Winter Wonderland Gates Open

NOON - 6 P.M.

### **Snow Tube Hill**

NOON - 6 P.M.

# **Petting Zoo**

1 P.M. - 5 P.M.

Christmas tree lighting. Fireworks remind me of home, so I'm glad that will be on display, especially during this time of the year."

Waco Wonderland kicks off the December celebration of the holiday season.

# Staff Picks: Favorite study spot, drink and snack?



BSB Atrium Coffee Order: Starbucks White Chocolate Mocha Study Snack: Fruit Snacks

Study Spot:

NATHAN DE LA CERDA Multimedia Journalist



Study Spot: Study bridge in Foster Coffee Order: Regular black coffee Study Snack: Almonds, walnuts and pecans

DJ RAMIREZ Sports Editor



Study Spot: Desk at my apartment Coffee Order: Starbucks Caramel Apple Spice Study Snack: Tacos

**KENNEDY DENDY** Broadcast Executive Producer



Study Spot: Magnolia Press Coffee Order: Iced vanilla latte Study Snack: Apples and peanut butter

**JULIA LAWRENZ** Broadcast Managing Editor



Study Spot: Anywhere with a couch Coffee Order: A smoothie instead! Study Snack: Are sandwiches a snack?

**REWON SHIMRAY** Opinion Editor



Study Spot: SUB Common Grounds Coffee Order: Cafe au Lait Study Snack: Goldfish

TAYLOR WOLF Editor-In-Chief

# **Finding Christmas gifts for all**

#### MCKENZIE OVIATT Reporter

As Christmas looms, so does the inevitable question of what to get loved ones for the holidays. Malls are packed. Items are out-oforder. Some people can be hard to shop for. Well, here are some options for thoughtful and inexpensive gifts for even the pickiest of people.

#### Fabled Bookshop & Cafe:

While browsing Fabled Bookshop & Cafe, people can find thoughtful gifts throughout the entire store. If you are shopping for young children, there is a room filled with stuffed animals, dress-up costumes, picture books and action figures. Classic children's books start at around \$8 and there is plenty of variety for what the child is interested in. People can bring beloved children's stories to life with accompanying toys. Kimberly Batson, coowner of Fabled Bookshop & Cafe, said they sell dragon night capes with matching books about dragons.

"As a parent, it is super convenient having simple costumes that kids can easily put on over their clothes," Batson said.

As far as gifts for adults, they have a plethora of books to choose from in different genres. They also sell T-shirts, hats, graphic socks, mugs and stationery. Fabled can easily become your one-stop shop for Christmas presents for loved ones of all ages.

#### Milo All Day:

For the holiday season, Milo is promoting a great gift card deal. When you buy \$100 in gift cards, you get a free \$20 gift card.

Corey McEntyre, owner and chef, said he thinks this would be a great gift to mentors at school and friends at school.

"This is a great option for those Milo fans in your life. Extra \$20? Pretty great if you ask me. Great option for taking someone to dinner or brunch," McEntyre said.

#### AirPod Case:

AirPods are convenient and practical; however, AirPods are also easy to lose. While this Apple product is popular on college campuses and with music lovers, they are not popular for those who have a knack for losing things. AirPod cases are inexpensive, usually ranging from \$6 to \$20 for the leather version. The AirPod case can attach to your car keys, belt loop, or onto your backpack or purse. Better yet, you can still charge your AirPods with the case still on. With a small investment for a case, you can save your friends or family the hassle of losing or damaging unprotected and expensive AirPods.

# WHAT TO DO IN WACO

SATURDAY

# FRIDAY

#### Christmas at the

Silos | Magnolia Market at the Silos, 601 Webster Ave. | Free | Features a vendor pop-up under the barn. Photo ops with Santa available.

#### **Baylor Theatre**

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

#### A Baylor Christmas

| 7:30 p.m. | Jones Concert Hall, McCrary Music Building | \$25 | Features the Baylor Symphony Orchestra and Combined Choirs Christmas at the Silos | Magnolia Market at the Silos, 601 Webster Ave. | Free | Features a vendor pop-up under the historic barn as well as a chance to take a picture with Santa

#### Shane and Shane & Phil Wickham Concert | 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. | Magnolia

Market at the Silos, 601 Webster Ave. | Tickets starting at \$34

Waco Civic Theatre presents The Best Christmas Pageant Ever | 7 p.m. | Waco Civic Theatre, 1517 Lake Air Drive | \$8 and \$10

#### A Baylor Christmas

SUNDAY

| 3 p.m. | Jones Concert Hall, McCrary Music Building | \$25 | Features the Baylor Symphony Orchestra and Combined Choirs

#### Waco Civic Theatre presents The Best Christmas Pageant Ever | 7 p.m. | Waco Civic Theatre, 1517 Lake Air Drive | \$8 and \$10

Baylor Theatre presents Rhinoceros | 2 p.m. and 7:30

p.m. | Jones Theatre, Hooper-Schaefer Fine Arts Center | Tickets range from \$17 to \$20



**GIFTS GALORE** The Fabled Bookshop & Cafe has plenty of gifts for young children and book lovers of all ages. Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers can be found here for the whole family.



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Kristen DeHaven | Multimedia Journalist

**GIVE THE GIFT OF MILO** Corey McEntyre, owner and chef at Milo, is including a free \$20 gift card with the purchase of a \$100 gift card. This is one of the ways the restaurant is celebrating the holiday season.

# Own the Semester!

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25 Online auction site 26 Apiece 27 Painter Joan 28 Caesar salad morsels 32 Start eating 33 Breakfast order 35 Actress Aniston, to friends 36 Airport screening org. 38 "- Park" 39 Finished 42 Farm fraction 43 Quaker pronoun 44 Frost 45 Highland hat **46** Coloration 48 Peanut product

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# **HUNTING DECEMBER GLORY**



Cole Tompkins | Multimedia Editor

**DEFENSIVE DOMINANCE** Sophomore linebacker Terrel Bernard gets hyped up after a sack of Oklahoma quarterback Jalen Hurts during Baylor's 34-31 loss to the Sooners on Nov. 16.

# No. 7 Baylor battles No. 6 OU for Big 12

#### **DJ RAMIREZ** Sports Editor

For a team going into its first Big 12 Championship game, the seventh-ranked Bears are strangely calm.

Heading to Arlington for an 11 a.m. rematch against No. 6 Oklahoma on Saturday, Baylor head coach Matt Rhule said his team's mindset has not changed — the Bears are still just trying to go 1-0 this week.

"I told our players, 'Everyone's going to

received Defensive Lineman of the Year and a unanimous All-Big 12 first team selection, leads the conference with 10.5 sacks on the year and is third in tackles for loss with 15.5. Lynch is also one of five finalists for the prestigious Ted Hendricks Defensive End of the Year Award.

Senior wide receiver Denzel Mims and senior defensive tackle Bravvion Roy also received first-team selections while six other Bears were named to the All-Big 12 second team, including senior linebacker Clay Johnston. Johnston's season ended in early October due to an ACL injury he sustained in the homecoming win over Texas Tech, but the veteran continues to impact his fellow teammates.



Photo courtesy of Joshua Martin | Baylor Photography

**PLAYER OF THE YEAR** Junior outside hitter Yossiana Pressley waves to the crowd while being introduced prior to Baylor's sweep of TCU on Saturday at the Ferrell Center. The Big 12 Player of the Year leads the conference with 458 kills this season.

# No. 1 Bears set for sixth postseason run

You have teams

that even though

they're not in super

huge conferences.

they have grit.

**GIA MILANA | SENIOR** 

**OUTSIDE HITTER** 

#### MATTHEW SODERBERG Sports Writer

For the first time in Baylor volleyball history, the Bears find themselves as the No. 1 overall national seed as they prepare to kick off their postseason run against Sacred Heart tonight.

The 20-11 Pioneers will be Baylor's first opponent in Big 12 Coach of the Year Ryan McGuyre's fourth playoff stretch. Sacred Heart earned its berth in this year's tournament after winning the Northeast Conference, and will face its toughest match of the year. With the possibility of hosting both weekends for the first time, there are high expectations floating around campus for the Bears. Junior outside hitter and Big 12 Player of the Year Yossiana Pressley said the team is ready for anything people throw at them.

"I'm pretty sure that we can definitely win, but we have to bring it every day in practice, in our nutrition, in the classroom," Pressley said. "Whenever we are zoned in on volleyball, we are completely zoned in, and there are no outside factors that could affect anything."

The Big 12 announced conference honors

say, 'What are you going to do differently?'" the 2019 Big 12 Coach of the Year said. "We just played them three weeks ago. You can't reinvent the wheel. We can't come out here and hit our head against the wall. We're going to play. So I just think our guys are confident."

Last time the Bears faced the Sooners, they jumped to a quick start with a 28-3 lead in the first half, but OU pulled out the largest comeback in the history of its program to end Baylor's 9-0 undefeated run with a 34-31 score.

But despite the loss, the Bears learned they could play a complete game, they just have to keep playing their brand of football.

"We got ahead in the game and I think we were kind of surprised that we jumped out to that kind of lead," senior long snapper/ linebacker Ross Matiscik said. "We have to get back to our roots and get back to the kind of football we know how to play."

Even though the loss was tough for the team, Rhule said it gave the Bears confidence. Baylor got right back to work and completed two dominant wins over Texas and Kansas to finish the regular season at 11-1 - a juxtaposition to Rhule's first year as head coach when the Bears finished 1-11, marking the quickest turnaround of a Power Five program in two years.

"I think this is a really big accomplishment — us going home for Christmas in December to now playing in a Big 12 game then possibly going on to playing more," senior linebacker Jordan Williams said. "I feel like that's just a testament of our hard work."

Williams and Matiscik have been part of Baylor's elite defense this season, which leads the Big 12 in scoring defense, defensive efficiency, sacks and interceptions.

The Bears' defense can now also boast the 2019 Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year in junior defensive tackle James Lynch.

Baylor's all-time sacks leader, who also

"You have to know who Clay is," Matiscik said. "He's a goofy, kind of funny guy. Having him around lightens the mood a lot. He's a great football player who knows the game inside and out. Having him help you on and off the field is important."

While they've kept their heads screwed on throughout the excitement of the week, the Bears know where their flaws were exposed in their last matchup with the Sooners.

Rhule, as well as Matiscik and Williams, acknowledged that Baylor has to do better converting on third down and on stopping Oklahoma's big plays as well as Jalen Hurts' run game. The Sooners will also have star wide receiver CeeDee Lamb as an additional threat.

On the offensive side, if Baylor can make one more play than its opponent, the Bears might just walk off the field with a championship trophy.

"I think we've improved," Rhule said. "I think our guys are understanding that we're a really physical team, but there's also detail that has to go with that. It's precise aggression.

"In the second half of that OU game, we weren't running great angles. And people talk about them coming back on us, they talk about it like it's a defensive thing.

"Hey, we needed one first down, we needed two first downs, and the game's different. I think what we've tried to do the last two weeks is run the ball better. So, we're just trying to improve and become a more complete team, and see what happens."

Baylor and Oklahoma will battle for reign of the Big 12 conference at 11 a.m. Saturday in Arlington. The championship match will be broadcast on ABC.

The visiting team features a 0.221 hitting percentage this season and is led by redshirtsenior Liisel Nelis and senior hitter Julia Murawinski who combine for nearly six kills per set. Even with an opponent ranked No. 189, McGuyre said the mentality for this game has to be the same as the rest of this season.

"There's a healthy self-satisfaction," McGuyre said. "The challenge was laid out there, and the girls did a tremendous job rising to the occasion. You've heard the girls say it— it is 0-0. So, it's back to the challenge that we've had all year."

Senior outside hitter Gia Milana said there aren't any easy times at this point in the season.

"Everyone's good at this point," Milana said. "You have teams that even though they're not in super huge conferences, they have that grit. They've been training all year like we have. They have players on their team that are leaders."

Tuesday, and Baylor took home some hardware. Alongside Pressley and McGuyre, junior Hannah Lockin earned Setter of the Year, and senior Shelly Stafford was named unanimous All-Big 12 First Team. Milana and freshman middle blocker Kara McGhee both earned Second Team, while McGhee added a unanimous Freshman Team selection as well.

If the Bears advance past the Pioneers, they'll face

the winner of the Stephen F. Austin-Southern California match Saturday night. The Jacks and theTrojans face off at 5 p.m. today.

SFA is 31-1 after a Cinderella season, undefeated records on neutral and home courts and a Southland Conference championship. USC is 17-13 after a brutal Pac-12 conference schedule and a loss at Texas.

The Baylor Bears will look to avoid a slipup at 7 p.m. tonight in the Ferrell Center against unranked Sacred Heart. The game will be available on ESPN3 through the ESPN app.



**SETTER OF THE YEAR** Junior setter Hannah Lockin celebrates a point with her teammates during Baylor's match against TCU Saturday. The Big 12 Setter of the Year leads the Big 12 with an average of 11.38 assists per set and 979 total assists.



Follow Lariat Sports on Twitter for play-by-play action of the Big 12 Championship game, live from AT&T Stadium! @BULariatSports

# Sports —



Caleb Boren | Roundup Photograp

**I'M OPEN** Sophomore guard Jared Butler motions for a pass option in Baylor's 78-46 victory over Maryland-Eastern Shore on Tuesday night at the Ferrell Center. Baylor faces No. 12 Arizona Saturday.

# Pick your poison, Wildcat: Top 20 matchup in Waco

#### MATTHEW SODERBERG

Sports Writer

No. 18 Baylor men's basketball hosts No. 12 Arizona on Saturday during one of the biggest weekends in Baylor sports history.

The game will feature a huge matchup between lottery prospect Nico Mannion and the Bears' plethora of guards.

The Wildcat point guard is averaging 15.3 points and 5.8 assists per game while shooting 61.1% eFG. He is consistently ranked among the best in the upcoming draft and will be a true test for Baylor's backcourt.

Between the starting three-headed monster of guards and a pretty good defensive front court in senior Freddie Gillespie and junior Mark Vital, the Baylor defense will be a handful for Mannion. Head coach Scott Drew said it's an exciting game for more than just one guy.

"Nico is somebody a lot of people talk about," Drew said. "He does a great job running their team, but they've got a good team. There's a reason there's close to 30 NBA scouts here."

This isn't the first big game Baylor's had this season. They've already played No. 22 Washington and beaten No. 23 Villanova on neutral courts this season. Sophomore guard Jared Butler said those games have prepared them for any level of play this season.

"I think it definitely builds our confidence going into other big-time games," Butler said. "We know what to expect. We know the environment and the pace the game's going to be at. Playing those three games early really helped us."

Last year, the Bears had the No. 75 defense in the country as they balanced themselves with the No. 20 offense. Now they field the No. 34 defense bolstered by the No. 10 offense in the country. Gillespie said the team prides itself on its effort on the defensive end.

"We have a lot of on-ball defenders, help defenders, shot blockers — a lot of defensive weapons," Gillespie said. "I think it's starting to become our identity."

Both teams are currently ranked in KenPom's Top 20, and Arizona runs the floor the most out of any team Baylor has played. Drew said that the Wildcats are going to be a great opponent to have come to town.

"It'll be two Top 25 teams and an opportunity for someone to get a quality win," Drew said. "When you play these teams on your home court, you've got to protect your home court."

The Bears will face Arizona at 11 a.m. Saturday in Waco. Coincidentally, the Big 12 Championship game is also being played in Arlington at the same time.

The Ferrell Center will play a live feed of the football game at halftime, and spectators can also go to the Stone Room after the basketball game to watch. Drew laughed as he said that Baylor fans have a choice to make.

"You've got two options. You can either be at the football game or be at the basketball game," Drew said. "We don't care which one, but you're wearing green and gold at one hopefully."

# **Baylor Bears Don't Hibernate**

#### Friday, Dec. 6:

**First round NCAA Volleyball Tournament**: Stephen F. Austin vs Southern California 5 p.m. at the Ferrell Center

No. 1 Baylor vs Sacred Heart 7 p.m. at the Ferrell Center

#### Saturday, Dec. 7:

**Big 12 Football Championship:** No. 7 Baylor vs No. 6 Oklahoma 11 a.m. at AT&T Stadium in Arlington

**Men's basketball Top 20 matchup:** No. 18 Baylor vs No. 12 Arizona 11 a.m. at the Ferrell Center

#### Second round NCAA Volleyball Tournament:

Winner of SFA/USC vs Winner of BU/SHU 8 p.m. at the Ferrell Center

#### Tuesday, Dec. 10:

**Men's basketball:** Baylor vs Butler 8 p.m. at the Ferrell Center

#### Friday, Dec. 13 - Saturday, Dec. 14: Third and Fourth rounds NCAA Volleyball Tournament at the Ferrell Center

Wednesday, Dec. 18: Women's basketball: Baylor vs Arkansas State 12 p.m at the Ferrell Center

#### Men's basketball:

Baylor vs Tennessee-Martin The Battleground 2k19, 9 p.m. in Houston

#### Monday, Dec. 30:

**Men's basketball:** Baylor vs Jackson State 2 p.m. at the Ferrell Center

**Women's basketball:** Baylor vs Morehead State 7 p.m. at the Ferrell Center



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Dr. Alan Seaman Professor of TESOL

Chair of Applied Linguistics & International Education Department

> Dr. Seaman has taught English to non-native speakers around the world and has developed a vast network of TESOL contact points. By pursuing an **M.A. in TESOL** at Wheaton, you benefit from the department's global connections to schools, universities, and agencies for internships and placements after graduation.

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