



**OPINION | A2**  
**EDITORIAL**

Embrace the season of fall, even if it makes you “basic.”



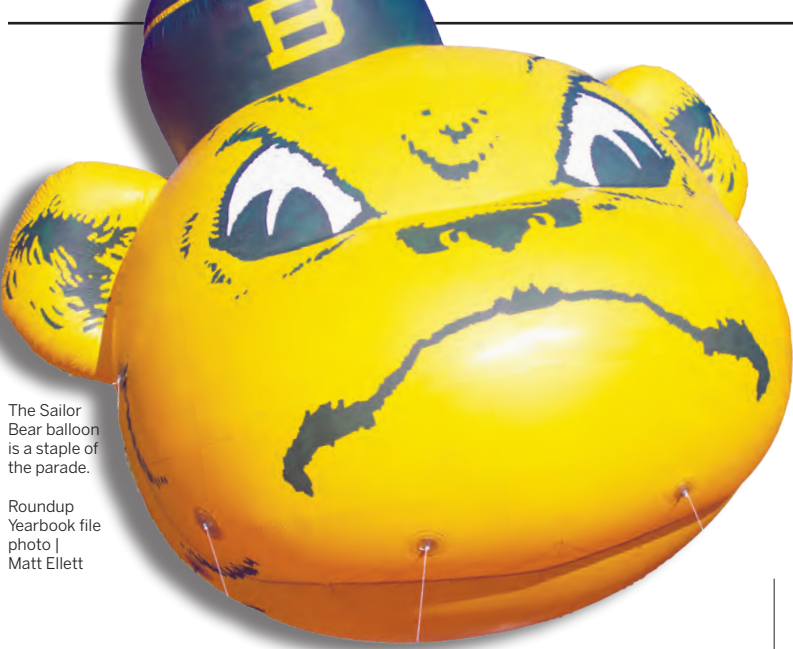
**SPORTS | B1**

**THE BIG GAME**  
Baylor football prepares to go head-to-head with Oklahoma State.



**A&L | C1**

**PIGSKIN PREVIEW**  
Go behind the scenes with performers.



The Sailor Bear balloon is a staple of the parade.

Roundup Yearbook file photo | Matt Ellett

## Chamber ignites HOCO tradition for 115th year

**RORY DULOCK**  
Staff Writer

While homecoming only lasts a week, Baylor Chamber of Commerce puts in several months of planning and preparation to ensure that these traditions will run smoothly and be memorable for the Baylor community.

Austin junior Sammie Thompson is on the Chamber's homecoming committee for a second year and serves as the homecoming vice chair. Her role includes overseeing the budget for homecoming and helping the coordinators for each of the events plan and prepare.

Thompson said under the homecoming committee, there is a subcommittee — the parade committee — where there is a separate parade chair and vice chair. However, there is help from outside the Chamber, Thompson said.

“It’s a lot of working with Baylor ... employees as well as student groups who are involved in homecoming,” Thompson said. “Obviously, it is a whole university thing, as well as whole Waco thing for the parade. [We work] with

them to make sure everyone is on the same page and has all the information to make everything go smoothly.”

Thompson said the Chamber has been preparing for homecoming week since the beginning of last semester. Even events such as Dinner with the Livingstones at Albritton House involve a lot of coordination, especially when reaching out to all of the food trucks that are coming.

Around 45 students are currently part of the Chamber, and they all participate in homecoming planning, preparing and helping out during the week.

“We make sure that crowd management is going well [and] that everyone’s happy and getting their questions answered, and we’re also

enjoying the events too. We’re students, so we want to enjoy homecoming week as well,” Thompson said.

San Antonio senior Sofia Keivanzadeh is the homecoming court coordinator. It’s her responsibility to communicate

**CHAMBER >> A7**

“It is so cool to learn about the tradition of homecoming and actually have a part in it.”

**SOFIA KEIVANZADEH |  
HOMECOMING  
COURT  
COORDINATOR**

# HOMECOMING — 2024 —

## It’s confirmed – Baylor held nation’s first homecoming

University first held celebration in 1909.

**KRISTY VOLMERT**  
Staff Writer

After years of speculation, an ESPN article has dubbed Baylor as the founder of the homecoming tradition in college football.

The article from last week discusses who really hosted the first-ever homecoming, and Baylor was featured as a lead contender. The article describes Baylor’s first “home-coming” weekend 115 years ago as a pivotal weekend for the Bears when they defeated the TCU Horned Frogs.

“If history wants to remember the first official homecoming game in college football, all the evidence suggests this was it,” the article stated.

Former university President Samuel Palmer Brooks is to thank for kicking off this long-standing tradition. According to the 1910 Roundup Yearbook, a celebration was held during the week of Thanksgiving, drawing crowds of students and alumni as they took part in a plethora of activities. Brooks was responsible for organizing and hosting the events, which began on Nov. 24, 1909 and included a bonfire, concerts, class reunions and a big reception in Bursleson Hall.



Roundup File Photo

**BAYLOR BEGINNINGS** The Philomathesians, a literary society and precursor to Greek life, marched in the first Baylor Homecoming parade in 1909. The group first came to Baylor in 1851 when campus was still located in Independence, Texas.

The next morning, students attended a series of speeches given by professors and university leaders, and that afternoon they experienced the first-ever homecoming parade on the corner of 11th Street and Washington Avenue.

These activities were originally hosted as social events for alumni, but they were open to the rest of the Baylor family

as well. The campaign was to “catch the Baylor spirit again,” according to Brooks. The Baylor Lariat played a role by delivering postcard invitations that read, “Faculty and students desire your presence.” Thus, one successful homecoming with over a thousand alumni attendees was the beginning of a very special tradition.

Other schools like the

University of Missouri, University of Illinois and Southwestern University also claim to have started the tradition of homecoming. Multiple sources credit Missouri as host of the first homecoming game, but this game was held

**TRADITIONS >> A7**

## Scholarship created for students affected by hurricanes

**ASHLYN BECK**  
News Editor

Hurricanes Helene and Milton made landfall nearly a month ago, but the aftermath hasn’t let up. A scholarship fund being raised by the On Campus Mom Foundation is one step the Baylor community is taking to aid in relief.

OCM Foundation Director Beth Dutschmann is a North Carolina native. After the devastation from Helene and Milton, Dutschmann felt a responsibility for Baylor students who were affected. She and her husband decided to start a Go Fund Me to raise scholarships for Baylor students affected by the

hurricanes.

“By launching a crowdfunding campaign, we know that we can reach a multitude of people versus just those who are familiar with our foundation on campus,” Dutschmann said.

According to Dutschmann, the foundation is setting a goal of \$50,000 to fund

student scholarships. It will be available to all impacted, but Dutschmann is specifically targeting students from North Carolina, Tennessee, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

“We know there are a lot of individuals in Bear Nation — as well as their friends and family members — who have hearts and can find in

their hearts to support this,” Dutschmann said. “It doesn’t matter the amount. Everything adds up toward the goal.”

The scholarship will be launched after homecoming if all goes according to plan, Dutschmann said. While the foundation hopes to help all ages of students affected, its primary goal is to help college

seniors.

“Right now, [our] No. 1 [goal is] getting seniors across the finish line. They will be given first priority, followed by the other classes from these areas of devastation,” Dutschmann said.

As of mid-October, USA

**RELIEF FUNDS >> A7**



**MEET AND GREET** Dr. Linda Livingstone chats with students during the first event of homecoming week.

Caleb Garcia | Photographer

## Students share meal with Livingstones

**MACKENZIE GRIZZARD**  
Staff Writer

Baylor’s dinnertime tradition shone bright under the twinkling lights of 3rd and 4th Streets on Tuesday, marking a hearty start to the 2024 homecoming week.

Local familiar favorites like Cha Community, Pop’s Lemonade, Vitek’s BBQ and more lined the street by the Allbritton House, allowing students to choose from many different options.

The event was free for current Baylor students, and students were given a voucher for a drink and a meal to enjoy something from the 16 different food trucks.

Since her inauguration in 2017, university President Linda Livingstone and first gent Brad Livingstone have been dedicated to fostering relationships within Baylor’s diverse campus, leading to the creation of this classic tradition.

“We love having students at our home,” Livingstone said. “It’s just a way to show

that we’re the Baylor family and we want to bring people together.”

Livingstone said that despite its significance now, this event wasn’t always a core Baylor Homecoming tradition.

“The week of our inauguration, we wanted to do something special for our students. It wasn’t tied to homecoming,” Livingstone said. “It was such a great success, we said, ‘Oh my goodness. We need to do this every year.’”

**DINNER TIME >> A7**



**GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?**

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

# Baylor Homecoming, you don't look a day over 115

**CAMERON MCCOLLUM**  
Photo Editor



Homecoming is a Baylor tradition that has been celebrated since 1909 with colorful floats, crackling bonfires, school spirit, overdue reunions and memories that remind us why we call Baylor home. It is a Baylor family favorite with many events for everyone to cherish. However, only when we lose student status and return to Baylor as a genuine homecoming can we understand how meaningful this everlasting tradition is.

On my first Baylor Homecoming, I was a part of the Baylor Golden Wave Band drumline, so I was up at 6 a.m. ready to march off with my team. My sophomore year came, and I wasn't a part of the drumline anymore. That year, I got to experience the homecoming parade on the sidelines with families cheering and debating which float most deserved to win. My junior year homecoming came and my family couldn't make it, but I got to spend the entirety of that

season with my best friends. I am now entering my last homecoming and am so grateful for these past three years.

Homecoming was invented to bring back alumni to their alma mater and show school spirit, revive rivalries and reunite old friends.

The quickest way to hype up school spirit is through a little game of ball, which some call old-fashioned American College Football. Universities have deep-rooted rivalries, and competitive football causes fans to feel rejuvenated with all of the memories they've made at previous games.

In 2021 I was able to watch an undefeated at-home football team, a field surge against OU, a Big 12 championship and a Sugar Bowl win all while being in front of the end zone. Win or lose, I will never forget those memories and always will be a Baylor fan as I walk toward alumnus status.

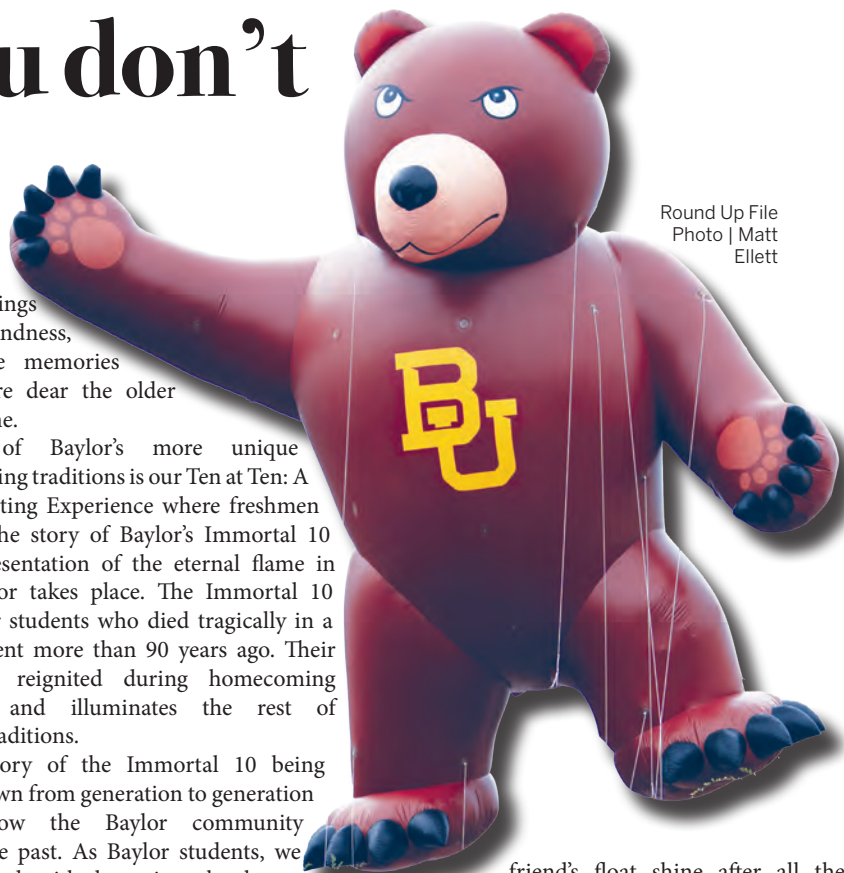
Every homecoming matters. Whether it is your first Baylor Homecoming, your second, third or even 20th, we can gain more precious moments here in the place we spent years calling home. Even when new traditions are formed, we can always appreciate looking back at past

homecomings with fondness, and these memories grow more dear the older we become.

One of Baylor's more unique homecoming traditions is our Ten at Ten: A Mass Meeting Experience where freshmen are told the story of Baylor's Immortal 10 and a presentation of the eternal flame in their honor takes place. The Immortal 10 are Baylor students who died tragically in a bus accident more than 90 years ago. Their legacy is reignited during homecoming weekend and illuminates the rest of Baylor's traditions.

The story of the Immortal 10 being passed down from generation to generation shows how the Baylor community honors the past. As Baylor students, we are instilled with honoring the legacy of others while teaching us to honor our current legacies.

Throughout my freshmen year, I ended up changing majors one or two times and even debated transferring. It was Baylor traditions that made me feel like I belonged. Seeing my



Round Up File Photo | Matt Ellett

friend's float shine after all the hours they put into it, seeing families smile shine with the warmth of the bonfire, watching performers sing my favorite songs and experiencing everyone's work come together into this celebration makes me happy to have an alma mater.

## Don't fall for the rumors – the Editorial Board adores autumn



James Ellis | Cartoonist

### THE EDITORIAL BOARD

You might have read a column from the Lariat about autumn and its down-"falls." That was a misrepresentation of our true character. The fact is, we love fall. We love pumpkin spice, Starbucks and Uggs boots.

Like the good journalists we are, coffee is always a must, and fall is the perfect excuse to add whipped cream to every drink. We have been thoroughly enjoying the Caramel Pumpkin Brûlée Breve from Dutch Bros every week, and who could forget the Pumpkin Spice Latte from Starbucks?

Although it's hard to take a break from classes this time of the year, go to a pumpkin patch. We suggest going to the Western Belle Farm in West for a fun fall activity. We will never be too old (or too hot) to pick out a pumpkin and get apple cider. If the fall spirit leads you, you can even name your own pumpkin.

If you can't peel yourself away from schoolwork, studying at a festive coffee shop will always make things better. Dichotomy always decks out their shop for the holidays. Enjoy the orange and yellow leaves before the Christmas season starts when Mariah Carey defrosts on Nov. 1. Pinewood Coffee Bar also goes all out for fall. Not only did they host Oktoberfest to kick it off, but they also have a fall-themed latte that makes studying infinitely more bearable.

If you haven't guessed by now, we personally love "Gilmore Girls." If you're looking for more fall shows or movies, our recommendations include: "Halloween Town," "Practical Magic," "Hocus Pocus," "When Harry Met Sally," "Dead Poets Society" and "Donnie Darko."

In terms of fall candles, HomeGoods and Target are great places to find your newest addition. Stick to scents that are more evocative

of leaves than pumpkin pancakes. The sweeter scents, while delicious, are a recipe for a headache.

Keep the flannel and fall into a Ralph Lauren sweater this year. We've currently been loving lots of brown leather, headbands and classic autumn colors. Find an old Gap magazine with the fall collection — you'll find everything you need. Don't stop at the sweaters, though — we also love fall shoes. Whether it's Boston Clogs, Uggs or Blundstones, we're wearing them loud and proud. And if you think we're waiting for the weather to cool off some more before we do, you couldn't be more mistaken. Yes, we're sweating on our way to class.

Not every season is going to be your cup of tea. But for us, fall is the perfect time to bundle up and enjoy the changing colors. Even if your autumn favorites don't align with ours, the spirit of the season is enough to unite us all.

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To submit a Lariat Letter, email Lariat-Letters@baylor.edu. Letters should be a maximum of 300 words. The letter is not guaranteed to be published.



# BUPD, WPD ensure safety at homecoming festivities

**AUDREY VALENZUELA**  
Staff Writer

Baylor Homecoming, which began in 1909, is one of the most anticipated events in the life of the university.

The week-long festivities have drawn as many as 10,000 attendees since it was founded.

Both the Baylor University Police Department and the Waco Police Department play roles in ensuring a safe environment for all involved.

Chief Don Rodman of BUPD said that the department works closely with event planners to ensure that security protocols align with the goals of each event.

“What we do is determine what the event planners are looking to do, and then we support that — whatever that is — to make sure it’s a safe and successful event,” Rodman said. “That could be determining to close parking lots [or] closing a road to ensure the area doesn’t intersect with traffic.”

BUPD officers are stationed at key locations across campus during homecoming including the parade



Mary Thurmond | Photographer

**ROAD CLOSURES** BUPD Chief Dennis Rodman closes multiple roads for the homecoming weekend to ensure safety for students and alumni.

route, McLane Stadium and the bonfire site. Their role extends beyond simple law enforcement — they are key to maintaining crowd control, ensuring event flow and offering immediate assistance when needed.

To aid in their efforts, BUPD utilizes over 2,000 cameras across

campus, enhancing their ability to monitor large crowds and respond to potential threats.

“We have a very robust camera system on campus with over 2,000 cameras that we utilize during all homecoming events,” Rodman said. “We have a command post that we run where we have the different

agencies that come together such as fire, EMS, law enforcement, technical and physical security and environmental health and safety.”

With thousands of people attending events like the football game, BUPD helps manage crowds to ensure that they remain orderly and safe. Officers are stationed at strategic points to monitor the flow of people and address any potential concerns.

“We have officers that patrol the tailgating areas and around McLane Stadium so that if anyone runs into any issues or concerns, we can respond promptly,” Rodman said.

Ladera Ranch, Calif., sophomore Collin Chen said Baylor does a great job at keeping all of the events secure and protected from potential harm, particularly at the parade and football game, given their proximity to busy streets.

“I think BUPD does a good job controlling traffic during game days. I don’t think they’ve had any issues regarding safety in that aspect,” Chen said. “The only difference between the events is that both the game and parade have more streets that need to be patrolled, but I’ve felt very safe at

both events.”

BUPD’s commitment to safety is reflected in its tailored security plans which are designed to address the unique needs of each event. These plans cover both interior and exterior security, ensuring that the event space is fully secure.

“We want to make sure that traffic is staying away from the event so that is what we are assessing based on the focus of the event,” Rodman said. “We build out a plan based on security needed on both the interior and exterior of the event.”

Fort Worth junior Carolina Rey said she is confident in the safety measures taken during homecoming weekend. Rey, who has participated in several homecoming events, appreciates BUPD’s presence and monitoring efforts.

“I think BUPD does a great job at monitoring our events, especially during homecoming weekend, and I never really have to worry about the safety of the events,” Rey said.

People can make a report by calling 254-710-2222 or submitting an anonymous report through the Baylor Guardian App.

# International students find connection at homecoming events

**CHANG LIU**

Focus/Design Editor

The International Student and Scholar Services offers the opportunity for international students to walk in the homecoming parade each year. These students, as part of the Baylor family, shared their opinions about homecoming.

Makassar, Indonesia, sophomore Kathleen Theos said last year she had a heartwarming encounter during the homecoming parade.

“I did the event where international students were holding their country’s flags,” Theos said. “I think

that was fun because we get to represent our countries. When I was walking through campus, suddenly there [was] a voice from the crowd [that] said, ‘How are you,’ in [my language].”

Theos said that homecoming is a special event at Baylor, and she never heard of other universities doing it.

Wenzhou, China, freshman Hao Chen said that her professor had shared information about the homecoming event, and that she wants to go this year with her friends. She also said that there is no similar event that she knows of in China, especially the parade

and bonfire.

“I think it’s very meaningful because it has a lot of events and everyone will go together,” Chen said. “It’s giving me a chance to relax and socialize. It’s actually a great opportunity for me to go out with my friends and have fun. You can see the flag of your own country during the parade.”

Kumasi, Ghana, graduate student Gordon Asante said that he did not know much about the homecoming events, but he wanted to attend Dinner with the Livingstones.

“The last time I met the Livingstone[s] was during the international student

orientation,” Asante said. “I wanted to take a picture with her, but I couldn’t. Now, this event might be the right time for me. I also know alumni should be coming around, and it’ll be nice to meet them.”

Asante said that homecoming is a good opportunity for students to relax and build connections with people. He also said that his high school had the same event, but he had never experienced it.

San Jose, Costa Rica, junior Sophia Chaves said that she will attend the bonfire event and parade with her friends.

“I do think it has a great meaning, especially with the



Photo courtesy of Baylor ISSS

**NEWFOUND HOME** International students held flags of their own countries in the homecoming parade last year.

history and how it all started,” Chaves said. “I think it’s very nice to experience that in

the whole week, and as an international student, I get a sense of home or belonging.”

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# Homecoming Lane

# Pigskin Road



Round up Yearbook File Photo  
**HATS OFF** The 1958 Baylor Athletics float is cheered on by a group of parade viewers.



Round up Yearbook File Photo  
**ROYALTY** The 1989 Homecoming Court includes Debbie Smith, Jill Darley, Shelley Ragsdale, Stephanie Zohar and Donna Noziger.



Round up Yearbook File Photo  
**TOUCHDOWN** The 2003 Freshman Class Council's old-style football player balloon towers over young Baylor fans.



Round up Yearbook File Photo  
**FILING IN** Baylor Cheer Team piles into their float for the 1959 Homecoming Parade.



Round up Yearbook File Photo  
**POMP IT UP** A parade float volunteer decorates for the 1963 Baylor Homecoming Parade.



Round up Yearbook File Photo  
**DRIVE IN** Group of Baylor students awaits the 1976 Homecoming Parade.



**ROLLING OUT** A Parade float drives on during the 1928 Baylor Homecoming Parade.  
Round up Yearbook File Photo



Round up Yearbook File Photo  
**ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM** An elephant float wanders through the streets during the 1997 Homecoming.



Kassidy Tsikitas |Photo Editor  
**HOT TO GO** Tau Kappa Epsilon members Luke Cortez (left), Brandon Lamb (middle) and Sanskar Tomar (right) perform "Papa Tiki's, Balliamo" in Pigskin 2024.



Mesha Mittansala |Photographer  
**ANYTHING GOES** Alpha Chi Omega breaking a leg in their Broadway inspired Pigskin act "The Show Must Go On."



Kassidy Tsikitas |Photo Editor  
**KING ARTHUR** Ethan Lynch performs as King Arthur in Alpha Tau Omega's "Nothing Set In Stone" Pigskin act.



Kassidy Tsikitas |Photo Editor  
**BREAKING NEWS** Phi Kappa Chi closes "The Good Newsies" Pigskin act in a group hooray.



Mesha Mittansala |Photographer  
**INTO THE WOODS** Chi Omega takes a modern spin on the classic childhood story Little Red Riding Hood in their "Caught Red-Handed" Pigskin performance.



Kassidy Tsikitas |Photo Editor  
**THROWBACK** Kappa Alpha Theta brings back "The Great Katsby" for their Pigskin performance.



Mesha Mittansala |Photographer  
**SUNNY DAYS** No matter rain or shine, Delta Delta Delta brings sunny days in their "Weather or Not" Pigskin performance.



Kassidy Tsikitas |Photo Editor  
**SPELLING BEE BLUES** Baylor Sing Alliance performs "Buzz at the Bee" in Pigskin 2024.



Mesha Mittansala |Photographer  
**GINGERBREAD MEN** After escaping becoming a snack, the gingerbread men of Kappa Omega Tau put on their Pigskin performance "Sweet Gingerbread Man."



# Unearthing world's second most-read book

OLIVIA TURNER  
Arts & Life Editor

Even some of the brightest of Baylor's students may have never heard of the name Boethius, the author of one the most well-read manuscripts in history. That's why several of the university's Great Texts professors are working to bring his name and story to light through an intricate, educational project.

According to Dr. Sarah-Jane Murray, a professor of Great Texts and documentary director, "The Boethius Project" is still in its early stages. As of now, it involves a daily reading and reflection program, documentary which is currently in production and several other moving parts and ideas in the works.

For 1,000 years, Boethius' book — "The Consolation of Philosophy" — was the second most-read book in the world behind the Bible since his death in A.D. 524, Murray said. However, in the past few centuries, fewer and fewer people have read it, and as a result, fewer people remember who Boethius was.

The story, which Boethius wrote while in prison for treason, followed some of his last days on earth. It discussed the ability for happiness to be found through God, even in a world full of evil, pain and sorrow, Murray said.

Dr. Melinda Neilsen, an associate Great Texts professor, said that some people call Boethius the last of the ancients and the first of the medievals, meaning his story falls into several different areas of study.

"Students just love it consistently," Neilsen said of the Consolation. "It's the book that students always say, 'This is my favorite' or 'This changed my life.'"

Neilsen said the reason the Consolation resonates with students may be the story's main idea: "God alone is necessary for happiness."

Boethius' Consolation is full of mystery, Murray said. It is unknown whether or not Boethius actually intended for the story to end when it did, as it's possible conclusion could have been due to the event of his brutal execution by Theodoric, the king of Ostrogoths and the ruler of Rome at the time.

"It's his parting gift to the world and his own preparation for death," Murray said. "It's very, very close to Baylor's mission, right? And this idea that only through divine providence and contemplation can we really find truth and beauty and happiness, because bad things happen to good people."

The factuality of Boethius' supposed treason is also up for debate, Murray said.

"We tend to think of the humanities as this discipline where you learn the things that are already certain, and then you just discuss them," she said. "You go, and you find historical artifacts and sources that get dug up. And information changes, and you find a new scroll that nobody has read yet. And you realize — wait, there's new information here."

In Boethius' case, Murray said, he was Theodoric's right-hand man and was working to translate all of Plato and Aristotle into Latin, with his own commentaries on each text. However, he was sentenced to death for the alleged treason of writing letters against Theodoric to the eastern half of the empire.

"In the Consolation, he says they're false accusations, but you got to be careful. He's a smart guy," Murray said. "Either he didn't write the letters and he's wrongly accused, or he did write them, and because he's serving Christianity — which to him remains more important than politics — he's not betraying anybody because he doesn't want to betray his faith."

Murray said she believes there is evidence somewhere stowed away in archives or buried underground that will someday reveal the truth about Boethius' story. But for now, the mystery remains.

"What I like to say is I want to look back," Murray said. "I want to look back so that we can grow forward by looking back and learning from their wisdom rather than the certitude of history, right?"

Murray said the goal for the documentary is to release educational content creation in a non-profit model. She hopes it can be released to the public in a way that is accessible and free of charge, such as on their YouTube channel. According to the trailer, the documentary

will dive into questions Boethius asks in the Consolation, such as "Why do good things happen to good people?" and "Why can fortune never be trusted?"

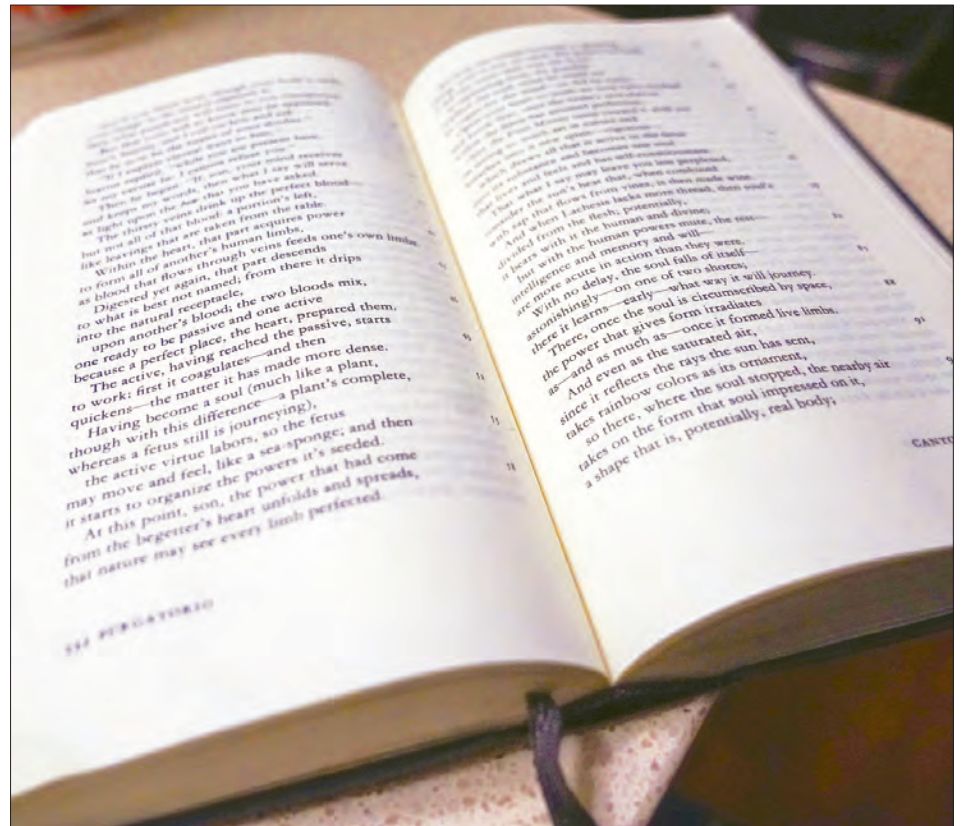
The producer of the film, Baylor alumna Courtney Becker, once took classes from Murray. Becker said these questions will be examined through interviews with scholars from across the U.S. — experts who were able to take lessons from Boethius' ancient story and make them relevant.

"It was like, who are these great teachers who have a passion for this who can get other people passionate about this? How do we give them a platform to be able to share that wisdom and

that knowledge?" Becker said.

She described the sensation during filming of seeing the interviewees forget the camera they were in front of and speak unabashedly about their knowledge on Boethius. Becker said it's a passion she hopes will spread to those who view the film.

Murray said in addition to the film, there will be a Boethius virtual reality project coming to Baylor during the spring semester, with the possibility for more learning projects made possible through her program, The Great Story Lab. For now, Murray said the documentary's release date is pending.



Mesha Mittanasala | Photographer

**IN THE WORKS** Dr. Sarah-Jane Murray, a professor of Great Texts, is working with other professors to film a documentary on the second most read book in the world.

# Fellowship, FM72 bring church unity in Waco



Michael Aguilar | Photographer

**FINDING COMMUNITY** Antioch is one of many popular Waco churches for Baylor students. It is located on 505 N. 20th St.

EDEN MORRIS  
Reporter

Waco is experiencing unity more than ever on a church-wide and college ministry scale, according to several local college pastors and Baylor students.

Drew Humphrey has held the title of Highland Baptist Church's college pastor for 15 years.

"I would say six or seven years ago, we loved each other, but were in a way kind of almost competing and not collaborating," Humphrey said. "It wasn't toxic, but it wasn't positive either."

Dale Wallace accepted his position as Harris Creek Baptist Church's college pastor in 2022.

"I don't think churches were as healthy as they are now," Wallace said. "There are more churches that are healthier right now in Waco than I think ever before."

Wallace said his friendship with Humphrey began long before their ministry.

"Drew and I met in college on 10th Street through friends," Wallace said. "God, long before we knew it, just weaved all of our stories together and made us friends before we were even locking arms in ministry."

Humphrey said he, Wallace and Austin Murray, college pastor at Antioch Waco, work well together.

"Dale and I went on a mission trip together and worked together in college. He was my roommate in England multiple times on mission trips," Humphrey said. "Austin and

I have been equally as close over the years, a genuine love and friendship that is also a partnership and ministry. It goes way back when we were much younger."

Humphrey said that FM72 is another reason why he believes the college ministries in Waco have united through Baylor students.

"We made a group text with seven or eight churches that work really closely together and mostly we work closely together through the FM72 ministry," he said. "We try to work collaborate, not compete. We all text Sunday morning at 7 a.m. saying 'Hey, praying for God to move your church,' and it's genuine."

Wallace said that he accounts their unity to the three pastors of Highland, Harris Creek and Antioch setting the example in their friendship. Humphrey said that he accounts church unity to Psalm 133.

"Unity is good, unity is pleasing, but it's actually a blessing and God's anointing starts to flow," he said. "All of this spiritual momentum and spiritual hunger and prayer and evangelism, all that we're experiencing in college ministry, I think, partly is from the Lord, Psalm 133, blessing us and anointing this place because of unity."

Humphrey grabs tacos and coffee with Wallace and Murray on a regular basis.

"It's one thing when it's FM72 and we're all together; it's another thing when it's like I like genuinely love these guys," he said. "They are my friends, and I want to support them, share with them and help them."

# Professor encourages setting boundaries during election

NATALIE FRENCH  
Reporter

With less than two weeks until the presidential election, tensions are high across the country.

A February 2024 poll done by the Pew Research Center found that 65% of Americans are exhausted by politics and 55% become angry when they think about politics.

"Democratic elections need to inflame passions in order to ensure people turn out to vote," according to Dr. Matthew Anderson, assistant professor of ethics and theology at Baylor and associate fellow at the McDonald Centre for Theology, Ethics and Public Life at Oxford University.

"I think our political environment tempts us to over-invest ourselves in national politics," Anderson said. "We should argue in public, vote responsibly and be happy or sad with the results without losing our balance."

In an article from the American Psychologists Association, Dr. Brett Ford, a psychologist at the University of Toronto, said there's a link between

chronic stress and political engagement. In fact, the link is so strong that it's called election stress disorder.

Anderson said that those who struggle with this election stress and their mental health during this season need to consider their actions for the rest of the year.

"A life full of friendship, hard work, quiet prayer [and a] connection to nature and with creative expression will tend — over time — to become a very stable and secure life," Anderson said. "We should fill our life with so many goods that have nothing to do with what is happening in election cycles that we only give the election the attention it requires to fulfill our responsibilities as citizens and no more."

Memphis, Tenn., junior Tyler Ybarra has worked on more than 10 political campaigns in the last three years as a campaign consultant and activist. He said that he believes elections affect mental health because of the consequences that can arise out of the decisions citizens make at

the voting booth and because of the media.

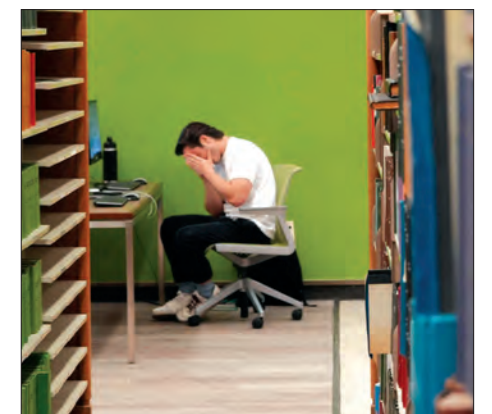
"The people we elect in November will determine the next two, four and six years of leadership," Ybarra said. "The media also creates an overwhelming environment and can amplify negative emotions."

Ybarra said that setting boundaries in relationships and with media is important.

"I have to remind myself that we are more united than we are divided," Ybarra said. "The media wants to divide us, but I believe that we can find more common ground if we open up more spaces for political discourse."

Anderson encourages these conversations as well because they provide an opportunity to "learn more about how our friends or family see the world, and to sharpen our own understanding in the process."

"Questions are always the right way to go about conversations with each other, but they are especially valuable in the midst of contentious seasons, so use them freely and



Chloe McCauley | Photographer

**POLITICAL PRESSURE** Distressed student takes a moment to reflect on the upcoming 2024 political election.

frequently," Anderson said.

This election season, Ybarra encourages his peers to vote and have these tough conversations.

"We must emphasize kindness and understanding during this election season," Ybarra said.





**News**

**CHAMBER** from A1

with all the homecoming court nominees, organize the reception, present the king, queen and the rest of their court at all the Pigskin performances as well as facilitate judging.

"It's been a lot of preparation getting organized, getting my script together, getting the nominees and getting the information to them. [I set] up our initial intake meeting and discussions with them, [find] judges for the judging ... and then organizing photos for them ... so we have to block off a weekend for that," Keivanzadeh said.

Keivanzadeh said she would have never expected to be in charge of the homecoming

court preparations, but is happy she is because she has learned so much through it.

Thompson said it is a challenge to balance school work and put together homecoming since it requires so much time. However, she said she feels that the work is worth it.

"The hardest part is just balancing it all and making sure that everyone is still on the same page, putting all this time and effort in," Thompson said. "On the flip side, my favorite part would definitely still be having that responsibility. It is so cool to learn about the tradition of homecoming and actually have a part in it."

**RELIEF FUNDS** from A1

Today reported more than 300 lives lost from Helene and Milton in the U.S and Caribbean. Mountain communities were flooded, landslides formed, highways collapsed and cities were flattened.

For many Baylor students, losing their homes also meant losing assets, work and much more, making paying for private school tuition all the more daunting. Additionally, scholarship deadlines have passed and there are less than 100 days until spring tuition is due.

"If it would have hit my hometown, I would have tried to drive or fly home to help and take maybe a week off," Chandler said.

Dutschmann's goal is to give every student a chance to finish their education without being hindered because of cost.

"I feel like we cannot stand back and turn a blind eye to the needs of these students," Dutschmann said. "It's about getting them to the finish line and getting these young people out into the workforce."

"I have concerns with the possibility of Baylor students who have been on their path — some just starting — not having the resources to cross the finish line," Dutschmann said.

Dutschmann, Chandler and Walden are all in positions to empathize with those affected as Florida and North Carolina natives who currently live in Texas.

There is simply not enough time for families to scrounge together funds, scholarships or loans before tuition is due, Dutschmann said.

"We know that we can't financially afford to assist everyone, and there's strength in numbers," Dutschmann said. "By kicking off a crowdfunding campaign, I know we can accomplish anything."

While they didn't see the destruction firsthand, they heard about it from friends and family back home. Dutschmann said it has been difficult not being able to do anything about it.

"It [has] been gut-wrenching. I basically had to put down social media for a couple days because I was so broken by it," Dutschmann said.

Associate Professor of English Dan Walden is from the coast of North Carolina. He said Helene in particular was so destructive because the western part of the Carolinas are ill-prepared for hurricanes to come so far inland.

According to Walden, there's a tendency for people to forget about these events once something bigger comes up in the news. Walden said simply being there for friends who were affected can make all the difference.

"A lot of the destruction was because of rivers that flooded from all the rain [and] funneled down into these rivers and creeks that overflowed tremendously," Walden said. "There's just really not a whole lot you can do to prepare for that because it's not something that generally affects that area."

"Not forgetting that it's happening and that people are still dealing with the aftermath of this weeks later I think is actually a pretty important thing," Walden said.

Navarre, Fla., junior Ryan Chandler said although his hometown wasn't in the path of Milton, he has friends whose families considered evacuating in preparation for the then-Category 5 hurricane.

The scholarship is a way to ensure that college students are able to pursue their passions and dreams, regardless of what stands in their way, Dutschmann said.

"Nobody's dream should come to an end when it is of no fault of their own, and that's why I think it's very important that we do all we can to help those from these areas," Dutschmann said.

**TRADITIONS** from A1

in 1911, two years after Baylor's. Illinois also claims to be the original trendsetter, but its game was held in 1910.

Southwestern is said to have held a homecoming event in April 1909. Primary sources from the university's archives validate this, depicting a large fundraising and social event for alumni and members of the community as the first ever "home-coming."

However, these events were not associated with football, nor did they include a parade. So while Southwestern may have been the one to spark ideas about a homecoming, Baylor was the one to truly start the tradition.

homecoming experiences as a Baylor student. She also said that the 2008 homecoming football game was "unforgettable" and full of high spirits.

"Baylor was playing Mizzou and my roommate and I left in the second quarter to go study for midterms. She came into my room later and told me the game was tied at the beginning of the fourth quarter," Jones said.

Jones said that she and her friend drove all the way back out to the old Floyd Casey Stadium to see the game's ending, joining a huge crowd of students flooding back in to cheer on the bears in the final quarter.

Baylor's 2024 Homecoming Chairman Beau Blakely agreed that Baylor was the true founder of the homecoming tradition.

"I do think that Baylor is the home of the oldest homecoming in the nation," Blakely said. "As far as I have ever seen, everyone else that claims to be the oldest did not start their homecoming festivities until 1910."

"Baylor ended up losing on a last-second field goal, but it still felt like a win and I'll never forget running with everyone back into the stands," Jones said.

Jones remembers staying up late to work on a parade float and recalls the excitement of seeing the parade in action the next day.

Blakely said that he thinks the bonfire-building is the most unique event, and it is one of his favorite traditions.

"We get emails and calls every year from other universities asking us how we put on our homecoming parade," Blakely said. "It is definitely something that other schools notice and want to incorporate into their events as well."

"This event is specifically for new students after the conclusion of the Mass Meeting program, and I think it makes the bonfire even more special when students have memories of building it from their first year at Baylor," Blakely said.

In the last Presidential Perspective email, President Linda Livingstone referenced the ESPN article, saying she was excited for the first Baylor Homecoming as the true founders of the homecoming tradition.

Class of 2011 alumna Melissa Jones said that the bonfire was one of the most memorable events for her as she reminisced on her

"I could not be more excited to celebrate with our students and, most importantly, welcome our Baylor alumni back home," Livingstone said.

**DINNER TIME** from A1

In collaboration with the Baylor Chamber of Commerce, Dinner with the Livingstones quickly grew into a time-honored Baylor tradition and a kick off to homecoming.

Baylor Homecoming and look forward to participating in its events.

"We've added more food trucks, we've had growth in students attending and it's becoming part of the Baylor tradition," Livingstone said.

"To come [here] and see so many people is insane," said Poughkeepsie, N.Y., freshman Alexa Guillen. "So many people on campus come to this to get free food and have fun together. I think it's nice."

The line of students waiting for vouchers stretches well past Moody Memorial Library by 6 p.m. Dallas freshman Gretchen Cook said she is excited for all the different homecoming events, including Dinner with the Livingstones.

After eating their fill, students flocked to the lawn of the Allbritton House for a chance to take a picture with the president, first gent and their dog BU. Tables and chairs decorated the front lawn, giving students a once-a-year opportunity to enjoy their dinner right on the president's doorstep.

"I was a little worried it would be overwhelming," Cook said. "But it's really fun. It's a really happy time and free food."

"Enjoy every minute of it, it's one of the best experiences you'll have at any university in the country," Livingstone said. "It's a very special part of our traditions at Baylor."

Meal vouchers in hand, Cook and her friends are amped up for their first

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Kassidy Tsikitas | Photo Editor

**TOUCHDOWN WIZARD** Redshirt junior quarterback Sawyer Robertson (13) celebrates throwing a touchdown pass during Baylor football's 34-28 loss to No. 11 BYU on Sept. 28 at McLane Stadium.

# Baylor focuses on building momentum, finding homecoming success against Oklahoma State

**FOSTER NICHOLAS**  
Sports Editor

Baylor football is gearing up for a homecoming clash with Oklahoma State at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, hoping to win its first home game against a Big 12 opponent in 735 days.

Although the Bears (3-4, 1-3 Big 12) snapped a nine-game losing streak against Big 12 opponents with

their 59-35 win over Texas Tech out of the bye week, the green and gold have another gnarly losing streak to end against the Cowboys (3-4, 0-4 Big 12). Since the 2021 Big 12 Championship season, Baylor has only won one game against an in-conference foe at home — a 35-23 homecoming win over Kansas on Oct. 22, 2022.

With renewed confidence from scoring the most points in a game

against an FBS opponent under head coach Dave Aranda, the team is looking to build on the momentum.

"You'd love for people to be excited about Baylor football, and we're really working hard for that to happen," Aranda said. "With the confidence piece, once you've done it, we can do it again. I'm hopeful that happens, and that happens fast because I think our fans deserve it, our kids deserve it. We're going to have to go and earn it."

When the Bears gear up on Saturday, it will be the fourth homecoming game they've played in this year. The green and gold fell to then-No. 11 Utah on Big 12 Homecoming and Colorado on its school and Big 12 Homecoming celebration. But riding high on a homecoming upset over the Red Raiders, the Bears have a shot to push their record back up to .500 and sit just two games away from clenching bowl game eligibility.

"Getting that type of win in their home stadium for their homecoming, it was a great win. It showed us that we're a great team," sophomore safety Carl Williams said. "We're a winning team. No matter what the record says or what is happening, we feel like we're a winning team. We just want to show that on Saturday and keep progressing."

In the previous two games, one of the biggest keys to success has been Baylor's ability to prevent sacks. Redshirt junior quarterback Sawyer Robertson hasn't been sacked in the last nine quarters the Bears have played. The strength in the trenches led to redshirt junior left guard Ryan Lengyel and redshirt sophomore center Colton Price being named to the Pro Football Focus Week 8 Big 12

Team of the Week.

Not only did the offensive line prevent a sack against Texas Tech, but it also opened gaps for the team to accumulate 255 rushing yards, the most for the Bears in a single game against an FBS opponent since Nov. 5, 2022, in a 38-35 win at Oklahoma (281 rushing yards).

"This past game really elevated our run game, which is what we've been looking for to open up our pass game more," Lengyel said. "So, going into this week, we're trying to wash it all away, not get too high, not get too low, and kind of carry what we did into this next game."

While Baylor's win over Texas Tech heightened expectations and rewrote current record books, the team is still trying to make up for a slow start to conference play. All four of Baylor's losses this year have come to teams who are a combined 23-5, making a homecoming clash against another team in a similar position even more important.

"It's a breather, but I think all the others are still hurting. And I think that's what's keeping us going right now is that we know how good our record could be right now, but it's not. The ball just flipped the other way," Lengyel said. "We're going to try and correct our record as best we can."

The Cowboys are coming off a 38-35 loss to No. 11 BYU and are still searching for a win in conference play. Led by junior running back Ollie Gordon II, the 2023 Big 12 Offensive Player of the Year, and redshirt senior quarterback Alan Bowman, Oklahoma State is averaging the 4th lowest-scoring offense in Big 12 play (22.0 points per game).

In addition to a middling offense, the Cowboys have allowed 35.0 points

per game against Big 12 schools, while the Bears have averaged the Big 12's worst 37.5 points allowed. With star power on the opposing sidelines, Aranda has "simplified" the game plan to ensure his team gets the simple things right, a strategy that led to success against Texas Tech.

"We've played some tempo teams to this point, and they're the fastest of all of them in terms of seconds between plays or seconds that are left before the ball is snapped," Aranda said. "I think they're trying to find their footing in the throw game [and] that's affecting the running game a little bit. They started off really fast and strong this last week out, and it was a scary team."

In full homecoming spirit, the green and gold will don their alternate Sailor Bear logos on their helmets. Since the university's rebranding in 2019, the Sailor Bear has been a traditional staple, including a floating parade balloon. Baylor will also debut a stripe-out theme on game day, where each section is assigned a color to wear to the game.

"All the players, we love the Sailor Bears, especially guys that have been here," Lengyel said. "We love wearing the Sailor Bear. We know what it means to this community, what it means to this school. And we love being able to take the stickers home at the end of the game."

Baylor has a 50-44-4 all-time record on homecoming and has won 11 of its last 13 matchups during the celebration weekend. The Bears have faced the Cowboys twice on homecoming, going 1-1, with the lone win being a 35-31 win in 2018. Kickoff is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Saturday at McLane Stadium and will be broadcast exclusively on ESPN+.



Cameron McCollum | Photo Editor

**CLUTCH GENES** Redshirt junior wide receiver Josh Cameron leads the Big 12 in receiving touchdowns in conference play (six).

## Sports Take: Baylor football needs its homecoming flair back

**GRANT MORRISON**  
Sports Writer

It's Oct. 12, 2014, No. 5 Baylor football is down 21 points to No. 9 TCU with 11 minutes left in the fourth quarter. It's the first matchup between the rival teams in the brand new McLane Stadium, but it will take a miracle for the Bears to come back.

But that's exactly what Baylor has in store. Quarterback Bryce Petty throws for 510 yards and 6 touchdowns, and running back Shock Linwood chips away at the Horned Frogs defense to set up a field goal in the final seconds. As time expires, kicker Chris Callahan sends the football through the uprights as time expires to secure a 61-58 victory in front of the roaring crowd.

All the while, during one of Baylor football's greatest victories, the lights of McLane gleamed down off the helmets of the home team. The shiny gold chrome domes that the Bears wore showed the reflection of the cheering fans, and as the players gathered and celebrated they can see each other's smiles in the glint.

These were the days of the true green and gold, a metallic sheen that sparkled under the sun and the stadium lights. Baylor football was a shining light on the field of play.

But to current Baylor students, this visual is completely foreign. Since 2019, the Bears have

donned "Baylor green" and "university gold" as its official colors across all sports. Gone is the luminance and pageantry of golden uniforms, replaced with a duller, matte yellow.

It makes sense, to a degree, to seek brand synergy throughout university branding. But must we sacrifice the glory of Baylor uniforms to do so?

Most athletics at Baylor feature at least one alternate jersey. During October, the volleyball team sports pink uniforms for breast cancer awareness. Both women's and men's basketball teams have gray jerseys they break out on occasion. After many years without, the football team has brought back black—sorry, anthracite—uniforms to the field.

The blackout planned against TCU is a step in the right direction. Along with the beloved Sailor Bear helmets worn on homecoming, these alternate options generate more fan enthusiasm than the Green Bay Packers look-alikes.

Gold helmets and highlights should be on the availability list as well. Mixing up uniforms helps to keep things fresh for the players and the fans.

Bring back the golden helmets that light up the field. Add bear claws that were once stamped on the shoulder pads. Baylor's uniform tradition is rich and storied, and the program would do well to dust off its old threads.



Lariat File Photo

**RUN IT BACK** Baylor football brought back black anthracite alternate jerseys for the 2024 season, but is it time for the Bears to show off the old school green and gold?



# ‘Leaving my legacy’: Sarah Andrews looks to make lasting impact on Baylor

**JACKSON POSEY**  
Sports Writer

When graduate student guard Sarah Andrews sat down at the podium before the first practice of the season, she smiled. The three-time All-Big 12 Team member is back for her fifth season in Waco alongside a wealth of experienced talent. The Bears’ ceiling is sky-high.

“I’m excited for this year,” Andrews said. “We got a good group this year, so I think we got a chance to make a lot of noise. That’s what I came back for. I think I got some unfinished business.”

After cutting her teeth under veteran leaders like NaLyssa Smith and Queen Egbo, Andrews stepped into a larger leadership role last year and thrived. Junior wing Bella Fontleroy, a former unanimous Big 12 All-Freshman Team member who averaged 9.6 points and 5.0 rebounds per game in 2023-24, said Andrews has taken strides as a leader.

“Her leadership is going to make the difference in this team this year,” Fontleroy said. “The bond that I’ve gotten to personally create with her, I was just joking a second ago about how she was a sophomore whenever I came on my official visit here, but the amount that she has grown as not only a player, but as a leader and a person, you can see it.”

“You can see it when we step on the court, when we’re in practice, whether she’s on as point guard every rep [or] whether she’s a two. Her voice



Mesha Mittansala | Photographer

**READY FOR TIP** No. 12 Baylor women’s basketball comes off a Sweet 16 run, returning eight of the top-10 scorers from 2023-24.

and her leadership have a tremendous impact on us and our program.”

Eight of the top 10 scorers (and three of the top four) are back after helping the team reach last year’s Sweet 16. Junior wing Darianna Littlepage-Buggs is back, two years removed from being named unanimous Big 12 Freshman of the Year, as is senior guard Jada

Walker and her relentless perimeter defense. Pac-12 All-Conference senior center Aaronette Vonleh is in the door from Colorado, as is NJCAA First-Team All-American guard Waiata Jennings from Collins College.

The talent is all there. The Bears earned a third-place nod in the Big 12 Preseason Poll, behind Kansas State and Iowa State. Andrews was named to

the Preseason All-Big 12 Team alongside Vonleh, who also earned Co-Newcomer of the Year honors.

“I don’t think the expectation is ever anything less than a conference championship,” head coach Nicki Colleen said. “I think that’s why I came to Baylor. I think that’s why our players choose Baylor. I think we know that we were one defensive

stop away from maybe being in the Elite Eight. ... I like what we have on paper.”

Colleen said that an added wrinkle in this year’s offense will be a renewed emphasis on post offense around Vonleh, who averaged 14.0 points per game (22.7 per 40 minutes) on 54.9% shooting last year for Colorado. As the senior point guard, Andrews will be tasked with driving paint touches to

the senior.

“Sarah’s probably our best post feeder, because she has experience doing it,” Colleen said. “We just want to get Sarah back healthy enough that she looks like, as we like to say, sophomore Sarah, because I think that’s when she was elite.”

With over 1,300 career points under her belt, Andrews is on pace to crack Baylor’s top-10 all-time scoring list during the regular season. For the second time, she enters the year as the program’s longest-tenured player, this time after leading the Bears to a 26-8 record and a Sweet 16 berth in the NCAA Tournament. The graduate student point guard has her eyes set on legacy.

“I want to take this team as far as I can,” Andrews said. “I think we got a chance to be a special group. We got that core there. We got a true five that came back that actually knows Coach Nicki’s system, where in the past, we really didn’t have that. So I think we’re going to make a deep run.”

“And, you know, leaving my legacy. Baylor still has to be Baylor when I leave. We still got to be able to bring in great players. We still got great players here. So I just want to be able to leave an impact with that leadership. Baylor still has to be the Baylor that it was when I first came.”

The Bears will open the 2024-24 season with an exhibition against Langston on Nov. 3 at the Foster Pavilion, before lifting the lid on the season against Incarnate Word on Nov. 7 at the Foster Pavilion.

# Baylor equestrian ‘hungry for win’ in Oklahoma State match

**NATE MAKI**  
Sports Writer

With an off week under its belt, Baylor equestrian looks ahead to a road matchup against Oklahoma State at noon Friday at the Pedigo-Hull Equestrian Center in Stillwater, Okla.

Head coach Casie Maxwell could only describe her team with one word: excitement.

“The team’s in a really great place,” Maxwell said. “Everyone’s motivated, they’re hungry for a win. It’s an exciting time. We’re just looking for the results come and for everyone’s hard work to finally pay off.”

The Cowgirls (2-1-0, 0-1-0 Big 12) are already in the heat of competition as they’ve competed in two more meets than the Bears (0-1-0, 0-1-0 Big 12). However, Friday will mark their first home match of the season.

Baylor has not defeated the Cowgirls since 2019, and it has never secured a victory on Oklahoma State’s home turf.

“I think [Oklahoma State] is a strong team,” Maxwell said. “They’re well ranked, they’ve got a veteran group with a lot of experience, and they’ve done really well. We know they’re looking to win the Big 12, so they’re going to bring their A-game and we’re going to meet them up there.”

This fall marks Maxwell’s eighth season as head coach. Last season, she led the Bears to a 3-11 record, but found highlights in a victory over No. 5 Georgia and three Big 12 Rider of the Month awards.

“Last year was tough, statistically; we were really young,” Maxwell said. “It was all about the process and trusting the process, but we had to get through that to get to where we are now. We got our feet wet with a tough schedule, and now we have a higher standard. For the rest

of the season, we need to get better with every single meet.”

The Bears started their season on Oct. 10, with a meet against No. 3 TCU. Despite a strong comeback effort in the Flat event, with standout performances provided by fifth-year senior Madison Mitchell and senior Lauren Stebbins, the green and gold were unable to overcome TCU’s lead, opening their season with a 12-8 loss.

“We went up against a really tough TCU team and held our own,” Maxwell said. “We came back strong in the second half. Right now, we just want them to play hard and get some wins under our belt. That way we keep building our confidence.”

Oklahoma State’s equestrian program is currently working on getting Snoop Dogg to attend one of their meets, alongside Martha Stewart. What began as a joke on TikTok has gained traction, and the prospect of his appearance at the meet has become increasingly likely with efforts from University President Kayse Shrum.

“This is day 10 of asking Snoop Dogg and Martha Stewart to come to an OSU Equestrian,” Shrum said on the OSU Equestrian Instagram page.

The trend has since gone up to day 38, where they announced it before a football game.

“We’ve had about a week and a half to prepare for Oklahoma State,” Maxwell said. “We’re getting prepared for the course they’ve sent us, but with that extra time we’ve also gotten to go back and work on some fundamentals. It’s nice to get off the tedious pattern work and work on the things we can apply to all tests.”

The Bears will go up against Oklahoma State on Friday at noon at the Pedigo-Hull Equestrian Center in Stillwater, Okla.

“We got our feet wet with a tough schedule, and now we have a higher standard. For the rest of the season, we need to get better with every single meet.”

**CASSIE MAXWELL | HEAD COACH**



Cameron McCollum | Photo Editor

**JUST HORSIN’ AROUND** Freshman Katie Smith rides through the Fences event during a 19-1 scrimmage win over Tarleton on Sept. 29 at the Willis Family Equestrian Center.



Cameron McCollum | Photo Editor

**GIDDY UP** Fifth-year senior Emily Moomaw prepares to compete during a scrimmage win over Tarleton on Sept. 29 at the Willis Family Equestrian Center.





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# 'Now or never'



Photo courtesy of Baylor Athletics

**READY, SET, HIKE** Redshirt junior left tackle Ryan Lengyel stares down a defender at the line of scrimmage during Baylor football's 34-28 loss to No. 11 BYU on Sept. 28 at McLane Stadium.

## Ryan Lengyel embraces starting role

**FOSTER NICHOLAS**  
Sports Editor

When redshirt junior offensive lineman Ryan Lengyel went through summer workouts before his freshman year, he introduced a signature look that has since been a staple of his personality on the O-line. On game day, Lengyel trots onto the field with his helmet on and his majestic mullet rolling out the back and blowing in the wind.

Flashing his personality and flair, the left guard gets to play the game without needing to be anything more than himself.

"I like the way it looks out of the helmet. I like that it's not professional per se because it makes me feel young and full of life. I don't really want to have a high and tight haircut right now," Lengyel joked. "Yeah, I can have a high and tight haircut the next four years of my life, or I'm gonna go bald for all I care. Might as well enjoy it while it's growing."

Baylor's starting left guard embodies everything head coach Dave Aranda has fought for since taking over five years ago. Lengyel lives the motto that Aranda has preached, that "football is what I do, not who I am," while enjoying every opportunity he sees on the field. Before the 2024 season, the Dallas native had seen limited playtime but still came into practice every day with a smile and a fight to get better.

"It's definitely been a journey. I sat the bench for three years, played a little bit of field goal here and there, but nothing really substantial, no meaningful snaps," Lengyel said. "Going into the offseason, I really didn't have a positive outlook. I think when the coaching staff transitioned over to what it is now, I kind of had a

lot of maturity and growing up to do."

The offseason posed a unique challenge for the entire offensive line, including Lengyel. When offensive coordinator Jake Spavital was hired, he filled his staff with new coaches, including Chris Kapilovic, who was brought on in mid-December to man the O-line. Just two months later, Kapilovic bailed on Baylor for an opportunity at Alabama, leaving the Bears in limbo.

Needing to find a new leader, it only took two days for Spavital to bring in Mason Miller to fill the vacancy.

The coaching carousel wasn't the only thing that threw a wrench into the Bears' plans on the O-line, as touted transfer Kurt Danneker went down with an injury in the first week of practice and was forced to medically retire prior to the season.

"We didn't really have a set coach or set depth chart going into the spring ball," Lengyel said.

The competition for the starting left guard position spanned from spring camp until the final week of fall camp when Aranda praised Lengyel for his work ethic. Lengyel has pumped up the entire offense his own way.

"He's a fighter.

He scraps, he fights," Aranda said. "I think some of the things that he does, they're not necessarily graceful, and probably not the way you draw it up, but he fights guys down, he gets hands on people and he finds a way to get him onto the ground — finish

them. And that's been consistent."

With his third different offensive line coach during his Baylor tenure, Lengyel's development has also been attributed to how he wants to approach life after football. He's seen three completely different styles and personalities, each of which has changed how he approaches football.

"You see kind of what you like about people, what you like about coaches, what you like about the relationship you have with a certain coach," Lengyel said. "Maybe with one coach, I didn't really want to play. I always felt like he was putting me down. I didn't want to succeed. It was easier in the shadows.

"One coach tried to bring the best out of me by yelling, another coach is pure business. So all this stuff helps me in being able to see what I want from future employers, or how I would like to be as an employee."

A constant bright spot for Lengyel has been second-year graduate

warden. But with one last shot to earn his keep, Lengyel won the starting job and has been playing at a high level that has led to national recognition.

"It's now or never. If I don't perform this year, they're not going to want me back for a fifth year. My playing days are over. I would have been a practice guy, so I kind of lit a fire underneath me," Lengyel said. "Staying here, I mean, they've poured so much energy and effort into me, it just doesn't feel right to leave."

The 'now or never' mentality has worked, so the decision to return in 2025 for a redshirt senior season now falls on Lengyel rather than the coaching staff.

With so much change, the redshirt junior had to adjust to the new Air Raid offense, which forced him to bulk up from 295 to 315 pounds at the start of spring camp. Even after gaining the weight

"Ooooh, ahhhh!" That's a cool feeling, because all the guys know what it takes to get those and those aren't easy at this level."

But for as many times as Lengyel forces a player to the ground, there are a few times in which he finds himself laid onto the turf. But for Aranda, Lengyel's ability to bounce back has elevated his game tenfold.

"One of the things that is most appreciative about him is that he'll do that after he was the guy just the play before getting taken to the ground. That doesn't faze him. All that stuff would faze me. But it doesn't phase him," Aranda said. "He gets right back up, and the very next play is putting somebody else into the dirt. I think there's a contagious thing that goes with that, and he's right in the center of it. I'm really proud of him."

From watching Baylor football win a Big 12 Championship on the sidelines to starting in the Bears' highest-scoring game against a Big 12 opponent under Aranda, Lengyel's journey has been far from easy. But with a smile on his face, he left the lows of struggling to find a place on the team to becoming one of the most exciting offensive linemen in the Big 12.

And all of it while staying open to the possibility of failure. So when asked what he would say to his high school self if he knew this was where he would be, he was happy for the ride and still spotting the bright spots.

"I think that if you told me about the last three years [when I was in high school], I'd be like, 'Oh, maybe not so much fun.' But I think I knew all that could happen coming here, and I said, 'Okay, I'm willing to work for four years and see what happens. And if not, I got a great education, great school and good friends,'" Lengyel said. "If I told myself that, he'd probably be pretty happy."

The Bears will be back in action

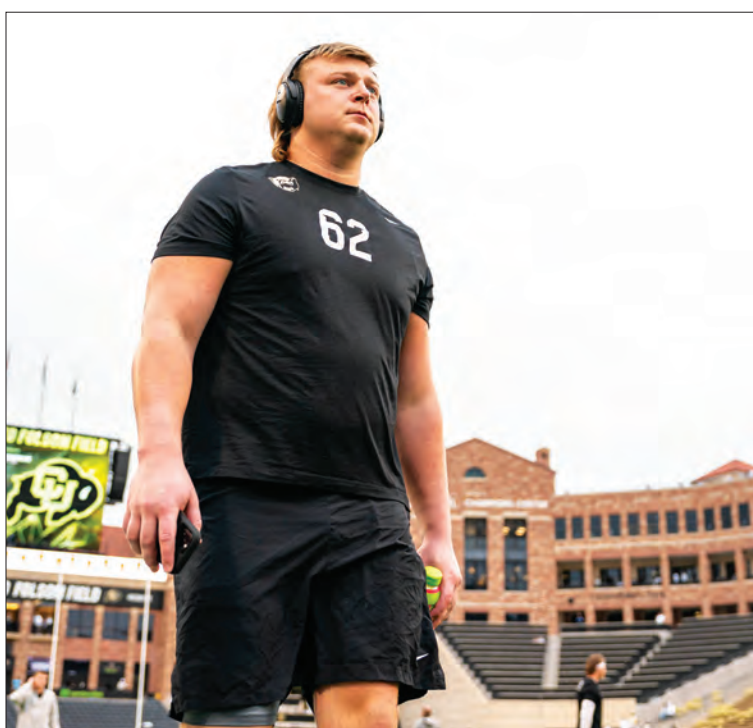


Photo courtesy of Baylor Athletics

**GO WITH THE FLOW** Redshirt junior left guard Ryan Lengyel grew out a mullet during his freshman season, since then the signature look has stuck.

assistant Craig Watts, who works with the offensive line. Watts played a key role in helping Lengyel find his confidence to compete for the newly open starting left guard position. However, at the end of 2023, Lengyel understood that if 2024 wasn't his year, his role would probably never come. So Watts urged him to give it his all.

"12 months ago, I wasn't even traveling, so being able to go into the offseason kind of saying [the starting left guard] is what I want it to be. And if I go for the top job and I don't get it, that's okay. I did my best," Lengyel said. "Craig Watts has this great quote and goes, 'If you're going to go for the top thing, you have to be able to accept the lowest result.'"

Before fall camp, the 6-foot-5, 310-pound offensive lineman was considering working as a hunting guide or game

hold his own in the offense, Lengyel ran 17.9 miles per hour during the summer. So when Miller sat down with Lengyel early in the season to reaffirm the "foot fire" and speed needed for the offense, making a change worked wonders.

In the past two games, the Baylor offensive line hasn't allowed a sack and Lengyel's tenacity in the trenches has resulted in several pancake blocks that allowed the offense to keep running.

"Moving someone against their will. I had this really cool one that [the coaches] were highlighting the other day, and everyone's going,

against Oklahoma State at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at McLane Stadium. The game will be broadcast on Big 12 Now on ESPN+.





**Sports**

# Lights, Cameron, Action

## Football walk-on rewrites the record books

**JACKSON POSEY**  
Sports Writer

Josh Cameron, in the words of Baylor head coach Dave Aranda, is a “really good-natured” guy.

So it shocked Aranda — and everyone else on the field — when, during a stagnant Tuesday practice with several offensive miscues, the former walk-on wide receiver slammed his helmet into the turf and let out a string of expletives.

“He threw his helmet down, and he just said all of the S- and F-words you can imagine,” Aranda said. “And just said it in such a violent and frustrated way, like we all were. And he got everybody’s attention. And they all kind of stood up, and he flipped the practice around for the offense.”

The outburst worked. The Bears came out firing against Texas Tech, hanging 59 points to secure their first conference win of the year and ruin the Red Raiders’ hopes of a happy homecoming. The passion and determination Cameron exemplifies was on full display at Jones AT&T Stadium that night.

“So, that’s great growth right there with Josh,” Aranda said about the practice episode. “I imagine, if we’re making a Disney movie about it, you probably choose different words. But I think it got their attention. And for him to go stand up in that moment and take charge like that, that’s the growth in him.”

Cameron played the best game of his college career on Saturday, catching six passes for 75 yards and three touchdowns and nearly



Jerry Larson | AP Photo

**WALK-ON WONDER** Baylor wide receiver Josh Cameron breaks the tackle of Brigham Young safety Tanner Wall in the first half of an NCAA college football game, Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024, in Waco.

housing the first punt return of his career. (The touchdown call on the field was overturned after replays.) In 2023, the redshirt junior never reached 50 yards receiving in a game; this year, he’s already done so four times, and he leads the Big 12 in touchdown receptions (six) and punt return yards (185) during conference play.

“The trust continues to build on itself,” redshirt junior quarterback Sawyer

Robertson said after Saturday’s victory. “And like I said, 50/50 balls with him aren’t really 50/50 balls. And that’s a good feeling as a quarterback. And then when he’s having a game like that, you see some of the other guys start to get like, Hal [Presley] and Monaray [Baldwin]. And so I’m just super proud of all of them in that entire room. ... They’re warriors, and you can win with warriors.”

In 30 career games before Robertson took the starting quarterback job this season, Cameron caught 52 passes for 683 yards (22.8 yards per game) and one touchdown. In the five games since, he’s already snagged 21 passes for 279 yards and six touchdowns. The pair’s immediate chemistry has paid dividends for the No. 4 scoring offense in the Big 12.

“It’s super tight,” Cameron said about his

relationship with Robertson. “The ability for him to just trust me out there. I mean, [it] just shows a lot for him to throw the ball up to me. I want to have his back, basically — whenever the ball is in the air, it’s my ball, it’s nobody else’s ball. That’s just the relationship that we had. I want to make him right at all times.”

Aranda points to Cameron as someone who “does everything right” — an NFL-

caliber talent who plays hard even when no one is watching. Players like that shift cultures and model what a program could become.

“To have someone that does everything right and does everything right when no one’s watching, so, you don’t have to be there, kind of taking roll or checking boxes,” Aranda said. “Josh is going to do it right. I think for some of our guys, that’s not a thing. That’s only a thing when I’m getting watched or I’m getting looked at. For Josh to be that way all the time, and then to be the playmaker that he is, gives us hope that we can create more people like Josh. That’s such a positive thing.”

Cameron’s seven touchdowns this season are the most of any Baylor receiver since Tyquan Thornton in 2021. He’s on pace to become the Bears’ first-ever walk-on with double-digit receiving touchdowns in a season. It’s history in the making for the Big 12’s most electric walk-on.

“I didn’t even know that, to be honest, but that’s real cool,” Cameron said. “I think, just always putting my head down and just remembering kind of the journey I’ve been through. I think it just always motivates me to just keep on going. We still have a whole lot of season left. I just want to keep on stacking that. Just keep on going and never just feel satisfied.”

The Bears will be back in action for their Homecoming game at 2:30 p.m. Saturday against Oklahoma State (3-4, 0-4 Big 12) at the McLane Stadium.

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Senior outside hitter Elise McGhee (21).  
Mary Thurmond | Photographer



Mary Thurmond | Photographer

**SMOOTH SETTER** Redshirt freshman setter Harley Kreck (1) places the ball for sophomore middle blocker Victoria Davis (7) during No. 23 Baylor Volleyball's 3-0 win over Cincinnati on Oct. 17 at the Ferrell Center.

## Bears in pink: Volleyball sweeps Cincinnati, 3-0



Mary Thurmond | Photographer

**BUMP, SET, SPIKE** Junior opposite hitter Allie Sczech (4) leaps to spike the ball during No. 23 Baylor Volleyball's 3-0 win over Cincinnati on Oct. 17 at the Ferrell Center.



Mary Thurmond | Photographer

**JUMPING FOR JOY** No. 23 Baylor Volleyball celebrates after winning a point during the 3-0 win over Cincinnati on Oct. 17 at the Ferrell Center.



Mary Thurmond | Photographer

**PASS IT LIKE IT'S HOT** Senior libero Lauren Briseño (2) prepares to pass the ball to her teammate during No. 23 Baylor Volleyball's 3-0 win over Cincinnati on Oct. 17 at the Ferrell Center.



Mary Thurmond | Photographer

**SIC'EM PRESIDENT LIVINGSTONE!** President Linda Livingstone and First Gent Brad Livingstone cheer on the Bears during No. 23 Baylor Volleyball's 3-0 win over Cincinnati on Oct. 17 at the Ferrell Center.



Mary Thurmond | Photographer

**ALL ABOUT THAT ACE** Graduate student center Jackie Barrett Frazier (13) serves toward the opposing Cincinnati - during No. 23 Baylor Volleyball's 3-0 win on Oct. 17 at the Ferrell Center.

## No. 23 Baylor volleyball takes on No. 18 TCU at 5 p.m. Friday at the Ferrell Center



**Sports**

# Stitching together two passions: Victoria Davis serves volleyball with style, embraces hard work

**ERIKA KUEHL**  
Opinion Editor

Santa Clarita, Calif., sophomore Victoria “Tori” Davis is here to show that you really can do it all. Baylor volleyball middle blocker and apparel merchandising major, Davis started in a match against Cincinnati, which the Bears won 3-0, and worked as a fashion stylist in the same week.

“If you really love the things that you’re doing, you will find time for them and you’ll be able to get them done to your best potential,” Davis said.

In addition to her buzzing volleyball career, her love for fashion and apparel merchandising is so deep-rooted — it’s in her blood.

“So my aunt on my mom’s side was a model, and my aunt on my dad’s side, she was a fashion designer,” Davis said. “So I was introduced to the fashion world from them at young age... me and my mom would always watch ‘Project Runway,’ and we just loved watching the show, and I genuinely wanted to start making my own creations and making my own fashion. So, I first saw ‘Project Runway’ at the age of 10, and I’ve been

sewing ever since.”

Davis recently joined TROPE magazine as a stylist and also has plans to work with singer Bôlají on an artistic project within the next few weeks. She said her personal style is best described as an “elevated simplistic” look.

“I’m really inspired by pretty much everything from music to television to just people who surround me. I love getting inspired from what they wear and how it makes me feel.”

**VICTORIA DAVIS | MIDDLE BLOCKER**

“I’m really inspired by pretty much everything from music to television to just people who surround me. I love getting inspiration from what they wear and how it makes me feel,” Davis said.

Davis ran track and field for seven years before finding her love for volleyball. But,

when she did, she went all in. During her recruitment process, Baylor instantly leaped to the top of the list as she said the commitment to faith sealed the deal.

“Baylor really is special because not only [does] the team have a strong love and passion and spirit towards the Lord, but they also are passionate towards each other and are able to put each other up even during hard times,” Davis said.

Davis describes her team as a “family” and that they have a strong level of closeness that constantly builds them up.

“I feel like everyone on this team is so unique, and that’s also another reason why I love them...but they all have such different personalities and such different energy, which I absolutely love,” Davis said.

Looking toward the future, Davis hopes to wear many hats and continue doing what she loves.

“After graduation, I would see myself holding a position in apparel marketing, hopefully within that realm, either that or starting my own collection. But, right now I’m leaning toward a marketing position,” Davis said.

Head coach Ryan McGuyre



Caleb Garcia | Photographer

**EXPLOSIVE ENERGY** Sophomore middle blocker Tori Davis spikes the ball attempting to score at the 3-0 game against Cincinnati Thursday night at the Ferrell Center.

explained that after the win over the Bearcats on Thursday, the team is shaping up for a successful weekend even through the hardship.

“Get back to wanting it to be hard, not wanting it to

be easy,” McGuyre said. “So I need to both do my job and make it hard, but also make it better as well. So though this week has been a hard week to practice, but it’s also been the team’s embrace like wanting

it hard and wanting to get after it.”

The Bears (11-6, 3-3 Big 12) suit up to play TCU at 5 p.m. at the Ferrell Center as part of the Baylor Homecoming celebration.

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# Waiting in the wings: Here's what happens before Pigskin

**OLIVIA TURNER**  
Arts & Life Editor

Today is the day when some of the best acts from February's All-University Sing will return to Waco Hall for the annual Pigskin Revue. Tonight at 7 p.m. — opening night — Kappa Omega Tau, Chi Omega, Phi Kappa Chi, Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Tau Omega, Delta Delta Delta, Kappa Alpha Theta, Tau Kappa Epsilon and Sing Alliance will take to the stage.

Yes — that's nine acts instead of eight, unlike previous Pigskin Revues. According to Tampa, Fla. sophomore Zach Babajanof-Rustrain, the marketing vice president for Student Productions, there is an additional act this year due to a scoring miscalculation.

"It's the first time this has happened," Babajanof-Rustrain said. "We decided that instead of sending an invitation, we would just celebrate the top nine acts from Sing and just make it a bigger celebration, and just have fun with it."

Babajanof-Rustrain, who also serves as the Tri-Delta Pigskin producer, said the many moving parts of the behind-the-scenes work on Student Productions' end has already begun for the fast-approaching performance.

"We have four different subcommittees within Student Productions," he said. "We have marketing which I'm the vice president for, we have internal, we have show experience and we have hospitality."

Marketing is responsible for posting on Instagram and reaching out to different press organizations, Babajanof-Rustrain said. On



Kassidy Tsikitas | Photo Editor

**A STORM IS BREWING** Tri Delta's act "Weather or Not!" features a seven-minute performance of suns and clouds who mingle together in harmony until a storm approaches. Announced by the group's rendition of Carrie Underwood's "Blown Away," gray storm dancers scatter the sunshine.

the other hand, internal helps to conduct drug testing on performers pre-show, show experience creates the "Pigskin" bubble letter sign the audience sees when they walk in as well as the playbills and hospitality orders food for the crew and gets gifts for the pigskin chairs to thank them for all their hard work, he said.

In regard to the stars of the show, the performers, Orange County, Calif., senior Kaitlyn Cork, head Pigskin chair for Tri-

Delta, said there have been three full-costume, full-makeup rehearsals for Pigskin so far. Wednesday was the last one — the dress rehearsal. There, each group had the chance to perform and cheer on the other acts one last time before the auditorium is filled to the brim with students, staff, alumni and other on-lookers.

"That is where Waco Hall literally puts on a show without any audience," Cork said. "I

think that it helps prepare us for shows on Thursday and getting the energy and having an audience, because it's hard. It's hard when you're performing in front of really no one, except for the Pigskin chairs."

Cork said her group's pre-performance ritual involves more than just running the routine, though. Once they have their call time and hair and makeup is done, their anticipation explodes.

"We'll usually do a little circle," Cork said. "We'll pray, do like our hype chant ... and then we'll get out Pixie Sticks and we'll play hype music. It's just a time for girls to dance around and get hyped for going to Waco Hall."

Along with the uniqueness of this year's additional Pigskin act, Cork said the spirit of rivalry during spring's Sing has added to the occasion.

"I think last year was one of the most competitive years of Sing we've had in a really, really long time," Cork said. "And so I would just say get excited if you've never been to Pigskin before... and for people who are in Pigskin, cherish it because you never know when your next time in Pigskin is going to be."

While Pigskin may not be a competition, Babajanof-Rustrain said he still encourages people to come if they haven't had the chance to see the acts, or simply to come together in the spirit of homecoming. He also said Student Productions has several surprises in store for show-goers.

"While it [Pigskin] may not be as flashy as Sing, it's still a really cool experience because it is a celebration," Babajanof-Rustrain said.

# What your go-to homecoming tradition reveals about you



Kassidy Tsikitas | Photo Editor

**HEY DOLLFACE** Pi Beta Phi gets all dolled up in their 2023 Pigskin act "Be My Girl." This act of singing and dancing follows a group of dolls that come to life in a toy store.

**BELLA WHITMORE**  
Intern

Homecoming at Baylor University is filled with traditions that are equal parts nostalgia, pride and school spirit.

Whether you're drawn to the fun of the fraternity floats, the intensity of the bonfire, the intense stakes of the football game or the high-energy Pigskin Revue, your favorite Baylor Homecoming tradition might just reveal a lot about you. Here is a fun look at what your Baylor spirit says about your personality.

## FLOAT PARADE

If your favorite tradition is the float parade, you're the kind of person who values creativity, precision and spectacle. These floats aren't your average homecoming decorations — they've been well-thought out and prepared for months. It's no surprise that someone who loves this tradition enjoys seeing a plan finally come to fruition. You're likely detail-oriented, work well with a team and enjoy the process of building something memorable — whether it's an actual float or just a great group project in general. You also appreciate a bit of friendly competition and might have strong artistic abilities. You're all about celebrating hard work and dedication with a healthy dose of flair.

## BONFIRE

If your favorite is the iconic Fountain Mall bonfire, you're probably someone who values community and tradition. You love gathering with friends, family and classmates on the same campus and especially enjoy the fire as the weather finally gets cooler. You thrive in moments of camaraderie and love

when you have all your people gathered in the same place. You might also be a bit nostalgic, finding joy in connecting the past with the present. For you, the bonfire might represent generations of Bears together, or maybe you just think fire is cool!

## FOOTBALL GAME VS. OKLAHOMA STATE

If the football game is what you look forward to the most, you're most likely an optimist with a competitive edge. Whether Baylor is up by 20 points or fighting for every yard they can get, you're rooting for the Bears until the very last second. You're most likely a go-getter in life, too, and don't shy away from challenges. When obstacles come up, you see them more as opportunities rather than setbacks. You might also be the one organizing your group of friends to ensure everyone gets tickets, goes to the tailgate and cheers loud enough. You're not a fair-weather friend or fan, you're consistent and reliable, even through a football season like this one.

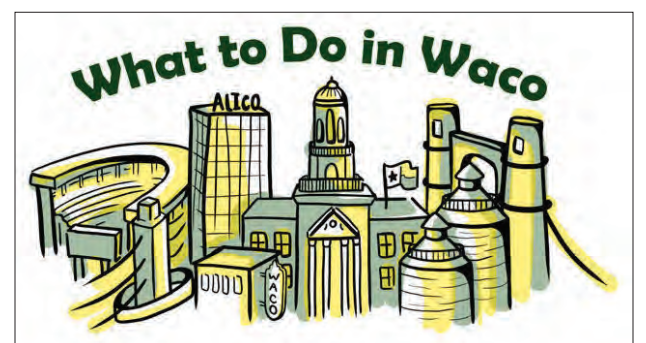
## PIGSKIN REVUE

If Pigskin Revue is your go-to Baylor Homecoming event, you probably have a dramatic flair, or at the very least, an appreciation for performance. This showcase of the best acts from Sing is all about talent, precision and storytelling. If that's what excites you the most, then you're likely someone who values creativity and self-expression. You might also be a bit of a perfectionist yourself, with a love for the arts or anything that lets you showcase your talents. You're imaginative, spirited and you love to add a little bit of pizzazz to everything you do.



Lariat File Photo

**PLAYING WITH FIRE** Each year, wooden crates and pallets are lit ablaze on Fountain Mall in celebration of homecoming. Students gather to watch the flames creep toward the sky.



# What to Do in Waco Homecoming Edition: Oct. 24 - 31

**OLIVIA TURNER**  
Arts & Life Editor

Homecoming is upon us! Here is the ultimate list of happenings to attend during your weekend. From rallies to revues, performances to pumpkin patches, games to gatherings this lineup assures none will be bored. The question is: can you hit them all?

**PIGSKIN REVUE | OCT. 24-26 | SHOWTIMES VARY | WACO HALL, 624 SPEIGHT AVE.**

See the best of spring's Sing performances at this singing and dancing showcase! At this iconic Baylor Homecoming tradition, students, parents and alumni will come together to watch the magic unfold onstage.

**TEN AT TEN: A MASS MEETING EXPERIENCE | OCT. 24 | 10-11:30 P.M. | FOUNTAIN MALL**

Homecoming is a time of celebration, but also a time of reverence to remember the Immortal Ten. At this gathering, the stories of the students who lost their lives in a tragic accident on Jan. 22, 1927 will be told in their honor. If you don't yet know the story, this event could change your perspective on Baylor's history and traditions.

**DISNEY'S HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME | OCT. 24 | TIMES VARY | WACO CIVIC THEATRE, 1516 LAKE AIR DRIVE | \$22-\$25 TICKETS**

Venture back in time to 15th century Paris through Waco Civic Theatre's take on Disney's "Hunchback of Notre Dame." Enjoy this classic in musical form through November, but don't wait long. Get your tickets at [wacocivictheatre.com](http://wacocivictheatre.com).



# Azzurro introduces first Italian cafe to Waco

**OLIVIA TURNER**  
Arts & Life Editor

Waco, like many other college towns, has an abundance of coffee shops for students to study in.

While students often settle for convenience when it comes to their coffee, Dan Moroso, owner of recently opened Italian cafe “Azzurro,” urges them to venture out of the Baylor bubble to Bosque Blvd. for a cup of coffee they won’t forget.

Upon first entry, the cafe is exactly what the name promises — a cozy, calming space where the walls, furniture and even the hand-blown glass decorations on the wall emit hues of blue. Moroso said he wanted to choose a name that related back to Italy and that would make their shop stand out: hence Azzurro, meaning “sky blue” in Italian.

“This was an old travel agency that had been here for over 30 years,” Moroso said. “It was very dank-looking — green carpet on the floor — and we came in and just gutted everything, transformed the place.”

About two years ago, an idea began brewing — an idea to bring the first authentic Italian coffee shop to Waco, Moroso said. Over the years, he has lived in places such as Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Munich, Paris and Lisbon, making it important to him that the cafe have a decor which is accurate to a real coffee shop one might see in Europe, he said.

The vibe is not the only thing in the shop that is Italian, though. The shiny hand-crafted “La Marzocco” espresso machine, the shop’s coffee beans and even Moroso himself have roots in Italy.

Years ago, Moroso’s grandfather on his mother’s

side came over from Italy to Ellis Island for a better life in America, he said. The cafe owner considers himself lucky to still have his last name, as immigration officers would often change names they couldn’t pronounce.

His grandparents then began to build their lives in New York — his grandfather working in construction and painting and his grandmother as a janitor. There, Moroso was born and raised.

What eventually drew him to Waco was his love for the community — the Baylor community in particular,



This is the coffee that my family grew up with, generation after generation.

**DAN MOROSO | OWNER**

Moroso explained.

“When we first opened, Baylor was in the back of our mind, because we’re so geographically dislocated from the campus,” Moroso said, referring to the initial opening of his restaurant Moroso, located next door to Azzurro. “After the second year, we realized that Baylor was no longer just some icing on the cake, but they were part of our family and a big part of the community here, and so it’s amazing how much impact

Baylor has had.”

Moroso said he chose to use “Illy,” a brand of coffee from Trieste, Italy, in all the drinks his shop serves. These beans come from the same province, Friuli, as Moroso’s family.

“This is the coffee that my family grew up with, generation after generation,” Moroso said. “I drink it every day.”

Illy is one of the most ethical companies in the world and is used in 140 countries, Moroso said. The sustainability and ethics behind their company is absolutely superior, he said.

“Their concept is they only purchase the top 1% of Arabica beans that are being produced, generally from South and Central America,” Moroso said. “Illy understands that giving back to the farmers is a key and critical component in the relationship they’ve built.”

Moroso explained that most times when coffee is purchased by a consumer, that coffee dealt by brokers takes money from the farmers who grew the beans. Instead, Illy deals directly with the farmers to ensure more profit for their families and workers.

What makes this particular brand so special to Moroso is its boldness and body in flavor combined with its smooth finish.

“Today, a lot of upstart coffee shops are roasting and serving coffees that have a somewhat astringent or bitter taste on the back end, and a whole generation in America is growing up to believe and think that this is the way coffee should taste,” Moroso said. “Now, don’t get me wrong, if they like that, that’s great. However we wanted to introduce what we believe is a really good cup of coffee to the community, and that’s why we’re here.”



Kassidy Tsikitas | Photographer

**DRIP** Waco’s first Italian cafe brings a refreshing taste of Italy. Azzurro ties in some family history to make the cafe feel cozy and at-home.

Rosie Garcia, a barista at Azzurro, attested to the quality of the espresso.

“The Italian coffee gives us stronger coffee,” Garcia said. “It’s a taste that you won’t forget.”

Garcia said prior to the cafe’s grand opening on Oct. 16, she along with other baristas trained for about a month in order to master the

acronyms, recipes and making of each drink.

While Azzurro’s espresso takes the spotlight, Garcia said her favorite drink to make is their matcha latte.

“One of the guys that came in, he ordered a matcha with vanilla,” Garcia said. “We made it just like the way he wanted it and he said that it was one of the best matchas he’s had.”

While the drinks, pastries and vibes of the cafe are all boast-worthy, Garcia said her favorite part of working at Azzurro is the staff she works with and the people she meets.

“It pays you more than your check — just for someone to remember you and acknowledge you ... it means you’re doing something good,” Garcia said.



Photo courtesy of Western Belle Farm

**PICKING** Families gather around at the annual pumpkin patch festival to hand pick and take home their very own pumpkin.

## Third-annual pumpkin patch festival kicks off at Western Belle Farm

**SHANE MEAD**  
Reporter

Just three years ago, Taylor Huffman and her family moved from Maryland to Waco, starting their farm and opening it to the public for its first festival in May 2022. Now, the Western Belle Farm is thriving because of the unique experience the Huffman family brings to the table.

Their pumpkin patch, one of a handful of seasonal experiences the Western Belle Farm offers, gives event-goers from all over Texas a taste of all things fall as the Huffmans look to spread awareness about farming.

Pumpkins of all different colors, shapes and sizes are offered for purchase, but that’s just the beginning.

Western Belle Farm has opportunities for festival-goers to feed animals, ride a tractor to where the pumpkins are harvested, complete a Sudan grass maze, play different arcade-style games and even shoot out of apple and pumpkin cannons.

“Where else can you shoot a pumpkin from a cannon, right?” said Huffman.

On top of everything, the farm offers homemade food plus live music and plenty of activities for kids like tricycle races, slides, zip lines, train rides and more.

This immersive experience Western Belle offers is what Huffman describes as “agritourism.”

“It’s when you invite the public to the farm to try to involve them in agriculture and educate them,” Huffman said. “We have a heart for bringing awareness to farming

and how hard it can be, especially here.”

Central Texas’ unforgiving weather is something Huffman said makes farming here very difficult. But what keeps them just 15 minutes north of Waco is their desire to keep the public invested in farming through their agritourism practices.

“We saw a need here for an actual U-pick experience,” said Huffman. “The extremes in the weather make it so much harder than it needs to be, but we fight so hard to do it because it’s wanted. People want that experience here.”

“It seems to grow every year,” he said. “I don’t remember the carnival games... They’re just adding a little here and there. I don’t remember them having a lot of music going.”

All of these additions have the purpose of aiding the agritourism approach the Huffmans take with their farm. It’s further expanded upon by their other seasonal events they have planned, many in the spring.

In spring of 2025, guests can expect a U-Pick strawberry patch followed by a two-weekend Easter festival



Photo courtesy of Western Belle Farm

**FESTIVITIES** Western Belle Farm displays large orange pumpkins for all to enjoy this fall season.

Huffman said that every year, they make improvements to their seasonal events. This year, a pavilion was added for guests to enjoy their meals in the shade. According to visitor Sean Moreno of Hubbard, who attended the pumpkin patch in years prior, said that wasn’t the only addition this year.

and a sunflower festival that will end right around Memorial Day. On top of their seasonal events, Western Belle Farm offers field trips for schools. This fall season, students will visit the pumpkin patch while Hubbard teaches them about how the farm grows its pumpkins.





  
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# Baylor Mariachi flourishes even as founding members graduate

**KALENA REYNOLDS**  
Staff Writer

Four years ago, Baylor's Mariachi ensemble was formed. Fast-forward to today, and this year, all the founding members will be graduating.

Isaiah Herrera, El Paso senior and president of the mariachi ensemble said that in the last four years, the band has made several strides toward new goals and expanding the club, which have ultimately opened the doors to larger opportunities.

"From a musical standpoint, the mariachi has grown a lot in terms of the repertoire that's been learned collectively as a group," Herrera said. "We've been able to explore a lot more music. We've been able to learn more about mariachi and its importance within Hispanic culture." Outside of Baylor, the ensemble has also been able to build a strong presence around the Waco community. They played outside of a

San Antonio Spurs basketball game last year. Conroe senior Garrett Thompson, a founding member, said that because the group grew and gained more experience, it was able to reach deeper into the community and expand its audience base.

"As time went along, we gained more traction and membership, and we also gained more experience as a group," Thompson said. "We built up more members that had been around for multiple years and refined the same repertoire to a higher level that we could just perform it more readily, more easily and more efficiently, and really pay attention to making music out of it and just connecting with the communities that we were involved with."

The ensemble also made strides towards creating a Mariachi class at Baylor within the music department, an effort which has been spearheaded by the ensemble's advisors. The group's original advisor was Dr. Moisés Park,

an associate professor of Spanish. However, after welcoming a new baby into his family, he handed the position over to Dr. Marcelo Boccato Kuyumjian, a lecturer of jazz studies.

"Especially because of his position in the School of Music, he took a lot of initiative and sort of made the class become what was called the jazz combo class which is a one-credit hour class that meets once a week," Herrera said. "They do, like, a couple of concerts throughout the year ... or usually throughout the semester."

The ensemble has not only grown in ability and size. As of last year, it also became an official student organization through Baylor. Prior to this, the ensemble had fully funded itself. Thompson wanted to give a special thanks to everyone who had supported the group's journey and helped with funding along the way. "Until then, we had been doing our own personal fundraising through our performances

and through family, our families and whatnot," Thompson said. "I think a huge part of the resources our group has had up to this point is due thanks to the community that supported us and donated to us through our performances, as well as our families that have also given their personal time to help us get to performances and give us opportunities, as well as support us financially."

As for the ensemble's future, Herrera said that he hopes it can continue growing within Baylor's culture and educating people on the importance of Mariachi.

"A lot of the major universities have a mariachi ensemble, and that's not by accident," Herrera said. "It's for a reason, you know, not just the popularity of music, but the significance of it, both educationally and culturally. And, you know, from a diversity standpoint, it's really important."



**FINDING COMMUNITY** The Baylor Mariachi ensemble performs in their traditional uniforms at a Baylor volleyball game.

Kassidy Tsikitas | Photo Editor

## Trends for your homecoming outfit Pinterest board

**KALENA REYNOLDS**  
Staff Writer

Homecoming weekend is one of the most stand-out traditions at Baylor. Whether you're attending the parade, watching the bonfire, or front row at the football game, choosing the perfect outfit is key. You get to express yourself and your identity among your fellow students, all while celebrating the history of your future alma mater.

Here's a forecast of a few trends you might see at this weekend's Homecoming happenings along with some inspiration for your Homecoming outfit Pinterest boards.

### TALL BOOTS

We've all seen the Frye boots on TikTok. Your mom probably had a similar pair in 2016. They are brown or black leather knee-high equestrian boots. While they are nothing groundbreaking, we can't deny that they give 'Gilmore Girls' in the best way possible. These boots are versatile and look great with a flowy dress or jeans. I predict that these tall boots are going to make the perfect homecoming accessory as they are both comfy and stylish.

### LOW-RISE JEANS

I understand low-rise jeans are scary, but I'm here to hold your hand and tell you that we are in this together. Look on the bright side — baggy low-rise jeans can actually be quite comfy. Whether you're going for the tailgate or staying for the entire game, low-rise jeans are perfect for your game-day outfit as they keep you warm in the morning but are still breathable once temperatures rise in the afternoon. Pair your low-rise jeans with a cropped band-tee for a more casual look or a fitted

bodysuit for something more high-key.

### DROP-WAIST DRESSES

Casual dresses are always a go for game day, but drop-waist dresses are topping the current trends. Whether you want to go the mini or maxi route, these dresses look great and pair well with boots, sneakers or heels. The benefits of drop-waist dresses are that they elongate your waist and define your silhouette in a trendy, classy manner. Drop-waist dresses are grungy while still encapsulating feminine softness.

### DENIM

While there's nothing better than a well-fitting pair of jeans, denim is a multifaceted fabric and is making waves in the form of dresses or sets. A good denim set provides for a unique game-day outfit while still maintaining wearability. Pair your denim set with a graphic trucker hat or chunky belt, and prepare for the OOTD Instagram post of your life.

### TRUCKER HATS

As fall slowly pours in, hats — specifically trucker hats — make their way back into our wardrobes. Trucker hats make great accessories for a denim set or drop waist dress and give your outfit a unique flair. This homecoming, try spicing your outfit up with a Baylor trucker hat or a Waco-founded Sendero Provision Co. hat. Trucker hats are incredibly versatile and can be dressed up with a denim set or kept casual with a good pair of baggy jeans.



Chloe McCauley |  
Photographer



# While waiting for the temperature to drop, fall into autumn by using these tips, tricks, treats



Kassidy Tsikitas | Photographer

## BELLA WHITMORE Intern

With the lingering summer heat, it just doesn't feel like we can fully celebrate fall. Luckily, there is no shortage of opportunities and ideas to help make it feel like fall in the absence of colorful leaves and an autumn chill.

### A.C. ON, COZY BLANKETS OUT

Even if it's hot outside, you can create a cool, fall-like atmosphere indoors by lowering the temperature and getting snuggled up with your favorite blanket. It's a simple way to feel more like autumn without waiting for the weather to catch up. Pair this with an apple cinnamon or pumpkin spice-scented candle, and you'll forget it's still 90 degrees outside.

### GET A TASTE OF AUTUMN

Whip up some pumpkin

muffins or apple cider donuts for that cozy, straight-from-the-oven comfort. And if it's too hot to bake, try no-bake pumpkin cheesecake or caramel apple slices to switch things up. You can also put on a pot of mulled apple cider on the stove to fill your home with that warm, fall aroma. For a savory option, roast some butternut squash or make a hearty autumn soup.

### FALLING FOR FASHION

You can still embrace the season's trends without overheating. Try lightweight pieces in autumnal colors like deep rust, forest green and mustard yellow to capture the fall vibe while staying cool. You could also opt for cropped cardigans, sleeveless turtlenecks or tops in breathable fabrics like cotton or linen. Another great option is layering with lightweight jackets or vests that give you that fall look but can be easily shed when it gets too warm. For accessories, swap out your sandals for some

trendy Frye boots or UGG slippers, and you'll successfully look straight out of a fall Pinterest board.

### FALL AND HALLOWEEN EVENTS BREWING IN WACO

Waco has plenty of opportunities to immerse yourself in the spooky or cozy autumnal spirit. You can visit various pumpkin patches like the Robinson Family Farm, where you'll find hayrides, games and even a corn maze through early November.

For Halloween enthusiasts, there are plenty of eerie options. Maint Event Waco will host a Halloween "Spooktacular" on Oct. 27, with games, treats and a costume contest and a prize for the winner.

For something truly unusual, check out the "Spooky Soda Science" event at the Dr. Pepper Museum, where you can bring your Halloween balloon creations to life with carbon dioxide experiments.

## Try these spooky shows and movies

**Midnight Mass (2021)**  
Netflix

**The Cabin in the Woods (2011)**  
Peacock

**Death Note (2006)**  
Netflix

**Fresh (2022)**  
Hulu

**The Haunting of Hill House (2018)**  
Netflix

**Shutter Island (2010)**  
Peacock

**Signs (2002)**  
Hulu

**Tucker & Dale vs. Evil (2010)**  
Amazon Prime



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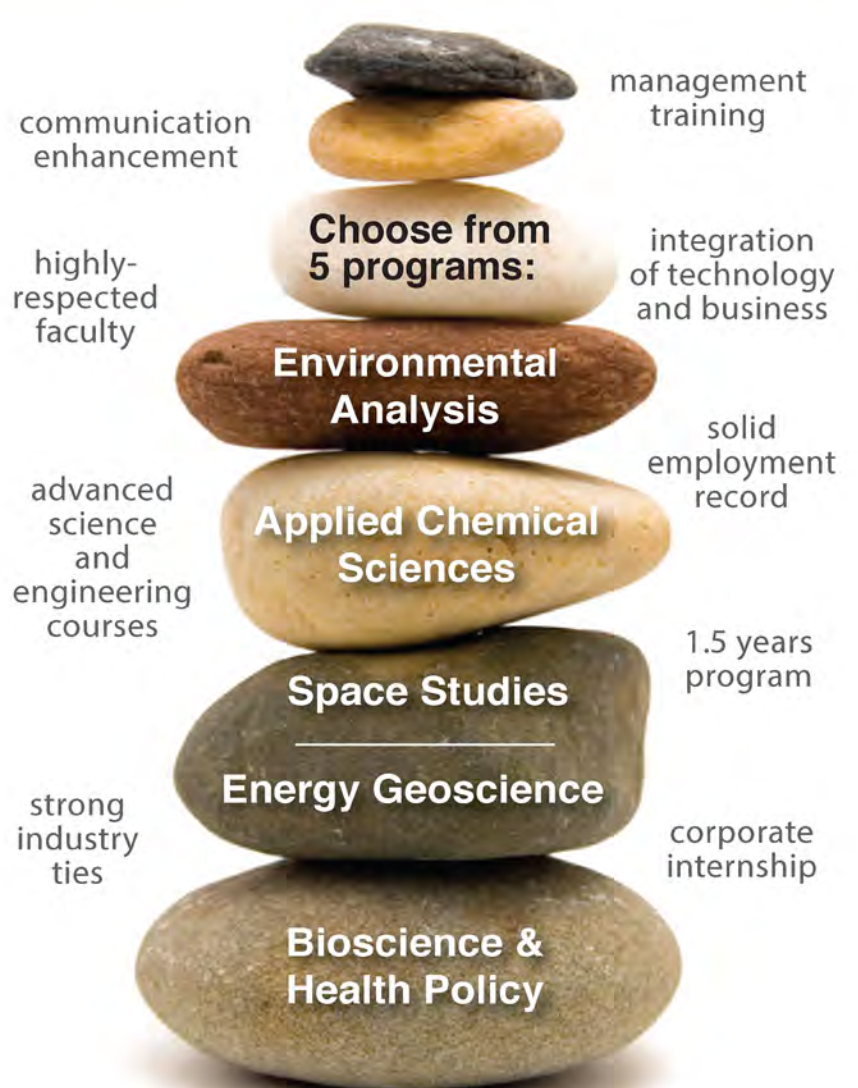
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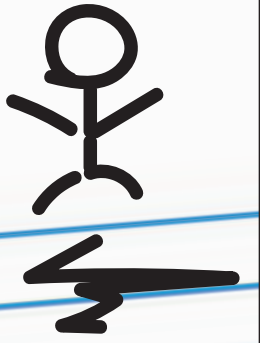
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# Review: Romcom 'We Live in Time' teaches there's none of it to waste

**CAMERON MCCOLLUM**  
Photo Editor

Going into the theater, I was expecting to sit down and enjoy a drama-romance film with two lead actors who have incredibly diverse, award-winning, critically acclaimed film portfolios. When the friend next to me said the theater in her hometown was providing courtesy tissues, I knew I was in for a truly emotional cinematic experience.

Readers beware! This review contains spoilers.

"We Live in Time" captivates audiences with the beautiful life story of Tobias, played by Andrew Garfield, and his partner Almut, played by Florence Pugh, reminding us how to love living in the present despite the realities of longing and loss.

This A24-produced film, directed by John Crowley and written by Nick Payne, is told cinematically through a non-linear storyline. With scenes consistently skipping through different fragments of time between Tobias and Almut's relationship, audiences are given only bits and pieces of what is to come.

Almut works as a critically acclaimed chef and is aspiring to earn the highest trophy in the European culinary world while Tobias is a spokesperson for his company. Fatefully, the characters first meet each other after Almut hits Tobias with her car, landing him in a neck brace and arm sling.

One noticeable aspect of the film is the layering of themes throughout each time skip. It almost felt like separate storylines that all come together in the end as the full story of Tobias and Almut. The characters react to each other in many different ways, from love at first sight to fight at first fright when Almut is diagnosed with cancer. The combination of trials and tribulations with the joy and passion couples experience throughout their years is beautifully displayed in this film.

The true beauty behind "We Live in Time" is in its cinematography. One flaw in modern film is the lack of emotional expression used with color hues. However, Crowley's lighting design shows the hope and depression the characters experience without having any words for the audience to digest.

The film also uses diverse handheld camera techniques for scenes that draw in audiences while Hallmark-esque framing dominates euphoric scenes.

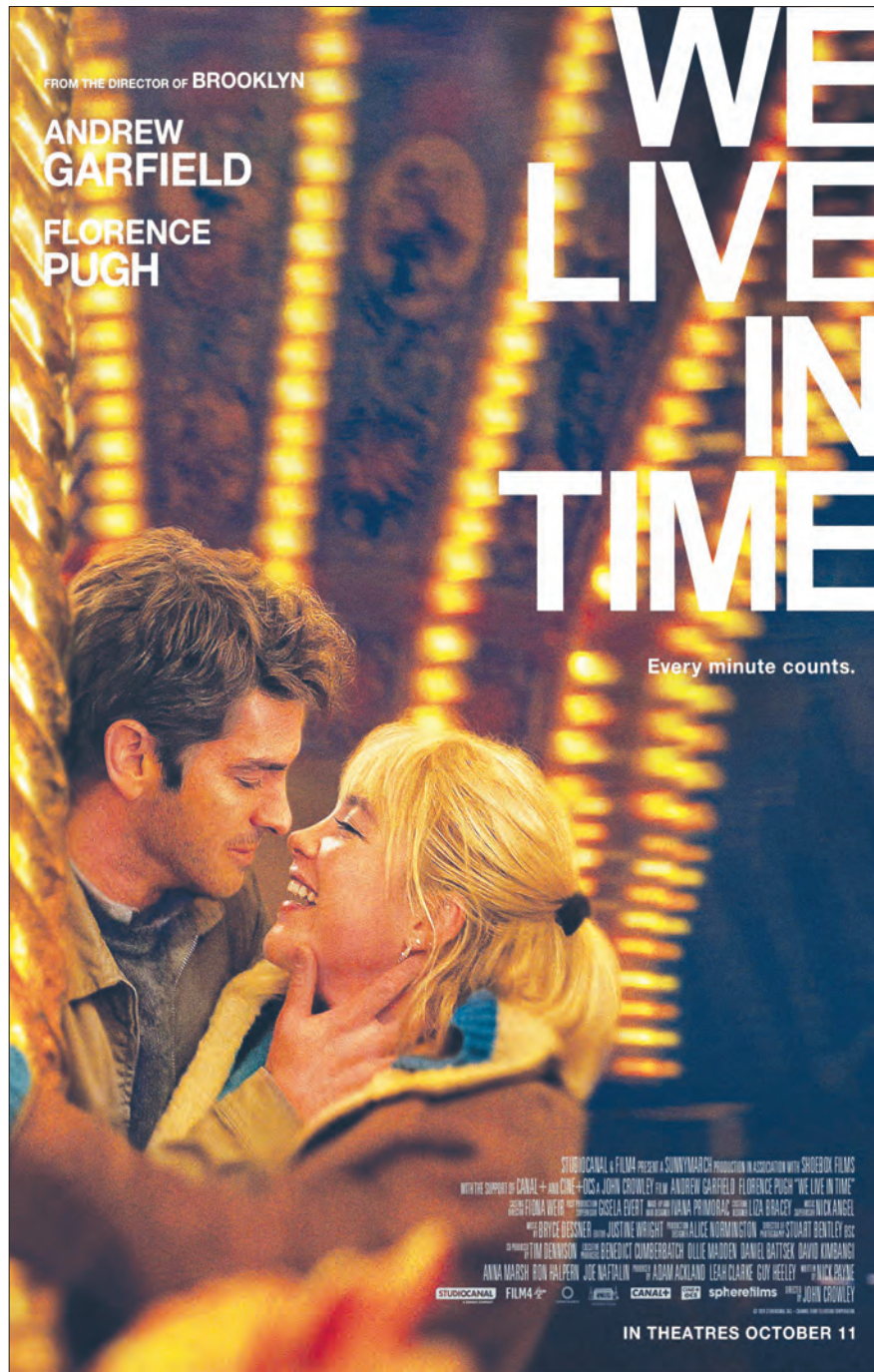
Plot-wise, I was surprised by the integral theme of parenthood throughout the film. As an audience, we are introduced

to the conversation most couples have further on in their relationship: "Do we want kids?" Whatever your thoughts are on this topic, Tobias and Almut's journey from giving birth in the most unlikely of places to ice skating as a family for the first time will give most viewers teary eyes.

Also — viewers be warned! "We Live in Time" has just as many sex scenes as it does barfing scenes, so if you are going into the theater with a queasy stomach you may want to pack a barf bag along with your tissues.

The conclusion of the film brings Almut's character full circle as she accomplishes her biggest culinary challenge yet: becoming a mother who will never be remembered as weak and a person who will never be able to say that she gave up.

This film is a romantic fast-burn that catches flame quickly and captures the strange nature of time unfolding. We all live within the construct of time, and the film serves as a reminder of that — to live as much as we can while we can.



## HOCO from Page C1

**HOMECOMING AT THE HURD | OCT. 25-26 | ALL DAY FRIDAY, 7:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M. SATURDAY | HURD WELCOME CENTER, 901 S UNIVERSITY PARKS DRIVE**

This may be one of the newer Homecoming traditions, but don't underestimate it. This two-day event is jam-packed with different activities, performances and presentations to ring in the celebration of the university with the largest and oldest collegiate homecoming in the nation.

**VOLLEYBALL VS. TCU | OCT. 25 | 5-7 P.M. | FERRELL CENTER, 1900 S UNIVERSITY PARKS DRIVE | \$10 TICKETS, FREE FOR STUDENTS**

Don't miss the match between the Horned Frogs and our very own Bears. Bring your homecoming pride to the Ferrell Center to cheer on our ladies in this battle on the court. Save your game-day seat at [baylorbears.com/tickets](http://baylorbears.com/tickets) before they run out!

**EXTRAVAGANZA, PEP RALLY AND BONFIRE | OCT. 25 | 6-10:30 P.M. | FOUNTAIN MALL**

Of all Baylor Homecoming events, this is one many students find themselves the most fired up for year after year. Bring your school spirit in exchange for games, food, a performance from the marching band, the iconic Bonfire and the experience of the student body united in rich Baylor tradition.

**SINGSPIRATION | OCT. 25 | 7-8 P.M. | SEVENTH & JAMES BAPTIST CHURCH, 602 JAMES AVE.**

Mi-mi-mi-miii! Raise your best singing voice and join in the chorus of Baylor's annual Singspiration. What better way to commence the weekend than with praising God — the one in whom we have the biggest victory?

**ROYAL & PURE HOMECOMING STROLL-OFF | OCT. 25 | 7-9 P.M. | BILL DANIEL STUDENT CENTER**

Watch as Phi Beta Sigma dances the night away in their annual Stroll-Off step-dance competition. Immerse yourself in the rhythm, choreography and history embedded in this age-old tradition and cheer on your friends.

**WACO DOWNTOWN FARMER'S MARKET | OCT. 19 | 9 A.M. - 1 P.M. | 500 WASHINGTON AVE.**

Take a stroll through this site where local agricultural and artisan vendors have gathered weekly since 2011.

**HOMECOMING PARADE | OCT. 26 | 8 A.M. | 5TH ST.**

Don't be deterred by the bright and early wake-up call — this annual event is something you're not going to want to miss! Follow the floats, balloons and many student organizations participating in this promenade along 5th St. Pro tip: bring a bag for collecting candy!

**BAYLOR VS. OKLAHOMA STATE | OCT. 26 | 2:30 P.M. KICKOFF | MCLANE STADIUM, 1001 S M.L.K. JR BLVD.**

Baylor! Bears! Fight! Grab your tickets and put on your stripiest green-and-gold fit to make the trek to McLane Stadium. Cheer on the Bears in the fight of the football season against Oklahoma State University.

**DR PEPPER PARANORMAL TOUR | OCT. 19 | 8-10 P.M. | DR PEPPER MUSEUM, 300 S 3RD ST | \$35 TICKETS**

Walk the supposedly haunted halls of the historic Dr Pepper Museum and hunt for ghosts on this two-hour guided tour.

## Homecoming Crossword

**ACROSS**

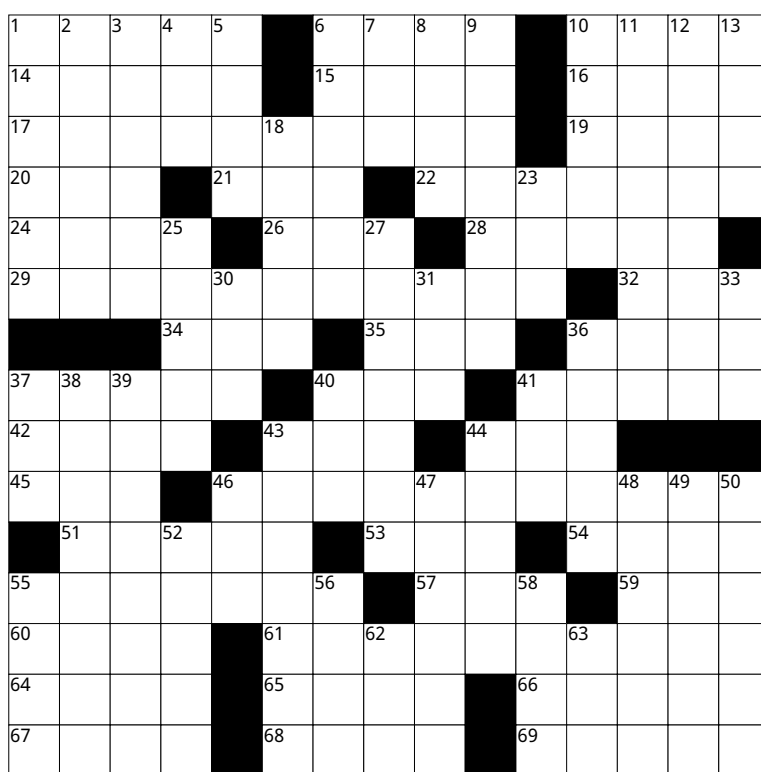
- 1 Spring zodiac sign
- 6 Tony winner Leslie \_\_\_ Jr.
- 10 Musical quality
- 14 Scored 75, say
- 15 "The Flintstones" pet
- 16 Soon, in Shakespeare
- 17 1952 Steinbeck novel
- 19 "\_\_\_ we forget..."
- 20 Journalist \_\_\_ B. Wells
- 21 Josh Cameron and Monaray Baldwin, for short
- 22 Marigold's counterpart
- 24 Old-school Nintendo rival
- 26 Indy or Belle, south of the border
- 28 Big name in toothbrushes
- 29 Unhappy horticulture?
- 32 401(k) alternative Roth \_\_\_
- 34 Tax org.
- 35 Fleur-de-\_\_\_
- 36 Edinburgh native
- 37 Rhetorical appeal to morality
- 40 Brewed beverage
- 41 Dianne of Broadway
- 42 "\_\_\_ all that" (1999 rom-com)
- 43 Air safety org.
- 44 Goal
- 45 Floral necklace

46 Lariat's A.M. newsletter

- 51 Basketball newcomer Normad
- 53 Retired flyer
- 54 Sunburn remedy
- 55 Reserved
- 57 "There's no \_\_\_ team"
- 59 Seminary deg.
- 60 Hermanas de la madre
- 61 Welcoming place Bill Gates visited
- 64 Reformation tradition \_\_\_ scriptura
- 65 East coast football has a \_\_\_' clock kickoff
- 66 He-man's twin
- 67 Just
- 68 Cath. abbr.
- 69 Hawaiian root vegetables

**DOWN**

- 1 Chronological discrimination
- 2 Competitive driving event
- 3 "We have the green light!"
- 4 Chow down
- 5 Flat-bottomed boat
- 6 Midland sister city
- 7 Completed
- 8 Spoiler of a perfect GPA
- 9 Fifth first family
- 10 "Rocky" actress Shire
- 11 Single serving of pizza
- 12 Campus news grp. that doesn't pass the smell test?



- 13 Shortened return on some key boards
- 18 Horned Baylor rivals
- 23 Vase
- 25 "See ya!"
- 27 New \_\_\_ (home of the Sugar Bowl)
- 30 Age abbr.
- 31 Celebration of 26-across
- 33 Verizon competitor
- 36 Mufasa's son
- 37 Bilingual subj.
- 38 News source that doesn't pass the smell test?
- 39 Rainbow bridge guardian of Asgard
- 40 2022 Cate Blanchett drama

- 41 Hairpiece
- 43 Hemingway title start
- 44 Shenanigan
- 46 \_\_\_ Culpa
- 47 "Oppenheimer" physicist Rabi
- 48 Belfast's province
- 49 Source-citing software
- 50 Striped grazers
- 52 Colts owner Robert
- 55 "Wishing won't make \_\_\_"
- 56 Convent residents
- 58 Egg holder
- 62 Gas pump abbr.
- 63 FDR's loan org.



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