

**OPINION | A2**

**EDITORIAL:**  
Can everyone leave Millie Bobby Brown alone?



**SPORTS | A6**

**FOOTBALL:**  
Aranda optimistic after "cleanest first practice ever"



**A&L | A5**

**THE BUG LADY:**  
Local business owner builds brand from love of bugs

# CHARGED DEBATE

*Vandalism, recalls and political controversies surround country's top electric vehicle maker*

**COLE GEE**  
Staff Writer

Newberg, Ore. senior Alexander Aguilar is a proud Tesla owner. Over spring break, he and his family test drove the new Model Y SUV. But hours after they left, the same lot they enjoyed their test drive in was shot at. The incident was the latest in a long string of recent attacks against Tesla dealerships and owners in response to the business practices and political affiliations of CEO Elon Musk — his relationship with the Trump Administration, leadership of the Department of Government



Efficiency and his controversial gesture made on Inauguration Day. Aguilar said while he admires Musk's business acumen, he admits he doesn't completely approve of how Musk is running DOGE. However, he said he still wouldn't express his criticism through property damage. "We don't have any concerns for

our own vehicle, but it's definitely on our minds in Oregon," Aguilar said. "It's just a lot crazier than it is here in Texas." Local police released a statement regarding the attack, stating that "While the motivation for this has not been confirmed, we are aware that other Tesla dealerships have been targeted across Oregon and the

nation for political reasons."

It's part of a national phenomenon. On March 3 in Boston, seven Tesla charging stations outside a mall were set on fire. On March 7 in South Carolina, a 24-year-old man

allegedly threw five Molotov cocktails at a Tesla charging station, and on

**TESLA TUSSLE >> A8**



Photo courtesy of DJ Rodman  
**LEADERSHIP** Donald J. "DJ" Rodman was promoted to senior director of public safety and security, head of the five BUDPS departments.

## BUDPS revamped with new director, vehicles

**JOSH SIATKOWSKI**  
Staff Writer

After nearly four years as the assistant chief of police for BUPD, DJ Rodman has been named senior director of public safety and security, where he will oversee his former department along with around 100 staff across four others. "I'm really blessed to be part of such an amazing community of DPS and to be selected to lead the group," Rodman said. "I'm thrilled to be able to see where we're going next and to do it in a place like Baylor where we have such a supportive community." Rodman will now lead the approximately 100 staff members across the five different divisions — BUPD, Emergency Management, Physical and Technical Security, Parking Services and Global and Research Security. He plans to meet with each and use their input to plan future objectives. "The first objective is to hire a

replacement for the assistant chief of police ... we're moving pretty quickly on that," Rodman said. "We want to get that filled to be able to help support BUPD. A second thing that I'm going to be doing is meet with every single individual employee here within DPS and talk about, 'Hey, what's going well, where have you seen opportunities to continue to progress and what are some areas where we can support you?' After that, we'll have an overall assessment."

Despite his background with BUPD, Rodman will devote equal time to each of the five BUDPS departments. He served for two months as the interim director after Childers retired in January, and officially stepped into his new role on March 10. In his decade at Baylor, Childers oversaw the consolidation of Baylor's five public safety departments, increased the physical security presence on campus and

**"I'm thrilled to be able to see where we're going next and to do it in a place like Baylor where we have such a supportive community."**

**DJ RODMAN | SENIOR DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY**

**BUDPS >> A8**

## Fountain Mall to hold 72 hours of prayer, worship

**KRISTY VOLMERT**  
Staff Writer

One of the biggest spiritual events of the year will kick off at 8 p.m. Sunday on Fountain Mall and run until April 2. FM72 is an annual tradition where members of the Baylor community and beyond gather on Fountain Mall for 72 hours of prayer, worship, scripture readings and more. Beginning in 2018, FM72 has seen a nationwide impact, helping develop ministries such as Passion and the Journeyman Mission Program. A large prayer tent will be set up and will be open to anyone for all 72 hours, with volunteers in and out, praying over attendees. There will be worship services at 8 p.m. each night with songs and sermons and evangelism training

sessions held in the SUB. San Mateo, Calif., junior Abe Yeager, a college ministry staff member at Highland Baptist Church, has experienced FM72 for the past two years and said his experience has been incredible. "Every year there's salvation," Yeager said. "A lot of people who come in are not yet believers and leave with a faith in Jesus." Yeager said that the collaboration of seven local churches and several different campus ministries promotes an influential unity among the body of believers who make it possible. "The unity is absolutely beautiful," Yeager said. "You're not going to find it anywhere else." Pearlland junior Zachary

Magno started attending FM72 his freshman year, right after returning from a mission trip. "It was just such a sweet time to connect with the Lord," Magno said. Magno said during his mission trip, he felt called to pursue further missions and was "set aflame with a passion for reaching the lost." He and his mission team met in the chapel room at the SUB to pray for FM72 weeks before it started. "Prayers were answered," Magno said. One of his favorite parts of FM72 is experiencing the environment of the tent and seeing how it is a constant safe place for anyone to come

**FM72 >> A8**

## Baylor names Adam Stanley first esports coach, director

**RACHEL CHIANG**  
Assistant News Editor

Baylor has named Adam Stanley as its first esports director and coach. This move comes as Baylor strives to connect with the esports world to expand its engineering and computer science programs as part of the strategic plan. Before accepting this position, Stanley served at Brewton-Parker College developing their esports teams. Stanley also holds a master of divinity degree from Baylor's George W. Truett Theological Seminary.

According to Jason Cook, vice president for marketing and communications and chief marketing officer, they stumbled upon Stanley at a national esports tournament in Arlington a year ago. It was there they discovered his ties to Baylor and realized it was time to hire a full-time esports director. "[Stanley] is so well respected, not only in terms of level of competitiveness at the school that he was at, but being about all the right things — about student development, about alignment with [the] Christian mission," Cook said.

Having grown up in a sports oriented family, Stanley's door into the esports world began when his best friend in high school had cystic fibrosis that prevented him from doing physical activity, so they hung out by playing video games instead. 20 years ago, the world of esports did not exist. However, that didn't stop Stanley from becoming ranked third in the world at Halo 2 for a while. This status was the catalyst that led him to pursue gaming professionally.

**ESPORTS >> A8**

**GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?**

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# Stop picking apart female celebrities' appearances

## THE EDITORIAL BOARD

The standard for women's appearances is unreasonable — we know that. But we can see it in action even more when a young woman grows up under the public eye. Recently, Millie Bobby Brown has been chastised on social media for her supposed change in appearance. Commenters and reports are saying she looks drastically older, claiming she looks more like a 40-year-old woman than a 21-year-old.

Brown felt hurt and betrayed by these reports and addressed her audience on Instagram. She began her start in the industry at just 10 years old. Brown reflected, "I grew up with the world, yet for some reason, people are unable to grow up with me." Brown says that people expect her to be "frozen in time," which places an unfair expectation on women, who face the fear of being torn apart "for simply existing" every single day. This powerful statement by Brown is something that we need to better address in our society. But it begs the question, why is our knee-jerk reaction to criticize young women rather than uplift them?

As a society, we are quick to judge young women because we can get away with it, and that it is far too normalized. The second

a young woman comes to the public's attention, many people don't pay attention to her work or craft, but her appearance. There's an entitlement, too, that famous young women must brace themselves for this misogyny as if these comments are understandably or justifiably made. Women in general are supported and praised by others when they are doing what they "should" be doing — for



**In many ways, this behavior is a product of a flawed society, where women can almost be pressured to bring other women down because of their own insecurity.**

example, dressing and presenting themselves in the way the public wants them to. These young women don't realize how quick the public can turn on them, because it was never about who they were as a public figure, but what they looked like. The public was so quick to judge, because they had an altered

idea of what a woman is from the beginning. They are seen as a commodity.

This is the dark side of public scrutiny, and it is especially disheartening to see female reporters drag down young women, fueling bullying and misogyny. Why would women perpetuate the harm they should be standing against?

In many ways, this behavior is a product of a flawed society, where women can almost be pressured to bring other women down because of their own insecurity. Too often, we see women struggle to accept those who are confident and successful, leading them to target those who are the easiest to target — young women. Every woman is bold and authentic until someone's judgment dims their light. We need to break the cycle. Stand up and take notice when

women are judged and mistreated. This is not something that only female celebrities face, but a reality for every woman navigating the world we live in. Be bold in your existence, and uplift others in the same way you choose to uplift yourself.



James Ellis | Cartoonist

# Animated role models: The cartoon heroines who shaped us

**JANAY BOYD**  
Reporter

Saturday mornings weren't complete without a bowl of cereal and a lineup of animated adventures featuring heroines like Velma Dinkley, Sailor Moon and the Powerpuff Girls saving the day. But these animated women did more than fill screen time — they taught us to be curious, courageous and unapologetically ourselves. For many of us, they weren't just fictional characters; they were role models who showed us that girls could do anything.

For years, female characters in cartoons were sidelined: the sidekick, the love interest or the damsel in distress. But as time went on, these

heroines broke free from those tropes and took center stage, proving that strength comes in many forms.

Take Velma Dinkley for example. While Daphne was often portrayed as the fashionable damsel, Velma was the brains behind Mystery Inc. Her iconic "Jinkies!" and relentless curiosity proved that intelligence and problem-solving weren't just for the guys. Over the years, Velma evolved from a supporting role to a dynamic lead.

Then there's Ms. Frizzle from "The Magic School Bus," every kid's dream teacher. Her fearless curiosity and out-of-this-world field trips encouraged us to ask questions, explore the unknown and never stop learning. With her mantra, "Take chances, make mistakes, get messy!" Ms. Frizzle made science exciting and showed that curiosity was not only cool but empowering.

The Powerpuff Girls:

Blossom, Bubbles and Buttercup. They literally saved the world before bedtime. They taught us that strength isn't just about physical power; it's about heart, resilience and standing up for what's right. Each girl's unique personality showed young viewers that

there's no one way to be strong. Blossom's leadership, Bubbles' empathy and Buttercup's fierce determination reminded us that strength is multifaceted.

And who could forget Sailor Moon? Serena Tsukino's transformation into the defender of love and justice

taught us that strength and vulnerability can coexist. Her journey from a clumsy schoolgirl to a courageous leader showed that growth and self-discovery are part of becoming a hero. Sailor Moon made it clear that you didn't have to sacrifice your emotions or femininity to be powerful.

Even Disney princesses evolved over time, offering diverse representations of strength. Mulan fought for what she believed in, Aurora found strength in her grace, Tiana pursued her dreams with relentless determination and Belle (my personal favorite) used her intelligence and curiosity to navigate life. These characters proved that there's no single definition of strength, and that's the point.

Today, young audiences see heroines who are smart, strong, emotional and flawed. They are a reflection of real-life complexity. These characters remind us that strength looks different for everyone and that's OK.

They taught us to think critically, embrace individuality and stand up for what we believe in — lessons that stick with us long after the credits roll.

These animated heroines didn't just shape our childhoods — they reshaped the narrative of what it means to be strong. Whether solving mysteries, fighting evil or exploring the cosmos, they left a legacy that continues to inspire. So here's to the cartoon heroines who made us believe that anything is possible — one animated adventure at a time.



**They taught us to think critically, embrace individuality and stand up for what we believe in — lessons that stick with us long after the credits roll.**

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# BAYLOR AT BAT



Brady Harris | Photographer

**SAFE!** Redshirt senior designated hitter Hunter Simmons slides into second after hitting a double.



Gigi Lindsey (17)

Mary Thurmond | Photo Editor



Brady Harris | Photographer

**LETTIN' IT FLY** Junior left-handed pitcher Stefan Stahl throws a heater toward home plate during Baylor baseball's 13-4 win over UT Arlington Tuesday night at Baylor Ballpark.



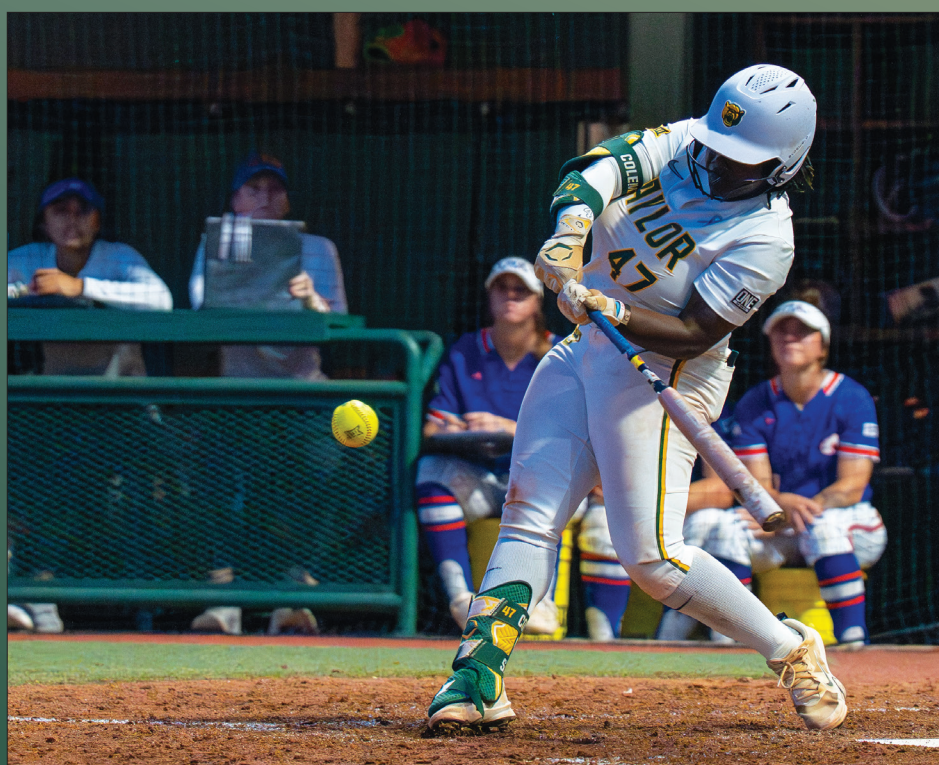
Mary Thurmond | Photo Editor

**RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE** Freshman pitcher Lexie Warncke throws her first pitch of the game during Baylor softball's 6-2 loss to UTA at Getterman Stadium on Tuesday evening.



Enzo Apodaca (3)

Brady Harris | Photographer



Mary Thurmond | Photo Editor

**OFF THE BAT** Senior third baseman Turiya Coleman sits on a drop ball and connects for a base hit.

# Marketing professor honored as Outstanding Faculty member

**MACKENZIE GRIZZARD**  
Staff Writer

Being named a Baylor Outstanding Faculty Member of 2024-2025 means excellence in teaching, research, scholarships and more. But for one Baylor grad-turned-Outstanding Faculty member, his students are the ones that make it worth it.

Dr. Keith Richards is an associate professor of marketing in Baylor's Hankamer School of Business and serves as the undergraduate program director in the marketing department. Richards was honored in the tenured teaching category for 2024-2025 Outstanding Faculty members.

"This is my academic home," Richards said. "I'm a first [generation] college student, I actually never looked anywhere else. I fell in love with [Baylor] and thankfully was able to make it work out."

While in undergrad, Richards was a student worker in the same department he works in now, giving him an "insider's perspective," he said.

"I just kind of watched the faculty here and just filed it away," Richards said.

After graduating, Richards worked for Baylor admissions, then did strategy consulting for nearly a decade. Despite such fruitful experiences, Richards knew that fatherhood was what needed to come first.

"I was like, 'I want a career that's going to be a great career, but also going to allow me to be a dad,'" Richards said. "So that's when I went back [and] got a Ph.D."

When he's not holding class for marketing and professional selling students, Richards directs the European Business Seminar Winter Program, which gives him an opportunity to further connect with his students, he said.

"Honestly, you get to know each other at a different level," Richards said. "I let all the students on that program call me Keith, and so when they come back they can actually still call me Keith here."

Houston senior Sam Kumar was among the several students that participated in the European Business Seminar Winter Program. He, like many others on the trip, developed a strong bond with Richards.

"I am so happy for Dr. Richards and this monumental achievement in his career; it is well deserved," Kumar said. "If it wasn't for Dr. Richards, I promise you I would not have gone on this trip."

In his over 10 years of teaching, Richards said his favorite part of his job is the people and the pace.

"I do love the rhythm of this job because you have these seasons where you can focus and invest and then there's a momentary change," Richards said. "At the end of the semester, we're all shifting to something new. It reminds me that time is short."

As an educator and longtime Baylor Bear, Richards highlights the university's teaching faculty and how honored he is to be a part of them.

"Just to be named among these other folks is really humbling," Richards said. "I think there's a long tradition here of really good teaching — that's been a hallmark of Baylor forever."

While in the classroom, Richards tries his best to connect with his students by trying to understand what they want and try to connect it to what they learn in his class, he said.

"And aside from the fact that they're bright and good students, they're great people and it's just fun to get to know them," Richards said.

While his students might come and go when the semester ends, many leave forever impacted



Photo courtesy of Baylor University

**OUTSTANDING WORK** Dr. Keith Richards, associate professor of marketing, was named a Baylor Outstanding Faculty member of 2024-2025 and has been at Baylor for almost 10 years.

by Richards, like Tanner Moore, one of Richards' professional selling students who graduated in December. Moore shares her gratitude for Richards in a thank you note that sits perched on his desk.

"Your wealth of knowledge and experience, coupled with your unwavering support, has been invaluable in preparing me for my career," Moore said in the note. "Your kindness and authenticity have left a lasting impact on me,

and I deeply appreciate the example you've set."

While ready-to-be-graded midterm exams might cover the floor of Richards' office, handwritten thank you notes from former students take up just as much space on his desk — and in his heart.

"I think the thing they will remember is that I'm passionate about what I do and I care and that I cared about them," Richards said.

# Free program offers personal nutrition advising sessions

**KRISTY VOLMERT**  
Staff Writer

The nutrition sciences department, under Robbins College of Health and Human Sciences, offers a Peer Nutrition Advisement Program in which pre-dietetic undergraduate students help you develop a plan to accomplish your dietary and fitness goals.

Free for up to three sessions, this one-on-one partnership allows the adviser to give personalized guidelines that fit one's lifestyle and current dietary habits.

Bellevue, Wash. senior Quinn Spencer is one of five peer nutrition advisers and said the program is very helpful in learning how to simplify nutrition and transform overall health for the better.

"We all truly do it for the experience and our passion for helping others in their nutrition journey," she said.

Spencer said as advisers, they strive to address common misinformation about nutrition and inform clients about truths that will lead them to healthier habits.

"There is so much nutrition information out there in places such as the news and social media, and the majority of it is very far from the truth," she said.

Throughout the meetings, advisers will get to know their clients and their eating habits so that they can guide them in making goals that are tailored to their specific needs.

Spencer said she had a client who said they felt empowered after adjusting dietary habits following her advice and education.

Bullard junior Elise Ellis is also a peer nutrition adviser and said she loves seeing the progress of her clients over the course of three weeks and that it is a rewarding experience.

"I have been able to help identify goals, provide credible information we are taught in class, curate plans and then walk alongside students through their nutrition journey," she said.

The PNA program is beneficial not only for the clients but for the advisers as well.

As nutrition sciences majors on the pre-dietetic track, both Spencer and Ellis use what they are learning in their own education by putting it into action to help their fellow peers.

Ellis said taking a nutrition counseling and education course sparked her love for the one-on-one education style she uses as a PNA.

"PNA perfectly intertwines my passions of nutrition and helping others," she said. "I have watched older classmates I admire go through this program and speak highly of it."

Other nutrition graduate students who completed the program during their education have shared that it helped them become well-prepared for their post-grad job experiences, according to Ellis.

**"PNA perfectly intertwines my passions of nutrition and helping others."**

**ELISE ELLIS | PEER NUTRITION ADVISER**

Spencer shared that it is a blessing to work individually with clients.

"I truly have had positive experiences with everyone I have worked with," she said. "Progress is different for everyone, but I have been blessed to be able to build a friendship with each person I meet and be able to see their progress throughout the weeks."

Ellis said that through the program she has been able to form great friendships with clients who she might not have met otherwise.

"I think being able to meet with peers is an amazing opportunity because there is a level of familiarity and understanding of students' situations," she said.

Spencer said the program can help with challenges such as buying food on a budget, navigating the dining halls, cooking balanced meals, fueling a busy lifestyle and learning how to simplify healthy eating.

"Nutrition is not typically a stand-alone topic," Ellis said. "It ties in with exercise, perception, behaviors, habits, culture, stress, health and community."

If interested, fill out a PNA Request Form and an adviser will follow up with an email and set up a time to meet. Typically, advisement sessions will be once a week for three weeks.

"It is such a wonderful free resource that goes unnoticed a lot of the time," Spencer said.



Mary Thurmond | Photo Editor

**DIET HELP** The Peer Nutrition Advisement Program, supported by the Department of Human Sciences and Design in Robbins College, offers free nutritional guidance to the Baylor community.

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Photo courtesy of Baylor University

**LEARNING FROM PEERS** Currently there are five undergraduate peer advisers for the Peer Nutrition Advisement Program who help students, faculty and staff with their eating habits.

## Insect enthusiast to entrepreneur

*How one bug lover turned her passion for creepy-crawlies into a small business*

**KALENA REYNOLDS**  
Staff Writer

“The Bug Lady,” business owner Alaina Michaels, grew up watching her peers experiment with questions surrounding their identity and passions. She said her experience was different.

For Michaels, bugs — and more specifically, bees — had always been a significant part of her life. However, Michaels eventually had to shift her emphasis in research due to her extreme allergy to bees.

Michaels graduated with a degree in organismal biology from the University of Arizona, which allowed her to complete research and work in various fields to gain knowledge on different types of species, she said.

“The University of Arizona is a huge research college, obviously, but we have a really great ecology, and it’s just a really cool place to study that [has] lots of weird plants and bugs and stuff,” Michaels said.

From catching minnows in a creek behind her house with her brother to teaching a class at Trident Technical College, Michaels’ entire life has been surrounded by her passion for nature.

“I teach college biology now for my school in South Carolina — still online — so I have a lot of students that come to me and are like, ‘How did you know what you wanted to do?’ And I’m like, ‘I really can’t empathize with you at all because I always knew it was something in biology.’”

After graduating, Michaels moved to Charleston, S.C., with her husband and launched her business, The Bug Lady, in 2022. This business involves creating “pinning workshops,” in which she takes a group of people through a variety of steps so that each person can create their own personal pinned bug.

When first starting The Bug Lady, Michaels messaged local businesses and breweries hoping to find new venues to host workshops. After multiple workshops, Michaels was met with a growing customer base and new enthusiastic business, ultimately picking up a growing clientele.

“So basically, I bring some cool, weird insects ... and I like to yell at you about bugs and bring my education collection, and people were paying me to do that,” Michaels said.

Once word spread about her unique business venture, she began conducting workshops in Montessori schools and curated events.

“People paid me to do after-school programming for their kids and just go out with nets and pretty much hang out,” Michaels said. “We had the little workbooks. It was doing really well. It was kind of however much work I put into it, which is nice when you work for yourself.”



Kalena Reynolds | Staff Writer

**THE BUGS AND THE BEES** Alaina Michaels, also known as “The Bug Lady,” turned her love of insects into a business by hosting pinning workshops around Waco.

After moving to Waco in May 2024 because of a job opportunity for her husband, Sean McBride, Michaels has since been able to transition her business to find new places to host workshops.

McBride said finding new customers in Waco has been easy for Michaels because, like Charleston, word spreads fast and the community prioritizes unique events.

“All of these people talk to each other because both of these towns are so small that everybody just kind of knows everybody,” McBride said. “So as soon as you start working with somebody, everyone else basically just starts jumping on it.”

While Michaels prioritizes fun and entertainment during her workshops, she also incorporates educational elements that emphasize the importance of protecting the species people work with. Michaels said she ensures that she sources her bugs from ethical collectors or people that raise them for educational purposes so they only work with specimens that have had the best quality of life possible.

“It’s somewhere between art and science, and this thing died because we’re doing this, and that’s okay, but I don’t really do a ton of collecting unless it’s for research quality stuff or education stuff anymore,” Michaels said.

## Tickets still available for Forrest Frank concert at Foster Pavilion



Photo courtesy of Baylor Athletics

**OLIVIA TURNER**  
Arts & Life Editor

One of the biggest new names in Christian contemporary music, Forrest Frank, will be paying a visit to the Foster Pavilion at 7 p.m. on April 22. This concert, which still has tickets for the taking, will kick off the first of many musical performances in the venue over the next two years.

Frank is Grammy-nominated for Best Contemporary Christian Music Album for his latest collection of songs, “Child of God.” He has also won two GMA Dove Awards: New Artist of the Year and Pop/Contemporary Recorded Song of the Year for his hit, “GOOD DAY.” He is also a 2017 Baylor alumnus.

“We could not be more excited to have a Baylor alum break the ribbon on the big stage,” Jason Cook, vice president of marketing and communications, said.

It’s only fitting to have Frank be the first to perform at the Foster Pavilion, considering he is one of the vocalists behind Baylor’s latest institutional television commercial, Cook said. The song is a collaboration with pop artist JVKE, titled “Never Get Used To This.”

Cook said choosing Forrest Frank to perform had to do with his popularity among students. When students were asked who they would like to see perform, Frank’s name came up almost every time.

“His music appeals to not only current students, but also prospective students — junior high schoolers as well,” Cook said. “His rise has been truly meteoric, winning Dove Awards and being a Grammy finalist. It was just a blessing to get him at this point in his career.”

The concert was initially announced on Baylor University’s Instagram on Feb. 21. The Tuesday night show was added to part two of Frank’s Child of God tour throughout the U.S.

Ticket sales kicked off with a presale specifically for students, first available to seniors, then juniors, sophomores and freshmen with each passing hour. Tickets were then made available to the general public.

As of now, prices range from \$74 in the nosebleeds to \$121 in the pit.

Claire Leslie, a Christian pop artist from San Antonio, will be opening the show.

“She’s going to be a future star, for sure,” Cook said. “She has a great sound and presence that we think will complement us extremely well and be of great interest to the local community.”

Dr. Kirk Wakefield, executive director of the Center for Sales Strategy in Sports and Entertainment, said Frank’s style and faith-based storytelling in his music is what will draw a crowd on the big night. However, he said he could see those who may not even care about the Christian genre enjoying his music.

“He seems like the perfect match,” Wakefield said. “He plays a type of music that is well-liked here in Texas, and obviously among Baylor students.”

Wakefield also said the draw to see Frank perform could have something to do with most big-name artists skipping over Waco when it comes to live shows. This concert will be an exception, making him likely one of the biggest acts to date to come through the city.

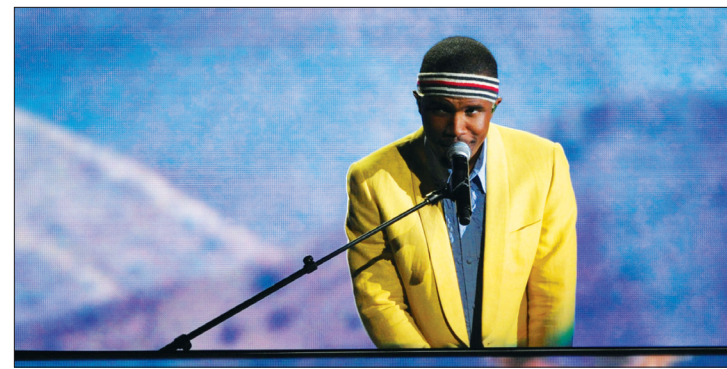
“Most artists, when they’re traveling, you’re going to do Dallas, you’re going to do Austin — probably not doing Waco just because the size of the venues tend to not compete with the size of the ones in these big cities,” Wakefield said.

“We could not be more excited to have a Baylor alum break the ribbon on the big stage.”

**JASON COOK |**  
VICE PRESIDENT OF MARKETING  
AND COMMUNICATIONS

Ultimately, hosting these concerts serves to bolster the student experience and bring the Waco community together with the university, Cook said. This concert series will play a significant role in showcasing this development, energy and momentum along the riverfront in downtown Waco, he said.

“Attendees can anticipate an experience like they wouldn’t see at any other big concert,” Cook said. “Foster Pavilion is such a beautiful facility. The acoustics are tremendous, and we can’t wait to show off the arena in a concert setting.”



Associated Press

## Come back, Frank Ocean!

**KASSIDY TSIKITAS**  
Photo Editor

There I am, scrolling on TikTok. Another person claims Frank Ocean will be dropping a song — and it’s not AI-generated. For over two years, he has teased snippets of new songs or photos of himself in the studio on his Instagram stories.

In honor of this rumor of a song possibly dropping soon, I’m here to go over my favorite songs. Frank Ocean, please come back.

### “BAD RELIGION”

Unrequited love is a universal experience. At some point in life, everyone has loved someone who didn’t feel the same way. “Bad Religion” captures this painful reality — love is never returned. When love becomes an act of worship, it turns into an obsession to start praying for someone to love you back, which can then lead to you having inner turmoil and conflict with spirituality. Love should never be a one-sided devotion, and “Bad Religion” serves as a painful yet beautiful reminder that love, when unreturned, can feel more like a curse than a blessing.

### “BIKING (SOLO)”

“Biking (Solo)” is a reflective song that uses cycling as a metaphor

for life’s journey, independence and emotional ups and downs. Unlike biking with others, where you go through the journey with a support system, the concept of biking solo suggests a deeply personal experience. The lyric “I walk in my sleep and can’t help that” implies the disconnect someone might feel when being alone — or basically in auto pilot — which is so real. The metaphor is of a bike pedaling forward, but always returning to the same patterns of life and possibly losing progression.

### “PYRAMIDS”

This is my favorite song, personally. “Pyramids” is a sprawling, multi-layered track that explores themes of power, wealth, love and exploitation. The best part of this nearly 10-minute song is the two distinct parts; after the minute-long instrumental, it is clear there is a new feel to the song. Frank portrays Cleopatra as the symbol of beauty and power, but eventually falls, made obvious by the line “They have killed Cleopatra.” The second half switches to a modern setting, where a stripper is referred to as Cleopatra. She still holds her beauty and her power while working at the “pyramids.” This song provides a commentary on the role women play in modern society and history. Overall, it’s genius.

Are you a die-hard Frank Ocean fan? Scan here for more songs that are giving us “ultra” nostalgia.



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Photo courtesy of Baylor Athletics

**SPRINGING FORWARD** Junior safety Carl Williams IV (left) and senior safety Devyn Bobby (right) celebrate during the first Baylor football practice of the spring on Saturday at the Simpson Center.

# Aranda: ‘Cleanest first practice ever’

**JACKSON POSEY**  
Sports Writer

Expectations are running high in Waco as Baylor football kicks off spring practices with championship aspirations for the first time since 2022.

“I thought this was by far the cleanest first practice that we’ve had in any facet of a spring, fall camp, season — you name it,” head coach Dave Aranda said. “Expectations are higher, and so there’s for sure things that we can clean up and get better at, but I thought we hit the ground running. I’m excited to be able to see the steps this team takes to get better.”

Aranda, 31-30 in his Baylor career, is returning for a sixth season in Waco after winning six straight regular-season games to escape the hot seat. He’ll lead a suddenly-contending Baylor roster that ranks 11th nationally in returning production, including 72% of an offense that ranked third in the Big 12 in yards per game.

Offensive coordinator Jake Spavital declined overtures from Oklahoma to stay in Waco. He’ll be

joined by a loaded arsenal of offensive weaponry, highlighted by redshirt senior quarterback Sawyer Robertson (3,301 total yards, 32 touchdowns), redshirt sophomore running back Bryson Washington (1,245 yards, 13 touchdowns) and redshirt senior wide receiver Josh Cameron (754 yards, 10 touchdowns).

“It’s hard to say [with] college football nowadays that this is your team, but I think at this stage, this team loves football,” Aranda said. “Sawyer’s up there all the time, wants to get better, and you just have guys that are just way investing. And it shows up when you start playing.”

Aranda placed three-star freshman quarterback Edward Griffin among that group, crediting the early enrollee multiple times as a “great example” of a player fighting to get better.

“He’s a maniac for ball,” Aranda said. “He’s up there all the time and wants to get better. ... I think he really did some great things, like [Auburn transfer Walker White] did some good things. Our quarterback room, I would put up as one of the strongest ones I’ve ever been around just in

terms of people and athletic ability and then care factor.”

“This was by far the cleanest first practice that we’ve had in any facet of a spring, fall camp, season, you name it.”

**DAVE ARANDA | HEAD COACH**

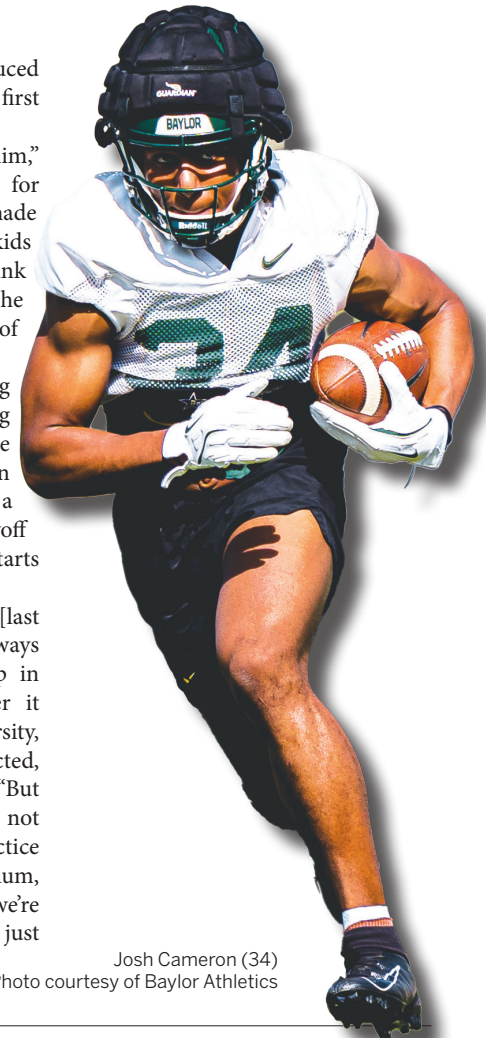
Among the latest developments for the Bears is a trio of staff additions, headlined by former University High School head coach Kaeron Johnson. Johnson spent two seasons with the Trojans, a program that was 16-83

in the prior decade. But he produced back-to-back winning seasons, a first since 2002-03.

“There’s an energy level with him,” Aranda said. “There is a love for Baylor, and I think he’s already made an impact with our kids. The kids love being around him, and I think one of his greatest strengths is ... he has that ability to see that kind of what’s below the surface.”

The Bears are fighting to string together consecutive winning seasons for the first time since 2018-19, and expectations are even higher. The Bears are considered a legitimate College Football Playoff contender. The path to January starts in March.

“The way that we finished [last season], I think there was always [a fear] that it would show up in a spring ball practice, whether it was this adversity or that adversity, or a lot of it was self-inflicted, unfortunately,” Aranda said. “But to get it to where all of that was not just glimpses throughout the practice schedules, but in McLane Stadium, or at whatever stadium we’re playing at ... what that does is just build confidence.”



Josh Cameron (34)  
Photo courtesy of Baylor Athletics

## A&T nail tech creates unique designs for team

**KALENA REYNOLDS**  
Staff Writer

Business owner and nail artist Minah Reynolds started pursuing her passion for nails when she was just 16 years old. Now, Reynolds has a unique niche of clientele she loves to serve — Baylor acrobatics and tumbling.

The girls began working with her four years ago after a recommendation from senior tumbler Aliyah Kaloostian. Each team member has unique preferences and flair that Reynolds flawlessly executes.

“[Kaloostian] was the first person that liked her, and then she said that she regretted giving her to us because now our whole team uses her,” sophomore tumbler Payton Washington said.

What makes Reynolds’s business unique is the pricing. While most nail salons charge based on material and design, she charges based on length.

“She’s super flexible, she knows that we’re super busy too, so she works with that and our practices and our needs,” Washington said. “So she’s great, and she’s amazing. ... She’s so good at what she does, she can literally just look at a picture and just draw it in like an hour.”

While the team requests all sorts of nail designs, from charms to plain polish, Reynolds’ specialty is hand-painted intricate designs.

“I’ll normally get some gold, some white when we’re getting closer to, like, nannies. And for more meets, so it’s matching, but right now they aren’t matching at all,” Washington said. “But everyone does different stuff. For Disney, I did Stitch nails, and she drew Stitch on there. So she really can do anything.”

Reynolds’ original love for design came from an early love of painting and art, which she transferred to nails to create one-of-a-kind images for her clients.

“I’ve always been an artist, I like to draw, I used to paint, and so I just put that into a smaller canvas, you could say,” Reynolds said. “They just bring me their inspiration, and I’ll do it. And then sometimes they can’t find something, and they ask me to freestyle a set, but most of the



Kalena Reynolds | Staff Writer

**READY TO ROLL** Minah Reynolds crafts one-of-a-kind designs for Baylor acro and tumbling athletes with focused design and texture to overcome pressure from tumbling during matches.

time, they will find something and an inspo [picture] and have me do it.”

After high school, Reynolds put herself through nursing school by continuing her nail business. After graduation, she began working but eventually quit her job and returned to doing nails after realizing how much she missed the creativity behind it.

“I missed doing nails,” Reynolds said. “It’s like my calling.”

Reynolds moved from California to Waco in 2020 and worked in a nail shop for two and a half years before opening her own studio in 2023. She said that it was a difficult process at first due to “upfront costs and having to put everything together yourself.”

Because Reynolds is able to craft her own schedule, she can accommodate the athletes’ hectic practice and class schedules. Not only does Reynolds find time slots that work for them, but she also curates nails that are ensured to stay on through any type of damage they might go through while tumbling.

“It all comes down to the prepping of the nails,” Reynolds said. “I do a really good prepping clean up before I apply the acrylic, and after that, you clean it really well, and that is shaped into the nail so that you don’t [leave] any space for air bubbles to come in so that they won’t come off.”

While most of Reynolds’ customers ask for gel nails, she also does dip, acrylic, builder gel and gel-x to accommodate any client’s needs.

“I will never try anything on people now that I don’t know how to do because that’s your money, and if you work hard for your money, I want you to be happy with your nails,” Reynolds said. “I want you to walk out of here happy and love your nails. I just want to make girls feel pretty with their nails.”

Reynolds also said that she is “incredibly appreciative of the acro girls and is very thankful for their support.”

Reynolds’ salon is located at 716 Lake Air Dr. in Waco. To schedule an appointment, follow her and connect on Instagram @minahguyennails.

## ‘Baylor Blitz’

*Football announces new-look spring game, youth camp and apparel sale*

**FOSTER NICHOLAS**  
Sports Editor

Baylor football is set to host the Baylor Blitz, a youth skills challenge and open practice, in place of the annual Green & Gold spring game to cap off spring camp on April 26 at McLane Stadium.

The event will open with a youth football skill challenge at 10 a.m., for up to 300 registered participants in grades 3-8. The students will rotate through stationed drills alongside Baylor athletes and coaches before turning over to a Baylor football practice at noon.

In a similar fashion to the 2024 spring practice, the Bears will go through drills including 7-on-7, Perimeter, Down the Line, 1-on-1 challenges and more. The event is open to the public and free to attend. Fans can enter through Gate C and purchase concessions in the stadium.

The Baylor Blitz will also introduce a “Surplus Sale” where fans can purchase game-worn jerseys, exclusive bowl game gear, and new team-issued apparel. In the case of poor weather, the event be canceled and the Surplus Sale rescheduled.

The Bears opened a 15-day spring practice schedule on Saturday, which will close on April 26. Baylor will take the field on Thursday and Saturday this week at the Fudge Football Development Center.



