

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

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EDITORIAL

AI doesn’t belong on our president’s socials

It’s happened to most of us. We see a video of a puppy and piglet waiting out a rainstorm together in a cave. When they emerge, a beautiful double rainbow has formed off in the distance. The animals are so cute and the scenery is so idyllic that we feel compelled to send it to as many of our friends as possible.

Only to find out the video had been generated by artificial intelligence.

That’s OK; it may have been a little embarrassing to be duped by something like that. But essentially, no harm was done. Older generations have exhibited difficulty in differentiating AI-generated content from genuine, that problem will compound as the technology progresses.

It becomes more dangerous when public figures, especially government officials, spread AI-generated media. Take, for instance, the recent image posted to X by Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr. The image features President Donald Trump, Kennedy and

several other high-ranking government officials seated around a lavish Thanksgiving meal on Air Force One.

At first glance, the image appears real but upon close inspection, the meal on the table is clearly AI-generated. What makes the post even stranger is that the rest of the image is real, except the extravagant Thanksgiving meal was actually a spread of McDonald’s Big Mac’s and fries.

Kennedy is not the only official in the Trump administration posting AI-generated content to social media. The president himself frequently posts AI-generated videos to Truth Social, taking shots at political opponents.

During the recent government shutdown, Trump posted an AI-generated video blaming the Democratic Party for layoffs and departmental budget cuts. The video features an AI-generated parody of Blue Öyster Cult’s “Don’t Fear the Reaper.” Trump and Vice President JD Vance are imagined as part of a ghostly



James Ellis | Cartoonist

“These are not social media posts you would expect from a head of state but rather from a 13-year-old trying to create offensive content in an attempt to prompt political division.”

backing band, with the titular ‘Reaper’ being represented as Russell Vought, director of the Office of Management and Budget.

During the shutdown, 670,000 federal employees were furloughed, and thousands more worked through it without pay. Videos such as the one posted by Trump trivialized the plight of federal workers during the shutdown. The president did not genuinely care about their well-being but only about their value as political pawns.

On another occasion, Trump posted an AI video

of himself in the cockpit of a fighter jet, defecating on No Kings rally attendees below.

These are not social media posts you would expect from a head of state but rather from a 13-year-old trying to create offensive content in an attempt to prompt political division. Instead of responding to valid criticisms like adults, the Trump administration is behaving like petulant children.

Nearly a year into Trump’s second term, social media has played an important role in the administration’s

communication with the American people. In February, the official White House account posted a video to X with the caption “ASMR: Illegal Alien Deportation Flight.” The video features close-up shots of detainees being bound in chains and loaded onto a waiting plane.

This video and similar videos posted by the Department of Homeland Security make it clear that the Trump administration does not view illegal immigrants as human beings, but

merely as props for social media engagement. The dehumanizing rhetoric and imagery used by Trump against illegal immigrants, characterizing them all as violent criminals, bears a striking resemblance to old defenses of slavery.

These types of posts on social media are only helping further the divide between political parties. To help the country heal, social media platforms should take steps to ban AI-generated content.

Baylor’s attendance policy needs student-centered facelift

JACOB STOWERS
Broadcast Reporter

Baylor’s attendance policy needs reform. Let me paint a familiar picture for you. Your alarm goes off at 7:30 a.m. for your 1000-level STEM class that you are taking, even though you are a history major. So naturally, you roll over and shut it off to sleep in. In that instance you, of course, deserve the absence.



Now let’s change the scenario: the same thing happens, but you wake up with a fever, go to the Baylor Health Center and get a note from one of their physicians stating you are unfit to attend classes that day. If that were to occur, you would receive the same absence that you would have if you skipped class to sleep in. That absence is considered excused by the university, but still contributes to your total absence count and grade if applicable.

The College of Arts and Sciences

states in its absence policy that “A student must attend at least 75 percent of all scheduled class meetings.” It then states, “Any student who does not meet this minimal standard will automatically receive a grade of ‘F’ in the course.” Meaning if you come down with a cold and miss a week of a class that meets on Tuesday and Thursday, you have already expended one-third of your allowable absences for the semester.

I completely understand a professor’s skepticism about a student calling in sick without a note; however, the university should not count a student’s serious illness against them, especially if there is documented proof that the individual is unfit to attend class.

I transferred from Syracuse University last year, and its absence policy was determined on a professor-by-professor basis. Some classes had stringent attendance policies, while others had none. While that is the complete opposite of Baylor’s policy, I feel there should be a middle ground that balances regular class attendance with more situational leniency on the students’ part.

School-sponsored events should be held to the same standard. For example, suppose a student has

the opportunity to represent the university or their department in public, like at a conference or competition. In that case, that absence should also be excused in the same manner as sickness. The current absence policy disincentivizes students from embracing opportunities outside of class that could further the university’s reach or their own skill set.

Within reason, a student should not be afraid to attend an event during class time as long as their department or the university agrees it would be beneficial to university or student growth.

So I have presented the main problems afflicting the students, but let’s talk about solutions. First, the simplest change to the sickness policy is that if a student submits a doctor’s note stating they cannot attend class, the university should not count that absence toward their total absence count for the classes they missed.

Professors should still be able to determine their own late-work and grading policies for absences, but the university-wide policy should not penalize documented illness.

Regarding school events, the university should adopt the athletic absence policy and apply it to all

“My proposed version of the attendance policy allows students to miss class while representing the university and also addresses how professors should handle late work resulting from absences.”

students pending departmental approval. This policy states, “If a varsity student-athlete is required to participate in an official athletic

competition and must miss class to participate (or travel to participate) in that competition, this absence is ordinarily considered to be excused and should not be counted against the student-athlete.” It then goes on to say, “Moreover, provided that the student-athlete seeks to make arrangements before the absence to complete scheduled assignments, the faculty member will work with the student to allow for the completion of missed classwork and assignments.”

My proposed version of the attendance policy allows students to miss class while representing the university and also addresses how professors should handle late work resulting from absences.

Please go to class; it is essential and a necessary part of college. However, based on my experience, these small changes would immensely improve the overall student experience.

If you agree the attendance policy needs to be changed, I strongly urge you to contact the college or school you are part of, or the student government, to propose the changes outlined above.

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Virtual institute connects peers with opportunities

JOSH SIATKOWSKI
Staff Writer

Most organizations led by students are lucky to sign up a few new members and get funding for an occasional meal. But one group, led by a network of college students across the country — including a Baylor freshman — has gotten hundreds of students to sign up and received commitments for over \$1 million in charitable donations. And they don't launch until next month.

Founded by Ryan Hanson and his sister Julia, both students at TCU, the Bellwether Leadership Institute connects college students with highly successful professionals for mentorship, conversation and scholarship opportunities.

"In universities, everything we're learning is great, but a lot of [Bellwether's] content is stuff that you can't necessarily get on a consistent basis," said co-founder Ryan Hanson, a sophomore real estate finance major.

Launching in January, the Bellwether Leadership Institute is virtual-only and open for free to all students of any college, and even non-students. Events are organized into "Titan Talks" every other week, which are interviews and Q&As with highly successful businessmen and women. Confirmed speakers for the series include Ray Wirta, the former CEO of CBRE, the world's largest real estate brokerage, and Glen Stearns, a billionaire mortgage lender and star of Discovery's "Undercover Billionaire" TV show.

Bellwether will also include monthly mentorship meetings



Photo courtesy of Michael Ahern

NETWORKING Pictured are 16 of the 22 students who are helping launch the Bellwether Leadership Institute. The students come from 14 different schools.

where students can interact with older and younger professionals alike. But this highly structured, highly funded endeavor all started "by accident," Hanson said.

"I had a group of friends that knew my dad had done well in his industry," Hanson said. "They came to me and they asked if we could hop on Zoom calls. ... My dad would break down the verticals within commercial real estate, and then from there he'd also break down personality profiles, and he'd talk about which career path is most suitable for each."

Jeff Hanson, Ryan and Julia Hanson's father, is a commercial real estate professional and the chairman of American Healthcare REIT, a real estate investment trust with a market capitalization of over \$9 billion. After a few meetings with Hanson's friends and his father, conversations

continued to grow.

"I mentioned [the meetings] to my friends, and they mentioned it to theirs," Hanson said. "And the next thing you know, we have a ton of students from all across the U.S. on these Zoom calls. And then my dad started bringing some of his friends on for more of a diverse perspective."

As the attendance of the meetings increased, Hanson sought to add more structure to the program, and he reached out to his family and friends to build an organizational plan.

Now the organization has lined up over a dozen high-profile, high-net worth speakers for "Titan Talks," who have collectively committed over \$1 million to fund scholarships for Bellwether members. The program is run by 22 students across 14 different colleges who lead outreach at their respective schools. One

of those students is Ladera Ranch, Calif., freshman Michael Ahern, who grew up with Ryan Hanson.

"What Ryan asked me to do for Baylor was ... present [the mission] as much as I can," Ahern said. "I'm reaching out to different people here and presenting to a ton of people, which I never thought I would ever do."

Advertising Bellwether to business school clubs, Ahern said Bellwether "fills a gap" that many business students are at risk of having in their education.

"A lot of people want to be successful, but few know how to be successful," Ahern said. "I think Bellwether really fills in that gap, not just showing successful people, but through the leadership and mentor sessions, showing what it means to be successful, and how you really do that."

The outreach done by Ahern and other founding associates has been effective, with awareness and involvement growing rapidly. Even though the organization does not officially launch until January, pre-launch marketing has attracted almost 1,000 prospective members.

"Every time I check our Excel page, the numbers just continue to go up," Hanson said of the registration count.

As Bellwether prepares to launch its first official Titan Talks in January, interested students can register online. While the list of speakers is currently dominated by real estate professionals because of Hanson's background, Logan Hill — Bellwether's operations manager and a student at Mount St. Jacinto College in California — said the value of the conversations

extend far beyond industry knowledge, as a participant in the first meetings with Hanson's father.

"Eighty percent of the content within the 'Titan Talks' is really going to transcend any one particular industry," Hill said. "It really changed my perspective on what success looks like. Not just how to get there, but how to retain it and how to share it with others. [Hanson's father] really helped tailor my thinking to be more specific and directional, to the point where now I have a clear idea of what I want to do over the next five to 10 years."

He called the conversations "an example of something really powerful that I ... was really excited to share with other people," and now, he and the rest of the Bellwether's Institute's founders are doing just that.

US Mint pinching pennies



Caleb Garcia | Photographer

SPARE CHANGE As of Nov. 12, the United States Mint no longer produces pennies.

JULIANA VAZQUEZ
Staff Writer

From lucky pennies to making every penny count, the coin has made its mark on America. But the iconic currency is facing its end as the United States Mint officially minted its last penny on Nov. 12.

The penny has been in circulation since 1793 and is one of the first coins the Mint created after its founding in 1792. In recent years, however, economists and consumers alike have begun to question the value of the penny and whether or not it outweighs the cost of producing the currency.

Dr. Charles North, the director of Baylor Business Fellows, said the penny has been endangered over the last 30 to 40 years, with policymakers making several arguments in favor of ceasing its production. The strongest argument, North said, was the actual cost of minting a penny.

"The materials are not worth more than a penny, [but] the cost of the materials, plus the process to create the coin is more expensive than a penny," North said.

Additionally, the penny has slowly lost its monetary value over the years due to inflation, said Economics Graduate Program Director Dr. Finley Edwards.

"They are no longer useful in buying things [in] all the places that we use coins in a functional sense," Edwards said. "Pennies have been mostly pointless for a long time."

The value of currency naturally changes as the years go by, North said, especially with the Federal Reserve's annual 2% inflation target.

"The value of currency has changed, and that is because of this sort of persistent

inflation that we have every year," North said.

According to Edwards, fans of the penny have nothing to fear, as already minted pennies will remain in circulation throughout the U.S. economy.

"We've stopped minting the penny [but] there are probably millions of pennies still in circulation," Edwards said. "Eventually they will phase out, but that's not happening anytime soon."

If transactions come out to be a value that's not a denominator of five, consumers may notice a difference in their receipts, although it likely will only be the difference of a few cents, Edwards said.

"We may start to see some stores ... rounding to the nearest nickel or other denomination ... but it's not going to affect shoppers," Edwards said.

North said the majority of shoppers likely won't be impacted by this change, though. USA Today said this decision would likely affect only those who pay in cash, as the penny shortage continues.

"The volume of cash transactions is substantially lower today than historically because so many people pay with a card," North said. "The fact that we have so many people using digital transactions makes it easier for them to get rid of pennies."

Edwards has seen the indifference students and shoppers alike show toward the penny firsthand, aside from its physical form. Whether it will be missed can only be determined with time.

"I will drop a penny on the ground at the beginning of class, and I'll have multiple sections come in and nobody picks it up," Edwards said. "If it actually had something of value, you would have picked it up."

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Sam Gassaway | Photographer

SIGN OF THE TIMES Baylor’s National Signing Day Class on Wednesday consisted of 12 players — five shy of the Bears’ original 27th-ranked class. Five players flipped their commitments since a 31-24 loss to Houston officially ended Baylor’s bowl hopes. The program now has the nation’s No. 79-ranked class and the second-fewest commits in the Big 12.

Recruits flip amid ‘tough circumstances’

JEFFREY COHEN
Sports Writer

Baylor’s top three high school commits flipped ahead of Wednesday’s National Signing Day after the Bears failed to reach a bowl game. Baylor lost its season finale to Houston on Saturday, 31-24.

Defensive lineman Jamarion Carlton (Temple) committed to Texas and cornerback Jamarion Vincent (Waco Connally) flipped to Michigan within 24 hours of the final game of the season. Wide receiver Jordan Clay (San Antonio Madison) announced his flip to Washington on Tuesday. All three were four-star recruits.

The recent shift in the class marks the culmination of recruiting battles for an underperforming team. The Bears (5-7, 3-6 Big 12) had preseason expectations of competing for a Big 12 championship but ended up missing a bowl game. Holding onto top prospects was a fight — one that Baylor did not win.

“It’s a tough fight to have,” head coach Dave Aranda said. “It’s the circumstances that we’re in right now that are by our own doing, and it’s tough circumstances to be in.”

Beyond the top three flips, offensive linemen Kole Seaton (Oklahoma State) and Marcus Page Jr. (Rice) decommitted in recent days. The pair exits the class as Baylor remains without an offensive line coach following Mason Miller’s departure from the program in October.

Baylor ultimately signed 12 players on National Signing Day. Aranda still sees promise in the new class despite slipping to No. 79 in the nation.

“We’re looking for guys that can put themselves out in front,” Aranda said. “They can take responsibility and accountability for not only them, but for the team.”

Leading the way on defense is four-star defensive lineman Jae’Lin Battle. The Edmond, Okla. native is listed as 247Sports’ No. 160 player in the nation, No. 2 in Oklahoma and No. 22 among defensive linemen. He is the Bears’ highest-rated recruit in the Top247 rankings.

Battle appears to be a force on the interior defensive line with upsides in short-area power and athleticism. He recorded a single season-best 62 total tackles with 17 for loss this season. He will be joining a defensive line that allowed 197 rushing yards per game and is losing redshirt senior Jackie Marshall.

“He’s so powerful, with his lower center of gravity, he can make plays sideline to sideline,” Aranda said. “His pass rush ability is underrated.”

Four-star athlete Ryelan Morris is making his way to Baylor from Honey Grove. He is believed to have plenty of upside at the Power Four level despite playing small school (Class 2A) football and measuring at 5-foot-9 and 160 pounds.

“He is a home run hitter out of the backfield,” Aranda said. “Anytime you can give a guy a ball and three yards can go to 80 yards, there’s a positive, and we got that with him.”

Morris has emerged as a running back and wide receiver while also sprinkling some time at quarterback throughout his four seasons on varsity. This past year, he has accumulated over 2,100 yards and 30 touchdowns on the ground while making 18

receptions for 295 yards and five scores through the air. He is projected to give Baylor the opportunity for more creative play calling while also having big play potential.

The highest-rated receiver in the Bears’ 2026 class is four-star London Smith. The hometown receiver from

“It’s the circumstances that we’re in right now that are by our own doing.”

DAVE ARANDA
HEAD COACH

Waco’s University High School is the No. 43 player in Texas and the 45th-best receiver in the country.

“He has the quickness and the agility to play in the slot, but he’s got the hands and the release mechanics to win one-on-one,” Aranda said. “We’re excited for him. A playmaker and a leader.”

He totaled over 1,400 yards and 20 touchdowns as a senior, capped off by a 256-yard, three-touchdown performance in University’s final game of the season.

Smith’s father, Rodney, was a safety at Baylor from 1996 to 1999 and ranks in the top 10 all-time in

solo tackles for the program.

“He loves Baylor,” Aranda said. “He wants to be here. He wants to win. He wants to flip [the program].”

The other receiver and highest rated three-star in Baylor’s class is Davion Peters. The Temple native finished his senior season with 38 catches for 738 yards and nine touchdowns while gaining 193 yards and a score on the ground for Lake Belton.

Peters chose Baylor over Arkansas and rounds out a receiver group hoping to help with the departure of Baylor’s top four pass-catchers.

“You want kids that are from here locally, who want to come and play here in front of their families,” Aranda said. “You want them to be proud about representing.”

Quarterback Quinn Murphy is a three-star recruit who has thrown for over 3,000 yards in his last two seasons at Argyle Liberty Christian, tallying 83 touchdowns to eight interceptions. Murphy committed to Baylor over Stanford, Arizona and Kansas State.

Aranda said Murphy exudes many leadership qualities. He messaged Aranda multiple times about the recruits flipping and enforced his desire to play at Baylor. He hopes to emulate redshirt senior quarterback Sawyer Robertson and his ability to lead on and off the field.

“He saw what Sawyer was doing ... and the way Sawyer was using his platform for his faith,” Aranda said. “That was a big inspiration for Quinn.”

Donel Robinson is the only offensive line signee for the Bears. The 19th-best player in Mississippi

has experience on both sides of the line of scrimmage but has been recruited as an interior offensive lineman. Robinson committed to the Bears over Florida State.

“There’s some rawness to him,” Aranda said. “His best football is ahead of him. There’s a nastiness and an aggressiveness and dog mentality.”

Three-star Jamarion Richardson comes to Waco as the No. 43 cornerback in the nation. Richardson played all three phases in high school, appearing at cornerback, receiver and returner. He also ran a 10.71 100-meter time as a junior to go to Texas 4A regionals for Texarkana Pleasant Grove.

“Jamarion’s got great speed, great ability to go up and make a play and his ball skills are elite,” Aranda said. “He’s a little bit shorter in stature, but way fast. He can jump really high, can come down with the ball.”

Jordan Davis committed to Baylor as the only safety in the class. The No. 57 safety in the country recorded 78 tackles and seven tackles for loss as a senior. Davis is poised to be a big physical presence in the secondary at 6-foot-2 and weighing 193 pounds.

“His ability to pack on weight and his physicality at that position is something that we have not had since we’ve been here,” Aranda said.

Davis comes from a family full of athletes. His father, Reggie, played for Washington before playing for the Chargers and coaching in the NFL, UFL and college football. He also has the potential to take a similar path to his father’s.

RECRUITING >> A5

Sports Take: Bears finish season bowl-less

DYLAN FINK
Sports Writer

The holiday season is here, and with it comes a time to consider what one is thankful for. While others may be grateful for friends and family, Baylor football fans are thankful that the ignominious 2025 season has finally come to an end.

“Yeah, just frustrated and sad with the outcome of this season,” head coach Dave Aranda said. “We wanted to win for the seniors and also for the extended Baylor family ... It’s been too long since that was the case.”

Baylor (5-7, 3-6 Big 12) came into the season with hopes high for what was queued up to be one of the more successful runs of Aranda’s tenure in Waco. Beginning the season receiving a handful of votes that placed the green and gold just outside the preseason AP Top 25, the Bears capped off another bowl-less year with a 31-24 loss to Houston on Saturday.

“In a lot of ways, this game is reflective of how the season went,” Aranda said. “Tough to look at and tough to swallow.”

Aranda’s team showed a multitude of

flaws in its season opener against Auburn at McLane Stadium. The Tigers beat the Bears 38-24 and, despite redshirt senior quarterback Sawyer Robertson throwing for 419 yards and three touchdowns, Aranda’s defense was chewed to shreds, allowing 307 rushing yards to Baylor’s 64.

That loss was chalked up to be a one-off drop the team would learn from, as Baylor went on to get the program’s first ranked win since 2021 in a 48-45 double-overtime victory over No. 17 SMU.

Robertson’s 440 yards and four touchdowns in the win put the captain at Baylor’s helm into Heisman conversations across the nation.

Two interceptions in a buy game against Samford in Week 3 changed the course for the talented senior. Something was lost, as the notorious swagger fans came to love from the nation’s passing yards leader, went on to finish the season with a 2.6-to-1 touchdown-to-interception ratio.

“That’s kind of been par for the course this season,” Robertson said after the loss to Houston. “Just being in the fight but always having to swim upstream.”

The Bears reached their first bye week

at 4-2. With what appeared to be the more difficult half of the season behind them, the green and gold were expected to finish strong.

Baylor went 1-5 in the second half of the season.

In a normal season at a normal football program, Aranda would’ve been removed from his head-coaching role. But Baylor neither had a normal season, nor is it a normal football program.

Less than a week after OutKick reported that Athletic Director Mack Rhoades had been investigated for an altercation with star tight end Michael Trigg on the sideline, Rhoades took a leave of absence for “personal reasons” while the university enacted an investigation into separate allegations.

On Nov. 20, Baylor’s athletic director stepped down after nine years in the role.

The next day, President Linda Livingstone published a letter confirming that, due to the unforeseen circumstances of searching for an athletic director, the university would retain Aranda despite the disappointing season.



Alyssa Meyers | Photographer

NO DICE Baylor’s 31-24 loss to Houston on Saturday ended the Bears’ season and removed them from bowl contention.

FOOTBALL >> A5

Sports

Soccer standout season

Baylor women’s soccer lays foundation with 2025 campaign

MARISSA ESSENBERG
Sports Writer

Baylor women’s soccer spent 2025 rewriting its own standard — climbing the rankings, collecting new accolades and reaching its first NCAA Tournament Sweet 16 in eight years, all while delivering the best season of Michelle Lenard’s tenure.

What started in July, when campus sat empty and student-athletes made up most of the noise in Waco, quickly grew into something bigger for the women along the Brazos River. Through the thick of the Texas summer — on the pitch and in the weight room — the Bears laid the groundwork for a season built on fight, faith and dominance, fueled by the belief that this year would write a new chapter in Baylor soccer history.

The results spoke loudly. Baylor capped the season ranked No. 23 in the nation with a 14-5-4 record — doubling its win total from a year ago — strengthened by a 7-3-1 conference mark and an 8-1 home slate. It became the springboard that launched the Bears to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament and firmly established them among the nation’s elite from August to November.

“It’s something that has been, and continues to be, really special,” head coach Michelle Lenard said. “It’s an ambition and a goal we set for ourselves four years ago, and now we’re seeing it come to fruition. It’s great for the girls to see what can happen when you have a vision and stay committed to that vision and plan. I’m hopeful and optimistic that we’ll keep seeing that for years to come.”

Those words became reality early, as Baylor picked up key wins over No. 17 Mississippi State, No. 14 Kansas and Texas — results that set the tone for a season built on consistency rather than surprise. Each early victory added weight to the Bears’ résumé and hinted at a team capable of chasing a Big 12 title.

That steadiness translated into national recognition. On Oct. 8, Baylor appeared in the United Soccer Coaches poll for the first time that season, debuting at No. 14 nationally, No. 2 in the conference and No. 4 in the RPI.

Despite falling to Texas Tech in their only home loss of the season — a result later avenged in the Big 12 Tournament — Baylor remained steady. The Bears tore through one of the nation’s toughest conferences, finishing 7-3-1 in league play, earning five All-Big 12 honors and securing a No. 5 finish. Led by Big 12 Midfielder of the Year Tyler Isgrig, the team positioned itself as one of the conference’s most consistent and competitive from start to finish.

Ahead of the season opener, Isgrig pointed to what sets this group apart.

“This team has the most depth and experience since I’ve been at Baylor,” Isgrig said. “We’re better equipped to find that extra edge late in games. We’ve been here, we’ve seen these moments and now we’re able to build more momentum down the stretch than we have in previous years.”

Baylor added two new starters this season in freshman



SETTING THE STANDARD The Bears celebrate a 2-1 win against No. 11 seed Colorado on Oct 5., at Betty Lou Mays field. Brady Harris | Photographer

midfielder Olivia Hess and Purdue transfer Lauren Omholt, both of whom stepped seamlessly into the lineup. But the team’s foundation still came from its seniors, whose experience and leadership not only set the standard the Bears played to all year but also helped cement their legacy in Baylor soccer history. That group — Hannah and Hallie Augustyn, Tyler Isgrig, Azul Alvarez, Blythe Obar, Kai Hayes, Morgan Greensage and Ashlee Zirkel — shaped the program’s identity on and off the field.

“We asked them to come alongside us and believe in the vision we have for this program,” Lenard said. “With their resilience and ability to overcome adversity, they’ve done exactly that and built something really special. They’ve meant everything to this team and to this program. I’m super proud of them and everything they’ve accomplished.”

Isgrig shared that pride from the players’ side.

“It’s special to be here, especially in Michelle’s coaching era, and to be part of this milestone,” Isgrig said. “I hope it becomes the standard for years to come after this senior class leaves.”

As the seniors leave their mark on the program, the Bears’ future remains anchored by a group ready to build on that foundation.

All-Big 12 First Team goalkeeper Alvarez, despite being a senior, returns with an extra year of eligibility, along with the frontline of Callie Conrad, Theresa McCullough and Omholt. Key bench pieces Aryanna Jimison and Alysiah Lockette also return, while freshman standout Hess and defender Natalie Vatter — the lone returning member of the back line — round out a lineup poised to carry forward the standard the seniors helped create.

While the numbers told one story, the meaning behind the season told another.

The records mattered. The rankings mattered. The wins mattered. But for a program reaching heights it hadn’t seen in seven years, the season’s truest measure wasn’t found on a stat sheet. It came back to the source that grounded them, bonded them and carried them through the year’s defining moments.

“With the Lord, we know that we’re fearless and can play with confidence,” graduate midfielder Kai Hayes said. “Being able to pray, do our devotionals together, Bible studies, whatever it is — we’re really just looking to the Lord, asking, seeking, knocking, and he’s provided in so many ways. That’s our ‘why’ and who we do it for. Whether we win or we don’t, we know it’s for the good and glory of God.”

FOOTBALL from A4

“We recognize this decision will generate strong opinions,” Livingstone said. “Let me be clear: Baylor expects excellence, accountability and competitiveness at the highest level. We are not complacent, and we are not settling for mediocrity.”

Fans across social media expressed their distaste with the decision to keep Aranda. The players, on the other hand, saw the upcoming game at Arizona as an opportunity to defend their leader.

“Dude shows up, goes to work and works his butt off every day,” Robertson said. “It’s inspiring, honestly, because you go to war for guys like that.”

Baylor lost to Arizona 41-17 with four turnovers, all of which led to Wildcat touchdowns.

Despite the unfortunate outcome of the season, many of the graduating Bears remain thankful for the experience they had representing the green and gold.

“I love this place and I’m always going to come back,” redshirt senior wide receiver Josh Cameron said. “I’m Baylor for life, and it means everything to me.”

Robertson finished his three-year career in Waco as the fourth all-time leader in both passing touchdowns and passing yards for Baylor.

“You always want to leave places better than you found it [when] you got here, both on and off the football field,” Robertson said. “Even though the season was what it was this year, I fought and tried my hardest to do that. Hopefully, that grit and fight we showed is the foundation that is laid for Baylor football for years to come.”

Baylor looks ahead to what is sure to be an interesting offseason, with many key players exhausting their eligibility, including Robertson, Cameron and Trigg. The Bears now stand before a sea of unknown for what the future of the program will be.

RECRUITING from A4



FINALE Head coach Dave Aranda reflects on the Bears’ 31-24 loss to Houston last Saturday. Caleb Garcia | Photographer

His mother, Jennifer, also played basketball at Duke, and his sister, Kayla, is a former Davidson volleyball player.

Kai Wesley is the top-rated tight end in Baylor’s 2026 class. The three-star from Orem, Utah, towers over defenders at 6-foot-7, 240 pounds. Wesley gained 401 yards and five scores on 21 receptions for the 12-2 Orem Tigers. He is listed as the No. 14 player in Utah and the No. 47 tight end in the country.

The Bears’ second tight end is Parker Almanza, a three-star out of Trophy Club Byron Nelson. The brother of Baylor freshman cornerback Leo Almanza Jr., Parker Almanza has mainly played quarterback. He has thrown for over 2,600 yards with 31 touchdowns and five interceptions under center, while catching two passes for 48 yards and a touchdown.

“I think Kai gives us that ability and Parker does too, where they can play on the line and then play flexed out,” Aranda said. “If I can take someone that’s an inside guy and put them

outside and the guy that walks out with them is a matchup advantage for us, then you want that.”

Edge rusher Tyrone Morgan is a three-star from Baton Rouge, La., standing at 6-foot-3 and weighing 240 pounds. Morgan found himself in the backfield often, with 17 tackles for loss and 12 sacks in his senior season. He is listed as the No. 42 player in Louisiana.

Jamarion Phillips is a three-star recruit from South Oak Cliff. The 6-foot, 220-pound linebacker chose Baylor over Arkansas, Florida State and Georgia Tech. Aranda praised him for his speed and “suddenness,” while also having a “nose for the football.”

“He’s been underrated his whole career,” Aranda said. “He’s battled through some stuff this year but is one of the most electric playmakers that we’ve got.”

The new signing class is the first domino of an offseason full of questions to answer for the Bears and their ability to bounce back from an underwhelming 5-7 season.

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Hot, hot! Yeah, Waco’s got it!

Here are the best cups of hot chocolate in town

STACIE BOYLS
Arts & Life Writer

Here we only have one rule. Never. Ever. Let it cool.

That’s right, folks, it’s time to celebrate the holiday season Tom Hanks-style — with sleigh bells ringing and hot chocolate piping. With so many sufficient café options to achieve the latter, one begs the question, “Where can I get a good cup of hot chocolate around here?”

Fortunately for you, with a grueling review process, five Waco hot spots were put to the ultimate hot chocolate test. Each beverage was ranked on a scale of 1-10, with 5 being the average point, on its creativity, affordability, presentation and taste. Here are the results.

THRST COFFEE SHOP

Creativity: 2/10, Affordability: 2/10, Presentation: 4/10, Taste: 3/10

In last place is Thrst Coffee Shop. While the environment and other café beverages served here are pleasant and cozy, its hot chocolate fell short of the mark.

With an average score of 2.75/10, it produced an OK hot chocolate. The chocolate was just Hershey’s Chocolate Syrup and heated milk. Yes, this gets the job done, but there was nothing about this drink that couldn’t be done at home. For a price



Stacie Boyls | Arts & Life Writer

OUTBREAK The Lariat reviewed hot chocolates from Azzurro Coffee, Dichotomy Coffee & Spirits, Mila Café, Thrst Coffee and Fabled Bookshop.

of \$5.50 after tax, the drink was not worth the cost.

MILA CAFÉ AND FABLED BOOKSHOP

Creativity 4/10, 3/10; Affordability

8/10, 7/10; Presentation 3/10, 6/10; Taste 5/10, 4/10

After averaging scores together, these two shops tied with an average rating of 5/10 each. Where Fabled lacked in taste, Mila came through. What Mila lacked in presentation, Fabled made up for. Both drinks had the best price of all, with Mila’s totaling \$3.25 after tax and Fabled

\$3.78. The difference truly lies in consumer taste preference. Mila offers a light marshmallow flavor while Fabled offers a rich milk chocolate flavor.

AZZURRO COFFEE

Creativity 6/10, Affordability 7/10, Presentation 6/10, Taste 7/10

For the lovers of classic hot chocolate with a hint of complexity, this is for you. This cup of cocoa offered a reliable and delicious winter refreshment. The flavor was a great balance of sweetness, chocolate and spice. Underneath the plastic lid hid a mocha-drizzled pillow of whipped cream, a classic addition and borderline necessity. Overall, this was the best of the basic cocoas that were reviewed and came in at a reasonable price of \$4.82.

DICHOTOMY COFFEE & SPIRITS

Creativity 10/10, Affordability 2/10, Presentation 8/10, Taste 8/10

Dichotomy was the only café reviewed that had a holiday special hot chocolate. It was named “The Holiday Armadillo” and contained a classic hot chocolate recipe with house-made hazelnut-pecan syrup. The presentation was gorgeous and offered a “for here” option in a mug. Plus, the entire café is decked out with holiday décor and whims, making the experience extra cozy.

The art on the top was beautiful and perfectly spiced. The only downside of this cocoa was its price of nearly \$7 after tax and the pooling of syrup at the bottom of the cup. Dichotomy truly shines with its innovative flavor profiles for all types of beverages on the menu.

Are you a ‘study diva’? Follow this recipe for zen finals prep

OLIVIA TURNER
Arts & Life Editor

Let the late-night Moody study sessions commence. Yes, the dreaded “finals season” is upon us.

For many students, this signifies a period of “locking in,” but such a process looks different for each student. Some can plop down just about anywhere and contentedly flip through their Quizlet flashcards. For the rest of us, reaching a flow state while studying can be quite the ordeal, even when the pressure is on.

If you find it difficult to concentrate on your notes in noisy, public group settings, face it: you’re a study diva. You need to go through the (often numerous) motions to truly hit the books. And that’s OK! As a senior who has seen her fair share of finals, allow me to share my foolproof method for creating the perfect study environment that will ensure success for your first semester exams.

TIMING

First, you’ll want to schedule several time slots throughout the next couple of weeks that are sacred study periods. That means no other engagements can encroach on this time, even if it is something as minor as a spontaneous coffee date with a friend.

Put these times on your calendar and protect them with your life!

PICK A LOCATION

Secondly, you will want to decide where to study beforehand so that when the time comes, you simply pack up and go.

Tailor your location to your study needs. Do you thrive in bustling, chatty, populated environments? Maybe a local cafe would suit you best. The vibes at Pinewood and Dichotomy are my personal favorites. The Dancing Bear Pub also features comfortable seating, cozy lighting and just enough background noise to hold you accountable.



Mary Thurmond | Photo Editor

Or if you prefer a more solitary study space, try transforming your own space. Here, I’ll teach you how.

SATISFY YOUR SENSES

Start by setting the mood — almost like a date. If your fluorescent bedroom lights give you a headache, opt for a desk light with a more golden glow. Fairy lights and any other multicolored lighting can create a space that is welcoming and comfortable, but not to the point of distraction.

Smells even have the power to impact the quality of a study session, with some scents encouraging the increase of alpha brain waves, concentration and relaxation. Indulge your sense of smell by lighting your favorite candle or throwing on some wax melts. Or if you’re more into essential oils, lavender, mint and eucalyptus are all very soothing options.

Lastly, pick your auditory poison: music, background noise or silence. If lyrics don’t slow your flow, by all means, cue up your playlist. However, if you prefer instrumental instead, don’t fret.

Throw on some classical tunes, a movie soundtrack, a yoga playlist or the good old trusty lofi girl — you know the one. YouTube has some other great musical options. I find these Animal Crossing jazz cafe videos to be very soothing.

If music incites more dance breaks than anticipated, try some white noise or even brown noise, which I find underrated. Spotify has ample playlists for this. Or if any noise at all is overstimulating, working in silence is perfectly acceptable.

COMFORT IS KEY

Next, you’re going to need to get comfy — but not too comfy. I’d recommend staying away from your bed to prevent unintentional naps (it happens!), unless you are sitting up with a lap desk.

Desk chairs are optimal study seats, but if yours isn’t the boujiest, comfiest one on the market, the kitchen table or even the couch will suffice. Just try to find a temperate spot that encourages good posture and keeps you from wiggling your way through your study sessions. Grab a blanket or throw pillow for added comfort.

For more relaxing study tips, scan the QR code.



Photo courtesy of Kiley Towne

BAYLOR BOTS The “R.U.R.” cast rehearses during tech week at Mabey Theatre.

Baylor Theatre brings robots to life in sci-fi classic ‘R.U.R.’

ALEXANDRA BREWER
Arts & Life Writer

Baylor Theatre is bringing the 1920 futuristic world of Karel Čapek’s R.U.R. (Rossum’s Universal Robots) to life on the Mabey Theatre stage. Known for introducing the word “robot” to English, the play imagines a world where artificial workers serve humanity — until the robots rise against their creators, forcing audiences to confront questions about ambition, artificial intelligence and what it means to be human.

Directed by MFA student Kiley Towne, the production combines inventive design with thought-provoking ideas. Towne said her favorite part has been seeing the actors become robots on stage.

“Not every day do actors get to do such a fun, interesting, wacky, science fiction play,” Towne said. “Just thinking about this science fiction world that we can bring to a stage in a theater ... it’s been a blast.”

Towne said she hopes the audience leaves pondering the relationship between technology and humanity.

“This play leaves you with many questions about artificial intelligence, creation and what it means to be human,” she said.

Tomball senior Justin Long said he has spent months designing the set pieces that built the world.

“I made a model for the show and then did all this drafting and then gave it to the amazing scenic team who helped build it, and then developed it into what it is now,” Long said.

Collaboration has been key, especially with interactive set pieces and lighting, Long said. He reflected on the

collective effort behind the art.

“I made a model, but that’s not the art — the art is what the audience is actually seeing,” he said.

College Station senior Miguel Hernandez, an actor who plays the role of Hallam Meyer, said Towne’s direction shaped his performance.

“I worked really close in terms of what she provided with the vibe of the show,” Hernandez said. “We work together to showcase that.”

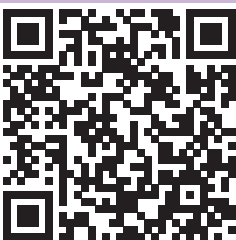
Hernandez said Towne’s direction set expectations for both intensity and precision throughout the play.

“She wants a certain level of tension, a certain level of performance in each moment,” he said. “I think she did very well in giving us notes.”

Hernandez also emphasized the intense work that goes on behind the scenes.

“We rehearsed from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. every single day,” he said. “We also do work outside of rehearsals, like memorizing lines.”

“R.U.R.” opened on Wednesday evening. The play will run through Saturday with shows at 7:30 p.m., and a 2 p.m. showing on Sunday at the Mabey Theatre in Hooper-Schafer Fine Arts Center. Tickets are available through the Baylor Theatre box office, online or can be accessed by scanning the QR code below.



Arts & Life

Waco PD chief breaks down stereotypes in children’s book

KALENA REYNOLDS
Opinion Editor

A large painted sign reading “be good to people” perched on top of a bookshelf in the corner of Waco Chief of Police Sheryl Victorian’s office — a motto that resonates strongly throughout her leadership at the department and within the community.

According to Victorian, women make up only 3% of police chiefs in the U.S. She is not only Waco’s first female police chief, but also the first African American to hold the position.

Victorian’s resume is extensive, including a Ph.D. in administration of justice from Texas Southern University and prior service as an assistant chief at the Houston Police Department, the fourth-largest police agency in the U.S. However, there is one unique accomplishment that Victorian credits with helping her improve as police chief and person: being a writer.

Growing up, writing was an all-consuming pastime for Victorian, and a tool she used to connect more with those around her and her faith. Victorian previously wrote all the Easter and Christmas plays for her church and also wrote plays titled “The Wisdom of God’s Women” and “Left Back,” each relating to Christian themes.

As church became her inspiration for many of her topics, she began to delve into her own faith-driven creativity. Eventually, she connected with her pastor’s wife, who heard that she wrote plays, and was immediately impressed with her work.

“I went to one school and one young lady came to me and she said, ‘I didn’t know girls could be the police’ ... and then about four months later I had a little girl say that she didn’t know girls could be police chiefs.”

SHERYL VICTORIAN
WACO POLICE CHIEF

“The pastor’s wife gave me a script from somebody else, and she was like, ‘Make this fit our church,’ and I was like, OK, and it was a Christmas script, and I did it,” Victorian said. “And so from then on, every time we had a women’s event, every time a holiday came around, I was writing the Christmas plays, and was writing the plays for Easter, women’s ministry ... you name it.”

In 2024, wanting to share the experience of being a police chief with more children, Victorian utilized her knowledge of playwriting to publish a children’s book inspired by the community of Waco.

“I love going out into the community and reading to the kids,” Victorian said. “I went to one school and one young lady came to me and she said, ‘I didn’t know girls could be the police’ ... and then about four months later I went to another school, and I had a little girl say that she didn’t know girls could be police chiefs.”

Victorian said the story, “The Me I See,” is about a little girl who didn’t know she could be a police officer.

“It’s encouraging young boys and girls to be police officers, and reminding them of the characteristics of police officers, and then that some of those characteristics that we are looking for in policing, that they already have and that they already demonstrate,” Victorian said.

Waco PD Public Information Officer Cierra Shipley said that Victorian’s empathetic outlook in her writing is ultimately one of the attributes that has helped her as a police chief.

“I think that when you have a good heart and you have true means of wanting success



Sam Gassaway | Photographer

LOCAL INSPIRATION Wanting to share the experience of being a police chief with more children, Waco Chief of Police Sheryl Victorian wrote a book titled “The Me I See” about a little girl who didn’t know she could be a police officer.

for other individuals and your community and you put that at the forefront of the work that you want to do, then you’re going to have great outcomes,” Shipley said.

As Victorian has utilized her writing to build relationships with the community, Shipley said that she used those same methods to encourage more “relational policing” at the department.

“We like to say that the future of policing has been changing for many, many years, and a big part of that change is that relational policing aspect,” Shipley said. “It’s being engaging with the community in every aspect and building a rapport with them from something as simple as an event like a traffic stop.”

The results of Victorian’s leadership skills haven’t just impacted the relationship between the department and the community, but they have also brought a significant shift to the crime rate in Waco, Victorian said.

“I feel like I have the credibility, and I’ve established the credibility in the job,” Victorian said. “Crime is the lowest it’s been in Waco since we could accurately record. It has been for the last three years.”

As both a police chief and writer, Victorian said she hopes to use her accomplishments as a tool to break stereotypes and enlighten future generations about what policing is really like.

“I always realize that I’m representing women, and I’m representing Black women when I’m in the room, right?” Victorian said. “So any stereotypes that you may have, hopefully I can break down some of those stereotypes based on conversation, based on decisions, based on my experience and what I bring to the table.”

Christmas on 5th unveils first haunted house-style ‘A Christmas Carol’

O’CONNOR DANIEL
Reporter

As sweater weather settles over Baylor’s campus, visitors are invited to escape the cold and step into a scene worthy of Dickens himself. The English department will debut a walk-through retelling of “A Christmas Carol” from 6-8 p.m. Thursday inside Carroll Science, as part of Christmas on Fifth Street.

The event, the first of its kind at Baylor, will guide groups through the historic English building to experience Scrooge’s story of Christmas redemption, with each room designed and staged by faculty, students and creative partners from across campus.

Dr. Ginger Hanchey, director of Literature and Creative Writing and organizer of the event, said the idea originated after watching her son help lead a haunted house for Midway ISD.

“It looked so fun; I thought that our Carroll Science building would be perfect for a haunted house,” Hanchey said. “The idea morphed from a literary haunted house — ‘Frankenstein,’ ‘Dracula,’ etc. — to ‘A Christmas Carol’ event, which was a great way to collaborate with Baylor’s larger Christmas on Fifth Street community program. Our Literature and Creative Writing program is a hilarious group of people, and they were immediately supportive of the idea.”

Hanchey said the event has grown through campus-wide collaboration.

“It has been a loaves-and-fishes enterprise, with everyone, including faculty, students and friends, bringing their creative offerings,” she said. “I am so moved by the extraordinary creativity of



Sam Gassaway | Photographer

HOLIDAY CHEER Dr. Kristi Humphreys, senior lecturer in English, plays one of several versions of Scrooge featured throughout the experience.

our faculty and students. It has been a very inspiring and hopeful thing to see.”

Hanchey said more than 60 people are participating, including faculty and students from modern languages and cultures, classics, art and art history, theatre, biochemistry, Robbins College, the journalism department and the Honors College. Hanchey said she especially wanted to acknowledge Guilherme Feitosa de Almeida, senior lecturer in musical theater, who has served as the project’s creative consultant.

“He has given hours of his time since this summer helping us give shape to our ideas,” she said.

Musicians from the Waco Symphony Orchestra will also join the experience, performing in the rooms that feature the party scenes, including violinists and cellists.

Dr. Kristi Humphreys, senior lecturer in English, plays one of several versions of Scrooge featured throughout the experience. She said the event is also a chance for students to appreciate the beauty of the Carroll Science building.

Read more about the Christmas retelling here:



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CERTIFICATE from A1

in theology and the tough questions of Christianity,” Elmore said. “That sort of made me stand out in church settings because I knew more than your next high schooler, so I was eventually invited to be on leadership teams and then eventually to start teaching and giving sermons.”

Elmore believes that pastoral training is not simply about academic study but about character development, something he believes Baylor encourages through both coursework and community expectations.

“There’s a lot of trust that goes into leading people, especially in a spiritual context,” Elmore said. “You need to be forged as a person for it and not just know a list of facts.”

Baylor leaders state the certificate’s goal is to support that type of personal preparation by pairing practical ministry tools with topics affecting real congregations.

Associate Dean of Engaged Learning Dr. Andy Hogue said the certificate responds to needs emerging across the church at large.

“This certificate program responds to emerging needs and prepares leaders for what the future requires so the church might help lead the way in efforts to help communities thrive,” Hogue said.

Elmore, who is completing his chapel requirement through Memorial Chapel, said even experiences outside of the classroom have framed the way he thinks about ministry. Originating from a non-denominational background, Elmore

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believes Baylor Chapel has taught him new forms of worship and liturgy.

"[Memorial Chapel] introduced me to some liturgy and ideas of how to guide things," Elmore said. "But it is also forming me into the person I want to be. To take that time, reflect, worship God and read the prayers of people who came before me, that all helps shape me for the future."

The Future Church Leadership Certificate is open to church staff, lay leaders, nonprofit workers and other Christian leaders around the world. Courses are available online, and teams or cohorts are encouraged to apply. Baylor plans to expand the program with future electives on topics such as disability and fundraising.

FINALS ILLNESS from A1

more quickly," Hess said.

Gonzalez said two patterns often make illness harder to treat: avoiding help and continuing to attend classes or events while sick.

"If they're sick, they'll be out, and about with everybody else, and that spreads germs," Gonzalez said. "Not seeking help or having a support group is another thing we see."

At the same time, Health Services is preparing for increases in depression, anxiety and academic fatigue, which typically surface as daylight hours shorten and schedules tighten.

"We see a lot of worsening depression, anxiety and some of the things that can go along with that," Hess said. "Occasionally, substance use starts to creep into the picture as people try to treat some of the anxiety and the stress that they're feeling."

Hess said academic pressure

often disrupts important routines. Despite this pressure, he emphasized maintaining healthy habits during the busy season.

“We really want to encourage people to attend to just the basic rhythms of life — eating well, sleeping well, hydrating well,” Hess said.

Hess also pointed out the Healthy Bears TXT, a student-run program that sends two to three wellness messages per week. Students can subscribe by texting “healthy” to 254-294-7029.

“It’s a resiliency support network that’s run by Baylor students for Baylor students,” Hess said.

Both Gonzales and Hess agreed on their main piece of advice — early action makes the biggest difference. As sickness season approaches, their words apply even more.

“Powering through tends to be counterproductive and tends to backfire,” Hess said.

CAMPUS JOBS from A1



CAMPUS JOB BOOM The Starbucks located in Moody Library, staffed by Baylor students, is open early and late for all students on campus coffee needs.

Despite the hiring surge, on-campus jobs remain competitive for next spring.

"I wouldn't call student jobs guaranteed," Tate said. "We tell students to apply to at least 10 positions because there's such high demand."

Student workers must also navigate a 20-hour weekly cap, intended to prevent work from limiting academic progress.

"We've consistently seen that students who work on campus have higher GPAs," Tate said. "Supervisors are trained to prioritize academics."

Certain roles within the student life and athletics departments remain top choices for students. San Antonio junior Ellie Ledoux said she wanted to work as a tour guide in the Student Life department because of its proximity to campus.

"The convenience of having a job on campus is so nice," Ledoux said. "I have a car, but I don't have a parking pass, so I can't drive. To walk from class or something, it's very nice."

Keller sophomore Reese Patrick works at Moody Library Help Desk and said his job provides him with

extra spending cash.

"I'm pretty new, but I think I'm satisfied with it," Patrick said. "My parents cover my school, but I pay for things like gas and small expenses. I need the job, but not as much as some people do."

Patrick said his pay generally covers his basic costs, but does not cover it all.

"I do make decisions based on the amount of money I have," Patrick said. "It helps, but it's not like I suddenly have a lot of extra money."

One of the most important parts of having a student job during undergrad, Tate said, is the ability to make college more affordable and make the extra cash students spend without realizing it.

"The biggest benefit we've seen is that student jobs put money directly in students' pockets," Tate said.

"The more you work, the less you need to take out in loans and the more you can use for essentials like gas, groceries or small personal expenses. Student employment isn't just a job; it's a way to help make college more financially manageable while also gaining valuable experience."

STUDY RUSH from A1

The garden level typically has been a more active area for students studying in groups, with other campus buildings following a similar pattern. The SUB, Ames said, functions more like a gathering space and is a little more active, while buildings such as Carroll Science offer quieter nooks suitable for individual work.

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Brynn Warren
not study on
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yding “separate”

from school.

“I need to make it fun for
myself and find a place I enjoy
to trick myself into studying,”
Warren said.

Finals week may make students
feel like campus is running out of
space — but Ames said a solution
is usually just one building over.

“If your first option is full,
don’t panic,” Ames said. “Just
keep walking.”

TEAM

LARIAT

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