



The Baylor Lariat

WE'RE THERE WHEN YOU CAN'T BE



On ARTS, page 5: Read how stars collide in new flick "A Most Violent Year."

Tuesday | February 3, 2015

Obama's budget sent for Hill's OK

By Andrew Taylor
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Promising to help America's middle class, President Barack Obama on Monday sent Congress a record \$4 trillion budget that would hammer corporate profits overseas and raise taxes on the wealthy while boosting tax credits for families and the working poor.

Obama's budget also would steer hundreds of billions of dollars to the nation's crumbling infrastructure of roads and bridges, help provide two years of free community college and reverse the across-the-board, automatic budget cuts that have slammed the Pentagon and nearly every government department.

In the face of certain opposition from Republicans, an optimistic Obama hailed a "breakthrough year for America" of new jobs, lower unemployment and shrinking deficits after the great recession of 2008, and he called for moving past years of "mindless austerity." The blueprint for the 2016 budget year that begins Oct. 1 represents a 6.4 percent increase over estimated spending this year, projecting that the deficit will decline to \$474 billion.

However, Obama's plan ignores the new balance of power in Washington, with Republicans running both the House and Senate. The GOP found plenty to criticize in his proposed tax hikes that would total about \$1.5 trillion.

Republicans cited the nation's \$18 trillion debt and assailed what they call Obama's tax-and-spend policies for failing to address the spiraling growth of benefit programs such as Social Security and Medicare.

"Today President Obama laid out a plan for more taxes, more spending, and more of the Washington gridlock that has failed middle class families," said House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio. "This plan never balances — ever."

Republicans aren't offering specifics yet but will respond this spring with their own plan, a balanced-budget outline promising to get rid of "Obamacare," ease the burdens of the national debt on future generations, curb the explosive growth of expensive benefit programs and reform a

SEE OBAMA, page 4

Sitting worse than cigarettes?



Don't quit New Year's goals, try tweaking them.

By Amanda Hayes
Reporter

Instead of giving up on failed New Year's resolutions, Meg Patterson, director of wellness, suggests student try tweaking their original goals.

Many students began 2015 with a "new year, new me" mentality, only to find a month into the year nothing has changed. Now that the semester is picking up, it can be easy to get discouraged and abandon resolutions altogether.

One hour of sitting can shed 22 minutes from a person's life. One cigarette takes an average of 10 minutes, according to a TIME study. These statistics have fueled the latest trend in health research, known as "Sitting is the New Smoking."

As a result, Patterson said students should reduce the amount of time they spend sitting.

"It is ideal to work out at least three times a week, for 30 minutes to an hour each time," Patterson said. "But if you can't carve out an hour in your schedule, just try to sit less."

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY SKYE DUNCAN | LARIAT PHOTO EDITOR

Organists gather for yearly conference

By Rachel Leland
Staff Writer

Several nationally recognized organists came to participate in the 21st annual Midwinter Organ Conference, which began Sunday.

Jason Roberts, associate director of music and organist at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in New York City, will give a performance to accompany Buster Keaton's silent film "Steamboat Bill, Jr." in Jones Concert Hall.

Scott Dettra, director of music and organist at the Church of the Incarnation in Dallas, will host the conference's closing recital. The last meeting will also be in Jones Concert Hall.

Titled "The American Organist," the conference is housed in various concert and recital halls on campus and features organists

from Baylor and other universities and states.

The conference began Sunday afternoon when Korean graduate student Chohee Kim performed a recital at Jones Concert Hall.

"I was a little bit nervous because it's not my kind of stuff," Kim said. "There are professional organists but I think it's a good experience because there is more pressure than other performances at church or school."

Assistant professor of organ in the school of music, Dr. Isabelle Demers, gave a performance Monday morning in Roxy Grove. She included composers such as Johann Sebastian Bach and Sergei Rachmaninoff in his arrangement. Demers is a Juilliard graduate.



KEVIN FREEMAN | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

Daryl Robinson, recipient of multiple awards for his organ playing, performs in Powell Chapel in Truett Seminary on Monday. The annual Midwinter Organ Conference began Sunday and continues through this week.

Demers has organized the conference for the three years since coming to Baylor.

"The planning is always somewhat stressful because we need to take care of so many details, from organ maintenance to catering," Demers said. "I'm always happy

when we welcome the first guests on campus, and help them discover our beautiful instruments and facilities."

Demers said she enjoys meeting and performing for guests. Some audience members Monday evening have attended since the

first conference was held 20 years ago.

"Students, organists, or simply organ aficionados — I believe we all enjoy the concerts tremendously," Demers said. "What's not

SEE ORGAN, page 4



HANNAH HASELOFF | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

Give a drip; save a life

League City freshman Mackenzie Hayworth gives blood at the Baylor MAPS sponsored blood drive on Monday afternoon.

Abbott: US needs heroes like Kyle

By Eva Ruth Moravec
Associated Press

AUSTIN — Two years after Chris Kyle's death, and days before the man accused of killing him goes to trial, the retired Navy SEAL depicted in the blockbuster movie "American Sniper" received a state day Monday in his honor.

Gov. Greg Abbott signed a proclamation declaring Feb. 2 "Chris Kyle Day" in Texas, where Kyle was raised and lived after serving in Iraq. Flags statewide flew at half-staff Monday.

"As governor, I am proclaiming this to be Chris Kyle Day, but in doing so, as Chris would have it, we are also recognizing every man and woman who has ever worn the uniform of the United States Military," Abbott said, flanked by a dozen bipartisan lawmakers.

Abbott called Kyle — reput-

ed to be the deadliest sniper in American history — "the face of a legion of warriors who have led the mightiest military in the history of the world."

Four years after he retired from service, he and neighbor Chad Littlefield were shot and killed at a North Texas gun range. Accused in their deaths is former Marine Eddie Ray Routh, whom the two men were trying to help. Routh has been described by family as a troubled veteran who was hospitalized for mental illnesses, including post-traumatic stress disorder.

An Abbott spokeswoman said the success of the movie based on Kyle's autobiography and the upcoming trial were not driving forces behind Monday's announcement. An effort is underway to make Chris Kyle Day an annual event.

Jury selection begins Thurs-

day in Stephenville, about 150 miles north of Austin, in the trial of Routh, 27, who is charged with one count of capital murder and two counts of murder.

Some 800 people have been summoned for jury duty, said court spokeswoman Wanda Pringle, compared with the typical jury pool of 175 in Erath County. Once seated, the jury will be under orders not to discuss the case.

Routh's attorney, J. Warren St. John, has said that Routh will plead not guilty by reason of insanity. If convicted, he could face the death penalty.

Finding jurors who haven't heard about Chris Kyle could prove to be difficult, said Allen Place Jr., a criminal defense attorney and spokesman for the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.

"We want everything to be

SEE KYLE, page 4

Be a good sport: Cheer on all Baylor athletics

Editorial

Baylor athletics is in the midst of the best multi-year stretch in program history. Not only has football won two Big 12 Championships, but men's basketball has reached multiple Sweet 16s, women's basketball won a national championship, softball made the Women's College World Series, both tennis teams have won multiple Big 12 titles and even equestrian sits at No. 1 in the nation.

There are few better ways to market an institution than through athletics. From a public relations perspective, sports bring a level of intrinsic positivity unmatched by virtually any other field. When Baylor men's basketball beat Creighton, or when the women went 40-0 to win a national championship, the nation took notice. The success has also brought in excess funding for the athletic department and university as a whole through both merchandising and donors.

However, support from Baylor Nation has not followed. While the football team has posted record attendance numbers over the past two seasons, other sports posted underwhelming attendance numbers. It's time for Baylor fans to step up attendance at Baylor athletic events across the board.

Over the past two seasons, Baylor football's attendance has gone through a

renaissance. The Bears sold out the first year's worth of games at McLane Stadium, averaging more than 46,000 fans per game. Students waited with baited breath to see whether they would receive a ticket each Sunday before the games.

But when it comes to equally, if not more successful programs, the results are not there. Men's basketball is averaging only 80 percent capacity during conference season, and just 60 percent on the year. Women's basketball sits under 70 percent during Big 12 play.

Some think that football is the only sport that brings attention, which is not true. Track star Trayvon Bromell was on the front page of every professional sports site in May 2014 after breaking the junior world record in the 100-meter-dash en route to winning the NCAA National Championship. Brittney Griner is a household name among sports fans. Isaiah Austin grabbed headlines on the news page after losing his career to Marfan's Syndrome in June 2014. Winning a Heisman Trophy is not the only way to bring attention to an elite athletic department.

Football games happened once a week, which can't necessarily be said of other sporting events. However, attendance isn't necessarily required for every game. For football games, the athletic department hoped to get in the neighborhood of 10,000 students in the stadium. Based on historic attendance trends, basketball needs only in



ASHER FREEMAN

the neighborhood of 2,000 a night; softball or baseball would be thrilled with 1,000. Every student in attendance counts. Being a student at Baylor is the perfect opportunity to explore different sports, as tickets are included in tuition.

Don't be put off by the idea that you tra-

ditionally don't like sports; there are many options. If you like horses, see if you care to watch our No. 1 equestrian team. If your passion is dance or gymnastics, check out the acrobatics and tumbling team. If you played tennis in high school, you may enjoy watching either one of Baylor's top-10

and Big 12 champion tennis teams.

When students give support to the athletics teams, it increases school spirit across the board, and rewards athletes for representing

A full athletics schedule can be found at baylorbears.com/scoreboard.

Don't define your life by short mantras

Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn all ask us to submit a "biography," 140 characters to sum up our lives, who we are, what we're apart of, etc. They reflect a culture that is shifting more and more toward putting ourselves into neat boxes. It's the bumper sticker inclination: the need to sum ourselves up through vague or concrete truths. Whether it's an organization that we belong to or a life mantra we feel connected to, we are forced create an image that we think people will remember.

The only thing greater than my frustration with this trend, is my inability to attach words to it. It was a frustration that went deeper than wanting people to be original.

Recently, I found it. I finally read it. The words were ripped from my scattered mind and eloquently placed in a book. It's the most satisfying and frustrating experience. Satisfying because I knew someone got it, but frustrating because I didn't think of it first.

"It was the truths that made the people grotesques. The old man had quite an elaborate theory concerning the matter. It was his notion that the moment one of the people took one of the truths to himself, called it his truth, and tried to live his life by it, he became a grotesque and the truth he embraced became a falsehood," said Sherwood Anderson, author of "Winesburg, Ohio."

This is one of those topics that almost pains me to dig into. It's much like poetry in that the beauty of it is in the unsaid. I've always loved poetry for its vagueness. I was the girl at the front of the literature class cringing at the snarky kid in the back exclaiming, "Why don't poets just say what they mean?" I told him with my eye rolls that I was better than him. "The point of poetry is the interpretation, the alive-ness, the digging," I would have said too, but you can only expect so much from an eye roll.

Attaching yourself to a mantra is the worst thing you can do in your life. The irony of that statement being that, yes, it is a mantra.

You can live for things, but not by them.

Setting yourself up to live by something is much



Allie Matherne
Reporter

like deciding to only write with pink pens for the rest of your life. It may be helpful for some things: it may make things prettier, it may suit your personal cultural standards, but it will not capture the fullness of life or the fullness of you.

There is a classic example among philosophers about the use of water. Ultimately, we all know what water is, we all understand its genetic makeup. However, if asked what water is, there is an exhaustive number of responses.

— we all understand its genetic makeup. However, if asked what water is, there is an exhaustive number of responses.

Water is in lakes, for drinking, for bathing and for mixing Koolaid.

Reality is too complex to be cut up into neat definitions. Instead of taking life as a systematic investigation into knowledge claims it would be more beneficial to live it.

Henry David Thoreau said, "I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived. I did not wish to live what was not life, living is so dear; nor did I wish to practice resignation, unless it was quite necessary. I wanted to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life."

Thoreau doesn't make bold, exhaustive claims about life. He just says he wants to live it and live it completely. That's all we can do.

In summary, I have no "Internet bio" to exclaim because life is vague, so my "bio" for living life must likewise be vague. If I were to craft a biography to fit neatly into 140 characters, it would be a fragment of my aspirations and a shadow of what I've learned through others.

I've written enough things to realize that in two years I'll look back and think "that was dumb" or "could've said that better." There is absolutely no conceivable way to characterize my life in a phrase. It must be lived deliberately and "bios" will be created organically.

Allie Matherne is a junior public relations major from Lafayette, La. She is a reporter and a regular columnist for the Lariat.

From the Lariat blog



This week, Linda Wilkins, Lariat editor-in-chief, takes a look at the necessary evils of working at the Lariat.

Check out the Lariat's weekly blog "Meanwhile at the Lariat..." Each Monday, one of our staff members will discuss the going-ons, shenanigans, special projects and day-to-day workings at the Lariat.

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Opinion

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Editorials express the opinions of the Lariat Editorial Board. Lariat letters and columns are the opinions of an individual and not the Baylor Lariat.

Lariat Letters

To submit a Lariat Letter, fill out the Letter to the Editor form at baylorlariat.com/contact-information. Letters should be a maximum of 400 words. The letter is not guaranteed to be published.

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BEAR BRIEFS



Active Minds holding open forum

Active Minds, an organization that focuses on raising awareness of mental health issues, is holding a forum from 5:30-6:30 p.m. today in the Baylor Sciences Building, C123. The discussion will be about bullying and its effects on college students. For additional information, contact Julian_Aliche@baylor.edu.

Art museum having Valentine workshop

The Martin Museum of Art is holding a print-a-Valentine workshop from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday. Participants will choose a design and experience the print-making process to make their own Valentine card. The event is free. The Museum of Art is located in the Hooper-Schaefer Fine Arts Center. For more information, visit www.baylor.edu/martinmuseum.

Sing tickets on sale

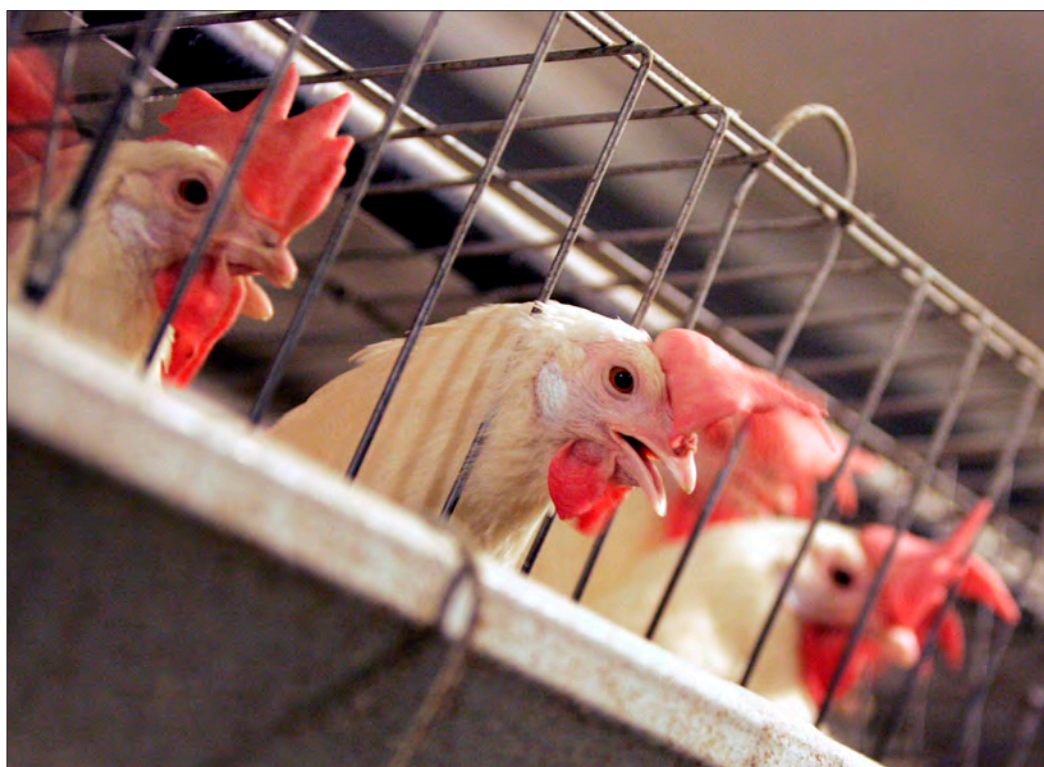
Tickets are now available in the Bill Daniel Student Center Ticket Office for All-University Sing. Ticket prices range from \$22 to \$26. Students get a \$2 discount with their ID. For additional information, contact bsc-tickets@baylor.edu. You can also buy tickets online at www.baylor.edu/studentactivities/ticketoffice.

Organization fair to come to Dr Pepper Hour

More than 50 representatives from various student organizations will be at Dr Pepper hour, 3-4 p.m. today in the Barfield Drawing Room of the Student Union Building to meet those seeking to get involved on campus.

Green and Gold Pageant having interest meeting

An interest meeting for the Green and Gold Pageant will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Beckham Room of the Bill Daniel Student Center. The Green and Gold Pageant Committee puts on the pageant to recognize the talents of Baylor students in leadership and philanthropy. The meeting is open to all undergraduate students. For additional information, contact Lexi_Dowell@baylor.edu or Aziza_Lewally@baylor.edu.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Sept. 10, 2008 photo, chickens huddle in their cages at an egg processing plant at the Dwight Bell Farm in Atwater, Calif. The government is seeking to make chicken and turkey safer with new food standards.

Obama proposes to create new food agency in federal budget

MARY CLARE JALONICK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama wants to create a new government agency dedicated to keeping the nation's food safe.

The proposal in the president's budget released Monday comes after outbreaks of illnesses linked to chicken, eggs, peanuts and cantaloupe in recent years. More than a dozen federal agencies oversee food safety, and consumer advocates have long called for bringing all those functions together in a single home.

Currently, the Department of Agriculture oversees the safety and inspections of meat and processed eggs and the Food and Drug Administration oversees safety of most other foods. The split oversight is often complicated — the FDA would be responsible for the safety of a frozen cheese pizza, for example, but USDA takes over part of the duties if the pizza has meat on it.

USDA inspects meat daily as it is processed, while the FDA generally conducts inspections every few years. The two agencies share inspection duties at the border. And several other agencies have small pieces of food safety oversight — from the Commerce Department to the Environmental Protection Agency.

The budget proposes consolidating the Agriculture Department's Food Safety and Inspec-

tion Service and all of FDA's food safety oversight into one new agency within the Department of Health and Human Services. The new agency also would coordinate with state and local health departments, a job that is now mostly handled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In the budget proposal, the Obama administration says the current system's "fractured oversight and disparate regulatory approaches" cause confusion. Consolidation "is an essential step to reforming the federal food safety system overall," it says.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said the proposal is an attempt to persuade Congress to give the Obama administration authority to reorganize the agencies. Details — such as which of the 15 federal entities that have some food safety oversight would be transitioned to the new agency — could be worked out later. He said change is needed to reduce the possibility of miscommunication between agencies and to lower government overhead costs.

"The purpose of this is to begin the discussion and begin the debate," Vilsack said.

The administration said the agency would be based at HHS, not USDA, because food safety and foodborne outbreaks are public health concerns consistent with the larger mission of the department.

The changes are likely to meet opposition on Capitol Hill. Many

in the food industry have long opposed a shift, fearing increased oversight, and those companies have powerful allies in the new Republican Congress.

Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts, R-Kansas, signaled immediate opposition. "In this tough economy, the last thing producers and consumers need is more red tape," Roberts said of the proposal.

In 2010, Congress passed a sweeping food safety law that gave the government new powers to inspect processing plants, order recalls and impose stricter standards for imported foods. It also requires stricter food safety standards on farms and in manufacturing plants.

That law only applied to the Food and Drug Administration, which is still struggling to put the standards in place after push-back from some farmers and food companies.

The FDA's Michael Taylor, deputy commissioner for foods, said on a call with reporters Monday that the idea of a single food safety agency is "an extremely complex subject." He said the FDA is currently focused on putting the food safety law in place.

"It kind of depends on how it's done," Taylor said of a food safety agency.

The CDC estimates that there are about 48 million foodborne illnesses a year from foods that have been subject to contamination.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Groundhog Club handler Ron Ploucha holds Punxsutawney Phil, the weather-prognosticating groundhog, on Monday during the 129th celebration of Groundhog Day on Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pa.

Groundhog predicts more winter weather

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa. — The handlers of Pennsylvania's most famous groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, said Monday the furry rodent has forecast six more weeks of winter.

Members of the top hat-wearing Inner Circle announced the "prediction" Monday morning.

A German legend has it that if a furry rodent sees his shadow on Feb. 2, winter will last another six weeks. If not, spring comes early.

The forecast was also announced on Twitter, as was referenced in the official proclamation read by Jeff Lundy, the Fair Weatherman of the Inner Circle.

"Forecasts abound on the Internet, but, I, Punxsutawney Phil am still your best bet. Yes, a shadow I see, you can start to Twitter, hash tag: Six more weeks of winter!"

The forecast was delivered after a steady pre-dawn rain turned to snow as temperatures dropped from the high 30s to around freezing. They were forecast to keep dropping over much of the state, prompting the state Department of Transportation to lower the speed limit to 45 mph for many interstate highways which were already wet and expected to freeze or be covered with snow as the day wore on.

The rain kept some revelers away, with state police estimating the crowd at around 11,000, slightly smaller than in recent years when upward of 15,000 attended.

Despite the German legend, Phil's handlers don't wait to see if he sees his shadow — as he likely would not have on such an overcast day. Instead, the Inner Circle decide on the forecast

ahead of time and announce it on Gobbler's Knob, a tiny hill in the town for which the groundhog is named, about 65 miles northeast of Pittsburgh.

Records going back to 1887 show Phil has now predicted more winter 102 times while forecasting an early spring just 17 times. There are no records for the remaining years.

Phil's counterpart in New York City, Staten Island Chuck, delivered a conflicting message in calling for an early spring after not seeing his shadow.

Chuck emerged from his home at the Staten Island Zoo early Monday and took part in a new ceremony that didn't include being held by New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio.

Last year, in de Blasio's first time at the annual ceremony, the rodent slipped from his grasp and fell to the ground. It died weeks later.

A medical exam revealed it died of internal injuries, but zoo officials said it was unclear if they were caused by the fall from de Blasio's arms. Zoo officials didn't make the death public for months.

The accident became a source of teasing for the mayor, and de Blasio himself suggested Monday that "teams of animal behavior experts and scientists have consulted from all over the country" to keep the groundhog safe.

In Wisconsin, the mayor of Sun Prairie might not be getting too close to a groundhog again.

During a celebration Monday, the handler of Jimmy the groundhog held the animal next the face of Mayor Jonathan Freund, and Jimmy promptly bit down on the mayor's left ear.

Freund flinched, but went on with the event.

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When bark is not worse than bite

Lauren Cachboux grimaces as she poses with a rattlesnake Monday at the Capitol in Austin. Members of the Sweetwater Jaycees brought rattlesnakes to promote their annual rattlesnake round-up and help educate visitors.

KYLE from Page 1

even-handed, and if there was any pretrial publicity that intends a different spin on anything, then we should all be upset, regardless of where it comes from," Place said.

Last week, Kyle's widow, Taya Kyle, spoke to legislators at a private screening of "American Sniper" at the Texas Capitol. She praised peer counseling such as the Military Veteran Peer Network, one of several assistance programs that the Texas Veterans Commission hopes will receive more state funding this year.

Although Chris Kyle wasn't working with the network, "he is sort of a model of that network," said Kyle Mitchell, deputy executive director of the commission. "He was outreaching in the field on his own."

Taya Kyle did not attend Monday's event.

GOALS from Page 1

Dr. James Levine, director of the Mayo Clinic-Arizona State University Obesity Solutions Initiative, said in an interview with the Los Angeles Times that sitting is more harmful than smoking, and leads to more deaths than HIV and parachuting.

"We're made to move," Patterson said. "But that doesn't mean we're all made to be cross-fitters or marathon runners."

Patterson said setting an alarm for 45 minutes when working at a desk, and then taking a short break to get moving, can help with being sedentary for long periods of time. She said even if this is just walking down the hall, the movement boosts metabolism.

Dallas senior Grace Meyer said sitting can sometimes counteract productivity during the day.

"Running has the benefit of endorphins, and it relieves stress," Meyer said. "But if I just run and then sit all day, it doesn't have the same effect. It's the little things, like walking to class, that boosts my mood."

When it comes to exercise, there is a misunderstanding that everyone needs to be a runner, Patterson said.

"Try reminding yourself: why did I set this goal to begin with?" Patterson said. "How realistic is this goal that you set over Christmas break?"

In regard to healthy eating, Patterson said she advises students to think it through.

"Plan your meals ahead of time, and write it down so you are more likely to follow it. This helps students to see patterns and determine problem areas," Patterson said.

Patterson said although it can be difficult for college students to eat well when they live in the dorm and don't have a kitchen to cook in, these students should aim to have four to five fruits or vegetables per day. For those who are really new to eating healthy, Patterson said to eat something green every day.

"It's all about consistency," Patterson said. "It's what you do on a daily basis that forms habits, and these habits continue past college."

OBAMA from Page 1

loophole-cluttered tax code in hopes of promoting economic growth.

While Obama's plan was rejected out of hand on budget day, proposals to ease automatic cuts and boost transportation funding are likely to return later in the year and require extensive negotiation.

"These proposals are practical, not partisan," Obama said of his overall plans. "They'll help working families feel more secure with paychecks that go further, help American workers upgrade their skills so they can compete for higher-paying jobs, and help create the conditions for our businesses to keep generating good new jobs for our workers to fill."

Some people would pay more. Many wealthy Americans would be able to take tax deductions at the 28 percent rate only even if their incomes were taxed at 39.6 percent, and some would also see an increase in their maximum capital gains rate.

However, a couple earning up to \$120,000 a year would qualify for a new "second earner" tax credit of up to \$500 as well as a maximum \$3,000 per-child tax credit for child care for up to two

children, triple the current credit of \$1,000.

Obama's initiatives to tax the wealthy and to welcome an influx of immigrants into the United States are going nowhere in the new GOP-run Congress.

But there is a bipartisan desire to ease automatic spending cuts that are the product of Washington's failures to cut deficits beyond an initial round in 2011. Both Republicans and Democrats are howling that such broad cuts savage the Pentagon. Obama said he won't give more money to the Pentagon without receiving domestic funds he wants.

"It would be bad for our security and bad for our growth," Obama said Monday at the Department of Homeland Security.

The centerpiece of the president's tax plan is an increase in the capital gains rate on couples making more than \$500,000 per year. The rate would climb from 24.2 percent to the Reagan-era top rate of 28 percent. Obama also wants to require estates to pay capital gains taxes that reflect the increase in value of assets like homes and stocks prior to death instead of after inheritance. And he is trying to impose a 0.07 per-

US questions Ukraine stance

By JULIE PACE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama is reconsidering his opposition to giving Ukraine defensive weapons and other lethal aid to help its struggling military repel Russian-backed rebels, a possible escalation that has had strong support from many in his national security team.

The shift suggests the White House is growing increasingly concerned that its reliance on punishing Russia with economic sanctions isn't doing enough to change President Vladimir Putin's thinking about backing fighters in ethnic-Russian eastern Ukraine.

A senior Obama administration official said the president still sees pitfalls in plans to send defensive lethal aid to Ukraine, and a decision on the matter is not imminent. However, the official said a recent spike in violence between Ukraine and Russian-backed separatists has sparked a fresh examination of U.S. policy.

The president's worries about sending higher-powered equipment to Ukraine are threefold, according to the official. He sees risk in starting a proxy war between

the U.S. and Russia, which the West accuses of supplying rebels in eastern Ukraine. He is worried that the Ukrainian military may not be well-trained enough to effectively use U.S. equipment and believes no amount of arms would put Ukraine on par with the Russian military.

Obama has weighed sending lethal aid to Ukraine before, but has always decided against taking that step. But holding fast to that position has left him isolated within his administration, given the support for sending the Ukrainians defensive assistance from high-ranking officials including Secretary of State John Kerry and NATO Commander Gen. Philip Breedlove.

On Monday, several former U.S. diplomatic and military officials released a report calling on the White House and Congress to give Ukraine \$3 billion in military assistance over the next three years. National Security Council spokeswoman Bernadette Meehan said the White House is "constantly assessing our policies in Ukraine."

"Although our focus remains on pursuing a solution through diplomatic means, we are always evaluating other options that will help create space for a negotiated

solution to the crisis," she said.

Kerry plans to be in Kiev on Thursday to meet with Ukrainian leaders, though administration officials downplayed the notion that his trip would coincide with new announcements on U.S. policy.

Obama has sought to coordinate the U.S. response to the Ukraine crisis with Europe, which he has long considered to have a closer stake in the fight. An official said the president indeed wants to discuss the prospect of lethal aid with his European counterparts, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who is due to visit Washington next week.

But Merkel said Monday that Germany will not provide weapons to Ukraine and prefers economic sanctions and negotiations to "solve or at least mitigate the conflict."

"It is my firm belief that this conflict cannot be solved militarily," Merkel said after meeting with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban in Budapest.

Obama and European leaders have largely centered their efforts to stop Russia's year-long advance on Ukraine on sanctions targeting Moscow's defense, energy and financial sectors

ORGAN from Page 1

to love about great organists performing great music?"

Kennesaw, Ga., graduate student Kellie Richardson, who studies under Demers, said she hopes the conference and her studies will land her a position as an organist at a church.

"My favorite thing about the conference is meeting and interacting with some big-name people in the organ world," Richardson said. "Not only are their workshops, master classes and concerts informative and enjoyable, but the conference also gives us the opportunity to get to know them personally. We are able to ask them questions and make connections that will help us in our career paths."

Richardson said she is excited for the workshops that relate to church music.

"This conference is excellent preparation for that as sessions are primarily focused on organ," Richardson said. "But also discuss other areas of church music, such as Dr. Randall Bradley's presentation on 'Music as Ministry' and Dr. Lynne Gackle's workshop on 'Understanding the female adolescent voice.'"

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Keeping time

Baylor Percussion Symposium hosted special guest percussionist Glenn Kotche, drummer for the band Wilco, on Friday evening at the Hippodrome.

'Violent Year' will entrance viewers

By SEAN CORDY
CONTRIBUTOR

During the first two months of the year, it is rare to see a great movie in theaters. After making its rounds in December's limited release circuit, J.C. Chandor's "A Most Violent Year" has finally hit Waco theaters, offering fresh air to moviegoers. It may have missed out on the Oscars, but that doesn't indicate the film's value.

MOVIE REVIEW

"A Most Violent Year" oozes atmosphere, leaving you entranced by its image. The 1980s crime drama evokes memories of hard winters in the northern U.S., and focuses on the most violent year in New York City's history.

The only brutal violence we see is the hijacking of trucks, but the inner battles of immigrant business owner Abel (Oscar Isaac) presents viewers with more than enough contention.

Chandor examines the often contested morality of man through

Abel, pushing him to his limits to see just how far someone will go to achieve the American Dream. Early on, we see the powerful status that Abel has attained through the heating oil business, as he buys a new house and is on a first-name basis with the district attorney (David Oyelowo). Abel's close relationship with the DA subjects his company to searches for criminal activity — just one of many things ready to make him snap.

What follows the police investigations of Abel's home and business is his company's latest transaction being put on the wire, familial struggle and a series of cowardly hijackings of his company's trucks. In the end, Chandor uses the film to question whether the outcome was worth all that happens from the first frame to the last.

Though directors aren't usually as popular as actors, having Chandor's name attached to a project should be an immediate indication of quality. In only his third film, he's able to attract high-profile names like Isaac ("Robin Hood"), Jessica Chastain ("The Help," "Interstellar"), and Albert Brooks ("Drive").

Chandor's film maturity is that of a seasoned director. Without his hand guiding it all, this could have been a terrible made-for-TV film. Instead, it's a slow-burning character study, melting away the icy atmosphere of New York City in 1981.

Isaac's performance is certainly a highlight of the film, showing great restraint and nuance in Abel. There's a scene that should hit home for many college students in which he's completely broken down, begging for a loan, and signs his name for a line of credit. We think we have it all together, but then when that dotted line takes control of you. It is broken moments like this that humanize the film.

Add a brooding synthesizing score to match equally impressive cinematography, and you have quite the film on your hands. Admittedly, it's not a film for everyone; some may find it to be too slow and cynical.

From a filmmaking stance though, there are few directors as visionary and pure as Chandor, and "A Most Violent Year" is testament to that.

Galactic threads immortalized in 'Star Wars' exhibit

By DONNA GORDON BLANKINSHIP
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE — The creators of a new traveling exhibit on the costumes of Star Wars are hoping to gather geeks, fashionistas and movie fans together to discuss how clothing helps set the scene.

But mostly, the exhibit that opened this past weekend at Seattle's EMP Museum is an opportunity to see 60 original costumes from the six Star Wars movies in one room — from Princess Leia's slave bikini to Queen Amidala's wedding dress, which has not been part of any previous public display.

The exhibit, "Rebel, Jedi, Princess, Queen: Star Wars and the Power of Costume," was created by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and the Lucas Museum of Narrative Arts and will be traveling across the

United States through 2020. The exhibit is scheduled to be in Seattle through early October and the creators have not yet announced the next stops.

The exhibit designers want people to know this is a rare opportunity to see the costumes up close and personal, without Plexiglas in the way. But be warned, the alarm system will loudly rebuke anyone who leans in too close.

Photography is allowed, but no flash, tripods or selfie sticks. The Darth Vader costume is set off on its own, perfectly arranged for selfies.

Videos of filmmaker George Lucas, costume designers and star Natalie Portman, along with the descriptions under the costumes, share a wealth of insider information about costume construction and idea development.

The displays also talk about



ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Star Wars costume exhibit at Seattle's EMP Museum includes a yak hair and mohair costume of the Wookiee Chewbacca.

cultural influences from Africa to Asia. Quotes from actors talk about the way the costumes made them feel, from Carrie Fisher's experience in what she called the bikini from hell, to the power the Sith lords felt in their getups. Gloomy lighting and music from the films permeates the exhibit space.

"The costumes help the characters really come to life," said Laela French, the Lucas Museum's senior manager of exhibits and collections.

She talked about the visual clues the costumes offer, such as the way Anakin Skywalker's Jedi robes darken as he gets older and

closer to becoming Darth Vader. Most people don't notice that Luke Skywalker's robes also darkened through his trio of films, showing the mix of light and dark in his character as well, French said.

Star Wars experts may not learn anything new, but a lot of people probably don't know that the lights in Queen Amidala's dramatic red throne room gown were powered by a car battery that had to be worn underneath the heavy costume during filming of "The Phantom Menace."

Among the other display descriptions: Amidala's wedding dress was made partly out of an Italian lace bedspread; and Chewbacca's fur is a combination of Yak hair and mohair.

The costumes are displayed on faceless mannequins instead of life-size figurines to put the emphasis on the clothes and not the

characters, French said.

Because the costumes for the second trilogy of films — the prequels — were so much more elaborate and interesting, the exhibit shares many more of them, including several walls of clothing worn by Queen Amidala and her attendants.

But the highlights of the exhibit for most people will be the old ones, including the two droids, which were costumes worn by people, not puppets as some assume. Most of the puppets and computer-generated creatures are not represented. Yoda is present, but slightly hidden.

There are no hints of the new movie, scheduled to come out at the end of 2015.

Some gift shop highlights: Chewbacca slippers, storm trooper knit cap and a travel T-shirt that says "Welcome to Tatooine."

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DAILY PUZZLES

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- Across**
- Burst into tears
 - Wander off the point
 - Rainy
 - Hodgepodge
 - In the plane's cabin, say
 - New Year's ...
 - Pennsylvania borough in today's news
 - Clinton's instrument
 - Ambulance VIP
 - '50s nuclear experiments
 - Founded, on signs
 - Foe
 - Approved, briefly
 - Pop singer Diamond
 - Henry VIII's sixth wife Catherine
 - Conk out
 - "Make up your mind!"
 - Germany's ___ Republic, 1919-'33
 - Flip-flops
 - What we'll have of 3-Down, according to folklore, if 18-Across 62-Down sees his 50-Down on
 - Across
 - Puppies
 - Bahamas capital
 - Thick fog metaphor
 - Dirt road groove
 - Amt. on a new car window
 - Venus de ...
 - Mess of hair
 - Employee handing out playbills
 - Stoolie
 - Workshop grippers
 - Word after Iron or Stone
 - Corp. leader
 - February 2, every year
 - Coffee hour vessel
 - Asian language in a region famous for tigers
 - ___ vault
 - Letter before tee
 - La Brea discovery
 - Filled with wonder
- Down**
- Girl who lost her sheep
 - Barnard graduate
 - Cold season
 - Bagel go-with
 - Landslide victory
 - Poker pot starter
 - Corp. execs' degrees
 - Bend before in reverence
 - Lucky Luciano cohort Meyer ...
 - Before, in poetry
 - Cowboy movies
 - Shirking, as taxes
 - LBJ's home state
 - Salon coloring
 - Speak
 - Sweetie pie
 - Dennis the Menace's grumpy neighbor
 - Part of UCLA
 - Chinese appetizer
 - "I think ..." in texts
 - Make, as money
 - Mets' old stadium
 - Old Montreal baseballer
 - Back
 - Flipped aquarium attractions
 - Sch. with a Spokane campus
 - Typist's stat.
 - Some young cows
 - Pennsylvania raceway
 - Sundial casting
 - Entertain in style
 - Victimized, with "on"
 - Outlet inserts
 - GI show gp.
 - USSR secret service
 - Santa ___ West Coast winds
 - 1551, to Caesar
 - Given name of the critter in today's news
 - Billiards stick
 - NBA official
 - Isaac's list no.

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No. 3 Baylor wins 19th-straight over KU

Combined 43 fouls called, but Lady Bears stay unbeaten in Big 12

By JEFFREY SWINDOLL
SPORTS WRITER

The stakes keep stacking higher for the No. 3 Lady Bears. Baylor set itself apart from this season's Big 12 Conference women's basketball teams over the weekend. The Lady Bears are the only undefeated team remaining in the Big 12 after reaching a 9-0 league record with a 66-58 win over Kansas on Sunday at the Ferrell Center.

Controversial calls and turnovers were scattered throughout the game for both sides. The rowdy crowd at the Ferrell Center was energized by Baylor's play, but were evidently frustrated with the referees as 43 fouls were called between the two teams.

"This was a very difficult game to coach," Baylor head coach Kim Mulkey said. "I thought the flow was just interrupted too much. When you create 28 turnovers, you take 22 more shots than your opponent, you hold [Chelsea] Gardner and [Natalie] Knight in check, you shoot the same number of free throws, but yet you struggle to just really extend a lead and win a game, I don't want to say 'convincingly,' but it was just a tough game."

Mulkey was livid for much of the game, coming to the brink of being ejected from the game entirely. Mulkey ended up getting called for a technical foul after her argument after one call was a bit too passionate for the referee's liking.

That same incident saw multiple Baylor players physically holding Mulkey back as she tossed and turned on the sideline, yelling in the referee's direction. Mulkey joked after the game saying it was the most leadership her players have shown all season.

"Me and Nina [Davis] tried to hold her back and told her it's not worth it. We needed her," junior guard Niyah Johnson said. "She would've gotten thrown out



Baylor women's basketball coach Kim Mulkey protests a call during Baylor's game against Kansas on Sunday. Mulkey was called for a technical foul during the second half, but the Lady Bears passed KU 66-58.

and added two more points to the scoreboard. We had to play it smart."

Mulkey eventually turned her discussions with the referees down a notch, taking more of a subdued posture. The controversial call reactions had reached their threshold.

Kansas took an early lead as the Lady Bears stumbled in the first few series of plays. The Lady Bears were not on the same page, committing errant passes

and poor shot decisions while Kansas executed well.

Earlier in the season, the Lady Bears faced a similar challenge after falling early to Oklahoma State. That time, the Lady Bears were down at halftime but finally broke through in the second half, winning by double-digits. This time around, the Jayhawks and the Lady Bears each traded the lead on multiple occasions in both halves. There was never any moment for either team to settle.

The Lady Bears dug themselves out of a hole with a 9-0 run to make it 12-12 with just over 10 minutes left in the first half. The lead swung back and forth until the halftime whistle, where the Lady Bears led 32-28 at the break.

Eventually, the Lady Bears' difference was doing a better job of getting defensive stops and turning them into quick baskets on fast-breaks. The Lady Bears scored 32 total points off Kansas' 28 turnovers. Kansas scored just nine points off Baylor's 17 turnovers.

Davis scored her 1,000th collegiate point during her 22-point outing against the Jayhawks on Sunday. Davis is Mulkey's 12th player ever to surpass 1,000 points.

"I think the goal is to win championships, so to score 1,000 points is a great milestone, and I am blessed, but I owe it to my coach and my teammates, but I got to think on the next game," Davis said.

Johnson earned a double-double with 13 points and 10 assists. Johnson scuffed three turnovers in her 37 minutes of play.

"We go as [Davis and Johnson] go in a lot of respects," Mulkey said. "Those two kids have had a great year and when those two kids are doing well it just rubs off well on everybody. They made some big shots, they made some big plays when we were on a run in the second half when they took the lead."

Mulkey preaches that rebounding and turnovers are absolutely vital to road games. The Lady Bears have a big stretch of tough road tests on their schedule, including Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and Texas.

Halfway through the Big 12 conference season, the Lady Bears are undefeated, but their toughest battles are still to come. It will be a fight to the finish.

The Lady Bears travel to Stillwater, Okla., to face Oklahoma State at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

BU dominates UT, leads state of Texas

By CODY SOTO
SPORTS WRITER

No. 19 Baylor men's basketball made a statement last Saturday as it met conference rival Texas for its first meeting this season. Behind an impactful performance from senior guard Kenny Chery, the Bears rolled over the Longhorns 83-60 at the Ferrell Center for their fourth conference win.

Baylor (16-5, 4-4 Big 12) shot 30-for-62 from the court for a 48.4 shooting percentage and limited the Longhorns to only a 38.6 shooting percentage, including only 5-for-26 from three-point range. That statistic killed Texas' offense. The Bears hit 54.5 percent from the three-point line, allowing Baylor to continue its dominance when the Longhorns cut the lead.

Chery hit 9-of-12 shots including five three-pointers to lead all players with 23 points and added five assists and four rebounds in the win. Senior forward Royce O'Neale also stepped forward and added 20 points and eight rebounds.

In the top-20 matchup, Baylor's seniors were able to contribute not only on the scoreboard, but as a stealthy backbone when the team struggled in the first half. The efficiency of Baylor's offense was night and day during the opening

20 minutes; the Bears hit their first eight shots and missed 15 of their next 17 quickly after that.

A three-pointer by Texas' Javon Felix cut the Baylor lead to four with less than five minutes left in the half. Soon after that, the Bears pulled together an 11-3 run to lead 39-27 into halftime.

"Basketball is a game of runs, so we knew they were going to make a run; we just didn't know when," Chery said. "When they cut it down to four, the coaching staff told us to stay poised and keep pushing. That's exactly what we did, and it went well."

Head coach Scott Drew said that the Bears were going to need an efficient shooting percentage in order to stay in the game with Texas. Both the Bears and the Longhorns are in the top five of rebounds per game nationally, pulling down an average of 41 rebounds per contest.

"We knew we had to get a good shot on that first one because Baylor and Texas are monster teams on the glass," Drew said. "If you were depending on more second and third chance shots, it was going to be tough."

Fans saw major highs and lows during the matchup as the Bears found holes in Texas' defense to create some space on the



Junior guard Lester Medford drives down the lane during Baylor's 83-60 win over Texas on Saturday. Medford dished seven assists in the win.

scoreboard, but at different times, the Baylor defense looked easy to tear apart. Baylor found a way to move the ball around and caused some confusion for several players guarding Chery. The team effort was evident on Saturday night, finishing the night with 24 assists and only nine turnovers.

"You can't get much more unselfish playing than 24 assists and only nine turnovers," Drew said. "I thought it was excellent in offensive execution in making the extra pass."

The Bears have the opportunity to make a big run in the Big 12, but they need wins on the road in order to push the team into the top half of the conference standings.

Baylor can take care of any conference opponent at home right now, playing some nail biters and blowout wins within the past

month against top 25 conference opponents. Each win will have to come with the team effort, and the Bears showed that on Saturday night.

"It was just us sharing the ball," O'Neale said. "Everybody was finding the right shot and making the shot. It's just one game, but hopefully we can do the rest and finish strong in the Big 12."

With the win, Baylor now sits at No. 19 in the Associated Press standings and are the highest-ranked team in the state of Texas. The Bears also have wins over four of the top six teams in the state of Texas: Texas, Texas A&M, TCU and Stephen F. Austin.

Baylor hosts in-state rival TCU in another competitive Big 12 matchup at the Ferrell Center Wednesday night. Game time is set for 7:30 p.m. on ESPNEWS.

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