



Briles denies role in scandal cover-up

KALYN STORY
Staff Writer

Jancy Briles, daughter of former head football coach Art Briles, emailed the Lariat a letter signed by Briles on Thursday morning denying he had any role in a sexual assault cover-up, expressing his love for the Baylor family and calling for more transparency from Baylor’s leadership.

“Let me be clear: I did not cover-up any sexual violence,” Briles wrote in his letter. “I had no contact with anyone that claimed to be a victim of sexual or domestic assault. Anyone well-versed in my work as a coach knows that I strove to promote excellence, but never at the sacrifice of safety for anyone. I did not obstruct justice on campus or off.”

Briles’ letter begins by explaining that he can no longer remain silent about allegations against him although there are some details he cannot disclose due to a confidentiality agreement with the university related to his departure.

A Baylor spokesperson said the university declined to comment on Briles’ letter.

Briles’ letter comes a day after the Department of Public Safety announced that the Texas Rangers will be conducting an investigation into Baylor’s handling of sexual assault cases to see if further actions need to be taken. A spokesperson for the university said they will cooperate fully with any and all investigations.

In February, in response to a libel case filed by a former athletic department employee, a document was filed by regents Cary Gray, Ron Murff and David Harper that quoted alleged text messages between Briles and other athletic department employees.

The document says in one instance that “an assistant coach notified Coach Briles of a claim by a female student-athlete that a football player brandished a gun at her. Coach Briles responded: ‘what a fool – she reporting to authorities.’ The assistant coach texted back: ‘She’s acting traumatized ... Trying to talk her calm now...Doesn’t seem to want to report though.’ Coach Briles texted: ‘U gonna talk to [the player].’ The assistant coach concluded: ‘Yes sir, just did. Caught him on the way to class... Squeezed him pretty good.’ The matter was never

BRILES >> Page 4

Lettuce Turnip the Beet



Liesje Powers | Photo Editor

OLIVE FREE FOOD! McAllen junior David Marchese stocks up on free fresh fruits and vegetables on Thursday at the Baylor Mobile Food Pantry in the Seventh and James Baptist Church parking lot. The Baylor Mobile Food Pantry is hosted a few times throughout the school year to help fight food insecurity among college students.

Shameless Students

New student organization tackles porn addiction

JOY MOTON
Staff Writer

A Baylor student and an alumnus have created a group designed to confront the struggle of pornography. Shameless is an anti-pornography movement that consists of anonymous accountability groups that meet to discuss pornography addiction.

The group was created by Houston senior Nathan Eggen and Baylor alumnus Mason Everett out of a desire to help people discuss a harmful struggle they dealt with themselves.

“The idea came from our own struggles with pornography and the fact that it’s a topic that’s not really discussed at all,” Eggen said.

The name of the organization comes from the very reason porn addiction is such a struggle for people to fight, Eggen said. Since the leaders are not psychologists or psychiatrists, they converse with Dr. Don

Arterburn, addictive behavior specialist for the wellness department at Baylor, as a group.

Out of conversations with Arterburn, Eggen has learned that one reason this topic is not openly talked about is because of the embarrassment involved. One of the biggest contributors to addiction is shame because people try to hide their addiction and feel alone in their efforts to fight it, Eggen said.

“When you don’t talk about it, when it’s under the radar, when it’s in the darkness and when you don’t share it with anyone, it does its work, and it eats away at you, and it’s destructive,” Eggen said.

Eggen said shame keeps people from bringing the truth to light because they believe nobody wants to hear them talk about pornography or that they will be the only one who struggles with this. The accountability

“We are breaking this addiction by talking about it. We are going to be shameless about talking about it with everybody.”

Nathan Eggen | Houston senior and co-creator of Shameless

SHAMELESS >> Page 4

Local businesses support Waco schools



Dayday Wynn | Lariat Photographer

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS Waco businesses and organizations, including Baylor Law School have taken advantage of the opportunity to support Waco Independent School District with the Adopt a School program.

MEGAN RULE
Staff Writer

Waco businesses and communities come together to support Waco Independent School District students with the Adopt a School program, which fosters students’ success through volunteers.

“In the beginning, there was a need in the schools for extra support, and the community wanted to get involved, and they slowly figured out where they could best utilize their talents and resources,” said Stephanie Hines, community partnership specialist with Waco ISD.

There are 160 partners across the district, Hines said, where some are district partners and some are school specific. Many partners do reading programs, which is one of the most popular, in addition to programs such as tutoring, providing lunch for teachers

or providing Christmas gifts to children. District partners such as Bahama Bucks and Peter Piper Pizza will provide coupons that teachers and staff can hand out as an incentive for good behavior or good grades.

“I’ve been involved with Adopt a School for so many years,” said Leah Jackson Teague, professor and associate dean at Baylor Law School. “It’s an incredible program. I’m amazed with the time students give. But there’s so many great partners that spend a tremendous amount of time, effort and resources doing what we’re doing. It’s an incredible program.”

The community groups that volunteer with students are strictly volunteers, and before anyone steps in to interact with the children, a background check is done. Information about volunteering with Adopt

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GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

We want to hear it. Send us your thoughts: LariatLetters@baylor.edu

EDITORIAL

Be safe during your spring break

Starting tomorrow, campus will be nearly empty as students take a week off for spring break. At the risk of sounding like parents, we want to point out that these days off aren't why many people are concerned for college students, but the dangers that present themselves during this time that do.

Car accidents, substance abuse and travel complications are just some of the issues that are predictably present in spring break experiences year after year.

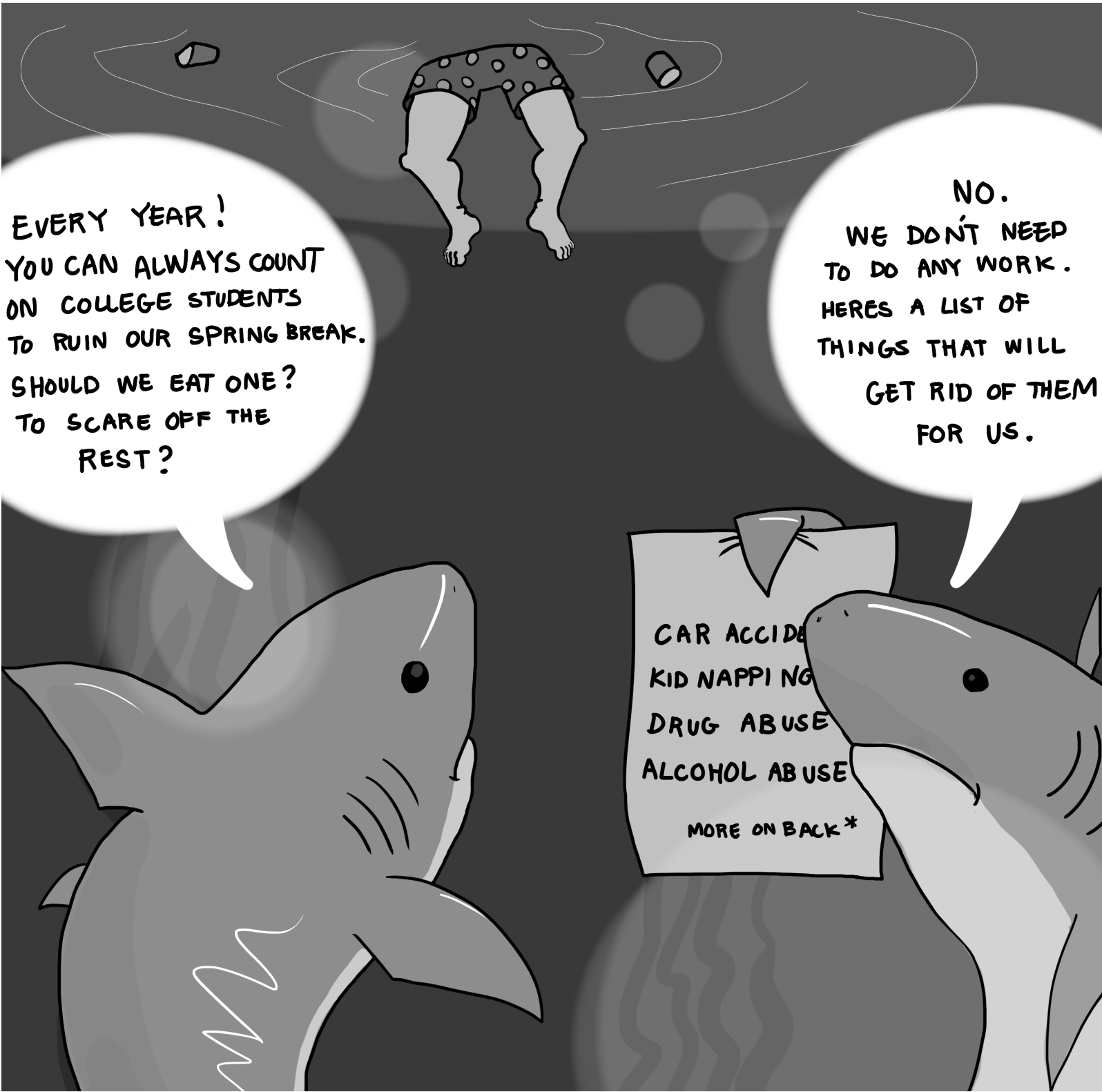
Because driving is a popular traveling method during the break, we should be aware of the additional hazards presented by this time of year. The Texas Department of Transportation calls spring break a "particularly dangerous and deadly time" on state roads as DUI-alcohol crashes involving young drivers tend to spike.

To put it in numbers, the department reported 459 crashes involving young adults under the influence during the 2015 spring break period. This figure is not an exception, but a well-known trend in driver behavior.

Traffic fatalities see a general increase as well because car accidents can happen to anyone regardless of whether or not they are under the influence. The best way to decrease the likelihood of getting in a car accident is to be vigilant.

While drinking and driving is never OK, driver exhaustion puts lives at risk as well. Sleep deprivation is a common factor among drivers who underestimate how tired they are or want to continue driving to avoid hotel costs, but this can be a big mistake to make when it comes to passenger safety.

Travel complications can also make our break memorable for all the wrong reasons. Every year, thousands of American students flood Mexico's hotels and beaches in search of a good time.



Joshua Kim | Cartoonist

And while a vacation should be enjoyed, students should be aware of the differences between the U.S. and the country they are visiting.

Mexico, for example, has been put under a travel warning by the U.S.

Department of State because of activities carried out by several criminal organizations in the area.

Nevertheless, Mexico is frequently a place where young Americans assume U.S. laws follow. Each country has

its own set of customs and rules, and the best way to avoid trouble is to grow familiar with them before traveling.

Domestic travelers should still take certain necessary precautions when going to unfamiliar places.

Like those traveling abroad, one should make it a point to research, plan and never wander alone to unknown areas. While much of this advice may sound redundant, if not repetitive, it is good to remember during the time we

take to temporarily unwind from school.

Every year, there is at least one report of a college student whose life was cut short during the break, and we ask that everyone take the necessary steps to ensure it isn't them.

COLUMN

Pay attention to the little moments, they're fleeting

KARYN SIMPSON
Copy Desk Chief

As a senior, freshman year seems like forever ago. A lifetime of coffee cups, late nights and marathon study sessions stands between 18-year-old me and 22-year-old me, and I almost don't recognize the girl who walked onto this campus four years ago with too many boxes and not enough confidence.



It's funny how memory is a burning book, the pages, chapters dissolving into ash even as you flip past them. Looking back, I can barely recall many of the details of these past four years.

Of course, I remember the big things – the headlines, the semester I completely forgot to attend my Spanish final, the way my roommates and I laughed when

we came home one evening to find our pit bull hiding from our cat.

But the little things — conversations over coffee, the moments of spontaneous joy and the way the light shone into my dorm room through the peaked fourth-floor window — all fade into the same indeterminate haze of memory.

We receive a lot of advice throughout our years as students here. "Don't drink the punch." "Sit in the front row." "Dress well, test well." And, if you're anything like me, you listened to very little of it.

That said, as I go into my last spring break, my last set of midterms, my last two months of university, I find myself wanting to pass on the one piece of advice that I do remember, that I did listen to: Be present.

In your classes, in your afternoons, in your walks to class — be present. At risk of sounding like a poorly written cliché, your time here is fleeting. Embrace it.

The second night of Welcome Week my

freshman year, an upperclassman leader sat down next to me on Fountain Mall. I don't remember his name, the tenor of his voice or the color of his hair — all are details that have faded to ash in my mind — but I do remember his message.

He told me to savor the little moments. He cautioned me against hiding behind my phone on my walks to class, encouraging me to put it in my pocket, to look around me, to notice the details. He asked me to try being present in everything I did, just for a week.

Now, though I've certainly had the days I've walked to class with my nose buried in a book or my phone, I've also learned to savor being truly present in each moment, putting my headphones in with no music playing and just soaking in the world around me.

I've tried to take time to relish in the moments, in the minute experiences that I likely won't experience again after graduation. I'm not going to say these are the best years of your life

— they aren't.

But they are likely the only years you will spend at Baylor, and by being intentionally present, you'll create memories you can look back on long after this time in your life is over.

As I fill out my graduation card, I reach back to grasp these moments I never thought I'd miss, but in many cases, I find only ash and the shadow of a memory. Coming from a senior: Your time here really does go quickly.

Be present in the minutiae of every day. Be intentional in your interactions, in your time. Don't get so bogged down in the mundane that you forget to look around you, to enjoy the details.

After all, long after graduation, you'll want to remember the way campus looked in the spring, not just that you passed your classes.

Karyn Simpson is a senior environmental studies and journalism double major from Fair Oaks Ranch.

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To submit a Lariat Letter, email LariatLetters@baylor.edu. Letters should be a maximum of 400 words. The letter is not guaranteed to be published.



Associated Press

OUT OF SESSION In this Feb. 9, 2017, file photo, Attorney General Jeff Sessions holds a meeting with the heads of federal law enforcement components at the Department of Justice in Washington. Sessions had two conversations with the Russian ambassador to the United States during the presidential campaign season last year, contact that immediately fueled calls for him to recuse himself from a Justice Department investigation into Russian interference in the election. The Justice Department said Wednesday night that the two conversations took place last year when Sessions was a senator.

Sessions distances himself from Russian investigations

ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Under intensifying pressure, Attorney General Jeff Sessions abruptly agreed Thursday to recuse himself from any investigation into Russian meddling in America’s 2016 presidential election. He acted after revelations he twice spoke with the Russian ambassador during the campaign and failed to say so when pressed by Congress.

Sessions rejected any suggestion that he had tried to mislead anyone about his contacts with the Russian, saying, “That is not my intent. That is not correct.”

But he did allow that he should have been more careful in his testimony during his confirmation hearing, saying, “I should have slowed down and said, ‘But I did meet one Russian official a couple of times.’”

The White House has stood by Sessions in the latest controversy to dog President Donald Trump’s young administration, though officials say they first learned about his contacts with the ambassador from a reporter Wednesday night. Trump himself said Thursday he had “total” confidence in Sessions and didn’t think he needed to recuse himself — not long before he did.

One of Sessions’ conversations with Ambassador Sergey Kislyak occurred at a July event on the sidelines of the Republican National Convention in Cleveland. At that same event, the ambassador also spoke with Carter Page, who briefly advised Trump’s campaign on foreign policy, according to a person with knowledge of the discussion.

Separately, a White House official said Thursday that Trump’s son-in-law, Jared Kushner, and ousted national security adviser Michael Flynn met with Kislyak at Trump Tower in New York in December. The official described that sit-down as a brief courtesy meeting.

Flynn was fired last month for misleading Vice President Mike Pence about his contacts with Kislyak.

The Trump team’s account of

Flynn’s contacts with the ambassador has changed several times. The White House did not disclose the in-person meeting, or Kushner’s involvement, until Thursday.

Both the White House official and the person with knowledge of Page’s discussion insisted on anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly disclose the meetings.

Trump has been trailed for months by questions about potential ties to Russia, and allegations of Russian efforts to interfere in the U.S. election to help him defeat Hillary Clinton. The new president and his campaign officials have blamed such contentions on Democratic sore losers and have heatedly denied any contact with Russians concerning the election.

While there is nothing necessarily nefarious or even unusual about a member of Congress meeting with a foreign ambassador, typically members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee meet with foreign ambassadors, not Armed Services Committee lawmakers, such as Sessions, whose responsibility is oversight of the military and the Pentagon.

The latest development comes on the heels of what had been the high point of Trump’s young presidency: a well-received address to Congress Tuesday night that energized Republicans and appeared to wipe away some lawmakers’ concerns about the administration’s tumultuous start.

But Sessions faced a rising chorus of demands that he resolve the seeming contradiction between his two conversations in the summer and fall with Kislyak and his sworn statements to Congress in January, when he said he had not had communications with Russians during the campaign.

The Justice Department said he met with Kislyak in his role as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, not in his role as a Trump adviser with the campaign, and that led to his answers.

The attorney general, an early backer and key adviser for Trump’s campaign,

said he decided to recuse himself for investigations that are underway and others to come after his staff recommended he do so. Acting Deputy Attorney General Dana Boente will handle such matters for now.

Sessions added that his announcement “should not be interpreted as confirmation of the existence of any investigation.”

Some Democrats called for Sessions not only to recuse himself but to resign.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, who had accused Sessions of “lying under oath,” repeated her call for his resignation after he recused himself. Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said a special prosecutor should be appointed to examine whether the federal investigation into Kremlin meddling — and into possible contacts between Trump associates and Russians — had been compromised by Sessions. Democrats also sought a criminal perjury investigation.

More than a half dozen Republican lawmakers, including some who consider themselves personally close to Sessions, had urged him to recuse himself from the probe. Sen. Tom Cole of Oklahoma said he didn’t believe Sessions could have colluded with Russia, but “If there is an investigation, he probably shouldn’t be the person leading it.”

The Justice Department acknowledged two separate Sessions interactions with Kislyak, both coming after cybersecurity firms had concluded that Russian intelligence agencies were behind cyber-hacking of the Democratic National Committee.

The first occurred after a Heritage Foundation event during the Republican National Convention in July, when the department says a group of envoys — including the Russian ambassador — approached Sessions. The second was a September conversation, which the department likened to the more than 25 discussions Sessions had with foreign ambassadors last year as a senior member of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

TEXAS BRIEFS

Texas ‘Sandra Bland’ bill would revamp profiling laws

AUSTIN— The first sweeping police overhaul proposed in Texas, following a black woman’s 2015 death in jail after a confrontational traffic stop, would revamp racial profiling laws and officer training.

The “Sandra Bland Act” could also face a chilly reception from Republicans in the Texas Legislature. Republican Gov. Greg Abbott has named enhanced police protections — not accountability measures — a priority for lawmakers after a sniper killed five Dallas police officers last summer.

Bland was found dead in a jail outside Houston three days after being pulled over by a white state trooper for not signaling a lane change. Her death was ruled a suicide. Dashcam video recorded her combative traffic stop that quickly escalated and included Trooper Brian Encinia threatening to “light up” Bland with a stun gun.

“This is not anti-police or anti-government. This is a humanity act,” said Next Generation Action Network founder Dominique Alexander, an ordained Baptist preacher and convicted felon whose uncle died in a police-involved shooting. The sniper who fired on Dallas police wasn’t connected to Alexander’s group.

Federal judge tosses suit against Texas attorney general

AUSTIN — A federal judge on Thursday dismissed claims by the U.S. government that Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton fraudulently duped wealthy investors before taking office, giving the Republican a key victory two months ahead of his criminal trial that carries a possible prison sentence.

Paxton, who has spent most of his two years as attorney general under felony indictment, has now twice prevailed over accusations by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission that he had a duty to tell investors he was being paid by a high-tech Texas startup while recruiting more than \$840,000 from them.

The dismissal of the civil lawsuit brought by federal regulators has no bearing on Paxton’s criminal trial that is scheduled to begin in May near Dallas.

US asylum seeker granted bond to seek care for brain tumor

DALLAS — An immigration judge granted bond Thursday to a Salvadoran woman seeking asylum in the United States, allowing her to leave an immigration detention facility to seek treatment for a brain tumor.

Sara Beltran Hernandez’s family in New York posted her \$15,000 bond after the hearing and she was released late Thursday afternoon from the Prairieland Detention Center in Alvarado, south of Fort Worth, an Amnesty International official said.

“She’s going to get medical treatment hopefully in New York. She might get checked out here first to make sure she’s OK to travel. Then she’ll be treated there,” Beltran Hernandez’s lawyer, Fatma Marouf, said after the hearing in Dallas.

Amnesty officials said later Thursday that Beltran Hernandez was being seen by a doctor to make sure she would be OK to make the flight to New York.

Compiled from Associated Press reports.

Lonely Lady Liberty



Associated Press

TRUMP SLUMP In this Nov. 5, 2015, file photo, visitors look at the Statue of Liberty during a ferry ride to Liberty Island in New York. The U.S. Travel Association said on Thursday that there are “mounting signs” that the Trump administration’s policies are having a “broad chilling effect on demand for international travel to the United States.”

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Students aim to bring clean water to world

CHRISTINA SOTO
Broadcast Reporter

For many of us, access to water is at our finger tips. However, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, about 783 million people in the world don't have access to clean water.

The Baylor African Student Association recognized this need and decided to team up with The Water Project Foundation to help people in impoverished communities have easier access to water.

Alexandria La., senior Mima Fondong, a president of the African Student Association said they researched several ways they can make a difference and they found The Water Project and thought it was a perfect fit.

"We can do more when it comes to helping people not only in the Waco community but people abroad and especially Africa," Fondong said.

The African Student Association has been able to raise around \$3,000 in the past two years for The Water Project. They raised the

Lariat TV News Online:

Check out the broadcast story online at:

BAYLORLARIAT.COM

majority of this money through two events; their take-a-date and "A Night in Africa" fashion show. The money they donated to The Water Project along with other donations from other organizations was enough to build a well in Kenya.

According to The Water Project website, 1 in 9 people worldwide do not have access to safe and clean drinking water.

"They aren't used to having clean water, they aren't used to having a sink or a bath tub, they have to walk miles and miles just to get clean water," Fondong said.

Fondong said that the African Student Association has taken a lot of pride in this philanthropy because they have close ties to Africa.

"It's held really closely to us because we know that these differences actually do matter and it happens to people that we know and love," Fondong said.

The African Student Association has been able to make a difference across the globe.

"I feel like we are able to leave our mark at Baylor," Fondong said.



Photo Courtesy of African Student Association

GLASS HALF FULL Young men and women in Chanbiti, Kenya, survey various plates and dishes near their new well. The money raised by the African Student Association and donated to the Water Project Foundation helped build a well in Kenya.

BRILES from Page 1

reported to Judicial Affairs."

The document quotes another series of exchanged texts regarding a football player who exposed himself to a masseuse during a session at a salon and spa and asked for "favors."

"What kind of discipline... She a stripper," Briles wrote in a text, the document reports.

The filed document also details a conversation exchanged between Briles and the coach of a female student-athlete who was allegedly gang raped by five football players.

"Those are some bad dudes. Why was she around those guys," Briles said.

Briles seemed to address these text messages in his letter and claimed they were taken out of context.

"[R]umor, innuendo, and out of context messages, emails, and comments have no place in a true fact-finding mission," Briles wrote.

The former head football coach also criticized the media's coverage of Baylor's sexual assault scandal.

"There is an onslaught of information coming out in the press that is inaccurate, misleading, and unfair to Baylor, its amazing students, its strong faculty, the administration and its athletic programs," Briles wrote.



Lariat File Photo

AFTERMATH Former head coach Art Briles shakes hands with junior wide receiver KD Cannon after a game against SMU on Sept. 4, 2015, where Baylor won 56-21. Briles recently wrote a letter stating that he played no part in covering up the sexual assault scandal.

"I've dealt with Title IX and am incredibly disappointed with the care I've received," Hardy said. "When friends tell me they've been assaulted and ask what to do, it is hard for me to direct them to the Title IX office because I wasn't treated well, and I don't know how they'll be treated. I wish Baylor would do something for me to be able to regain my faith in them, but they haven't yet."

Over the past year Baylor made various changes to its Title IX office and policies and procedures for reporting an incident of sexual assault along with required Title IX training for faculty, staff and students. Baylor has also gone so far as to make syllabi carry Title IX content.

"We have some goals and specific ways we want to start doing some of that programming," said Kristan Tucker, Title IX coordinator told the Lariat in January. "This is going to speak into the topics and ways to reach the students. We are asking

for that honesty and transparency so we can understand and make this place better and continue to move in that positive direction. That is definitely our heart in this office and also as a community, we want our students to be part of this and shift the culture."

Tucker wants students to be aware that the survey conducted, as well as the other changes made in the Title IX office, were made for the Baylor community to demonstrate how much Baylor cares for its students.

"I think overall something I want students to know about our office, and me, and each of our hearts is how much we care about this community and care about these students, and we are working diligently to try and make it and make Baylor even better and serve our students and faculty in the best way possible," Tucker said.

SHAMELESS from Page 1

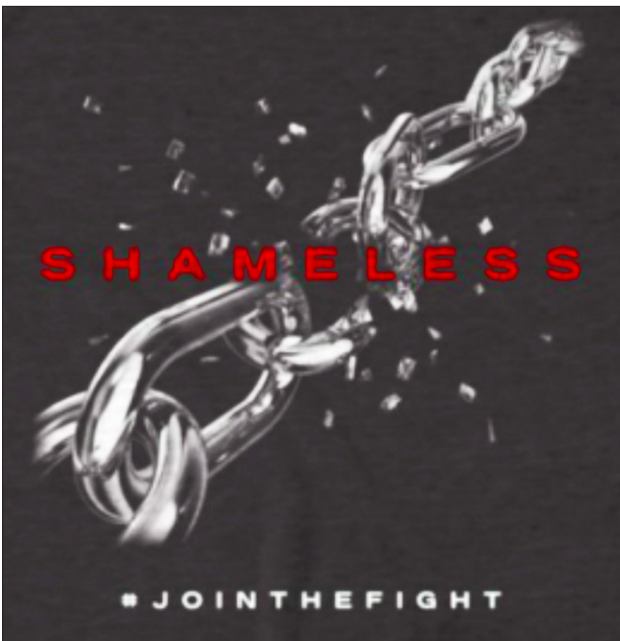
groups in Shameless provide a space for people to discuss these issues with others who have the same struggle so they can work together to fight the addiction.

"We are breaking this addiction by talking about it, being shameless with the people of our group, and we are also going to be shameless about talking about it with everybody," Eggen said.

Eggen and Everett did not want Shameless to be a campus organization or a group that was necessarily affiliated with a church because they wanted people to be able to discuss their struggles in a more laid-back atmosphere.

The group started with about five people and has now grown to around 40 people by word of mouth. There are currently two groups that gather for meetings at leaders' houses based on members' availability.

Members of Shameless have reached out to different student bodies such as Greek organizations and Baylor's choirs with the intention of inviting people who



Art Courtesy of Shameless

struggle with pornography. Shameless is also forming a women's group that will be led by Lubbock junior Kelsey Howard. She said she hopes people understand that young women have the same struggles as young men.

"We need to understand that women struggle with it just as much as guys do,

and it's not just a guy thing. Women do struggle with sexual sin, and they struggle with everything guys struggle with," Howard said.

Shameless is a Christian organization. The group uses biblical principles to encourage each other and discuss how they can hold each other accountable. Eggen said

the group has made a dramatic difference in his spiritual life, and it has done the same for a lot of other men in the group.

"The only thing that can get you away from this is running toward something else, and for us that's God," Eggen said.

Shameless' leaders hope to expand to where the organization will have several accountability groups with different leaders. Anyone interested in joining a Shameless group can email Kelsey_Howard@baylor.edu or Nathan_Eggen@baylor.edu.

"I am very grateful for the work that Shameless is doing on our campus," Arterburn said. "I have referred students to their meetings to find community and support through a powerful journey of recovery. I have seen good results, and I'm so glad we have this resource for our students here at Baylor. I hope more and more students will find the courage to reach out to Shameless groups so we can continue this movement of students helping students with their pornography addictions."

SCHOOL from Page 1

a School can be found on the Waco ISD website.

The programs include students from kindergarten through 12th grade. There are different types of needs for volunteers throughout elementary, middle and high school. An example of this, Hines said, is that elementary schools have reading groups, whereas middle and high schools have financial literacy lessons.

"I know that there will be kids that start with the tutoring, and it helps turn them from a failing grade to sometimes 'B' students, so having that interaction and having that constant person in their life, it's huge. Not just on the fundamental side, but that relationship with a mentor that's being formed- It's that constant figure in their life that's huge," Hines said.

The Baylor Law School was assigned Bells Hill PDS Elementary School and has law students who do anything from having lunch with the younger students to reading to them. Teague said that at Christmas-time, there is a big, organized activity where the elementary school brings a choir to the law school and performs, and the law school sets up a luncheon for them. The law school also makes sure each elementary student gets a gift.

"For those of us at this level of higher education, we recognize how critically important an educational system is to a community because for children, education is the way out for those that come from disadvantaged backgrounds," Teague said. "For our law students to spend time with them, it gives students an opportunity to realize, 'I can do this,' and 'Why is school important? Because I want to go to college and law school.'"

Teague said the Baylor law program is more than a

"It's that constant figure in their life that's huge."

Stephanie Hines
| Community partnership specialist with Waco ISD

legal profession – there is a service side to law as well. Law means giving back to the community, and it's more than a legal heart – it's having a positive impact on individuals and the community, Teague said.

"I encourage Baylor students to get involved and make a difference in the life of a young child," Teague said. "The kids get so excited to have someone read and spend time with them. It means so much. It's a little thing we do, but it has a big impact on their lives."

Hines said the program has grown over the more than 20 years it has been in service, and moving forward, the volunteers will look for ways to keep things fresh. Hines said some partners enjoy doing the same thing every year, and others enjoy bringing new ideas to the table every once in a while. Hines said another major part of the program is that it isn't "take-take." Adopt a School aims to teach students how to reciprocate the actions of the community.

"This is a good way to teach the kids how to be thankful," Hines said. "Whether it's writing a thank you note or sometimes taking artwork to the lobby of the business to hang up, we want to have that reciprocal relationship."

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Coffee shop lineup brings buzz

KASSIDY WOYTEK
Reporter

The most recent Common Grounds hashtag, “#springlineupstrong,” suggests the beloved music venue has a number of talented artists booked for the month of March.

This month’s concert series kicked off Thursday night with Christian singer Ellie Holcomb. Venue manager and promoter for Common Grounds Taylor Torregrossa said Holcomb is one of several singers this month to offer a VIP experience for especially dedicated fans willing to pay a few dollars extra.

VIP experiences differ based on the artist, but Torregrossa said they can also include an acoustic set and a Q&A session. Colony House and Jenny and Tyler are also offering this VIP option for their upcoming shows.

“It’s an hour before the show, and there’s usually a small meet and greet,” Torregrossa said. “Sometimes artists like to spend a personal minute with every single person, take a picture, talk a little.”

Torregrossa said the Grammy award-winning rock ‘n’ roll band Switchfoot is the band that Common Grounds patrons are most excited about this month. The Facebook video announcing Switchfoot’s upcoming concert on March 26 has been viewed over 6,000 times.

“The response has been so great,” Torregrossa said. “Our Facebook post reached farther than any other post in the history of Common Grounds social media.”

Although Switchfoot has never played an official concert at Common Grounds, the band did surprise fans by showing up to play a few songs at the coffeehouse in 2014 after a concert in Waco Hall.

Colony House is the next band scheduled to make a stop at Common Grounds on March 14 as part of its “Only the Lonely” tour. Torregrossa said she expects this rock band to have a sold-out show as well. She said many Baylor students know of the band because Christian musician Steven Curtis Chapman is the father of two band members.

“They are just really fun, great humans,” Torregrossa said. “I’m really excited that they’ve blown up, and everybody loves them, so I think it’s going to be a really great show.”

The only band that has never played at Common Grounds this month is an Americana group called the Blue Water Highway Band. Torregrossa said this group is her pick for an up-and-comer for music



GRINDING OUT TUNES Common Grounds’ March artist lineup includes Ellie Holcomb, Switchfoot, Colony House, Jenny and Tyler, Blue Water Highway Band (bottom) and Honest Men (top). Tickets are available at <http://cgwaco.ticketfly.com/>

lovers to keep an eye on. Zack Kibodeaux, lead singer of the Blue Water Highway Band, met one member of the band in his high school choir and another as a fellow opera major in college. He said that although he decided to go in a different direction with his music after completing his degree, the classical training he received still appears in his music.

“The three lead vocalists all have experience in choir,” Kibodeaux said, “so harmony singing has always been really important to us.”

Kibodeaux said those attending the March 17 concert are in for a fun experience. He said the band will be playing a mix of new material and old favorites that fans can easily sing along to.

“I’d like to think we ride the line between the show being an entertaining experience for everybody while also having quality songwriting and quality musicianship,” Kibodeaux said.

On March 30, the pop-folk duo Jenny and Tyler will play a concert

and have a meet-and-greet before the show. Torregrossa said the musical married couple has an especially devoted fan base.

“It’s easy listening, beautiful songs, a lot of them faith oriented,” Torregrossa said. “That’s a really fun, low-key show — maybe a good date night.”

Finally, the alt-rock group Honest Men will take the stage on March 31. Two of the band’s members are current Baylor students, and two are Baylor alumni.

Since their first show at Common Grounds a year ago, Honest Men has expanded to playing at other college campuses and festivals around Texas. Singapore, China, senior Seth Findley, the lead singer of Honest Men, said the upcoming concert will be a kind of anniversary for the band.

“We want to make this Common Grounds show the best show of our lives,” Findley said. “Anyone and everyone needs to come.”

The group’s debut album, “Okay Dreamer,” was conceptually centered around the book of Daniel from the

Bible. Findley said the band’s newer songs are very different, dealing with personal experiences of the band’s members.

Findley said they are especially excited to play their new single “Shoulders Back,” which asks and answers the question, “Am I OK?”

“With all of our songs, I want to write with hope as the underlying message,” Findley said. “My personal conviction is, I don’t ever want to write a song that leaves you feeling dry at the end. I want to elicit some kind of hope.”

Many of the concerts for March are part of the U-Pointe concert series. The apartment complex is also planning to sponsor a majority of the Common Grounds concerts in April.

Tickets are still available for every show this month on the Common Grounds website, although Torregrossa said she expects Switchfoot and Colony House to sell out within the next week. Prices range from \$8 to \$35 depending on the size of the band’s following and the option to purchase a VIP experience.

This weekend in Waco:

>> Today

5-9 p.m.— First Friday. Downtown Waco.

5:30-7:30 p.m.— Dr Pepper First Friday. Free Admission. Dr Pepper Museum & Free Enterprise Institute.

6:30-11 p.m.— Nashville Night on the Brazos by St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Waco Hippodrome.

7-9 p.m.— “Jackie and Me.” \$8-\$10. Waco Civic Theatre.

7-10 p.m.— Greg Bashara and Evan Klaras perform jazz. Free admission. Hilton Waco.

8:30-9:30 p.m.— Improv Comedy Show. \$10-\$12. Brazos Theatre Group, 7524 Bosque Blvd. Suite Q.

>> Saturday

9 a.m.-1 p.m.— Waco Downtown Farmers Market. 400 S. University Parks Drive.

7-9 p.m.— “Jackie and Me.” \$8-\$10. Waco Civic Theatre.

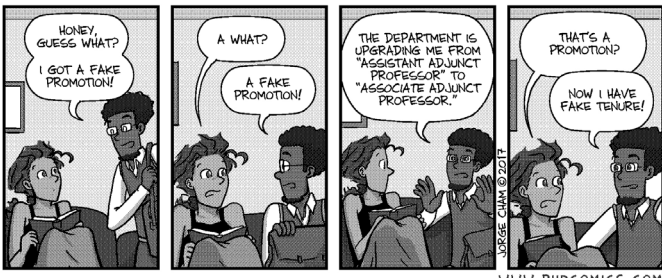
7:30-10 p.m.— “Divas of Jazz — A Night of Classics.” Waco Hippodrome.

>> Sunday

1-5 p.m.— Free Sunday at the Mayborn. The Mayborn Museum Complex.

2 p.m.— “Jackie and Me.” \$8-\$10. Waco Civic Theatre.

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		1			3			6
3		6	1				9	
	2				6	4		
	4			5	9			2



For today’s puzzle results, please go to
BaylorLariat.com

Today’s Puzzles

Across

- 1 Outdo
- 5 So far
- 11 “Happy Valley” airer
- 14 Joie de vivre
- 15 Ethically indifferent
- 16 Spat ending
- 17 Dart
- 18 No Clue
- 20 Friction reducer
- 21 Benin neighbor
- 22 Most Rwandans
- 23 No Clue
- 27 Snowboard feature
- 28 Brass band sounds
- 31 Money in Miyazaki
- 33 Free org. for law students
- 34 Rob Roy, for one
- 35 “Watevs”
- 38 No Clue
- 41 Poet inspired by the Battle of Baltimore
- 42 Trapezoid measure
- 44 Brooklyn pro
- 45 Droop
- 47 Home of the “All-Natural Burger”
- 49 Bobby who lost to Billie Jean in the Battle of the Sexes
- 53 No Clue
- 57 Riksbank currency
- 59 Flower from the Greek for “rainbow”
- 60 “Lenore” poet
- 61 No Clue
- 64 When repeated, an “Animal House” chant
- 65 Latin trio word
- 66 Epoch when modern mammals emerged
- 67 Swindle
- 68 Its debut Apr. 1971 broadcast covered Senate hearings on the Vietnam War
- 69 Periods of growth
- 70 Area 51 phenomena ... or what five puzzle answers are?

Down

- 1 Muddles
- 2 Family name in Jane Austen’s “Persuasion”

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
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		53					54	55	56					
57	58					59					60			
61					62	63					64			
65					66						67			
68					69						70			

- 3 Hand
- 4 Explosive stuff
- 5 Lake straddling a Western border
- 6 Tag Heuer competitor
- 7 Sorrow
- 8 “Entourage” agent Gold
- 9 Sea follower?
- 10 Hebrew God
- 11 Infantry equipment carrier
- 12 Color on le drapeau français
- 13 Animated film primarily set in Radiator Springs
- 19 Some heels
- 21 Laid-back
- 24 V-J __
- 25 Taiwanese tea drink
- 26 Quicken product
- 29 Plot device?
- 30 Bachelor pad, perhaps
- 32 Raphael or Leonardo, in fiction
- 33 __ -rock music

- 35 Cheese go-with
- 36 Dead-ball __: early baseball period
- 37 Judge’s address
- 39 Prefix with scope
- 40 Sandwich and Salisbury VIPs
- 43 As company
- 46 Jazz pianist Evans
- 48 Play grounds?
- 50 Disappear
- 51 Bit of baby talk
- 52 Tiptoes, say
- 54 Backseat driver, e.g.
- 55 Spinner of “Star Trek: T.N.G.”
- 56 Buenos __
- 57 Mongol sovereign
- 58 Increase, with “up”
- 62 Hack
- 63 “ER” setting
- 64 Play about Capote

BAYLOR LARIAT RADIO @BaylorBaseball vs. @OleMissBSB Today at noon **LINK: -->** bit.ly/lariatradio

The caretakers of the diamond

An inside look at the field and bullpen crew for Baylor baseball

JORDAN SMITH
Sports Editor

As Baylor Baseball heads into the Shriners College Classic this weekend with a record of 9-0, their best start since 1984, the Bears have had a lot of things go right for them this season.

One factor in ensuring everything goes well is the work of the field and bullpen crew for this baseball squad.

Naples, Fla., senior Justin Grassi, a student manager for the Baylor baseball field crew and an eight-year military veteran, laid out the schedule of what a typical day looks like at Baylor Ballpark.

“Prep for practice—we’ll usually get about 30 minutes to an hour before the practice actually starts, and essentially what we will do is set up for whatever it is they are doing that day,” Grassi said. “On a day like today when they are doing batting practice, we will come in and lay the tarps out, get the cages, the screens to protect the runners. Essentially, just lay it all out so all they have to do is come out and get started.”

Grassi said he enjoys his job on the field crew and likes the opportunity he gets to connect to the game.



Courtesy of Baylor Athletics

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT Baylor Ballpark is the home ballpark of Baylor Bears baseball. Work on the stadium began following the 1998 season, and the stadium opened to the public in 1999.

“You really get to know everybody and feel like a part of the team,” Grassi said. “We’re here for an hour before practice setting up, maybe 30 minutes afterwards putting it all away, and then we have a rotation of the four of us doing laundry at the end of the night. Anything they need during the week, whether it’s organizing the equipment room or cleaning up the dugout, we do that, and so you get to intimately know the facilities and the players and everyone around you.”

Out of the nine games that

Baylor has played so far this season, eight of those games have been at home.

Baylor Baseball head coach Steve Rodriguez said he appreciates the work and effort that is shown by the field and bullpen crew.

“I think that a lot of people don’t realize the importance that we really have in those guys because in Texas there is a lot of weather issues, a lot of weather concerns,” Rodriguez said. “We’ve got freezing points and stuff like that. They do a phenomenal job of dealing with all of the different

humidities, the cold weather, the rain and making sure that this field is where it needs to be and if there is ever any issues where something is too soft or too hard.”

Rodriguez went on to talk about how much credit, or lack thereof, the field and bullpen crew gets for its hard work for the team.

“I know from my standpoint that it is a group that never gets enough credit for what they do,” Rodriguez said. “I really do believe that we have one of the best playing surfaces and facilities

in the country, and it’s a great testament to them. They spend countless hours out here before we get here and after we leave. They are making sure that this facility is looking great and plays as well as it needs to. I know they don’t get the credit they deserve, and we are very thankful they are here.”

Waco freshman Bryce Johnigan works as a bullpen catcher for Baylor. He says the baseball team is nothing short of family.

“I grew up around baseball my whole life,” Johnigan said. “I wanted to get involved with

the team, and I saw this [job] advertised, and I thought that it was great. In high school, I was a centerfielder. I played outfield and haven’t caught since little league. So I came by and I talked to Coach Rod and tried it out and got it. It’s been fun; I’ve enjoyed it. I enjoy being around these guys. It’s almost like you are a part of the team.”

Baylor will face off against Ole Miss at noon today at Minute Maid Park in Houston. Fans can listen in to live play-by-play commentary on Baylor Lariat Radio.

TODAY ONLINE >> Baylor Softball: Ready to go in the Judi Garman Classic | **Story: ->** BaylorLariat.com

Head coach Mulkey offers emotional apology

ADAM GROSBARD
Tribune News Service

Baylor women’s basketball coach Kim Mulkey offered a tearful apology and explanation Thursday for her comments that seemed to dismiss concerns about Baylor’s sexual assault scandal.

Mulkey caused an uproar last week when she said to knock people “right in the face” if they don’t want to send their daughters to Baylor in light of Baylor’s handling of the sexual assault scandal that has plagued the football program and university for the past couple of years.

After widespread criticism of the comments, Mulkey backed off of the language but stood by her defense of Baylor. She later avoided questions about the comments in a press conference following Baylor’s win over Oklahoma.

At a press conference on Thursday, Mulkey again apologized for the comments in an emotional moment.

“I’m sorry for the choice of words,” Mulkey said with a crack in her voice after waiting

35 seconds to respond.

After another long pause, she continued, “The timing wasn’t good. Poor analogy, maybe, as well. But those of you who know me, I’m an emotional person. I coach with emotion, I played with emotion and it was an emotional moment. I guess you could say it got the best of me because I really do love this place.

“Awful things happened here, guys. We failed victims here. But I’m encouraged every day because I see what’s taken place to fix it. And I just think that we’ve responded the way that we can aggressively, financially. We’ve admitted our mistakes.”

Mulkey then addressed the criticism that she made light of what the victims of sexual assault endured at Baylor.

“My heart goes out to victims. How could it not? I’m a woman. I have a daughter. I’m responsible for how many in that locker room,” she said. “In fact, I’m angry that we failed those women. But I’m also encouraged because I see that we’re trying to do better.”

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