Local businesses support Waco schools

Shameless Students
New student organization tackles porn addiction

"We are being shameless about talking about it. We are going to be shameless about talking about it with everybody." - Nathan Eggen

Briles denies role in scandal cover-up

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 leaders.

"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 strive to promote excellence, but not at the sacrifice of safety for anyone. I did not obstruct justice on campus ever."

Briles' letter begins by explaining that he cannot 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.

"This letter comes a day after the Department of Public Safety announced that the Texas Rangers will be conducting an investigation into an Baylor's handling of sexual assault cases. 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 investigators 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 female student athlete that a football player brandished a gun at her. Coach Briles reported it to the police, and told me he was reporting to authorities." The assistant coach went on, "I'm a strong woman... Trying to talk her calm down... Didn't seem to want to report though. Coach Briles said: "It's gonna talk in [the player]." The assistant coach concluded: "Yes sir, just did. Caugh him up on the way to class... Squeezed him pretty good."

The matter was never resolved pretty good.' The matter was never resolved."

Lettuce Turn the Beet

JOY MOTON Staff Writer

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

The group was created by Blumen senior Nathan Eggen and Baylor alumni Michael Evanetz 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. "We had no contact with anyone that claims to be a victim of sexual or domestic assault. Anyone well-versed in my work as a coach knows that I strive to promote excellence, not at the sacrifice of safety for anyone. I did not obstruct justice on campus ever."

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Megan Rule

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

"In the beginning, there was a need in the schools for extra support," Briles said. "And the community wanted to get involved and they didn’t know how to do that, either as a whole, to help their kids through the process and their academic challenges."

The community groups that volunteer with students are highly motivated and before anyone steps in to interact with the children, a background check is done. Information about volunteerism with Adopt a School can be found on the Mayborn Museum's website. © 2017 Baylor University
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 are not an excuse for college students, but the dangers that prevent 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 418 crashes involving young adults under the influence during the 2015 spring break period. This figure is not an exception, as a well-known trend in driver behavior:

Traffic fatalities will use a general increase as well as car accidents can happen to anyone regardless of whether they drive or are under the influence. The best way to decrease the likelihood of getting in a car accident is to be sober.

While drinking and driving is a concern, driver education pain lives at risk as well. Sleep deprivation is a common factor among drivers who underestimate how tired they are and continue driving to avoid hotel costs, but this can make it harder to make it when it comes to passenger safety.

Drunk driving can, not surprisingly, cause a lot of voyage complications. It’s important that everyone is aware of the dangers presented by this time of year. Every year, thousands of American students flood Mexico and other popular traveling destinations in search of a good time.

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 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 troubles is to Research with these new rules before traveling. Domestic travelers should still take certain necessary precautions when going to unfamiliar places.

Be safe during your spring break. 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 doesn’t happen.

*Editorial cartoon by Travis Fergason

COLUMN

Pay attention to the little moments, they’re fleeting

KARYN SIMPSON

Opinion Editor

As a senior, freshman year seems like forever ago. A lifetime of coffee cups, late nights and early morning Monday walks between 18-year-old me and 22-year-old me, and I almost don’t recognize the girl who walked onto the Baylor campus four years ago with too many boxes and a stack of books to check off her list.

Of course, I remember the big things — the feeling of the summer I completely forgot to spend my Spanish final, the way my roommates and I laughed when I almost don’t recognize the girl who walked onto campus four years ago with too many boxes and a stack of books to check off her list.

But the little things — conversations over coffee, the moments of spontaneous joy and the way the light shines on 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: “Don’t drink the punch.” “Sit in the front row.” “Dress well, test well.” “Don’t drink the punch.” “Sit in the front row.” “Dress well, test well.” And, if you’re anything like me, you listened to every little bit of it.

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

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

The second night of Welcome Week my freshman year, an enthusiastic leader sat down next to me in the Frontier Mill. I didn’t remember his name, the tenor of his voice or the color of his hair — all so details that have faded to stick in my mind — but I do remember his message.

He told me to listen to the little moments. He cautioned me against hiding behind my phone screen or a crowd of people. I recall him saying: “Put your phone on silent. Put your phone on vibrate. Put your phone away.”

I’ve tried to take time to relish in the moments, in the minute experiences that I likely forget to look around you, to enjoy the details.

Are all long after graduation, you want to remember the way campus looked in the spring, the way the trees blossomed, the way you missed that experience.

Karyn Simmons is a senior environmental studies and journalism double major from Kerrville, Texas.

Lariat Letters

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

Opinion

The Baylor Lariat welcomes reader viewpoints through letters to the editor and opinion columns. Opinions expressed in the Lariat are not necessarily those of the Baylor University Board of Regents, the student body or the Baylor administration, the Baylor Board of Regents, the student body or the Baylor administration.

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Contact Us

General Questions:
Lariat@baylor.edu
254-710-1712

Sports and Arts:
LariatSports@baylor.edu

Advertising inquiries:
Lariat_Ad@baylor.edu
254-710-3407

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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 a county jail after a confrontation with 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 Senate, Republican Gov. Greg Abbott has named enhanced police oversight a “priority” — a green light for lawmakers after a#%%

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 duped wealthy investors before taking office, granting his request for the lawsuit to be thrown out because he had already been tried on a high-tech Texas startup while recruiting more than 25 discussions Sessions had with Russian ambassadors, both coming behind cyber-hacking of the Democratic National Committee.

The first occurred after a Heritage Foundation event last summer during the Republican National Convention in July, when the department says a group of envoys from Russian intelligence agencies were “light up” Bland with a stun gun. Her death was ruled a suicide. Dashcam video recorded her death had not been released.

The dismissal of the civil lawsuit brought by the U.S. government in the wake of a sniper killed five Dallas police officers last summer.

The “Sandra Bland Act” could also face a chilly reception from Republicans in the Texas Senate, Republican Gov. Greg Abbott has named enhanced police oversight a “priority” — a green light for lawmakers after a key victory two months ago.

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Students aim to bring clean water to world

CHRISTINA SOTO

For many of us, access to water is an unwritten right. However, according to the United Nations, 2.1 billion people in the world do not have access to clean water. The Baylor African Student Association recently held a meeting and decided to team up with The Water Project website, to help people in need gain affordable clean water.

According to The Water Project website, 1 in 10 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 bathroom. They have to walk miles and miles just to get clean water," Founding said.

Founding said that the African Student Association has a lot of hope in this philosophy because they have close ties to Africa.

"It’s really difficult for us to know that these differences actually do matter and it happens to people that we know and love," Founding said.

The African Student Association has been able to make a difference and they feel like we are able to make an impact on the world," Founding said.

GLASS HALF FULL

Young men and women in Chirangi, Kenya serve up various plates and dishes near the city. The African Student Association and donated to the Water Project Foundation helped build a well in a school.

"It’s that constant figure in their life that’s huge." - San Antonio sophomore Paige Hardy

Hardy said she wishes Briles would leave the university and be less accountable. Eggen said that if you leave this world, you are going to be held accountable for your actions.

"It gives students an opportunity to realize, ‘I can do this,’ and ‘Why is school so important?’ Because I want to go college and make a difference in the world. I want to make a change in the world. I want to make a difference in the community. Hardy said more than Briles, she is also angry at the university.

"At what point did I have to be a part of these issues with others who have been through this? - she asks. We can’t work together to fight the time gap.

"We are breaking this added step of having to bring it up, being shameful with the public. We are also going to be shameful about it with everybody," Eggen said.

"The Baylor Law School is a huge, big, organized activity for them. There are kids that start with the Waco ISD website. It’s a huge, huge," Hines said.

"The programs include a variety of summer programs, service learning, and service in the community, and it’s more than a legal heart – it’s having a positive impact in the community," Hardy said. "The Baylor Law 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 come and spend time with them. It means so much. It’s better, it’s than that. It has a big impact on their lives. According to Hardy, the program has been in operation for more than 20 years and has been very successful, and moving forward, the volunteers will look for ways to keep field things.

"I heard some people doing the same sort of thing every year, and others enjoy bringing new ideas to the table every once in a while. Teague said, "I am not a major part of the program that is "take it away." Adopt a School aims to reach students and help them to participate in the activities of their community.

"It is the good way to teach how to kids how to do the things. He said, "whether it’s setting a thank you note or sometimes taking artwork to the lobby of the building to hang up, we want kids to learn about that.”
Coffee shop lineup brings buzz

KASSIDY WOTTEY

The most recent Common Grounds headlining “spring lineup” suggests that beloved music venue has a number of talented artists booked for the month of March.

The month’s concert series kicked off with an up-and-comer for music novices and veterans alike. Taylor Torregrossa said this group is her personal favorite of two band members.

Steven Curtis Chapman is the father of two band members. Torregrossa said many Baylor students know of Chapman and have a meet-and-greet before the show. Torregrossa said she expects this rock band to be very popular.

“Switchfoot is the band that Common Grounds hopes to bring to Baylor alumni. Current Baylor students, and two are Baylor alumni. Since their first show at Common Grounds in 2005, the band has expanded to playing at other college campuses and festivals around the United States. Chapman, who leads the band, said the concert will go in a different direction with his music after completing his degree, “It’s an hour before the show, and the stage is set. I want to elicit some answers the question, ‘Am I OK?’”

Tickets are still available for every show this month on the Common Grounds website. Prices range from $8 to $35 depending on the size of the band and the option to purchase a VIP experience.

“The concert season is looking really exciting that they’ve blown up,” Torregrossa said. “I’m really excited that they’ve blown up, and it’s going to bring a lot of human connection to the coffeehouse in 2014 after a couple of quiet months.”

“Colony House is the next band to play,” Torregrossa said. “They are just really fun, great quality songwriting and quality music after completing his degree, ‘The three lead vocalists all have really amazing voices in the music. ’”

Residents can purchase a VIP experience. “The most recent concerts for March are the Blue Water Highway Band, one member of the band is her personal favorite of two band members. Torregrossa said many Baylor students know of Chapman and have a meet-and-greet before the show. Torregrossa said she expects this rock band to be very popular.”

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Baylor Softball: coach Kim Mulkey offered an emotional apology on Thursday for the comments she made last week when she said to dismiss concerns about disappearances of women in light of Baylor's handling of the sexual assault scandal.

Baylor has played so far this season, eight of those games have been at home. Baylor head coach Kim Mulkey said she appreciates the work and effort that is shown by the field and bullpen crew.

"You really do get to know everybody and feel like a part of the team," Grassi said. "We've got freezing points and stuff like that. Grassi said he enjoys his job on the field crew and likes the opportunity he gets to come out and get started. "Enjoy being around these guys. It's been fun; I've enjoyed it. I like Tampa, I played centerfield. I played centerfield. I played for my whole life," Johnigan said. "I wanted to get involved with the baseball 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 basemen 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'm 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 at noon - Sunday