Baylor to update parental leave policy

KALYN STORY

Jessica Morrow, assistant director of stewardship, went through the maternity leave process for Baylor staff over a year and a half ago and said she was very frustrated by her experiences. Upon returning to work, and talking with other coworkers, she realized several employees were not happy with Baylor’s maternity leave policy for staff.

“I thought, if so many people want the policy change, why don’t we change it,” Morrow said.

“If you have the opportunity to change something, why don’t you change it?” Morrow said. “I think it’s important for students to have an awareness of the fact that not all pregnancies are 40 weeks and so kids could be born with various disabilities. People were encouraged to send their dimes to the White House to fund the necessary research. Since the development of the polio vaccine, the March of Dimes turned its attention to birth defects and helped expand the research that was needed for the prevention and cure of many other illnesses, such as the incurable disease of polio and preventing natural infant deaths in Texas.

The March of Dimes is an organization founded during World War II by Franklin D. Roosevelt to develop solutions to the problem of polio. People were encouraged to send their dimes to the White House to fund the necessary research. Since the development of the polio vaccine, the March of Dimes turned its attention to birth defects and helped expand the research that was needed for the prevention and cure of many other illnesses, such as the incurable disease of polio and preventing natural infant deaths in Texas.

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March Madness is a basketball fan’s utopia

DARRELL HARRIS

The theory of endless gameplay of one’s favorite sport is certainly enticing. Even for those who make every possible effort to stay on top of the games, there seems to be an everlasting second chance due to how even higher up the bracket the games are, the more likely more games are to comprise the first round of the playoffs which guarantees that the players will be giving their best effort. From the beginning, March Madness is inherently intriguing and worthwhile.

A game of basketball is the NCAA Tournament.

The first round provides more than enough content to be consumed, causing college basketball fans across the country to collectively rejoice. What makes the Round of 64 so unique, however, is that it appeals to not only die-hard fans of the sport, but casual fans and those unassociated with a sport. No other sport can make the claim that the first round of its playoffs are so compelling which also gives the fans so much content.

States and cities are represented by the pool of teams in the first round of its playoffs. A 2017 example, provides the entire state with an answer, but it certainly is a place unlike any other two days in sports. Over 64 teams compete.

But what is it about this unique and most immersive part of college basketball, other than an instant replay of college basketball that has been lauded on every level, that is so compelling while also giving the players with the players’ best effort.

Each year you follow many different storylines in the Round of 64 that generate unique interest. The University of Southern California versus Southern Methodist University at San Diego, a battle of two marquee American cities where each would love to defeat the other. USC pulled off the 16-1 upset, winning 66-65 in a thriller that came down to the 90th minute.

Incorporating a greater number of educational opportunities into prison reform systems could have a positive impact on inmates while they are in the prison system as well as help limit recidivism rates nationwide.

Prison education programs should be focused on correctional and career education, which would prepare inmates for life outside of prison. A 2012 study of education models released by the U.S. Department of Education revealed that, for education programs to make a real difference in national incarceration rates, the programs would need to be “well

Inmates to be contributing, need the tools with which to re-adjust to life outside the highly regulated prison system and return to the crimes for which they were incarcerated initially. Those programs, were they integrated into the corrections system by making it a critical component of criminal and pre-release processes and closely linking them to community-based services. This can be used both as a punishment and as a way for inmates to set career and education goals for life after their release.

Prison education programs would help prepare inmates for life outside of prison. The U.S. government, for a select few prisons, have the potential to help reduce recidivism rates by teaching inmates valuable skills that can be applied to lawful, successful life post-release.

March Madness is a basketball fan’s utopia. Is the NCAA Tournament, unlike any other two days in sports. Over 64 teams compete. An average college basketball fan lasts for about two and half hours. Over 80 hour-broadcast玩游戏, the first round provides more than enough content to be consumed, causing college basketball fans across the country to collectively rejoice. What makes the Round of 64 so unique, however, is that it appeals to not only die-hard fans of the sport, but casual fans and those unassociated with a sport. No other sport can make the claim that the first round of its playoffs are so compelling which also gives the fans so much content.

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But what is it about this unique and most immersive part of college basketball, other than an instant replay of college basketball that has been lauded on every level, that is so compelling while also giving the players with the players’ best effort.
WHAT’S HAPPENING AT DIADELOSO?

TUESDAY, APRIL 4
It’s Dia all day from 9 a.m. until 10 p.m. All events take place on Fountain Mall unless otherwise noted.

9 a.m. - 10 a.m. Fun Run* | begins at McLane Stadium
9 a.m. - 10 a.m. Zumba
9:30 a.m. - Noon Goat Yoga* | SUB bowl
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Student Appreciation Football Practice, followed by “Meet & Eat” with the players | Highers Athletic Complex
Tickets at baylor.edu/gameday for first 800 students
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Student Organization Carnival
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mural Painting
11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Archery Tag*
11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Food Trucks
11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Noon Meal
11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Noon Meal free for students, faculty, staff and families
Noon - 1 p.m. Meet and Greet with Miss Mei beloved icon and cookie baker of Memorial dining facility
Noon - 1 p.m. Honest Men in Concert
Noon - 4 p.m. Photo Booth
Noon - 5 p.m. Super Smash Brothers Tournament | Barfield Drawing Room
1 - 2 p.m. Guerrilla Troupe | SUB bowl stage
1 - 5 p.m. Exotic Petting Zoo
2 - 3 p.m. Hypnotist, Jonathan Yeager
2 - 6 p.m. Wrecking Ball Inflatable
3 - 3:30 p.m. National Pan-Hellenic Council Step Show | SUB bowl stage
3 - 4 p.m. Dr Pepper® Hour | SUB den
4:15 - 4:30 p.m. Virtuoso
4:30 - 5 p.m. Swing Dance Society | SUB bowl stage
5 - 5:30 p.m. Poppers, Lockers, and Breakers* | SUB bowl stage
6 - 7 p.m. Battle of the Bands Winner | SUB bowl stage
7:15 p.m. Concert Opener: Bee’s Knees
8:30 - 10 p.m. Ansolo in Concert

Registration required: baylor.edu/diaadeloso/register

Follow @BaylorDiadeloso and @baylorSA on Twitter and Facebook.

MONDAY, APRIL 3
Join the festivities at Noche del Oso!
5:30 p.m. Crawfish Boil, Dessert and Games
Touchdown Alley
• First 500 students get a voucher for free Tejun the Texas Cajun OR Pokey O’s; food is available for purchase after vouchers run out
• Giant Jenga, Connect 4 and checkers
• Photobooth hosted by Kornerbooth
• Flag football tournament*
9 p.m. Star Wars: Rogue One
Exclusive screening before the DVD release!

DIA DEL RIO APRIL 3
Featuring the newly renovated Pullin Family Marina, Dia Del Rio festivities include free snacks and tank tops for all participants (while supplies last), paddle boarding, sand volleyball, slacklining, log rolling and other beach games.
3 p.m. Pullin Family Marina opens
3:30 p.m. Activities and giveaways begin

* Registration required: baylor.edu/diaadeloso/register

Follow @BaylorDiadeloso and @baylorSA on Twitter and Facebook.
**Texas church mourns 13 in bus accident**

**JIM VERTUNO** Associated Press

NEW BRAUNFELS — The deaths of 13 senior citizens as they returned home from a retreat left friends and family members at this Texas church mourning the smiling regulars who served in the kitchen, led Bible studies and spent time in fellowship.

“Those people we never saw up and down the hallways; they were just wonderful,” said Brad McLean, senior pastor of First Baptist Church in New Braunfels, Texas.

Authorities said Thursday that the church members who died in the Wednesday crash ranged in age from 61 to 87. They were returning home from a three-day church retreat when the bus they were traveling in and a pickup truck collided near San Antonio.

McLean said they are facing the “hard reality” that they will never again see their churchgoers walk through the church doors and be greeted by them and hug them.

McLean said three dozen church members were among a group of 65 people from the church who attended the retreat, which ended Wednesday night and continues Friday.

“Many of them were in their 70s and 80s and living their best lives,” McLean said. “We will never see them again.”

Veteran church member and bus driver Mary Zimmerman was among those who died. The 87-year-old Harold Barber was among those who died.

Timmermann came by the church on Thursday to pay his respects because he got to know Barber about a year ago when Barber led a Bible study at a retirement home.

“He was a fun-loving person. He always had a smile. He brought a lot of happiness to my heart in that Bible study,” Timmermann said.

Also killed was the bus driver, 67-year-old Murray Barnett, who was a retired middle school math teacher. Twenty-one-year-old Mandy Deloney told San Antonio Express-News that she taught Barnett for 7th and 8th grade math, and they remained close through the church on Thursday.

”I’m so glad he’s in heaven and after the crash, family members came to the church to pray and go through it together. Our church family did what we can do. Lots of prayer. Lots of support for those families. Lots of crying with those families,” McLean said that some of those who were killed had served in the church kitchen for years. They first met out from a square space during Sabbath services and never once had a disagreement. They served as co-presidents of the First Baptist Church Student Fellowship in nearby Escondido, California.

They had planned to travel together to the church to watch Schwope’s dog and even crafted a pillow for it.

The bus life came to a sudden end from Southern California to Central Texas, she still returned often to visit. And although they last saw each other another in September, the spoke often by phone — most recently last week, Schwope said.

“She was there when I married my husband, and I was there when she buried her husband,” she said.

Timmermann said that his “heart just dropped” when he saw the 87-year-old Harold Barber was among those who died.

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“After a March 17 explosion that wounded say killed at least 100 people in Iraq, the U.S. military acknowledged an airstrike believed caused by recent U.S. airstrike touched on a major part of the concern. The militaries are mingled among tens of thousands of civilians in Mosul and are willing to take the population down with them.

Incredibly, the most force brought to bear to crush the fighters, the greater the danger civilians will be killed. To avoid that, strikes must be more surgical and more cautiously used, and the battle turns to street-by-street fighting where the technological edge is often neutralized. Minimizing civilian deaths is more than just a humanitarian concern. Heavy bloodshed can turn public resentments that push some to join militant groups. Another factor is whether the corridors have support from at least part of the population. In even further complicated if they can claim to be fighting for national liberation — as, for example, with the Islamic State group in its battle with Iraq in Syria, and Libya, the Islamic State group closely holds the population hostage in many cases, but it also seeks to win some support by claiming to defend nations against aisky slate force from Baghdad. After a March 17 explosion that wounded or killed at least 100 people in Iraq, the U.S. military acknowledged an airstrike believed caused by recent U.S. airstrike touched on a major part of the concern. The militaries are mingled among tens of thousands of civilians in Mosul and are willing to take the population down with them.

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should aspire to act at this policy is something that should be on the minds of those who work with children, especially in low-income communities.

According to a press release, Baylor’s parental leave policy will provide an additional four weeks of paid leave for full-time staff members, as well as maternity and adoption benefits. The program will result in at least 30,000 additional students being served at after school meals, 10 million more meals being served at afterschool meals, and 2,000 more summer meal sites in Texas. These new benefits are in addition to the efficiency of these programs. They are designed to help THI build coalitions at the local level, working with organizations and school districts to aid school meal programs and will provide both staff and faculty with paid parental leave. The adoption assistance program, Baylor is the only university in Texas and one of the few nationally that provides this benefit.

“Baylor values its faculty and staff as essential contributors to the fulfillment of its mission, and these new benefits are an important addition to staff and faculty benefits,” Garland said in the press release. "We give thanks to the Human Resources team and Baylor Staff Council for their good work and collaboration on the development of these new benefits."

Dr. Marcie Moehnke | March of Dimes faculty mentor

"... not all pregnancies end in 40 weeks with a perfectly healthy baby.

"We play such a unique role in caring for our staff, faculty and students," Garland said. The press release also said that Baylor joins SMU as the only other Texas university that provides both staff and faculty with paid parental leave. With the adoption assistance program, Baylor is the only university in Texas and one of the few nationally that provides this benefit.

"Baylor values its faculty and staff as essential contributors to the fulfillment of its mission, and these new benefits reflect our ongoing commitment to families and the cultivation of a caring community that extends beyond our campus," Garland said in the release. "We give thanks to the Human Resources team and Baylor Staff Council for their good work and collaboration on the development of these new benefits."

Garland said he thought this policy needed to be changed because the staff does so much to care for the students, faculty and other staff members, and he saw this as an opportunity to care for them in return.

Garland said that being based in Baylor allows THI to work with passionate students and faculty across many disciplines to develop innovative solutions to hunger. Kimi also said that there can be a disconnect between organizations trying to combat the issues of poverty and hunger and universities that have their feet on the ground.

"It can be hard to bridge that gap between those two, and we stand in that place which, I think, is an important and needed role," Kelly said.

"In addition Kelly said that they have seen the impact of their work through a decrease in the food insecurity rate in Texas. Since THI was started, 300,000 more students are eating breakfast at school each day. If nothing were done, they would be facing severe harm at after school programs and there are 2,200 more summer meal sites in Texas, she said.

"We play such a unique role in the anti-hunger landscape that's really exciting, and it's really needed because we help bolster and increase the efficacy of these organizations on the ground that really are trying to meet the need right in front of them," Kelly said.

Maternity

The grant will allow THI to continue outreach for child nutrition programs like school breakfast and afterschool meal programs and will provide their services to communities throughout Texas. These coalitions consist of bringing organizations and people together to maximize the efficiency of these programs.

"When you can be more efficient and get more results, then that's a very effective model for addressing hunger at the local level," Kelly said.

Craig Nash, THI’s child hunger outreach specialist for Waco, works with organizations and school districts to aid school meal programs. His main goal is to expand access to these programs. Nash said that THI is unique because they act as a middleman to connect organizations.

"I want as many kids as possible to be eating lunch through the summer food service program, through school breakfast program and after school meals," Nash said.

Krei said that being based in Baylor allows THI to work with passionate students and faculty across many disciplines to develop innovative solutions to hunger. Krei also said that there can be a disconnect between organizations trying to combat the issues of poverty and hunger and universities that have their feet on the ground.

"It can be hard to bridge that gap between those two, and we stand in that place which, I think, is an important and needed role," Krei said.

In addition Krei said that they have seen the impact of their work through a decrease in the food insecurity rate in Texas. Since THI was started, 300,000 more students are eating breakfast at school each day. If nothing were done, they would be facing severe harm at after school programs and there are 2,200 more summer meal sites in Texas, she said.

"We play such a unique role in the anti-hunger landscape that’s really exciting, and it’s really needed because we help bolster and increase the efficacy of these organizations on the ground that really are trying to meet the need right in front of them," Krei said.
Artist brings color to campus

GAVIN PUGH | Staff Writer

Santa Ana junior Aaron Cobbs, a legal scholar and a passion for superheroes didn't do the end of "Bat Man. The animated series". In fact, Cobbs even comic book series has been in the making since he was seven. And though many comics are moving online, Cobbs is somewhat of a purist.

Tell us a little about you. What's your superpower?

My name is Aaron Cobbs, I am a senior professional writing major, and I like to write.

With so much content being digitized, are you interested in moving your comics online, or do you like hard copies?

I would like to keep it small, focused, and as a black man. This is one of the few stories that the character is an African-American male, especially in a starter role, which is unconstitutional.

What does the act of storytelling mean to you?

The act of storytelling for me is character. I don't do any story, without having a strong character in the book. Too many times, I know that there is too much. Why is there no plot? It's because there is no character.

I know for a fact that when it comes to the creation of the character and the world, I'm building with this series, I know that I had to create a strong character first. Then's not going to be any sort of story or plot if you're not sure of a character first.

So in your comic, who is the character, and what is his superpower?

The character is named Indigo. When his mother wasn't around, Indigo would have todeal with cancer. This dad was a scientist and his dad was trying to find a cure for his wife and child. And he did. What he found was that the cure contained the body's natural kinetic energy to strengthen the immune system. Now, I'm not a science major, but I'm just working with what I have, but it works enough to where in the series, he succeds. His wife is cured. But what he didn't realize was that the cure bonded to Andy's DNA because he was not an embryo, and so as he grew up, he found that he could control and redirect kinetic energy.

I like to keep it small, focused, and as a black man. This time volume, Beginn, is mainly about this life, his subconscious has coming to terms with his identity and what he is as a person and as a black man. This is one of the few series that the character is an African-American male, especially in a starter role, which is unconstitutional.

Where can people buy these comics?

As far as publishing, like where you can buy it, Ka-Blam Printing works through a service called Indie Planet, which ironically enough has works through a service called Indie Planet, which ironically enough has Ka-Blam Printing. And if you get enough comics, then I would like to keep it small, focused, and as a black man. This is one of the few series that the character is an African-American male, especially in a starter role, which is unconstitutional.

For a video about Cobbs and his work, visit: BAYLORLARIAT.COM

ONLINE EXTRAS

For today's puzzles results, please go to BaylorLariat.com

This week in Waco:

>> Today

10 a.m.-p.m. — Egg-stravaganza! Practically Piktues Art Studio, 4320 W. Waco Drive.
3:30-5 p.m. — Browning Day. Armstrong Browning Library.
6:30-10 p.m. — Casey Donahew performs. $10-$20. The Backyard Bar Stage and Grill.
7:30 p.m. — Pride & Prejudice. $13-$20. Waco Civic Theatre.
7:30 p.m. — Hansel and Gretel. $8-$12. Ball Performing Arts Center/ McLennan Community College, 1400 College Drive.
8 p.m. — Honest Men. Common Grounds.
8 p.m. — Cue the Sun! Distichonomy Coffee & Spirits.
10 p.m. — G Troup Comedy Show. 8. Hooper-Schaefer Fine Arts Center.

>> Saturday

10 a.m.-p.m. — Egg-stravaganza! Practically Piktues Art Studio, 4320 W. Waco Drive.
7:30 p.m. — Hansel and Gretel. $8-$12. Ball Performing Arts Center/McLennan Community College, 1400 College Drive.
7:30 p.m. — Pride & Prejudice. $13-$20. Waco Civic Theatre.
8 & 10 p.m. — G Troup Comedy Show. 8. Hooper-Schaefer Fine Arts Center.
No. 21 Baylor baseball will try to break free from its recent slide when it travels to play a three-game series in Seattle, Wash., against the University of Washington this weekend.

The Bears have lost six of their last nine games, including their first two series of the season. A 4-12 game against West Virginia and Oklahoma. They also suffered their first true road loss this season on Tuesday night, 15-0 to the University of Texas San Antonio.

Despite the results over the past two weeks, the Bears are still extremely confident heading into this weekend showdown with the Huskies.

Sophomore second baseman Josh Bissonette says that sometimes the results are simply just a byproduct of baseball and that the team's confidence isn't wavering at all.

"They [our guys] this full week, we've taught ourselves to fail," Bissonette said. "Sometimes the results aren't always in our favor, and we take it upon ourselves to change that the next day ready to work. I think our confidence level is very high. I don't think those past couple losses have brought us down or anything, but we are really looking forward to this weekend, and I think we are going to do well!"

For head coach Roger Clemons, this will be the fourth season that he has squared off with Washington as the Fighting Irish have faced the Huskies the previous two seasons before Clemons came to Baylor.

Baylor and Washington opened the 2016 season with Washington taking two of three from Baylor at Baylor Ballpark, 7-2 and 7-0. The Bears took the third game, 9-5. Clemons believes that this mismatch will be a good fit for our team as they have not left the state of Texas and the weather and field conditions will cause the Bears to face some new challenges.

"The teams offense overall are ran differently, pitching a little bit different and getting away, being on the road, having to room with each other and eat with each other," Clemons said. "There are a lot of great things that happen when you get on the road and rely on each other."

The Huskies do not overwhelm opposing pitchers with power as they have only hit four home runs on the season, but Bissonette says the pitching staff and the aggressive offensive approach is enough to give any team fits. The Huskies do not overwhelm opposing pitchers with power as they have only hit four home runs on the season, but Bissonette says the pitching staff and the aggressive offensive approach is enough to give any team fits.

"It's a talented group, especially their starting pitching. They're aggressive on offense," Bissonette said. "The catcher is really good, so be honest. We have to keep playing a good brand of baseball!"

The catcher in high esteem is junior Joey Morgan. Morgan has hit a .320 clip with 15 runs driven in and 13 RBIs, including eight doubles that is tied for tops on the team. Senior infielders Matt Whenard and Jack Mages are both well above the .300 mark as well, combining for three home runs, 12 doubles and three triples. Junior pitcher Noah Breiner leads the pitching staff with a 9.0 earned run average in four starts. The right-hander has struck out 42 and allowed just eight earned runs thus far. Sophomore Josh Elphick and freshman Jordan Jones have been equally as good for the Huskies this season, allowing 22 earned runs in 11 combined starts.

Baylor has been quite effective with its weekend staff in senior Nick Lewis, junior Montanna Parsons and freshman lefty Cody Bradford — performances that keep Bissonette and the defense on its toes and supremely confident.

"They've been dependable defense behind Nick Lewis, Montana [Parsons] and [Cody] Bradford — we know they're going to put the ball in play, and they're going to throw strikes and do whatever they can to win the game," Bissonette said.

"Those guys just go out and compete everyday. That's not an issue, and we keep playing defense behind them and they put us in a good position to win." Rodrguez knows Washington will be a stiff challenge, but he foresees his boys responding well to the challenge and continue to compete at a high level.

"We're going to have our hands full, there's no doubt about that. I think it will be a good challenge for our guys with some different pressures," Rodriguez said.

Baylor and Washington will square off in game one beginning at 6 p.m. CT Friday at Husky Park.

NCAA pleased with North Carolina bill

JOHNATHAN DREW and ANDREA CALEDAS
Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Baseball-minded North Carolina has passed a new law that appears to save its annual NCAA baseball tournament from bankruptcy.

The law, passed by the state House and Senate last month, will allow the university to continue hosting the Atlantic Coast Conference baseball tournament at the school. The conference has announced it will continue to award the tournament to North Carolina as long as it continues to host the ACC baseball tournament.

Bissonette said that it is deciding on invitations for tournaments that will take place next year, but the ACC tournament is currently scheduled to be held on North Carolina's campus. Bissonette said the ACC's decision to continue hosting the tournament is "a very positive development for us and the community.""
Women's tennis team anticipates matches

BEN EVERETT
Sports Writer

The No. 15-ranked Baylor women's tennis team looks forward to upping their game as they head into their next two matches, the first being with Iowa State Friday and the next facing West Virginia Saturday.

Miha Lisac says the team is excited to return home to take on the Lady Bears. Baylor and Iowa State are both ranked in the top two teams in the region. Yet only 3,126 fans attended Sunday night's game. Livingston was even worse, with 2,327 fans coming to see Notre Dame face Stanford.

“We continue to work as hard as possible to support strong attendance at regional sites.”

Anucha Browne | NCAA vice president for women's basketball

\[S_{\text{SELECTED ATTENDANCE FOR WOMEN'S NCAA GAMES}}\]

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The NCAA saw its lowest attendance with only 3,134 fans coming to the Bridgeport regional sites. “Especially in the regionals, that’s something we have to continue to track,” she said.

Browne would be in favor of schools helping that. “We've seen it. Our student-athletes have helped that. And it's something we have to continue to work as hard as possible to support strong attendance at regional sites,” said Anucha Browne, the NCAA vice president for women’s basketball. “The challenge is taking one great tournament that has real strong attendance on campuses and move them across the country that their fans can travel with them. It’s not a logical approach to grow our game.”

The Snake River regional had three East Coast teams play in it, along with Oregon State, South Carolina and Florida State. The regional at Alumni Stadium in 2014 averaged more than 9,000 fans. The Gamecocks have led their conference in home attendance the past few years, drawing an average of 12,277 fans this season. The Gamecocks have led the NCAA in home attendance the past two seasons, with 20,354 fans in attendance. Tompkins had a strong matchup, with Baylor facing Mississippi State — the top two teams in the region. Yet only 3,126 fans attended Sunday night's game. Livingston was even worse, with 2,327 fans coming to see Notre Dame face Stanford.

“We have a unique situation that needs to be handled,” UConn coach Geno Auriemma said. “I’m not saying I know what all the answers are, but there’s certain places in America that it’s a lot of really good women’s basketball fans, and there’s a lot of places that it’s not. It’s not possible to support strong attendance in those places those places doesn’t make any sense. The numbers aren’t all bad. The attendance at the first two rounds of the NCAA was the highest in the last 10 years. The Final Four and championship games in Dallas are virtually sold out for the first time since 2014. Merging the Final Four to a Friday-Sunday format this year for the first time since 2002 helped that.

The NCAA already has moved next year’s regionals to Albany, Kansas City, Spokane and Lexington. The 2019 and 2020 regionals also will be announced this summer. We have a unique situation that needs to be handled," UConn coach Geno Auriemma said. "I'm not saying I know what all the answers are, but there's certain places in America that it's a lot of really good women's basketball fans, and there's a lot of places that it's not. It's not possible to support strong attendance in those places those places doesn't make any sense. The numbers aren't all bad. The attendance at the first two rounds of the NCAA was the highest in the last 10 years. The Final Four and championship games in Dallas are virtually sold out for the first time since 2014. Merging the Final Four to a Friday-Sunday format this year for the first time since 2002 helped that.