

Baylor Lariat

WE'RE THERE WHEN YOU CAN'T BE



SEMANA DE LOS MUERTOS
pg.5

NOVEMBER 4, 2015

WEDNESDAY

BAYLORLARIAT.COM

STUDENT CLUBS

Students find an easier way to plug in

ELLA KIMBERLY
Editor-in-Chief

With over 270 recognized student organizations on Baylor's campus, some students may find it hard to decide which clubs they are interested in. Some students have a hard time knowing what is available, deciding what to join and approaching the organizations.

The department of Student Activities hosts the Student Involvement Specialist program to help first year students find their associations. This one on one setting can be beneficial to those who do not know where to begin or find it overwhelming.

Getting involved in extracurricular programs can be very beneficial during college years. USA Today reports that being involved in campus activities can lead to better time management skills and, thus, better grades.

The Student Involvement Specialist program started in the fall of 2014. It is a way for first year students, to find a way to get involved on campus.

"We have served students of all classifications, but primarily we want to reach out the first-year students, both freshmen and transfer students, to help them find connections at Baylor," Meredith Walkup, coordinator of student organizations and leader development, said.

On the Baylor Connection blog, there is a questionnaire that can be filled out. It involves answering questions regarding past experiences in activities and passions. Upperclassmen student specialists help first year students find organizations to join.

"This year we have students from each classification, and they are all involved in a diverse set of activities," said Walkup.

Ashelyn Green, a Temple senior and student involvement specialist, guides students to activities they may be interested in.

"They come in and [tell] us what they looking into, kind of what they were passionate about, what they want to be in the future. And we help guide them into the organizations that could help that or

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BOWL PROJECTIONS



Sarah Pyo | Lariat Photographer

SPRINTING TO THE TOP Senior wide receiver Jay Lee tries to break a run past a Rice defender in open field. The Bears went on to win the Sept. 26 game 70 - 17 against the Owls. Baylor now sits just outside of the College Football Playoff bracket at No. 6.

Baylor lands at 6

Bears claim highest rank out of Big 12 teams in CPF rankings

RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

Baylor landed the No. 6 spot in the first College Football Playoff selection committee rankings of the season that were released Tuesday night. Clemson, LSU, Ohio State, Alabama and Notre Dame are the other five teams to sit atop of the Bears.

Clemson, LSU and Ohio State are among 11 unbeaten teams in the Football Bowl Series, nearly quadruple the number there was last season when the committee started ranking teams. Alabama and Notre Dame each have one loss.

Memphis was the highest ranked team from a Group of Five conference at No. 13.

Last year, the top four teams in the first playoff rankings were Mississippi State, Florida State,

Auburn and Mississippi. Only the Seminoles reached the playoff. Ohio State, the eventual national champion, was 16th in the first rankings.

TAKEAWAYS FROM THE FIRST PLAYOFF RANKINGS:

The committee really warmed up to the Crimson Tide.

Alabama lost to Mississippi in September and then Florida pounded Ole Miss in Gainesville. But the Tide landed in playoff position, while Florida was 10th and Ole Miss was 18th.

"Alabama from our point of view had a stronger schedule in the games they have won," said selection committee chairman Jeff Long, the athletic director at Arkansas. "They have three wins against teams with better than .500 records. They're close even though they may be separated by

a number of ranking spots."

If you think Alabama is positioned to simply win out and get in the playoff, think again.

Ole Miss is still in control of the SEC West race, so Alabama will need the Rebels to lose just to reach the SEC championship game. At 11-1 with no conference championship, Alabama is likely to get jumped by teams that do win conference titles, including whichever team wins the SEC.

The committee is told to emphasize conference championships, especially when

teams have similar resumes.

Remember, the committee showed last year it does not lock teams into positions. Florida State dropped while not losing, and TCU was third going into the last weekend of the season and finished sixth, despite blowing out Iowa State.

WAITING ON THE BIG 12:

The Big 12 has four teams (Baylor, No. 8 TCU, No. 14 Oklahoma State and No. 15 Oklahoma) in the top 15, and they

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Agape Connection: Students get more connected with the elderly in Waco. **pg. 3**

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Baylor Soccer: Begins their Big 12 campaign for the championship as the No. 2 seed as of now. **pg. 6**

STATEWIDE LEGISLATION

Voters approve all seven Texas amendments Tuesday

WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press

AUSTIN — Voters statewide approved all seven proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution on Tuesday — giving themselves tax breaks, cementing their rights to hunt and fish, pumping billions of extra public dollars into roads and freeing some top elected officials from having to live in the state capital.

But Texas' most-watched ballot initiative was defeated, as Houston residents rejected a city ordinance extending nondiscrimination protections to gay and transgender residents.

Tea party-backed Attorney

General Ken Paxton declaring that America's fourth largest city "defeated the latest extreme example of political correctness."

"Houston rightly ignored Hollywood and the liberal elites," Paxton said in a statement.

Here's a guide to what happened on Election Day:

TAX CUTS COMING:

Voters approved Proposition 1, which will increase homeowners' school property tax homestead exemption from \$15,000 to \$25,000, saving the average family roughly \$125 annually while costing the state about \$1.2 billion in tax revenue for

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INKED



Sarah Pyo | Lariat Photographer

The Indian Subcontinent Student Association will be having a fundraiser from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day this week in the atrium of the Baylor Sciences Building. Henna tattoos are also offered as a special. Prices range depending on the size and intricacy of the design. Proceeds of the fundraiser will go to Developments in Literacy.

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

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

EDITORIAL

Not a 'Hardy' decision

Cowboys' defensive end Greg Hardy should get boot

The Dallas Cowboys' season hasn't gone spectacularly, and now, the team is under fire for a high-profile player's stupidity. What's more, the higher-ups seem to be turning a blind eye.

Defensive end Greg Hardy entered this season on the team, bringing a dense history of violence on his report card. These problems came to a head during only his second game of the 2015 season. After a big Dallas touchdown with 7:14 left in the fourth quarter to tie the game, the Giants scored a 100-yard touchdown on a kickoff return to win 27-20.

After the play, Hardy was seen on the sideline yelling on his special teams coach Rich Bisaccia and other players. He also knocked a clipboard out of Bisaccia's hands, which was captured on video.

Dallas fans dismissed it as Hardy showing his passion. Cowboys coach Jason Garrett said it "wasn't exactly the right time and place," but dismissed it as a non-issue.

However, given his history, this is another piece of ammunition that proves Dallas needs to part ways with Greg Hardy.

Hardy is an outstanding

football player. In 66 career games, Hardy has compiled 216 tackles and 37 sacks. Since joining the Cowboys this season, he has already compiled three sacks and his first career interception.

That said, Hardy was convicted in June 2014 of assaulting a woman and communicating threats. He was deactivated during the 2014 season as the team and league investigated him, but he still continued to receive his salary.

The charges were eventually dropped on appeal after the victim could not be located to testify. The court cited evidence that the parties had reached a civil settlement; for all intents and purposes, Greg Hardy allegedly paid off the victim not to testify against him.

An independent NFL investigation found that Hardy had used violence on four separate occasions, including choking his ex-girlfriend. Hardy is 6-foot-5 and 280 pounds, not to mention a professional football player.

That did not stop the Dallas Cowboys from signing him to a \$13.1 million salary this offseason. He was originally slated to be suspended for 10 games, but



ASHER

@asherfreeman

the suspension was reduced to four soon afterward.

When the Cowboys signed him, they should have done so with the knowledge that Hardy is a dangerous individual. It should be common sense for Dallas to have stringent rules to keep him in line.

Greg Hardy knows he is in the limelight and knows he is on television for every

part of the game. The same is true of interviews and press availabilities.

Even while knowingly in the public light, Hardy can't bring himself to stay under control for a few hours a week. If he can't control himself for that time on Sundays, there is no reason that fans should expect Hardy to be under control when not in front of cameras.

The NFL is at a crossroads when it comes to player conduct, but it currently sits on the wrong side. It has become clear that producing on the field means players are not held accountable off of it. The Cowboys need to reverse this trend and let Hardy deal with his problems instead of empowering him to continue down the same path.

WE SAY YOU SAY

TUESDAY'S SURVEY QUESTION:

From Tuesday's editorial, do you think the South Carolina high school cop's actions were justified?

58% said YES
42% said NO

YOUR RESPONSE

"The student was not doing as they were told. As the article stated she was being 'disruptive and obstinate' and refused to leave or stop as being told numerous times."

"No amount of back-talk or non-compliance on the student's part warrants that kind of force."

"She refused to obey the teacher, an administrator and a peace officer."

"The officer acted completely against police protocol and executed an irrational, violent maneuver to subdue a passive child."

"He should have never been there in the first place. Refusing to put away a cell phone while in a classroom is not a civil or criminal offense. It calls for disciplinary action by the school, not police."

COLUMN

Gunning for trouble: Firearm laws should be priority

KATIE GROVATT
Reporter

On a cold December day, our nation gave up 26 treasured souls essential to the fabric of our country. That winter day in Newtown, Conn., a thief robbed America of a large stash of jewels, and hearts mourned for their riches.

Following the second deadliest mass shooting in the United States history on Dec. 14, 2012, leaders, politicians and citizens rushed to propose solutions.

"I hope and trust that in the next session of Congress there will be sustained and thoughtful debate about America's gun culture and our responsibility to prevent more loss of life," California Sen. Dianne Feinstein said that day.

It has been three years since the Newtown tragedy. In those three years, the United States has lowered their flags too many times for mass shootings. The fight to lower gun violence has not only reached a ceasefire, but it has been brutally combated.

In this year alone, our country

has witnessed shooting after shooting and been in an almost constant state of mourning. On June 17, at a church in Charleston, S.C., the country lost nine Americans by the hands of a 21-year-old gunman. Not even a full month after the incident, the United States watched as four U.S. Marines

were killed at a military site in Chattanooga, Tenn., by a disturbed 24-year-old gunman. On Aug. 26, two journalists were shot and killed on live television in Roanoke, Va. A battered and frustrated America didn't even have time to dry their eyes before another nine innocent

lives were taken at a community college in Oregon, lowering the flags once again.

President Obama addressed the nation after the most recent mass murder, disgusted with the lack of any progress made toward the prevention of these horrific and reoccurring tragedies. When Americans are killed in mine disasters, in floods, on unsafe roads, we work to fix the problem, he said.

"The notion that gun violence is

somehow different, that our freedom and our Constitution prohibits any modest regulation of how we use a deadly weapon, when there are law-abiding gun owners all across the country who could hunt and protect their families and do everything they do under such regulations doesn't make sense," Obama said.

Gun advocates believe gun rights define our freedom and secure our liberty under the Constitution. But the idea that guns are our only means of defense is an insult to the American definition of courage. We don't need guns to defend ourselves; we need brains. If we continue to allow guns to circulate in the hands of those who lack brainpower, then we will continue to watch our nation be robbed of value.

Texas Rep. Louie Gohmert, a strong advocate of gun rights, said after the Sandy Hook shooting that if the principal of the school had an assault rifle for defense then 26 lives would have been spared.

It is easy to speculate what you might do in a life and death situation. Everyone hopes they would be the heroes. But the facts can't lie. According to the Gun Violence Archive, there have been 11,044

recorded deaths from gun violence-related incidents. Of these numbers, a mere 994 were recorded as defensive uses of a firearm.

We are humans that are wired to love and not to kill. I do not think that providing every single citizen with a gun will instill in the human instincts the will and desire to kill another human life even on a basis of defense.

I believe that this is why the number of people killed by guns from self-defense is so low. Humans are hesitant to kill even their enemies because they have an overpowering heart of pity instilled in them.

Human nature is not something that can be changed; violence is not something that should be advocated. A simple solution is common-sense laws that would not take away our rights but provide an intelligence that can overcome power in the hands of stupidity.

New York Sen. Charles Schumer says there are ways to enact gun regulations without compromising our rights as United States citizens. He has suggested a ban on assault weapons, a restricted access to guns for the "mentally unstable," and a limit to the size of clips to no more than 10 bullets per clip. These are

common-sense suggestions that have no effect on our rights to bear arms.

"We need a new paradigm because both sides are in the corner and they could come to the middle," Schumer said after the Sandy Hook shooting. "Those of who are pro-gun control have to admit that there is a Second Amendment right to bear arms... Once we establish that there is a constitutional right to bear arms we should have the right admit, and maybe they'll be more willing to admit, that no amendment is absolute after all."

It is clear America has a problem. It is also clear that America has failed to address this problem. It is my hope that both sides of the conflict will somehow agree that each argument has standing, but some flexibility needs to be given. Americans are smart, and it is time that we start using intelligence and not violence to solve our issues.

Once we begin to fight these robbers with our brains and protect the valuable jewels of our nation, the American flag will begin to fly where it belongs.

Katie Grovatt is a junior journalism major from Tabernacle, N.J. She is a reporter.

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Opinion

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Lariat Letters

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.

Socializing with seniors

Students, Waco's elderly form relationships through local organizations



Tribune News Service

EMMA KING
Reporter

Baylor Agape Connection has paired with Meals and Wheels Waco to create a program that provides college students with the opportunity to volunteer while building relationships with the elderly.

"The elderly are a generation that are often forgotten," said Kaitlyn Gibbens, Agape Connection ambassador. "You can make someone's day just by going and spending an hour with them."

Although the program is called the Friendly Visitor Program, Gibbens said she and others involved with Agape Connection like to call it "make a special gran-friend."

"It's just amazing the kind of need that you're able to respond to," said Avon, Ind., senior Sarah Byers, the group's president.

Responding to that need and participating in this program requires a short interest form and a background check before students will be

paired one another and then matched with a new friend. Byers said these elderly friends are usually home-bound and live alone.

Student pairs that have passed their background checks and have been given the address of their friend will go and visit once a week for about an hour, whenever it fits in their schedule. Byers said she tries to pair freshman volunteers with older students, in case they don't have a car.

Both Byers and Gibbens said doing little things around the house for these elderly citizens, like changing light bulbs or lifting things they find too heavy, is beneficial, but not the only benefit to a visit.

"A lot of the times, you make very special connections," Gibbens said. "It's definitely more of a friendship than a volunteer opportunity."

She said she enjoys spending time with her elderly friends because she gets to hear stories about their lives and experiences.

"I think it is a really good opportunity for me because of

their wisdom," Gibbens said. Both she and Byers said serving the elderly is what Agape Connection is all about.

"I see a lot of potential to connect Baylor students to the Waco community," Byers said.

In addition to this Friendly Visitor Program, Agape Connection also helps with holiday parties at nursing homes and works with Waco's Friends For Life.

"I like to volunteer because it makes me happy," Byers said.

Byers said Agape Connection has been growing and she hopes it will continue to expand, especially now that Meals and Wheels is hosting the Friendly Visitor program.

Questions about Agape Connection can be directed to Byers at Sarah_Byers@baylor.edu or bu.bayloragapeconnection@gmail.com. The organization also posts updates on its Facebook page, Baylor Agape Connection.

Completed Friendly Visitor Program forms can be emailed to barbarad@mealsandwheelswaco.org.

Houston LGBT ordinance rejected

JUAN A. LOZANO
Reporter

HOUSTON — An ordinance that would have established nondiscrimination protections for gay and transgender people in Houston failed to win approval from voters on Tuesday.

The Houston Equal Rights Ordinance was rejected after a nearly 18-month battle that spawned rallies, legal fights and accusations of both religious intolerance and demonization of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

Supporters of the ordinance had said it would have offered increased protections for gay and transgender people, as well as protections against discrimination based on sex, race, age, religion and other categories.

Opponents of the ordinance, including a coalition of conservative pastors, said it infringed on their religious beliefs regarding homosexuality. But in the months leading up to Tuesday's vote, opponents focused their campaign on



Associated Press

ORDINANCE OUTRAGE A man urges people to vote against the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance outside an early voting center on Oct. 21 in Houston.

highlighting one part of the ordinance related to the use of public bathrooms by transgender men and women that opponents alleged would open the door for sexual predators to go into women's restrooms.

Democratic Houston Mayor Annise Parker, who is gay, and other supporters of the ordinance had called this "bathroom ordinance" strategy highly misleading and a scare tactic.

The ordinance was initially approved by the Houston City Council in May 2014 but a lawsuit to have residents vote on the measure eventually made it to the Texas Supreme Court, which in July ordered the city to either repeal the ordinance or put it on the ballot.

Tuesday's referendum drew attention

from around the nation, with the measure getting high-profile endorsements last week from the White House, high-tech giant Apple and Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton. The ordinance also had received support from other members of Houston's religious community.

Campaign for Houston, which fought the ordinance, said opponents included a diverse group of individuals, such as pastors from all denominations and local and state elected officials.

On Monday, Republican Texas Gov. Greg Abbott had tweeted his support for opponents, saying, "HOUSTON: Vote Texas values, not @HillaryClinton values. Vote NO on City of Houston Proposition 1. No men in women's bathrooms."

Former Wal-Mart CEO crash-lands plane on highway

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — A former chief executive officer at a division of Wal-Mart Stores Inc. crash-landed a plane on a highway in front of an Arkansas high school Tuesday after the aircraft's oil system failed.

Bill Simon, who led the company from 2010 to 2014, was flying from nearby Bentonville to Waco, Texas, where he teaches a business class each Tuesday at Baylor University.

Simon and two other men aboard the plane were taken to a hospital, as was a woman whose truck was hit by the plummeting plane. Fayetteville police described each injury as minor.

Simon told The Associated Press that he unfurled the plane's

parachute after the oil system failed. He said that he suffered a burn as an air bag deployed and that he was grateful that all survived.

"You react with the training you've had and do

the best you can, and pray a lot," Simon told the AP by phone after the crash.

The plane fell in front of Fayetteville High School, which is adjacent to the University of Arkansas.

The highway, Arkansas 16, is also known as Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and, at five lanes wide, is broad enough to accommodate a small plane if vehicle traffic is not present.

Baylor said that, in addition to teaching a business class, Simon is on the school's board of regents.



Simon

Controversial cryotherapy use spreads

SALLY HO
Reporter

LAS VEGAS — From Japan to Europe and now in the U.S., a growing number of people are seeking cryotherapy — a treatment that subjects their bodies to cold temperatures far below those found anywhere on Earth.

Backers claim it can ease pain and inflammation, aid blood flow and weight loss, improve skin and even ward off aging and depression.

The treatments, however, have come under scrutiny after a Las Vegas spa employee was found dead last month in the chamber of a cryotherapy machine chilled by liquid nitrogen.

Las Vegas police and Nevada state officials have opened investigations into the circumstances involving the death, but it has moved slowly because the industry is so new in the state that no one agency assumed responsibility for it.

Nevada's chief medical officer said Tuesday that the Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance will assume responsibility for investigating complaints as the state health department takes over an expanded probe to determine whether or not the treatment itself is safe. The long review

process is now only in its fact-finding stage, but Dr. Tracey Green said some form of education, regulation, scope of work agreement and/or licensure could ultimately be proposed.

"Education will be very important because there are many alternative services in many areas of medicine, science, health, nutrition and beauty. We need to be conscious consumers," Green said.

And any rules or policies put in place in Nevada would mark some of the first regulations in the world governing cryotherapy.

In other states, oversight varies widely. The Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies has assigned cryotherapy to a medical category that requires doctor oversight. California officials said its industrial relations and consumer affairs departments and state medical board have no oversight of the practice, calling it an experimental and alternative treatment unsupported by evidence.

Cryotherapy involves entering the cold chamber and spending two to four minutes in temperatures ranging from minus-166 to minus-319 degrees Fahrenheit.

It is believed to have started in Japan

in the 1970s to treat inflammatory conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis. It has been used by professional athletes on the premise that inflammation caused by exercise could also be treated by extreme cold and has made its way across the globe. It is primarily used in Eastern Europe.

Joseph Costello, a researcher with the University of Portsmouth in England who studies cryotherapy, said the entire rugby team of Wales traveled to Poland to use the technology in 2011.

It hit the U.S. about two years ago and now, the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers said the team has its own cryotherapy chamber at its training center. The treatments are also available at some spas, sports medicine clinics and wellness centers.

Given that the coldest temperature ever recorded on Earth was minus-128 degrees Fahrenheit, experts say the health impacts of cryotherapy can't be predicted without more research. Costello urged that more studies should be done and noted that it may take a long time to fully understand the risks and possible benefits.

"Technology is moving at such a rapid pace, but it often takes time for scientific studies to be completed," he said.

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'Call of Duty' creators buy 'Candy Crush' maker

BREE FOWLER
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The company behind the hugely successful "Call of Duty" has struck a \$5.9 billion deal to buy the makers of the highly addictive "Candy Crush" and take advantage of the way video games are moving out of living rooms and onto smartphones and tablets.

Activision Blizzard's purchase of King Digital Entertainment, announced Tuesday, will create one of the world's biggest entertainment networks, with more than a half-billion monthly active users in 196 countries, by Activision's count.

The move is expected to help Activision get its home-console games onto players' mobile devices, a market with seemingly huge potential.

The company said it expects mobile gaming to generate more than \$36 billion in revenue by the end of 2015 and grow more than 50 percent by 2019.

The deal is also bound to help Activision attract more women as customers.

Activision's fortunes tend to hinge on its latest "Call of Duty" game. Launched in 2003, the violent, first-person shooter games generated \$11 billion in sales through the end of the 2014 fiscal year. Activision also makes the "World of Warcraft" and "Skylanders" games.

While those kinds of games don't traditionally appeal

to women, Activision CEO Robert Kotick told CNBC on Tuesday that about 60 percent of King's audience is female.

"Attracting women to gaming is a really important part of our strategy," he said.

"Candy Crush" has proved one of the most addictive mobile games, so much so that a British lawmaker was admonished after being caught playing it during a parliamentary hearing.

But it is declining in popularity, and King has struggled to follow up on its success. The company's revenue fell 18 percent to \$490 million in the second quarter.

Jefferies analysts Brian Pitz and Brian Fitzgerald said replicating the success of Candy Crush is a daunting task.

"We expect a heavy dose of skepticism from investors especially given the large deal size," the analysts said in a research note.

The acquisition isn't without risk, for while mobile games have proved popular with everyone from toddlers to senior citizens, they are also tough to make money off of, as companies such as King and its rival Zynga Inc. have found.

While Activision stock has tripled over the past three years, its revenue has fallen from \$3.6 billion in fiscal 2012 to \$2.8 billion in 2014. King's stock hasn't made much headway since the company went public in March 2014.



Associated Press

GAMETIME In this March 24, 2014, file photo, a detail from the online game "Candy Crush Saga" is shown on a computer screen in New York. Activision Blizzard announced Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2015, it is spending nearly \$6 billion to buy Candy Crush maker King Digital Entertainment, combining a console gaming power with an established player in the fast-growing mobile gaming field.

ELECTIONS from Page 1

school districts during the first two years.

The Legislature has budgeted extra funding so schools won't see shortfalls, at least in the short term.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who oversees the Texas Senate, said the proposition's "huge margin of victory" will "give us the clout to do more property tax relief" during the next legislative session in 2017.

Also passing was Proposition 2, which offers property tax exemptions to the spouses of totally disabled veterans who died before January 2010. Similar exemptions already exist for spouses of totally disabled veterans who died in 2011 or later.

ANYWHERE BUT AUSTIN:

The land and agriculture commissioners, comptroller, attorney general and members of the Railroad Commission will be allowed to live somewhere other than Austin under Proposition 3.

Supporters argued that modern technology allows elected officials to do their jobs from anywhere. None of the current holders of eligible offices have acknowledged any plans to move away from the Texas capital, however.

The amendment won't apply to the governor and the 1856 Greek Revival-style Austin mansion he occupies. It also has no effect on the lieutenant governor, Texas Supreme Court justices or Court of Criminal Appeals judges.

RAFFLE RIGHTS:

Passage of Proposition 4 means professional teams can hold charitable raffles at all home games. That's good news for

supporters, which included the Dallas Cowboys and most of the state's top sports franchises.

GONE FISHIN':

Proposition 6 "recognizes the right for people to hunt, fish and harvest wildlife" and will protect those activities from future lawsuits.

Though such legal challenges have been sparse, Texas now joins 18 other states in solidifying such guarantees in their constitutions.

ROAD FUNDING BONANZA:

Proposition 5 lets counties with fewer than 7,500 people privatize road construction and maintenance — up from the current maximum of 5,000 residents. About 70 counties qualify.

And Proposition 7 means that when sales tax revenue exceeds \$28 billion per fiscal year, the next \$2.5 billion would go to road construction and maintenance starting in September 2017.

Then, beginning in September 2019, if tax revenue from vehicle sales and rentals exceeds \$5 billion per fiscal year, 35 percent of the amount exceeding \$5 billion would go to road funding.

The amendment allows the GOP-controlled Legislature to bolster transportation infrastructure strained by Texas' booming population without raising taxes.

"Prop 7 will provide an efficient way to dedicate a portion of our sales tax revenue to build the roads that our children and grandchildren will use," said Rep. Joe Pickett, an El Paso Democrat who chairs the House Transportation Committee.

"All we are doing is taking the success of the Texas economy and dedicating a portion of it to transportation."

Gov. Greg Abbott said that by passing all seven constitutional amendments, Texas residents "are creating an even better place for future generations to live, work and raise a family."

EQUAL RIGHTS REFERENDUM:

Houston's City Council passed a nondiscrimination ordinance last year, but a public vote ordered by the Texas Supreme Court went the other way.

It was a blow to national gay rights groups who vowed to make equal protection measures a priority after the U.S. Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriages this summer.

Conservative pastors opposed the ordinance, saying homosexuality violated biblical teachings. Others worried about men being allowed to use women's public restrooms.

"The voters clearly understand that this proposition is never about equality — that is already the law," Patrick said in a statement. "It was about allowing men to enter women's restrooms and locker rooms — defying common sense and common decency."

HOUSTON MAYOR'S RACE:

Houston also was choosing a successor for term-limited, openly gay Mayor Annise Parker, but a runoff looked likely since none of a field packed with 13 hopefuls was expected to win a majority of the ballots cast.

A second round of voting would take place Dec. 12 between Tuesday's top two finishers.

PLAYOFFS

from Page 1

all play each other in November.

Long said it was difficult to judge the strength of those teams because their big games are still to come. The good news for the Power Five conference that got left out of last season's final four is all of those teams are in good shape to get in the playoff if they win out.

The bad news is one loss by the Big 12 champion might keep them out of the playoffs.

Baylor, again, played a terribly weak nonconference schedule, and Oklahoma State did the same. TCU's best nonconference opponent was Minnesota, which is struggling.

If you're looking for this season's Ohio State, which went from 16th in the first poll to making the playoff, Oklahoma is a good pick.

If the Sooners can sweep TCU, Baylor and Oklahoma State down the stretch, they would have a strong late statement.

SPECIALISTS

from Page 1

things they were passionate about," Green said.

This program helps students who want to join organizations but can't find something they are interested, or are having a hard time getting involved.

"It gives people an opportunity who aren't as outgoing. Late Night is very overwhelming sometimes," said Green. "It could be easier with just a 1-on-1."

Being connected on campus can be a great way to meet new people with similar interests, help guide students to future careers and offer different kinds of opportunities.

"We want every single Baylor student to feel connected and to find their place and so whether that is through an academic organization or through a social organization, participating in a club sport, whatever it might be, we want students to have a meaningful involvement experience," Walkup said.

Although the office hours for this program are no longer open, first-year students can still be assisted. Student specialists are still available to set up appointments with to fill out the questionnaire.

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and let us fill you in!



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Win or Go Home

Baylor soccer earns No. 2-seed, looks to win first Big 12 title since 2012

MEGHAN MITCHELL
Reporter

Big 12 women's soccer post-season action gets under way today in Kansas City, Mo. at the Swope Soccer Village. Baylor soccer enters as the No. 2-seed overall and the top seed of its side of the bracket.

The Bears could capture their first conference title since 2012.

Baylor faces the No. 7 seeded TCU team at 5:30 p.m.

The Bears (9-5-3, 4-1-2 Big 12) pose a defensive threat to the Horned Frogs (8-7-3, 2-3-3 Big 12).

"We've been really consistent with our focus and that has to be maintained," said head coach Paul Jobson. "We are guaranteed Wednesday, and if you want to continue the season you have to grow each and every day and keep getting better. It's a great opportunity for some young kids to gain experience heading into the Big 12 tournament."

The Bears have outscored their opponents and have only allowed 14 goals this season.

The Horned Frogs have momentum going their way after winning their last three matches and having junior forward Michelle Prokof tied for ninth most points in a single season with 21.

With junior goalkeeper Sara Martinson leading the Bears with 32 saves behind the net and freshman midfielder Sarah King leading the Big 12 with 10 assists, the Bears look poised to continue in their winning ways.

"You can't go into a tournament thinking about the last game; there might not be one. The first one may be your last one," Jobson said. "Our staff has done a fantastic job of getting us prepared for our opponents."

"In our system we have to know our opponent and what they do, their tendencies. If we're not totally focused on the first game, the rest of it really won't matter."

Before 2015 kicked off, the Bears were picked to finish eighth in the conference, but defied the odds and finished second this season only behind powerhouse West Virginia.

"No one believed we would be anywhere near the top, even picked next to last," Jobson said. "It's a big deal to finish second. There's some excitement in that. There's some momentum and confidence for these young players that they can play anybody."

No. 1-seed West Virginia take on No. 8-seed Oklahoma State at 11:30 p.m. today in the opening match of the tournament.



Sarah Pyo | Lariat Photographer

STEPPING UP Freshman Julie James jostles with a Texas Tech player during a match between Baylor and Texas Tech on Oct. 18 at Betty Lou Mays Field. The Bears ended the match in a 1-1 tie with Texas Tech after two overtime periods.

The Mountaineers (15-1-1, 6-0-1) who have won the tournament the past two years face the Cowgirls (9-8-2, 2-4-2).

With 10 returning starters and another appearance, the Cowgirls could be a threat to the Mountaineers, though they have never won a match against them in Kansas City.

Also in action today is No. 4-seed Oklahoma which faces No. 5-seed Texas Tech at 2 p.m.

The Sooners (10-6-3, 3-2-3) look to take a shot at winning the program's first conference title, but are going to be tested by the Red Raiders (10-3-5, 3-2-3), who held them to a scoreless match in their only meeting this year in Norman, Okla.

To finish off opening day of the tournament, the No. 3 seeded Texas team takes on the No. 6 seeded Kansas team.

The Longhorns (8-5-4, 4-3-1 Big 12) have been dominant behind the net, with senior goalkeeper Abby Smith recording 94 saves.

The Jayhawks (8-8-2, 3-4-1) are going to have to step up offensively after only scoring one goal in the past 381 minutes of play.

The winner of the matchup will play the winner of the Baylor-TCU game on 8 p.m. Friday in the semifinal match up.

College Football Playoff Rankings

1. Clemson

2. LSU

3. Ohio State

4. Alabama

5. Notre Dame

6. Baylor

7. Michigan St.

#RankingsReaction

Baylor debuts 2015 playoff campaign at No. 6

JOSHUA DAVIS
Sports Writer

Clearly Baylor fans will be upset at the committee's first rankings for the College Football Playoff, and why shouldn't they be? After all, the Bears are 7-0 and have the best margin of victory in the FBS (36).

There's no way that Baylor could play any better through its first seven games. The problem for the Bears is their strength of schedule.

SPORTS TAKE

Let me offer some hope to fans of the Green and Gold, if Baylor takes care of business and goes undefeated, they will be in the College Football Playoff.

The Bears have the seventh-toughest remaining schedule in the nation.

Now for the time being, I'm fine with Clemson, LSU, and Ohio State being placed ahead of the team from Waco.

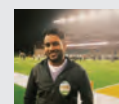
If the playoff committee wants to make an obvious statement tonight in their rankings, and basically say that strength of schedule overrides the eye test, that's fine.

However, I completely disagree with Alabama and Notre Dame being ranked ahead of Baylor.

The committee also re-established the fact that they are in love with the SEC.

The Crimson Tide have looked good, but they also have one loss versus Ole Miss in Tuscaloosa, Ala. Like I said before, there's no need to overreact to the rankings, as most of the fiasco will work itself out in the end.

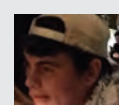
TWITTER RESPONSE



Shehan Jeyarajah
Assistant City Editor



@ShehanJeyarajah:
Wow.



Tyler Cagle
Sports Writer



@Cagdaddy53:
If strength of schedule is the main reason behind Bama ranked ahead of Baylor, Ohio State shouldn't be in the top 4 at all.

Send your reactions to [@BULariatSports](#) or lariatsports@baylor.edu