Sand levels are rising for Fort Worth junior Craig Hatch, a member of Baylor’s Kappa Omega Tau and one of their Christmas tree chairs. Hatch and five other KOT brothers began planning in the spring for their Christmas on Fifth tree lighting and concert. Today, they start decorating the 40-foot tree in anticipation of Thursday, when it will be lit up in front of Robertson Chapel in West Hall.

“I’m a bit excited about this for this week but we all know it’s going to work out and it’s going to be a great event,” Hatch said. “We’ll all looking forward to the moment when the concert starts so we can cut it.”

Hatch is especially excited about Relient K and his opener, Andrew Ripp, performing after KOT tree lighting. The tree, its lighting and the concert, the tree’s event.

“We try to do our best to make it as smooth as possible for them,” McLoughlin said. “It’s really cool for them to experience it all, they put in all the work.”

Hatch said he and his fellow chairs never quite know what to expect when they took that job planning the tree lighting, but he said it has been exciting to work through everything together, especially on the 20th anniversary of KOT’s first tree lighting.

McLoughlin said that the tree lighting is an event that hasn’t really changed much throughout the last few years. He also said that Christmas on Fifth is a celebration that community members, not just Baylor students, can enjoy.

“What we do with the Christmas tree is only a small part of everything that goes on, it’s cool to see everything else come together,” McLoughlin said.

Christmas on Fifth festivities will begin on Thursday, Dec. 3, with the KOT tree lighting at 6 p.m. Chris Ripp will begin their concert at 8:45 p.m. in V.O.B. Hall.
Politically intolerant

In this day and age, it’s almost impossible to avoid stepping on someone’s toes, and no opinion or thought is valued or respected. Political correctness is an idea that people should not use language or behave in a way that could offend a particular group of people. A recent short film on YouTube by Neal Kolhatkar titled “Blinded by Freedom” explicitly deals with the issue of political correctness in the classroom. The film, which mocks the attitude toward extreme liberalism and micro-aggressions, shows the frightening reality of where our education system is headed. The film satirizes modern education by representing a classroom of students who are given equal grades regardless of their performance. To make sure the system is fair for everyone, students are given equal privileges up to their grades based on gender, race, sexuality and disabilities. When one of the students speaks out against the system, the teacher tells him it is more important to worry about the feelings of others rather than facts.

“In today’s vernacular, it’s become the safe word for denying that other opinions exist.”

In this day and age, it’s almost impossible to avoid stepping on someone’s toes, and no opinion or thought is valued or respected. Each time controversial topics like race or religion are brought up by a student, the heart of the topic is frequently derailed because many times people are too worried about offending someone else or looking like they are against a certain group. The dark side to political correctness has been established in history before. During the pre-World War II era in the Soviet Union, people were imprisoned, exiled or even executed for sharing opinions different from Joseph Stalin’s doctrinal ideology. Quite frankly, too much time is spent beating around the bush and avoiding the very possibility that someone might disagree. Simply, the age of political correctness is hindering our education system.

We need to be more mindful that it’s OK to believe something different than the person next to us, and we need to be more tolerant of those opinions. While it is important to remain respectful of others even when you disagree, the slippery slope of political correctness needs to be stopped before contaminating opinions are ads.

Legal
Opinion
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EDITORIAL

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Baylor backpacking and camping class puts its skills to the test

1. The backpacking and camping lifetime fitness class takes a weekend camping trip at the end of each semester allowing students to use the skills they have been learning in the classroom. This year’s trip took the class to Lake Georgetown near Austin last weekend.

2. Mile three marked the point in the trail where the students hiked up their pants and took off their shoes and socks and crossed the 65 degree water to continue their journey.

3. Each person carried a roughly 25-pound backpack with everything they needed for the trip. Items included warm clothes, a tent, cooking materials, food, flashlights and water.

4. The trip ended at Tajas Camp at the North West side of the lake, where students had a fantastic view of the river that feeds the lake.

5. Students in the class grab a breath and take in the view at the end of the journey at Tajas Camp.

6. Cooking and eating becomes an even larger community event since groups have to work together to carry and prepare the meals.

7. The entire class surrounds a campfire that they made to tell jokes and stories.
Central Library plans new renovations

KATIE GROVAT

The downtown Waco Central Library is expecting improvements to begin early next month. The project plans to expand lighting and improve aesthetic appeal around the library.

City council members approved the renovation contract at their council meeting on Oct. 28.

“There has been a turnout for this project,” said Facilities Program Manager Vince Toplea. “Library director Essy Day is involved with the planning. Currently, the parking lot has issues with traffic flow, so there are no sidewalks in the back of the facility and entrance and exit are not clearly marked. Cars leave at the same time people arrive in off-lot traffic, which obstructs traffic. Yes, Day said. The upcoming project will address these problems.

“The entrance is going to be more defined, which will allow for better flow, which will increase safety for library users and pedestrians,” Day said.

The plans also include removing a large area of dirt that currently takes up potential parking space. “Right now, we have an empty lot behind our parking lot that is just dirt. They are going to turn that over, so it will be a parking lot,” Day said.

One of the most exciting aspects of the renovations is the increase in aesthetic value, Day said. Improvements such as landscaping, increased lighting and an added sidewalk will all be implemented.

“It’s going to be prettier and it will just flow out of the parking lot and will enhance the library’s aesthetic appeal,” Day said.

The Central Library was closed from summer 2011 to February 2012 while undergoing a $5.9 million interior and exterior renovation. The project included stripping the walls, painting the interior, adding more space, color and light. The current parking lot projects’ goal is to have the library be more defined and clear marked. Cars leave at the same time people arrive in off-lot traffic, which obstructs traffic. The library parking lot, adding new sidewalks, improving lighting and updating landscaping starting early next month. These developments should add traffic flow and enhance the library’s aesthetic appeal.

RENOVATIONS

The Waco Central Library underwent an extensive interior renovation from summer 2011 to February 2012. There are now plans to begin expanding the facility, with an estimated cost of $5.9 million. The project is expected to begin early next month.

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**DIVERSITY** from Page 1

We have a need. If we look at data, it's obvious that things aren't going to change. Do the right thing now. Take more courses in history and knowledge and expertise on cultures - not little pockets or sides. With a chief diversity officer, we're going to have the opportunity to have someone who is able to bring expertise but also work with us to make sure that the recruitment of faculty and staff is done the right way at the campus climate,” Palacios said.

Provost Edwin Trevathan has contended a chief diversity officer (CDO Group) to determine the roles and responsibilities of a CDO at Baylor. Since August, the CDO Group has been collecting information on similar diversity officer positions at other institutions and benchmarking them.

While similar positions exist at other schools, the administration is committed to ensuring that the CDO embodies the unique Christian mission of Baylor University.

“The chief diversity officer will be in line with the Judeo-Christian mission of Baylor,” said Dr. Hadi Bastani, the chair of the CDO Group. The CDO would largely be responsible for creating an atmosphere of Christian inclusion at Baylor. The CDO Group would like the roles of the officer to include broadening the candidate pool that academics departments or programs.

In a decision that goes back to the 1950s, the CDO would ultimately agree that Baylor is following its Christian mission, Palacios said.

Jesus embodied social justice, love, and was above the industry. Our faith was based on the love that God loves us all. How can we be Christian enough to lovingly create all of us with uniqueness and diversity, Palacios said.

Indeed, she said that the chief diversity officer would not only embody the Christian ideal of love, but also help all students to pursue excellence.

“We have a responsibility. We can't be excellent and be advocates on homogeneity.” Palacios said.

The CDO group has held two town hall meetings with faculty and staff this semester to collect their feedback on the positions and responsibilities.

Based on that feedback, and from faculty letters written to the committee, the CDO Group will compose a final report, due to the Provost on Dec. 4, 2015. From there, the creation of the position and delegation of its responsibilities would be the decision of Provost Trevathan and other members of administration.

Bostic said, too, in response from faculty to the position of academic positions from faculty and staff, she plans to start the semester to collect their feedback on the positions and responsibilities. Based on that feedback, from faculty letters written to the committee, the CDO Group will compose a final report, due to the Provost on Dec. 4, 2015. From there, the creation of the position and delegation of its duties will be the decision of Provost Trevathan and other members of administration.

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While similar positions exist at other schools, the administration is committed to ensuring that the CDO embodies the unique Christian mission of Baylor University.

“Jerry Park, who teaches in the Hankamer School of Business, expressed concerns that the university intends to finance the hiring of a CDO through another high-level administrative position. Dr. Elizabeth Corey, a political science professor at Baylor, said that the CDO may divert funds from other projects but is open to the creation of the position.

“We wholeheartedly agree that Baylor needs to work hard at becoming more diverse. I am all for anything that will help us achieve those goals, and I'm quite open to hiring a CDO if that will do that,” Corey said.

The chief diversity officer role, and the means of diversity at Baylor University. He expressed some doubt as to the cost of the position, and to the need for a single figure to achieve diversity.

Park said, however, that the offices of a CDO would go beyond the cost to the university.

“If we look at the disparity in the numbers of faculty of color, the numbers of women with full tenure positions, that tells us we're not doing the best we can. If we see someone with a role to fill in something from a different perspective and create opportunities, maybe that one office will help us attract faculty of color. How are we going to transform students if we don't give them these resources and knowledge and expertise to interact with people who are different?” Palacios said.

**SHOOTING** from Page 1

Became a love interest in 1994, and was cited in a 1994 Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrance Act, which makes it a crime to harass or intimidate clinic patients and employees.

Police are investigating a shooting at the Planned Parenthood health clinic located at 205 North 20th Street.

**BAYLOR STUDENT PUBLICATIONS are taking on the high-**

**The Baylor Lariat**

**Award 2015**

**Best Newsmagazine**

**National Award Winner**

**Columna Scholastica Press Association**

**TRIPLE RECIPIENT**

**BAYLOR FOCUS MAGAZINE**

**Gold (Top 10)**

**Baylor Lariat Newspaper Website (Top 3)**

**Hybrid Silver (Top 3)**

**Baylor Roundup Yearbook Silver (Top 3)**

**5News**

**Tuesday, December 1, 2015**

The Baylor Lariat
Today, I drove down I-35 North, out of the Baylor Bubble, in search of a good burger. I didn’t want just any ol’ burger, though. I wanted a burger that would make my taste buds sing. I ended up at Dave’s Burger Barn, located at 600 N Patricia St. I pulled up to Dave’s and nudged just how fitting the name is. The building looked like a real farm fixture, complete with metal sides and red accents. I took a tentative step toward the door. My hunger and craving for a beef patty propelled me forward, so I opened the door and stepped inside.

I took my number to a table near the wall and sat down. As my eyes examined the interior of the restaurant, they rested on a sign near where I was sitting. The phrase “Zipper Ripper Challenge” was displayed proudly alongside hundreds of pictures of those attempting the beastly feat. Participants in this eating challenge have a nearly 12 minutes to eat a burger with five patties, as well as five slices of cheese and five pieces of bacon, as well as a pound of fries and a drink. My stomach churned thinking about that volume of food entering my stomach.

Today’s Puzzles

Today’s Puzzles

17 Started to sneeze and cough.
21 Honor thieves.
24 Musical Apple.
26 Exposed.
34 Critter that sleeps floating on its back.
36 Kitten cry.
37 Gen-__: post-baby boomers.
38 Camera setting.
40 Nursery furniture with bars.
42 Red Sox star Big __.
44 Paid for everyone’s dinner.
45 Seoul-based Soul maker.
46 Minimum age for a U.S. senator.
47 Jewish wedding dance.
48 Catcher’s position.
50 Catcher’s position.
51 Rock’s Mötley __.
53 Rock’s Mötley __.
55 __-friendly.
56 State, in France.
57 Continent north of Afr.
59 Wedding page word.
60 Corp. alias letters.
61 Pretoria’s land: Abbr.
62 Aragon aunt.
63 Argue the opposing viewpoint.
64 Hit half of a record.
65 Home of the Cardinals: Abbr.
66 Small and glittering, like eyes.
67 T erminate the mission.
68 Small and glittering, like eyes.
69 T erminate the mission.
70 State, in France.
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94 Continent north of Afr.
95 Continent north of Afr.
96 Continental dessert.
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99 Continent north of Afr.
100 Continent north of Afr.

Today’s Puzzles

Today’s Puzzles

The bulletin board holding all the pictures was divided into two sections, the wall of fame and the wall of shame. The shame portion was about two times as large as the fame section — a clear picture of just how nearly unattainable the challenge is. As I stared at the faces of the poor souls that tried and failed to order their weight in food portions, my thoughts were interrupted in the chamber basket I ordered was set down in front of me. The tiniest bite of the best burgers I’ve ever had, hands down. Next, I tried the fries. The crispiness of the thick-cut spuds accompanied the juicy burger perfectly. I savored the burger in moments and mastered on the fries, trying to make the meal last as long as possible.

When all was said and done, I had a full stomach and a feeling of contentment. Driving 10 minutes off the beaten path was absolutely worth it for a Dave’s Burger Barn burger. If you’re ever in the mood for a savory fried meal, the Barn is the place to go.
Volleyball pounds KSU in season finale

Malloy, Fanning honored with All-Big 12 selections

Joshua Davis

Baylor volleyball ended a four-game skid to close out its 2015 campaign with a statement win over Kansas State, 25-15, 25-16, 25-22, on Saturday night at the Ferrell Center.

In the final game of the season, the Bears helped give head coach Ryan McGuyre her fifth straight set victory over the Wildcats since Oct. 20, 2014. In what would be their last game at home, the seasoned veteran used her last set for good.

The performance from Baylor (17-13, 5-11) started with the defensive effort that helped Kansas State to a .191 attacking percentage. Malloy, who was more consistent on the defensive end Saturday night, and junior middle hitter Tylee Stotts finished with 16 kills apiece. Stotts set a new career-high in digs with 21.

Outside hitter Andie Malloy led all players with 16 kills and 21 digs for a .400 attacking percentage. Malloy, who was more consistent on the defensive end Saturday night, and junior middle hitter Tylee Stotts finished with 16 kills apiece. Stotts set a new career-high in digs with 21.

The pair of awards marks the first time Baylor has landed two All-Big 12 honorees since 2012.

Malloy earned an All-Big 12 First Team selection, while Fanning secured an All-Big 12 Second Team selection and Big 12 All-Freshman Team nod.

The senior and freshman outside hitter lined up as game-winners for the Bears Saturday night. Malloy led all players with 16 kills and 21 digs for a .400 attacking percentage. Malloy, who was more consistent on the defensive end Saturday night, and junior middle hitter Tylee Stotts finished with 16 kills apiece. Stotts set a new career-high in digs with 21.

The newcomer’s keen on-court awareness combined with her imposing athleticism made her one of the top offensive threats for the Bears in 2015 and 28 in her career in Waco.

Fanning, another stalwart player on the Bears roster, made an impact in her first season. She became the first freshman in program history to be named to both the All-Freshman and All-Big 12 teams.

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Malloy finished her second and final season with Baylor after transferring from Iowa State. She led Baylor in kills (398), kills per set (3.05), and service aces (33) in her junior and senior years. She also finished with 10 double-doubles in 2015 and 38 in her career in Waco.

Baylor was led by senior middle hitter Adrien Richburg, who had 10 kills with a .600 attacking percentage. Malloy, who was more consistent on the defensive end Saturday night, and junior middle hitter Tylee Stotts finished with 16 kills apiece. Stotts set a new career-high in digs with 21.

The 10 home victories for McGuyre in his first season matched Baylor’s highest home win total since 2009. After wrapping up a season campaign in his first year, McGuyre will be looking to continue that trend moving forward. But Saturday’s win was about the seniors, he said.

“They and her leadership (really helped us), she was in the flow tonight and did some great things,” McGuyre said. Fanning played the best I’ve seen her play all season. Andie means so much to the program – in the sacrifices she made to come and play here at Baylor. Mary was just one of those seniors I found unintentionally, and she makes the people around her better. She was really consistent tonight, such a lovable and likable girl.”
Cowboys’ Jason Garrett says team still in NFC East title mix

ASSOCIATED PRESS

IRVING — While Tony Romo is done for the season after breaking his collarbone, the second time this year, the Dallas Cowboys somehow still have a chance to defend their NFC East title and get to the playoffs.

Coach Jason Garrett said Monday that Romo has a lot of football left to play in the future. But do the Cowboys this season without their quarterback, and part of the message the coach has for quarterback Dak Prescott is that they still have a chance in the division race.

"No part of our message to prepare perspective," Garrett said. "Oftentimes you have to perspective about where we are, where we are, where we want to go and how we want to get there."

Dallas has five games left and is two games back in the NFC East. The Cowboys can clinch Sunday at Washington, giving them an extended break after playing Thanksgiving Day. They host the Redskins in their regular season finale Jan. 3, and have already split their two games with the Giants.

For now, Romo will stay involved with the team and connected with quarterbacks Matt Cassel and Kellen Moore.

"We're going to look into the deal."

Garrett believes Cassel’s experience with the Dallas Cowboys’ offensive line will benefit him the second time in the starter’s role.

"He came in, had a learning during the season," Garrett said in the postgame press conference he balanced a score on that drive would have sealed the deal.

"We were actually playing for a field goal," Briles said. "We felt like we had a guy open in the end zone. It just didn’t work out."

With the game going into overtime, both teams started the overtime period with seven points apiece. After TCU scored on the first possession of the second overtime period, the Bears were stopped on third down with just a yard to go.

After a Baylor timeout that negated a close-down in, Johnson handed the ball to Deen Chafin. Chafin had played well throughout the game, carrying the ball 24 times for 119 yards and two touchdowns, but this time TCU got the better of him.

Chafin took a handoff from Johnson and was stuffed on the right side of the line, barely getting back to the line of scrimmage.

"If we don’t Dak, though, we get our and there, and he’s going to go on there again," Briles said.

The scene that played on the field was familiar for Baylor fans, except this time they were on the other end. Ammon G. Carter Stadium was covered in purple and black, as the fans that weathered the weathered the storm rushed the field after the final whistle.

TCU’s regular season is over, but Baylor still has one more regular season game this season against Kansas State. Should the Bears defeat the Longhorns, they will be tied for second in the conference.

"I was sad and heartbroken about (Friday’s game)," said junior receiver Corey Coleman. "But I just told them that we still have a big game ahead of us this week. We’ve won a lot of football games this season. So now we just have to be there and get the job done."