

Baylor Lariat

WE'RE THERE WHEN YOU CAN'T BE



DECEMBER 2, 2015

WEDNESDAY

BAYLORLARIAT.COM

DRESSEMBER

Students dress up to bring slavery down

HELENA HUNT
Staff Writer

This month, despite dropping temperatures and biting winds, several students will be wearing dresses every day.

This month isn't just December. For some, it's DresseMBER. DresseMBER is a call, not only to wear a dress for 31 days in a row, but to give attention and funds to the International Justice Mission, which advocates against human trafficking.

Members at Baylor's chapter of IJM are

readying their closets now for the monthlong pledge.

"I was having dress-up yesterday to figure this out. Sometimes all the girls will get together and it's like, 'OK, we've got long sleeves and sweaters, how do we put this under and over things, how many pairs of tights do we need?'" said Perris, Calif., junior Annie Perrello. "It's actually really fun, because you get to look at your clothes in a different way."

Of course, the month isn't only about fashion. Participants in DresseMBER are looking for sponsors who will donate funds to the national

branch of IJM, funds which will go to running the organization's offices and supporting human rights outreach programs.

The global coalition, which uses university chapters to raise awareness for its cause, works in countries from Guatemala to Uganda to rescue individuals from sexual and personal violence. The nonprofit group's effectiveness in working alongside local leaders and governments to effect change has been recognized by the State Department, The New York Times and other outlets.

Wearing dresses is a tribute to the dignity

of women, especially the women that IJM advocates for. Because so few would choose to wear a dress every day during one of the coldest months of the year, the effort draws attention to the work that IJM is doing on campus around the world.

IJM's work doesn't end with DresseMBER. In the spring, the Baylor chapter will hold a Justice Week highlighting fair trade practices and the injustice of human trafficking. There will also be a 24-hour Stand for Freedom at Fountain

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HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Building up joyfully

Nonprofit to build Habitat House on Third Street

EMMA KING
Staff Writer

Today, a house frame will be built in the middle of campus in just a matter of hours. Third Street will be turned into a temporary construction site as Baylor's Habitat for Humanity seeks to raise awareness for poverty and affordable housing in Waco.

"We kind of want to bridge the gap between the Baylor Bubble and the Waco community, and get students involved in something that's bigger than them," said Allison Carrington, president of Baylor's Habitat chapter.

Throughout the semester, Habitat has been raising money for this house build through fundraising events and by asking other organizations to sponsor a stud.

The actual house frame built from these studs will not stay on campus long. About a week after Christmas on Fifth, the house will be deconstructed and taken to the plot where it will be rebuilt and developed for a family in Waco.

"We get to frame a house twice, but we think it's well worth it," said

Brenda Shuttlesworth, executive director of Waco Habitat.

She said its main purpose on campus will be to heighten awareness for Baylor students, alumni and the surrounding community who will be on campus for the Christmas festivities.

"I was a Baylor student many years ago and I didn't realize how poor Waco was," Shuttlesworth said.

The median household income in Waco is \$32,705 and Waco's poverty rate is 29.4 percent, according to data from the National Resource Network. Texas' poverty rate is almost half that, at 17.2 percent, according to Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity's website.

"I think that it is something that we should be concerned about," Carrington said. "By giving someone a home, we're not just trying to eliminate poverty, we're trying to build them up."

Shuttlesworth said Habitat serves low income families in their construction program, but that it is

HABITAT >> Page 3



Lariat file photo

LIFTING UP HOPE Habitat for Humanity workers construct and lift a frame for a Habitat House in spring 2014. The Habitat workers will be building a house frame on Third Street for the Christmas holiday in order bring awareness to poverty and put an emphasis on the help volunteering brings.

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International Students at Baylor celebrate a Thanksgiving meal with classmates. **pg. 3**

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Baylor football leans on third string Quarterback Chris Johnson to help end the season on a high note. **pg. 5**

FRESHMAN CLASS COUNCIL



Lariat file photo

LIGHT UP THE JOY Students celebrate Christmas on Fifth Street in fall 2013 by drinking hot chocolate, watching the 40-foot KOT Christmas tree lighting and walking through the Freshman Class Council Christmas Tree Farm.

Annual Christmas Tree Farm to go up on Fifth Street

ROLANDO RODRIGUEZ SOTO
Reporter

The giving spirit that comes with the holidays is quickly approaching. Freshman Class Council is hosting the annual Christmas tree farm to raise money for philanthropies and donate Christmas trees to families in need. The fundraising event will be open to the public at 6 p.m. on Thursday during Baylor University's Christmas on Fifth Street tradition.

Any student led organization has the chance to compete with other organizations on campus in a Christmas tree decorating contest. The cost to enter is \$80. The winner receives the proceeds to donate to a philanthropy of their choice.

"Not only is it wonderful to have the fun Christmas tree farm on Christmas on 5th

and be able to see all of the creativity, but the main thing is that it does raise money for a philanthropy and we get to donate the trees to Restoration Haven, which is going to be able to provide those families with an actual Christmas tree," said Baton Rouge, LA senior Patrick Van Burkleo, co-director of Freshman Class Council.

Each year, the Freshman Class Council chooses an organization for a partnership to donate the decorated trees. The trees this year will be donated to families in need courtesy of Restoration Haven.

After student organizations decorate their Christmas trees, the tree farm will be open to the public. A group of judges consisting of freshman students in Freshman Class Council will announce the

TREE FARM >> Page 3

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

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

EDITORIAL

Can't get no satisfaction



ASHER

@asherfreeman

WE SAY YOU SAY

TUESDAY'S SURVEY QUESTION

Do you think the fear of being politically correct is inhibiting quality discussion over controversial issues?

20% said YES
80% said NO

YOUR RESPONSE

"Some people are afraid to voice their opinions for fear of being labeled as a bigot."

"People who complain about having to be politically correct are those who want to say offensive things about minorities and not have repercussions. I don't get the draw. If you're going to say something, then own that you're a jerk."

"There is a way to have a controversial discussion without being insensitive or disrespectful. Saying, 'I think we should handle (blank) this way because (blank),' — stating statistical facts — is not disrespectful. It is just important to remember that your rights end where someone else's begin."

"This sounds kind of like a loaded question. I think there can be quality discussion on controversial issues while still being politically correct. The tone and attitude of these conversations just need to be set in the right way. The biggest problem our society faces is when people approach discussion of controversial issues with an unopen mind and an unwillingness to hear or take the time to understand opinions, thoughts and people different from themselves."

"If the discussion is being held in a dispassionate manner, where solely sharing views is at hand, any pretense of political correctness would be dropped."

Read the editorial?
Answer the survey.

Check on Facebook
and Twitter each day
to cast your vote.

Mizzou protests should not trump Paris attacks in media

Following the ISIS attacks in Paris on Nov. 13, the world turned its attention to a constant stream of news coverage, trying to make sense of such a blatant act of terrorism. There were 129 people killed during the attacks, and people around the world seemed concerned that their cities could be next.

However, in Missouri, many took to social media to show criticism rather than condolences.

In the wake of this international tragedy, Black Lives Matter and Mizzou activists complained on social media that the Paris attacks had stolen the media spotlight from the racial oppression here in the States. Many claimed the racial injustice they'd been fighting was overshadowed by the immense news coverage of the deaths of innocent people at the mercy of Islamic extremists.

One individual tweeted, "Racist white people kill me, you want everyone to have sympathy for your tragedy, but you have

none for ours."

Another wrote, "Interesting how the news reports are covering the Paris terrorist attacks but said nothing about the terrorist attack at #Mizzou."

While the Mizzou protests certainly have validity, it's incredible that some of the activists believe their protests deserve the undivided attention of the media numerous senselessly slain people.

Lives were lost in a country that most people view as a safe zone. These attacks became not only a sense of national security, but also an issue of international security. It's no wonder why people directed their attention to Paris, which was in such a chaotic state after suffering a major act of barbarity.

The Mizzou students dealing with racial injustice should by no means be swept under the rug. Their voices are valid and have become a call for diversity in colleges across

the country.

Even if this notion of the Paris attacks are held by some of the protesters, it doesn't look good on the group as a whole. People might be more prone to not listen or hear them out because these tweets comes off as selfish and inconsiderate to what is going on elsewhere.

Many Mizzou student activists involved were extremely vocal about how they didn't want media attention of their protests at first. However, they've shown their disgust for not holding onto the media's attention. Of course, news doesn't stay "new" forever.

The Mizzou situation is a game changer for the diversity discussion on college campuses, but the Paris attacks supersedes that just by the vastness of people affected. Terrorism, especially with ISIS, is a global matter; no one is certain what will happen next. Showing condolences and respect for other global matters does not negate your own cause, even in the media.

COLUMN

Be the man: Guys should step it up for women

DANE CHRONISTER
News Editor

In recent years, women have been put under the microscope about how to act, look and be more respected by men.

I, however, would like to call out myself and my fellow men.

If we are promoting music, movies and books that all contain demeaning language about how a man's lust leads him to only focus on the sexual side of love, we are doing something incredibly wrong.

As men, we are called to be just that — men. I feel that many of us have lost what this term actually means. We are called to love women for their equality to us, not to view them as only sexual entities.

Some of us are called to be leaders of the household, leaders of the workplace and even leaders of our relationships in a

spiritual aspect. Are we truly doing that correctly?

When I use the word "lead," I'm not saying to put women behind you or to even think that you overpower them. I'm saying lead in a sense of being the selfless servant that a leader is actually defined to be.

Women are our equal counterparts. Men, we are not better than women. We all have different skills and talents as individuals, but no one gender is superior to the other.

Now that we have that clear, men, biblically, women are designed to be a partner of our own. We are called to love women and not devalue them, objectify them or, most especially, think we are better

than them.

Even in Genesis 2:22, the creation of woman is from the rib of man. Therefore, man and woman are created "side by side." There is no bone taken from man's foot nor head, and therefore I think that this creation story is meant to be a depiction of what equality looks like in a literal state. She, woman, is part of you and you of her. We are one in the same. We are equal.

We are, as mankind, both created in God's image and likeness. Never are we meant to

hurt, bad-mouth or hate women.

Dane Chronister is a senior journalism major from League City. He is the news editor for the Lariat.



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Editorials express the opinions of the Lariat Editorial Board. Lariat letters and columns are the opinions of an individual and not the Baylor Lariat.

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.

Obama says parts of climate deal must be legally binding

KARL RITTER
Associated Press

LE BOURGET, France — President Barack Obama said Tuesday that parts of the global warming deal being negotiated in Paris should be legally binding on the countries that sign on, setting up a potential fight with Republicans at home.

Obama's stand won praise at the U.N. climate conference from those who want a strong agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the burning of coal, oil and gas. But it could rile conservatives in Washington, especially if he tries to put the deal into effect without seeking congressional approval.

The Obama administration has pledged during the international talks to reduce U.S. emissions by up to 28 percent by 2025. But inscribing the emissions target in the Paris deal would probably require the president to submit the pact to the GOP-controlled Congress, where it would be unlikely to win ratification. Many Republicans doubt global warming is real or fear that stringent pollution controls could kill jobs.

So the administration is looking to keep the targets out while including binding procedures on when and how countries should periodically review and raise their targets.

"Although the targets themselves may not have

the force of treaties, the process, the procedures that ensure transparency and periodic reviews, that needs to be legally binding," Obama said in Paris, "and that's going to be critical."

Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and a fierce critic of Obama's policies, fired back immediately.

"The U.S. Senate will not be ignored. If the president wishes to sign the American people up to a legally binding agreement, the deal must go through the Senate," he said in a statement. "There is no way around it."

The White House previously said parts of the deal should be legally binding, but this is the first time Obama has said it himself and spelled out which ones.

Obama's comments brought relief to the French hosts of the conference, who were worried about whether the U.S. wanted a binding deal at all after Secretary of State John Kerry told The Financial Times that the agreement was "definitely not going to be a treaty" and that there was "not going to be legally binding reduction targets."

"The fact that the United States of America could commit to a binding agreement, whilst before there was a doubt because of Congress, is really extraordinary news that comes at a good time," French Environment Minister Segolene Royal said.



Associated Press

TIME TO MEET On Monday, President Barack Obama, left, sits with French President Francois Hollande, right, as they have dinner at the Ambroisie restaurant in Paris, France, with Secretary of State John Kerry, 2nd right, French Minister for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy Segolene Royal, 3rd right, and French Foreign Minister, Laurent Fabius, 2nd left.

TREE FARM from Page 1

winner.

"Our main goal is to give these freshmen the opportunity to be people of influence on campus," said Van Burkleo. "It's a great way to get these freshman plugged in, and it's a really cool opportunity for our freshman to decide the winner of the contest."

Alpha Chi Omega is one of the student organizations participating this year representing the Waco Family Abuse Center. Memphis, TN senior Meghan Bell is participating with her organization for the first time this year.

"Christmas tree farm is a great way to help out the local

community through donating the trees and decorations to families in need and getting to have fun with friends and participate in Christmas on 5th at the same time," Bell said.

Previous winners of the tree farm include Zeta Tau Alpha, Beta Theta Pi, North Russell Residence Hall and Collins Residence Hall. Last year, Collins donated \$1,000 to Shepherd's Heart, a local food pantry, and 22 Christmas trees to the Salvation Army.

"Other organizations should definitely participate because it is one of the most fun ways to get involved with one of the biggest Baylor traditions while also helping out those in need," Bell said.

Today is the last day to register for the Freshman Class Council Christmas tree farm. The online form is available on the FCC student activities website.

"We encourage groups to be creative with their designs and view this as a fun competition," said Meredith Walkup, coordinator of student organizations and leader development at Baylor. "Plus, even if your organization doesn't win, you are still able to give back through the purchase of a tree."

For more information on the Christmas tree farm contact Patrick Van Burkelo at Patrick_Van_Burkleo@baylor.edu.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 2015						
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Richard Hirst | Photo Editor

Mall that calls attention to the millions of people who are trapped in slavery today.

In addition to these events, the Baylor chapter of IJM has coordinated efforts within Waco to fight injustice. The group works with UnBound, which fights to free victims of sex trafficking and spread awareness of human rights issues. Students have also put together a safehouse for young people and survivors of sex trafficking under the name She Is Freedom.

"We started a domestic minor trafficking safehouse here. It's a project, so it's still in the works," said Laguna

Beach, Calif. senior Jake Herbert, the president of the Baylor chapter of IJM. "It's been really neat to do something tangible like that."

Students can make a difference even in something seemingly as frivolous as the clothes they wear each day. Baylor IJM aims to raise \$3,100 for its national organization through Dresseember, money which will go directly to victims abroad and at home. Anyone can participate in Dresseember. All it takes is a closet full—or even a handful—of dresses.

HABITAT from Page 1

not a handout program.

"They're going to help build other peoples homes and their home and eventually they're going to purchase that home," Shuttlesworth said.

To qualify for the program, Habitat checks to make sure that the family has lived in McLennan County for at least a year, that they are between 30 and 60 percent of the area's median family income, that they are willing to partner and work for their home and that they have a good work history. When a family is chosen, they go through what Carrington calls "homeowner college" where they will learn how to take care of a

house properly and how to manage savings and even loans. They also have to spend 300 hours building their home or other Habitat homes.

"When you commit so much of your time in your home, you're going to be really invested in your home and doing right by your family," Carrington said.

Shuttlesworth said Habitat has a very personal mission and they are thankful for the

opportunities they get to help families recognize the path out of poverty.

Both the Waco and Baylor chapters have been planning this house build since last school year, when Carrington came up with the idea.

"We feel honored to have been asked to come alongside the Baylor campus chapter," Shuttlesworth said.

Carrington said she is hoping more students will come alongside Habitat workers and help build the frame. They will be building from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in four shifts and will be providing volunteers with shirts. Students interested in volunteering should contact Lauren_Guida@baylor.edu.

Non-Habitat members are also welcome at the club's meeting at 6 p.m. today, in Baylor Science Building E201, where they are hoping to hear from the family that will receive the home from the campus build.

"We're trying to get as many people out there as possible and get the student body concerned," Carrington said. "We are changing a family's life forever."

International students reminisce on American Thanksgiving feasts

RACHEL LELAND
Reporter

This Thanksgiving, Baylor University international students gave thanks and ate their fill of turkey over the five day break.

Finland graduate student Otso Tolonen traveled with Baylor ambassador Mary Andrews to her home in Austin where feasting, friends and football awaited them.

Andrews had befriended Tolonen and thought the Finnish international student would enjoy spending the holiday with her family in Austin.

"He got to experience the food, food coma, football, and family fun that is Thanksgiving at my house!" Andrews said.

Andrews said that her family which is quite large, enjoys inviting guests and friends over to share Thanksgiving dinner with.

"There were probably about 20 people there," Tolonen said of the gathering. The meal was large enough to provide for the crowd. Tolonen said his favorite dish was the pie, of which there were five to choose from, including chocolate, pecan, pumpkin and apple.

"It reminded me of Christmas," Tolonen said. "You have your family together and you eat similar food."

Tolonen, who was familiar with the holiday's origin prior to coming to the United States, said that the access to American culture in his native Finland exposed him to the history surrounding the tradition.

"I know it is about the Pilgrims and how they were welcomed by the Native Americans," Tolonen said before adding that this version of America's "first Thanksgiving" is often romanticized.

In 1621, Wampanoag Indians attended a three-day feast hosted by European settlers in Plymouth colony in what is now considered to be the first Thanksgiving.

Tolonen admitted that he had celebrated the American holiday once before when he worked with an American colleague in Romania. The meal was a modest and only consisted of turkey, mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie, but Tolonen was eager to use the opportunity to learn more about Thanksgiving.

According to Tolonen, for many Finns the holiday is surrounded by intrigue and it is not uncommon for Finns to host Thanksgiving gatherings of their own.

"A lot of American culture has landed in Finland," Tolonen said. However, Tolonen admitted that the European attempts were not as meaningful as American celebrations.

"You want to celebrate Thanksgiving but its not the same because you are with Finnish people and there is an emotional connection," Tolonen said.

Spanish senior Alvaro Elices had also celebrated Thanksgiving before with his American roommate at the University of Sterling in the United Kingdom.

However, Elices said that nothing prepared him for the delicious Thanksgiving dinner his friend's mother prepared in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

"The mother, it's incredible how she cooks," Elices said of Grand Rapids senior Collin Brook's mother's talents.

Brooks who knew Elices from University Parks invited the Spanish student to celebrate his first Thanksgiving in America with his family.

"In the morning we had pancakes," Elices said. "It was very American."

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On-The-Go >> Happenings: Follow @BULariatArts and look for #ThisWeekinWaco on Twitter BaylorLariat.com

This week in Waco:

>> Today

8-10 p.m. — Open Mic Night, Common Grounds

>> Thursday

Noon-10 p.m. — Multicultural Greek Council Christmas on Fifth Marketplace, Third floor of the SUB

6-10 p.m. — Christmas on Fifth, Fifth Street

>> Friday

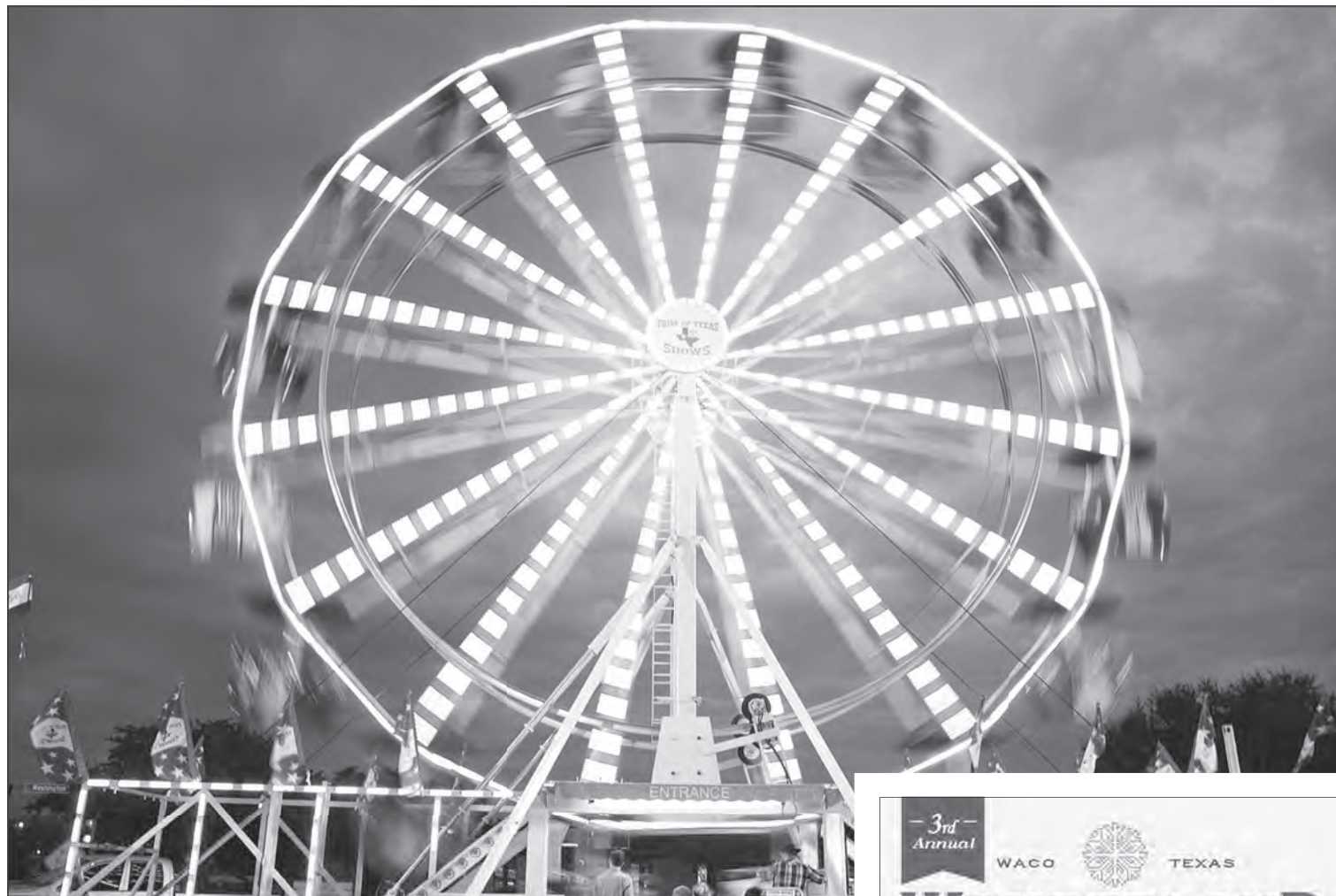
7-11 p.m. — Baylor Swing Dance Society Yule Ball, Barfield Drawing Room in SUB (\$5 for non-members)

8 p.m. — Jimmy Needham and Art Wellborn concert, Common Grounds

>> Saturday

9 a.m.-1 p.m. — Downtown Waco Farmers Market

In a Waco Wonderland



Rebecca Flannery | Arts Editor

COME ONE, COME ALL Wonderland, a week long festival, features a ferris wheel, an ice skating rink and a carousel. Food trucks, live music and pictures with Santa will be available throughout the week as well. The event will take place in Heritage Square at 300 Austin Ave.

Third-annual winter festival starts this weekend downtown with attractions

SARAH JENNINGS
Reporter

It's Christmastime in the city. For students and Wacoans who love Baylor's Christmas on Fifth Street, the holiday festivities don't have to stop there. The third annual Waco Wonderland kicks off at 6 p.m. Saturday in downtown's Heritage Square.

This event, which ends Dec. 12, features holiday lights, a skating rink, carriage rides, a Ferris wheel, food trucks and this year's newest addition—a carousel. Each day, these everyday staples of the event will be complemented with a unique theme, such as "Cowboy Christmas" on Monday or "Glow Night on the Ice" on Dec. 10. A schedule of special events and stage performances can be found at the City of Waco website.

The most popular attraction is the synthetic ice skating rink. Susan Morton, a member of the Waco

Wonderland committee since its beginning, said people should buy their skating rink tickets on the City of Waco website ahead of time. The 40-minute sessions sell out quickly, especially prime evening spots. After all, an outdoor skating rink beneath the shining lights of the ALICO building and Heritage Square is quite the novelty for warm Waco.

"That's part of the fun of it," Morton said. "It's not something you'd expect to be here. And there's some great food trucks. I'm a grandmother, and I absolutely love that my grandkids can wander around and have a good time, yet it's not going to cost a million dollars. Then they can go get their picture taken with Santa for free."

Santa will be on site during all event hours in a life-size Santa house. Visitors should bring a phone or camera to take their own free pictures with Santa.

H-E-B is hosting a kid tent where children can

find some free goodies and make Christmas cards. Afterwards, visitors may send their wish list to the North Pole via the Santa Mail Station.

Tickets for the Ferris wheel and carousel are \$4 and the carriage rides—drawn by horse up and down Austin Avenue—are \$5.

"I love the fact that it's expanding first of all," said Virginia Beach senior Julia Wallace. "I think it shows the growth of Waco and downtown, and also the vitality of the city that they're having these fun festivals for students and citizens of Waco."

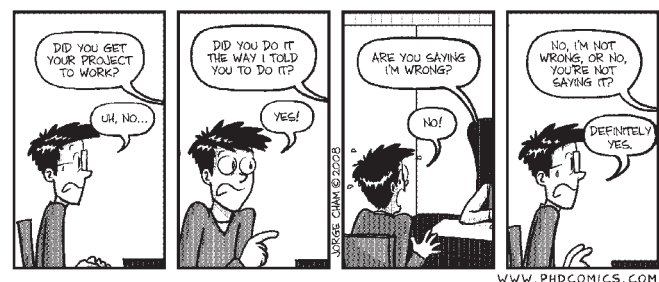
The Laser Light Show, presented by Op-Tec, is another new addition to this year's event. The show will be on the last day of Waco Wonderland, at 7 p.m. Dec. 12.

"It's really been something to watch it grow," Morton said. "For everybody who has worked on it, everything we do comes from the heart. We all love the city and love showing it off in this way."



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Today's Puzzles

- Across
- 1 With 69-Across, filmmaker born 12/1/1935 who directed and wrote five films in this puzzle
 - 6 Apparel
 - 10 Sacramento's state, briefly
 - 13 "Most certainly!"
 - 15 Language that gave us "khaki"
 - 16 Spanish she-bear
 - 17 Look that way
 - 18 With 59-Across, 1980 film by 1-/69-Across
 - 20 Suffers from
 - 21 Sneaky tactic
 - 23 Kosher
 - 24 Diagnostic machine
 - 26 Make __ for: argue in favor of
 - 27 2011 film by 1-/69-Across
 - 31 Being kept cold
 - 32 Sardinian six
 - 33 1971 film by 1-/69-Across
 - 36 1973 film by 1-/69-Across
 - 42 Junio, por ejemplo
 - 44 Low voice
 - 45 1995 film by 1-/69-Across
 - 52 Like a softly blowing fan
 - 53 Nincompoops
 - 54 Windy City airport
 - 55 One of the deadly sins
 - 56 Camp bed
 - 59 See 18-Across
 - 61 Camden Yards ballplayer
 - 64 Spanish gold
 - 65 Sit for an artist
 - 66 Have a place to call home
 - 67 " __ the ramparts ... "
 - 68 Figure (out)
 - 69 See 1-Across
- Down
- 1 Genie's offer
 - 2 Most fit for service
 - 3 Keats works
 - 4 __ Bums: Brooklyn Dodgers nickname
 - 5 "Despite that ... "
 - 6 Tailor's inserts

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- 7 Major thoroughfares
- 8 Nutritional meas.
- 9 Sack material
- 10 Mountain lion
- 11 Birthplace of St. Francis
- 12 Coffee drinks with steamed milk
- 14 Hip-hop headgear
- 19 Prefix meaning "ten"
- 22 "That's awful!"
- 24 Ancient Peruvian
- 25 Personal bearing
- 27 Unruly group
- 28 Words before flash or jiffy
- 29 Cacophony
- 30 Zip, in soccer scores
- 34 Novelist Tan
- 35 Smooth, as a transition
- 37 Black, to a bard
- 38 "CSI" actor George
- 39 Tire pressure meas.
- 40 S.C. clock setting
- 41 Fish eggs
- 43 Husbands and wives
- 45 Cow sound in "Old MacDonald"
- 46 Response from another room
- 47 Supermodel's allure: Var.
- 48 Prefix with scope
- 49 Annoying stores
- 50 Info on a store door: Abbr.
- 51 Helicopter component
- 56 Slinky shape
- 57 Merrie __ England
- 58 High schooler, typically
- 60 Letters that promise payback
- 62 Stephen of "The Crying Game"
- 63 Alcatraz, e.g.: Abbr.

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Johnson on the spot

Third-string quarterback Chris Johnson finds unexpected spotlight

JOSHUA DAVIS
Sports Writer

Not long after talking with Baylor sophomore quarterback Chris Johnson, it became evident that he's the ultimate team player.

His humility and willingness to sacrifice for the betterment of the team are what make him invaluable, teammates say.

Johnson doesn't take on an egotistical demeanor, despite the fact that he's the leader of the No. 1 offense in college football at the moment.

Instead, Johnson is a player who remains grateful for the situation he's in and cherishes every opportunity to help the Bears reach a potential Sugar Bowl berth.

The 20-year-old from Bryan credits his upbringing for his unique selflessness and team-player attitude.

"Mainly my parents and the way they raised me, because I've been playing sports ever since I could walk," Johnson said. "They always taught me how to be a leader growing up, but they also taught me before you can be a leader, you have to learn how to follow."

For someone ranked by ESPN.com as the No. 5 dual-threat quarterback in the nation his senior year of high school, waiting his turn would seem difficult.

One might expect the athletic, 6-foot-5, 235-pound quarterback to feel entitled and grow impatient.

But that couldn't be further from the truth.

While admitting that he has always wanted to play ever since arriving on campus, Johnson said his faith in God and his parents' influence has prepared him for this moment.

"Having faith in God that my opportunity is going to come at some point and talking to my parents all the time allowed me to be patient," Johnson said. "They stayed in my ear about never giving up and staying dedicated. They told me, 'Your time will come and when it does, just walk through it.'"

For the sophomore signal-caller, his time is now. But despite garnering the national spotlight and receiving all the attention, Johnson remains poised and true to himself and his team.

It's not about him, nor will it ever be, the quarterback said.

"It's not always about you; it's about everybody in that locker room," Johnson said. "Sometimes you have to do things for others so that the whole team can succeed. That's something that I always keep in the back of my mind."



Sarah Pyo | Lariat Photographer

CALLED TO ACTION Sophomore quarterback Chris Johnson scrambles during the second half of the game between Baylor and Oklahoma State on Nov. 21 at Boone Pickens Stadium in Stillwater, Okla. Johnson will make his second career start for the Bears Saturday against the Texas Longhorns.

Of course, numerous players across the college football landscape sing to the same tune of "team first," but what makes Johnson special is that he actually means what he says. And he's proven it.

"Whatever the best position is for me to help us win, that's what I'll do," Johnson said. "If that's me playing quarterback, then I'll play quarterback. But if coach Briles thinks it's me playing wide receiver, then I'll go play receiver."

Setting all ego aside, Johnson agreed to move to the wide receiver position right before the Bears' first game after the coaching staff asked if he would help the squad by swapping positions.

Johnson cheerfully made the change for the advancement of the team.

Later on he was asked to play tight end when the Bears grew thin at that position. And, once again, Johnson sacrificed for the team.

So when starting quarterback Seth

Russell injured his neck against Iowa State and was ruled out for the rest of the season, freshman quarterback Jarrett Stidham was under center for the Bears for two and half games.

After Stidham fell to injury in the first half against Oklahoma State, Johnson completed the circle and returned to his original position – quarterback.

"The thing you love about Chris is his humility," head coach Art Briles said. "Just very humble, never changing, he's going to be the same, day in and day out, whether it's really good or not so good."

Now, after bevy of injuries has piled up for Baylor, Johnson sits atop the depth chart as the starting quarterback.

But even being the top quarterback for the most explosive team in the country won't change his sacrificial attitude. Johnson said he would give up what is, perhaps, the most glorified position in all of sports at the drop of a hat.

And you wouldn't expect anything less from the altruistic sophomore.

Johnson said he doesn't see himself as strictly a quarterback and will go wherever he's needed when the time comes. After all, he's done it once for Briles already and will do it again if necessary, he said.

It's that kind of attitude that left Briles speaking of Johnson's humility and team-first mentality. That's what makes Johnson a great leader for the football team, Briles said.

"He has a lot of spirit and a lot of energy – every intangible you could ever hope for – he's just a tremendous young man with a tremendous heart. He's just a great teammate," Briles said.

Johnson will make his second start of the season when the Bears face the Texas Longhorns Saturday at McLane Stadium.

After suffering disappointing loss to the TCU Horned Frogs in Fort Worth last weekend, Saturday is a chance for redemption.

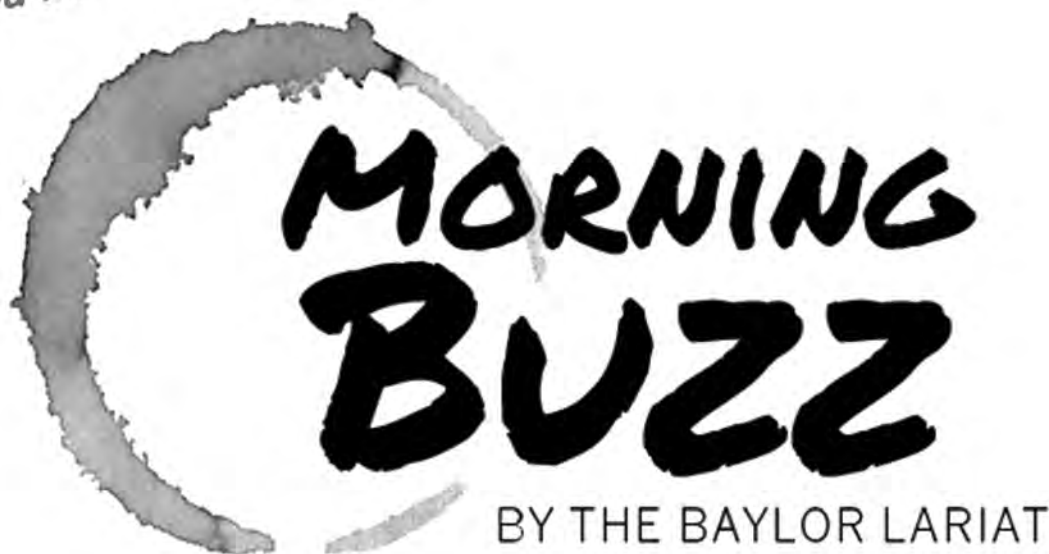
Although the loss against TCU was disheartening, the Bears have to remain focused to ensure that they will play in a New Year's bowl, Johnson said.

"It's a new week and we still have another game left to play," Johnson said. "We're playing to get into the Sugar Bowl, so I like to look at it as this game being even bigger than last game. That mindset helps me to keep my mind clear and be ready to go out there again and get the win."

Briles is sure of Johnson's ability and said that he expects continued improvement in his quarterback's production with his second start. The head coach said after seeing how great of a teammate Johnson is and what he's gone through, he hopes Johnson can experience a great deal of success.

"We're excited about his journey; we have a lot of faith and belief in Chris," Briles said. "He's earned it. We're excited about where he can take us this Saturday and where we can help him get to as well."

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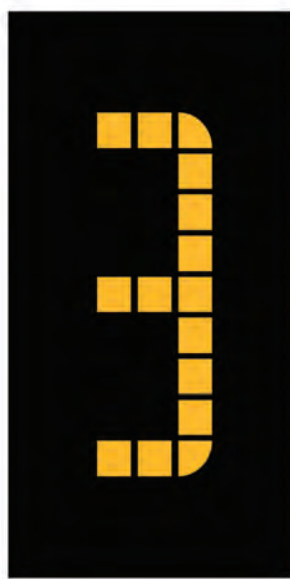


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