

Baylor Lariat

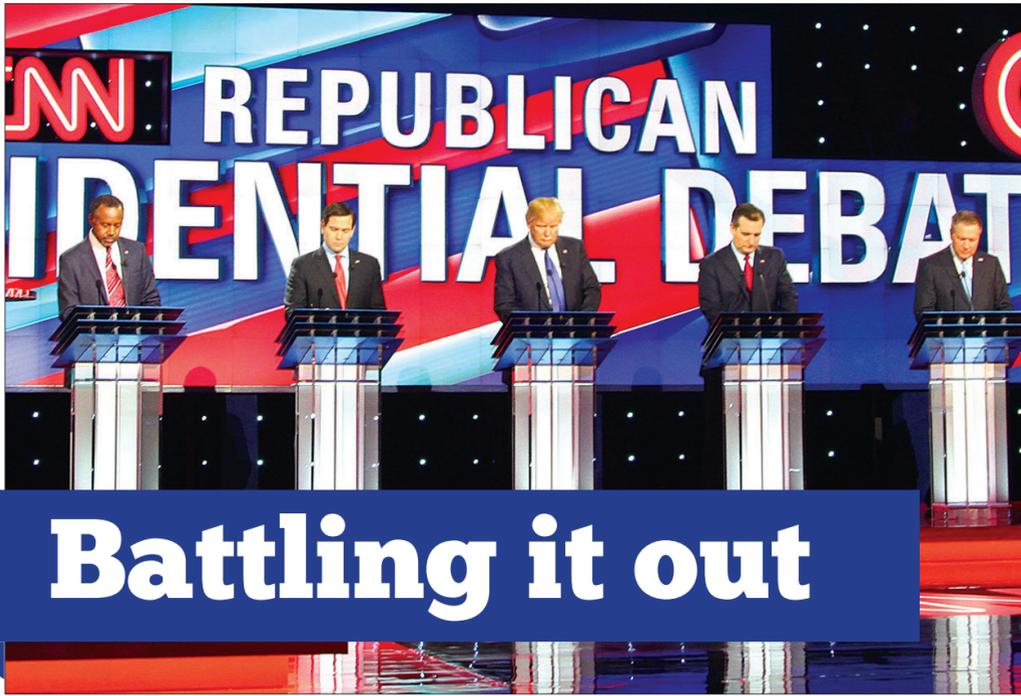
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FEBRUARY 26, 2016

FRIDAY

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Battling it out

Jessica Babb | Broadcast Managing Editor

GOP DEBATE Republican presidential candidates prepare themselves before the debate. The Republican presidential debate took place at the Moores Opera House at the University of Houston Thursday night.

GOP debate focuses on Hispanic issues

DIDI MARTINEZ
News Editor

HOUSTON — Just 11 days after the last Republican presidential debate in Greenville, S.C., White House hopefuls Donald Trump, Ben Carson, Ohio Gov. John Kasich, and Sens. Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio took the stage Thursday inside Moores Opera House at the University of Houston.

In a last-minute effort to rally potential voters before the Super Tuesday primaries, the candidates focused their attention on Latino issues—a fitting topic given that 43.8 percent of the city's population is Hispanic, according to the 2010 U.S. Census Bureau.

When the debate started off with illegal immigration, Rubio and Trump went head-to-head on the issue.

"Before we do anything with immigration, we are going to secure the border," said Rubio, whose stance on immigration was offering a path for those already in the country to stay.

Trump criticized Rubio's suggestion for self-deportation after securing the border. Trump's stance on the issue is to forcibly deport undocumented immigrants.

"Self-deportation, as I really define it, and that's the way I

define it, is you're going to get some to go, and the rest are going to go out," Trump said.

Coming back in after the interruption, Rubio called Trump out on his business practices.

"You're the only person on this stage who has been fined for hiring people illegally," Rubio said.

The crowd cheered and that is when Cruz, who is against legalizing undocumented immigrants, answered concerns over the children of deported illegal immigrants.

In response, Trump mentioned Cruz's lack of congressional support throughout his presidential bid.

"You don't get along with anybody. You don't have one Republican senator backing you, and you work with these people," Trump said. "You should be ashamed of yourself."

The next question was then aimed at Trump and centered around former Mexican President Vicente Fox's refusal earlier today to pay for a wall to keep illegal immigrants out at the expense of the Mexican government.

"I will, and the wall just got ten feet taller," Trump said.

The presidential candidate even offered to pay for it out of pocket, regardless of the trade

consequences. "Mexico will pay for the wall," Trump said. "I don't mind trade wars whenever we're losing \$58 billion a year."

Kasich explained that it comes down to a question of economics.

"My view is we need economic growth," Kasich said. "Everything starts with economic growth. And how do you get it? Common sense regulations, lower taxes for both business and individuals, and, of course, a fiscal plan that balances the budget."

Past the question of economics, Kasich said immigration is a matter of opportunity and action.

"With me and the Hispanic community, I think they like me. And I appreciate that, because I want them to have the same opportunity that I and my children and my wife and the people we love have had in this country," Kasich said. "It's time to solve problems."

Carson also emphasized security concerns in regards to immigration.

"We need to secure all the borders, because it's not just people coming in from South America and Mexico, but there are terrorists who want to destroy us, who are getting across our borders fairly easily,"

Carson said.

The debate came to a close well after two hours but near the end of that time, candidates were asked to make closing statements. Up first was Carson who focused his statement around a rhetoric of faith transcending onto his candidacy.

"These hands by the grace of God have saved many lives and many families," Carson said as a reason why he is to be trusted with the Republican nomination.

Kasich mentioned that he hopes that constituents will consider his foreign policy views and take that into account when deciding if he is qualified in such matters.

Trump drew emphasis on his promise of proactivity should he get elected.

"Nobody knows politicians better than I do. They are all talk and no action," Trump said. "I will get it done and we will make America great again."

Though the debate was a last attempt to get voters on each candidate's side, only the results from Tuesday's primary will tell who really won the debate last night.

The next Republican debate will be next Thursday in Detroit, Michigan and will be hosted by Fox News.

FRONT RUNNERS

Liesje Powers
Staff Writer

Democrats

Hillary Clinton

Hillary Clinton served as secretary of state, campaigned for presidency in 2008 and served on the Senate for eight years. She also spent time in the White House during her husband's presidency. Clinton is opposed to the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement as well as the Keystone XL pipeline. She plans to raise taxes on capital gains and raise wages for working families. Clinton is also a strong advocate for the lessening of racial tension and building of economic opportunity.



Senator Bernie Sanders

Bernie Sanders has served as a Vermont senator since 2007 and previously worked in the House of Representatives for 16 years. He is currently the head of the Senate Budget Committee and is chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. Sanders is a liberal candidate and sees himself as a Democratic socialist.

He plans to create a single-payer healthcare system with Medicare, create free college education by taxing monetary transactions and raise payroll as well as estate and corporate income taxes.



Republicans

Donald Trump

Donald Trump is a successful businessman and was the host of "The Apprentice" for 11 years prior to declaring himself as a candidate for presidency. Trump was a Republican before 1999, but registered as a Democrat from 2001-2009 and supported universal healthcare. He plans to reform taxes into brackets and phase out any deductions that are not charitable or mortgage related, expand programs for those with mental health issues and increase border crossing regulations, including the building of a wall across the U.S.-Mexican border.



CANDIDATES >> Page 4

>>WHAT'S INSIDE

opinion

Editorial: NASA censoring the use of the name Jesus violates constitutional . **pg. 2**

arts & life

Baylor Theatre alumni still form community miles from their alma mater **pg. 5**

sports



Pursuing excellence Johnathan Motley shines on the court, finds inspiration from sister. **pg. 6**

Students get involved in campaign scene

RACHEL LELAND
Staff Writer

With presidential primaries now less than a week away, Baylor students are forming student campaign groups in an effort to raise last-minute support for candidates.

Most of the groups were created in the last few weeks, long after the candidates announced their bids for presidency.

Taylor Nall, who graduated last May, created "Bears for Bernie" last week because, as a volunteer for the Vermont senator's campaign, he was concerned that Bernie Sanders did not have a Facebook page for the Waco area.

The Facebook page, which now has 24 members, is also open to students from other local schools like McLennan Community College.

Last Saturday the group met off campus at Papa Rollo's at an event to register Bernie supporters to phonebank.

Phonebanking involves participants making calls to encourage registered voters to vote and support their candidate.

Nall holds hope that non-students in the Baylor community will work with and support the group.

"I've talked to several professors and they've expressed interest in Bernie Sanders for events in the future that require a larger venue," Nall said.

A week prior to the creation of Nall's group, Austin freshman Aaron-Murillo Ruiz created a Facebook page for Baylor students supporting Hillary Clinton.

Although Clinton is expected



Trey Honeycutt | Photographer

BEARS FOR BEN Students gather on Thursday night in the Bill Daniel Student Center in support of Republican candidate Dr. Ben Carson.

to win the Democratic primary in Texas, Ruiz said that wouldn't deter student supporters from campaigning for her.

"Relying so much on presumption is the best way to let the opponents win," Ruiz said. "Although Secretary

Clinton has successful prospects, supporters still need to be adamant in their work so that those predictions can become a reality."

Both Nall and Ruiz agreed that

STUDENTS >> Page 4

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

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EDITORIAL

WWJD? NASA doesn't know

NASA's censoring of name Jesus from newsletters violates American rights

NASA has banned "Jesus" from announcements made by the Johnson Space Center Praise and Worship Club in company newsletters, according to Liberty Institute, a legal organization dedicated to protecting religious freedom for all Americans.

The announcement that sparked the issue stated:

"Join with the praise and worship band 'Allied with the Lord' for a refreshing set of spring praise and worship songs on Thursday, June 4, from 11:15 a.m. to noon in Building 57, Room 106. (The theme for this session will be 'Jesus is our life!') Prayer partners will be available for anyone who has need. All JSC civil servants and contractors are welcome."

The Christian group had regularly made announcements about their meetings in prior newsletters, but none had used "Jesus." Shortly after the newsletter was sent out, the club received a warning form NASA's legal team to never use "Jesus" in an announcement again. They said NASA could possibly be perceived as promoting one religion over others.

The problem with banning "Jesus" is that it is unconstitutional. This action encroaches on the employees' rights to freedom of speech and religion. Employers are unable to censor religion according to law.

In Christianity, Jesus is a central figure. If the name of Islamic prophet Mohammed was banned from being used, the same issue would arise because these figures are pertinent to their respective faiths.

The ban is especially interesting considering NASA's history of not censoring religion. On



Christmas Eve in 1968, astronauts Jim Lovell, Frank Borman and Bill Anders were broadcast on television and radio reading from the Book of Genesis. The Apollo 8 crew recited the creation story as they orbited the moon and viewed the Earth.

Now, NASA now has decided to distance itself from religious connections.

The agency issued a statement following the ban, claiming they do not prohibit the use of any specific religious names in employee newsletters or other internal communications.

"The agency allows a host of employee-led civic, professional, religious and other organizations to meet on NASA property on employees' own time. Consistent with federal law, NASA attempts to balance employee's rights to freely exercise religious beliefs with its obligation to ensure there is no government endorsement of religion. We believe in and encourage open and diverse dialogue among our employees and across the agency," the statement from NASA reads.

The ban sends mixed signals, however, as employees and members of the JSC Praise and Worship Club can use other names for God, including Yeshua, Lord and Son of God. The issue is found specifically in Jesus.

There the question lies, why is this specific name banned?

The club is an approved, private group. No employees are required to attend the meetings. Members of the group are voluntarily meeting, exercising freedom of assembly and practicing their religion in private. The newsletter merely looks to draw other Christians to a place where they can find sanctuary in their beliefs.

It's silly to ban a single name. If the JSC Praise and Worship group is allowed to practice their religion on NASA's premises, they should be allowed to reference the man at the center of their faith.

COLUMN

Christians — don't make light of depression

RAE JEFFERSON
Copy desk chief

Looking back over my relatively short life, it seems that most of it has existed in duality. On one end — Christian faith, the foundation of my most deeply held convictions and the core of who I am. On the other — depression, an unwelcome visitor that has made itself at home in me through various periods of my life.



The National Institute of Mental Health reports that depression is one of the most common mental disorders in the U.S. At the most basic level, it's an imbalance of brain chemicals that help stabilize mood and allow people to experience pleasant emotions. Symptoms include "feelings of guilt, worthlessness, helplessness and hopelessness; loss of interest or pleasure in usual activities; and thoughts of suicide or death." I can tell you from personal experience that depression is more agonizing than this little list from WebMD makes it sound.

Although I was officially diagnosed a little over a year ago, I've had major depressive disorder on and off for half my life. I've been a Christian for even longer than that, having been born into a nondenominational home. I knew the tenants of charismatic Christianity before I had a name for the inexplicable emptiness I felt as a child, but I was in the throes of depression before I ever tangibly encountered the Holy Spirit.

The Gospel of Christ is hope. It is joy. It is life. I've experienced these things for myself.

Depression is hopelessness. It is sorrow. It is death. I've experienced these things as well.

During my lowest points, I've never found much relief within the walls of a church. That's

not to say churches are bad places; there just seems to be a lack of understanding in tending to depressed Christians. I, as well as other Christians who struggle with depression, have noticed a few common responses to depression in faith-based environments.

Oftentimes, particularly in charismatic circles, the idea of praying depression away or casting depression-causing spirits out of a sufferer is prevalent. I firmly believe that there is a time and place for these practices, but I also know the human body breaks down sometimes. Chemical imbalances and their effects are real. Most Christians wouldn't suggest someone with cancer receive prayer in lieu of chemotherapy, so why isn't the same attitude held for a mental disorder that is diagnosed by medical doctors? There's nothing wrong with praying for someone with depression, but that shouldn't be the end of it.

Similarly, depression is sometimes approached solely as an issue of mindset, a series of negative thoughts that can be improved by reading Scripture. Psychology Today reports that there is a correlation between negative thoughts and depressive feelings. Although Scripture can help reinforce biblical truths and encourage a more positive attitude, it won't restore physical issues of chemical imbalances. It's a great tool to use in conjunction with physical treatments like medicine and counseling.

In other instances, depressed Christians are treated like they've done something to bring the illness on themselves. This is a dangerous attitude to have with a depressed person, and even more so with someone trying to make sense of an illness that seems to contradict their beliefs. Assuming someone wouldn't be depressed if they had more faith, prayed harder or sinned less does damage that can take a long time to recover from. Depression is an illness that is often characterized by uncontrollable, demeaning thoughts toward oneself. It also brings on feelings of worthlessness. Being told that depression is your own fault can result in an even quicker downward spiral into harmful

thoughts and believing you aren't valuable to Christ.

Sometimes Christians will avoid those who are ill because they don't understand how a Christian can be depressed. Cutting ties with a depressed Christian for lack of understanding can be damaging. Depression is an intensely personal disorder. It's an illness of thoughts and emotions, things that can only be experienced by the sufferer. It also fosters shame in sufferers because of how unhealthy and twisted those thoughts and feelings become at the height of a depressive episode. All of these things compound into an indescribable loneliness.

Interacting with a depressed person can be confusing, fatiguing and awkward, but it really is during this time that they need community most. Depression causes an instinctual withdrawal from family and friends, so forced interaction is sometimes necessary to help bring people out of their bouts. Besides, many depressed people aren't looking to those around them for answers. Sometimes they don't even need to talk. Simply having someone sit beside them and acknowledge the pain they're experiencing is enough.

It's time that Christians stopped being misguided about depression. It's a widespread mental disorder that affects countless believers. Christians, both in leadership and in congregations, should continue to suggest solutions like prayer and Scripture, but they should also promote medical help, counseling and practical solutions like proper diet and exercise. Addressing the spirit, body and mind simultaneously will bring true healing to hurting Christians.

To the believers who have suffered as I have: There is no duality between faith and depression. There is only faith, because depression isn't part of our identity in Christ.

Instead, we are rooted in hope. We are rooted in joy. We are rooted in life.

Rae Jefferson is a senior journalism major from Houston. She is copy desk chief for the Lariat.

Lariat Letter: Ms. Mei's baking skills are magical

Cookies.

Need I say more? Have you ever wondered what your grandma puts in those oatmeal raisin cookies that are to die for? What's the secret recipe? They're chewy, they literally melt in your mouth and they make you wish you could bring your grandma with you to college. Well no one ever said that was impossible. There is a solution for you.

Here at Baylor University, some of the best cookies are made and waited for in lines by both faculty and students. Chocolate chip, oatmeal raisin and sugar cookies galore. Ms. Mei has this magical talent known as cookie-making. No one actually knows how she does it, what she uses or where she gets her ingredients, but no one thinks twice about grabbing some of her cookies before heading back to class. No one cares how many calories they're worth or how many they consume; all anyone is worried about is how delicious they are and how many they can grab before the person behind them in line starts to get agitated. These cookies are most definitely the best cookies on Baylor's campus and possibly the best in the entire city of Waco.

So today we are thankful for Baylor, but, more importantly, we are thankful for Memorial Dining Hall and Ms. Mei and her wonderful cookie-making skills.

Laura Noble
Garland freshman

Meet the Staff

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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.



Bill Flores



Ralph Patterson



Kaleb Sims

District 17 sees old, new faces in congressional primaries

KALYN STORY
Staff Writer

In Texas' District 17 primary congressional elections, to be held Tuesday, incumbent Bill Flores is running for his fourth term against Groesbeck businessman Kaleb Sims and Waco businessman Ralph Patterson. The Democratic nominee, William Matta, is running unopposed.

Flores, a graduate of Texas A&M University and Houston Baptist University, was elected to Congress in 2010. Since then, Flores has served on the Committee on Energy and Commerce and was elected to the Chairmanship of the House Republican Study Committee in January.

Flores believes in increasing border security, repealing the Affordable Care Act, protecting the unborn and defining marriage as strictly between a man and a woman.

"Waco is the center of my universe. In order for Waco and McLennan County to be healthy, we need to have a healthy America," Flores told the Waco Tribune-Herald in January.

Regarding the issue of healthcare, Flores believes the Affordable Care Act has done more harm than good.

"I will actively work to stop the devastating effects of Obamacare and enact policies to increase the affordability and availability of care for all Texans," Flores states on his website.

Kaleb Sims is also a graduate of Texas A&M University and has since lived and worked in Groesbeck.

Sims said he is running for Congress on three main principals: establishing national security, reclaiming constitutionality and instituting a smaller, more responsible government. Sims said he believes the current

Congress is mostly corrupt, and he is fearful that it is destroying our nation.

"I am running because I am dissatisfied with Congress, and I am dissatisfied with my congressman," Sims said. "I am not a politician. I am running because we need responsible people representing the people, not representing lobbyists."

Sims believes life begins at conception and life is included in the "unalienable rights" to which the Declaration of Independence refers. He also supports increased border security and lowering the federal debt.

"America is the best nation in the world," Sims said. "But it is not above destroying itself, and that is where we're headed if we don't make a change."

Ralph Patterson is the former chairman of the McLennan County Republican Party and describes himself as "an avid Second Amendment supporter, a pro-life champion and believes strongly in a secure border."

Patterson lists his issues as veterans affairs, Texas border security, Syrian refugees, Obamacare, Second Amendment rights, presidential abuse of power and national debt.

"As most Americans agree, Obamacare highlights the Federal Government's violation of the 10th Amendment," Patterson's website states. "I will file a bill to repeal all federal laws that violate the 10th Amendment."

Patterson opposes allowing Syrian refugees into the United States until public safety can be guaranteed and thinks all Executive Actions and Orders should be thrown out if Congress does not approve them within one year.

Polls will be open to voters from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, and voters must bring one form of acceptable identification.

Heart O' Texas hosts second annual Chili Fest

JESSICA HUBBLE
Staff Writer

The Heart O' Texas Fair and Rodeo scholarship fund is putting on its second annual Chili Fest this Saturday.

The Chili Fest will take place in Heritage Square in downtown Waco at Third Street and Austin Avenue. The Chili Fest starts at 10 a.m., and there will be a public tasting and live band.

Local band The Steve Smith Group will perform at the event. They played at the event last year as well. They classify themselves as a classic rock and country band and were founded in 2011.

"We have a little bit of entertainment for everyone," said Mike Lewis, who is a committee member of the Heart O' Texas Fair and Rodeo Scholarship Committee. The event will not only be a source of family-friendly fun, but will also benefit the Heart O' Texas Fair & Rodeo Scholarship Fund.

Twenty chili teams will compete for cash prizes. For \$10 the day of the event or \$8 in advance, the public can get an official chili-tasting cup to allow them to taste all 20 teams' chili from noon to 3:30 p.m. The Steve Smith Group will play from noon until 6 p.m.

"I think the biggest draw is people really love chili and trying all the different

types of chili," said Charva Ingram, vice president of marketing and sponsorship development for the Heart O' Texas Fair and Rodeo.

In addition to the band and chili cook-off, there will be a mechanical bull, poker run, different vendors and a kids' area.

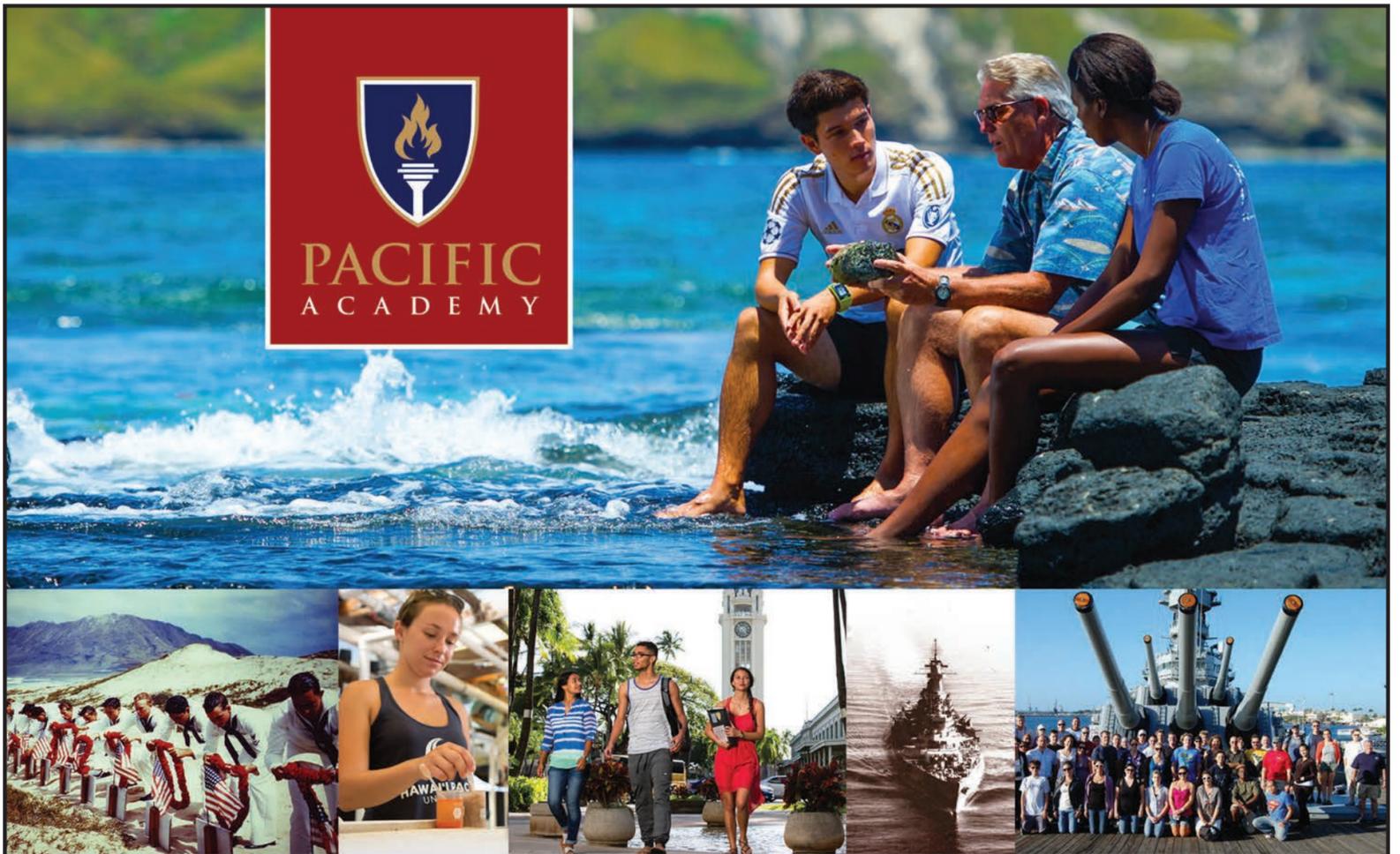
The kids' area will have face painting, a prize wheel and games.

People who want to participate in the poker run can purchase a ticket for \$20. This ticket will have a map of seven vendors they must visit, and each vendor will have an envelope with playing cards in it. Once seven cards are collected from different vendors, the participant will take the cards to the sales tent. The best five-card hand of all the participants will win a first-place prize of \$200.

The fest will give away \$1,600 total in cash prizes. The winning chili team will receive \$800 plus a victory trophy. The team who wins people's choice and the team with best showmanship will each be awarded \$400. Some of the vendors that will be present include Fuzzy Friends Rescue, Silverleaf Resorts and Premier Designs Jewelry.



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CANDIDATES

from Page 1

Senator Ted Cruz

Ted Cruz has served as a Texas senator since 2013, where he gained recognition by working to defund Obamacare during budget negotiations. He was previously the solicitor general for Texas and a partner at a private law firm. Cruz is opposed to the Export-Import Bank, opposes ethanol subsidies as a renewable fuel standard and wants states to have the ability to define marriage in their own definitions. Cruz is also a defender of the Second Amendment and his current ad campaign is focused on the importance of truthfulness.



Senator Marco Rubio

Marco Rubio has served as a Florida senator since 2011 and previously worked as speaker of the House for two of his nine years in the Florida House of Representatives. Rubio plans to reform the tax code by creating two brackets and eliminate many tax credits and deductions while creating a child tax credit, as well as repeal Obamacare and create refundable tax credits for purchasing health insurance. He would like to undo the budget cuts on military forces and work to modernize forces. He is a supporter of conservative immigration reform and hopes to reinstate the American Dream.



Three running for McLennan County sheriff

JESSICA HUBBLE
Staff Writer

Incumbent Sheriff Parnell McNamara, Willie Tompkins and Waco police Sgt. W. Patrick Swanton are running for the McLennan County Sheriff position.

The primary election is Tuesday with a runoff March 24 if needed. Early voting began last Tuesday and the general election is November 8.

Sheriff Parnell McNamara has been in office since 2013. According to his website he has increased the number of arrests by 450 percent, established an Organized Crime Unit, established a Fugitive Apprehension and Special Task Unit, increased frequency of patrols, increased SWAT team training, acquired new equipment, acquiring more drug dogs and secured new riot gear.

McNamara attended Baylor University and received a B.B.A in marketing and business management in 1969. He owned several businesses over the years such as McNamara Firearms, McNamara's Ben Franklin Store, McNamara Shamrock Stables, Bosqueville Rodeo Arena, McNamara Canceled Handgun Training and Bosqueville Community Center and Events.

Before becoming sheriff, McNamara worked for 33 years in the U.S. Marshal's Service. He was Deputy U.S. Marshal for the U.S. Department of Justice from 1970 to 2003. From 1978 to 1992 he was the Deputy-In-Charge of the Waco Division of the U.S. Marshal Service, Western District of Texas, which included 13 counties.

"Since taking office I have implemented changes that I believe have made our community

a safer place for you and your family to live," McNamara wrote on his website. "As your sheriff, I will continue to be proactive in fighting crime on every front, and I will serve the citizens of McLennan County with integrity, compassion, dignity and fairness."

McNamara is a conservative Republican with the motto of "a lawman first, because your safety comes first."

Willie Tompkins is the pastor at Bellmead's

District.

Tompkins ran as a Democrat against McNamara in 2012. He is running as a republican in this election.

"Tompkins was an instructor at the Waco Police Academy and at the Heart of Texas Regional Police Academy," his campaign website said, "proving his ability to work with and coordinate the activities of those under him."

Tompkins was unavailable to comment at the time of publication.

Sgt. W. Patrick Swanton is currently the Public Information Officer for the Waco Police Department. He has been the voice of Waco PD and handled the press after the Twin Peaks shooting and after the fertilizer plant explosion in West. He has been with the Waco Police Department for 34 years.

Swanton is running as a conservative republican.

Swanton has 34 years of law enforcement experience, is a law enforcement academy graduate and has over 3,800 hours of certified law enforcement training. He was on patrol, part of the SWAT team, a hostage negotiator and a detective.

He has basic, intermediate, advanced and master peace officer certificates as well as basic, intermediate and advanced hostage certificates. He was a street officer, patrol officer and crime prevention officer.

"To me I think qualifications are the most important and to be committed to community and have true law enforcement qualifications and that you've actually done the work. I say that I have done that," Swanton said.

"I think qualifications are the most important and to be committed to community."

Sgt. W. Patrick Swanton | Waco PD Public Information Officer

New Generation Church and has a master's in education and divinity.

He has 600 hours of police training at the Waco Police Academy and was chief of police at McLennan Community College. He was a patrolman for the Waco Police Department and was promoted to detective in less than nine years. He also has training from the U.S. Army in explosives and sabotage devices.

After working in law enforcement Tompkins started teaching. He taught in the Waco Independent School District and the Robinson Independent School District. He is still a substitute teacher for Waco Independent School

STUDENTS from Page 1

Baylor is largely a conservative school, but they also agreed that there was still potential for building progressive support.

"We have found a significant amount of progressives on campus, and I implore them to step out of their comfort zone and share their perspectives," Ruiz said.

Ruiz said that his group does not plan to host campaigning events, but supports Clinton with member involvement in organizations like Planned Parenthood, a women's healthcare provider Clinton has a strong record of defending.

Baylor Students for Trump plans

to phonebank this weekend for Super Tuesday on March 1.

Longview junior Marivious Allen started the group last Friday because he wants to get young people involved with supporting Donald Trump's bid for the presidency.

"Adults and especially older people love to see young people involved in the political process," Allen said. "Whoever controls the biggest piece of the pie in terms of youth excitement and ground game, the better off their entire campaign will be."

Trump was recently criticized as "non-Christian" by Pope Francis for

his plan to construct a wall between the U.S and Mexico.

Allen said he believes that Trump's views are consistent with the Christian faith because "there is nothing non-Christian about keeping your national borders secured."

The group hopes to gather support at the Christian university in the coming days.

"Most things in politics are way easier said than done," Allen said. "Our message is one of optimism, hope, and looking forward to the future."

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'J-Mot' on the spot

Motley's mid-season contribution bodes well for Baylor

MEGHAN MITCHELL
Sports Writer

Sophomore forward Johnathan Motley, the Bears' go-to sixth man this season, has made his mark in the thick of the Big 12 conference schedule. At 6-foot-9, Motley averages 11.4 points off the bench.

His effect on the court is showing lately, but it took years of hard work and dedication to get to where he is at today.

"My sister inspired me to play. She is 18 years older than me and played before me, so that is how I got into it," Motley said. "I think she was all-state back in her day."

Growing up with a mentor, Motley aimed to be the best he could be and continues being determined to improve in all areas of his game as he ventures through the college level.

"I can always get better at rebounding and being a little bit more physical," Motley said. "And on the defensive end, I can improve and block a few more shots."

College scouts attending games at North Shore High School noticed the Houston native while playing under coach David Greene.

While there, Motley led his team to back-to-back 5A District 21 Championships and was named District 21 MVP in both his junior and senior seasons.

Although he has faced competitors at all levels, he believes it is the college level that is going to get him headed in the right direction because of how physical play is and the quality of talent on each team.

"Some games in high school, you would play against one or two good players and then not see a good player for a while. But in college, you face elite competition every day, especially being in the Big 12," Motley said.

Coming in as a true freshman, Motley learned from and competed in practice against some of the best on the team, which included Cory Jefferson, who is now in the NBA, and Isaiah Austin.

It appeared that the tough practices and experience he gained from sitting out his first year started to transpire on the court as he started to see minutes.

Starting in all 34 games as a redshirt freshman, Motley averaged 7.7 points and 4.2 rebounds and finished sixth in the Big 12 with 46 blocks.

While anticipating having the same role, his sophomore year began a bit differently. Instead of starting, he had to overcome coming off the bench. And while this change in pace may have messed with some players' minds, Motley remained focused and gained some enjoyment from the situation.

"I actually kind of like it coming off the bench because I can feel the game out, see how the team is playing, see what their defense is doing," Motley said. "It helps me get a better feel for the game."

Coming off the bench, Motley and sophomore forward Terry Maston combine to average 18.1 points per game, which accounts for 67 percent of the Bears' points off the bench. Although starting last season, Motley's numbers have continued to rise as his field goal percentage has gone up by 22 percent.

While Motley is producing the numbers, the coaching staff and his fellow teammates know the potential Motley is possible of producing, and they know there is more still to be unleashed.

"Motley is just a freak; he's a good athlete. He can score on the low block; he's just a beast," said freshman guard King McClure. He understands his role and knows everybody plays a role on the team, and he's figured out his. He really doesn't focus on starting or scoring. He really focuses on winning, and that's what I like about him so much. He wants to win just like everybody on the team."

"He definitely is one of those players that you can see that is going to be really, really special, but he just hasn't tapped into it yet. He's started to realize it, but he, like everybody, has so much room to grow. I feel like once he really taps into it 100 percent, he will be really special."

Late nights at the gym and putting in extra work during practice appear to be paying off as Motley leads the Big 12 in field goal percentages at .640.

"He does all these things behind closed doors, and you just get to see him when the lights are bright," head coach Scott Drew said. "We've expected nothing less from Johnathan. He does a good job of coming in the gym on his own and coming to practice to work hard. When he displays it out here, it's nothing new to us."

While Drew praises Motley for the player he has become, it is Motley that looks to Drew as a role model.

"Coach Drew is an awesome guy," Motley said. "Aside from basketball, he makes sure we become better men, and I think that is how it sets him aside from other coaches. Because when this basketball thing is all done, he is going to be around helping you, making sure you grow into a better man, husband and father aside from basketball."

At the end of the day, there is still so much for the young player to learn, and while he realizes that, it does not keep him from aiming at higher goals.

"My coaches always tell me to take it one game at a time, so I try to stay in that mindset," Motley said. "But every now and then I do think about the NBA. I mean, what player wouldn't? That's the ultimate goal. If God lets me get there, then I will take advantage."

"I think there is still more to come," Motley said. "I'm just waiting my time and getting better every day."



Richard Hirst | Photo Editor

POSTURE UP Sophomore forward Johnathan Motley pulls up a jumpshot during the Bears' game against Texas on Feb. 1, at the Ferrell Center.



Associated Press

JAM SESSION Sophomore forward Johnathan Motley scores against Texas during the second half on Saturday in Austin. Motley won Big 12 player of the week for his performance against Texas as he only missed one shot against the Longhorns.

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One of America's most prominent political commentators, David Brooks writes a bi-weekly op-ed column for the *New York Times* and is a regular analyst on *PBS NewsHour* and National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*. He previously wrote for the *Wall Street Journal*. His most recent book, *The Road to Character*, explores the road to a deeper inner life and explores how selflessness can lead to greater success. His previous books include *The Social Animal*, *On Paradise Drive* and *Bobos in Paradise*.

Admission is free and requires a ticket.

General admission tickets will be available beginning February 10 through the Bill Daniel Student Center Ticket Office from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday to Friday, on a first-come, first-served basis through March 1. Any remaining tickets will be available at the Waco Hall Ticket Office on the day of the event, beginning at 2 p.m.

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