Baylor police officers awarded for efforts

JESSICA HUBBLE
Staff Writer

Three Baylor police officers were presented with honorary commendations awards at the Waco Police Department’s quarterly award ceremony.

The Waco Police Department’s quarterly award ceremony.

Three Baylor police officers were presented with honorary commendations awards at the Waco Police Department’s quarterly award ceremony.

Officer Justin Swanson, Lieutenant Greg Perkins and Officer Travis Tews were presented the medals Thursday afternoon for assisting Waco police officers in apprehending two suspects involved in a robbery involving multiple U-Haul trucks.

“The taxes were quite a bit to me. It hit me and the department knew that we are doing what we need to do and what we are asked and wanted to do,” Perkins said. “It kind of blows my mind to think about the fact that they took the time to recognize us for something that we see as so minor and they see as well enough to recognize us.”

On Dec. 1, 2015, Waco police officers were dispatched to a robbery in progress and followed two suspects to a popular local comic book store. The suspects exited northbound into Fourth and Eighth Streets, which led to the Baylor University campus. Waco Police alerted Baylor Police as the suspects drove onto campus.

At a fast-turnaround in a parking lot the suspects fled the vehicle on foot onto Baylor campus. Waco police obtained the direction of travel and descriptions of the suspects to dispatch. Baylor police were able to locate and detain the suspects until Waco police took them into custody.

The suspects were charged with theft of property over $5,000 and theft of a U-Haul truck worth $45,000.

Second U-Haul trucks were entered from different locations around Waco. There were four other incidents involving these trucks.

Waco Police Chief Brent Wetherald told the Waco police department on the scene to work with other units in McLennan County. He said universities working together like the Waco and Baylor Police departments doesn’t happen in most places in Texas or even in the United States. Baylor University working with us on the streets. I appreciate the chief working with us on the campuses level,” Wetherald said.

“The Waco police officers who responded to this robbery also received citations and state award,” Swanson added.

Police |

Clear Message
Project asks students to speak out against sexual violence

RACHEL LELAND
Staff Writer

In light of the recent criticism concerning Baylor University’s handling of sexual assault cases and National Sexual Assault Awareness month, students will be offered the opportunity to voice their sentiments on the issue this weekend.

Baylor University’s “It’s On Us” Student Advisory Council will host The Clothesline Project at 3 p.m. Sunday on Reformation Quad.

The Clothesline Project began in Bloomington, Ill., in 1990 as part of Take Back the Night, a march organized to end violence and sexual violence.

Clothesline Project participants are asked to donate a T-shirt to express their personal encounters with violence or show support for the gravity of the issue. The T-shirts are then hung on a wire and displayed in a public place.

“It was something that the students really wanted to do and so we wanted to make that happen. We got funding approved early on to be able to do it,” said Title IX training and prevention specialist Sarah Macpherson.

The national organization recognizes Clothesline Projects in 45 states and five countries.

“It is very much student involved and student-led because the students are the ones making the shirts and sharing their own experiences and their own thoughts and any myths they want to get rid of about sexual violence,” graduate student Gloria Holloway said.

Holloway’s alma mater had a similar event and she said the hope is that the students at Baylor can benefit from the anonymity of the event. The display is entirely anonymous and allows survivors to tell their story without coming forward.

“I think it can be very powerful. It’s not coming from someone up there or over there that they are not familiar with. It’s people that they know. It’s something that they don’t have to do if they don’t want to,” Holloway said. “They can support friends and look at the shirts throughout the week.”

MacPherson hopes that students who would not otherwise consider the incidence of sexual assault as an important issue.

“Think it really makes the point come home for people when we realize this could be the person next to you or the person walking by you,” McPherson said.

Students are invited to decorate shirts including messages where pizza and drinks will be served.

The shirts will be displayed until April 15.
Two weeks ago, there were three bomb incidences that have been reported to have been committed by terrorist groups in Burkina Faso and Malawi in the Malawian region and two bomb incidents in Bulgaria and Iraq have been linked to ISIS (information collected from the BBC or AP). The Easter Sunday bombing in Pakistan is reported to have been done by the Taliban.

The Brussels attack was the first and most widely reported attack of the three in American media from two weeks ago. Filing on his controversial trip to Cuba, President Obama found himself receiving even more criticism after the Brussels attack for the way he responded to the attack.

Obama had already been in Cuba for a couple of days that week, meeting with Raúl Castro, President of the Council State of Cuba. It was the first trip to Cuba by a sitting US President, since John F. Kennedy in 1961. Whether one agrees or disagrees with Obama’s trip to Cuba, the trip in and of itself was an indisputable historical moment in international relations between the two countries.

On the morning of the attack, Obama and Castro had already planned to participate in watching an exhibition baseball game between the two nations, which was abandoned and the MLSE Tampa Rays Bay. The baseball game being one of the last big moments of Obama’s presidency as he is now an indecisive one. It was intended to be a ceremonial victory for relations between the two countries.

In other words, Obama was in the middle of a trip he considered to be an important initiative in final days of presidency, where he was spending more time pleasing new friends. It was unexpectedly eclipsed by a terror attack in Belgium.

Terrorism at random untimely moments. By definition, it is irrational and mostly unpredictable. In that same, some political leaders frequently make decisions that are really exact science. Diplomatic response to terrorist incidents is not really an exact science. The response to Christmas bombings in Brussels in 2016 was one.

Some considerations do not excuse the way Obama did choose to respond to the attack in Brussels while he was in Cuba. Not knowing the attack would happen in Brussels that day, Obama had already planned to visit a press conference in Cuba that morning for other reasons. After learning about the attack, Obama did include a press conference about Brussels in that press conference and said he made it a point to call Prime Minister Theresa May and President Donald Trump about that morning’s terror attack.

While at the baseball game later that day, Obama was interviewed by ESPN commentators during the game and was offered a chance to comment on the Brussels attack again. All this to say Obama did respond, inhaled, in multiple values. But it wasn’t necessarily Obama needs that sent a long message to Americans and Americans alike in the right against terrorism. It was his choice to continue his daily agenda remotely uninterrupted and it was replaced by the attack in Brussels that showed a lack of understanding on Obama’s part, a lack of understanding that even when Brussels burns, Obama enjoys a healthy game in the tropical house of Cuba – is a cruel read one.

The key to a clean slate is sometimes letting go

JESSICA HUBBIE

Get it out of my system. Let it out of my body. Let it out of my head. Let it out of my heart. Get it out of my system. Let it out of my body. Let it out of my head. Let it out of my head. Get it out of my heart.

Letting go of people who are close to you can be one of the hardest things to do, but sometimes it’s necessary in order to let the negativity that those people are bringing into your life. I was scared to be alone, so I didn’t do it. I’m scared to be alone so much because I’ve had to come to accept it on my own.

I graduated high school and came to Baylor. I decided to leave some people behind. Because I am facing the negativity that those people are bringing into my life. I was scared to be alone, so I didn’t do it. I’m scared to be alone so much because I’ve had to come to accept it on my own.

A few months later, I ran into one of the last people I thought I could have left. I had a bad day and no one talking to was not a good enough reason to not be around people that you love and being constantly unhappy for the sake of someone else’s happiness isn’t that great.

When I graduated high school and came to Baylor, I decided to leave some people behind. Because I am facing the negativity that those people are bringing into my life. I was scared to be alone, so I didn’t do it. I’m scared to be alone so much because I’ve had to come to accept it on my own.

I voted for the Republicans, a decision that some condemned me for and some thought was a good idea for I wanted a stable lane. I wanted to make new friends. These roommates I went public with for new life with my friends.

I held out on the people who brought negativity into my life for so many years because I thought that if I was good to them, they would reciprocate. I have been held under the assumption that others do you in return as you do to them. It’s a hard reality, but you cannot change anyone. You cannot make them treat you right. I’ve learned this isn’t true not only in friendships but in relationships.

I was surprised when I had friends who checked up on me, friends who were supportive and did not judge me very much.

My biggest flaw is that I am loyal to a fault and as such people, I feel loyal to a fault. I have not considered how many times they do wrong. I want giving them a chance because I wish to be the person I know they could be or the person they were at one time. Truth is, people change and they may wish to be, but you are also who I am and I have no reason to think being this different. I do not desire.

No way to win. There is no way winning with removing toxic people from your life. There are good people out there that will care for you and, who knows, they may already be there. You just haven’t noticed them because you were speaking too much time pleasing others who faithfully, are not worth your time.

Jessa Hubble is a freshman journalism major from Argyle, Texas. She is a staff writer for the Lariat.
IS abducts 300 cement workers in Syria

Zeina Karam and Sarah El Deeb
Associated Press

BEIRUT — In a brazen assault near the Syrian capital, Islamic State militants abducted 300 cement workers and contractors from their workplace northwest of Damascus on Thursday, as fighting against the extremist group raged in the country’s north and west.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which has a strong presence in Dumeir, told the AP in an email that a group of workers from the al-Badia Cement Company took place in Dumeir, about 28 miles (45 kilometers) northeast of Damascus, where militants launched a surprise attack against government forces earlier this week. The state-run news agency SANA quoted a source in the company as saying that no formal responsibility claim for the kidnapping was received.

Associated Press

The militants abducted scores of others.

Islam Alloush, a spokesman for the Army of Islam rebel group which has a strong presence in Dumeir, told the AP it was an assault that Islamic militants attack any site in the region, including other insurgents’ positions near the airport. They also ruled out the possibility of a kidnap attempt by the Taliban or Al Qaeda, which have a strong presence in Dumeir.

He said his group had managed to secure some workers who got away, but the fate of the kidnapped workers was not known. Alloush added that the town is densely populated, making their ability to move the kidnapped workers difficult.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the Syrian conflict, said earlier Thursday that contact had been lost with dozens of workers in Dumeir.

UT freshman dance student killed

WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press

AUSTIN — A first-year University of Texas dance student whose body was found near the heart of campus was the victim of a “horrifying and incomprehensible” killing, that was the first on-school grounds since the bell tower massacre nearly 50 years ago, university officials said Thursday.

UT President Greg Fenves identified the victims as 18-year-old Haruka Weiser of Portland, Ore., and said the “unfathomable tragedy” against Haruka is an attack on our entire family.”

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HOMICIDE: University of Texas President Gregory L. Fenves, center, speaks during a news conference about the death of student Haruka Weiser on Thursday in Austin. The first-year dance student was the victim of a homicide, and police are searching for a man seen near the heart of campus, where her body was found.

Associated Press

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IRINA TITTOVA AND VLADIMIR IGOR SCHACHENKOV Associated Press

ST.PETERSBURG, Russia — President Vladimir Putin on Thursday denied having any links to offshore accounts and described the Panama Papers document leaks as part of a U.S.-led plot to weaken Russia.

Putin also defended a cellist friend named as the alleged owner of an offshore company, describing him as a philanthropist who spent his own funds to buy rare musical instruments for Russian statecekts.

Speaking at a media forum in St. Petersburg, Putin said Western media pushed the claims of his involvement in offshore businesses even though they never disputed any of the documents leaked from a Panamanian law firm.

Putin described the allegations as part of the U.S.-led disinformation campaign waged against Russia in order to weaken its government. "They are trying to destabilize us as soon as we make any more complaints," he said.

The Washington-based International Consortium of Investigative Journalists said the documents it obtained indicated that Russian cellist Sergey Roldugin acted as a front man for a network of Putin loyalists, and, perhaps, the president himself.

TASS said the documents show how offshore schemes "served to hide genuine Russian economic assets," and that the U.S.-led campaign has an "extraordinary scale in its motivation and goals."

Putin contended that Western papers have used the Panama Papers document leaks as part of a U.S. plot to weaken Moscow as the U.S. has become concerned about Russia's growing economic and military might.

"The events in Syria have demonstrated Russia's capacity to solve problems far away from its borders," he said, adding that Moscow has achieved its "goal to strengthen the Syrian state and end the illegitimate government's rule."

Putin said it's essential to prevent the collapse of the Syrian state to stem the flow of refugees to Europe.

He praised cooperation between Moscow and Washington in efforts to broker a cease-fire, which went into effect Feb. 27. The truce includes the Idlib frontline and the de-conflict zone known as the de-Zone Free Zone.

But while leading contests on Syria, Putin signaled tensions on another front, accusing the U.S. of blocking its obligations under an agreement to repatriate war criminals.

He said that while Russia has abided by the deal and returned prisoners, the U.S. has opted for a different technology, which, he alleged, allowed it to maintain its so-called "terrorist potential" by keeping unproven, dangerous materials if it wishes to do so.

Putin said that until the next one site of the reasons behind his decision to launch another military mission, he would be heading to China in the coming weeks.
On-the-Go >> Happenings: Visit @BULariatArts to see what’s going on #ThisWeekinWaco

BaylorLariat.com

Waco Weekend:

>> Today
7 p.m. — StompFest at Waco Hall. $8 for students and $10 for general audiences in advance. $12 at the door.
8 p.m. — Jenny and Tyler at Common Grounds. $12 in advance, $15 day of.
8 and 10 p.m. — Guerrilla Troupe at Jones Theatre. $3.

>> Saturday
10 a.m. — Art on Elm Avenue. Free.

>> Sunday
5 p.m. — Delta Night Live at Fountain Mall. $15.

On-the-Go >> Happenings:

HELENA HUNT
Arts and Life Editor

On Green River Ordinance’s song “Where the West Wind Blows,” singer Josh Jenkins vows to “get lost with no direction, on 35 South for Texas.” On Sunday, the band will make good on its Texas promise, interrupting its nationwide tour to head south on Interstate 35 all the way to Baylor.

The folk-inspired band, which originally hails from Fort Worth, is breaking up its tour in support of Delta Delta Delta’s inaugural Delta Night Live event at 5 p.m. Sunday on Fountain Mall. Tickets cost $15, and the proceeds for Delta Night Live will go to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, the sorority’s philanthropy.

Jamey Ice, the guitarist and banjo player for the band, said Green River Ordinance uses its success to support charities like St. Judes whenever it can. “That’s such a fundamental value that we have as a band,” he said. “We have that gift, and it should really be about impacting others. We use our talent and resources to give back, and we do a lot of stuff with different charities all year.”

When Lakeway sophomore Allison Malcom, the philanthropy chair for Delta Delta Delta, contacted Green River Ordinance to play for the sorority event, the band agreed, adding a Waco leg to its tour.

Of course, this isn’t the first time Green River Ordinance has played for Waco audiences. Ice said his band has a long history with Waco, playing Common Grounds since before the coffee shop had its backyard stage. This is the first time, however, for the band to perform in Waco since the January release of its album “Thirteen.” “It’s one of the most fun albums we’ve had, and it’s fun coming to Waco to play it,” Ice said.

Green River Ordinance’s music threads together the disparate sounds of pop, folk and country, using the fiddle and boot-stomping tunes to evoke country nights around the bonfire. In the past several months, the band has played everywhere from South by Southwest to Willie Nelson’s ranch, a testament to its wide range.

Malcom said it was the band’s broad appeal that made her reach out to Green River Ordinance to play the charity event. “We wanted to do a concert, because it’s an event that people would drive to come and see. It would involve people from the community, and it would involve a lot more of the campus than our other charity events,” Malcom said. “We were just thinking bigger because we want to raise money for St. Jude.”

Malcom said Delta Delta Delta is particularly proud to support St. Judes because the research hospital doesn’t bill its patients. All funding for research and treatment comes from donors and philanthropies like Delta Delta Delta.

In addition to the music, which will start at 6 p.m., Pokey-O’s, Dave’s Burger Barn, Kona Ice and Tea2Go will all make an appearance at Delta Night Live. Delta Delta Delta will also auction off baskets and gift cards, as well as footballs signed by Baylor football players, to raise money for St. Judes.

“By coming, hanging out and listening to music, you’re actually helping to save kids’ lives,” Malcom said.
Woman of Many Faces

Guerrilla Troupe member Tiffany Navarro talks bicycles and lovers

JACQUELYN KELLAR

Guerrilla Troupe is hosting its last independent show of the semester at 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. today, as well as a 10 p.m. show tomorrow in Jones Theater.

As an indie theater organization, Guerrilla Troupe has continuously been selected to present several performances in a row in one of the biggest theaters on campus.

"Some people coming into G-Troupe are the ones regarding it," Spencer Juan Navarro said. "But I think it's that it's faming this long."

Guerrilla Troupe will also feature from Tiffany I am a senior at Dallas Hall at The Smith Student Center's SEED Award. Although it will not be a full-length, independent show, it will be Guerrilla Troupe's final show this semester.

The Lariat sat down with Navarro to talk about her ups and downs in Guerrilla Troupe.

What made you want to join Guerrilla Troupe?

When I was a freshman, I was watching G-Troupe and thinking, "Oh, these people are so cool. I can't believe they can do this." My friends I had made at college were the ones into G-Troupe so I thought, "I should audition."

I started becoming really good friends with some of the people in the Troupe, and they took me under their wing as a little freshman. They explained improv to me, because just being funny isn't enough to do in G-Troupe. You have to know how to do improv.

When the auditions came around the second time, I actually knew how to do it. I got a callback and then got in, and I was super excited about it.

What do you hope to achieve from improv acting?

I want to move to Chicago after school this summer so I can take classes at Second City and work up their improv moment. That's my goal with it. Just being funny isn't enough to carry the weight, and you have to try too hard because they know exactly what they're doing.

And your worst?

Sometimes the worst ones end up being the funniest. I remember one time when I just mortified was when we were playing the late night when people write lines out and people riding bikes and calves. It was super embarrassing. I called someone I never got the bike. I danced, so I had balance. But I've never been granted the opportunity to ride a bike in my whole life.

When the auditions came, I just got to be funny and not try to do the lines. Going forward, I do achieve from improv. It's helped me be a director now too. Improv has helped so many working with actors who know how to ride bikes.

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Baseball puts four-game win streak on the line at Oklahoma

BY BEN EVERETT

Baylor baseball takes on Oklahoma this weekend in a three-game road series as a part of Big 12 Conference play.

The Bears (15-14, 3-3) have won four straight games and sit at fifth place in the Big 12 standings.

"It’s very high right now, and we’re enjoying. These guys are playing well and are doing a lot of good things right now," said head coach Steve Rodriguez.

The Sooners (27-7, 3-1) have a powerful offensive lineup.

"They are a typical OU team; they are very good at what they always are," said head coach Mike Gundy. "They have great pitching and a powerful offensive lineup."

"We’ve been playing really well and are in contention, and we want to play the game the right way, you throw low, long as you play the game," Rodriguez said, "and I truthfully believe, as winning, " said senior pitcher Heather Stearns. "We’ve been playing really well, No. 3 in conference, and we want to go back to Oklahoma State and Texas and are really going to give us what we need going into OU."

With conference action in full swing, the much anticipated matchup will kick off 6:30 p.m. Friday followed by a 7 p.m. game Saturday, and to end things 2 p.m. Sunday.

"They are a typical OU team, they are very good at what they always are," said head coach Steve Rodriguez. "They have great pitching and a powerful offensive lineup."

"We lost a bit from last year, but we’re ready," Stearns said. "They are a very young team; they are very good as a team; they are very good as individual players."

"My goals are always to put our best foot forward, to play good defense and you have quality at bats, you pitch to go to win," Rodriguez said. "We’re big on getting momentum, and our offense is on fire during this run against the Sooners this week."

Both teams are trying to break out of the middle of the pack of the Big 12, and a series win this weekend would help either team.

"Our goals are always winning," Rodriguez said. "I wouldn’t be back here, as long as you play the game the right way, you throw low strikes, you play good defense and you have quality at bats, you pitch to go to win."

"The Sooners are led by junior Shelden Noon, a pitcher who also leads the team in most offensive categories. Noon is first in batting average, at .366; 10 runs and 10 home runs at home, and 19 RBIs. On the other side, he holds a 5.77 ERA with a team-leading four saves on the season."

"I actually coached him [on Team USA]," Rodriguez said of Noon. "He’s a very quality young man. He can hit and pitch, so he can do a lot of different things." While Oklahoma struggles offensively, hitting a 4-9 record, the Sooners are 6-5 at home. Baylor, on the other hand, boasts a 5-4 road record on the season.

"Personally, I really enjoy going on the road," Rodriguez said. "Because guys have a tendency to relax on such an effort, talk a little more trash and create a little more team chemistry." The Sooners were ranked as the No. 21 team in the country coming into the season, but they quickly fell out of the rankings after being swept by Texas Tech earlier in the season.

"We are very excited about this series, we know that this weekend could potentially be the Big 12 championship. There is a lot of excitement, but we’re ready and want to play well," Noon said. "We know that we can win the Big 12. We know that we are the most talented team in the Big 12 this year, and we are just going to come out and perform and do whatever we need to do."

"The Sooners are projected to start and will have a chance to end their season on top against a tough Oklahoma. The Sooners will be led by new faces and will need to stay focused and on a hot play."

"OU always has power numbers. They are always going to have good batting averages," Stearns said. "They are a very young lineup, and I think that is exciting them being so young."

Come on a series of wins against Kansas and a 10-1 win against Wichita State, the Sooners look to continue with the momentum they will have to finish the game to get past Oklahoma State and the tough, defensive Baylor Bears.

"We are a good team too, and the girl knows it," Moore said. "They worked really hard to get to this point, and the pieces of the puzzle are there, and they finally have gotten to be a good place where they feel that they are playing something of their best ball. I don’t think we are at a point where we feel we have arrived, we have still got better." With an important series on the line, the Lady Bears will need all the support they can get. "Our fans are great. They support us, and they get excited when we do well, and they are really excited of our success," Stearns said. "We are excited that we go into this weekend and any home game, we would want to see all the fans in the stands."
History in the making

Baylor Acrobatics & Tumbling team hosts national championship, hopes to complete undefeated record with second national title

JEFFREY SWINDOLL
Sports Editor

The stage is set, and the bracket has been finalized. The National Acrobatics and Tumbling Association (NCATA) announced the eight-team field of schools that will be represented at the 2016 NCATA national championships on April 17 at the Ferrell Center.

Baylor, the No. 1 seed of the event after leading the NCATA standings with an undefeated season, will host the event as defending champions.

The Bears captured their first NCATA national championship under their then-first year head coach Felecia Mulkey with a win over Oregon. The Bears are the favorite to win the tournament, but the No. 2 seed Ducks will do everything in their power to stop the Bears’ dream season.

The No. 2 seed Ducks have lost to the Bears in five consecutive meetings spanning across two seasons. Two of those losses to the Bears have come while the Bears were at home and on the Ducks’ home floor, respectively. Baylor and Oregon could potentially meet in the championship, which would be a rematch of the 2015 NCATA national championship meet.

First, the Bears will face No. 8 seed Gannon in the quarterfinals at 5 p.m. on April 17 at the Ferrell Center.

If the Bears defeat Gannon, they will advance to the semifinals where they will face the winner of the No. 4 seed Hawaii Pacific and No. 5 seed Azusa Pacific matchup. The semifinals will start at 5 p.m. on April 18 at the Ferrell Center, and the championship meet starts at 7 p.m. on April 19 at the Ferrell Center.

Friday, April 8
3:30 p.m. - Panel Discussion:
Amaranth Borsuk
Ernest Suarez
Nicole Cooley
Kevin Young

7:00 p.m. - Poetry Reading by Kevin Young

*All afternoon events will take place in Carroll Science Building, Room 101
**All evening poetry readings will take place in Bennett Auditorium

For more information, visit
www.baylor.edu/beall