Baylor Lariat WE'RE THERE WHEN YOU CAN'T BE

MARCH 2, 2018

FRIDAY

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Lady Bears reach their ninth Big 12 tournament.

CARNEGIE IS CALLING

PRACTICE NEVER ENDS Stafford, Pa. senior Maria Dell'Orefice, one of the Baylor Music Competition winners, practices piano.

BU students to perform in New York City

JULIA VERGARA

Staff Writer

After competing in the Baylor School of Music's third annual Semper Pro Musica Solo and Chamber Music Competition, 18 students have won the opportunity to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City in May.

winners, as well as four chamber groups, will be in New York City from May 23-26, and the students will perform at 8 p.m. May 24 in the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall.

Gary Mortenson, dean of the Baylor School of Music, said the competition consisted

The six solo competition of two rounds. About one in every three students in the school — 125 students— went through the first round, which took place in the fall semester. For the second round, the competition was narrowed

down to about 30 musicians. "It is really competitive," Mortenson said. "But really good competitions need to be that way."

Mortenson said in the first round, students were judged internally by faculty. In the second round, the school brought in five external judges.

The judges were Annie Burridge, general director and CEO of the Austin

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Sing and Stomp

Students shift focus to their next competition

RIDER FARRIS Reporter

For many Baylor students, the obligation to practice and create a stage-worthy act ends with the final performance

of All-University Sing in Waco Hall. For others, the end of Sing marks a new beginning. Each year, student groups on campus participate StompFest, Baylor's annual stomp show held in collaboration with the National Pan-Hellenic Council sorority Zeta Phi Beta. Proceeds from ticket sales benefit Zeta Phi Beta's national philanthropy, ZHope, and prize money

goes to each group's unique philanthropy.

As Sing comes to a close, many groups are beginning to practice for StompFest, which will be held at 7:20 p.m. April 6 in Waco Hall. Wickoff, N.J., junior Lauren Boardman, cultural chair and StompFest captain of Alpha Chi Omega, said she is looking forward to

participating this year. "I'm excited," Boardman said. "I think that we have a chance to win - a chance to place. If not that and if all else fails, a chance to prove ourselves and show that Alpha Chi is talented."

After taking a three-year



Photo Courtesy of Alpha Chi Omega **STOMP** Alpha Chi Omega's stomp team practices in their chapter room. StompFest is on April 6 in Waco Hall.

hiatus from the festival, Alpha Chi Omega is back in the competition this year. The group kicked off practices the Sunday after the first weekend of Sing and has been working on improving their routine under the direction of

Boardman and their appointed

"It's a lot of mental preparation because it's a dance style that's very different from anything I've ever done and my team's every done," Boardman said.

STOMP >> Page 4

Student vote matters in Texas primary

Hypnotized

Developing field has scientific potential

THOMAS MORAN

For many people, the word hypnosis is associated with many negative stigmas. Hypnosis is often equated to magic tricks and gimmicks within the entertainment industry. However, hypnosis is more than a stage stunt. In fact, it can be used as treatment for a wide range of conditions ranging from physical to psychological.

Dr. Gary Elkins, Baylor professor of psychology, specializes in hypnotherapy understands the remarkable possibilities of hypnosis.

"Hypnotherapy where we use that state of consciousness that we refer to as hypnosis as a way to deliver treatment for a medical or psychological condition or concern," Elkins said.

Hypnotherapy hypnosis started gaining momentum around 1949, when research facilities established were notable institutions, such as Harvard and Stanford, Elkins said. Since then, hypnotherapy has become widely studied practiced.

As opposed to common belief, the state of hypnosis is not one in which a person can be controlled or made to do things that they would otherwise refrain from, Elkins said. Rather, it is a state of increased focus in which other matters fade

into the background. Elkins compared hypnosis to the experience of watching a movie. During a movie, viewers experience real thoughts and emotions, even though the movie's events are fictional or re-enactments. surroundings become unimportant and the movie becomes the

center of attention. "The way to think about it is this: There have been many studies done and it is not possible to hypnotize someone and for them do something they do not want to do," Elkins said. "The goal of hypnotherapy is to empower the patient

... Hypnosis is something the person experiences rather than something that is done to them."

Subjects experience authentic hypnosis in the context of shows and magic tricks, Elkins said. However, this use of hypnosis can be harmful and potentially dangerous to the subjects. Such shows also require a high level of "hypnotizability," which refers to their susceptibility to suggestions toward a state of hypnosis and experiences during hypnosis.

Elkin's article "Advancing Research and Practice: The Revised APA Division 30 of Hypnosis" defines hypnotizability as "an individual's ability to experience suggested alterations in physiology, sensations. emotions. thoughts or behavior during hypnosis."

One area hypnotherapy that gaining momentum is selfhypnosis.

Baylor Ph.D candidate Ming Hwei Yek is currently conducting research to better understand selfhypnosis, its limitations and its effects on stress and anxiety - a subject particularly pertinent to students.

"I'm a student myself," Yek said. "So I know that some of the major issues when it come to being a student are high stress and poor sleep. I think these two are probably the highest concerns in the college population. That's why my dissertation is geared towards using self-hypnosis to reduce stress and also to increase relaxation."

Through practice and sessions with a hypnotherapist, subjects can learn to enter hypnotic states on their own and reap potential benefits such as improved sleep and

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Staff Writer

MICAELA FREEMAN

Baylor students have until today to participate in early voting, before the Texas primary election Tuesday. Students who are registered to vote, as well as registered voters all over the state, will travel to designated areas to vote in the primary election. Now, most of the class of 2021

is able to vote. Dallas senior Heather Bayless said she is eager to practice her civic duties as a member of the latest generation to be able to vote.

Bayless, who views herself as an independent, said she saw voting as a privilege and finds it important in her life.

"When I was younger, I looked forward to being able to vote, like I was eager to get to do it," Bayless said. "I felt like it was the marker of being a real adult. I'll be voting early when I go home this Friday. Being an aware citizen isn't just an every-four-years activity: It's all the time."

Although it's not a presidential election year, the midterm elections could shake up the state Legislature and Congress.

For the first time in 25 years, there is a Democrat running for every Texas congressional race in this year's election. Eight Texas representatives will leave the U.S House before the next term, leaving the opportunity for new faces.

The opening in the U.S. House allows for more representation through voting and votes for this year's

election.

Ali Barnett said voting is an

sophomore

Rockwall

action that speaks louder than personal opinion and words.

Barnett said she will be voting in the primary election Tuesday and that her vote will determine the changes of the future of politics.

"I think, for everyone, voting means voicing your opinion and standing up for what you believe in," Barnett said. "It's important because we vote for what we will be living with and the aftermath

of whoever gets voted." Dr. Ann Ward, professor of political science, believes

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GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

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

EDITORIAL



Don't confuse news with commentary

With journalistic integrity being questioned by the nation, it's easy for people to pair political views with the news sources they choose to read. Even more dangerously, journalists and hard-news organizations are being overshadowed by colorful commentators and fast-fact news sites that boil down a story to 30 seconds of video, making it that much easier for the public to be misinformed.

Commentators who focus on opinionbased "reporting," such as Tomi Lahren and Hasan Piker, often blur the lines between their own personal bias and the way they choose to report the story. Their connections to professional news agencies make it increasingly confusing for viewers to disseminate fact from commentary.

For instance, Lahren, former host of a conservative commentary show on Glenn Beck's channel, TheBlaze TV, was known for rounding out her segment "Tomi" with a section called "Final Thoughts." It was known for being full of rants about, well, pretty much anything. During her time with TheBlaze, Lahren was able to moderate her vocal opinions with the facts she chose to report during the majority of her segment. However, since she split with TheBlaze in March 2017, Lahren has

turned her reporting into commentary almost exclusively. For the less-informed viewer who watched her show and paid attention to what she had to say while she was actually reporting facts, it may be easy to take what she says at face value, especially if it confirms a pre-existing personal bias.

Similarly, Piker is a liberal commentator and reporter for the Young Turks, an online media site claiming to be "The Largest Online News Show in the World." Similar to Lahren, Piker reports news and also provides commentary, and Piker's role seems to be as blended as Lahren's, more consistently posting commentary than fact, although he still reports stories during his segments.

Of course Piker and Lahren are not the only commentators to send mixed messages to the public. Many comedians, like John Oliver and Trevor Noah, capitalize on their comedic perspectives on political issues. However, one major difference is that these comedians do not label themselves as journalists, and therefore, they absolve themselves of the journalistic responsibilities people such as Lahren and Piker carry.

The mixing of these mediums – sharing

fact and opinion interchangeably - not only puts a heavier burden on the viewer to discern what to take at face value, but it also lowers the credibility of mass media. Journalists and others who report the news are tasked with a burden of proof: the ability to provide factual evidence proving that what they assert is true. Therefore, when journalists mix opinion with fact, they are no longer able to provide adequate burden of proof. Just as the line between fact and opinion are clearly delineated in print journalism with a designated opinion page and clearly marked news pages, social media journalists need to make an obvious distinction between news and commentary.

There are plenty of reporters who strive to uphold the standards of journalistic integrity. For those searching for truth truth separated from bias - there are plenty of news organizations who work to avoid bias in their reporting of news events. We at the Lariat strive every day to report stories no matter the political impact, and we urge the American people to seek out those who uphold the burden of proof, instead of simply relying on fast, dumbed-down and opinionated "news"

COLUMN

You aren't everyone's cup of tea

JULIA VERGARA

Staff Writer

The best piece of advice I have ever come across is, "Be who you are. You are not everyone's cup of tea and that is

The phrase concludes a longer quote that talks about how you shouldn't waste your time trying to convince people that aren't "your people" - or people that just don't get you - that you have value, because no matter how hard you try, they are going to miss it completely. And you have to be OK with that.

This advice didn't even come from an important figure or role model in my life. It just popped up randomly on

my Facebook news feed one day. For some reason, it stuck with me.



As an undeniable people-pleaser, I have spent my life going above and beyond trying to convince people to like me. All throughout elementary school and middle school, nothing bothered me more than when I could not get along with someone for whatever reason. Because of this, I spent many years trying to be

whoever people wanted to be around, someone people wanted to be friends with. That was pretty exhausting, to say the least.

I remember my best friend in high school telling me a girl in our class called me annoying because I was "too happy all the time." Just knowing somebody thought that bothered me, and I stressed, wondering if other people saw me as annoying, too. Looking back at it now, I know I should not have been so worried about one thing one person said. In hindsight, now I know to just say, "I wasn't her cup of tea."

And the truth is, not everyone is going to get you, and not everyone will like you. It's likely that you won't like everyone you come across, either. The point of this quote is not to say it's OK to be mean or hostile to the people that aren't "your people." The point is that you shouldn't go out of your way to please and impress them.

The quote says even though the world is filled with people who will not like you just because you are you, there are also people who will "love you fiercely" for exactly who you are - and those people are your cup of tea.

After seeing this quote and taking it to heart, I agree 100 percent. Life becomes a lot easier when you stop trying to constantly impress and instead focus on the people you don't have to impress.

Julia Vergara is a sophomore journalism major from Katy.

COLUMN

Of course guys and girls can be just friends

COLLIN BRYANT

Columnist

The age-old statement "we're just friends" is met with much skepticism in our culture. For whatever reason, people can't seem to believe that two people of the opposite sex can have an ongoing

> friendship without any romantic interest. This logic is simply flawed; men and women are perfectly capable of establishing longterm, platonic friendships.

At best, this misguided notion could be seen as a concept that hasn't adapted to the changing times. The social construct of what was normal and common between men and women must be adjusted. At one time, men were expected to be in the workplace while women were expected to be at home.

These past expectations left men and women meeting up with one another at any given time with romantic intentions. Just as the narrative of expectations for men and women has changed dramatically throughout recent history, so should outdated notions like the expectations for friendships.

Camille Chatterjee of Psychology Today said in a recent article that the shift in our cultural social expectations are leading psychologists to send forth a new message.

"Though it may be tricky, men and women can successfully become close friends," Chatterjee said. "What's more, there are good reasons for them to do so."

Sure, people will face challenges while trying to properly build these relationships, ranging from defining the relationship as purely friendly, overcoming any possible attraction, establishing equality and dealing with public opinions.

Media has also played a part in shaping the common ideologies and opinions surrounding true friendship. Television programs like "Friends," for instance, with archetypal characters like Chandler and Monica, or movies like "When Harry Met Sally," set a misleading standard for the way cross-sexual friendships ultimately develop. If people are able to recognize they don't have to follow these crafted standards as a mean for operating with other people, they are much more likely to see the freedoms they

have to build pure friendships with members of the opposite sex.

However, trying to overcome these obstacles can be worth it in the long haul. Purely platonic friendships have the ability to add new insights and perspectives without fear of bias. While it's unfair to say men and women are completely the same or different, they do possess varying amounts of shared and divergent qualities. This blend of similarity and difference between genders has the ability to build a more developed and well-rounded person when they are shared in a friendship.

These co-ed friendships without any strings attached are attainable through focus and healthy foundations. Stop relying on old movies and social media to dictate the type of friendships we're allowed to have. Friendship can be a beautiful thing; encouraging, healthy, and kind friends should be sought after and treasured. However, it is up to you to craft that friendship and to avoid the common obstacles that plague healthy development. These type of friendships should be sought out, regardless of whether that individual is the opposite sex or not.

Collin Bryant is a junior journalism major from Montgomery.

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Opinion

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Photo Courtesy of Joel Hernandez

INSPIRED Joel Hernandez's debut album titled "Season's Change" will be released March 9.

Music knows no major

Political science student debuts first album

RIDER FARRIS

Reporter

Music is a particularly hard industry to break into; many try and many fail. But that doesn't stop hundreds of dreamers from attempting to make it big in the industry. El Campo junior Joel Hernandez is one of those individuals. While managing a full-time student classification at Baylor, Hernandez has been working on his music career writing and learning about the music industry when he's not writing and learning in the classroom.

After months of writing, recording and working hard, Hernandez will release his debut album "Season's Change" on March 9 on iTunes, Spotify and Google Play. A CD release party will be held in El Campo at Greek Bros. Oyster Bar & Grill.

"I'm excited," Hernandez said. "I've never done this before, so it's really exciting. It's really unknown. I don't really know what to expect."

Plans for Hernandez' album started back in 2016. Hernandez contacted a producer he had worked with before and talked about maybe creating an EP- a musical recording with more songs than a single, but less than a full album. They met up a couple times in 2016 and ended up writing six songs they really liked. It was then that they decided to create a whole album.

ole album.
"I had stopped playing

music before I came to college, because I wanted to focus on doing school," Hernandez said. "And then I was halfway through freshman year and I realized that I missed playing music and so I got back into playing some shows."

After deciding on an album rather than an EP, Hernandez met up a few more times with his producer and wrote the remaining songs for the album. They ended up writing 13 songs and chose 12 for the album. In total, the writing process took approximately two and a half weeks of work.

"There's not like one distinctive sound to the whole album; it's just like a bunch of variations of rock in general," Hernandez said. "So there's some pop-rock, there's some bluesy-rock, there's some songs that are really heartland/ country rock. I'd just describe it as the vague genre of rock and then every song pretty much is a different taste of rock, influenced with other music."

In August of 2016, Hernandez went to El Paso to record the album. The entire process took a week. Hernandez and his musicians took three days to rehearse prior to recording and then used four days to record the music and three days to record his vocals. The final project was completed in December 2016, following some minor touchups.

"My goal is to get gigs out of this over the summer and like maybe develop enough of a following to play at small music festivals in the summer and fall," Hernandez said.

The majority of the songs on the album were inspired by past relationships, both of Hernandez and his co-writer. Musically, Hernandez said he did not have one specific influence. Throughout the creation process they adapted the music to the sound it created.

"Because each song is different, there's not like one specific musical influence really," Hernandez said. "It's just, like, song by song."

To help promote the album, Hernandez has been reaching out to college campuses across the nation to try and get some radio play. He has also scheduled upcoming gigs in Waco, El Campo, Bastrop and Cypress, and is working with companies to help organize some future gigs.

Columbus, Miss. junior Miranda Houston had the opportunity to hear Hernandez perform over the summer in Bastrop and got to hear a sneak preview of Hernandez' album due to her close friendship with Hernandez. She said other Baylor students will like his music and should help support their fellow Baylor Bear.

"I like his music because it is not the stereotypical pop sound that we hear on the radio," Houston said. "His songs are current and relatable to people our age while still drawing from the classic sound of jazz and rock."

Hernandez will be performing live the morning of April 7 in Cypress and will be performing at the Back 9 Bar in Bastrop that evening. He will also be performing at The Backyard in Waco on May 18.

"Anywhere that you stream music, it's going to be there," Hernandez said.

Bear Briefs

Nashville music comes to Texas

The Kristen Kelly Band, which originated in Lorena, will perform at 8 p.m. Friday night, Mar. 9th. at Papa Joe's Texas Saloon. The Nashville-based blues-country band gained national recognition in 2004 with its first song, "Down in Flames". The event is free and open to the public.

Annual step show occurs Saturday

The 14th Annual Battle on The Burning Sands Step Show will take place at 7 p.m. Saturday in Waco Hall.

This event is hosted by Baylor's own Tau Alpha Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, which has partnered with the Big XII Conference on Black Student Government to organize the "largest step show in the history of the state," according to the Baylor website.

Step teams all over the south will come to Baylor to compete for a grand prize of \$4,000.

McLane Stadium tours available

Tours of McLane Stadium will be offered at 10 a.m. March 3. Each tour costs \$10 and is a 90-minute experience. The tours kick off in Bruiser's locker room, and visitors will get a sneak peek of the Baylor Bear's Locker Room, the Presidential Level, the Press Box, Recruit Lounge and Field.

For more information, please contact: tickets@mclanestadium.com or call (254) 710-8118.



Jessica Hubble | Multimedia Editor

MEET AND GREET Police officers from around Waco met with community members at Whataburger on Thursday to allow them to voice concerns and opinions.

Coffee connects cops with community

KAYLEE GREENLEE

Reporter

The Waco Police Department, the Hewitt Police Department and the Woodway Department of Public Safety hosted the second "Coffee with a Cop" community meeting of 2018 at the Whataburger off of Hewitt Drive on Thursday.

The event series began on national "Coffee with a Cop" day last year and has become a community favorite. Since the start of the year, the departments have worked to host these and similar events around town monthly.

The purpose of the event is to give citizens the opportunity to get to know the officers who are working in their cities and to encourage positive relationships between citizens and their officers.

Waco Chief of Police Ryan Holt said the event is an important time for the police to get out and hear the concerns of the public.

"We derive all of our authority from our

relationship with the community, through the trust the public has in us," said Holt,

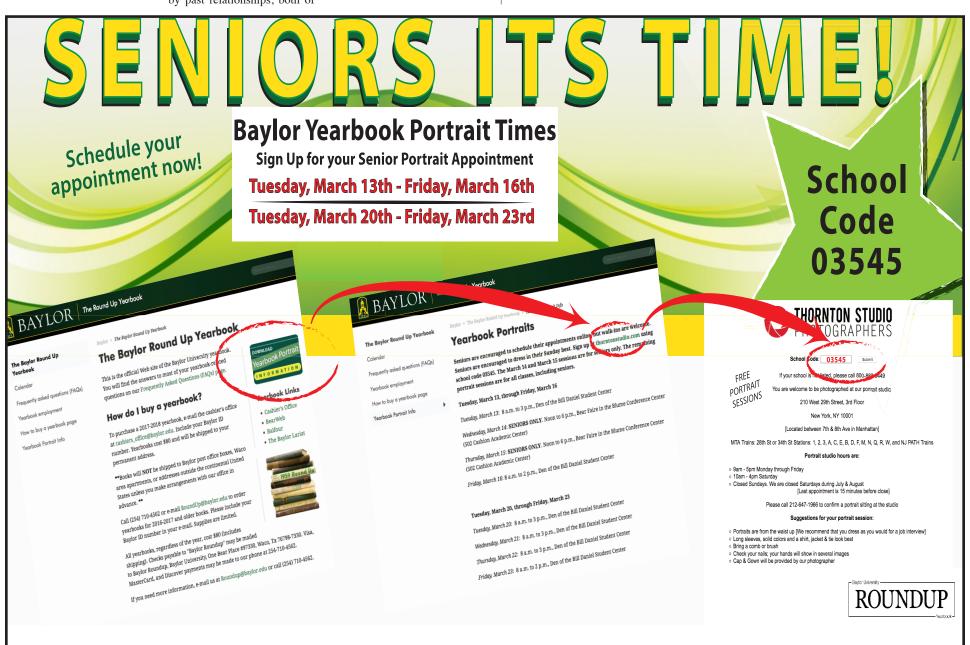
The meetings have been hosted at places such as Shipley Do-Nuts and Whataburger so citizens can build relationships with their officers in a comfortable, familiar environment. They provide a platform for citizens to come and voice their opinions or concerns to officers.

"We're humans behind the badge and uniform. We're not perfect but we have some people who are willing to get up every day and put their lives on the line for their fellow community members," Holt said.

As community policing has gained more popularity, Holt said, hosting events like these have become crucial to maintain communication between law enforcement officials and community members.

Waco police officer Sofie Martinez said they want the community to know they are present to protect and serve them

"We're here for our community in any way that they need it," Martinez said.



PSYCH from Page 1

stress relief, Yek said.

A session with a hypnotherapist follows a general procedure that starts with informing the subject about hypnosis and what it will be like. Next, the hypnotherapist will begin hypnotic induction, which includes suggestions for deepening the hypnotic state. Once the hypnotic state is reached, subjects are given suggestions that may be geared toward stress relief, improved sleep or whatever the subject hoped for the session. After a while, the subject will exit the hypnotic state.

Yek emphasized that the power of hypnosis ultimately lies with the subject.

"One of the first things that we tell our participants is that all hypnosis is really self-hypnosis," Yek said. "It's really up to each person, what kind of suggestions they want to respond to ... We can give them all these tools, but it's really up to them to practice them. I'm really just there as a guide to kind of help them along."

Elkins has studied the effects of hypnotherapy on subjects who experience other issues like hot flashes and recorded significant improvement.

"Individuals who went through our program of five sessions of hypnosis

Benefits of Hypnotherapy

Stress relief **Improved sleep Reduced anxiety** Pain management **Reduced hot flashes**

experienced about a 50 percent improvement in sleep and women who had hot flashes experienced an 80 percent reduction in hot flashes," Elkins said.

Other applications of hypnotherapy have included pain management with burn victims, Elkins said. Subjects often have to go through the painful process of debridement, the removal of damaged flesh from a wound without extensive pain relievers of any kind. Hypnotherapy has been shown to provide relief and can promote feelings of coolness and numbness throughout the otherwise excruciating procedure.

Hypnotherapy is a rapidly developing field, and the applications of hypnotherapy are still being discovered and tested.

PRIMARY from Page 1

the exposure of politics for students is vital not only for Election Day, but also to the importance of being politically active as a student.

Ward said the results of Tuesday's election as well as general election can be drastically determined by the number of votes by young adults.

"Elected

formulate policies that they believe will appeal to voters in both primary and general elections," Ward said. "It is a common belief among both political scientists and political practitioners that younger voters typically do not show up at the polls in the same numbers that older voters do and thus practitioners especially tend to believe it

is safe for them and even to their political benefit to ignore the interests and concerns of the youth in favor of the more mature voters, to the extent that they differ."

Along with many students voting, Ward said she believes it is important to take advantage of the opportunity to vote as a college student.

"In order to change this

perception and to ensure government actions and policies that address the concerns of youth or embody their conception of the good, it is imperative that younger voters participate in high numbers on election day," Ward said.

MUSIC from Page 1

Opera; Thomas Burritt, professor of percussion at the University of Texas; Tali Morgulis, associate professor of piano at the University of Houston; Brendan Townsend, music director of the Laredo Philharmonic Orchestra; and Charles Villarrubia, associate professor of tuba, euphonium and brass chamber music.

When the winners were announced Feb. 11 in Roxy Grove Hall, Wayne, Pa., junior Maria Dell'Orefice said her name was called first and she was so excited that she heard nothing else afterward.

Dell'Orefice won the Semper Pro Musica Solo Competition on piano, and had been practicing her two pieces since the beginning of the fall

"These competitions -It's high stakes and you know that a lot of these musicians are really, really good," Dell'Orefice said. "It gets your adrenaline going. It gives you something to look forward to."

Austin master's student Julia Powers said when she found out she won the Semper Pro Musica Solo Competition for singing, she couldn't help but tear up a little bit. Powers said she had been working on her submission for about a

"I didn't really see it as a possibility," Powers said. "It's

one of those things where you don't want to let yourself get your hopes too high. I was very surprised - in a good way - to see that I had won."

Dell'Orefice and Powers said they had competed in past Semper Pro Musica Solo and **Chamber Music Competitions** but did not make it to Carnegie

Leander sophomore Joey Tkach said he competed in last year's competition as a finalist but was not selected to perform at Carnegie Hall. However, this year he won the Semper Pro Musica Solo Competition for trumpet and will be traveling to New York City with the rest of the competition winners.

"When you get so close to complishing a goal, only to fall short at the last moment, it can be devastating," Tkach said. "However, looking back on that moment, I am incredibly thankful for what it taught me. I learned that failure can be our best teacher, and I believe that this is true not just in music, but in many other aspects of life."

Dell'Orefice said being able to perform in Carnegie Hall is a huge opportunity for any musician and Mortenson said it is one of the world's most preeminent spaces to perform in.

"The School of Music

ROUNDUP



Josh Aguirre I Multimedia Journalist

STILL SINGING Austin master's student Julia Powers rehearses prior to her upcoming Carnegie Hall performance.

at Baylor is really the only university in the United States that offers undergraduates and master's students the opportunity to give a Carnegie Hall debut," Mortenson said. "So this is unique to Baylor and we want to keep it going."

According to Mortenson, the annual Semper Pro Musica Solo and Chamber Music Competition benefits students because it promotes dedication and focus, which students would not be able to win the competition without.

STOMP from Page 1 -



Photo Courtesy of Alpha Chi Omega

STOMP Alpha Chi Omega's stomp team prepares for StompFest, which is on April 6 in Waco Hall.

"And then there's a lot of physical preparation with the stepping itself."

Boardman said she worked to get her organization to enter StompFest this year after attending the festival in 2017. She attended her president's office hours to discuss the possibility of her group participating. She then talked to girls in her sorority to gauge interest in the festival.

"This is so cool," Boardman said. "It's such an awesome experience for us to get involved in. From last year, right after StompFest, I've kind of been wanting to have this position, so I've kind of been fighting for it."

Boardman has been a dancer since she was 2 years old. She said she likes the opportunity StompFest gives her to learn new dancing techniques, such as stepping and clapping, and to apply new techniques to her own knowledge of

"I kind of love applying my knowledge of dance to things I've never done before," Boardman said. "It's kind of like pushing myself out of my comfort zone and learning

something new that I can apply to a whole hobby that I've had my entire life."

She said the StompFest practices are fun because all members of the team encourage each other and they work together to learn the new choreography. She brings snacks and ensures there are plenty of breaks to keep her team members motivated. Hurst sophomore Niki Mutz said she, too, enjoys Stomp because of the team environment.

"One of my favorite things about Stomp so far is just the friendships and the positivity," Mutz said. "It's such a happy environment because of the women on the team."

Boardman also said she is looking forward to seeing the final product on stage at Waco Hall. She has been looking forward to the final performance for a very long time.

"I'm beaming with excitement. I really cannot wait." Boardman said. "It's been like a dream of mine since I saw StompFest last year. Honestly, since I've seen the movie 'Stomp the Yard,' it's been like a dream of mine."

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DAILY **CROSSWORD**

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WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THE OSCARS?

The 90th Academy Awards are just around the corner. For an inside look at some of the under-appreciated categories, and predictions of who will take home the shiny gold trophies, flip to pg. 6

I've always felt at home at **Common Grounds Waco.** We wanted to bring that kind of atmosphere here."

Kody Bartley | CG Woodway General Manager pg. 5

MEREDITH WAGNER

Arts & Life Editor

One of Waco's favorite college town coffee shops is opening a second pair of doors early next week, just a 12-minute drive from campus. Common Grounds Woodway, a new and perhaps improved version of the circa 1994 home-turned-business on Eighth Street, is scheduled for a soft opening Monday after months of preparation and renovation.

The second Common Grounds, located at 7608 Woodway Drive, is a combination of three businesses — Common Grounds, Westside Pizza Co. and Native Sons Coffee Roasters - all of which are easily accessible in a single, industrial-style building with two adjoining outside patios.

Nearly one and a half years have passed since the idea of Common Grounds Woodway was first vocalized and seriously considered. A growing staff has since undergone months of planning and preparation, and the excitement among lovers of the original location is palpable to say the least. Common Grounds Woodway General Manager Kody Bartley said, "You should expect to want to stay."

Both shops will bring their own unique elements to the table, despite being part of the same business.

John Hewitt, Common Grounds Woodway staff manager, said the two won't be synonymous, but that they nonetheless intend to imitate the best parts of CG Waco in the Woodway location.

"I think we've taken a lot of positive things from Common Grounds Waco, and we hope to instill that into this shop," Hewitt said. "One thing that we do want to carry over is this environment that's welcoming and inclusive — something that brings people together. Most businesses want to do that, but I think there is something special about the coffee shop and coffee in general."

Bartley said fans of the original location shouldn't worry about the changes being implemented because, "At the end of the day, we are Common Grounds. We're going to have the full menu. For the most part, your favorite drink is going to be here."

Bartley and Hewitt have been working as a team to bring the vision for CG Woodway to life for months now, and their overarching ambitions for the new shop seem to be compatible — especially when it comes to giving the community a voice in the process.

"We really want the culture of this community to affect our culture," Hewitt said. "We don't want to cut and paste what we already have that is successful. To truly be successful and good for the community, we have to reflect what the community wants."

Bartley's approach to preparing the Woodway location for business runs along similar lines.

"At the end of the day, if we're not serving the community, we're not going to be open," Bartley said. "We can have a blueprint, we can have an idea, we can have a model of what our business is going to be like, but until the community says yes or no, we don't

Kyler Griffith is heading Native Sons Coffee Roasters, which will import coffee beans from various countries and will supply coffee to both of the Common Grounds locations. Griffith worked at CG Waco for one year in 2012, after which, he said was fired and started working at Starbucks.

His love for coffee, however, did not fade away, and he found himself working for Common Grounds again down the road. In 2015, Griffith was promoted to head barista at the Waco

coffee in the towering, polished Probat roaster behind the counter at CG Woodway.

Griffith described coffee roasting as a challenge of its own kind.

"Coffee roasting is a dark art," Griffith said. "There's not a lot of information out there, and a lot of the people who have information don't

Another Common Grounds coming to town

READ MORE ONLINE AT

MORE COFFEE PLEASE Common Grounds has been a Baylor and Waco tradition since opening its doors in 1994. Twenty-four years later, its second location, combined with Westside Pizza Co. and Native Sons Roasters, is scheduled for a soft opening Monday. Hours have yet to be determined.

want to share it."

Griffith said each batch of coffee he roasts is different from the last, which makes his job coming up with "recipes" both scary and frustrating. At the same, he said the "a-ha" moments he experiences through trial and error help him refine the roasting process and ensure consistency between batches, which is rewarding in itself. Griffith said he has been experimenting with recipes for Native Sons and Common Grounds for nearly two months

Although Native Sons is the newest business of the three, with more room for innovation, Common Grounds is approaching its expansion with a similarly experimental mentality.

"Our drinks and our services have already been really well received," Hewitt said. "That gives us the freedom to try new things, and to really dive into this with the expectation that we're not just going to be stagnant and do what we've always done."

Bartley said the CG Woodway staff is allowing the industrial architecture to influence the inside of the shop as well as the outside. Both Bartley and Hewitt said the aesthetic appeal will be one of the more prominent differences between the first location and the second.

"First and foremost, we're not in an old house," Bartley said. "We want to let this space be itself."

Hewitt, Bartley and owners Blake and Kimberly Batson asked residents in the Woodway area for input on their hopes for the shop. Bartley said many responses related to the need for child and family-friendly spaces, which is why CG Woodway secured outdoor

patios and ensured an inclusive yet spacious indoor setup.

Hewitt said they have simultaneously kept other demographics in mind as they developed the interior. Referring to the all-tooreal, recurring complaint for insufficient number of electrical outlets at coffee shops, Hewitt said students would be able to find plenty of places to plug in and stay a while.

Ultimately, though, Bartley said their most pressing goal relates to the overall essence the shop will emit.

"I've always felt at home at Common Grounds Waco. We wanted to bring that kind of atmosphere here," Bartley said. "We know the power of the feeling of walking in and knowing 'This is my chair. This is the desk I sit at. We want to bring that kind of spirit of welcomeness to [CG Woodway] as well, for everyone."

As for the challenge of combining three businesses in one location, the roomy interior and creatively labeled signage make navigating the expansive space a breeze. Hewitt said this is intended to allow for the customer to feel comfortable planting their feet in a single spot for hours at a time.

You can leave caffeinated, buzzed and full all at the same time," he said. "And there's a bathroom. We have everything you

Along the same lines, Hewitt said visiting CG Woodway will be a memorable experience overall.

"I think [people] are going to be pretty taken aback by the scope of it all," Hewitt said. "I think they're going to leave with a completely different experience but still a very positive

As for Baylor and Mclennan Community College students, the drive to a probably unfamiliar part of town may feel inconvenient at first, but Bartley encouraged residents close to campus to make

"[Students are] going to want to make the drive at least a couple times for the experience. It's surprisingly not far away,"

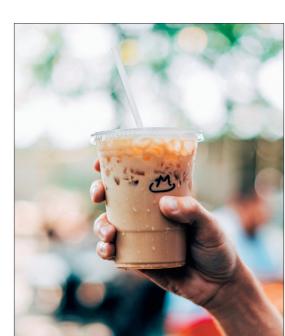
Whether they're college students, Waco residents

or curious tourists, customers are encouraged to approach the new business as a place they can call home. CG Woodway management agreed that the space is meant to inspire conversation, connection and comfortability for people of all kinds. Beginning next week, the Common Grounds tradition will live on, both in Waco and in Woodway.





WHICH WAY IS UP? Customers at the new Common Grounds location in Woodway are greeted with a large sign upon entry, directing them either to Common Grounds Woodway and Native Sons Coffee Roasters on the right, or Westside Pizza Co. on the left. The industrailstyle building is complete with seating on both sides and plenty of space for workers behind the counter. "I think [people] are going to be pretty taken aback by the scope of it all," CG Woodway Staff Manager John Hewitt said.



COWBOY Although the second Common Grounds location reduced the menu, most of CG lovers' favorite drinks will still be available, including the Cowboy.

What's the deal with the

It's time to celebrate more than three Oscar categories

NATHAN KIEL

Sports Editor

Comedian Jimmy Kimmel will host the 90th Academy Awards Sunday night at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Calif.

The late night talk show host returns for his second go-round, after hosting the Academy Awards in 2017, the one infamously known for the "La La Land" and "Moonlight" Best Picture debacle.

But Sunday night is not about Kimmel rectifying the mishap of the swapped envelopes. Instead, it's about celebrating achievements in film over the past year and honoring those who have contributed to the film industry with their hard work, dedication and ceaseless commitment to the creative process that goes into creating a film start to

Far too often, after watching these award shows, we don't remember much aside from which film wins Best Picture or who takes Best Actor or Actress. We may also remember who won Best Director, or who made a memorable special appearance, like John Travolta's famous Idina Menzel screw-up in 2014; but the Academy Awards is so much more than the final statue that celebrates the complete, collaborative effort between hundreds of hard-working Hollywood specialists. It is also more than the individual actors who portray their characters with poise and conviction that inspires others.

Film, at its core, is the art of storytelling, and each story is composed of various elements. Many of these stories receive recognition on this particular night but quickly fade away the orchestra music almost instantly begins to chime, cueing the award recipient's prompt departure from the stage.

Five-time Oscar nominated director Christopher Nolan once told The Director's Guild of America, "Every film should have its own world, a logic and feel to it that expands beyond the exact image that the audience is seeing."

The stories extend into the ending credits, where hundreds of names are often recognized for screenwriting and music scores, for costume design and sound editing. Film is about mixing and production design, and it's time we properly acknowledge these achievements — not with a 30-second speech, but with the appreciation and praise creatives truly deserve.

Although some of the integral moving parts of film production may never receive proper recognition, I want to highlight a few key Oscar categories that I think should get some extra attention come Sunday night, the first being "Best Original Score."

This category is loaded with musical giants - John Williams' score for "Star Wars: The Last Jedi," Hans Zimmer for "Dunkirk," Carter Burwell for "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri," Alexandre Desplat for "The Shape of Water" and — newcomer to the category, but not to aging rock music — Radiohead guitarist and keyboardist Jonny Greenwood's score for "Phantom Thread." These geniuses alone have captured seven Academy Awards, with Williams winning five and Desplat and Zimmer each winning once.

In "Dunkirk," the music captivates the audience and elevates heartbeats with its ominous tone, anticipating the rescue of Allied soldiers from the German army. The music is so deeply entwined with the film's sound design that it's difficult to tell the two apart.

In "The Shape of Water," Desplat summons hints of old Hollywood, using a mix of flutes, accordions and whistling to accompany Elisa and the amphibian man's transcendent journey of love and acceptance.

Williams takes viewers down a familiar road, but one that deserves to be frequently revisited in "The Last Jedi."

Burwell, a 30-year Hollywood veteran, uses guitars to accentuate Mildred's highs and lows as she pursues her daughter's killer in Ebbing, Mo. Greenwood's use of strings and piano are synonymous with the vintage style of the main character, a 1950s London dressmaker.

All these scores, as well as those that did not receive nominations, are pivotal to the success of each film and its storytelling elements. Moviegoers and art enthusiasts should appreciate the factor of cohesiveness music brings to the films we love.

Just as important as "Original Score" and "Original Song" are the categories "Sound Mixing" and "Sound Editing." This year, the same five films are nominated in both categories—"Baby Driver," "Blade Runner 2049," "Dunkirk," "The Shape of Water," and "Star Wars: The Last Jedi." Moviegoers' natural expectation is that films will exhibit perfect sound quality no matter the situation on screen. And yet many of us do not fully understand the work that makes this expectation a reality.

As tempting as it may be to tune out these "lesser" categories and stick to the acting, directing and Best Picture awards, I urge you to resist. Take the time to appreciate the plethora of gifts and achievements being recognized in each of the award categories. Every film tells a story — some more familiar than others — but each story is incomplete without the help of many talented artists and professionals. Their steadfast work and dedication tie up the loose ends to make the films we love each year great. It's time we give them their due.

Predictions: 'The Shape of Water,' others to win big at the Oscars

BAILEY BRAMMER

Editor-in-Chief

After a year of exceptional filmmaking, Oscar night is nearly upon us. Comedian Jimmy Kimmel will take the stage Sunday evening as host of the 90th Academy Awards, as will many well-known and decorated actors, actresses, directors, producers, composers and other individuals involved in some of the best movies the world has seen.

While the Academy certainly has some difficult decisions ahead, with no clear frontrunners in any category, I've done my best to sort through the nominations, as well as analyze previous winners; I have compiled my predictions as to who will take home awards on Sunday in the "Big Three" categories, as well as a few others.

Best Picture: "The Shape of Water"

Although the premise of this movie can appear a little strange at first, Guillermo del Toro's "The Shape of Water" is a beautiful tale of romance, misunderstanding, mythology and mystery.

The film has been classified as an "adult fairy tale" of sorts, has garnered special attention from almost all awards and news outlets, and received a whopping 13 nominations at the Oscars alone.

Although it's up against plenty of great films like "Lady Bird," "Darkest Hour" and "Phantom Thread," this movie does so many things right, including telling a tragically poetic love story, that I could certainly see it taking home the big prize.

Best Lead Actor: Timothée Chalamet, "Call Me by Your Name"

In a movie that is no doubt one of my favorite nominees, Chalamet portrays a young man named Elio Perlman in a coming of age story filled with love, adventure and personal discovery. "Call Me by Your Name" itself is also up for Best Picture and Best Adapted Screenplay, and while I'm not sure the movie can overtake some of the other big names in alternative categories. Chalamet definitely deserves recognition for his performance, especially given the fact that he received this nomination at the young age of 22.

Best Lead Actress: Saoirse Ronan, "Lady Bird"

Another young professional up for a big

award is Ronan, whose performance in "Lady Bird" brought men and women everywhere to tears, simultaneously reminding them to call their mothers and tell them they love them. Ronan is charming, witty and endlessly relatable, and does an admirable job of portraying a lovestruck high-schooler who's just trying to figure out how to survive. The film itself is also up for other awards, including Best Picture and Best Supporting Actress, but Ronan's dedication to the role and to the story definitely merit a win in this category.

Best Animated Feature: "Coco," Lee Unkrich, Darla K. Anderson

Having grown up on Disney and Pixar, living with a family of six, "Coco" was no doubt a big name on our "must-watch" list for the year. The colorful, musical and cultural flick did not disappoint, and, like most Disney productions, this movie is enjoyable for people of all ages. "Coco" is also up for an award in the category Best Original Song, and could easily end up going home with both of these awards.

Best Original Screenplay: "Get Out," Jordan Peele

In an entrancing commentary on racism both past and present, "Get Out" combines an interesting storyline with some terrifying twists. The talented Daniel Kaluuya plays a young black man who is ready to meet his white girlfriend's parents for the first time, but the situation quickly becomes strange. Peele takes his viewers on a wild ride through the South and through the mind, leaving viewers guessing until the very end while still incorporating symbolism and satire into every scene. Although the other names in this category are equally as deserving of this award, today's social climate and racial tension gives "Get Out" all the more reason to secure the trophy for Best Original Screenplay.

Best Original Score: "Star Wars: The Last Jedi," John Williams

Finally, although the categories pertaining to music and film editing are sometimes overlooked, the Original Score award is always one of my favorites. Movies could arguably not succeed without their musical components, and to me, it seems only fitting that this award is given to Williams to recognize his beautiful work on the most recent Star Wars film, as well as his longstanding work with the series since the first film came out in 1977. And, I mean, it's Star Wars. Isn't that reason enough to win?

INTELLIGENT LIFE

Right A comic strip featured weekly on our pages. >>

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Below Also featured on each issue of the Lariat is our weekly crossword puzzle. Answers can be found under "Puzzle Solutions" under the drop-down Arts & Life tab at baylorlariat.com.



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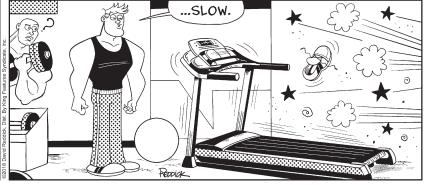
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NOTES:

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BaylorLariat.com



EIGHT STRAIGHT The Lady Bears celebrate their eighth straight regular season title following their Monday win against West Virginia. Heading into the championships, star player Kristy Wallace has

Lady Bears head to Big 12 tournament

MAX CALDERONE

Sports Writer

The No. 3 Baylor Lady Bears are entering the 2018 Phillips 66 Big 12 Women's Basketball Championship tournament as the top seed after an undefeated regular season in conference play.

However, they will likely be without senior guard Kristy Wallace due to an injured knee suffered during Monday night's game against West Virginia.

Head coach Kim Mulkey announced on Thursday that Wallace tore her ACL, but was hesistant to rule her out for the upcoming tournament. Assuming Wallace does not play, the Lady Bears are down to just eight healthy players on the roster.

'With any ACL injury, you don't go into surgery immediately," Mulkey said. "I know Kristy has been begging to put a brace on and just try to play. I don't anticipate her playing, but I know that kid's personality. She's one of those who just wants to see if she can run or cut with a brace on."

Mulkey said she would leave the decision to the doctors to determine when Wallace will be ready for surgery, and that the team will be preparing to play without her.

The injury to Wallace comes after freshman guard Trinity Oliver tore her ACL on Nov. 30 against Kentucky and has sat out every game since. Sophomore guard Natalie Chou had been out harder for teams to guard. You've got to pick your poison."

since Jan. 31 with a wrist injury, but she is now cleared to return

Mulkey noted that the Lady Bears have been through a lot worse than just injuries this year and used the inspirational stories of Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Nick Foles and Alabama quarterback Tua Tagovailoa to motivate her team.

"It's next man up," Mulkey said. "If you can ball, you can ball. Let's go play and do the best we can."

Baylor is led into the postseason tournament by junior center and Big 12 Player of the Year Kalani Brown. Brown is averaging 19.7 points and 10.1 rebounds per game. She was a unanimous selection to the All-Big 12 First Team.

Brown teams up with sophomore forward Lauren Cox in the post to present one of the most dominant frontcourt duos in all of women's college basketball. Cox was named Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year after averaging 2.5 blocks per game this season. She also adds an average of 14.8 points and 9.3 rebounds per

Brown said having Cox come into her own this season has opened up her game and caused a lot of problems for opposing

"She helps my game a lot," Brown said. "With her ability to nock down a open shot, it opens up the paint and makes it

Senior forward Dekeiya Cohen has also had a productive second half of the season, scoring in double figures in nine of the last 10 games. Her role offensively will increase without Wallace in the lineup.

Without Wallace, Mulkey will have rely on a rotation of guards to provide valuable minutes for her team. Freshmen Alexis Morris, Didi Richards and Moon Ursin will be needed to step up alongside sophomore Juicy Landrum.

Cox said it will be her job, along with Brown and Wallace from the bench, to lift up the younger players and have their backs going forward.

"I think you have to encourage them and keep them hungry," Cox said. "We just all have to keep lifting each other up, we have to lean on each other. Kristy is still going to be that leader, but it will still be a team effort."

Baylor's first game is at 1:30 p.m. Saturday in Oklahoma City as they take on the winner of the Kansas-Kansas State game. If the Lady Bears win, they will advance to the semifinal round on Sunday, with the championship game being held Monday.

Baylor's Saturday game can be watched on Fox Sports Network. The semifinal round and championship game will be broadcast on FS1.

Softball looks for repeat success in tournaments

NATHAN KEIL

Sports Editor

In 2017, Baylor softball headed west to Fullerton, Calif. for the Judi Garman Classic 14-3, without garnering much national attention. The Bears finished the tournament 4-1 with wins over ranked opponents—Arizona State, Michigan, Washington and UCLA.

This year, the narrative is in reverse. Baylor enters their west coast trip 9-0, ranked eighth in the country and with two wins over ranked opponents, No. 23 McNeese State and No. 11 Alabama.

Despite those two wins, head coach Glenn Moore said he knows this tournament will be a large step up in competition and a consistent elevated competition.

"It's a great opportunity to see how we match up with some of the best teams in the country, so a World Serieslike atmosphere with World Series caliber team," Moore said. "Every year we know regardless of how the outcome is, we're going to be a better team. We can play well and win two games. That's how good the competition is out there. It's an opportunity to get better."

Baylor will matchup with three ranked opponents in Fullerton. The Bears will

meet No. 25 Michigan on Friday before dealing with No. 2 and defending National runner-up Florida and Charlotte on Saturday. They will conclude the tournament with matchups with Iowa and No. 18 Louisiana-Lafayette on

Senior first baseman Shelby Friudenberg found success in last year's tournament and was able to build off it last season. She said the team is confident they can find repeat success this season.

"Knowing what we can do, we have the power to go out and do what we did last year and try to win every single game that we can there," Friudenberg said. "It's going to be really good competition, but it's going to be good for us."

One reason for that confidence is the pitching staff, led by junior Gia Rodoni. Rodoni is 5-0 with 0.50 ERA with three complete games and 39 strikeouts. Opponents are hitting just .116 off her this season. Both junior Regan Green and sophomore Goose McGlaun are 2-0 with ERAs under 3.00. Freshman Lexi Koltz has yet to allow an earned run in two appearances this season as well.

Junior catcher Carlee Wallace said she feels that regardless of who is in the circle, the Bears have a good chance to get the win.

"Extremely happy with the way we're coming along. Gia is being Gia and that is great. Regan is coming along great. She's going to be a really good asset for us," Wallace said. "Lexi is going be effective and Goose has some great stuff. I enjoy catching all of them. I'm getting to know all of them. We have a great chance to win with every one of them."

As impressive as the pitching has been early on for Baylor, its offense has been equally productive and efficient. Baylor is hitting .403 as a team and has three players in senior outfielder Jessie Scroggins, sophomore second baseman Nicky Dawson and Wallace all hitting above .500. McGlaun and junior outfielder Kyla Walker are hitting above

However, despite the gaudy early numbers for the offense, Moore said it wouldn't be realistic for him to expect those numbers this weekend.

"We've seen good arms, but not consistently like we're going to see this weekend," Moore said. "It would be unrealistic to expect our offense to hit those numbers out there this weekend. They can have a great weekend and not come close to those."

After Baylor completes its Judi Garman Classic draw on Sunday, it will remain on the road for the next six



GAME ON Baylor softball gathers for pre-game prayer and strategy prior to its opener with Northwestern State on Feb. 9. The Bears begin their 10-day road trip by traveling to Fullerton, Calif. on Friday.

days. The Bears will take on Long Beach State on Tuesday before flying across the country to participate in the Liberty Spring Classic in Lynchburg, Va. Baylor will see Liberty on Wednesday, play a doubleheader against Delaware and Ohio University Saturday and conclude with a Saturday doubleheader against Delaware and Liberty.

The spring road trip will mark a month straight of playing on the road away from Getterman Stadium, a challenge in and of itself, but one that Moore believes will benefit his team in the long

"I've always believed it's necessary to toughen a team up a little bit," Moore said. "There are challenges, you get

tired of being around each other for that long, you have some adversity and you have to work through it. It makes you a better team in the long

No. 8 Baylor opens its spring break trip with No. 25 Michigan at 2 p.m. Friday at Anderson Family Field in Fullerton, Calif. The game can be streamed on FloSoftball.



Photo courtesy of Baylor Athletics

STARTING OFF STRONG Senior infielder Tucker Cascadden takes a swing during Baylor's season opener against Houston Baptist on Feb. 16.

Baseball heads up to Frisco for tournament

MAX CALDERONE

Sports Writer

The Baylor baseball team will travel to Frisco this weekend to take part in the 2018 Frisco College Classic, a tournament featuring teams such as California, No. 9 Texas A&M and Louisiana

The Bears will play three games as part of the round robin style tournament at Dr Pepper Ballpark in Frisco, home of the Frisco RoughRiders, a Double-A affiliate of the Texas Rangers.

Baylor (3-3) is coming off a series loss to No. 11 UCLA. Head coach Steve Rodriguez said his team played well, but that they need to sharpen some areas to have more success.

"We need to play a little bit better in regards to just the fundamentals. "We're Rodriguez said. playing a little sloppy at times and when you play quality teams, they'll wait for you to beat yourself and make mistakes."

The Bears will send sophomore lefty Cody Bradford to the mound on today to face California (5-2). He is 1-0 on the young season and has not allowed an earned run.

Bradford will be tasked facing a potent California offense that scored 73 runs in just seven games. They are led by sophomore infielder Andrew Vaughn and junior outfielder Jonah Davis, who

have combined to hit eight home runs and drive in 29 runs so far this year.

Sophomore right-handed pitcher Hayden Kettler, who will get the start on Saturday, said California has a dangerous lineup and his team will have to execute in all phases of the game.

'They can really swing it," Kettler said. "It's going to be a game where we've got to bring it both offensively and defensively."

Kettler is 1-1 this season with a 0.75 ERA and is coming off the best start of his Baylor career, after throwing seven innings and only allowing three hits and one earned run at UCLA on Sunday. He'll get the ball when the Bears face No. 9 Texas A&M (9-0) on

Kettler said his approach opponent, and added there is nothing extraordinary about going up against the Aggies.

"I think every game is pretty special," Kettler said. "It's going to be fun to get to play against them, but it's just like any other game. We're really excited."

Texas A&M boasts one of the best young players in college baseball in sophomore second baseman Braden Shewmake, who is hitting .342 with one home run and 12 RBI. They also have one of the deepest pitching staffs in the nation, led by junior righty Stephen Kolek (2-0, 0.77).

Rodriguez has not yet

named a starter for Sunday's matchup against Louisiana Tech (5-4). He said righthanded junior Kyle Hill, who has made two starts already this season, may get an opportunity to pitch out of the bullpen in either of the first two games of the tournament.

"We're trying to make sure we maximize the ability of some of our guys, and Kyle is one of those guys who is very valuable at the end of a game," Rodriguez said. "If we can capitalize on that early on in the weekend, then we will. If not, then he'll be able to get a start on Sunday for us."

While pitching has been the strength early on for the Bears, the offense has been lacking. Baylor is hitting just .237 as a team, scoring a mere 19 runs in six games.

Sonhomore first baseman Andy Thomas has been a catalyst at the plate so far for the Bears, hitting .429 with a team high nine hits. He said he is excited for the challenge this weekend presents, but his team will prepare just like normal.

"All three teams are going to be tough," Thomas said. "We take this just like any other weekend, we're going to go in, prepare, and get after it the best we can."

Baylor's games start at 3 p.m. on today and Sunday and 6 p.m. on Saturday. All games can be watched on the official Frisco College Classic YouTube and Facebook live stream.

MBB clawing their way to March Madness

BEN EVERETT

Sports Writer

Baylor men's basketball is in danger of not making the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2013 — a result that would snap the program's longest NCAA Tournament appearance streak.

The Bears hold an 18-12 record overall, going 8-9 in Big 12 action with a chance to finish conference play at .500 as they face Kansas State at 1 p.m. Saturday in Manhattan,

According to ESPN bracketologist Joe Lunardi, the Bears are currently slotted at a No. 11 seed.

CBS Sports bracketologist Jerry Palm, however, puts Baylor squarely on the outside of the tournament.

Some important metrics NCAA Tournament Selection Committee looks at to decide the 68-team field are RPI, quadrant wins, and strength of schedule.

RPI, or ratings percentage index, is a percentage that ranks each team based on their wins and losses. The Bears are currently 56 in RPI.

Quadrants are a new concept that the NCAA Selection Tournament Committee created this year to rank teams. A quadrant one win, for example, is a win at home versus an RPI 1-30 team, a win at a neutral site over an RPI 1-50 team or a win on the road against an RPI 1-75 team.

Baylor has four quadrant one wins: Creighton in Kansas City, Kansas at home, Texas Tech at home and Texas on the road.

Strength of schedule measures the difficulty of a team's games over the season. Baylor is ranked sixth in the country in strength of schedule due to the difficulty of the Big 12, but also nonconference opponents Xavier, Wichita State, Florida and Creighton.

The strength of the Big 12 has resulted in nine of Baylor's 12 losses, but it also presents more chances to make up ground. A win over any one of five (Kansas, Texas Tech, West Virginia, Oklahoma, TCU) of the conference's 10 teams in the Big 12 Tournament would count as a quadrant one win.

The Bears' win over No. 36 RPI Oklahoma on Tuesday just missed the quadrant one cutoff, but it still contributed to an increase in Baylor's RPI ranking.

"We had so much at stake," Baylor head coach Scott Drew said following the team's 87-64 senior night win over Oklahoma.

The Bears' trip to Manhattan on Saturday opportunity for an RPI booster. The Kansas State Wildcats sit at No. 62 in the RPI rankings, so a Baylor win would mean one more quadrant one victory on the resume.

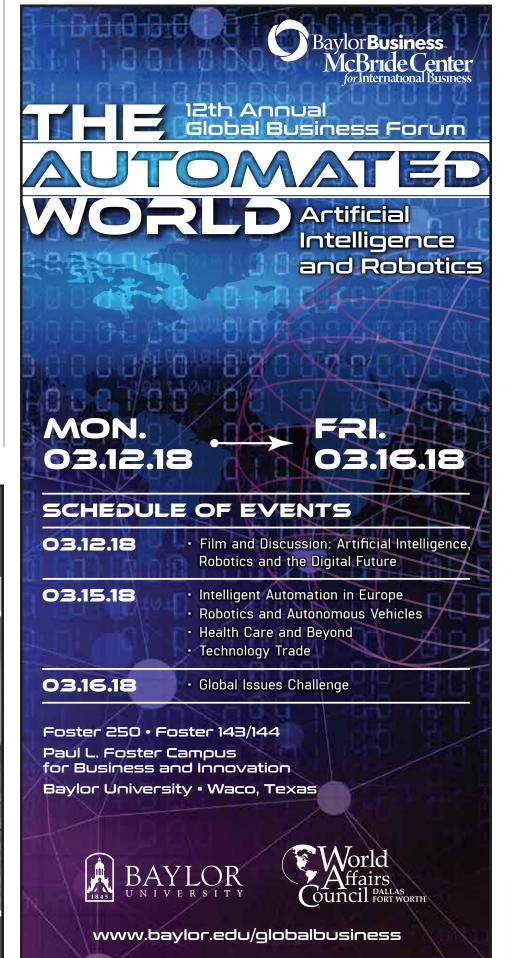
Senior guard Manu Lecomte said the team recognizes the importance of each game if they want to keep their tournament hopes alive.

"Every game is a mustwin now," Lecomte said. "We got one more game against K-State, but as long as SHOOTING STAR Senior we bring the same mentality and same intensity, energy and unselfishness, we're going to be alright."



Josh Aguirre | Multimedia Journalist

forward Terry Maston shoots from the free-throw line over an Oklahoma defender. Maston finished with a game-high 23





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