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### JANUARY 29, 2019

### **TUESDAY**



**Opinion** | 2 **Behind the screen** Why context is needed before blindly sharing a viral video.



Arts & Life | 6 J. Cole turns 34 A reflection on the grammy nominated

rappers career and life.



BAYLORLARIAT.COM

**Sports** | 7 & 8 **Lady Bears No. 1** Baylor women's basketball named top team in the nation.

### **IHOP near Baylor to close Thursday**



Shae Koharski | Multimedia Journalist **IHOP** Waco's International House of Pancakes (IHOP) 4th Street location is set to close on Jan. 31 and will serve its last stack of pancakes at 2 p.m.

#### MADALYN WATSON Staff Writer

The International House of Pancakes (IHOP) on South 4th St. at the edge of Baylor's campus will serve its last stack of pancakes by 2 p.m. this Thursday.

General manager Victor Melant, said IHOP's contract is going to expire this May and business has been slow compared to other locations.

"Back in the day, I would come in here late at night to eat, and this place would be packed," Melant said.

All of the staff members have the option of moving to other IHOP locations after the location closes. Melant said he will be moving to the ou Bellmead location.

Baylor has owned the lot as well as the green space around it since 2002.

Karl "Rock" McNair Jr., assistant vice president of real estate operations and campus services, said the green space surrounding the IHOP used host a strip mall and several other retail locations.

"The whole area has always been historically referred to as Ivy Square," McNair said.

In the past, the Ivy Square has been home to a movie theater, apartments, a music store, several restaurants and, most recently, a Best Western. Many of which have been owned and leased

out by Baylor.

"Baylor owns the building. We just don't own the restaurant and the franchise," McNair said.

Lori Fogleman, assistant vice president of media and public relations, said that the green space on the opposite side of IHOP and beside University Parks Drive and I-35 will be the future Mark and Paula Hurd Welcome Center.

"Baylor is fortunate to be located along I-35, which provides great visibility to the university. However, Baylor has not had a visible front door to the university. We have completely outgrown the Wiethorn Visitors

#### IHOP >> Page 4

### Baylor hosts party for Lady and Joy

#### BRIDGET SJOBERG Staff Writer

Baylor celebrated its two beloved on-campus bears, Lady and Joy, at a birthday party hosted at the bear habitat on Jan. 27. The party was held on Joy's 18th birthday, and a few days before Lady's 17th birthday on Jan 31.

The birthday party took place from 2 to 4 p.m. and featured celebratory activities like bounce houses and corn hole. Decorative friends to celebrate Lady and Joy. She appreciates the unique experience of having living on-campus mascots that she can visit or pass by on a daily basis.

"The bears really bring the Baylor community together," Dillenberger said. "This space is a great common ground, and I love to come and meet people here or just to see the bears as I'm walking on campus. It's a cool tradition that Baylor has."

The bears are cared for through Baylor's Bear Program, which



balloons and streamers, birthday cake and photo ops with mascots Bruiser and Marigold were also included at the event.

Special presentations were made by Bear Program trainers to give attendees information about Lady and Joy, as well as to offer photo opportunities with the bears, who are trained to throw up "Sic 'ems" on command.

Baton Rouge, La., senior Madison Dillenberger saw a poster promoting the birthday celebration and decided to come out with her provides students with training on animal safety and well-being to interact with and take care of the bears on a daily basis. Fort Worth senior John Naya, Katy junior Audrey Chisum and Missouri City senior Audrey Hermes all serve as lead trainers and explained that this year marks the first large-scale birthday celebration for the mascots.

"This is the first time that we've had an event that turned out to be this big," Chisum said. "For the holidays we try and treat the bears to special things — they got Christmas



Kennedy Dendy | Broadcast Reporter

**BEARS** Baylor students throw a "Sic 'em" with one of the bears at the birthday party for Baylor's beloved mascots Lady and Joy on their 17th and 18th birthdays.

presents and received a Thanksgiving dinner. They usually get some type of birthday surprise as well, but this is the first year their birthday has been this big."

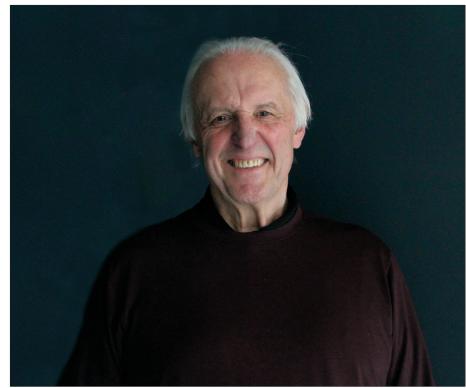
Naya said that he is able to interact with the bears daily as a trainer, and

that he enjoys the personal connection he has been able to form with Lady and Joy.

"On a day to day basis, we see the bears morning and night," Naya said. "We clean the habitat, do oncampus training and take the bears off-campus to a location where they can roam freely and climb trees. It's a daily interactive process, which is something I've really enjoyed."

#### BEARS>>Page 4

### Former congressman turned yogi to speak at expo



Shae Koharski | Multimedia Journal

**YOGA** Former congressman turned yogi Alan Steelman is set to give the keynote speech at the Baylor Wellness FitWell Expo this Saturday. Steelman will be talking about safe mental health solutions and his new career as a yogi from his book "Yoga on the Yellow Brick Road."

### **CAMERON STUART**

Radio Director

Baylor alumnus and former Texas congressman Alan Steelman will be the keynote speaker for Baylor Wellness' FitWell Expo this Saturday, teaching students about safe solutions to mental health issues through his new career as a yogi and from his best-selling book "Yoga on the Yellow Brick Road."

The speech Steelman will give on Saturday will focus on his book as well as safe practices for students to attain better mental health, avoiding self-medications like drugs and alcohol. The speech will be nestled in between morning and afternoon health and exercise sessions between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Feb. 2.

"Like the 'Wizard of Oz', it is the story of all of our lives," Steelman said about his book. "Through yoga and meditation, we can find our own path to our very own Emerald City, a calm mind."

Steelman came to Baylor on a baseball scholarship in 1960 and served as a Republican Congressman from 1973 to 1977. Not only was Steelman the youngest sitting member of Congress when he was elected, but he also now jokes that he is the only former congressman to be a certified yoga instructor. Steelman also credits his yoga career to the stress of his political and business career.

"Politics today is certainly a blood sport, if not a contact sport," Steelman said. "The reason I have taken on this new cause is not to contribute to the toxicity by running for office again, but to try to bring people together."

Now, over 40 years removed from Congress, Steelman travels the world speaking to companies and students about his book. He also informs people of his new cause about the dangers of stress and how they can be combatted safely and effectively. According to his website, he has worked with world leaders and over 1,000 CEOs to date.

When Steelman came to Baylor nearly six decades ago, however, he was in no position to be the one consulting others on mental health.

"When I got here [to Baylor], I was damaged goods," Steelman said. "I was popular here, but things were dark."

Van Smith-Davis, the assistant director of Wellness at Baylor, thinks Steelman is the perfect voice for students struggling with mental health issues to hear today.

"I think Alan [Steelman] is an extraordinary man with a wonderful story to share," Smith-Davis said. "I think our students and our faculty and staff can come and be inspired by what he has to say."

For the students themselves, Steelman's message still



**GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?** 

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### **EDITORIAL**

**Context cures viral videos** 

Viral videos are all the thanks to today's rage, interconnected, instantaneous internet society. From cats falling off high surfaces to children singing their ABC's wrong, the entertainment of your everyday life can now be broadcast an international audience, to sometimes with as many as several million viewers. However, when videos are shared with so many people, often with no context or background, it

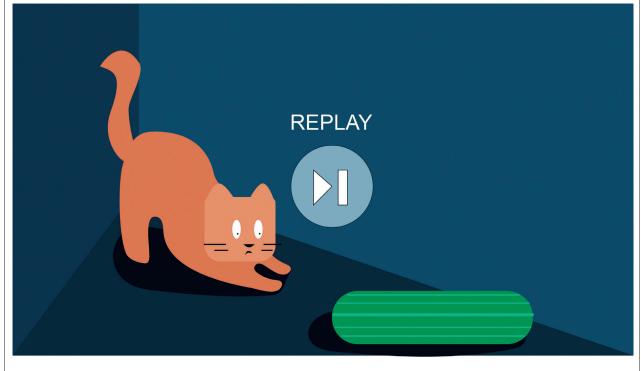
can be difficult to process the implications of the content. Sometimes its very straightforward, just a funny, silly or weird video with no purpose but to entertain. Other videos tackle more serious issues like a recent protest video in which several white teenage boys from a Catholic high school smiled and presumably egged on indigenous people protesting in the capitol. The video which was followed by several other videos filmed from different angles and with varying lengths - showed a young man standing toe to toe with a tribal elder, wearing a Make America Great Again hat and smiling as his schoolmates cheered and jeered behind him. The video was originally inflammatory, with many taking offense to the high schoolers demeanor and believing the boys meant ill will against the indigenous

protesters. After increasing levels of backlash and contradicting statements from both the boys in the video as well as the tribal elder, the video's original meaning (or the intent of the participants in the video) has become convoluted.

Now, some people who likely just watched the video (or the USA Today, CNN, Fox News or Vice videos about the original) have been outraged

or encouraged by the content and shared without even thinking twice. That's what's so beautiful about social media you can instantly share your personal beliefs, opinions and things you find interesting with your followers. However, with that comes a dangerous loss of discernment as to what you're actually seeing.

Again, some videos are straightforward and easy to understand, but others, such as the video mentioned above, are politically charged and complex, with many different possibilities in how it can be interpreted. Therefore, it's important to be critical of everything you watch, and especially what you see and want to share.



### Cats reacting to cucumbers compilation

5,078,632 views

Even those seemingly harmless videos of cats reacting to cucumbers have a deeper context. Scientific American explains that "presenting behind a relaxed, anything unsuspecting cat can produce a startle response." Meaning those cucumbers videos might be funny for us, but they cause cats major anxiety.

Think about the consequences of your share — will someone be offended by the video? Will the video harm anyone involved or

featured in it? Will the video cause damage to professional or personal reputations? Is there any indication that the video may be telling only one side of a story? All of these are questions you should be asking before you share, especially when it comes to videos that are politically or

socially charged issues. Along the same lines, if there is a video coming from an unknown or potentially unreliable source, be sure to check the facts before sharing - many biased media sites will narrate or alter the video so their personal biases are validated. If you don't know you're getting the video from a direct or

unbiased source, search on YouTube, so you can get the full video the way it was originally created.

In a digital age, many people believe their social media is just one in a billion gigabytes of data, meaningless and inconsequential. However, when you're sharing videos on social media without acknowledging the full context or possible consequences of the video, you're giving the 200 friends you have false, potentially harmful information. Think before you post and be an informed viewer.



SHARE

Rewon Shimray | Cartoonist

#### COLUMN

### Appreciate teachers, meet their demands

### DARBY GOOD

Page One Editor

Teachers are not glorified babysitters and deserve to be treated as the heroes they are. Teachers help make us the people we are



today, and I personally was deeply affected by the recent teacher strikes in Los Angeles and now Denver. Teachers should not have to fight for larger wages, smaller classroom sizes and support staff. Administrators need to take into account the value these educators put into

their students' lives because without them, schools could not function.

In high school, the teachers in my life not only helped me figure out what I wanted to do after graduation, but also gave me insight into the person that I wanted to be. Every day, teachers inspire the next generation to try new things that shape their decisions later in life. Teachers elect to do this because they want to help educate others, not because of monetary gain. They still deserve proper compensation for their services, as well as smaller class sizes that allow students to have a more personal classroom experience with fewer distractions. This also gives space for teachers to assess the individual learning needs of their students, and foster a more controlled learning space . This would allow teachers to focus on classroom material instead of acting as a care taker for their students.

Every day, teachers inspire the next generation to try new things that shape their decisions later in life."

In Los Angeles, the teachers went on a sixday strike starting Jan. 14 until a deal was made with the city's school district. The compromise included a cap on class sizes, full-time librarians and school nurses and a 6 percent pay increase. Denver teachers voted Wednesday to begin a strike for the first time since 1994, according to the Denver Post. Oakland teachers are planning a vote to strike in the coming week. Virginia teachers plan to rally at the Capitol on Monday for more education funding, a USA Today article said.

Teachers need to be made a priority in our society. Before anyone can begin an upperlevel degree program, they must start in the fundamental classrooms taught by the same kinds of teachers that are currently fighting to receive higher pay. Teachers should not have to stop working and go on strike to meet their basic demands of higher wages, smaller class sizes and an increase in support staff. Teachers are required to educate the next generation, and without them children across the globe would be left without the needed information to advance in life.

A study conducted by Business Insider showed the effects of teacher salaries in their respective countries. In Luxembourg, where the literacy rate is 99 percent, starting salaries for inexperienced teachers is \$79,000 with a peak salary of \$137,000. While in America where is the literacy rate is 86 percent, the average salary for teachers in California during the 2016-2017 school year was \$78,711.

If these teachers' demands are not met, then it is not just the lives of teachers that are affected, but the lives of students. In the Denver Post article, one teacher who voted in favor of the strike said she hoped this would never happen, but she's doing it for her kids. These teachers want the best for their students, and while stepping away from the classroom takes away from their lesson plans, the teachers find the strike to be a necessary risk that will have greater positive effects for their students in the long run.

Teachers care for the kids in their classroom like their own kids, and they should be financially compensated for the work and planning they put into their jobs. We need them, but if we're not careful we could lose them one strike at a time.

Darby is a junior journalism major from Bullard.

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### **Survey brings** mental health awareness

— News

#### **CAMERON STUART** Radio Director

Baylor students awoke to a campus-wide email from Student Life last Tuesday, with a mental health survey attached imploring students to provide feedback on the campus' mental health resources.

The survey, which was composed of six multiple choice and short answer questions, was drafted by Savage, Minn sophomore student senator Carleigh Allan.

"I wrote the survey to gauge what students know and don't know what is available to them," Allan said. "I can guess all I want about what the students need, but hearing from them is obviously the best feedback."

The survey is part of an initiative for an ad-hoc mental health committee Allan set up last semester to raise awareness for mental health issues on Baylor's campus.

"I felt writing the survey would help the ad-hoc committee do its best work," Allan said. "We had to make sure we knew what the students needed."

Student Body President Hannah Causey also has a health department within her cabinet focusing on both physical and mental health of Baylor students.

"I think bettering the counseling center specifically is very important," Causey "Bettering those said. resources that are pushed out to our students will help our community at large, not just Bavlor."

Statistics certainly back up the concerns held by Baylor's student government. In a study done by the National Alliance on Mental Illness, 75 percent of lifetime mental health cases are acquired before the age of 24. Additionally, 73 percent of students with a mental health condition developed it on campus, with 34 percent of those students saying their

in college because this is where you're starting to figure yourself out," Causey said. "I think it's a tough time because you don't have your family right there or your friends you grew up with to help you."

Baylor counseling center currently offers 10 different types of therapy, according to the survey. Treatments offered include: therapy for individuals, groups and couples, as well as online surveys and dietician services. Even though the survey she wrote was designed for feedback, Allan said she is already confident in the free services Baylor offers.

"Our counseling center is the best counseling center in Waco," Allan said. "But there is a disconnect between the center and the students, and their resources right now are being underutilized."

The survey serves as a precursor to Baylor's first ever "Mental Awareness Week" which will take place between Feb. 11 and Feb. 15. Student government and the ad-hoc mental health committee aim to increase awareness of mental health issues on campus and promote the services available to students for coping with them.

The counseling center will be running events at the Baylor Sciences Building, including a showing of the movie "A Beautiful Mind," lunch discussion regarding sexual minorities and mental health, and a snack presentation to raise awareness for eating disorders.

"We just hope to educate people," counseling center Coordinator Outreach Dr. Vincent Walford said. "Our theme for the day is destigmatizing mental health."

Services offered by the counseling center can be found at the Baylor Counseling Center webpage. Walk-ins are welcome at their offices on the ground floor of Dutton Avenue Office and Parking Facility.

SHERIF

Associated Press

SHOOTING Five Houston police officers are injured and two suspects dead after a search warrent resulted in a shooting Monday night.

### Houston officers injured in shootout

JUAN A. LOZANO Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) - Two suspects are dead after a shooting on Monday that injured five Houston police officers, including four who were hit by gunfire as they attempted to serve a search warrant at a home where drug selling was suspected, the police chief said.

A group of about a dozen officers with the Houston police department's narcotics unit were attempting to serve the warrant when they forced open the home's front door and immediately faced

gunfire from one or two individuals, said Police Chief Art Acevedo.

targeted Police the southeast Houston home following an investigation that began after officers got a tip from a neighbor that black tar heroin was being sold from the house, Acevedo said. "Once the officers breached

the door and the gunfire began from the suspects, one of the suspects actually retreated momentarily to the back of the room and then that suspect came back and again engaged the officers in gunfire," Acevedo said at a Monday evening news

conference.

It was not immediately known how many officers returned fire but the two suspects were later found dead after SWAT officers used two robots to go into the home and determine that it was safe to enter after the gunfire stopped.

Four officers were shot, with two being hit in the neck. Those two officers underwent surgery and were in critical but stable condition, Acevedo said.

"We're hopeful that they will recover," Acevedo said of the two critically injured officers.

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The other two officers who were shot were in stable condition and were able to walk around, Acevedo said. A fifth officer suffered a knee injury during the shooting and was also in stable condition.

"This has been a tough day for our city," said Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner. "Pray for (the injured officers) and pray for their families."

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said in a statement that the shooting was a "solemn reminder" of the service and sacrifices made by officers.





college was unaware of their personal crisis.

"I think these issues start

### **Global certificate** open to students

#### SAVANNAH COOPER

Reporter

The Certificate in Global Engagement is open to all undergraduate students that provides the opportunity to quantify cross-cultural experiences on and off campus.

The certificate allows its participants to enrich their time at Baylor by offering a structured list of components that boosts global awareness.

Assistant director of Global Baylor, Bobby Leis, said he hopes this certificate program will connect groups of students who wouldn't have crossed paths otherwise.

There are three main components within the certificate program that total to 100 points.

Examination (30 points) Students can gain points within this category by simply attending Chapel, watching films on global issues or participating in multicultural or religious events.

Exploration (40 points) To satisfy this requirement, students can take two 3,000-level global engagement courses of their choice and they can participate in peer mentoring along with participating in PAWS (People Around the World Sharing).

Engagement (30 points) To fulfill this section, students can study abroad for a semester or summer term, serve with a Baylor Mission trip or undergo a poverty simulation.

Program Manager for Global Baylor Holly Joyner wants this certificate to be the extra push some students might need to pursue things they wouldn't have otherwise.

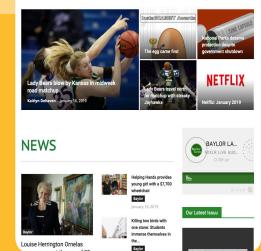
"Hopefully this certificate is that extra nudge for some of them and then for students who have done a lot of these pieces, but they just never thought of a way to bring them all together or even think about how they were interconnected" Joyner said.

To register for the certificate program, students can go to the Center for Global Engagement website.

Both Joyner and Leis have found that many Baylor students have had international and crosscultural experiences, but they struggle to expand and quantify its significance

"The experiences students have are profound, and they can talk about it anecdotally - but it is hard to quantify or explain in a job interview or graduate school application, but this is something students can walk away with," Leis said. Read more about the

program at Baylorlariat.com

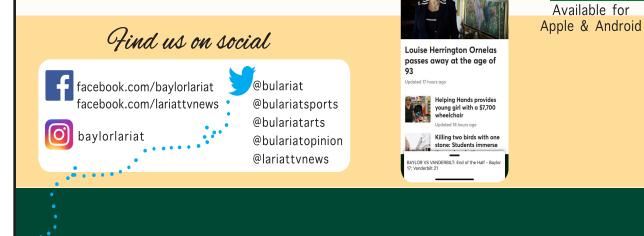


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### **IHOP** from Page 1

Center," Fogleman said.

Baylor expects that there will be strategic development around the IHOP location once it is vacant.

"IHOP has been a great neighbor of Baylor, our students, faculty, staff and alumni for many years, and we all have many fond memories of the restaurant," Fogleman said.

Sadonna Cody, Baylor alumna class of 1992, said the closing of the IHOP caused her to reminisce about her years at Baylor.

"When you're coming off the highway from the south, [the IHOP] is one of the first things you see," Cody said.

Cody shared some of her fond memories of studying at the IHOP late at night. She said it fostered a place to not only study but hang out with her friends.

"You could take up an entire booth, and they would bring you a pot of coffee," Cody said. "You could stay there for hours and hours, all night long if you wanted, just drinking coffee and studying."

Several current students, like Temecula, Calif., sophomore Haley Stiles and Oak Cliff sophomore Miranda Wood, said they enjoy the community of Baylor students, Waco residents and IHOP staff members that this location offered. Stiles and Wood have visited IHOP regularly since they first moved into North Russell Residence Hall their freshman year.

"We made friends with one of the waitresses, who was so nice. She would sit down in the booth and talk with us," Stiles said.

Stiles said that when

she dined at the IHOP, it was always a safe haven for memories to be made and a good experience to be had with other Baylor students but also local Waco residents.

"Getting beyond yourself and forming relationships with other Wacoans is really valuable, and I think every student should take the opportunity to do that," Stiles said.

Similar to Cody's experience, Wood would camp out at the IHOP and order bottomless coffee when she had to stay up late to write essays. When their friend group discovered that the IHOP would be closing, Stiles said that they were all sad, and she even called the location to verify the news.

"[Our friend group had planned on] reunions at IHOP, like 10 years down the road. We were going to get together, reminisce about the old times, eat breakfast food and talk about Baylor," Wood said.

Both Wood and Stiles are sad for future students living on campus, especially North Russell residents, who will not have an off-campus breakfast restaurant within walking distance.

"The only other place I can think of within walking distance is Subway, and you don't want to sit down and hang out in a gas station, eating Subway," Wood said.

To still enjoy a stack of classic IHOP pancakes, visit the Bellmead or Jack Kultgen Expressway IHOP locations that are located within five miles of Baylor's campus.

### Baylor junior named recipient of shared justice research prize



Photo courtesy of The Center for Public Justice

News

**RESEARCH** Austin Junior Ana O'Quin has been named as a recipient of the 2019 Shared Justice Student-Faculty Research Prize. The prize allows winners to participate in a semester-long research project including a policy report and its local impact.

### 

Staff Writer

Austin junior Ana O'Quin has been named as one of the recipients of the 2019 Shared Justice Student-Faculty Research Prize. According to the website of Shared Justice, the prize allows the winners to participate in a semester-long research project including a comprehensive policy report on a social safety net program and its impact in their local community.

Along with providing support for specialized study, the Center for Public Justice flew the recipients and their faculty advisors out to the nation's capital for orientation where they met members of the organization they will be partnering with, and each other.

The Center for Public Justice is a think tank located in Washington D.C. that advocates for various political matters regarding social justice. They believe that the public good of the American commonwealth can thrive only under government that operates in accordance with standards that eclipse interest-group competition. This ideal is behind the annual provision of this grant that supplies students and faculty the opportunity and resources for research on matters related to social justice.

O'Quin will be focusing her 5,000word report on food insecurity among teenagers, specifically in the Waco community. Her interest in this particular population stems from her experience in high school ministry and the fact that teens are frequently overlooked in food studies. Ana will study the role of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the largest federal program that offers nutritional assistance, in addressing teen hunger specifically.

"My paper is all about how teens are really underrepresented; when you talk about food insecurity there's a lot of research on the effects on children, there's even research on adults and mothers and parents, but there seems to be a gap in research on teens," O'Quin said. "So, in this season where there is political conversation going on about SNAP, I just want to introduce the topic of teenagers and make sure we don't forget them when we make these changes."

Along with being a full-time student studying social work focused on poverty and social justice, O'Quin is also involved in Young Life, UnBound and works for

#### Baylor.

Dr. Stephanie Boddie, O'Quin's faculty advisor, recommended the application for the award to O'Quin. She speaks about O'Quin's propensity for the project and commends her former student on her hardworking character, one of many reasons why she is excited to partner with her on this project.

"Ana O'Quin is an exceptional undergraduate student. Her academic performance is just one factor that distinguishes her from other students. She is mature beyond her years and actively seeks to take what she learns in class to serve her local community," Broddie said. "I am excited to work with her on a topic that intersects with one of my primary research areas."

The other recipients of the award are Shannon Que from Abilene University with her advisor, Dr. Stephen Baldridge and Abigail Stevens who attends Eastern University and will be advised by Dr. Christa Lee-Chuvala. Que will also be researching SNAP's role in the lives of Abilene college students while Stevens will be studying formerly-incarcerated individuals' access to public housing in greater Philadelphia, PA.





Kennedy Dendy | Broadcast Reporter

**BEARS** seven-year-old Jamie Hunt writes a birthday card to Lady and Joy as a part of the birthday festivities.

Hermes explained that Lady and Joy's on-campus training allows the bears to learn new skills that help them to develop mentally and enrich their minds.

"Two or three times a week we have on-campus training for the bears, which is one of the best forms of enrichment where they can be mentally stimulated," Hermes said. "They learn new behaviors which keeps their minds sharp, and everything they learn are learned behaviors, which are things that are natural to them that they have done on their own. We just put them on a queue for positive reinforcement by handing them food every time they do an action."

Chisum has appreciated the role she serves as a trainer at

Baylor and views the ability to interact and spend time with bears as an incomparable experience, especially for a college student.

"One of the most impactful parts for me has been the reciprocated bond we receive from the bears," Chisum said. "There's a false impression that all we do is show up and make their bowls, but when we come to the habitat the bears will approach us and know our voices - when we walk in the morning their ears will perk up and you can see them stretching. The reciprocation is something I didn't expect, but it makes the bond so much more impactful. It's amazing to work with animals that many colleges kids may never be able to see."

### YOGA from Page 1

resonates even after decades out of the public eye.

"I think it is really cool that he wants to come back to Baylor and talk about such an important issue," Baytown junior Brooke Heckel said. "It seems so many people struggle with these kinds of problems today, but there isn't much education on solutions."

To register for the FitWell expo and see Steeleman's speech, you can sign up at www.baylor.edu/wellness. The expo will be held at the Foster Campus for Business and Innovation, and lunch will be included for the first 150 registrants.

### Baylor freshman wins against cancer

### **MORGAN HARLAN**

Staff Writer

On Jan. 25, 2018, Round Rock freshman Rylie York's life as a normal 18-year-old girl was turned upside down. York was diagnosed with stage four Hodgkin's Lymphoma, cancer that affects the part of the lymphatic system, during her senior year of high school.

"I was scared out of my mind to imagine losing my hair, stopping school in the middle of senior year, being able to come to Baylor, and chemotherapy," said York.

York chronicled her medical journey through frequently writing blog updates on her website, Rylie's Next Chapter. Through this online platform York has touched many lives, as she aims to spread her message of faith through her blog posts. During her difficult time of cancer treatment, York found her faith as a root through her cancer journey. York has written 23 blog posts in total.

"Ultimately, my reason for starting my blog, and the reason I feel so passionate about sharing my story is the unwavering sense of peace and support I felt from the Lord just hours after I found out I had cancer," said York.

In May 2018, York was declared cancer free and finished her final round of radiation. On Aug. 12, just days before York moved to Waco to start her freshman year, doctors found a cancerous lymph node. She was once again diagnosed with Hodgkin's. York began chemotherapy during the second week of classes and traveled to Texas Children's Hospital in Houston on Fridays of the 2018 fall semester.

Jillian Dunbar, a Houston freshman, is one of York's closest friends at Baylor and has been moved by York's perseverance.

"I honestly have no idea how she managed chemotherapy, adjusting to college life, and taking college courses," said Dunbar. "The only explanation is that she is dedicated to everything she does, she loves life, and firmly relies on the The Lord for strength."

"A seed was planted the first day I stepped foot onto Baylor University's campus as a college freshman. Cancer seems like nothing when I stop and take a moment on a daily basis to thank god that I am even standing on Baylor soil. Every day that I get walk in the shadow of Pat Neff is a day that brings praise to my god. Every day that I get to attend class is a day that brings praise to my god. Every day that I wake up to the sun or rain outside my dorm window is a day that brings praise to my god," wrote York in her latest post, "Cancer and College," on Rylie's Next Chapter.

Not only has York's faith played a major role in her journey, but also her time at Baylor has been a driving force in her courage.

"Baylor has been my light through all of these trials and I could not be happier to be here on campus around individuals that love and support me," said

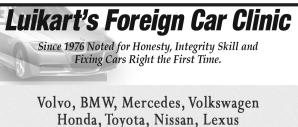


Morgan Harlan | Staff Writer

**LYMPHOMA** Round Rock freshman Riley York's life was turned upside down when she was diagnosed with stage four cancer. She has been cancer free since mid-October.

#### York.

York was announced cancer free once again in mid-October and then finished her chemotherapy through the end of November. She spent all of her Christmas break in Houston to finish radiation, and then came back to Baylor for Panhellenic's formal recruitment.



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# arts &life

BAYLORLARIAT.COM

### THE BIG LEAGUES

Check out two Baylor alumni who've made it big in the film industry.

pg. 6



WHAT TO DO Find out where to be and when this week in Waco

pg. 6

## **66** It gives people a positive role model in the rap game to look up to."

Kenneth Hanson

A Cole day in January

### Students celebrate J. Cole's 34th birthday

LINDSEY REYNOLDS Reporter

1985 he arrived. In light of North Carolina-based rapper Jermaine Lamarr Cole's (J. Cole) 34th birthday on Tuesday, many have taken time to reflect on his influence upon the music industry and on the rap genre specifically.

J. Cole is a Grammy nominated rapper, songwriter and producer out of Fayetteville, N.C. His mixtape "The Come Up" gained him initial recognition when he released it in 2007. After signing to New York rapper Jay-Z's Roc Nation imprint in 2009, Cole released back-to-back mixtapes "The Warm Up" and "Friday Night Lights." The two tapes attracted the attention of the music industry and foreshadowed a career that would demand the respect of his peers and predecessors alike.

During the arrangement of "The Come Up," Cole decided to branch out from Roc Nation in order to start his own record label, Dreamville Records. His succeeding albums over the years have been certified platinum and have topped the charts of Billboard's 200. He has also had numerous Grammy nominations for his classic sound, convicting lyrics and timeless compositions.

Themes of social injustice are woven throughout his ballads. His most recent album "K.O.D." (Kill Our Demons), released in the spring of 2018, speaks about the manifestations of addiction and substance abuse. Despite the heaviness of the album, Cole's words uplifted his audiences by encouraging them to forsake the mindset that perpetuates the glamorization of drugs and addiction. In a genre that predominantly glorifies drug use, Cole's album deviated from the norm and spoke against what other musicians have chosen to idolize through their music.

Fort Worth senior Kennedy Franklin, grew up in the music industry due to the success of her father, the legendary gospel singer, songwriter and producer Kirk Franklin.

In a conversation Kennedy Franklin had with her dad, he noted that J. Cole consistently sells out his tours and concerts, which is a feat only accomplished by the greats in the music industry. Kirk Franklin said most of the time J. Cole's shows only include him, a stool and a microphone—no antics, fancy lights or background dancers.

"He (Cole) doesn't rap about nonsense, not about going to the club and spending money, and he doesn't talk about women in a demeaning way," Kennedy Franklin said. "He talks about real stuff. He is an influential person, and he knows that. That's why I think he talks about real things in his songs."

Cole's lyrics and stage presence aren't the only things that separate him from his fellow artists. His ambition extended beyond his music into his academic endeavors.

Pocahontas, Ark. senior Kenneth Hanson, a fellow rapper and audio engineer, said he admires J. Cole's low-key temperament and incredibly refined word play.

"What makes J. Cole different is that he pushed himself educationally," Hanson said. "He attended and graduated from St. John's University magna cum

laude. He is a very smart man and I think that shows in his wordplay and in his lyricism."

Cole is a persistent advocate of bringing better education to at-risk youth. He has rapped many times about his taxes funding bills and initiatives that do not align with his own beliefs, and how he would rather his tax money provide for better schools in urban cities with high crime rates.

In 2011, as an extension of his record label, Cole founded a nonprofit called The Dreamville Foundation. Through this organization, the community of Fayetteville is able to help the youth of Cole's hometown through book clubs, workshops, fundraisers and other events. The foundation's mission is to motivate kids to "dream, believe, and achieve."

"I want to start the process of showing them there are other options besides what's on the screen," Cole says in his mission statement. "They don't have to be a rapper or an athlete; there are people who manage the rappers, who book the shows. There are so many jobs you can do; this is about expanding their minds to those possibilities.

With one foot in a toxic industry and another grounded by the roots of his community, Cole's ability to relate to a diversified audience is what stretches his influence beyond the hip hop genre and validates the longevity of that very influence.

"He makes a lot of quotes about how it's not about money and it's not about the fame," Hanson said. "It's about the people you surround yourself with. Hearing that from someone who's so successful, I think it's really respectable. It gives people a positive role model in the rap game to look up to."

Photo courtesy of Dreamville Records CHANGING THE GAME J. Cole has had a massive influence on the genre of rap since his start in the industry in 2007, spreading redemptive messages through his music.

### There's no way it's been 10 years!

On April 11, 2009, Susan Boyle gained instant fame when she took to the stage of hit TV series "Britain's Got Talent" and sang her rendition of "I Dreamed a Dream from "Les Miserables.

On Sept. 13, 2009, Kanye West shocked the world when he interrupted Taylor Swift's MTV Video Music Award acceptance speech. West took Swift's microphone and said, "Yo Taylor, I'm really happy for you. Imma let you finish, but Beyoncé had one of the best music videos of all time."

On May 18, 2009, Justin Bieber released his first hit single "One Time." The song launched Bieber into the spotlight. Since then, he has had 14 songs on the top 10 Billboard Hot 100 rankings. On June 25, 2009, Michael Jackson, also known as the King of Pop died in his home in Holmby Hills in Los Angeles. More that 31 million people tuned in to watch the iconic pop star's funeral.

### Famed Baylor alumni visit campus to discuss film industry experience

### **THOMAS MORAN**

Arts and Life Editor

Two Baylor graduates involved in film and television, Derek Haas, '91, and John Lee Hancock, '79, visited campus Friday afternoon to share their experiences in the film industry and offer advice to student seeking to pursue careers in the field. Haas, writer and producer of hit television series "Chicago Fire," spoke alongside Hancock, a writer and director who earned fame through blockbusters like "The Blind Side" and "Saving Mr. Banks." The duo discussed everything from their beginnings as creatives to the more nuanced elements of working in film.

Haas, an Austin native, reflected on his desire to create, which started from a very young age. Despite their more conservative values and parenting techniques, his parents noted his aptitude for reading and writing and allowed him to read more mature novels from around that age.

"When I was 10 years old, I asked for typewriter for Christmas," Haas said. "I was reading Stephen King books by 9 and 10 years old."

Fortunately, Haas also had teachers supporting his creative side. His English teacher would allow him to use class time to work on his book, rather than participating in class activities.

"I wrote an 80-page story called 'The Gnome' because I had read 'The Hobbit' that year," Haas said.

Quickly, his passion for writing expanded into amateur filmmaking. Haas recollected one of his earliest film projects. After being asked to produce a video for the Students Against Drunk Driving club at his high school, Haas visited the local Sears and borrowed some mannequins, which, along with plenty of fake blood, were used as fake carnage in the video.

Soon after completing his graduate degree from Baylor

in '95, Haas set off to Los Angeles in pursuit of his dream to become a writer and director, following in the footsteps of Hancock who had already gained celebrity, particularly among Baylor students. "Chicago Fire" premiered in 2012 and the show is now in its seventh season.

Day to day, Haas is involved with everything from casting to filming. However, his real passion has stayed the same all these years.

"I really really love writing more than any other part of the business," Haas said. "There will always be something magical about sitting on a set, but the blank page is still awesome."

If his day doesn't allow any time for writing, Haas makes time by waking up earlier to work on his projects.

After his time working as a lawyer, Hancock finally gave into his deeper desire and moved to L.A. in hopes of making it in the film industry. He described how the business has changed since he was a young ambitious writer, new to the industry.

"It was very much about getting face to face with people and handing a script," Hancock said. "I think it's harder to break into the industry today than it was then when I broke in."

After an agent picked him up as a pocket client, Hancock submitted a script to her which she sent out to a few producers. A few days later, he had five producers calling to set up meeting to talk about his script. Since then, Hancock has written, produced and directed countless project across a variety of genres.

Having earned renown, Hancock and Haas shared the bits of advice they wish they'd known as Baylor students, soon to enter the industry.

"What I would tell myself when I was freshman at Baylor would be follow your bliss," Hancock said. "The thing that fills you up and gives you joy. Follow that. Relax and keep your eyes open. The rest will either work out or it won't."



Shae Koharski | Multimedia Journalist ON FIRE Baylor graduates John Lee Hancock, director of "The Blind Side" and Derek Haas, creator of "Chicago P.D.," visited campus Friday afternoon to speak with students and faculty about their successful careers in the film industry.



Arts & Life —

#### **Tuesdav**

Open mic night at The Backyard | Backyard Bar stage & Grill | 8 - 9 p.m. | Free

McLennan County Jr. Livestock Show | Extraco Events Center | 8 a.m.

Very Eric Carle | Mayborn Museum Complex | 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Come see the new exhibit exploring the works of Eric Carle, author of "The Very Hungry Caterpillar."

The Neoclassical Gaze | Martin Museum of Art | 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. | Come see the new exhibit exploring engravings of ancient Roman and Greek sculpture.

### Wednesday

Therapy Dogs | 6:30 - 8 p.m. | Beauchamp Addiction Recovery Center | Stop by the BARC to de-stress with dogs from Angel Paws.

Open mic night at Common Grounds 8 - 10 p.m. | The coffee shop will host its weekly open mic night with slots given on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Neoclassical Gaze | Martin Museum of Art | 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

### Thursday

Lyceum Series: Lecture with Lee Anne Myslewski | Roxy Grove Hall | 5 p.m. | This is the newest installment in the series of talks and performances given by musical authorities.



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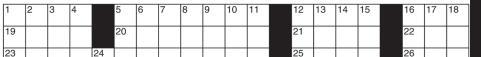
IS IT A COOKIE CUTTER?

IF Y00

SAY SO

### **PREMIER** Crossword

By Frank A. Longo



### Sherman's Lagoon

### By: Jim Toomey



### **RIDDLE ME THIS**

OH. SHERMAN.

HOW SWEET

A woman is found dead in the street with a bug on her.

### How did she die?

Check the Lariat Instagram story tomorrow for the answer!

### Assisi

12 Blind as

ACROSS

16 Run- (rap trio) 19 At the crest

1 Tostada relative

- 20 Clung
- 21 "Ticklish" doll
- 22 Prefix with
- 53-Across 23 Result of an error in
- DNA replication
- Enuff" (1986 top 25 10 hit)
- 26 Pantry pest
- 27 Put back to 000, perhaps 28 "You Needed Me"
- singer
- 31 Hit song whose title means "kiss me a lot"
- 37 Klutzy guy
- 38 Dogma 39 Burden
- 40 Commas indicate
- them 42 Vientiane native
- 46 "I'm cold!"
- 47 Reactions to baby pictures
- **50** Tree cultivated to feed silkworms
- 52 "Pshaw!"
- 53 Stylishness
- 55 Instant, in some product names
- 56 Guinea-(African country)
- 57 Month no. 10
- 58 Giant statues
- 61 T.Sgts., e.g.
- 63 Edible fungus cultivated
- in felled logs 67 Spanish muralist Joan
- 71 Acorns, e.g.72 Notion, to Gigi
- and bred
- 74 Beelzebub
- **75** Bygone U.S. gas name **76** Output of R.E.M. or
- Nirvana
- 79 R&B great Marvin
- 80 Hematite, for one
- 81 Hex- ending
- 82 Crop further
- 86 "Hang on –
- 90 Former JFK carrier
- may be
- 95 Ukr., Est. or Lith., once
- 96 "Kewl!"

- 101 Wallach of "Article 99"
- 102 Get mellower
- 104 "Beverly Hills Cop" star
- **108** "Runaway" short-story
- writer

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- 112 Really love
- 113 Perlman of "Hellboy'
- 114 Fancy affair
- 115 Statement about the bird hidden in nine answers in
- this puzzle 122 Detroit-to-Toronto dir.

4 "Carmen" and "Elektra"

"--- sleeping dogs lie"

9 D-backs, on scoreboards

**12** Big name in life insurance

13 Police officers' sickout

14 Letters on a radio switch

**16** Quaint formal letter opener

5 "- me?" ("Whadja say?")

- 123 Pindar works
- 124 Fitness pioneer Jack
- 125 Roof edge
- 126 Equine beast
- 127 Cager Curry
- 128 Triumph **129** Swab in a makeup kit

6 Tribal figure

to a Brit

10 Vintage car

15 Vegan staple

11 Novelist Ferber

7 Talk to flirtatiously

3 Scam

#### DOWN

- 1 Gift stick-on 2 Swallowed
- 89 Spyro (jazz band)
- 91 What a "discovery center"

- 97 Chicago's business district
- 98 Wrote
- 100 "Qué --?" (Spanish
- greeting)

29 Edged (out) 30 Ceremonial routines 31 "Cabaret" director 32 Embellishes 33 Pledges

70 Every 24 hours

76 Big name in transmission

77 Christians' — Creed

79 Pop singer Vannelli

84 Telephone connections

93 German linking word

99 Senator Feinstein

100 What trig often is for

74 Lipstick slip

repair

78 Bungles

83 Tiers

87

82 Trio after Q

85 Antique item

"Terrific!"

88 Dialect suffix

92 Shoulder frill

103 Grind, as teeth

**107** Ending for press

105 Sites of bliss

106 Game plays

94 Dr.'s study

calc

108 Locality

109 Big heads

110 Constructed

116 T, in Greece

117 Hybrid bus. entity

**111** Lubricates

**118** Fond du

120 Roman 56

121 "Uh-huh'

119 Portly

- 34 Raven's cry 35 "How's that?"
- 36 Egyptian god of the dead
- 41 Summer, in Brittany

17 1961-68 defense secretary

18 Competitor of Chanel

24 Org. dues-payer

Robert

- 43 "Tuesdays With Morrie"
- author Mitch
- 44 Kobe sashes
- 45 Big Apple sch.

with "in"

59 Pal of Hook

64 Bridal vow

66

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60 Litigious sort

- 47 Nos. on bank statements
- 48 "Slow down!" 49 In a smooth, lustrous way 51 Studying secondarily,

54 Mixed college squad

62 Truck processions

- -Rooter

downpour

65 Relative of an I-beam

67 Egyptian — (cat breed)

68 "Don't fall for that!"

69 Stuff swept away in a





### **RIVALRY WEEK >>** Baylor men's basketball hosts TCU on Saturday. Stay up to date at

BaylorLariat.com



Lariat File Photo

**RISE UP** Baylor senior guard Chloe Jackson glides in for the layup against Southern on Nov. 15 at the Ferrell Center. The Lady Bears moved up to No. 1 in the Associated Press Top 25 for the first time since March 18, 2013. Baylor is 17-1 on the season and 7-0 in Big 12 Conference play.

### Lady Bears climb to No. 1 ranking

#### BEN EVERETT Sports Editor

The Associated Press Top 25 named Baylor women's basketball the No. 1 team in the country in a poll released Monday.

This is the 40th week in which the Lady Bears have been ranked No. 1 and the first time since March 18, 2013. On Sunday, Baylor picked up a 74-53 win over Oklahoma in Norman Okla, while there No. 1 Notro Doma full 78, 73 to North

Norman, Okla., while then-No. 1 Notre Dame fell 78-73 to North Carolina, propelling the Lady Bears to the No. 1 spot.

Baylor received 695 total points in this week's poll, 25 more than No. 2 UConn. The Lady Bears garnered 24 of 28 first-place votes while the Huskies and Louisville each received two. It doesn't win a championship for you, it just puts a bigger target on your back. ... Our big focus is winning another Big 12 championship." been ranked No. 1. I don't think it will change anything about the kids in the locker room. I don't think it will change anything about our practices. Our focus right now is Oklahoma State and our big focus is winning another Big 12 championship."

Baylor is 17-1 on the season with the lone loss coming on the road to No. 8 Stanford on Dec. 15. The Lady Bears are 7-0 in Big 12 Conference play, with an average margin of victory of 21.4 points.

On Jan. 3, Baylor defeated then-No. 1 UConn 68-57 at the Ferrell Center to snap the Huskies' 126 game regular season winning streak.

In addition to the upset of UConn, the Lady Bears have defeated ranked teams such as Arizona State, South Carolina and Iowa State, amassing a 4-1 record against teams in the AP Top 25. Baylor has been ranked in the AP Top 25 for 291 consecutive weeks, second only to UConn. Additionally, the Lady Bears have been in the Top 10 of the poll for 84 straight weeks, good for third best in the country.

Baylor head coach Kim Mulkey said that while the ranking brings media attention to the program, it won't mean anything if the Lady Bears don't continue to win.

"Anything that's considered positive for our program and Baylor, we welcome," Mulkey said. "But, really, what does it mean? It doesn't mean anything. It doesn't win a championship for you; it just puts a bigger target on your back. It's not the first time we've

#### KIM MULKEY | HEAD COACH

Baylor looks to extend its win streak to 10 when it faces Oklahoma State at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Stillwater, Okla.



Associated Press

**THROUGH CONTACT** Baylor junior forward Freddie Gillespie goes up for a layup against Oklahoma on Monday in Norman, Okla. Gillespie scored eight points in the Bears' 77-47 win over the Sooners. The Bears have now won five straight games and will face TCU at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Ferrell Center.

### Bears rout Sooners for fifth straight win

#### **DJ RAMIREZ** Sports Writer

The Baylor men's basketball team extended its winning streak to five with a dominating 77-47 win over the Oklahoma Sooners Monday in Norman, Okla. It was a complete team victory for the Bears as every player to hit the court scored.

The Bears got to another quick start with a strong defense in the paint, turning nine turnovers into 12 points in the first half. They shot 57.1 percent from the floor and 44.4 percent from 3-point range.

Baylor ended the half with an 18-point lead over the Sooners. Baylor head coach Scott Drew said forcing turnovers was a key to the Bears' success.

"In our offense, everybody touches the ball and handles it, passes it, so it's really a team effort. You look at West Virginia, we had two turnovers first half, which was tremendous," Drew said. "Last game, we had eight, and with Oklahoma, they switch a lot. They're aggressive in the passing lanes. They try to keep the ball on the side and that contributes to you turning the ball over."

Oklahoma attempted to rally in the second half by going on some runs to close the lead to 17. Baylor stole its momentum back to take control of the game, extending the lead to 26 with 3:37 left in the game on a dunk from junior guard Devonte Bandoo, assisted by senior guard Makai Mason, making the score 67-43 in favor of the Bears.

Junior guards Darius Allen and Obim Okeke entered the game late to seal the win with the final 10 points.

Junior forward Freddie Gillespie kept up his physical game with seven rebounds and eight points, six of which were assisted. The Bears ended the night with a total of 17 assists in the game.

Mason extended his hot streak to 12 games with points in the double digits. After being named Big 12 Newcomer of the Week, Mason continues to step up for the Bears.

The Bears will return home to face the TCU Horned Frogs at 7 p.m. Saturday. The last time the Bears played TCU, they suffered an 85-81 loss. Drew said that they will start preparing for the rematch against TCU once they return from Oklahoma.

"That's the great thing about playing everyone twice," Drew said. "You can take the things that worked, that were successful and hopefully have more of that, and then the things that didn't work, you know you need to come up with a different game plan or different idea, and that's what's exciting as a coach."

### Women's Basketball Weekend Brief

### Lady Bears thrash Sooners for ninth straight victory

#### JESSIKA HARKAY Sports Writer

No. 1-ranked Baylor women's basketball defeated the Oklahoma Sooners 74-53 on Sunday afternoon in Norman, Okla., to advance to 17-1.

Baylor began the game with a turnover, putting Oklahoma on top early. A consistent back-and-forth scoring battle saw the Lady Bears hold a 20-13 lead going into the second quarter.

Due to the growing number of turnovers and missed shots in the mid-second quarter, the Sooners began to lose momentum and were unable to get a constant offensive going, going into the half down 38-25.

Baylor junior guard Juicy Landrum and Oklahoma freshman guard Taylor Robinson led their respective teams into the second half, both scoring nine points. Only down by 13 in the third quarter, there was still hope for the Sooners to catch up and pull off an upset against the Lady Bears.

In the fourth quarter, Baylor led 59-37 until Landrum gave a short-lived spark with three straight buckets to bring the Lady Bears to 71-45 — giving Baylor the last edge they needed for the win.

With the Lady Bears scoring an average of 18.5 points per quarter compared to Oklahoma's 13.3, Baylor's offense outplayed the Sooners' defense. In the second half, the Lady Bears led the Sooners in field goal percentage 41 to 25.

Nearly half of Baylor's 36 second-half points came from Oklahoma turnovers. A notable point of momentum also came from the Lady Bears being able to capitalize on offensive rebounds 23-9 against the Sooners.

Led by junior forward Lauren Cox, the Lady Bears had 50 rebounds while the Sooners had 32. Giving Baylor an opportunity to handle the ball more through their success in rebounds, nearly a third of the Lady Bears' points came from second-chance points. Likewise, Baylor capitalized on assists (21) compared to Oklahoma (7).

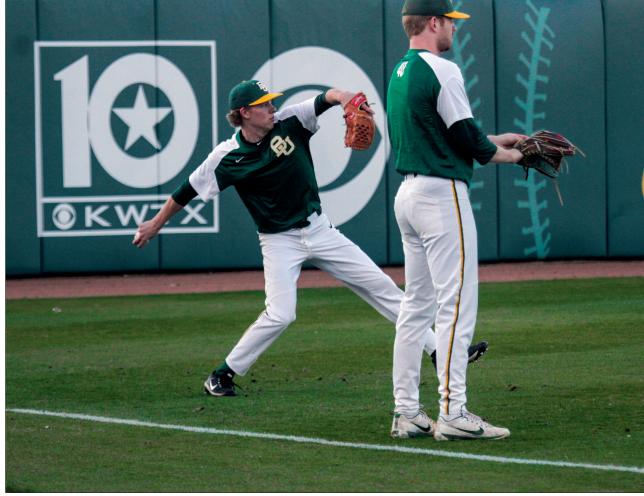
The Lady Bears next play Oklahoma State at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Stillwater, Okla.

### Sports Schedule

### Women's Basketball @ Oklahoma State

Wednesday, 7 p.m. Stillwater, Okla.

### Men's Tennis vs. South Florida



Shae Koharski | Multimedia Journalist

Sports ——

**FIRST PRACTICE OF THE YEAR** Baylor freshman pitcher Branson Wilson warms up his arm at the Bears' first official practice of the 2019 season Friday at Baylor Ballpark. Wilson is one of 10 newcomers to the team.

### Friendly competition abounds as Bears figure out their new roster

#### **DJ RAMIREZ** Sports Writer

Baseball season starts on Feb. 15 and the Baylor baseball team hit the field on Friday afternoon for the first official practice of the year. Even though the Bears have been preparing since August, senior outfielder Richard Cunningham said the start of a new season is something special.

"If you don't get excited about today, then we have to check your pulse," Cunningham said.

Baylor returns their entire starting lineup to the field, as well as their starting weekend rotation, but with seven freshmen and three transfers, there will be plenty of competition for playing time. Head coach Steve Rodriguez said he believes the competition will only drive his players to improve.

"I think there's competition for everybody, which is great, even for our returning guys," Rodriguez said. "Regardless if you have played a lot in the past, I think everybody is still fighting for a spot and to create their own niche."

With the departure of a veteran bullpen,

appeared in 25 games in the 2018 season, holding opponents to a career-best .185 batting average. Leckich had 10 scoreless outings and 11 appearances with one hit or

There's competition for everyone. ... Regardless if you have played a lot in the past, I think everybody is still fighting for a spot and to create their own niche." He's one of our best arms. He's a very talented athlete," Rodriguez said. "I just think as coaches we have to do our job making sure that we don't kind of overshoot all the bullets at once. We got to make sure we take care of him as a player, and his arm and health, and so we're going to use him sparingly when we have to, but still be able to maximize his talent."

The starting rotation will see junior left hander and reigning Big 12 Pitcher of the Year Cody Bradford back in his usual Friday spot while junior Hayden Kettler will return as the Saturday starter and sophomore Tyler Thomas will close it off on Sunday.

Returning to the lineup along with Loftin and Cunningham are junior catcher Shea Langeliers, junior first baseman Andy Thomas, senior second baseman Josh Bissonette, junior third baseman Davis Wendzel, sophomore outfielder Davion Downey and senior outfielders Cole Haring and T.J. Raguse. It's a lineup with a lot of impact, which according to Cunningham, only "fuels competition."

"What's exciting is if one of those youngsters or JUCO guys, or new guys, cracks the lineup that means we're going to be really good because they replaced a really good ballplayer," Cunningham said.

Friday, 6 p.m. Hawkins Indoor Tennis Center

### Women's Basketball vs. Texas Tech Saturday, 1 p.m.

Ferrell Center

### Men's Basketball vs. TCU

Saturday, 7 p.m. Ferrell Center which was composed of senior relievers Alex Phillips, Drew Robertson, Joe Heineman and closer Troy Montemayor, the question remains as to who will replace them.

The Bears have a lot of strong options as most of the newcomers are pitchers, including junior transfers Logan Freeman and Paul Dickens. Freeman made 11 starts in 14 appearances as a sophomore with the McLennan Highlanders and aided them in reaching the JUCO World Series as a freshman, while Dickens recorded 92 strikeouts in 65.1 innings pitched as a sophomore at Navarro Junior College.

Even with all the new arms that the team has acquired, that does not mean there is a lack of depth or experience in the pitching staff. Among some of the notable returning pitchers are senior right hander Kyle Hill and junior lefty Ryan Leckich. Hill

#### STEVE RODRIGUEZ | HEAD COACH

less allowed out of the 20 appearances he made as a sophomore.

Opponents could also see pitching from sophomore shortstop Nick Loftin, who is coming off an outstanding freshman campaign after receiving a unanimous Big 12 All-Freshman Team selection. Rodriguez said he thinks Loftin will make an appearance on the mound this season, but that it's important not to overuse his athletic ability.

"I think he will pitch some, absolutely.

The 2018 season saw the Bears win a Big 12 Championship Tournament for the first time in program history, which clinched their spot in the NCAA Stanford regional. For Langeliers, the only way to handle the expectations is for the Bears to go out and play their "best baseball every day."

"Everybody in the Big 12 knows who we are and know each individual player. They're going to have a little bit more of a better game plan on us this year but we're going to be ready for it obviously," Langeliers said. "We're definitely prepared. ... The road to Omaha started a long time ago."

The Bears open the season against Holy Cross at 6:35 p.m. Feb. 15 at Baylor Ballpark.

### **Big 12 conquers SEC 6-4**



Josh Aguirre | Multimedia Editor CONTESTED FLOATER Baylor senior guard Makai Mason goes up for a shot against Alabama on Saturday at the Ferrell Center. The Bears defeated the Crimson Tide 73-68 and the Big 12 defeated the SEC 6-4 in the SEC/Big 12 Challenge.

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