Baylor Lariat

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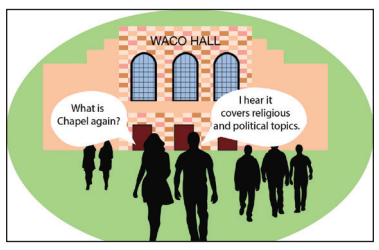
Tuesday, February 25, 2020 baylorlariat.com



Opinion | 2

Redefine Chapel's purpose

What should chapel provide?

A&L | 5

Pro octet to perform with Chamber singers

Concert Thursday

Sports | 7

Baylor still in contention after home loss

KU loss only slight roadblock

COVID-19 outbreak in Italy affects students abroad

MEREDITH PRATT
Staff Writer

Associated Press

OUTBREAK Italian soldiers wearing sanitary masks patrol Duomo square in downtown Milan, Italy, Monday. At least 190 people in Italy's north have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus and four people have died.

Over 200 COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in Italy, with six deaths, according to a report published Monday by the Italian health ministry.

Before Thursday, only three cases were reported. Now Italy possesses the largest outbreak outside of Asia.

The sudden increase in cases has led the Italian government to put several cities on lockdown, including Venice and Milan. Major league soccer matches have been postponed, museums closed, Milan Fashion Week runway shows were restricted and the famous Venice Carnival celebration was suspended.

Baylor students studying abroad have also been impacted by the recent closures and safety precautions.

Austin Junior Emmy Frigo is currently studying abroad in Bologna, Italy. Although she is not living in one of the quarantined cities, she said that she is still "nervous about the outbreak."

"Everyone here is very cautious," Frigo said. "It's stressful."

Frigo said her classes are being canceled on a week-by-week basis and her exchange student orientation has been postponed until further notice.

"I avoid being close to people and I'm very aware of people coughing and sneezing," Frigo said. "I keep reminding myself it's a lot like the flu and that I'm lucky to be younger and healthy so I'm less likely to be affected by the outbreak."

Frigo said that locally "people are buying all the masks, thermometers and pasta they can."

Many Italian supermarkets are experiencing a large influx in customers. An article in the New York Times said that one supermarket in Milan ran out of fruit, vegetables, meat and nearly all canned food.

Waco Junior Kate Moffatt is studying abroad in London but was visiting Italy when the news broke about the spike in coronavirus cases. She said when she landed in the Perugia Airport the workers were "wearing masks and full suits."

"They scanned our forehead with a thermometer," Moffatt said, but clarified that "every single person made it through."

Moffatt said she was not initially worried about the outbreak.

"As time went on, I began to realize how much contact I have with strangers just by using public transportation," Moffatt said. "Then it started worrying me enough to where I'm more cautious about washing my hands and paying attention to who seems sick near me."

Southlake junior Lauren Clay is based in Paris but made a recent trip to Italy during the spring break of her study abroad trip. She flew to Palermo in Sicily, located in southern Italy.

Like Moffatt, Clay had her temperature checked by workers in medical suits upon her arrival.

"Whether Paris or Italy or Spain, the locals don't really bat an eye," Clay said. "The tourists however, especially those from Asia and America, have a tendency to wear masks and even gloves. The largest concentration of people wearing masks is at the airport and on the plane."

Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte has been vocal about his shock regarding the recent increase in coronavirus cases, but said in an interview "worry is understandable. Panic: no."

Baylor pre-med committee guides students in medical school applications

PRANAY MALEMPATI
Sports Writer

Each fall, over 3,000 freshman come to Baylor and begin their undergraduate career. Of those students, approximately 800 to 900 start on the pre-med track and plan to go to medical school after they graduate.

The first step for students is to take a class during their freshman year called "Foundations of Medicine," which shows them the basics of what going into the medical field entails.

Dr. Richard Sanker, director of prehealth studies, said the committee wants to make sure that students are the ones making final decisions about their future.

"What we want to do is make sure the students know it is their decision to pursue, that it is not a decision that anybody else should make for them," Sanker said. "We help them explore what it takes to become a physician, what the journey is that they're about to pursue. [We help them] understand what the professional schools and the medical profession will be seeking from them once they join that profession."

Jane Lin, assistant director of prehealth studies, said after students take their pre-requisite courses, they enter a process with the pre-med committee. Lin said the committee evaluates the students' application and creates a packet for them, with a recommendation letter, that they can submit to medical schools.

"Most people start the committee process in the fall semester of their junior year," Lin said. "In the spring semester, they will be interviewed by a committee member. We will have a committee evaluation meeting in April. In May, we will put their committee letter together."

Lin said that approximately 250 students start the committee process and about 200 complete the process. She said after that, students decide to take a gap year and about 150 end up attending medical school the next fall.

Sanker said the reason a lot of students drop out of the pre-med track is not necessarily because they are not

MEDICAL >> Page 4

LA pays final tribute to Kobe and Gianna Bryant

VIVIAN ROACH
Staff Writer

Associated Press

HONORING A LEGEND Shaquille O'Neal speaks during a celebration of life for Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gianna on Monday in Los Angeles.

Family members, basketball legends, celebrities and fans all gathered for Kobe and Gianna "Gigi" Bryant's public celebration of life held on Monday morning in Los Angeles.

Thousands filled the home of the Lakers, the Staples Center, to capacity for the basketball legend and his daughter who died in a helicopter crash on their way to a youth basketball tournament last month. Vanessa Bryant, Kobe Bryant's widow, made her first appearance since the tragedy. Bryant thanked the audience for their condolences and honored both her daughter and husband with a heartfelt tribute speech.

Following in the footsteps of her father, Bryant said of her daughter's potential, "Gigi would have most likely become the best player in the WNBA."

After watching Bryant's tribute speech, Houston sophomore Grace Kosley said she could hardly take it.

"I thought the worst was over with Gigi's part, but I seriously couldn't keep watching through Kobe's, I feel so much for the Bryant family," she said.

Kobe Bryant made a significant impact on several people's basketball careers: "white mamba" Diana Tualasi, Oregon basketball player Sabrina Ionescu, University of Connecticut women's basketball coach Geno Auriemma, the Lakers general manager, Rob Pelinka who worked alongside Bryant, who all spoke at the event. Even his biggest role models and adversaries, former basketball players Michael Jordan and Shaquille O'Neal praised Bryant on his commitment to always working to be a better basketball player, friend, father and husband.

With tears in his eyes, Jordan said how he wanted to be the best big brother to Bryant as he got to know him.

Houston sophomore Luke Richards said he didn't believe it was true when he heard about Bryant's death. "He was a huge part of the sports world even though a lot of people didn't like him because he was so good, he was respected. He's a great example of work ethic and competitiveness," he said.

"It's rare when you can grow up and have conversations with adversaries," Michael Jordan said. He remembered the first thing Kobe asked when they met was if he had his shoes. "I wasn't thinking about playing, but he had this attitude to compete against someone better than him, to learn and get better, you rarely see someone who is looking and trying to improve each and every day. I am inspired by what he has done and shared with Vanessa and his kids."

Artists Beyoncé, Alicia Keys and Christina Aguilera performed in tribute to the father and daughter at the celebration of life.

As a final tribute to Kobe Bryant's legacy and interest in the film industry, "Dear Basketball," Kobe Bryant's Oscar award-winning short film was played to conclude the celebration.

Ticket sale proceeds benefited the Mamba and Mambacita Sport Foundation for youth athletics, to continue support toward both Kobe and Gianna's legacy in youth sports.

Basketball legend, black mamba, Oscar award winner, author, "greatest-of-all-time" Kobe Bryant (1978-2020), and Gianna Bryant (2006-2020) were remembered by many who knew them; along with the seven others on board, John Altobelli, wife Keri and daughter Alyssa Christina Mauser, Sarah Chester, daughter Payton and pilot Ara Zobayan.

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opinion

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EDITORIAL

Redefine the purpose of Chapel

Controversy ensued in response to Feb. 12 Chapel speaker Kaitlin Curtice, an author and citizen of the Potawatomi Nation, as some students felt that she was pushing a liberal agenda, while other students believed she was only expressing her Christian views in a different way than most Baylor students would be used to.

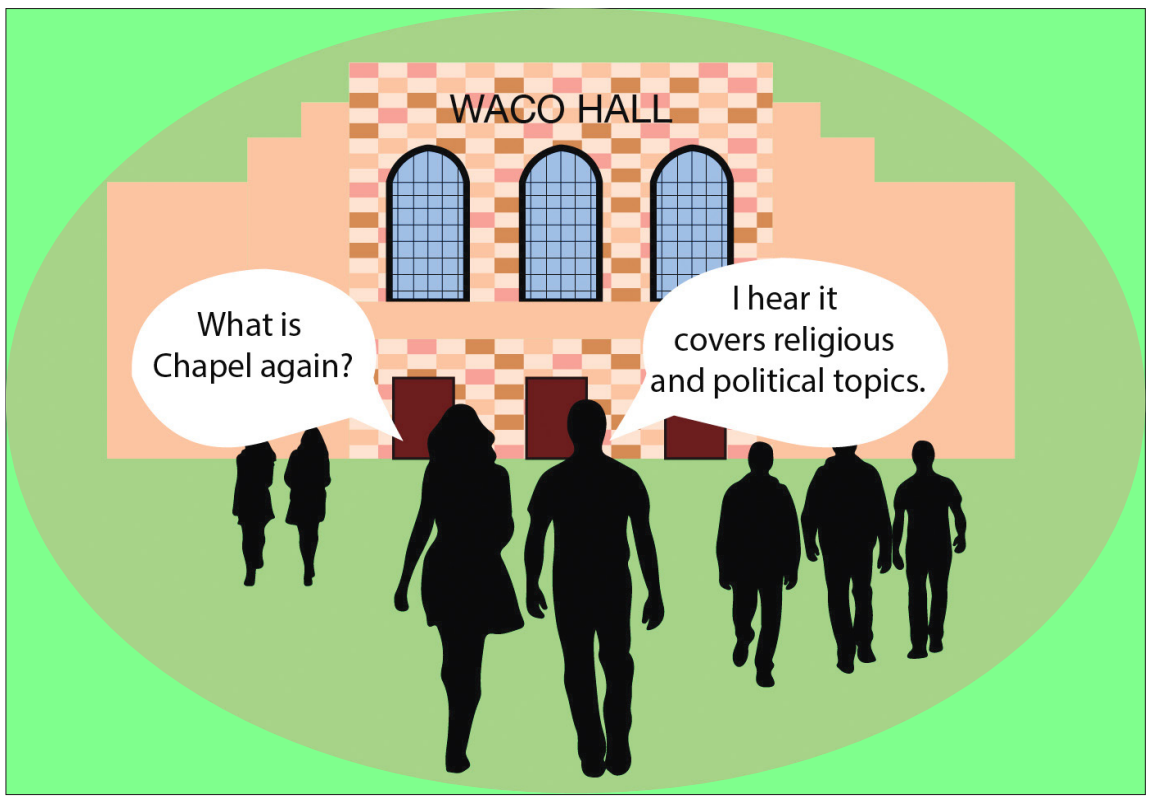
Conflict carried onto Twitter with a variety of complaints from students and even parents, one of whom even called The Lariat personally and asked if divisive speakers like this are the norm at Baylor.

The reactions to Curtice revealed discrepancies in what the Baylor community believes is appropriate for Chapel.

Chapel has been a longstanding Baylor tradition for years— since 1845, Baylor has brought students together to listen to religious leaders, theologians, worship leaders and other individuals who give a faith-based presentation.

It's a time for students to fully engage in the presentation in front of them, and talking with neighbors or being on your phone is prohibited. Chapel is also a university requirement—in order to graduate, Baylor students must attend and receive credit for two semesters of Chapel.

Regarding Curtice, Baylor put out a statement referencing that "on occasion, a speaker may veer away from our understanding of the message they planned to convey," yet Curtice said Chapel leaders knew exactly what she was speaking about.



Hannah Holliday | Cartoonist

No matter how one may view the situation, the true issue lies not in whether you agree or disagree with Curtice, but rather in what the purpose of Chapel is actually supposed to be.

The Chapel website says that the service is a time for students "to come together to focus on both the God who made them and the universe in which they live" and that speakers are "people who excel at what they do as an expression of their commitment to Christ" and are meant to "enhance the lives of the Baylor Community."

An issue with statements like these are that they muddle the real purpose of Chapel by including an overly broad definition. Right now, Chapel is at a standstill, with students questioning whether the service's purpose is to further instill and educate on the Baptist mission, or to inform students of a variety of faith-related viewpoints, even ones that may be different from typical Baptist ways of worship.

Considering these two different possible definitions, controversy in Chapel is often a result of questioning what the tradition's real purpose is. If Chapel is meant to steer students solely toward learning more about Baptist doctrine, then students could see Curtice's presentation as overly political and incorrect Baptist worship. If Chapel is meant to be open and informative, however, Curtice's speech can be seen as a different viewpoint and an interesting topic of conversation.

When students are unsure which way to view Chapel, a speaker can quickly become controversial when anything they say remotely coincides with Baptist viewpoints. Whether Chapel is meant to be strictly Baptist or an opportunity to learn about different Christian ways of thought determines student reaction.

Either way, Chapel needs a clearer definition—although it is a longstanding tradition and Baylor is a Baptist university, the service has likely progressed in some ways since 1845 and the definition should continually be adjusted to include this.

Chapel is a worthwhile way for students to learn, but how and what students should be learning needs to be more clearly defined to avoid more conflict bred from ambiguity.

COLUMN

Multicultural Greek organizations deserve own recruitment week

JESSIKA HARKAY
Reporter

I never understood what it meant to be a minority until I branched out from home and found myself at a university where only 14% of students identified as Latinos.

My first year at Baylor, I genuinely struggled finding common ground with others. Not so much because I looked different than most of my peers in the classroom, but a feeling that I grew up a different way, listened to different music, knew a different language and it almost felt I didn't have a grounding here with people who understood that side of me.

I began exploring different options to find my space at a university where everyone around me seemed to have found a type of community for them. Something that instrumentally shaped my mark on this campus was deciding to join a Multicultural Greek Council organization: Kappa Delta Chi Sorority Inc.

It made me understand why so many ethnic groups on campus stick near one another when I finally found an organization that would understand little things, especially relating to my culture and having an immigrant parent.

This sense of grounding inspired me to dig deeper if other students of color felt a similar way, and to my surprise, they did. The more I talked to students, especially covering a black student mixer earlier in the month, I realized all of us have an inner struggle of finding our place and owning it.

As a minority student, something struck a chord in me to focus on multicultural affairs and tell our stories. The biggest thing was starting small and where I knew I had grounding — with Latina girls I knew may be facing the struggle that no one seems to talk about on a platform.

So when I became a recruiting chair and took girls out on rush dates, I made sure to always tell my story and let them know they had a place here, too.

The thing that shocked me, though, was the surprise that they could have a community at Baylor and the fact they didn't know outlets like Multicultural Greek Organizations (MGO) and National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC)existed for students of color.

Which got me to the question of recruiting and why multicultural sororities aren't participating in the weeklong rush Baylor Panhellenic sororities hold the week before the spring semester.

Erin Ellis, the interim assistant director of fraternity and sorority life, said a lot of it had to do with the different governing councils and their rules toward rushing, and not so much the university or differing groups.

"Each of these governing councils kind of answer to a higher or coordinate with a higher Governing Council. So our panel and council actually adhere to a lot of the policies and practices that the national panel and its conference sets in place and that's nationwide," Ellis said.

"MGC or NPHC would host recruitment events, they kind of make their own schedule. They do it very independently of the council. When they [Baylor Panhellenic sororities] do formal recruitment, it is very controlled from start to finish, from the timing of the events that they can have, to what kind of contact they can have with individuals. It's very regulated, and with MGC and NPHC sororities, that process is much less controlled and much more given to the chapters. You guys have a lot more ownership over that process and what it looks like for you."

Throughout her tenure at Baylor, Ellis said mixing all three council's recruitments together for similar exposure and opportunity has yet to be brought up to the councils.

"I don't know how that would work here, and not to say that it wouldn't work. I just think it's one of those things that, I don't know, that we've ever entertained," Ellis said.

"We are working on a vision for Greek life. And that one of those things is about celebrating diversity and how do we recognize and bring more exposure to our underrepresented groups? Even things like NPHC has this garden, but it feels sometimes like people just don't know about it, and so how can we kind of pull some of that attention in? Because you all have such a rich history and such rich literature and so how do we help the larger community of students see that?"

So instead of being angry and feeling divided, us students of color can bring up these concerns and create our space on campus, because maybe the idea has just never crossed others' minds.

As most MGO sororities' recruitment processes come to a close, we have to make our stand and speak up for equal opportunities on campus.

Jessika is a senior journalism major from Eagle, Colo.

National Pan-Hellenic Council and Multicultural Greek Organizations

Alpha Kappa Alpha
Alpha Kappa Delta Phi
Alpha Phi Alpha
Beta Kappa Gamma
Delta Epsilon Psi
Delta Kappa Delta
Gamma Alpha Omega
Kappa Delta Chi
Kappa Phi Gamma
Lambda Phi Epsilon
Multicultural Leadership Cabinet
National Pan-Hellenic Council
Omega Delta Phi
Phi Beta Sigma
Phi Iota Alpha
Sigma Iota Alpha
Zeta Phi Beta

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News

Photo courtesy of St. Peter Catholic Student Center

CHURCH HISTORY Catholic students first began the chartered organization that would one day be known as the St. Peter Catholic Student Center in the early 1950's.

Ash Wednesday events let Catholic students show faith

SARAH PINKERTON
Staff Writer

Fat Tuesday, Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent are all times of reflection for many Catholics.

As a reminder of the sacrifices of Christ, the Baylor Catholic Student Association will host Mass services and ash distribution throughout the day at Ellison Chapel and the St. Peter's Catholic Student Center on Wednesday.

These services will be in addition to their weekly rosary event at 9 p.m. on Mondays outside of 1845 at Memorial.

In collaboration with St. Peter's Catholic Student Center, the on-campus service for Ash Wednesday will include the liturgy of the Word with readings, a homily and the distribution of ashes.

There are set to be three Mass services with a distribution of ashes at 7:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. and a Latin Mass at 10:30 a.m. There will also be a distribution of ashes on campus at 9 a.m. in Elliston Chapel.

Denver junior Sophie Goodwin, president of the Catholic Student Association, said their intent is to reach out to Catholic students on campus who are not aware of St. Peter's. It is an opportunity to witness the Catholic community at Baylor and become integrated into that community.

"Every event that we do, my hope is always that people leave it feeling like they are connected with the other Catholics at Baylor and they have strong supports to live the faith out with," Goodwin said.

Typically, non-Catholic students will also attend the Ash Wednesday service.

"It's really cool when people who aren't Catholic come to our events because we really like exposing them to what Catholicism is, because there's a lot of misunderstandings too and so just being able to let people encounter what it really is," Goodwin said.

In addition, the weekly rosary event allows students an opportunity to gather together and pray with five to 15 other students, as a way to bring the Catholic faith to campus.

Waco junior and vice president Jordan Vanderpool said being a Catholic on Baylor's campus and attending these events has provided him an opportunity to delve deep into his own faith in order to answer the hard questions others may have.

"A lot of people aren't really familiar with Catholicism, so you'll immediately get people asking you questions about your faith," Vanderpool said. "You actually have to delve deep into the doctrines of the faith and what the faith means to you."

Vanderpool said for Catholic students, the Ash Wednesday service and season of Lent is a time to remember the sacrifices of Christ and get in the mood of "memento mori," the memory of death.

"Ash Wednesday, especially, is a great moment in the year when we are called to remember that we are made from ashes and to ashes we will return, and it causes us to really think through what our lives are, what we're made for and it's really humbling," Goodwin said. "That's a message that anyone, Catholic or not, can bring into their faith at any time."

Digital humanities lecture teaches to not fear failure

MATTHEW MUIR
Staff Writer

Showing a willingness to fail and to learn from failure is Dr. Kelani Craig's key to the unique study of digital humanities.

Craig, co-director of the Institute for Digital Arts and Humanities at Indiana University Bloomington, presented a lecture on digital humanities and the role failure plays in the field Monday afternoon in Moody Library.

Digital humanities exists at the crossroads of technology and liberal arts, and it draws from the strengths of both fields. The institute serves as the "hub" for humanities and digital arts at IU, and Craig said the department utilizes its blend by using "nerdy tools to explore humanities questions."

"We already [bring technical and humanities fields together] in our everyday lives; if you read email in your phone, you're already doing that," Craig said. "One of the things that we want to do is do it more critically, train more people how to do it and think more carefully about how to prepare people...to operate in a world where those two things are increasingly tied together."

In blending these disparate backgrounds, failure can be both frequent and inevitable. Craig said being willing to make mistakes and learn from them rather than trying to avoid them completely is a key to success.

"Technology surrounds us, and if you are going to use an iPhone or an Android, you need to understand how it works and be willing to engage with it," Craig said. "But it's also hard to do that because so many of us are brought up to think about technology as a problem. 'Oh, my computer crashed, I hate it when it does that. If I do this again it's going to crash again and I don't want to be a failure.' So, [we should be] training people...to think about failure as a metric of success."

Though we constantly blur the lines between the humanities and tech, applying it in academia is uncommon. This hybridization is rare, Craig said, because these interactions generally fly under the radar.

"It's transparent. One of the things that happens as we use Google Maps to help us drive around, as we play on our phones, as we take selfies, is that all of that becomes everyday normal quotidian life," Craig said. "We don't question it, we don't think about it, we don't think about all the interactional processes that happen."

One way to visualize this transparent process is to use real-world analogs of digital processes. Craig gave the example of using Post-it notes to analyze word structures in literature.

"You read a page, you write a bunch of concepts on Post-it notes. You read another page, you write another set of concepts on Post-it notes. Then you can stick them on the wall and find word patterns. That's one way computers do computational analysis and look at word patterns," Craig said. "So, once you understand that basic word-clustering structure, then there are computational tools that can apply it to really big, big chunks of data that are too big for any one person to manage."

Jill Owen, a Baylor lecturer of French, attended Craig's lecture. Owen said she was seeking new ways to engage her field of expertise with digital humanities.

Matthew Muir | Staff Writer

FEAR AND FAILURE Dr. Kelani Craig, co-director of the Institute for Digital Arts and Humanities at Indiana University Bloomington, gives a lecture on learning from failure on Monday in Moody Library.

Knowing that these tools are out there and seeing this opportunity [shows] what resources Baylor offers for professors to incorporate more digital humanities into their classroom," Owen said. "[There is a] need for cross-disciplinarity between departments, between disciplines, and engaging the humanities digitally and also our digital technologies in a humanistic way."

The benefits don't apply solely to professors. Craig said students can take it upon themselves to engage with the digital humanities.

"The biggest thing is to, again, pick up your computer and try something new," Craig said. "I'm making 3-D rendered dice right now because I can.... where do computers come to play a role in your hobbies, and then how can you use what you learned...in the classroom to make you a better student, to make you better at whatever it is you want to do when you graduate."

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White House unveils $2.5B emergency coronavirus plan

ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press

The White House on Monday sent lawmakers an urgent $2.5 billion plan to address the deadly coronavirus outbreak, whose rapid spread and threat to the global economy rocked financial markets.

The White House budget office said the funds are for vaccines, treatment and protective equipment. The request was immediately slammed by Democrats as insufficient and came as coronavirus fears were credited with Monday's 1,000-plus point drop in the Dow Jones Industrial Average and are increasingly seen as a potential political threat to President Donald Trump.

The request was released Monday evening and came as key government accounts were running low. The Department of Health and Human Services had already tapped into an emergency infectious disease rapid response fund and was seeking to transfer more than $130 million from other HHS accounts to combat the virus but is pressing for more.

"Today, the Administration is transmitting to Congress a $2.5 billion supplemental funding plan to accelerate vaccine development, support preparedness and response activities and to procure much needed equipment and supplies," said White House budget office spokeswoman Rachel Semmel. "We are also freeing up existing resources and allowing for greater flexibilities for response activities."

The administration is requesting $1.25 billion in new funding and wants to transfer $535 million more in funding from an Ebola preparedness account that's been a top priority of Democrats. It anticipates shifting money from other HHS accounts and other agencies to complete the $2.5 billion response plan.

Senators returning to Washington after a weeklong recess will receive a classified briefing Tuesday morning on the government's coronavirus response, a Senate aide said. A spokeswoman for Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby, R-Ala., said the panel "will take their input into account as we continue to do our due diligence to determine what additional resources are necessary."

Democrats said the request is insufficient and said Trump's attempt to go after existing Ebola prevention funding is dead on arrival.

"All of the warning lights are flashing bright red. We are staring down a potential pandemic and the administration has no plan," said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., who blasted a shortage of kits to test for the virus and President Donald Trump's proposed budget cuts to health agencies like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "We have a crisis of coronavirus and President Trump has no plan, no urgency, no understanding of the facts or how to coordinate a response."

Trump was a vocal critic of President Barack Obama's response to the 2014 Ebola scare, which barely touched the U.S. but was seen as a factor in that year's midterm elections, which restored control of the Senate to Republicans.

Trump took to Twitter Monday to defend his record.

"The Coronavirus is very much under control in the USA. We are in contact with everyone and all relevant countries. CDC & World Health have been working hard and very smart. Stock Market starting to look very good to me!" he tweeted.

Among the needs is funding to reimburse the Pentagon, which is housing evacuees from China — who are required to undergo 14-day quarantines — at several military bases in California.

Democrats controlling the House wrote HHS Secretary Alex Azar earlier this month to request funds to help speed development of a coronavirus vaccine, expand laboratory capacity, and beef up screening efforts at U.S. entry points.

House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey, D-N.Y., called the plan "woefully insufficient."

"Despite urgent warnings from Congress and the public health community, the Trump administration took weeks to request these emergency funds," Lowey said in a statement. "Their answer now is to raid money Congress has designated for other critical public health priorities."

Azar is slated to testify before the Senate Appropriations Committee on Tuesday, and the U.S. response to the outbreak is sure to be a major topic.

The quickly spreading virus has slammed the economy of China, where the virus originated, and caseloads are rapidly increasing in countries such as South Korea, Iran, and Italy. Almost 80,000 people have contracted the disease, with more than 2,500 deaths, mostly in China.

The United States, however, has had only 14 cases of the disease spread across seven states.

In San Francisco, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi took a walking tour of Chinatown on Monday to let the public know the neighborhood is safe and open for business.

Pelosi, a Democrat who represents the heavily Chinese American city, visited the Golden Gate Fortune Cookie Factory, whose owner Kevin Chan, says his business and others are down 70% since the outbreak of the coronavirus.

"Çome to Chinatown," Pelosi said. "Precautions have been taken by our city, we know that there's concern about tourism, traveling all throughout the world, but we think it's very safe to be in Chinatown and hope that others will come."

Asked about the Trump administration's looming request, Pelosi said she would want to know how the money would be used.

MEDICAL from Page 1

succeeding in their classes. He said that students often come to realize that they don't enjoy science or medicine enough to go down this career path.

Tomi Ifelayo is one student who did make it through Baylor's pre-med process and is currently a third-year student at the Mayo Clinic School of Medicine. Ifelayo said that she was pre-pharmacy for most of her Baylor career and made the switch to pre-med late.

Ifelayo said Baylor's pre-med staff were a huge reason she was able to make a successful transition to pre-med and eventually enter medical school.

"Ms. Lin and I had that conversation," Ifelayo said, "She told me, 'I knew that medicine is for you,' so having that adviser that not only cares about what you are doing to prepare for your goal, but actually knowing you well enough to see where you would be a better fit, or seeing where your path should be headed is gold. I don't know where I would've landed if I didn't already have someone who already saw that in me."

Ifelayo said she is glad to have been at Baylor through her decision-making process.

"[The process] made me really appreciate," Ifelayo said, " [of] the value of good mentors and good faculty and advisers that are there for you. I really am grateful that I was at Baylor at that time because I don't think that would have happened anywhere else in that way."

arts&life

Photo courtesy of Kaupo Kikkas

ROOM FOR EIGHT MORE VOICES? The octet VOCES8 will perform with the students of the Baylor Chamber Singers and give them the opportunity to experience what its like to work with a professional ensemble. The concert will take place at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the Jones Concert Hall.

Professional octet to perform alongside chamber students

EMILY COUSINS
Contributor

Acclaimed professional British octet VOCES8, part of the School of Music's Distinguished Artist Series, will perform "Caledonia" arranged by Blake Morgan and "Regina Caeli" by Tomás Luis de Victoria with Baylor Chamber Singers.

The concert will take place at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in Jones Concert Hall. Tickets are $15 for the general public and $10 for Baylor students, professors and staff.

VOCES8 performs around the world nearly all-year-round.

According to its website, they have performed in notable venues such as the Sydney Opera House, Tokyo Opera City, Vienna Konzerthaus and more.

Dr. Brian A. Schmidt, associate professor of choral music and director of graduate choral studies, said VOCES8 coming is a big deal.

"They're one of the world's leading vocal ensembles right now, and they perform all over the world, and they do educational workshops all over the world," Schmidt said. "So to have them come to Baylor and do a workshop with our students and sing with our students is really a big honor."

Schmidt said collaborations with professional groups are powerful because they inspire energy in the students that can help them reach the next level.

"I think the really cool thing about performing with elite professionals that as future professionals, you all kind of have a moment to focus in a way that professionals do and reach your potential or reach above your potential for a moment and then hopefully that's inspiring to you as you go and do your own work," Schmidt said.

> "They're one of the world's leading vocal ensembles right now.
>
> **DR. BRIAN A. SCHMIDT | DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE CHORAL STUDIES**

VOCES8 is a choral group, but it performs different styles of music such as vocal jazz, traditional choral and pop.

"I like listening to a lot of their more contemporary stuff because that's not something we see as much, and I think it's just really fun to listen to and see the choral side transferred into a different setting than what is traditional choral music," said Cypress senior and Chamber Singers member Shannon Skillman.

Some of the students in the Baylor Chamber Singers are fans of VOCES8, and said they are excited to work with musicians they have looked up to for quite some time.

"I first saw them perform at Southwestern ACDA convention and they were phenomenal. They did solo pieces, they did group pieces and it was just the highlight of the trip for sure," said Dallas first-year graduate student and also a member of the Chamber Singers, David Estrada. "So I'm really excited to actually work with some of them here."

New Orleans sophomore Austin Henry, a member of Chamber Singers, said he looks forward to this valuable experience and performance.

"It's just an honor to be able to sing with them and to be able to really work on types of things that they do and what it feels like and what it would be like to be in a professional ensemble," Henry said.

Unconventional theater company takes on traveling production of Shakespeare

CLAIRE VAN ZEE
Reporter

When asked how she might describe InSite Theatre Co., founder and executive director Luann Jennings describes it in one word — scrappy. But in a good way.

Established in 2017, InSite centered its initiative around the term "creative placemaking," the idea of using art and design as tools for transforming communities, strengthening local identity and leading social change.

"We're trying to build our arts and cultural offerings and community as a way to make people feel more attached to Waco, to care more about Waco and to care more about each other," Jennings said.

While the company is interested in many routes of promoting this idea of "creative placemaking," currently its focus is on theater.

The company is working on a three-part Shakespeare series titled "Shakespeare Studio," which is a medley of Shakespeare's scenes and monologues tied together around a specific theme.

The upcoming last leg of the series, "Shakespeare Studio: Law and Order," will begin at 7 p.m. March 2, 3, 9 and 10 at Brotherwell Brewery at 400 E. Bridge St.

"If people don't know the plays already, they might not entirely get what's going on in terms of the plot, but there is something kind of fun in that. You can see this five-to-10 minute piece out of context and take it for what is happening there," Jennings said.

Unlike other Waco theater companies, Insite is missing one seemingly important aspect: a physical theater.

SHAKESPEARE >> Page 6

Photo courtesy of Andreas Zaloumis

TRAVELING THEATER TROUPE In the past, the theater company performed several different shows in its "Shakespeare Studio" series.

WHAT TO DO IN WACO

TUESDAY

Mardi Gras Party with The Executive Steele Band | 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. | Buzzard Billy's Swamp Shack, 100 N. Interstate 35 Frontage Road | Free

Free Movie Tuesday: "Good Hair" | 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. | The Hippodrome, 724 Austin Ave. | Free

Bella Voce Concert | 7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. | Roxy Grove Hall, Waco Hall | Free

Fat Tuesday Party | 8 p.m. - 10 p.m. | Freight Bar, 1613 James. Ave. | Free | Features Nightlight Donuts, with beignets and king's cake donuts for $5

WEDNESDAY

Open Paint Night | 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. | Kieran-Sistrunk Fine Art Gallery, 2120 Washington Ave. | $20

Paul Brock Band "Direct from Ireland" | 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. | The Hippodrome, 724 Austin Ave. | $5 - $10

Open Mic Night | 8 p.m. - 10 p.m. | Common Grounds, 1123 S. Eighth St. | Free

THURSDAY

Thoroughly Modern Millie, Jr. | 7 p.m. | Waco Civic Theatre, 1517 Lake Air Drive | $10 - $12

Justin Rosolino Book Signing | 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. | Fabled Bookshop & Cafe, 215 S. 4th St. | Free | Rosolino will talk about and sign copies of his book "Idiot, Sojourning Soul!"

Distinguished Artist Series: Voces8 (a cappella octet) | 7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. | Jones Concert Hall, Glennis McCrary Music Building | $10 - $15

McLennan Theatre presents "Chicago" | 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. | Ball Performing Arts Center, McLennan Community College Music & Theatre Arts Building, 1400 College Drive | $8 - $10

Photo courtesy of Andreas Zaloumis

A MIDSOMMAR NIGHT'S DREAM Actors and actresses had the opportunity to test-run their production of "Music, Magic & Murder," one of the previous installments in the "Shakespeare Studio" series, in October of 2019.

Photo courtesy of Andreas Zaloumis

SHAKESPEARE IN THE DARK "Music, Magic & Murder" is one of the productions in the Shakespeare series, in addition to "Love and War" and the current project "Law and Order."

SHAKESPEARE from Page 5

In line with the company name, InSite performs at different sites all over downtown Waco, such as coffee shops and outdoor breweries. However unconventional it might be, Jennings believes there are certain benefits that site-based theater has to offer.

For instance, it helps to break down barriers for people who might think they must have a certain prestige to go to the theater, Jennings said.

"Theater as a whole has suffered from this idea that everyday people just watch TV and go to the movies, but some other person goes to the theater. We want to lower those barriers and make going to the theater in Waco just as normal as going home and watching television," Jennings said.

Breshena Crosby, a 2017 Baylor Theatre graduate, will be acting as many characters in the upcoming "Law and Order" production. Even though this is her first time working with InSite, Crosby said she is looking forward to the challenge of playing an array of characters, who are completely different from one another, in one production.

"Shakespeare is so different and the way they put the scenes together to make the theme 'Law and Order' is just so interesting," Crosby said. "I can't wait to see how the audience will receive them all together in the way we've cut them."

> Theater as a whole has suffered from this idea that everyday people just watch TV and go to the movies, but some other person goes to the theater. We want to lower those barriers and make going to the theater in Waco just as normal as going home and watching television.
>
> **LUANN JENNINGS | FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Members of the theater company chose excerpts from plays such as "Much Ado About Nothing," "The Merchant of Venice," "The Tempest," "Julius Caesar" and more for the production.

The way theater companies choose to re-enact Shakespeare varies from traditional to modern adaptations. Jennings said InSite's adaptation lands somewhere in the middle, sticking with the traditional Elizabethan language but in modern dress.

Jennings believes modern dress affects how the audience thinks about the context of the play.

"We want people to come in and go, 'Oh, well, these people look just like me, they're just speaking in poetry,'" Jennings said.

The company chose to produce a Shakespeare series in order to test out the local audience and find interested actors in preparation for a summer Shakespeare festival titled "Shakespeare in the Park."

Jennings' hope is that the productions will enlighten the local community with uncommon, quality entertainment.

"I want their reaction to be, well that was cool," Jennings said. "That's not what I was expecting, or I've never seen anything like that."

ACROSS
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5 CEO's deg.
8 Be slack-jawed
12 Not pizzicato
13 A billion years
14 Russian river
15 Crumbly earth
16 Russian empresses
18 Canonized theologian Thomas
20 "It's the end of —"
21 N.J. neighbor
22 Bio stat
23 Pizza feature
26 Tropical lizards
30 Not 'neath
31 Expert
32 Hosp. areas
33 Crazy
36 Small songbird
38 Book-spine abbr.
39 Part of mph
40 Zagreb native
43 Some cigars
47 Southwestern saloons
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50 Early Peruvian
51 Crunchy sandwich
52 Hidden valley
53 Disney CEO Robert
54 Coquettish
55 Lip

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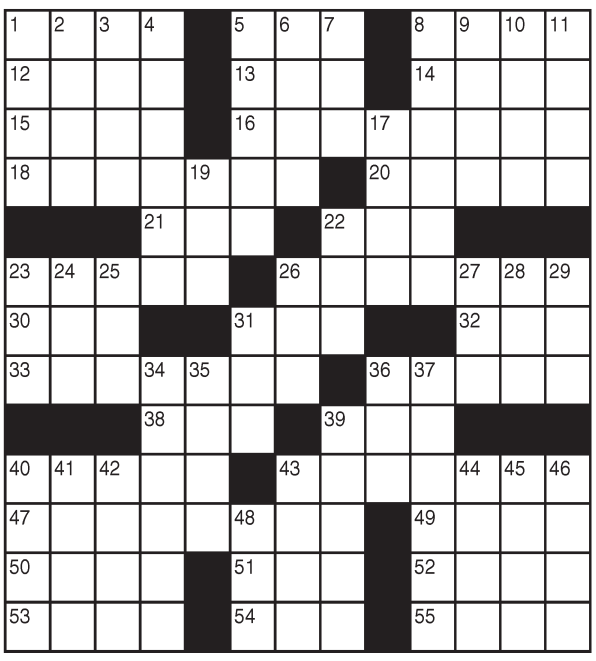
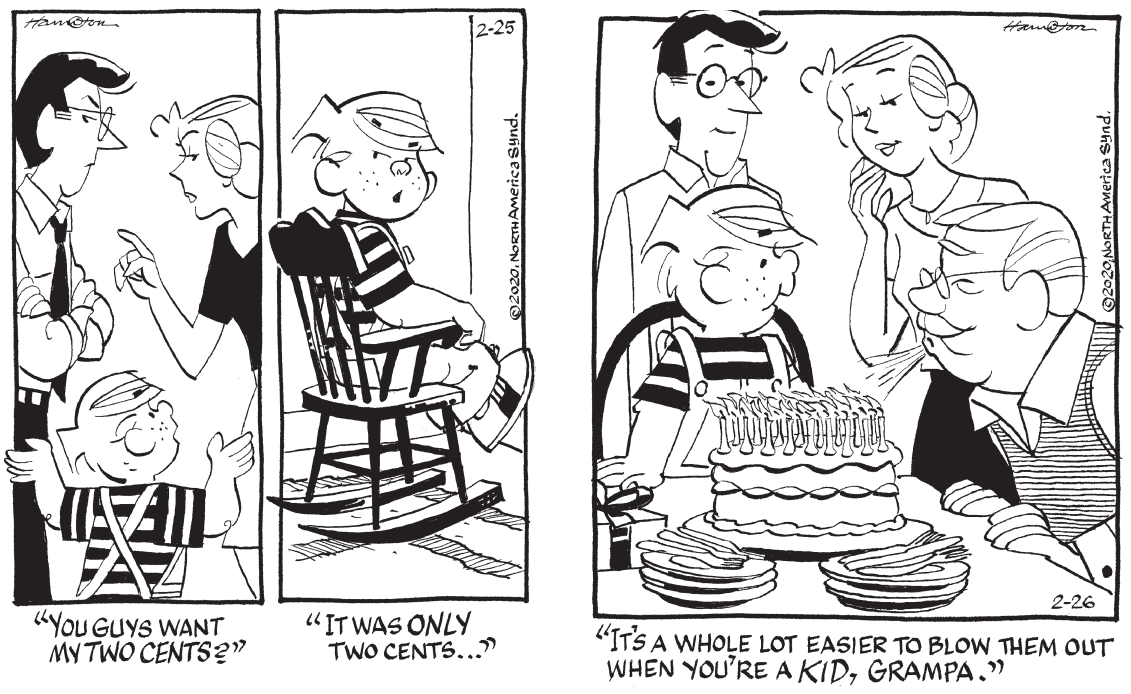
1 Tibetan monk
2 Persian Gulf land
3 Off-white
4 Three-dimensional shapes
5 Rock genre
6 Employer
7 Literary collection
8 Old British coin
9 "Rule, Britannia!" composer
10 Jack of early talk TV
11 "Frozen" snow queen
17 Pasta sauce brand
19 Badminton barrier
22 Past
23 Male swan
24 Stephen of "Still Crazy"
25 Coffee vessel
26 Apr. addressee
27 British big shot
28 "Exodus" hero
29 Tax form ID
31 Crony
34 Online icon
35 Terse denial
36 Speed (up)
37 Arboreal apes
39 Ashen
40 Roman 202
41 Pealed
42 Formerly
43 Angelic light
44 The Big Easy acronym
45 Pub orders
46 "— and Lovers" (D.H. Lawrence novel)
48 "This Is Us" network

Today's Crossword Puzzle

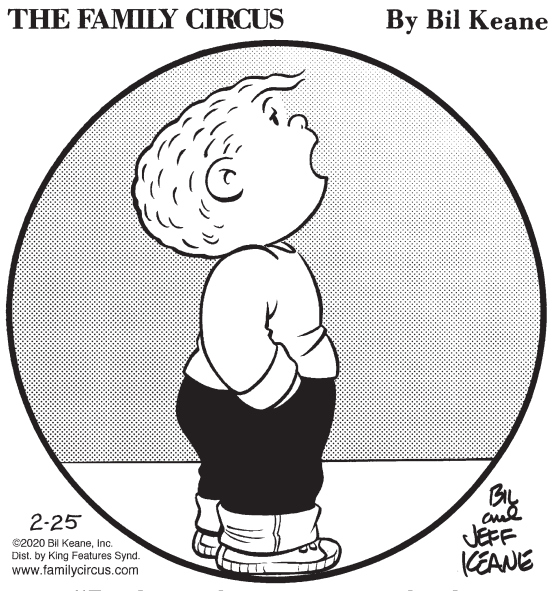
Crossword solutions found at baylorlariat.com



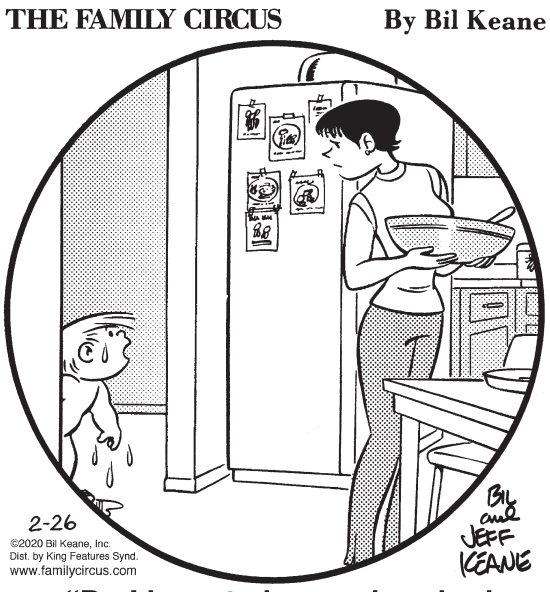
Dennis the Menace



The Family Circus



"Do I need a reason to be in a good mood?"



"Do I have to be one hundred percent clean?"

sports

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Caleb Boren | Roundup Photographer

BATTLE FOR THE BIG 12 Redshirt junior MaCio Teague attempts to score while being guarded by KU senior center Udoka Azubuike during Baylor's 64-61 loss Saturday at the Ferrell Center. The Bears and the Jayhawks are tied for the Big 12 lead with 13-1 records. With four games left in the season, Baylor can clinch the conference outright only with a loss by Kansas.

Only a bump in the road

Loss to No. 1 Jayhawks not factor in No. 2 Bears' focus to win conference

PRANAY MALEMPATI
Sports Writer

Baylor basketball's loss to Kansas on Saturday was its second defeat of the season, and its first in Big 12 play. The Bears lost while hosting College GameDay for the second time this school year, but unlike in football, this loss to Kansas is but a dent in the grand scheme of things.

Even after the loss, the Bears are still tied for the Big 12 lead as both Baylor and Kansas are 13-1 in the conference, with each team beating the other once. If both teams win out the rest of conference play, they will share the Big 12 regular season title. If Baylor wins out and Kansas drops one of its remaining four games, Baylor alone will hold the conference.

Either way, Baylor still in contention to clinch its first regular season conference title since 1950, when it won the old Southwest Conference.

Baylor head coach Scott Drew said winning the conference is the team's focus right now.

"The great thing is we control our own destiny," Drew said. "The goal is to always win a conference championship. We've got 13 days to make history."

Further, Baylor only fell one spot in the polls to No. 2. If the Bears continue to win games and make a run in the Big 12 tournament, it is very possible they see Kansas again this season and have an opportunity to get back to the top.

ESPN analyst Jay Bilas said before Saturday's game that he would not be surprised if Baylor and Kansas end up with a postseason matchup in late March.

"It's possible that Baylor and Kansas could play four times this year," Bilas said. "That's a very real possibility, that they could see one another again in the Big 12 Championship and they could see one another again in [the Final Four]. That's how good these teams are."

If Baylor wins the Big 12 tournament, they will almost surely be the No. 1 team in the country come March Madness. If they do fall to Kansas again, the Bears still have a strong chance of gaining a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament.

ESPN analyst Seth Greenberg said he would be shocked if either Baylor or Kansas fell below the No. 1 seed line in March.

"I think [both Baylor and Kansas] are going to be number one seeds," Greenberg said, "unless something drastic happens. I would be shocked if both of these guys weren't number one seeds. . . these teams have separated themselves."

While the Bears have a lot of big games ahead of them, starting forward Freddie Gillespie said he is focused on taking the rest of the season one game at a time.

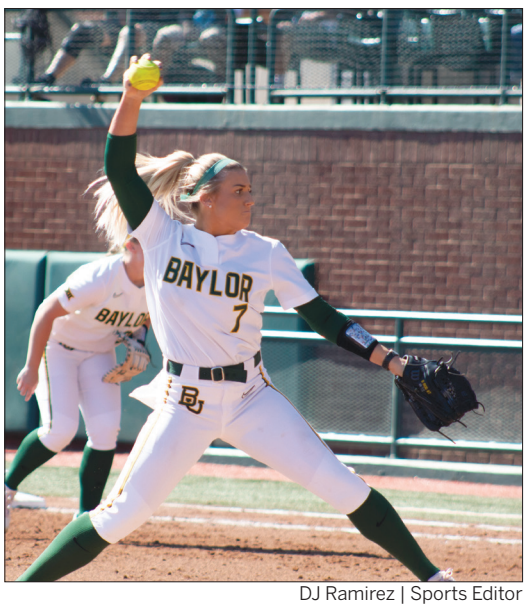
"The great thing about our saying, 'Go 1-0,'" Gillespie said, "is that even when you lose, it goes back to 0-0. So as far as I'm concerned we're back to 0-0 and my main focus is Kansas State."

Baylor remains at home, facing Kansas State at 7 p.m. today at the Ferrell Center. Drew said he hopes the fans are back to full force to cheer on the Bears against the Wildcats.

"The best thing you can do if you want to help us win is to be in attendance and be loud tomorrow," Drew said. "Hopefully, we get a great crowd, they're vocal and they're loud, and we're going to do our part to give you a lot to cheer for."

Lariat Sports Weekend Spotlight

Gia Rodoni
Softball Senior RHP



DJ Ramirez | Sports Editor

MATTHEW SODERBERG
Sports Writer

Baylor softball senior pitcher Gia Rodoni was named Baylor Lariat Sports Athlete of the Weekend after completing her fifth career no-hitter against Tulsa Friday afternoon.

The senior finished off the Hurricanes with a complete game no-no and a perfect game through five innings. Rodoni also recorded nine strikeouts against the No. 35 team in the country. After the game, head coach Glenn Moore said her success has been unexpected after missing last season.

"She's been phenomenal this early in the season," Moore said. "We didn't expect her to be progressed to this point this early and this quickly, but she's doing an outstanding job right now. I'm just elated that she's back in the circle."

Moore waited to use her on Saturday against No. 17 Minnesota since the Lady Bears had yet to face a ranked team at home this season. Rodoni delivered with eight innings pitched, zero earned runs allowed and seven strikeouts. Moore said what she did on Saturday should be as impressive as her no-hitter.

"That's a tough lineup, and I think it was about the third inning before she started looking like Gia, and when she did, she took control of things," Moore said. "We made some good plays behind her, and I'm very very happy with her effort."

Honorable Mentions:
WBB So. Forward NaLyssa Smith
Scored 22 points vs. Oklahoma
Men's Tennis Sr. Coni Frantzen
Undefeated in doubles play
A&T So. Mercy Seay
Scored highest score in 6 Element Pass tumbling event vs. Oregon

Fans break capacity with ESPN GameDay in town

MATTHEW SODERBERG
Sports Writer

A capacity crowd of 10,637 fans showed up to support their teams at the Ferrell Center Saturday as No. 1 Baylor faced No. 3 Kansas for dominance in the Big 12. The fans weren't turned away by the high ticket prices, even as the cost for a seat was at a minimum over $200. Even ESPN personality Jay Bilas said he heard about the difficulty getting into the game.

"I've been told that tickets are going for a little more than face value," Bilas said.

With ESPN's "College GameDay" on campus, as many as 850 students camped out on the concourse inside the Ferrell Center starting at 5 p.m. the night before to ensure they got a good seat for the game. At 10 a.m., an hour before tipoff, the broadcast began and the fans roared throughout as the rest of the stadium filled out. Baylor head coach Scott Drew said his team needed that kind of energy for such an early game.

"I think the second time we were No. 1, we've handled it a lot better," Drew said. "I think the more you get an atmosphere like this, the better you handle it as well. I thought our guys were obviously really fired up to play. Just so you know, 11 a.m. games for college kids aren't the easiest, so it takes a great atmosphere and a great game to get them ready to go."

Kansas held a comfortable lead throughout most of the game, but the Bears started to make runs for the lead as the second half dwindled to a close. With 50 seconds left on the clock, the Jayhawks led by seven points, but after two threes by Baylor, the lead was cut to one with 16 seconds left, and the crowd started swaying and chanting and pumping up the team. Kansas point guard Devon Dotson said after the game the feeling inside the Ferrell was electric.

"The energy in the building was loud," Dotson said. "The fans were in it, so you can just feel the buzz around it and it was an exciting time."

Even Kansas head coach Bill Self, who has been a head coach in the Big 12 for 17 years, said that was "the best environment we played in this year."

Caleb Boren | Roundup Photographer

FILL UP THE HOUSE Fans tied the Ferrell Center attendance record Saturday as 10,637 fans showed up to watch the top three matchup between Baylor and Kansas. The Bears fell to the Jayhawks 64-61.

Associated Press

CHAMPIONSHIP DRIVE Baylor guard Te'a Cooper goes upcourt while being defended by WVU guard Kirsten Deans during the first half of a Big 12 game Monday in Morgantown, WVa.

No. 2 Lady Bears clinch share of Big 12 title

PRANAY MALEMPATI
Sports Writer

In a quick turnaround from Saturday's victory over Oklahoma, the Lady Bears won a defensive showdown in West Virginia, knocking off the Mountaineers 64-39 and completing a season sweep Monday night in Morgantown, W. Va. With this win, Baylor clinches at least a share of its 10th straight Big 12 regular season title.

After an extremely low-scoring first half, the Lady Bears took a 29-19 lead at halftime. Baylor came out and put the game away in the third quarter, outscoring West Virginia 25-9 out of the half and taking a 54-28 lead into the fourth quarter.

Graduate guard Te'A Cooper led Baylor in scoring with 17 points, including four three-pointers, and added four rebounds and four assists. However, Cooper also had four of the team's 14 turnovers.

Senior forward Lauren Cox was the only other Lady Bear to score in double digits with 12 points, as well as nine rebounds, five assists and two blocks. Cox, Cooper and sophomore forward NaLyssa Smith each had six points in that game-defining third quarter.

Baylor completely shut down West Virginia, which averaged 13 points per quarter. The Mountaineers shot just 23.6 percent from the field, making just three of their 19 three-point attempts. West Virginia also only had six total assists for the game.

The Lady Bears made about 45% of their shots, including about 45% of their threes. However, Baylor only shot 50% from the free throw line, making just 11 of their 22 attempts from the charity stripe.

They also collected 12 offensive rebounds, giving themselves plenty of opportunities to earn second-chance points.

Baylor next plays at 6 p.m. Saturday against Kansas State at home in the Ferrell Center. The Lady Bears will be playing to clinch the Big 12 title outright and eliminate TCU from contention.

BEARS UNDEFEATED

DJ Ramirez | Sports Editor

CLIMBING THE RANKS Men's tennis senior Constantin Frantzen and junior Sven Lah remain undefeated in double play and are ranked No. 9 nationally.

BIG 12 DOMINATION

Emileé Edwards | Multimedia Journalist

SWEEPING THE SOONERS Sophomore forward NaLyssa Smith high fives her teammates during a timeout in Baylor's 101-69 victory Saturday over Oklahoma. Smith scored a game-high 22 points against the Sooners.

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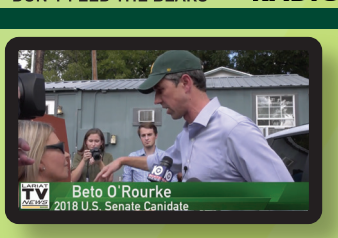

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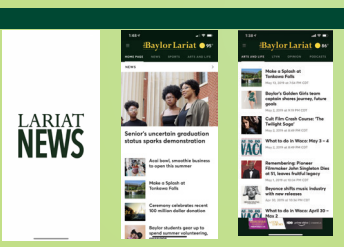

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