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Troops to Afghanistan

“Obama’s decision to send more troops, despite the opposition from his own party, shows his dedication to the security and future of the United States.”

MUSIC PAGE 4

The Tastydactyls

Local band returns from first tour and sets sights higher

SPORTS PAGE 5

Sports chaplain Q&A

Wes Yeary talks on his gratitude to be working at Baylor and counseling athletes

Protesters seek war’s end

Friends of Peace fights for removal from Afghanistan

By MATT RUSSELL
CONTRIBUTOR

Amid a blustering wind and chilly rain, a small but dedicated group of war protesters made their voices heard Tuesday.

During a two-hour rally on the corner of Valley Mills and Waco drives, the Waco Friends of Peace expressed their displeasure with the government and its involvement in the war in Afghanistan.

“We’re out here and we’re Americans,” said Alan Northcutt, organizer of the protest. “And we say, ‘Not in our name. We object to this.’”

Friends of Peace is a local anti-war organization founded more than ten years ago. The organization was developed to join individuals wanting to

workfor the promotion of peace and justice through avenues such as education and non-violent activism.

Northcutt, along with four other protesters, including his six-year-old son, Adrian, were standing firm not only against the government, but the elements as well.

The activists unfurled a broad banner that read “Out of AFGH Now” and displayed signs with the inscription “Afghanistan: Graveyard of Empires.”

“We’ve got very, very urgent priorities, challenges that we have to meet,” said Harrison Ward, a five-year member of Friends of Peace.

“And we’re just never going to address them as long as we continue this military adventurism and trying to remake other parts of the world.”

The protest came on the heels of President Barack Obama’s recent announcement that 30,000 additional troops would be ordered to the war-torn country

“It makes me so mad I could just spit.”

Sara Haney
Protester

by 2010.

Government officials told the Associated Press the reinforcements will be necessary to resolve to the conflict by the end of Obama’s term as president.

Sara Haney, who has been with the group for three years, dismissed the officials’ contentions.

“I think it’s just disgraceful,” Haney said. “We’re either sending our troops over there to protect a pipeline for gas...or we’re protecting the drug crop.”

Instead, she said, America has more pressing domestic issues. “What we’re doing is criminal,” she said. “In Iraq we killed a million people and displaced a third of the population. We have

troops in 130 countries and we can’t afford health care.”

Haney’s face left no doubt about her passion. “It makes me so mad I could just spit.”

Northcutt went so far as to say that the war in Afghanistan draws an eerie comparison to other wars.

“I’m from the generation that grew up with Vietnam,” Northcutt said. “This is a déjà vu.”

“When Iraq happened we felt like we had lived through this before,” he said. “We sensed it was the same kind of lies we heard about Vietnam. In this case it was a war for oil.”

Northcutt says he doesn’t expect broad social change to happen at once but, he still hopes to make a difference.

“I think here in Waco we serve a role because it’s a conservative place,” he said. “They just accept the war. So it’s important for us to speak out.”

Information about Friends of Peace can be found at www.friendsofpeace.org.



SARAH GROMAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

On a cold, wet Tuesday afternoon, 6-year-old Adrian Northcutt stands next to his dad, Alan Northcutt, at the corner of Valley Mills and Waco drives to protest against the war in Afghanistan.

Exit plan will boost troops in Afghanistan war

STEVEN HURST
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Declaring “our security is at stake,” President Barack Obama ordered an additional 30,000 U.S. troops into the long war in Afghanistan on Tuesday night, but balanced the buildup with a pledge to an impatient nation to begin withdrawing American forces in 18 months.

In a prime-time speech at the U.S. Military Academy, the president said his new policy was designed to “bring this war to a successful conclusion.” The troop buildup will begin almost immediately — the first Marines will be in place by Christmas — and will cost \$30 billion for the first year alone.

“We must deny al-Qaida a safe haven,” Obama said in articulating U.S. military goals for a war that has dragged on for eight years. “We must reverse the Taliban’s momentum. ... And we must strengthen the capacity of Afghanistan’s security forces and government.”

The president said the additional forces would be deployed at “the fastest pace possible so

that they can target the insurgency and secure key population centers.”

Their destination: “the epicenter of the violent extremism practiced by al-Qaida.”

“It is from here that we were attacked on 9/11, and it is from here that new attacks are being plotted as I speak,” the president said.

It marked the second time in his young presidency that Obama has added to the American force in Afghanistan, where the Taliban has recently made significant advances. When he became president last January, there were roughly 34,000 troops on the ground; there now are 71,000.

Obama’s announcement drew less-than-wholehearted support from congressional Democrats. Many of them favor a quick withdrawal, but others have already proposed higher taxes to pay for the fighting.

Republicans reacted warily, as well. Officials said Sen. John McCain, who was Obama’s Republican opponent in last year’s presidential campaign,

see OBAMA, pg. 3

Mammoth site to open to public

By LAURA REMSON
STAFF WRITER

More than 30 years of work will come to fruition this weekend with Saturday’s opening of the Waco Mammoth Site.

“Opening the Waco Mammoth Site to the public has been a long journey for Central Texas and the supporters of the historic Waco Mammoth Site,” Rep. Chet Edwards, D-Texas, stated Tuesday. “The Waco Mammoth Site is truly an American treasure. It represents unique living history that deserves to be preserved and protected for the education and enjoyment of families and children throughout Texas and this great nation for many years to come.”

Bones were discovered in 1978, when Paul Barron and Eddie Bufkin, two Waco residents, set out to search for arrowheads

and fossils. What they found is the permanent home to the remains of 24 Colombian mammoths, according to the park’s Web site.

Jill Scoggins, assistant vice president for Baylor’s Media Communications said that Baylor has been involved with this project since the beginning. When the fossils were found, they were brought to the former Strecker Museum on Baylor’s campus for analysis.

“Baylor was the only place in Waco with the facilities and capabilities to study the find,” Scoggins said.

Researchers believe that approximately 68,000 years ago, the Bosque River waters flooded the site and trapped the animals in a mudslide. Subsequent floods eventually covered the

see SITE, pg. 6



ASSOCIATED PRESS

People light candles in the shape of a red ribbon, the symbol of AIDS awareness campaign, during a rally Tuesday to mark World AIDS Day in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Conference held for AIDS awareness

By ADEOLA ARO
STAFF WRITER

Phi Alpha Theta, a history honor society and the department of history engaged students in a videoconference Tuesday in observance of the global World AIDS Day.

The videoconference featured two workers from the Bureau of African Affairs of the State Department in Washington, D.C.

Lynn Allison, desk officer for Southern Africa, and Molly Sanchez-Crowe, desk officer for Western Africa, spoke of the work the United States is doing around the world to educate and support people infected with the preventable and treatable disease.

Dr. Hakeem Tijani, associate professor of history, teaches a course in West African history and organized the event in order to reinforce classroom topics covered in his syllabus with real-life encounters. Topics such as health and illness were discussed in Tuesday’s videoconference.

“I looked at what tools I can use to take teaching beyond the four walls of the classroom,” Tijani said. “I researched my environment and I noticed the African Bureau was a very good tool for professors and teachers that are willing to give students an out-of-class experience.”

Allison and Sanchez-Crowe were both stationed in African countries where they educated

the general population and government on the pandemic along with prevention of the spread of HIV/AIDS and other preventable and treatable diseases.

HIV/AIDS affects more than 33 million people worldwide. World AIDS Day is observed Dec. 1 each year and is dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of the HIV infection.

Started in 1988 as a way to promote education of HIV/AIDS, World AIDS Day has grown into a global effort to prevent the spread and eradicate one of the world’s most destructive epidemics in recorded history.

Sanchez-Crowe, who was

stationed in Guinea as recently as October, had to be evacuated because of recent conflict. During a protest in late September, protesters were gunned down by soldiers, sending the country into momentary panic.

Sanchez-Crowe also mentioned some of the corruption combated in the country. One way Guinea tries to get rid of corruption is through requirements that make pharmacists publish the price of medications to prevent overcharging.

“Small steps that show that something is transparent ... is very empowering for the people,” Sanchez-Crowe said.

HIV/AIDS is not the only health concern the organi-

see AIDS, pg. 6

Site ranks BU top seven nationwide

By TRENT GOLDSTON
STAFF WRITER

Baylor was recently listed as a top-seven university nationwide according to the new college ranking Web site, WhatWillThey-Learn.com.

The Web site was launched by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni and ranks universities based on the comprehensiveness of courses required by their core curriculum.

“Employers are increasingly dissatisfied with college graduates who lack the basic knowledge and skills expected of any educated person,” Anne D. Neal, president of the American

Council of Trustees and Alumni, stated in a press release. “If our students are to compete successfully in a global marketplace, we simply can’t leave their learning up to chance. As it is, thousands are paying dearly for a thin and patchy education.”

The new rankings are based on seven specific criteria to discern the effectiveness of a university’s core curriculum. These areas include writing composition, literature, foreign language, U.S. government or history, economics, mathematics and natural or physical science.

Only seven universities of more than 125 received an “A” rating. To receive an “A,” schools

must require at least six out of the seven criteria areas in their core curriculum. None of the schools given an A required all seven criteria. Baylor was the only private school to receive an A rating. The only criteria Baylor failed to meet was the economics aspect.

West Point, Brooklyn College, Hunter College, United States Military Academy, the University of Texas and Texas A&M were also featured in the “A” list.

Mel Elfin, founding editor of U.S. News and World Report’s college rankings, gave insight on the usefulness of the new Web site in a recent press release.

“By focusing on what students are getting in the class-

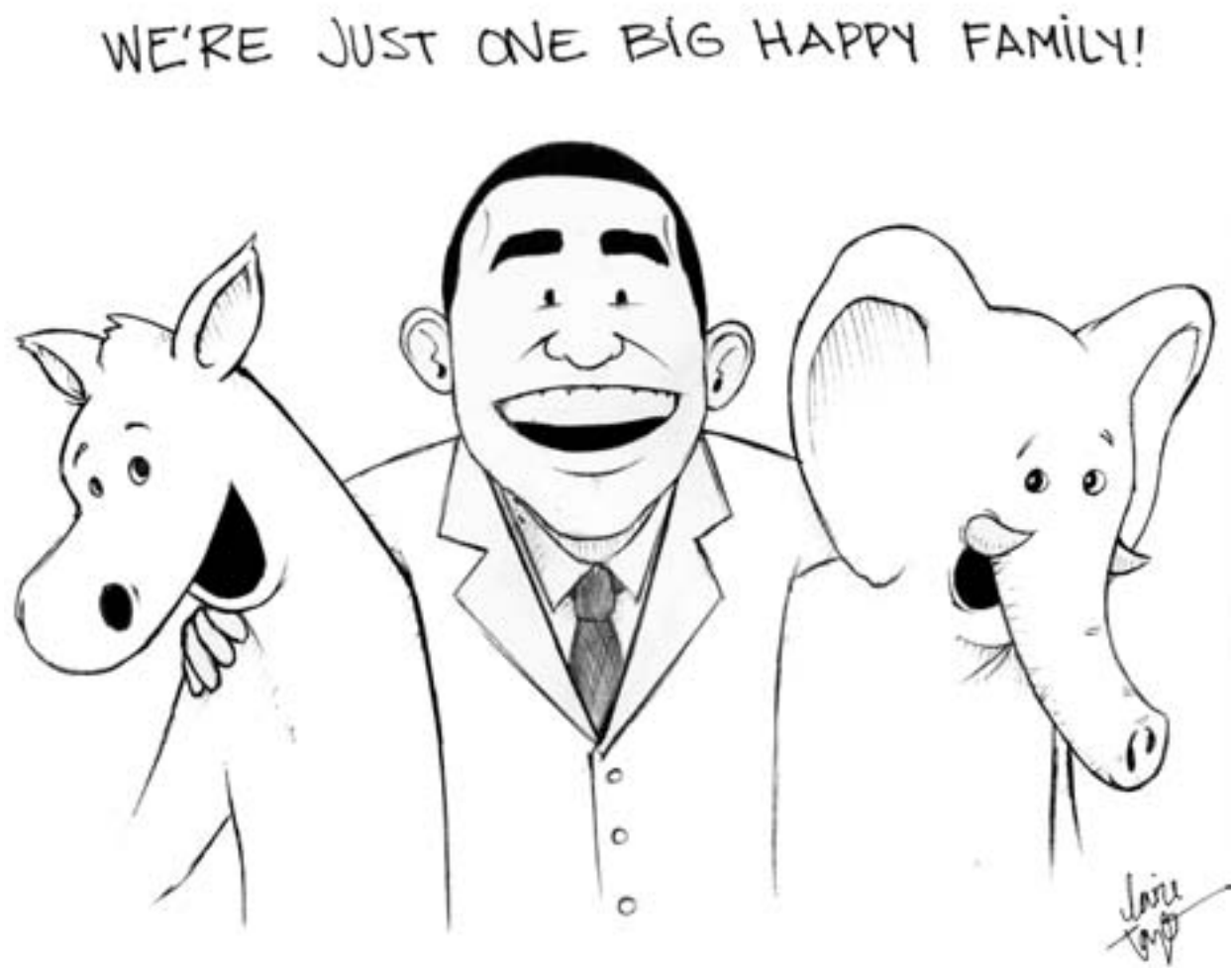
room, this new resource highlights what, in the long run, is far more important than the name of the institution on a graduate’s diploma,” Elfin said.

Dr. Larry Lyon, vice provost for institutional effectiveness, said the new ranking is a positive for Baylor.

Lyon was surprised how many top-ranked schools failed to meet the criteria of this study.

“Baylor has a pretty traditional curriculum,” Lyon said. “In the ‘60s and ‘70s, many schools changed to cafeteria-style type of curriculums, that was based on simply amassing enough hours

see RANK, pg. 6



President Obama’s plan courageously, responsibly crosses political lines

Editorial

President Barack Obama announced on Tuesday that he is sending 30,000 additional troops over the next six months to assist with the war in Afghanistan. However, Obama said in his speech at West Point, N.Y. that the U.S. will begin withdrawing troops in July 2011.

This decision, his second regarding the situation in the Middle East since taking office, appears generally welcomed by both parties. The GOP is able to finish what former President George W. Bush started in 2001, and the Democratic Party is able to officially plan for the removal of troops. President Obama has boldly crossed political lines in establishing this proposition. It would be irresponsible for him to drastically pull out at this point.

The speed with which Obama made his decision comes as a surprise to some. While such a large movement of troops would normally take 12 months, this plan is to take six.

According to a report written in August by Gen. Stanley McChrystal, “Failure to gain the initiative and reverse insurgent momentum in the near-term (next 12 months) — while Afghan security capacity matures — risks an outcome where defeating the insurgency is no longer possible.”

While additional troops would surely allow for the United States to gain as much momentum as possible, the president faces the tough task of convincing his own party that these additional men are absolutely necessary. Though it is a primarily welcomed plan, there are some prominent Democratic exceptions, such as Rep. Janice Schakowsky, D-

Illinois, who began voicing doubt as to whether sending more troops is the proper solution.

The primary goal of the new shipment of troops, which will push the total in the area to more than 100,000, will be to reverse Taliban gains and secure population centers in the southern and eastern parts of the country. Three hundred civilians will be shipped out to aid in the development efforts, as well.

In order to aid the troops, Obama has asked for NATO’s support to provide another 5,000 to 10,000 soldiers.

Additionally, a war tax has been discussed in order to ease the economic strain as the war continues on. White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs has said that while war talks have not continued without discussing cost, the White House is not currently focusing on the tax in particular.

“Obviously, the cost of our endeavor in Afghanistan, as in Iraq and throughout the world, has been discussed in these meetings,” Gibbs said. “The president would never make a national security decision to protect the men and women of our own homeland based on a budget figure, but I will tell you this, guys, we are not going to and we can’t afford to pretend that these wars do not cost money,” Gibbs said.

Ultimately, Obama’s decision to send more troops, despite the opposition from his own party, shows his dedication to the security and future of the United States. Taking the less popular choice is never easy for a politician, but making the right decision is, at times, a tough call.

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Lariat Letters

University discrimination article disregarded opposing argument

“Women and higher education” (Nov. 19) reports that universities are being investigated by the government for possible gender discrimination against women as numbers of women in higher education are steadily increasing. Something about this seems counterintuitive.

While recognizing that it is possible that some college or university is actively discriminating against women, it seems even more possible that there are subtle practices in education that discriminate against men.

Why else would current overall enrollment in U.S. colleges and universities be more than 60 percent women with many more women than men receiving degrees?

One could theorize that men do not want higher education, but then shouldn’t they be encouraged to want it?

But then someone would cry gender discrimination against women. One could theorize that men are genetically predisposed to avoid higher education. But that seems unlikely.

Whenever women are behind men in some area of social life the general sentiment is that social engineering should be used to help them catch up with men because society is at fault.

I agree with that.

But, then, why is it wrong also to help men catch up with women when they are falling behind in some area of social life? What’s just for the goose is just for the gander.

I would like to suggest that one reason for the increasing failure of boys and men in both lower and higher education is the lack of aggressive support for boys in elementary and secondary public education.

For years now the emphasis has been on creating special programs for girls to help them succeed in higher education and in careers.

The result has been a not-so-benign neglect of boys.

Also, studies have shown that boys learn better from men than from women. And yet there is a distinct lack of male teachers in public education prior to college or university.

I would argue that it is perfectly all right for educational institutions to try to help boys and men succeed in any way that does not harm women.

And this should be done. But I also suspect that any such efforts will inevitably be met with cries of “discrimination!”

Dr. Roger Olson
Professor of Theology, George W. Truett Theological Seminary

Rhode Island professor mourns debt brought on by student loans

I write in response to your editorial, “Court should rule in favor of lender in student loan case.” (Dec. 1)

The underlying question here is not the repayment of debt or the power of bankruptcy court judges.

It is: Why student loan issuers — and the bulk of the noteholders are for-profit corporations — should be exempt from being dismissed or reduced at bankruptcy.

This policy has long given commercial lenders who write or who hold such loans an unfair advantage over any other kind of creditor. The policy also puts students who, because financial aid is inadequate, increasingly rely on loans, at an unfair disadvantage.

Many years ago, I went through bankruptcy and my student loans were not dismissed, even though I could not at the time afford to pay them.

Interest and penalties continued to accrue, and, although I have been paying them again for more than a decade, I will be well into my 80s before they are paid off in full.

Why a bankruptcy court judge could not have decided to reduce this debt is beyond me — it is done for most other kinds of debt.

Back when college education was more affordable, I could understand such a policy, but today it makes no sense at all.

Let’s treat student loan companies the same way we treat other lenders.

Dr. Russell A. Potter
Professor of English, Rhode Island College

Teach for America combats poverty with education

I was born into a family of teachers. Thus, I never wanted to teach. You see, I have always been strongly individualistic — intent on making my own way.

However, after being introduced to Teach for America three years ago, I began to reconsider. This nearly 20-year-old program, which places college graduates in underprivileged areas to teach, has come under much scrutiny in the past few years.

It has been blamed for taking jobs from experienced teachers and placing burdens on schools.

Others criticize corps members for being privileged idealists with no knowledge of education or poverty.

Honestly, this makes sense. It’s understandable that veteran teachers would view corps members as newly graduated punks with no idea how to control a classroom and no comprehension of true poverty.

In many cases this may be true, but in others, just as false.

I decided to apply to the program. You see, I don’t consider myself a privileged idealist. On the contrary, I feel a social responsibility to give back the education I have received throughout my life, from kindergarten to my senior year at Baylor.

What began as a calling transformed into a passion based on my childhood experiences with my most surprising heroine: my mother, a teacher.

While I spent my primary schooling through eighth grade in a private Catholic school with competent teachers and access to educational tools, my mother exposed me to the plight of children who were not so lucky. For 25 years, she taught English and social studies in a rural Texas town, to students from a myriad of socioeconomic

Point of View

BY LIZ FOREMAN



strata — most of them poor.

I remember how startled I was to learn, at the age of 6, that I read at a higher level than many of my mother’s fifth-grade students upon arrival in her classroom.

She did not sugarcoat their hardships.

It was common for her students to come to school donning the same clothes for days, even weeks. Others did not make it to school when their parents refused get out of bed in the morning.

Many families could not afford a pack of notebook paper or pencils. I vividly remember waiting after school when my mother volunteered to drive forgotten children home, and helping her pick out clothing when she could not stand to see children wearing shorts and sandals in the winter.

I saw children just like me, with lives I could only imagine. A mixture of guilt and conviction rooted itself deep within me.

I began to see education as an effective weapon against poverty.

For this reason, I believe that Teach for America and similar programs, which engage educated 20-somethings in education reform, are admirable.

There is nothing wrong with calling on fresh-faced idealistic leaders to jumpstart a movement.

Every year volunteers with a similar profile join the Peace Corps to make a difference abroad, with decidedly less scrutiny.

Why has practically the same movement in America made so many waves?

After all, in a few years it will be the duty of our generation to spearhead education reform and strive to close the achievement gap existing between those children growing up in privileged homes and those who are not.

The American education system with its grave inequities should be an international embarrassment to every citizen, and prove reason enough for change.

At a grand level, we must hold President Barack Obama accountable for the reforms he has proposed. On the most basic level, we should do what we can as educated young adults to ensure the futures of America’s youth.

So what if Teach for America corps members are idealistic. It should be viewed as a good thing, because somewhere amid idealism must be a passion for real educational reform if one is willing to spend years of his or her life living and working for the cause at a grass-roots level.

Liz Foreman is a senior majoring in international studies and journalism from Beaumont and the editor-in-chief of the Baylor Lariat.

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Please Recycle This Issue

OBAMA from pg.1

Obama at an early evening meeting attended by numerous lawmakers that declaring a timetable for a withdrawal would merely send the Taliban underground until the Americans began to leave.

As a candidate, Obama called Afghanistan a war worth fighting, as opposed to Iraq, a conflict he opposed and has since begun easing out of.

A new survey by the Gallup organization, released Tuesday, showed only 35 percent of Americans now approve of Obama's handling of the war; 55 percent disapprove.

In eight years of war, 849 Americans have been killed in Afghanistan, Pakistan and neighboring Uzbekistan, according to the Pentagon.

In addition to beefing up the U.S. presence, Obama has asked NATO allies to commit between 5,000 and 10,000 additional troops.

He said he was counting on Afghanistan eventually taking over its own security, and he warned, "The days of providing a blank check are over." He said the United States would support Afghan ministries that combat corruption and "deliver for the people. We expect those who are ineffective or corrupt to be held accountable."

As for neighboring Pakistan, the president said that country and the United States "share a common enemy" in Islamic terrorists. He added his policy will be to strengthen Pakistan's capacity to target terrorists, and he said the U.S. has "made it clear that we cannot tolerate a safe haven for terrorists whose location is known."

Most of the new forces will be combat troops. Military officials said the Army brigades were most likely to be sent from Fort Drum in New York and Fort Campbell in Kentucky; and Marines primarily from Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.

Officials said the additional 30,000 troops included about 5,000 dedicated trainers, underscoring the president's emphasis on preparing Afghans to take over their own security. They added the president is making clear to his generals that all troops, even if designated as combat, must consider themselves trainers.

McCain chose to engage the president at a pre-speech meeting with lawmakers before Obama departed for West Point. "The way that you win wars is to break the enemy's will, not to announce dates that you are leaving," McCain said later.

Obama's address represents the beginning of a sales job to restore support for the war effort among an American public grown increasingly pessimistic about success — and among some fellow Democrats in Congress wary of or even opposed to spending billions more dollars and putting tens of thousands more U.S. soldiers and Marines in harm's way.

Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., and liberal House Democrats threatened to try to block funding for the troop increase.

Sen. Carl Levin, the Michigan Democrat who chairs a military oversight panel, said he didn't think Democrats would yank funding for the troops or try to force Obama's hand to pull them out faster. But Democrats will be looking for ways to pay for the additional troops, he said, including a tax increase on the wealthy although that hike is already being eyed to pay for health care costs. Another possibility is imposing a small gasoline tax that would be phased out if gas prices go up, he said.

If the timeline for the troop increase holds, it will require a costly logistical scramble to send in so many people and so much equipment almost entirely by air. It will also probably require breaking at least an implicit promise to some soldiers who had thought they would have more than 12 months at home before their next deployment.

The United States went to war in Afghanistan shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, al-Qaida terrorist attacks on the United States.

Bin Laden and key members of the terrorist organization were headquartered in Afghanistan at the time, taking advantage of sanctuary afforded by the Taliban government that ran the mountainous and isolated country.

While the al-Qaida leadership appears to be bottled up in Pakistan's largely ungoverned tribal regions, the U.S. military strategy of targeted missile attacks from unmanned drone aircraft has yet to flush bin Laden and his cohorts from hiding.

Seattle police kill suspect in officer slayings

By GENE JOHNSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE — A lone officer on patrol in the middle of the night Tuesday spotted a stolen car, its hood up and engine running, and pulled over to check it out. As the patrolman sat in his cruiser, a burly man with a large mole on his cheek came up from behind.

The officer turned and instantly recognized the most wanted man in the Pacific Northwest — the ex-con accused of gunning down four cops at a coffee shop.

Moments later, Maurice Clemmons, 37, lay dead in the street, shot by the patrolman after Clemmons made a move for a gun he had taken from one of the slain officers, police said.

Clemmons' death brought to an end two days of fear across the Seattle-Tacoma area and one of the biggest manhunts the region has ever seen.

Dozens of police officers milled around at the scene afterward, some solemnly shaking hands and patting each other on

the back.

"Good thing he wasn't able to get the gun out here or we might have had a different ending to this whole thing," Pierce County sheriff's spokesman Ed Troyer said. "The officer in Seattle did a good job of making sure he went home safe tonight."

Clemmons eluded capture thanks to family and friends who provided him with shelter, cell phones, cash and first aid for the severe belly wound he suffered when one of the dying officers in Sunday's coffee-shop rampage got off a shot, police said. Six to seven of those associates were being arrested Tuesday.

Among them were an accomplice who drove the getaway truck after the rampage and Clemmons' sister, who bandaged him up and gave him a lift to a house in Seattle, police said.

"Some are friends, some are acquaintances, some are partners in crime, some are relatives. Now they're all partners in crime," Troyer said.

It was not clear exactly where Clemmons was while on the run.

Police rushed from place to place, following tips that often came up empty or yielded only accomplices. They searched homes and apartments around the city and cordoned off a park after a report of blood in a restroom.

On Sunday, Clemmons took refuge at a house in the city's well-to-do Leschi neighborhood, slipping away before police surrounded the home in an all-night siege that ended when SWAT officers stormed the place and realized he wasn't there.

Clemmons has a violent, erratic past, and authorities in Washington state and Arkansas — where then-Gov. Mike Huckabee in 2000 commuted his 108-year prison sentence for armed robbery and other offenses — are facing tough questions about why an apparently violent and deranged man was out on the street.

On Sunday, six days after posting bail in Washington on charges of raping a child, Clemmons walked into the coffee shop in suburban Tacoma and killed four uniformed Lakewood

police officers as they caught up on paperwork on their laptops, police said.

"The only motive that we have is he decided he was going to go kill police officers," Troyer said. Investigators also reported that Clemmons told others the night before the shooting that he was going to kill police and they should watch the news, but they wrote it off as "crazy-talk."

In a statement posted on the conservative Newsmax.com Web site, Huckabee said: "I take full responsibility for my actions of nine years ago. I acted on the facts presented to me in 2000. If I could have possibly known what Clemmons would do nine years later, I obviously would have made a different decision. But if the same file was presented to me today, I would have likely made the same decision."

The officer was driving in a working-class neighborhood of south Seattle at about 2:45 a.m. when he came across a stolen car, its engine running, Assistant Seattle Police Chief Jim Pugel said.

As he sat in his cruiser, be-

ginning paperwork on the car, he sensed movement, turned and saw someone approaching, Pugel said. The officer stepped out and immediately recognized the man, whose face had been all over TV and mugshot fliers memorized by every officer in the region.

The patrolman ordered Clemmons to freeze and show his hands, but he kept moving, and the officer fired several rounds, hitting the man at least twice, Pugel said.

Police said Clemmons would have died eventually of the gunshot wound he suffered in the coffee-shop rampage.

At the time of his arrest in Washington state earlier this year, investigators said Clemmons had visions that he was Jesus Christ and that the world was on the verge of the apocalypse. He also "told the officer President Obama and LeBron James are his brothers, Oprah (Winfrey) is his sister and referred to himself as 'the beast,'" according to court papers obtained by The News Tribune of Tacoma.

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Local band exhibits love for music, performing

By T.J. TUCKER
CONTRIBUTOR

Local band The Tastydactyls have rocked the Waco music scene for more than two years, but now they have their sights set on a bigger audience.

They recently arrived back in town after a six-week nationwide tour promoting their new EP “We Do,” and are about to shoot a music video for the holidays.

The band features front man and guitarist Blake Rawlins, bassist Brandon Oswald, drummer Gedden Gibson, keyboardist Zach Colyer and new guitarist Matt Chavez.

Their music pulls from a wide variety of influences, including Saves the Day, Bloc Party and Manchester Orchestra.

Rawlins affectionately describes their music as “nerd rock” and it certainly fits their

unique sound.

“We just love to have fun when we play and make people dance,” Oswald said.

The band has gone through a lot of turnover since its last

“We just love to have fun when we play and make people dance.”

Brandon Oswald
Bassist for The Tastydactyls

album “Waking the Giants” in 2008, but band members said they feel more comfortable now than ever both with one another and with their music.

“We have a lot of distinct per-

sonalities that came together, but it’s what makes the band work,” Gibson said.

The faith they have in one another and their new sound shows in their recently released EP. The new record keeps their same fun sound with tracks like “A Whole Lot of Ocelots,” but also brought a much cleaner, polished sound and an aura of confidence to the table.

“From a music standpoint we are leaps and bounds better than even a year ago,” Rawlins said. “We settled down and our new stuff sounds like the same band wrote it.”

The band’s new stuff has been generating a lot of buzz as it recently signed with Runt Management, which also manages acts such as Flyleaf.

The band said they hope to sign with an established label soon and start touring full time.



COURTESY OF THE TASTYDACTYLS

Having released their latest album, “Waking the Giants” in 2008, The Tastydactyls have begun to tour around Waco at venues such as Art Ambush and Common Grounds. The band is currently promoting their most recent EP, “We Do.”

“Our goal is to be able to make a living off our music. We

don’t have to be rich and famous — just enough to quit our day

jobs,” Oswald said.

That’s not to say the guys want to leave Waco for good. Quite the contrary, they embrace the town they all call home.

“Waco has a lot of heart. It’s diverse and provides us inspiration,” Oswald said.

They jokingly reference the town in song titles such as “Ma Suds” after a local Laundromat and naming the album “We Do” after the Waco Chamber of Commerce’s recent ad campaign.

The band loves to play Waco shows, whether they are bringing people into Art Ambush, rocking out Common Grounds, or even playing at Diadeloso for Baylor students, the guys just love having fun and playing music.

From its albums to its live performances, the band is able to demonstrate their passion for music.

‘Up in the Air’ director centers on lonely characters

By COLIN COVERT
McCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

MINNEAPOLIS — “I’m exhausted,” groaned Jason Reitman, which was a shame but ironic.

Near the end of a national tour in support of his latest film, “Up in the Air,” starring George Clooney as a tireless road warrior, the director was suffering serious jet lag and interview burnout.

“I feel like an actor who’s been doing the same scene for a month,” the 30-year-old filmmaker said. Reitman’s follow-up to “Juno” has been on many observers’ Academy Award shortlist since its Toronto Film Festival debut in September.

A comedic drama about corporate ax-man George Clooney’s efforts to build personal connections, it melds heart, humor and stinging social insights.

Reitman began work on the film in 2002, but set it aside to work on Diablo Cody’s teen comedy. After “Juno,” he returned to the downsizing story as the economy went into free fall.

“Honestly, it was just simply heartbreaking” seeing the economic deadfall that echoed the themes of his story, he said. Part of the filming was done in St. Louis and Detroit, cities hit hard in the recession.

The downturn inspired him to include stories from real lay-off victims in place of scripted scenes of actors getting fired.

“We interviewed over 60 people,” Reitman said. “We’d ask them what it was like to lose their jobs and how it affected their lives.” When they relived the pain of their job loss on camera, “that was devastating and moving,” Reitman said.

He expected that lowered income would be the hardest part

of unemployment but found that loss of purpose was the chief complaint. “That’s a more terrifying question, being in the middle of your life and not knowing what the purpose of your life is anymore,” he said.

Although he was born in Beverly Hills, the filmmaker had his own identity crisis in his 20s. His father, producer/director Ivan Reitman, made such successful comedies as “Stripes,” “Ghostbusters” and “Kindergarten Cop.” His mother, Genevieve Robert, acted in the European grindhouse classics “Devil’s Island Lovers” and “Dracula vs. Dr. Frankenstein.” He’d been a child actor in a half-dozen of his father’s movies.

It was almost a foregone conclusion that Reitman would have a career in the film industry. That’s why he wanted to be a doctor.

“I feel like my name weighs

about 1,000 pounds,” he said. “I thought if I was a director I’d be compared to my father my entire life, and more than likely fail very publicly. There’s too many children of famous filmmakers who are horrible directors.”

Hungry to establish his own name, he aimed for medical school until his father persuaded him to step behind the camera and give it a try. When his student films began winning accolades, he began to see that he could build a career on his own merits.

“I would have been an OK doctor, not a great doctor,” he said. He earned an Oscar nomination for best director for “Juno,” losing to the Coen brothers for “No Country for Old Men.”

Reitman’s films center on characters who are not especially audience-friendly: a cynical tobacco lobbyist, a sharp-tongued pregnant teenager and now a man whose livelihood is firing longtime employees.

“I like the tricky stuff,” he said. “I don’t see any point in making a movie like ‘The Insid-

er.’ Humanize the whistleblower? Why does he need humanizing? That’s kid stuff. There’s a line in ‘Thank You for Smoking’ which I’ve always liked: ‘Working for the Red Cross is easy.

If you want a real job, go work for Big Tobacco.’ I’ve always kind of identified with that idea. I want the tough stuff. I find deeper meaning in it.

“Somebody recently described the movie very lovingly as Cary Grant in ‘Death of a Salesman.’ I thought that was very cool.”

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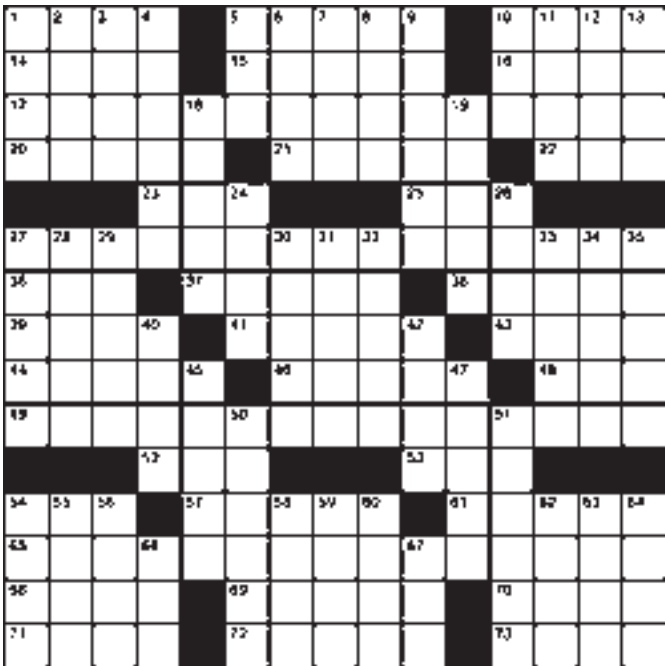
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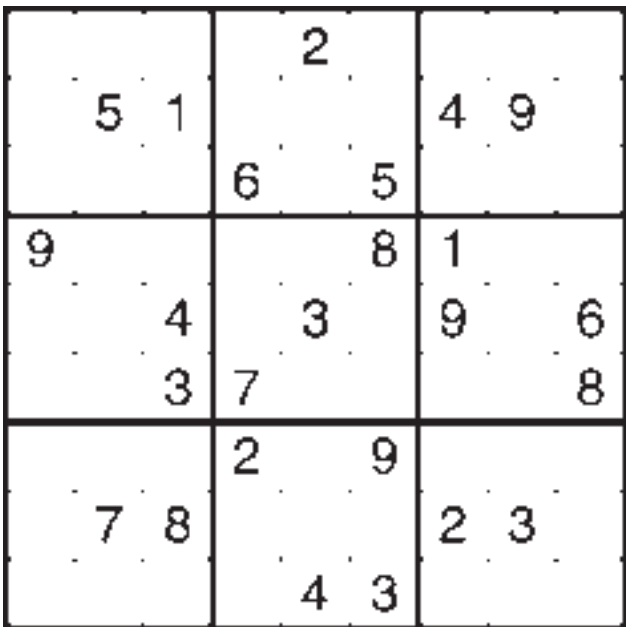
- 1 Square after Connecticut Avenue
- 5 “Take a hike!”
- 10 Wax remover
- 14 Jessica of “Sin City”
- 15 Israeli seaport
- 16 Choice in a booth
- 17 “Nightly news show segment
- 20 Match starter
- 21 Danger
- 22 Add color to
- 23 Veiled consent?
- 25 “__ Abner”
- 27 “Big Apple show
- 36 Houston Aeros’ org.
- 37 Brass or pewter
- 38 Overlay a part
- 39 Breakfast corner
- 41 Long Island __
- 43 Poker Flat chronicler Harte
- 44 To the point, in law
- 46 Author Nin
- 48 Evian, par exemple
- 49 “1955 Disney animated film featuring Darling Dear
- 52 __-cone
- 53 Show about Capote
- 54 Candy in 12-piece dispensers
- 57 Pisa place
- 61 Two-time opponent of Ike
- 65 Come down in buckets; also, when applied in sequence to the answers to starred clues, this puzzle’s theme
- 68 Witty Bombeck
- 69 Light refrain
- 70 Equally divided
- 71 Ginger cookie
- 72 Gobbled up
- 73 Doctor’s advice

Down

- 1 __ of Life
- 2 Not windward
- 3 Construction beam
- 4 Baltic country



- 5 One who’ll be comin’ round the mountain, in song
- 6 Bellyache
- 7 Teeming (with)
- 8 Get an __ effort
- 9 Henner of “Taxi”
- 10 Home shopping channel
- 11 Small hopper
- 12 __-bitsy
- 13 Folk icon Seeger
- 18 Ibsen’s “__ Gabler”
- 19 Beethoven’s “Für __”
- 24 Mice catchers
- 26 Arm, e.g.
- 27 Clichéd
- 28 Neighbor of Mary
- 29 Prayer starter
- 30 Tons
- 31 Hall of Famer Robin of the Milwaukee Brewers
- 32 Mimicking bird
- 33 Chick of jazz
- 34 First-stringers
- 35 Ease off
- 40 Piano’s 88
- 42 Reduction plan
- 45 Frenzied
- 47 Valuable violin, for short
- 50 Write, as music
- 51 Steering device
- 54 Co. VIP
- 55 Merit
- 56 Coors malt beverage
- 58 Razor brand
- 59 Exam for an aspiring D.A.
- 60 It’s a lock
- 62 Tennis score
- 63 Important periods
- 64 “This just __ my day”
- 66 Afternoon break
- 67 One of the Bobbsey twins



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Legendary Florida State football coach retires



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Florida State University head coach Bobby Bowden complains to officials during a game against the University of Notre Dame in 2003. Bowden ranks second in college football history with 388 career victories.

By ANDREW CARTER
McCLATCHY NEWS

Bobby Bowden, the man who built Florida State's once-moribund football program into one of the nation's best, announced on Tuesday that the Seminoles bowl game will be the last game he coaches.

Bowden's confirmation puts an end to a whirlwind of speculation that had surrounded his future since reports leaked on Monday night that he'd be retiring. Bowden, who arrived at Florida State in 1976 and led the Seminoles to national championships in 1993 and '99, did not make himself available to reporters on Tuesday.

During an interview on Tuesday with the university's sports information department, Bowden said, "Nothing lasts forever, does it? But I've had some wonderful years here at Florida State, you know it. Hadn't done as good lately as I wish I could have, but I've had wonderful years. No regrets."

Bowden's retirement comes days after Florida State ended the regular season 6-6 following a humiliating 37-10 defeat at No. 1 Florida. As recently as Sunday afternoon, Bowden expressed his desire to return for another season as FSU's coach.

But during a meeting on Monday morning with Florida State President T.K. Wetherell and FSU athletic director Randy Spetman, Bowden was presented with two options, according to a high-ranking university source: either retire or return in a reduced role that ceded authority to Jimbo Fisher, the Seminoles' offensive coordinator and coach in waiting.

Bowden mulled the offer and decided to retire on Monday night, according to another high-ranking university source. Neither Wetherell nor Spetman made themselves available to reporters on Tuesday, but FSU quarterback Christian Ponder and Dekoda Watson, a linebacker, spoke on the team's behalf.

Ponder said it was "weird"

that he and Watson were designated the university's spokesmen, and Watson said, "I feel like a lot of people feel he deserves better."

Meanwhile, Bowden, known for being one of the most accessible coaches in major college football history, avoided reporters. He arrived on campus in his black Mercedes sedan at around 11 a.m. EST, and entered Florida State's Moore Athletic Center through a back entrance. With a crowd of reporters gathered around Bowden's car, two individuals affiliated with the football program drove Bowden's car out of sight.

Spetman also refused to answer questions and, for the second consecutive day, walked mostly in silence as reporters attempted to prompt him to provide answers. Spetman said it'd be "a while" before he'd talk.

For most of the day, reporters and television trucks camped out in the parking lot outside of the Moore Athletic Center. There were no fewer than seven TV sat-

ellite trucks here, and Ponder and Watson spoke before more than a dozen cameras.

Ponder said he was looking forward to the beginning of the Fisher era, who will become the Seminoles' head coach after FSU's bowl game. Because of Bowden's retirement, Florida State has now become a viable candidate to play in the Gator Bowl on Jan. 1, according to published reports.

The Gator Bowl has the third pick of Atlantic Coast Conference teams but would be interested in selecting Florida State because of the interests surrounding Bowden's final game. Bowden said he'd had discussions with Fisher.

"I talked to Jimbo yesterday and told him what I was going to do, you know?" Bowden said. "And wish him luck and I'll do anything I can to help him and Florida State. I'll just be pulling so hard for Florida State — especially those boys next year."

It's unclear whether Bowden might remain at Florida State in an ambassador role.

Athletic chaplain embraces role for Baylor students-athletes

By MATT LARSEN
REPORTER

Wes Yeary is the athletic chaplain for Baylor sports. He graduated from Baylor in 1987 and returned in fall 2008 to take on his new position.

What was it that attracted you to Baylor as a high school football prospect?

It was Coach [Grant] Teaff. Just the kind of man he was, his strong faith — the desire to be under a man I knew was seeking God first and who had a great reputation among those who had played for him. Once I came on a visit, I appreciated the Christian atmosphere and the uniqueness of what Baylor offered and saw the opportunity to grow spiritually, academically and socially.

What was the best part of your time as a Baylor student athlete?

The relationships developed with teammates and the experiences we got to share. I still have

many of those relationships. It was fun. The FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) was a great source of encouragement for me where I got to know guys from other sports. Then we got to do things outside of our sport, like Special Olympics that made the experience valuable to me.

Did you know you wanted to be a sports chaplain?

No, I didn't even know there was such a thing. I did want to be a part of athletics in some way and something to make an influence in others lives, and that's what led me to coaching.

What led you to transition from coaching to being an athletic chaplain?

I really saw coaching as a ministry, and I was at Carson Newman College and got a call from Coach Tommy Tuberville at the University of Mississippi, and they were wanting to put an FCA on campus and [wanted me to] serve as sports chaplain.

That was the first time I considered that full time. I prayed about it for six months and felt that the Lord was leading me to that full time.

What brought you back to Baylor?

God really blessed that ministry at Ole Miss to the point where other coaches wanted to do it. I went to Auburn and helped with a program that equipped men and women to serve as sports chaplains on college campuses. I met Coach [Art] Briles through that process and he wanted me to come to Houston. Eventually [he] got the head job here, and he and Ian McCaw invited me to come back home. It's exciting for me to come back to the place I loved so much and grew so much and give back.

Do you have a family?

No, I don't. I've given God the thumbs up if he wants to bring that to me, but I treasure where I'm at right now. If he wants to

bring me a partner in ministry, I'm all for it.

What is your favorite sport to work with?

I enjoy the uniqueness of each sport and the difference in ministry opportunities that come with each sport. Some are more team-oriented where some can be more individual-focused and still the ministry comes down to building relationships with those involved. I love sports, and I grew up playing so many.

What part of your job do you enjoy the most?

It's the relationships you get to build with young men and women through the college experience, both the highs and the lows of it.

As with any pastoral position, there's always the risk of overworking and pouring out more than you're taking in. How do you make sure you stay spiritually fed?

I try to guard that personal time with the Lord each day. I'm always trying to read something that will challenge and encourage me and stay plugged in to a local church. Even just supporting other ministries and getting fed by things I hear from them is refreshing to me. A lot of times I get fed and inspired by the students I get to work with as well. And I'm thankful for some of the coaches who challenge me and offer accountability.

What inspired you to become a sports chaplain?

Chaplain comes from the French word chapelle, which literally means God's presence. The thing that inspired me the most about being a sports chaplain is to be in an arena that has such great influence and to bring God's presence into that arena.

Who has made an impact on your life?

I'll never forget how as a first-grader my dad, as part of the FCA

board, brought Roger Staubach in to speak. The way he gave attention to me overwhelmed me, and to hear him share his faith that day had an impact on me. At the end of elementary and junior high years, a guy named George Mason who played for Miami and went to our church took time to invest in me and was such a positive influence. My dad has just constantly been an example over the years of Christ's love and what it looks like to be a man of God.

What advice do you have for Baylor students interested in working either with athletes or going into some form of ministry?

I would say just be who God made you to be and not try to be someone else. The ministry He calls us to be a part of can only be an overflow of our relationship with Him. My advice to them is to be faithful in the place of ministry He has given them to serve in now. He will continue to lead you to places of ministry from that.

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A local college ad taking on the law entire law firm! is spending their help the lawyers.

"We just Brian Fats. "We creative help Although, we really to seeing all their then crushing them wa and jargon, making things that don't basically trying until it's either creative or int After sitting round of dro which tising As S "It's getting about for lib

ITA HE

STUDENT ORDER PIZZA AT RESTAURANT

What began as a typical dining-out experience quickly turned into a scary situation yesterday when sophomore Danny Rivers and his friends realized that the Italian restaurant that they had chosen for lunch... was completely Italian-speaking.

Looking for something more authentic than local favorite Pizza Barn, the group had decided to venture out and try a new place.

"I swear it was the scariest moment of my life," Karl Winsey, a friend of Danny's, recalled. "It was like we time-warped into Italy or

something. The waiter came over and started talking in Italian! Um... what? I had no idea what to do."

Fortunately, the group

added. "Professore Vacanti would've been proud of me. Or maybe I should say would've been

CHA CHING!

TY TO TAIL

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bon, hours and Professor e was empty. k Stein's and Where was last-minute apparently,

senior Ben

Elching use re spotted in behind the n, watching ing hacky-sack "They were Ben exclai coal grill, co shoes... the w they're supposed t ushere... not grilling high-fiving."

The faculty did claim. In fact, Art History professor Michael Fineman spoke with great liberty.

"Did we eat too many Doritos? Maybe. Throw a little Frisbee around? Sure. But teachers deserve to have a little fun too. And it's not like it hurt anyone," said the

MONEY MASCOT

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Sad news in officials seized used to prom off-campus t incident invol "book" mascot. Police reports indicat became

GREEK SYSTEM RUNNING OUT OF LETTER COMBINA

FRESHMAN JUST REALIZES HE SPENT HIS ENTIRE STUDENT LOAN

READY

ning moment happened night as Freshman Dirk pulled his last \$20 bucks local downtown ATM. His balance was zero.

near there was \$15,000 in a few months ago," and the stunned student "where it went."

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SITE from pg. 1

remains until they were found.

Since the discovery of the fossils, faculty, staff, students and volunteers from Baylor worked to excavate the remains. In addition to the mammoths, remains of a camel, a saber tooth cat and an unidentified animal were also found at the site.

Jonathan Cook, marketing coordinator for the City of Waco, said the site's possibilities for the future could have a huge impact on the number of visitors at the opening.

"We are really expecting a strong turnout Saturday," Cook said. "Putting a number on it is really hard, but with all the hype going on and [the fact that] we are looking at a potential national park, maybe 1,000 people."

Cook said a big part of the interest in the event has come from the media's involvement and word of mouth surrounding the event.

The pavilion created to protect the site is climate-controlled and has a catwalk across the site, where visitors can look down and see some of the bones below.

At the site, there is also a scenic trail way with benches and rest areas, welcome center and gift shop.

This site is the largest known concentration of Columbian mammoth remains, where the animals died from the same event.

The group is a nursery herd of females and juveniles. One of the adult female mammoths was found with a juvenile in her tusks, which could suggest that the adult was trying to lift it above a flood.

Columbian mammoths differ from traditional woolly mammoths in that they have very little hair, part of what allowed them to survive in the Texas heat.

Funding for the project came from the Waco Mammoth Foundation, a non profit organization that raised approximately \$3.4 million for the project from private donors. Cook also explained that private donors are the reason for the opening, because without the funding of these over 200 donors, the site would not be possible. In addition, Baylor and the City of Waco have each donated \$100,000 for future development of the site.

Scoggins said Baylor's funding is part of a matching grant.

"That means there is a federal grand program called Save America's Treasures and the project was given a \$200,000 grant from Save America's Treasures if we matched it 100 percent," Scoggins said. "The city and Baylor each put up the money so we could match the grant. This enabled a total of \$400,000 [for the mammoth site]."

Edwards, who will be attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the site, has been a key element to securing funding for the project. In 2005, Edwards obtained \$400,000 to jumpstart the preservation efforts of the site.

In March of this year, Edwards introduced the Waco Mammoth National Monument Establishment Act of 2009, which pushes for the mammoth site to become part of the National Park Service.

"Under this proposal, the National Park Service would take the lead responsibility for ensuring the protection, scientific study and visitor enjoyment of paleontological resources," Edwards said.

Edwards has also introduced legislation to make the Waco Mammoth Site a national monument, making it the second in Texas, after the Alibates Flint Quarry outside Amarillo.

In 2006, the plans for the mammoth exhibit were reignited. The process to become a national public park is currently underway and the site is waiting for a decision.

The site also has plans to increase the educational exhibits and tour options. "My legislation will officially implement the Department of Interior proposal and authorize appropriations for the project," Edwards said.

"Once the bill becomes law, I will do everything I can to secure the appropriations needed to preserve this world-class, historic site." Cook noted that creating a national park in Waco would put an unparalleled stamp on the city.

"For many people, it's cliché to say, 'It is a dream and a lot of hard work and that dream is finally coming true'," Cook said. "It's one of a kind treasure."

The opening will be at 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5. in Cameron Park.

RANK from pg. 1

to graduate."

According to Lyon, these "cafeteria-style" curriculums allowed students to pick classes that sounded interesting or easy.

According to the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, out of the top 100 leading colleges, 42 received a "D" or an "F," by requiring two or fewer of the seven criteria set forth by the new system.

Only two of the top 100 colleges required economics courses and 11 required American governments or history classes.

"This study demonstrates that our colleges and universities have abdicated their responsibility to direct their students to the most important subjects," said Neal. "Most colleges are offering no more than a do-it-yourself education."

Lyon said now the pendulum has swung back the other way, and people are seeing the benefits behind a strong core curriculum.

"If a person has a college degree, what should they know?" Lyon said. "Baylor tries to prepare broader educated and well rounded students."

Bern, Switzerland junior Maya Frutiger said that this new ranking for Baylor gave her something to be proud of.

"If I were in high school and I heard Baylor was ranked top seven over other schools, it would really put Baylor into a whole another category of education," Frutiger said.

"It makes me feel better knowing that I am graduating from a recognized school, and it makes me more confident putting the Baylor name on resume."

AIDS from pg. 1

zation is addressing, Sanchez-Crowe said. Infant mortality and malaria are also concerns. Sanchez-Crowe said malaria is as "common as the flu."

Allison explained the U.S. State Department's role in the world in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The United States developed and funded the President Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR, which was launched in 2003 by former President George W. Bush. PEPFAR invested funding for prevention practices, care and education in nations across the globe.

During the Q&A session of the videoconference, one student asked what good governance was. The panel agreed that accountability and transparency

were the two major components of it, as well as making sure resources go toward the needs of the country.

They also discussed the challenges faced when trying to dispel common misconceptions held by some Africans such as the myth of the 'Virgin Blood,' where a man will be cured of the disease if he has intercourse with a virgin, which has led to the rape of hundreds of teenagers, children and sometimes infant girls said the panel.

Sanchez-Crowe said the department sometimes tries to reach the people through communication with tribal leaders in the community. "People are desperate. This is the level of desperation to getting rid of this disease," said the facilitator Ni-

cole Peacock, outreach coordinator for the U.S. State Department.

Cypress junior Saralyn Salisbury interned with the USDS over the summer and said it was important for her as a student to connect the academic portion of her education with real-life applications to provide for better understanding.

"I really think there is a lack of awareness about our government and our policy towards the rest of the world," Salisbury said.

"A lot can be learned on policy and our world, through videoconferencing." Nonprofit organizations such as the ONE Campaign and The Global Fund provide information on how to support and fight preventable diseases worldwide.

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