### WE'RE THERE WHEN YOU CAN'T BE





A&E Page 5 Sing: Back for round two Check out a photospread of more Sing pictures before attending the spectacle, which starts up again today

### **NEWS** Page 4 Honk if you love trucks The strategic location of Waco makes it a natural home to trucking companies, which continue to grow



### **In Print**

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### **On the Web**



### Be in the know

Follow the Lariat on Twitter for up-to-the-minute updates on breaking news and links to articles, photos, multimedia and more

### twitter.com/bulariat

### Viewpoints

*"While the* intent of the FCC *– to please both* sides by requiring



Tommye Lou Davis, vice president for constituent engagement; Dr. Truell Hyde, vice provost of research; and U.S. Rep. Bill Flores listen as BECK senior project manager Hugh Sanford directs their attention toward different project areas of the Baylor Research and Innovation Collaborative on Wednesday at the BRIC construction site.

# Flores talks BRIC funding

#### DANIEL C. HOUSTON Reporter

U.S. House Rep. Bill Flores visited Waco Wednesday afternoon, touring the construction site of the Baylor Research and Innovation Collaborative and saying he is willing to use his influence to help the program obtain federal grant funding.

Although House Republicans have enacted a moratorium on earmarks to fund projects in congressional districts, Flores said programs like BRIC are still eligible to receive federal funding in the form of research grants.

"In terms of funding, these

priority and as long as it's transparent, these things can get funded. . .

"If my constituents at Baylor come to me and say, 'We have applied to the N.I.H. or to youname-the-agency for this type of grant,' you can rest assured that I will be using my bully pulpit as a congressman to have that agency make sure that BRIC gets a fair shot. Just because earmarks are gone doesn't mean the world is going to stop."

The BRIC tour highlighted the progress made in renovating an old World War II tire factory, originally covered with carbon dust and traces of asbestos, into what Baylor administrators hope will eventually become a worldclass research facility. The facil-



U.S. Rep. Bill Flores gives a presentation at a townhall meeting

Wednesday in the Knox Hall at Texas Ranger Hall of Fame Museum. ity is located at 600 South Loop the facilities went. Drive.

"I think the tour went ex-

numbers, look at the results from

the prelims for the people that say

they would like to compete na-

tionally. We will choose the best

of the best and ask them to come

back to the fitness challenge fi-

Wednesday and includes swim-

ming one length of a pool, a one

mile run and a 2.5 mile bike ride

in the cycling room. Men will

then do regular chin pull-ups

while women do a chin hang. Af-

ter these individual tests, every-

one will compete in an obstacle

The next set of events occur

nals," Davis said.

financial aid award

Funds

By Sara Tirrito STAFF WRITER

raised for

In keeping with its mission of providing a bridge between Baylor and the local community, the Baylor/Waco Foundation has begun fundraising for an endowed scholarship to be awarded to a McLennan County high school graduate beginning in the fall of 2012.

This will be the first scholarship created by the foundation.

"Primarily, we really want to serve as the bridge between Waco and Baylor and there's no better way to do that other than providing opportunities for kids from the Waco area to be able to go to school at Baylor," Scott Rogers, president of the Baylor/Waco Foundation steering committee, said. "I think that scholarship will play an integral role in doing that."

This project also ties into the President's Scholarship Initiative, announced in September, which set forth a goal of boosting the university's scholarship funds by \$100 million by the conclusion of the 2013 fiscal year.

The goal for the Baylor/Waco Foundation endowed scholarship is \$50,000, which is the amount required to establish such a scholarship. Donations can be mailed or given online by both individuals and businesses.

Amber Adamson, director of the Baylor/Waco Foundation, said the community has been receptive to the project.

"When you talk about the need of students, there's nothing more important in a university setting than the students, and I think that tugs at people's heartstrings more than any other project we could do," Adamson said

equal airtime for both – may seem to be protecting the integrity of the argument, it is, in actuality, controlling the information that *is provided to the* public."

Page 2

### **Bear Briefs**

*The place to go to know* the places to go

### Free concert today

The Campus Orchestra will present "An Interlude Between Two World Wars, 1919-1939" at 7:30 p.m. today in Jones Concert Hall in the Glennis McCrary Music Building. The concert is free and open to the public.

### Cheer for cheering

Baylor's competitive cheer team will take on Azusa Pacific and Maryland at its premiere multiteam meet at 6 p.m. today at the Ferrell Center.

### Hot and spicy

Looking for something to spice up your life? Sigma Alpah Epsilon's Salsa Fest is just around the corner. Come out between 6 and 9 p.m. on March 3 at Traditions Plaza for homemade salsa, tortillas and live music.

things don't have to be funded with earmarks," Flores said. "As long as it fits a critical national

Tommye Lou Davis, vice president for constituent engagement, was pleased with how the tour of tremely well," Davis said. "I feel

SEE **BRIC**, page 8

SEE **PROJECT**, page 8

## Fitness hopefuls strive to run, jump, swim to gold

#### By Molly Dunn Reporter

With their eyes on the prize, leaders of the American Collegiate Intramural Sports (ACIS) National Fitness Challenge team at Baylor are determined to win first place at this year's competition.

Van Davis, assistant director for fitness and nutrition education at the McLane Student Life Center, has coached the team for the last three years and wants to bring Baylor the gold this year.

"For the last two years, Baylor University has come out second place in the ACIS National Fitness Challenge," Davis said. "This year our goal is to go and bring home the trophy. With all of that hype and a big goal set, we want to make sure the students know about it and come be a part of the fitness challenge."

Throughout this week, students of all fitness levels are invited to participate in the preliminary section of the fitness challenge. The tests include situps, pushups, standing broad

jump and the sit-and-reach flexibility test.

"These prelims events are just to qualify Baylor to nationals and how we qualify is by the number of students that participate in it on our campus," Davis said.

Students who do not wish to advance to the national competition team of two men and two women will only do each test for 30 seconds. If students want to compete at the national level, their tests will be at one minute intervals

"What we will do is look at the

course.

"If they are fit and they want to go and have a chance to represent Baylor University, we want to take those individuals and test them out because of the events that they will be doing, they are doing them nationally," Davis said.

Silsbee senior Kyle McGallion has competed nationally for Baylor the past two years and said he believes Baylor can win first place this year.

"It is possible. It all comes

SEE FITNESS, page 8

## Tag team act injects diversity into Sing

By CAITLIN GIDDENS Reporter

This may be their first appearance on the stage of All-University Sing, but they hope it won't be their last.

Bridging the gap between Greek organizations on campus, National Pan-Hellenic Council partnered with Baylor Heavenly Voices Gospel Choir for their inaugural Sing performance last weekend.

"It's advertised as All-University Sing, but not the entire campus has been represented in this Baylor tradition," Memphis, Tenn., senior Britney Thornton said. "This has been an issue on our hearts for a while. There has never been a consistent minority act in Sing, so NPHC and Heavenly Voices stepped up this year."

For members of the National Pan-Hellenic Council and Baylor Heavenly Voices Gospel Choir, it's not just about the opening curtain and advancing to Pigskin. It's about opening doors for the future of their organization.

"We want to show Baylor that NPHC and Heavenly Voices have been here for a while," Thornton said. "Hopefully the newness of our act won't blind people to its quality. And hopefully we're paving the way for future members to make their way into Pigskin."

The group's "Dance Train" act stunned the audience last weekend with its powerful vocals. The act featured members auditioning for a recreation of "Soul Train." Flower Mound junior Shelby Strider performs a solo to "I'm Somebody" from the film "Dreamgirls."

"That is such a perfect song because our act is really a declaration of saying we're somebody on campus," Strider said. "We're definitely making history, and it's crazy to think I'm a part of that. I could come back to Sing in a few years and remember I was in the first act."

But the inaugural act didn't make the stage without facing its share of challenges.

"Obviously, we have less members in NPHC, so that's been a challenge," Thornton said. "And we've faced opposition from the community, saying we need to stay in our own lane and not break into the mainstream."

Instead of quitting under the pressure, the council and the Heavenly Voices choir united to create the best act possible.

'This has really made our whole counsel closer," Thornton said. "We have seven different sororities and fraternities in NPHC, so this entire process has made all of the members closer."

NPHC asked Heavenly Voices to contribute with vocal performances to add to the quality of their act.

SEE **SING**, page 3



Sarah Groman | Round Up Pho

Memphis, Tenn., senior Britney Thorton performs during the Heavenly Voices Gospel choir and National Panhellenic Council's Sing act.

## 2|≝Baylor Lariat

### Opinion

## Lara Logan deserves nothing but support from all

Suggested things to say when a woman is sexually assaulted: Is there anything I can do? I am so sorry this happened. I am with you.



Leonard Pitts, Jr. | Columnist

You would think suggestions would be unnecessary. You would think the essential fact of being human and knowing another human being has been hurt in one of the worst ways possible would make the words automatic.

But the recent attack on Lara Logan of CBS News — beaten and assaulted while reporting on the uprising in Egypt — suggests that is not always the case.

"Lara Logan is lucky she's alive," wrote something named Jim Hoff, blogging on something called Gateway Pundit. "Her liberal belief system almost got her killed on Friday. ... Why did this attractive blonde female reporter wander into Tahrir Square last Friday? Why did she think this was a good idea? ... Was it her political correctness that about got her killed?"

Something named Debbie Schlussel, blogging on an eponymous website, used the attack as a launching pad for a screed against the "animals" Schlussel blamed — meaning not the attackers themselves, but Islam writ large. "So sad, too bad, Lara. No one told her to go there. She knew the risks. And she should have known what Islam is all about."

On the other side of the bipolar American political divide, something named Nir Rosen — a journalist and a fellow at New York University — mocked Let us pass lightly on the specific "thoughts" — a term used advisedly here — raised by these individuals, except to note that, contrary to what Hoff and Schlussel imply, Logan did not wander aimlessly into that square. The woman is a reporter and she was doing what reporters do: going places, sometimes dicey, difficult or dangerous places, in order to originate the information that allows the rest of us to opine from the comfort of our chairs.

The suggestion that in doing her job, Logan somehow "deserved" what happened to her is appalling. As is Hoff's political spin, Rosen's mockery and Schlussel's frothing bigotry.

But what is also appalling arguably, more appalling — is the reflexive objectification of a woman who has been violently violated. To read these comments and the many more like them circulating the web, it is easy to forget that we are talking about a real attack upon a real woman who must now grapple with real consequences. It's as if some feel Logan's tragedy exists only as a vehicle for them to score political points.

One in every six American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape. The number — it comes from the Rape Abuse & Incest National Network — bears repeating: one in six. Rape is nearly as common as the common cold. And can you imagine looking into the eyes of that one woman in six and saying something as asinine, as unfeeling, as heart dead and soul cold as, "So sad, too bad"?

Yet this sort of thing, this treating of other people's traumas as if they were abstractions unworthy of reverence, is common now in the public forum. As in the vitriol that attended the deaths of Tony Snow, Robert Novak and Sen. Edward Kennedy. The great irony of the Internet era, the era that brought the world together, is that in some ways, we live at a greater remove from one another, from simple decency, and from our own humanity, than ever before.

Lara Logan was sexually assaulted. She is a real person she exists somewhere at this very moment — and she is deserving of our compassion, our empathy and our prayers. There was a time that would have been unnecessary to say.



# Self-policing of journalists best for pure press freedom

### Editorial

Republicans recently made a move in the House of Representatives to fight the reinstatement of the infamous Fairness Doctrine and ensure a purer form of freedom of speech for radio broadcasters.

The Fairness Doctrine was a controversial policy implemented by the FCC in an attempt to force balanced broadcasting on the radio.

The doctrine, which was introduced in 1949, was an attempt to enforce fair political discussion during talk radio shows.

It required opposing sides of controversial political issues to have equal airtime. For instance, if a broadcaster were to present the liberal side of an issue on the air, he/she would also be required to present the conservative side of the issue for an equal amount of time.

The FCC board revoked the

doctrine in 1984 with a 4-0 vote. There is now a push, however, to reinstate the Fairness Doctrine since what seems to be ever-increasing political violence hit a high with the assassination

hit a high with the assassination attempt of Arizona Rep. Gabby Giffords. Supporters of the doctrine

hope that this would pacify the harsh partisan politics that may have played a role in such a violent act.

Now, two House Republicans, and former broadcasters, Reps. Mike Pence of Indiana and Greg Walden of Oregon, proposed the Broadcaster Freedom Act in rebuttal to the talk of reinstating the Fairness Doctrine.

The two House members' act seeks to preemptively halt any reinstatement of the Fairness Doctrine.

The new act sets forth that no future rules or regulations made by the FCC could reinstate the Fairness Doctrine's mandate that both sides of an issue are represented during on-air commentary.

Journalists are trained to present their audience with fair news accounts. There is, however, an evolving segment of journalism considered commentary-based news.

Often, an audience will tune into a specific radio talk show to hear the announcer's opinion. It seems logical that announcers should be able to determine what they present to listeners, because they are working for their listeners, not the government.

It is the journalists who present the news or political commentary that should be maintaining fair representation of both sides of an issue. So it is the journalists who should regulate the amount of time that they provide for the other side of an issue.

Listeners are aware of the kind of information they will be provided when they listen to a radio shows that provide much commentary. If the Fairness Doctrine is reinstated the government would regulate the information that listeners receive — a dangerous, undemocratic step in the wrong direction.

The First Amendment does not say that the press has freedom of speech if, and only if, it appeases the FCC. It says that no law shall be made "abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press."

Were the FCC to reinstate the Fairness Doctrine, it would be abridging the freedom of the press.

While the intent of the FCC – to please both sides by requiring equal airtime for both – may seem to be protecting the integrity of the argument, it is, in actuality, controlling the information that is provided to the public.

Commentators and reporters alike, looking to maintain credibility and accuracy should consider opposing views, but it is not the government's place to ensure they do.

Brooks Pinckard, who ended the

season with a 2.45 ERA.

Logan in a series of tweets as a "warmonger," presumably for her coverage of the Iraq and/or Afghanistan wars, and said he was "rolling my eyes" at the attention she'd be getting.

Leonard Pitts Jr., is a Pulitzer Prize winning columnist for the Miami Herald.

### Please recycle this issue



#### ere was a time leen unneces-It's that time of year. The time when the cold temperatures begin to fade away, and we put our

gin to fade away, and we put our heavy coats in the back of our closets and bring out the shorts and flip-flops.

The time when March Madness is fast approaching and Sing is in its prime; the time when convenience stores are low on their sunflower seeds.

Yes, it's that time of year when you can hear the sounds of aluminum bats sending a ball deep into left field, the pop of a glove after strike three and the melody of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" during the seventh inning stretch.

It's finally time for action on the diamond.

Suddenly, old quotes from legendary baseball movies find their way into our everyday conversations.

• "If you build it, he will come." from "Field of Dreams"

• "There's no crying in baseball!" from "A League of Their Own"

• "God, I just love baseball." from "The Natural"

Some of us have flashbacks to our first time on a diamond: dads coaching us to hit the ball not the



Krista Pirtle | Sports writer

tee, run right to first not left to third (even though that way is much more convenient for righthanded batters).

Soon dads will be telling their kids to stop picking at the grass in the outfield, get your glove off your head and get ready to stop the ball.

As the melody of "Sweet Caroline" rings through the air, it is evident that Baylor softball, and baseball are officially underway.

Softball took the field for their first time Feb. 11 as they hosted, and swept, the Getterman Classic with a 5-0 record, the best start since beginning 9-0 in 2007.

Dani Leal hit four out of the park for the weekend, but the big story was the return of the red-shirted sophomore Whitney Canion to the circle.

In two complete games pitched, Canion recorded an impressive .5 ERA with 22 K's.

Preseason, the Lady Bears were picked to finish No. 6 in the Big 12. This will not be the case once the season is over.

With Canion in the circle, the speed in the outfield and the bases, and power in the box, the Lady Bears look to turn some heads as they face some of the top programs in the country, taking on defending National Champions UCLA and powerhouse Arizona next month.

Across the sidewalk, Baylor baseball looks to have an impressive season as well, projected to finish No. 4 in the Big 12, returning eight of nine starters and 11 of 15 letter-winning pitchers.

Their pitching staff is impressive as well, headlined by junior Logan Verrett, who finished his 2010 campaign with a 3.28 ERA and 97 strikeouts.

Closing for the Bears will be

"Yes, it's that time of year when you can hear the sounds of aluminum bats sending a ball deep into left field, the pop of a glove after strike three and the melody of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" during the seventh inning stretch."

Two of the big sluggers for the Bears are just sophomores this season, Logan Vick and Max Muncy, who are looking to mature and strengthen from their impressive freshmen seasons.

The weather is perfect and the teams are good. Head out to the ballpark and enjoy the game.

*Krista Pirtle is a sophomore journalism major from Olney and* 

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Opinion

The Baylor Lariat

## Spring brings memories of diamond dad days

## Baylor Lariat 3

# Sonogram bill in House

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN - The House State Affairs Committee advanced legislation Wednesday requiring women to get a sonogram at least 24 hours before having an abortion, sending the measure to the full House.

The bill, written by Rep. Sid Miller, R-Stephenville, says a woman must be given the opportunity to see the sonogram and hear the

women with sufficient information before making a decision is of paramount importance.

"This legislation is not about abortion or about sonograms, it's about providing information," Miller said. "Basically it's an expanded informed consent. We want to make sure the woman has every piece of information available to her before she makes a decision to abort the child or keep it." Opponents say the bill suggests

"This bill is about shaming women seeking an abortion. An ultrasound is a medical machine, not a political tool."

Elisa Saslarsky | member of the National Council of Jewish Women

fetal heartbeat before an abortion while the doctor explains the features of the fetus. The woman can opt not to see the image.

A woman whose life is in danger doesn't have to get a sonogram, but the bill currently doesn't provide exemptions for women whose pregnancy resulted from a sexual assault.

A similar bill authored by Republican Sen. Dan Patrick passed the Senate last week, but it exempted victims of rape and incest or women carrying a fetus with fatal abnormalities. An amendment to Patrick's bill also reduced the waitperiod from 24 hours to two.

Proponents of the legislation are presenting it as an extension to informed consent law that is already in place. They say providing

### SING from Page 1

"This has really helped in bridging the gap between the different organizations of NPHC and Heavenly Voices," Strider said. "It opened our eyes to the separation not just between NPHC and the other greek groups, but the separation within NPHC and Heavenly Voices."

By showcasing their presence on campus, the National Pan-Helwomen having an abortion have given no thought to their decision. Elisa Saslarsky, member of the National Council of Jewish Women, said lawmakers should focus more on supporting measures that prevent unintended pregnancies.

"This bill is about shaming women seeking an abortion," she said. "An ultrasound is a medical machine, not a political tool."

The version of Miller's bill the committee approved differs from an earlier version he filed. The current bill expands the definition of a medical emergency from life threatening to include any impairment of a major bodily function.

It also removed the cause of action allowing a doctor to be sued if he violates the statute. However, physicians could lose their licenses

lenic Council and Baylor Heavenly Voices Choir strive to educate their own members as well.

"A lot of people in Heavenly Voices didn't know what Sing was when we were asked to join," Strider said. "They didn't know it was a competition, or that it lasted two weekends. That speaks to how separated Baylor can be."

As a member of the Heavenly

if they don't obtain and retain a signature from a woman seeking an abortion stating that the sonogram was offered to her.

The witnesses testifying Wednesday say women should have the right to a face-to-face consultation with a physician before the abortion, as a patient would before any surgical procedure. The doctor often arrives right before the procedure and is gone before the anesthesia even wears off, leaving patients uninformed and vulnerable, they said.

Every abortion is preceded by a sonogram, but currently women are rarely given the opportunity to see the sonogram picture.

Teresa Sadler of Greenville said as a pregnant college student years ago, she went in to an abortion provider who tried to keep her from seeing the sonogram. She waited until the nurse left the room to look for herself and said she was immediately told to lie back on the table when the nurse found her looking at the image.

Sadler said she felt an injection in her arm and woke up in a recovery room with the abortion completed — all without ever seeing a doctor.

"What I saw on that screen, I'll remember forever," she said. "But I was never given the chance to ask questions. What I'm asking of you today is to give women that opportunity."

GOP Gov. Rick Perry carved the way for legislators to take action quickly by declaring sonogram legislation an emergency item at the beginning of the session. Perry has said he will sign the bill if it reaches his desk.

Voices choir, Waco senior Andrea Pena said she hopes the future of Sing will include all types of minorities.

"I'm a Hispanic in a predominantly African-American organization," Pena said. "So I want all minorities to get involved with acts in Sing. I think this will create diversity at Baylor."

### Merchandising who attend. company to hold open house By James Stockton

REPORTER

After four years of college, recently graduated students have some new things: a degree, an appreciation of hard work and a large collection of T-shirts.

While many of these shirts come from different organizations and events, most of them begin at the same place: QTI-Powers Inc.

QTI-Powers is a merchandising company formed when two of the leading merchandising companies in Central Texas merged last year: Quality Imaging of Robinson, and PowersCreations of Waco.

QTI-Powers will be hosting Business After Hours tonight at its new warehouse on Franklin Avenue to show customers and the Waco community in general how it operates. It will have machines running throughout the event to show the public what goes into making merchandise, and those in charge of the company will make themselves available to meet those

Where T-shirts are born

QTI-Powers will host "Business After Hours" from 5 to 7 p.m. today at its new facility on Valley Mills Drive. During

the event, screen printers will produce T-shirts to show customers how daily operations work

While not all QTI-Powers' customers live in Waco, one of their biggest clients is Baylor University.

Harlingen senior Reece Fitzgerald is a member of Baylor Chamber of Commerce and the liaison between QTI-Powers' collegiate subdivision BearCotton and Baylor Chamber of Commerce, which puts on most of the major universitywide events on campus.

"We've worked with BearCotton over the past few years for Homecoming, Diadeloso and Parent's Weekend as well as our rush stuff," Fitzgerald said.

Jeffrey Paul, founder of BearCotton and co-owner of QTI-Powers, listed other events BearCotton makes merchandise for, such as the "I know where I'm going" campaign, 2010 Gold Rush, and almost all athletic events.

They even did a Kim Mulkey bobblehead earlier this season.

Since the Baylor merchandising license is tough to get, BearCotton is proud to be the premiere manufacturer of Baylor gear. However, Baylor gear is not all it produces.

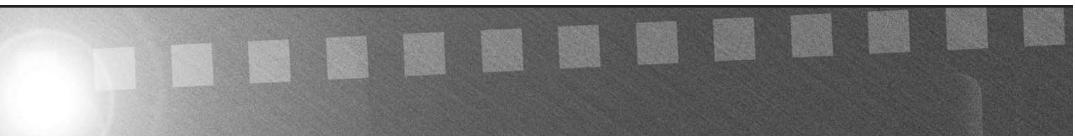
"We have about 100 other licenses for other colleges," Whitney Leasley, manager of BearCotton, said. "The day of the A&M game, we thought it was really funny because we were printing all these Baylor shirts last minute ... and we looked over and we had all these A&M shirts printing on one machine and Baylor shirts on the machine next to it."

Not only does QPI-Powers create shirts for Baylor's main events, but it is also the top choice for student organizations on campus. And since most transactions are done through e-mail, QTI-Powers thought Business After Hours would be good to put faces with their clients.

"It's a good time to see face to face, chit chat. It's a great opportunity to [have] a more relaxed atmosphere with our customers," Leasley said.

Business After Hours will begin at 5 p.m. and end at 7 p.m. It is a come-and-go event, with food and drinks provided. The new warehouse is located at 300 S. Valley Mills Drive. The event is free and open to the public.

"Business After Hours is a great time to meet ... everyone who works here, see people behind the business we do," Leasley said.







### THURSDAY | FEBRUARY 24, 2011 www.baylorlariat.com

# 4 |≝Baylor Lariat Despite rising fuel prices, trucking prospers

#### By Ade Adesanya REPORTER

Interstate Highway 35 is the major north-south highway for the Central Texas region, and more than 30 trucking and logistics companies call the Greater Waco area their home base.

The economy is in the recovery phase, and as retailers have started making gains as predicted by 2010 industry forecasts, the trucking business in Waco has grown. Retailers are ordering more finished goods, while manufacturers are ordering raw materials, industrial equipment and replacement parts.

"The Greater Waco Chamber [of Commerce] is doing great things for the larger distribution centers," Mitch Perry, the service center manager for the Con-way Inc. branch in Waco, said. "We have increased our business locally due to Caterpillar and other national retailers doing business in the Greater Waco area."

According to Perry, the Waco

Chamber and the city are making decisions that affect the trucking industry positively.

We benefit directly, because it means they [local businesses] will order more materials and finished products which we will deliver," Perry said.

In addition to Waco's strategic location on the map and its business incentives, the city is a pool for potential drivers, which trucking companies need to compete when fueling costs are rising.

"We enjoy a pretty good recruiting pool of experienced drivers from the Waco area; about 90 percent of them are recruited locally," Perry said.

According to the 2010 IBIS-World industry report, crude oil prices are a major determinant of the price of diesel. IBISWorld is a market research organization that provides information for strategic planning and research purposes.

World market price of imported crude oil is subject to socioeconomic events that occur in the

countries the crude oil is imported from

According to an article by the New York Times, oil prices continued to climb as reports emerged about the disruptions to crude oil extraction in Libya. Crude oil prices reached \$100 momentarily Wednesday before settling at about \$98

These rising crude prices directly affect the transporters in Waco, who then pass on the cost to the consumers.

"When there are problems overseas and diesel prices rise, our customers have to compensate us based on the national average of diesel prices," Larry Rooks, the general manager for Heritage Dedicated Services Inc., said. "For example, this time last year, diesel prices were about 73 cents less per gallon, and customers pay us the difference if diesel prices rise."

Higher diesel prices mean truckers will employ cost-effective strategies to minimize fueling costs. One of such strategies is employing experienced drivers who are equipped with fuel economizing driving skills. These skills are important because cost savings can be passed to consumers, Perry said.

Despite the rising gas prices, savings from wholesale purchases are expected to increase business for truckers over 2011, according to the IBISWorld report.

According to the report by IBISWorld, trucking services are a barometer of the U.S economy because they represent nearly 70 percent of goods carried by all modes of domestic freight transportation.

As manufacturing output increases, demand for trucking services will also increase.

Con-Way Inc. is the largest trucking company in the U.S by market share. The trucking giant's Waco branch competes for business against small independent contractors and other large trucking companies.

According to IBISWorld industry reports, Texas and California have the largest proportion of surface trade with Mexico, accounting for 56 percent of the total truck movements across the southern U.S border.

Economic recovery is tracked by expected increases in the manufacturing sector according to the industry report. Industry reports also forecast that trucking companies can expect to benefit from business expansion due to the expected increase in manufacturing in 2011.

Companies in Waco confirm these expectations, which factor in diesel price fluctuations.

"We expect 2011 to be a pretty decent year. The federal motor carrier has new rules this year and that will eliminate bad drivers," Rooks said. "This will free up the market for the best businesses to compete locally."

Companies such as Heritage Dedicated Services Inc., based in Waco, specialize in contract trucking for companies who pay for trucking services. They employ contractors because they want to focus on their primary business activities and not worry about the details of transportation management, such as fueling and maintenance.

Many trucking companies engage in outsourcing by assigning their transportation functions to other companies.

While businesses try to minimize running costs by outsourcing, some of these costs will pass to the consumer as a result of the truckers added to the supply chain.

Regardless of 2011 economic forecast, trucking companies of all sizes continue to find ways to remain in business.

Competition means trucking companies can start and collapse, allowing room for new companies to enter the industry.

"We make money whenever we have a market for our products. Our company freights refrigerated products - it just depends on where we can find our market, and Waco has been good to our business." Rooks said.

# Obama administration takes stance on Libyan violence

#### By MATTHEW LEE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration on Wednesday sharpened its condemnation of a bloody crackdown on Libyan opposition demonstrators as it broadened its outreach to government officials, dissidents, rights activists and youth in other Arab nations across a Middle East that is seething with unrest.

"The suffering and bloodshed is outrageous and it is unacceptable," Obama told reporters after meeting with Clinton at the White House. "So are threats and orders to shoot peaceful protesters and further punish the people of Libya. These actions violate international norms and every standard of common decency. This violence

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J.

must stop."

Obama did not, however, lay out specific measures he would take if Gadhafi did not respond to the appeals.

In part, U.S. officials said, this was because of fears that Gadhafi might order reprisals against Americans and other foreigners still in Libya if threatened with sanctions.

His comments signaled the administration is seeking to align itself with reformists in post-revolt Tunisia and Egypt and to be seen as a force for democratic change in Bahrain and other Persian Gulf states

Before Obama spoke, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton participated in an online discussion with young Egyptians who spearheaded the rebellion that

BACE D

ousted President Hosni Mubarak, a major recipient of U.S. aid over the past three decades.

partnership with Mubarak despite the repressive nature of his regime. She was asked why the U.S. did

"We are inspired by you and we believe in you, and the United States is ready to assist in any way that would be appropriate."

#### Hillary Rodham Clinton | Secretary of State

The difficulties of promoting America in the Arab world were underscored in Clinton's appearance on www.Masrawy.com, a website designed mainly for young Egyptians.

In a 30-minute, mostly Arabiclanguage question-and-answer session, Clinton was peppered with questions from skeptical youth about America's long and close

not seem to support Mubarak's opponents until they had won and if the United States would support real democracy in Egypt even if Islamists took power.

Clinton said again and again that although Mubarak was a U.S. ally, successive American presidents had continuously, although unsuccessfully, pressed him to reform and criticized his regime's abuses.

'The United States has relations with many countries whose values we do not always agree with and whose actions we often criticize," she said.

And she stressed over and over that the United States supported the aspirations of the Egyptian people and hailed their nonviolent protest as an inspiration to the world. She also repeatedly offered U.S. assistance.

"I am very proud of what Egyptian young people have done," she said. "You have set such an extraordinary example of nonviolent, peaceful protest. We will stand with you. We want to be your partners. We are inspired by you and we believe in you, and the United States is ready to assist in any way that would be appropriate."

At the same time, she warned that democracy was not easy and that they should be patient but persevere through difficulties ahead.

"I have no doubt in my mind that this can be done as long as people do not get exhausted, frustrated, give up too soon, because the process is sometimes very hard to deal with," Clinton said.

Another theme Clinton returned to was the peaceful nature of the protests, which she said repudiated the message of al-Qaida and other extremist groups.

"Al-Qaida's position is there is no such thing as peaceful protest; there is no such thing as democracy," she said.

"Well, I hope they were watching on television as Egyptian young people proved them wrong on both of those points."

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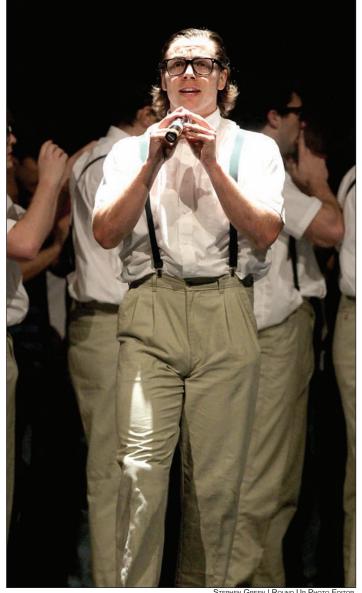
Arts & Entertainment

## Baylor Lariat | 5

# Sing shots: Stars of Sing show audience their talent



Above: Kappa Kappa Gamma wolves show an edgy side in their act "Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf?" Bottom Right: In Kappa Omega Tau's "The Show Must Go On," the guys embraced the dark side of circus life with their unique act. Bottom Left: In Kappa Sigma's "Playin' Around at the Playground," the guys brought back childhood memories with some fun at recess.



# Sing Schedule:

Thursday: 6:30 p.m.

Friday: 6:30 p.m.

Saturday: 6:30 p.m. Awards Show at 10:30pm



Above: Mattie Marion of Chi Omega and Jonathan Hamilton of Phi Kappa Chi team up to fight the law in "Bonnie and Clyde." Below: Alpha Delta Pi and Delta Tau Delta tidy up in "Don't Stop 'Till It's Clean Enough.'

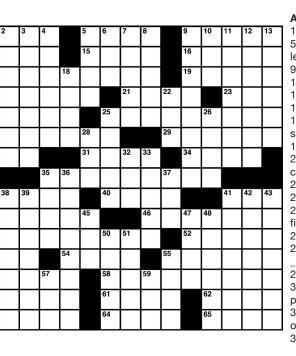






Cortney Shedd | Round Up Photogra

### **FUN TIMES** Find answers at www.baylorlariat.com



#### Across 1 Lee followers 5 Works in the Uffizi Gallery 9 Gets readv 14 "\_\_\_ Rhythm" 15 Role for Carrie 16 Singer Gorme 17 Money for the Warsaw government? 19 Letter alternative 20 They may be precious 21 Divulge 23 Hydrocarbon suffix 24 Fluorescent bulb filler 25 Foot-tapping songs? 27 "1984" protagonist Smith 29 Cut it out 30 Place to be pampered 31 French mystic Simone 34 Maundy Thursday

period 35 Songwriting, to Porter? 38 G-note 40 Increase in intensity, with "up" 41 Previously 44 Weather map features 46 Ardor 49 Actor's messages from an agent? 52 \_\_ asada (Mexican meat dish) 53 TV's Alf and others 54 Skin-soothing stuff 55 Bouquets 56 Rob of "90210" 58 Grain for bagels? 60 Sport with clay pigeons 61 Auth. of many quotes? 62 Old Boston Bruin nickname 63 Newbies

64 Following 65 Remarriage prefix Down 1 With-the-grain cutters 2 Vacation for the vain? 3 Smoked deli meat 4 Dictators' aides 5 Wistful word 6 "Wonder Dog" of comics 7 Relate with 8 Drawing support 9 Willy-nilly 10 3-Down might be on it 11 Enters carefully 12 Rachmaninoff, e.g. 13 Prime 18 Certain caterpillar's creation 22 Was in front 25 Look from Snidely Whiplash 26 Broken in 28 Rice University mascot

32 "\_\_ picture paints ... song lyric 33 Walks with a cane perhaps 35 Road marker 36 Shunned ones 37 Clean air org. 38 October Revolution leader 39 It can facilitate drawing 41 With the most open windows 42 Flipped 43 Convenient, shoppingwise 44 Least constrained 45 Erie Canal mule 47 Flat-bottomed boat 48 Ornamental bands 50 Lindsay of "Labor Pains" 51 Sierra 55 Cooped (up) 57 Fair-hiring abbr.

59 Bagel topping

Above: Sing Alliance flies high with their lighthearted act "Hip Hip Hooray!" Left: Pi Kappa Phi films for the big screen in their act "Hollywood Nights."

McClatchy-Tribune



THE SAMURAL OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

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Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9.

## 6 | Baylor Lariat



# Lady Bears trounce K-State

### Griner, team appear back in top form

#### By Lindsay Cash Reporter

The Lady Bears pummeled Kansas State on Wednesday when they relentlessly scored 75 and held the Wildcats to 48.

Senior Melissa Jones had her 38th double-figure scoring game and tied her career high of three blocks, while sophomore Brittney Griner put up 26 points and grabbed nine rebounds.

The game attendance of 7,820 was enough to push the Ferrell Center attendance record to new heights. The Lady Bears' home attendance mark of 140,794 on the season surpasses all attendance records at the Ferrell Center, in both the men and women's teams.

Coach Kim Mulkey knows the

attendance derives from her team's desire to produce wins.

"It feels good to put a product on the floor and have people, fans and coaches respect it," Mulkey said.

From the tip, the Lady Bears intensely pressed the Wildcats on the defensive end. Kansas State rocked back on their heels early as Jones hit two big 3-pointers to give the Lady Bears the initial gap. Jones finished the night with five steals, three blocks, six assists and nine rebounds.

"My favorite stat of the night would have to be out-blocking Brittney," Jones said, with a smile.

Mulkey knows Jones' senior leadership and hard-nosed style of play

"If you're a player that brings it like this every night with these kinds of stats, like MJ does, your team will win," Mulkey said.

Freshman Odyssey Sims had a quiet offensive night with just two points, but she and sophomore Brooklyn Pope combined for eight rebounds.

"I thought Odyssey played very

well on defense tonight," Mulkey said.

Sophomore Jordan Madden added seven points.

The Lady Bears dominated the boards, out-rebounding Kansas State 38-21. Kansas State's 21 was a

### "We've come to bounce back from a tough loss at Texas Tech with a sense of urgency."

Kim Mulkey | Head coach

season low for Baylor's opponent. Their six made free throws and nine attempts were opponent season lows as well.

Although the game seemed one-sided, the Lady Bears worked all week for such a win. Griner said last week's upset loss to Texas Tech fueled the Lady Bears' fire for the future.

"The improvement starts in practice. It's always nice to win,

but losing to Texas Tech opened our eyes, and we needed that," Griner said.

With only three regular season games left in the Ferrell Center, the Lady Bears realize the importance of finishing strong.

"We've come to bounce back from a tough loss at Texas Tech with a sense of urgency," Mulkey said.

Jones, the team's lone senior, faces closing in on her career at Baylor.

"It crosses my mind every day, but it's exciting. It makes you work harder every day," Jones said.

Mulkey looks to keep the team fresh and healthy during the post-season.

"Late February you start seeing heavy legs and unhealthy bodies. We need to keep everyone healthy and fresh heading late into the season," Mulkey said.

The Lady Bears will face Oklahoma at 4 p.m. Sunday in Norman. In the team's Feb. 2 meeting, Baylor led by as much as 40 points and prevailed, 92-70, behind Griner's 29 points.



Nick Berryman | Lariat Photographer Melissa Jones fires a 3-pointer against Kansas State Wednesday. Jones scored 11 points as the Lady Bears won, 75-48. Brittney Griner scored 26.

# Men fall to Mizzou on road; tourney outlook dims

#### By Will Potter Reporter

Baylor traveled to Mizzou Arena hoping to come away with a signature road win but could not slow down the Tigers and fell 77-59.

The fastest 40 minutes in basketball whizzed by, as the Bears could not keep up with Missouri's transition offense and struggled with turnovers against the Tigers press.

"Missouri does such a good job forcing turnovers and that's been our problem all year long. It was an opportunity for us to get better at handling pressure," head coach Scott Drew said. "Obviously, with six assists and 21 turnovers, we didn't do what we wanted to do. Give all the credit to Missouri." Baylor players were not available for comment after the game.

The Bears took an early 2-0 lead and never led again the entire game. Senior Lacedarius Dunn was held scoreless at halftime for the first time all season and Baylor went into the locker room down 33-20. He finished with 12 points and hit a pair of 3-pointers, the 41st straight game in which he has hit at least one trey.

From the beginning of the game, Baylor was outhustled by Missouri, and it showed in the score and in the statistics. The Bears were outrebounded by the Tigers and allowed Missouri 22 points off turnovers.

Drew said Missouri's rotation, featuring nine players who played at least eight minutes, gave the Ti-

| Baylor        | Wednesday, Feb. 23<br>Mizzou Arena | Missouri      |  |  |
|---------------|------------------------------------|---------------|--|--|
| 59            |                                    | 77            |  |  |
| 42.4% (25-59) | Field Goals                        | 46.8% (29-62) |  |  |
| 34 (14-20)    | Rebs. (offdef.)                    | 36 (15-21)    |  |  |
| 6             | Assists                            | 15            |  |  |
| 21            | Turnovers                          | 15            |  |  |
| Q. Acy, 13    | Lead Scorer                        | L. Bowers, 20 |  |  |

gers an advantage with less fatigue. For whatever reason, he continued, the Bears did not box out effectively.

"If you don't give them maximum effort, they're going to get

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the rebounds. I've thought all year long that they've been kind of underrated. Watching film you realize how good they are," Drew said.

Freshman sensation Perry Jones III recorded a double-double for Baylor scoring 10 points and grabbing 10 rebounds after a slow shooting start. The Bears freshman guard Stargell Love chipped in 10 points and was perfect from beyond the arc.

Wednesday was a big game for Baylor, as it is fighting for a spot in the upcoming NCAA tournament. Before tipoff, ESPN's Joe Lundardi projected Baylor to one of the last four teams left out of the tournament in March. With only three games remaining in the Big 12 regular season, the Bears now must almost certainly win the rest of their regular season games to secure themselves a spot in the biggest tournament in NCAA basketball.

With the loss today, Baylor's overall record dropped to 17-10

with a 6-7 record in conference play.

The Bears play host to Texas A&M Saturday and look to make it two wins in a row versus the Aggies. On Feb. 5 Baylor scored an upset at Reed Arena, topping the Aggies 76-74 on a layup with 3.1 seconds left in the game.

"I think we're going through a tough streak, but hopefully it's gone. And now we've got two out of three at home against good teams, as is everyone in the Big 12," Drew said.

After the Aggies, the Bears travel to Oklahoma State Tuesday. Baylor's regular season ends with one last chance at a NCAA tournament resume-booster, as Texas comes to the Ferrell Center on March 5.



<u>Homestead</u>



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 9:00

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# Knicks win in Anthony's NY debut

BY BRIAN MAHONEY Associated Press

NEW YORK - Carmelo Anthony's debut on the big stage was a huge hit.

Anthony had 27 points and 10 rebounds, hitting a pair of clutch buckets down the stretch in front of a crowd that cheered his every move as New York beat the Milwaukee Bucks 114-108 on Wednesday night in his Knicks debut.

Anthony made only 10 of 25 shots but was at his best in the closing minutes, helping New York hold on after fellow superstar Amare Stoudemire fouled out. He matched the third-highest scoring game in a Knicks debut since 1964, just two points shy of Keith Van Horn's 29 on Oct. 29, 2003.

Chauncey Billups, who came with Anthony from Denver in Tuesday's blockbuster trade, finished with 21 points and eight assists as the Knicks won their third straight. Toney Douglas scored 23 points and Stoudemire had 19.

John Salmons scored 27 points for the Bucks.

With fans chanting for both Anthony and Billups in the final minute, New York matched its win total from last season with its 29th victory — but now the Knicks have much bigger plans than that.

The Knicks have never had a winning season since Anthony entered the NBA and are mired in a franchise-worst stretch of nine straight losing seasons. Their revival began when Stoudemire signed last summer and reached a new level Wednesday when Anthony walked out of the tunnel

onto the floor where he came in averaging 30.4 points, just off Kobe Bryant's 30.5 for tops among active players.

He said before the game the Knicks could score 120 points per game, and they weren't far off even without any real practice time in their first game together.

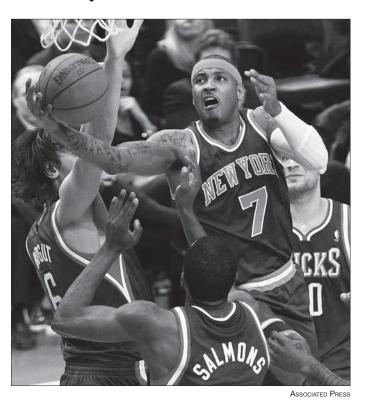
Milwaukee was down four when Anthony drove the baseline for a dunk with 1:18 remaining, and his bucket in the lane with the shot clock running down with 26 seconds left made it 108-102.

He added two free throws with 11.4 seconds remaining, fans chanting "Melo! Melo!" as he sank them for a six-point edge. Billups was serenaded with a "Chauncey Billups!" chant he later went to the line.

The Knicks gave up a lot to land them, surrendering starters Danilo Gallinari, Raymond Felton, Timofey Mozgov and top reserve Wilson Chandler. But they insisted the price was worth it for the chance to pair Anthony along with Stoudemire, with both locked up long term after Anthony signed a contract extension on his way out of Denver.

With the building appearing completely full before tipoff, fans roared as quotes from Anthony appeared on the overhead videoboard before introductions, noting he was born in Brooklyn and wanted to be former Knicks star Bernard King.

Anthony was then introduced first to a raucous ovation, and quickly earned his first points as a Knick on an offensive rebound with 9:37 left in the first quarter.



New York Knicks forward Carmelo Anthony works against Milwaukee Bucks defenders in the Knicks' 114-108 win Wednesday night. Anthony scored 27 points in his first game since he was traded from Denver.

But he appeared rusty after playing little over the last week and perhaps a little worn out after a whirlwind All-Star weekend, and his jumper was off for most of the night.

He arrived in New York on Tuesday night and was introduced along with Billups in a packed pregame press conference, telling the huge crowd that he was "ready to get down to business right now."

With only a short workout since the players need to pass physicals Wednesday, Knicks coach Mike D'Antoni said he put in four or five plays and it would be almost like an All-Star game. The Knicks were sharp early, shooting 59 percent in the first quarter and opening an 11-point lead early in the second on Anthony's dunk.

Milwaukee cut it to 59-57 at halftime and grabbed the lead early in the third quarter. The Knicks quickly went back ahead and were up 86-79 after Douglas scored the last five points of the period, including a 3-pointer with 2.6 seconds left.

# Women's golf seeks rebound after weekend

**Baylor Lariat** 7 **3** 

#### **By DANIEL WALLACE** Reporter

The rays of light in the Sunshine State seemed to be missing the Baylor Lady Bears. Tuesday the women's golf team finished 14th out of 15 in the Central District Invitational in Parrish, Fla. This came on the heels of finishing 11th of 17 last week in the UCF Invitational in Sorrento, Fla.

The team has dropped four spots in Golfstat's rankings since the spring season began, to No. 54.

As a team the Lady Bears shot 58-over-par 922 in the two-day tournament. No. 16 Iowa State took the cake at 4-over-par 868. The 15-team tournament featured 11 teams ranked in the top 45, including Texas foes such as Texas A&M and TCU, who finished third and fourth, respectively.

One reason why the team has struggled to reach its full potential is because they have been done in by the big hole.

"It's always that big number that bites everyone on the same hole in any given round," assistant coach Jordan Cox said. "That's the difference between where we are now and where we need to be. We need to really play hard the next few tournaments to position ourselves for the postseason."

Juniors Jaclyn Jansen and Chelsey Cothran finished in 30th and 35th places in the tournament, shooting 10-over-par 226 and 11-over-par 227, respectively. Jansen had five birdies on

"It's always that big *number that bites* everyone on the same hole in any given round."

Jordan Cox | Assistant coach

Tuesday, but also five bogies. She said she could not find a rhythm throughout the day.

After Monday, Cothran was tied for 22nd overall.

"I'm extra proud of the way Chelsey (Cothran) played," Cox said. "She played well last week and she picked it up Monday where she left off."

However, Tuesday was a different story, and she was not able to find her rhythm on the course either. Before this tournament, Cothran had placed in the top 25 in five straight tournaments.

She and the rest of the Lady Bears will look to get back on track on Mar. 7, when they tee up for the UNLV Spring Invitational in Boulder City, Nev.

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### PROJECT from Page 1

Even after the \$50,000 goal is met, Rogers said he believes the foundation will choose to continue adding funds to the scholarship throughout the years.

"I think there's a pretty good chance that, going forward, some percentage of our annual fundraising would go toward the scholarship to increase that year after year and continue to provide more funds," Rogers said. "Our goal is certainly to grow the scholarship over time."

Adamson said designating the scholarship to a high school graduate of McLennan County was important to the steering committee because committee members feel that keeping a strong tie to the community is important.

"I think that it's important for the committee to feel that they're giving local students the opportunity to stay in Waco, to be educated in Waco and then perhaps to find a home and to stay here after they graduate and be contributing citizens to our community," Adamson said. "There's kind of this gap of college-age students who move off and then come back in their early 30s and late 30s and raise a family, but that kind of young professional group is missing and so this may be a way for us to retain some of our brightest and best students and keep them here and show them that Baylor and Waco care about their contribution to our community."

Amarillo senior Sam Moore was chosen as the first student representative to sit on the committee for the Baylor/Waco Foundation last semester.

The position has shown him the opportunities that are available lo-

### FITNESS from Page 1

down to your team composition," McGallion said. "You have to have a balanced team to get first, kind of strong, kind of fast. Once you have that, then it is possible."

Davis decided to hold the preliminary events earlier this year to allow those who will be on the national team to have more practice time together.

"The reason it is early is because a lot of people are working out before spring break and they are in pretty good shape," Davis said. "Once we pick our team, then after spring break, the group will almost have a month and a half to work out together and to go and be prepared."

The National Fitness Challenge will be held April 30 in Colorado Springs, Colo., at the United States Air Force Academy.

One of the female participants from last year's national team, Houston sophomore Caroline Cobb, said she loved being able to go to nationals in Colorado. "I was a freshman at the time

cally and has allowed him to make connections in the community.

"It's been amazing because I've actually been able to see a lot more about Waco," Moore said. "It's helped expand my knowledge of what actually goes on in Waco. I had no idea the industry that's actually in this town before I started the committee."

Moore said he has noticed a disconnect between Baylor and the community because often students can't find the opportunities they need locally and the community can't find the students to take the available opportunities. However, the foundation's goal is to help connect the university with the community, and Moore said he believes the creation of the endowed scholarship will be a step forward that can make a significant difference to an area student.

Through tutoring at a local school, Moore has seen sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders who automatically turn down the suggestion of attending Baylor because they know their families can't afford the cost.

"I was amazed by that and frightened by that. If you want to go to college, it shouldn't be out of reach," Moore said. "Any of those students that have the aspirations or the dreams to go to college. If we can help those aspirations to come true, that's what matters to me and that's what our organization is all about."

To make a donation to the scholarship fund, donors can call Adamson at 254-710-8435 or visit the Baylor/Waco Foundation website at www.baylor.edu/development/index.php?id=76914.

and so that was real intimidating

being the youngest person," Cobb

said. "It was just a really exciting

experience going to a different

state, meeting people from all dif-

ferent schools and really just seeing and coming up against a lot of ath-

Cobb may have been one of few

freshmen competing at nation-

als, but she was named the female

most valuable player last year and

encourages students to participate

win. There's nothing to lose going

for nationals, the first step is to

have as many students as possible

participate in the preliminary chal-

lenges. Davis wants the student

body to help Baylor qualify by par-

Interested students should talk

ticipating in the challenges.

"It's a lot of fun even if you don't

In order to help Baylor qualify

in the preliminary challenges.

out for it," Cobb said.

letic ability."



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to the fitness staff in the McLane Student Life Center if they would like to participate in the preliminary fitness challenge activities.

### BRIC from Page 1

that [Flores] understands the impact of research as a component of our educational process. The BRIC is going to be significant not only for research but also for economic development and jobs for Central Texas."

Flores expects BRIC to have a positive impact on the Central Texas economy and said the research efforts being planned could lead more businesses to invest in the area.

"I think that basic research that produces new knowledge is very important for the future economic development of the country," Flores said, "and I think that BRIC — once it's up and running — is going to be a great tool, a great resource for Central Texas in terms of doing basic research and applied research.

Dr. Truell Hyde, vice provost for research who largely oversees the progress of BRIC, said that even if the program cannot obtain federal funding, more than \$32 million has been secured from local sources like Baylor, Texas State Technical College, and the cities of Waco and Bellmead, among others.

"In the overall scheme of things, appropriations funding is a very small amount of funding compared to other sources," Hyde said. "The big thing is that you keep the support of your congressmen and senators and we certainly have that."

Flores also held his first town hall meeting as a congressman Wednesday evening at the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame, during which he addressed his constituents and stressed the importance of reducing the federal deficit, deconstructing the health care legislation President Barack Obama signed into law last session, and scaling back

federal entitlement programs like Social Security and Medicare.

"[The federal deficit] is what's going to ruin your future, right here," Flores said in an interview with the Lariat. "So we've got to fix this as soon as we can. If we don't, we're going to leave a terrible legacy for you to have to deal with."

The town hall meeting offered the opportunity for attendees to offer feedback or ask Flores questions. Topics ranged from funding for preschool education to the possibility of a new constitutional convention to amend the Constitution, to which Flores is opposed.

A recurring concern expressed by three attendees was with Flores' vote to extend certain provisions of the Patriot Act, which empowers federal agencies to engage in domestic surveillance activities. Flores said the provisions he voted to extend bolster the government's ability to defend against potential terrorist attacks and only allow for surveillance of foreign suspects, not American citizens.

City of Moody resident Floyd Martin did not feel his belief that the act is unconstitutional was adequately addressed in Flores' response.

"I'm still concerned about the Patriot Act," Martin said. "I don't believe that he informatively answered that. He evidently fails to realize that we've got a Fourth Amendment that states that warrants have to be overseen by the judiciary. This special court that he talked about is under the executive branch of government. ... They gave authorization for warrantless searches even without any kind of court oversight, and they've been conducting them over and over again."