

Twice as nice...

Track, Basketball teams capture national championships Texans defeat Southern Idaho for national title



Members of the men's basketball team celebrate after winning the 2018 NJCAA National Championship on March 24. Photo Courtesy of Wes Underwood/South Plains College

by KENDALL RAINER
Photo/Sports Editor

Unranked going into the National Junior College Athletic Association Region V tournament, the South Plains College men's basketball team needed to perform at their best to advance to the national tournament.

The Texans did just that, going undefeated through the regional event and advancing to the National Tournament in Hutchinson, Kansas, where they continued their streak and claimed the championship, the third for a college celebrating its 60th anniversary this year.

"We thought that we were good enough at the beginning of the season," said head basketball coach Steve Green. "We had a lot of setbacks and injuries. I

felt like we always had the potential to win it, but things had to fall into place."

At the beginning of the second half of the championship game on March 24, freshman Keith McGee hit a three-pointer to extend the lead to seven for SPC with 18:21 remaining.

Southern Idaho went on an 11-2 run to take the lead back from SPC at 61-59 with 16:01 remaining in the contest.

SPC was down 71-67 with 14 minutes left in the game, but the Texans responded with a 5-0 run in a two-minute span to re-take the lead after a layup from McGee.

A three-pointer from Charles Jones Jr. put Southern Idaho up by three with 11:37 left, before Isaiah Maurice hit a floater to put the Texans back on top with nine

minutes remaining in the game.

Deshawn Corprew, a 6-foot-6 forward who has committed to Texas Tech University, put SPC ahead 82-77 after a floater with 5:57 to go. Danya Kingsby brought Southern Idaho to within four after a pair of free throws with 1:35 left in the game.

Corprew grabbed a rebound and went on to convert a layup with under 50 seconds left. SPC held off Southern Idaho in the final seconds to secure the national championship.

Corprew led the scoring for SPC with a team-high 21 points. He hit seven of his 14 attempts from the floor, including 7-for-7 from the three-point line.

Maurice contributed 20 points and 11 rebounds, while freshman Chris Orlina recorded his third

See "Texans" on pg. 3

by KENDALL RAINER
Photo/Sports Editor

It came down to the last event on the last day.

But that was just fine with the South Plains College men's track and field team.

With Barton County (Kan.) ahead of SPC by two points in the team standings going

for SPC to capture the national championship, the sixth national indoor title in the program's history.

"It is great to win the indoor championships for the first time since 2015," said Erik Vance, head track coach at SPC. "I feel like we have been close a couple times. So to be able to close it out and win was a relief. The

Cardoza, Ian Gonzales, and Dekaryea Freeman placed third with a time of 7:44.17, earning five points for SPC. In the men's 60-meter hurdles, William Watson and Mason Weh placed third and fourth, respectively. Watson posted a time of 7.88, and Weh posted a time of 7.91. The two combined to add nine points for the Texans.



The track and field teams celebrate the victory for the SPC men at the 2018 NJCAA National Indoor Track and Field Championship, held March 2 - March 3 at the Texas Tech Sports Performance Center. Photo Courtesy of Danny Vest/South Plains College

into the last race of the 2018 NJCAA Indoor National Track and Field Championships, Montel Hood ran the anchor leg for the Texans in the men's 4x400 relay. Hood barreled down the final stretch and helped SPC place second with a time of 3:09.56, two spots ahead of Barton County, and push ahead 94-92.

That was just enough

group of kids we have really trained well over the break and showed the urgency required to have a successful indoor season."

The two-day competition was held March 2 - March 3 at the Sports Performance Center on the campus of Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

In the 4x800 relay, Felix Kosgei, Ulises

In the men's heptathlon, freshman Asani Hylton placed third with 5,326 points and sophomore Patrick Johnson placed fifth with 5,058 points. The two added 10 points for SPC.

In the men's triple jump, freshman Holland Martin earned national champion honors and set

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Sanders emphasizes progressive agenda during Lubbock rally

by ADÁN RUBIO
News Editor

Financial equality, gun control and health care were among the topics discussed recently by

Senator Bernie Sanders during a rally held for Lubbock residents.

On March 10, Sanders spoke at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center to encourage the Democratic population of Lubbock to

vote and help change the political ideologies that impact most of the state.

Sanders, the United States senator from Vermont, was a candidate during the 2016 presidential election. As a Progressive, Sanders has acted on many issues, such as global warming, income equality and universal health care.

In August 2016, Sanders founded Our Revolution, an organization aimed toward educating people about the Democratic platform and

the changes they intend to initiate. Through many

and supported candidates with similar ideals.

chapter, whose aim is to end societal issues by fighting for a minimum wage of \$15, Medicare for all and equality for everyone within the United States.

During the rally, which began with musical performances by Andy Wilkinson and Bob Livingston, T.G. Caraway, candidate for Lubbock County Commissioner Precinct 4, promoted ORT and introduced other speakers, such as OR President Nina Turner, Jim Hightower, former Commissioner of the Texas Department of Agriculture, and Michael Lighty, Director of Public Policy for National Nurses.

Throughout the majority of the speakers'

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Bernie Sanders discusses the Democratic platform during a rally held at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center on March 10.

ADÁN RUBIO/PLAINSMAN PRESS

OR chapters across the nation, Sanders has spread his Progressive ideologies

The event was hosted by Our Revolution Texas (ORT), the local OR

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Sanders encourages voting, collaboration among Democratic Texans

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discussions, many issues, such as the inequality among social classes, the criminal justice system and the costs of being a United States citizen, were acknowledged countless times. But the need for Texans to vote, especially the liberal population of the state, was also discussed.

Encouraging people to vote and to take a stance on political issues are a few things that Hightower said that ORT is helping to achieve.

"ORT is bringing us mutts and rebels into the political sphere," said Hightower. "ORT is not organizing to protest government. We are organizing to become the government."

Through ORT and its sponsored events, Hightower said people will be able to come together and impact political decisions.

"ORT is a people's revolution against the corporate elites," said Hightower.

Fighting against the corporate elites was one thing that Sanders said will help relieve many problems. One major topic Sanders acknowledged was the difference in hardships between the wealthy and the working class.

"Since the Wall Street crash of 2008, 50 percent of income goes to the top 1 percent," said Sanders. "I have a feeling in Texas

believes wages need to be higher for all people.

"People understand that \$7.25 wage an hour is a starvation wage," said Sanders. "We need to raise that to 15 bucks an hour. If senators can vote for a tax break for the wealthy, they can vote for free colleges."

With the Democratic Party's desire for a prosperous lifestyle and the wealthy not paying enough taxes, Sanders said people need to fight for legislation such as universal health care.

There are many disadvantages that result from not expanding Medicare to everyone. Due to unaffordable prescription drugs and the high cost of doctor appointments, he said he believes many Americans are suffering.

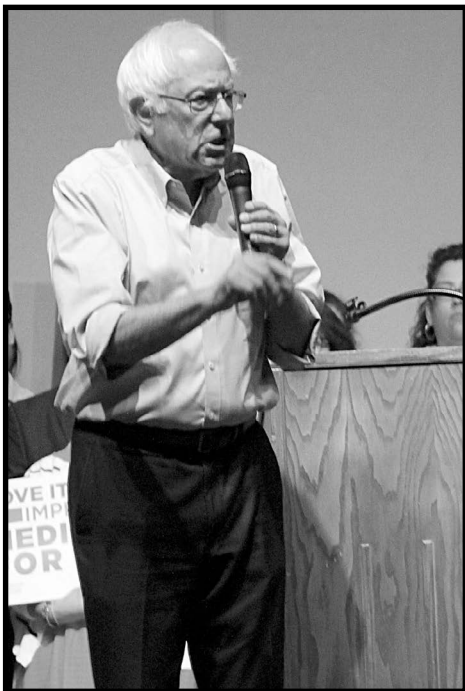
"All over this country, thousands and thousands die because they don't go to the doctor," said Sanders. "The USA is the only major country to not guarantee health care as a right. Together, we will change that. Expand Medicare for all."

Considering recent

events, such as the mass shootings and hurricanes, Sanders also regarded the need for a ban on assault weapons to reduce the risk of violence and the need

ORT can continue to push this Progressive agenda and incorporate people across the nation. Turner, a former Ohio state senator, constantly addressed the

Progressive movement. "We cannot be divided," said Turner. "What we cannot do is lose sight of each other's humanity."



Our Revolution President Nina Turner encourages Texans to vote Democratic during a rally in Lubbock on March 10.

ALL PHOTOS BY ADÁN RUBIO/PLAINSMAN PRESS

for awareness of climate change and its detrimental consequences.

"The Democratic Party has not stood up like it should for the American people," said Sanders. "Our job is to come up with a Progressive agenda that speaks to the needs of the working people. Take that agenda to friends, families who don't vote."

Through this event,

need for unity within the small Democratic population in Texas during the Lubbock event.

This conference is something that Turner said brings people together to start a conversation and encourage people to act.

"Progressives have policies to lift this country," said Turner. "Other folks may have money. But we have people power."

Division within the Democratic Party is something Turner mentioned to be an obstacle that hinders the

The consequences of climate change, lack of gun control, financial inequality and the need for health care are things that are said to be resolved through the unity of people throughout the nation. These matters are things that Sanders said that can be settled with solidarity.

"When we stand together, there is nothing stopping us," said Sanders. "Let us stand together."

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Journalism students receive awards from Texas Intercollegiate Press Association

The Plainsman Press staff recently was recognized with 14 awards from the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association.

The awards were announced during the annual TIPA spring competition and convention, which was held March 22–March 24 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Dallas. There were 474 participants representing 44 colleges and universities from across the state at the event. TIPA is the largest student press association in the nation.

The Plainsman Press also was recognized with an Honorable Mention Award in the category of Overall Newspaper Design.

In the competition for Previously Published Material, Riley Golden, a sophomore print journalism major from Lubbock, placed first in the category of Critical Review for his article on the "Justice League" movie. Golden also placed second in the Feature Story

category for his article on "Comic Culture."

Dominick Puente, a sophomore print journalism major from Levelland, placed first in the category of Sports Column for a story he wrote about NFL players protesting by kneeling during the "National Anthem."

Photographers for the Plainsman Press swept the top three places in the category of Breaking News Photo. Tovi Oyerveidez, a sophomore photojournalism major from Lubbock, placed first for her photo of the Women's March that was held in Lubbock. She also placed second for her photo of the opening of the Lubbock Center campus, while Annie Golden, a freshman from Lubbock, placed third for her photo of the Miss Caprock Pageant.

Nicole Lopez, a print journalism major from Amherst, won three awards. She placed second in the Feature Story category for her feature about a young man who

creates music for video games. She also received a pair of Honorable Mention awards in the category of Sports Feature Story for an article on Felix Kosgei of the SPC men's track and field team and in the Critical Review category for her article featuring the "Battlefront II" video game.

Matt Molinar of Levelland, now a junior public relations major at Texas Tech University, also received a pair of Honorable Mention awards. One was in the category of In-Depth Series/Investigative Reporting for a series on prostitution called "Risqué Business." The second was in the category of Opinion/Editorial Page Design.

Tyler York from Tallahassee, Florida, placed third in the category of Photo Story for his article and photos on the Cadillac Ranch near Amarillo.

The Plainsman Press staff also placed third in category of Headline Writing.

Students participating in the trip and also competing in live contests were: Autumn Bippert, a freshman photojournalism major from Georgetown, who competed in Newspaper Design and Sports Photography; Tina Gonzalez, a freshman public relations major from Lubbock who competed in PR News Release Writing and PR Crisis Management; Randi Jines, a freshman print journalism major from Gruver who competed in Editorial Writing and Headline Writing; Madison Benavidez, a freshman print journalism major from Gail who competed in Feature Writing; Adán Rubio, a freshman print journalism major from Lubbock who competed in News Writing; and Kendall Rainer, a freshman general studies major from Georgetown.

Plainsman Press staff members have won 170 awards in TIPA competitions since 2004.

Program helps aspiring beauticians obtain certification, improve skills

by AUTUMN BIPPERT
Editor-in-Chief

For students who are looking to pursue an education and career in the hairstyling industry, the Cosmetology program at South Plains College has openings for the summer III semester.

Orientation for the program will be held on April 13. Classes will begin on May 14 and end Aug. 2.

Students will learn how to perform haircuts, hair color, high-lights, low-lights, perms, chemical relaxers, wet sets, curling-iron sets, manicures, pedicures and eye-brow waxing.

Interested students should first complete an application for admission. Students also must take

the Cosmetology Entrance Examination, which can be found on the SPC website. After finishing the exam, students should come to the Cosmetology facility at Gentry Square in Levelland to fill out an application to the program. That will be followed by an interview with a member of the Cosmetology faculty.

During the program, students work in a full-service salon that is open to the public. Students are supervised by an SPC faculty member.

For more information, contact Patti Lindsey, program coordinator and instructor in Cosmetology, at (806) 716-2287.

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Texans end season with national championship

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double double of the season, tossing in 17 points and grabbing 10 rebounds.

SPC shot 50 percent from the field and 77.8 percent from the free-throw line for the contest.

"The guys just played together," said Green. "They shared the ball, and they were a very cohesive group and started playing to the strengths. Ben Perez made timely shots, Deshawn Corprew became the player everyone expected him to be, Isaiah shot a tremendous percentage and rebounded, and Keith McGee continued to get better and better each game, and he kind of directed the show. Jamir Coleman came off the bench against East Florida and gave us 10 points. Everyone that participated I think played the best they had played all season."

The Texans advanced to the championship game following an 89-76 victory in a semifinal contest against Eastern Florida State on March 23.

Orlina hit a three-pointer to take a 5-4 lead over Eastern Florida State in the early minutes of the first half. SPC would not give up the lead for the remainder of the game, leading by as many as 17 points in the second half.

The Texans were without their two leading scorers in the game, as Maurice had to serve

a one-game suspension after receiving two technical fouls against Connors State on March 22, and sophomore Jordan Brangers did not make the trip

the year prepared us for later on. We also had a lot of guys step up."

SPC had six players score in double digits and shot 54.2 percent from the

Raymond Doby stepped in for Maurice and contributed 12 points and five rebounds. He was 5-of-8 from the field in his 30 minutes on the court.

The Texans pulled out a 79-78 victory against fourth-seeded Salt Lake Community College on March 21.

SPC led 37-34 at the end of the first half. Maurice extended the lead to five with a layup eight seconds into the second half. SLCC answered with a 9-0 run, taking a 43-41 lead with 17:46 minutes left to play.

McGee took back the lead for the Texans with a floater with under 15 minutes to go. He then flicked a pass to Ben Perez, who knocked down a three-pointer to put SPC up 52-47 with 12:24 to go. Perez later added a three-pointer from the right with 11 minutes left to play.

The final four minutes of the game included four lead changes. SPC trailed 78-74 with less than a minute to play before Perez hit a three-pointer to shave the Bruins' lead to one point.

A failed three-point attempt from Salt Lake City enabled the Texans to take the lead in the final seconds. Corprew was fouled by Hunter Schofield and was sent to the free-throw line. With SPC trailing



William Washington drives to the basket against Ranger College in the opening round of the NJCAA Region V tournament at Frenship High School on March 7. All photos by KENDALL RAINER/PLAINSMAN PRESS

to Kansas after suffering a leg injury.

"We had been without Isaiah and Jordan over the course of the season," said Green. "Going through some difficulty and injuries at the beginning of

floor. McGee led all scorers with 24 points, hitting eight of his 15 shots from the field.

Orlina recorded his second consecutive double-double, chipping in 16 points and 10 rebounds.

78-77, Corprew knocked down two free throws to take the lead with just eight seconds left in the game.

A final attempt by the Bruins to win the game came and went with a three-point attempt by Dalven Brushier, which bounced off the side of the rim as the last seconds of the game ran out.

SPC shot 40 percent from the field and 44 percent from the three-point line in the second half. Maurice led all scorers with 22 points and seven rebounds, hitting 10 of his 16 attempts from the field. Perez finished with 18 points, six rebounds and three assists. He hit six of his 13 attempts from the field, including five of his nine attempts from the three-point line.

McGee finished the night with 15 points, five assists, and four steals. Orlina tossed in 11 points, while Corprew added seven points and grabbed six rebounds.

In the opening round of the NJCAA national tournament on March 19, the Texans got rolling with a 91-71 victory against Highland Community College.

SPC began the contest with a 12-0 run, which was capped off with a layup from Corprew with 14:36 left to play in the first half. Highland bounced back during the next three minutes. Shareef Smith hit a three-pointer that trimmed the Texans' lead to 15-11 with 11:35 left in the first half.

Smith hit another three-pointer that pulled Highland within two points of SPC with less than nine minutes in the half. The Texans pushed the lead back to six with a pair of free throws from Orlina.

With less than a minute left in the half, Doby hit two free throws that extended the lead to 10 going into the intermission.

Highland rallied in the early minutes of the second half, closing the gap to five points. Jay'Quan McCloud then hit a three-pointer to bring Highland within two points with 16:24 left in the game.

The Texans responded with an 11-2 run, pushing their lead to 56-45 after a pair of free throws from Perez with 13:21 left in regulation play.

SPC went on to lead by as many as 21 points in the last minutes of the game, shooting 56.3 percent from the floor in the second half and 43.5 percent from the three-point line.

McGee scored 12 points and had nine assists for the Texans. Orlina added 11 points and grabbed five rebounds. William Washington and Doby combined to add 12 points and eight rebounds.

"We changed nothing," Green said. "We continued doing the things we've always done, and I think that the players realized it's now or never. We got off to good starts in a lot of the games. When we fell behind, we never got rattled. If you don't win today, you don't play tomorrow. I think that sense of urgency finally took hold."

SPC advanced to the National Tournament after winning all three games in the NJCAA Region V Tournament, which was held March 7 - March 10 at Frenship High School in Wolforth.

The Texans topped Odessa College, a Western Junior College Athletic Conference rival, 101-92 in the Regional Championship game on March 10. Overcoming a 12-1 deficit in the early minutes of the first half, SPC rallied behind 26 points from Corprew.

SPC advanced to the Region V championship following an 85-76 victory against McLennan Community College. Sophomore Jordan Brangers tied his own SPC school record with 10 three-pointers in the contest on March 9.

The Texans opened play in the Region V event with a 89-75 victory against Ranger College. SPC jumped out to an early 15-4 lead in the first half, and Ranger never recovered. SPC led by as many as 14 points throughout the game.

"I felt like if we had just gotten to the region finals that we were deserving of an at-large bid," said Green. "but winning the regional tournament automatically qualifies you for the national tournament."

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New director of Plainview Center aims for student success, growth

by AUTUMN BIPPERT
Editor-In-Chief

Jolee Dietrich recently was hired as the new director for South Plains College's Plainview Center.

"I wanted to be the director of the Plainview

Center so that I could help students realize their goals and dreams," said Dietrich, who began her new position on March 5. "The Plainview Center has many course offerings, in such diverse fields of study. On any given day, future nurses, weld-

ers, and cosmetologists walk into classrooms to gain the skills they need to become successful."

Dietrich plans to help serve the Plainview community in other education opportunities as well.

"Along those same lines, many students take dual credit and ITV courses

Before starting at SPC, Dietrich worked as the registrar and technologist at Estacado Middle School for the Plainview Independent School District. She was responsible for technology integration, student registration, and records management.

Dietrich also served as a Career and Technical Education teacher and technologist. Her responsibilities included troubleshooting technology issues for the faculty and staff, as well as implementing online-based instruction. She also served as the advisor for the National Junior Honor Society.

Prior to working in Plainview, Dietrich was a CTE business teacher at the Lockney Independent School District for three years. She was also a member of the Floyd County Agri-Life Committee, which helped educate teachers, students and community members on a diverse array of programs and resources for West Texas.

Before working for the Lockney ISD, Dietrich also worked in Academic Records as a degree evaluator at Wayland Baptist

University. She updated and audited student files and calculated student grade-point average for graduation and eligibility. She advised degree plans for freshmen, sophomore and transfer students at the Plainview campus and 13 external campuses.

"All of my postsecondary and public education experience has led me to this position," Dietrich said. "My positions at Wayland Baptist University and area school districts have equipped me with the knowledge and skill sets to be highly effective as director of the Plainview Center."

Dietrich received her Bachelor of Business Administration and Master of Education degrees from Wayland Baptist University.

"I am excited about numerous aspects of this position," said Dietrich. "Being a part of students' journey to success is the most rewarding endeavor that I can imagine."

Dietrich will be honored with a Welcome Reception on April 5 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Room 102 at the Plainview Center. The public is invited to attend.

"The Plainview Center has amazing instructors and staff who are dedicated to students," Dietrich said. "I would like to grow and expand to continue to help support our community's needs."

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Jolee Dietrich, new director of the Plainview Center campus.

Photo courtesy of Jolee Dietrich

Center so that I could help students realize their goals and dreams," said Dietrich, who began her new position on March 5. "The Plainview Center has many course offerings, in such diverse fields of study. On any given day, future nurses, weld-

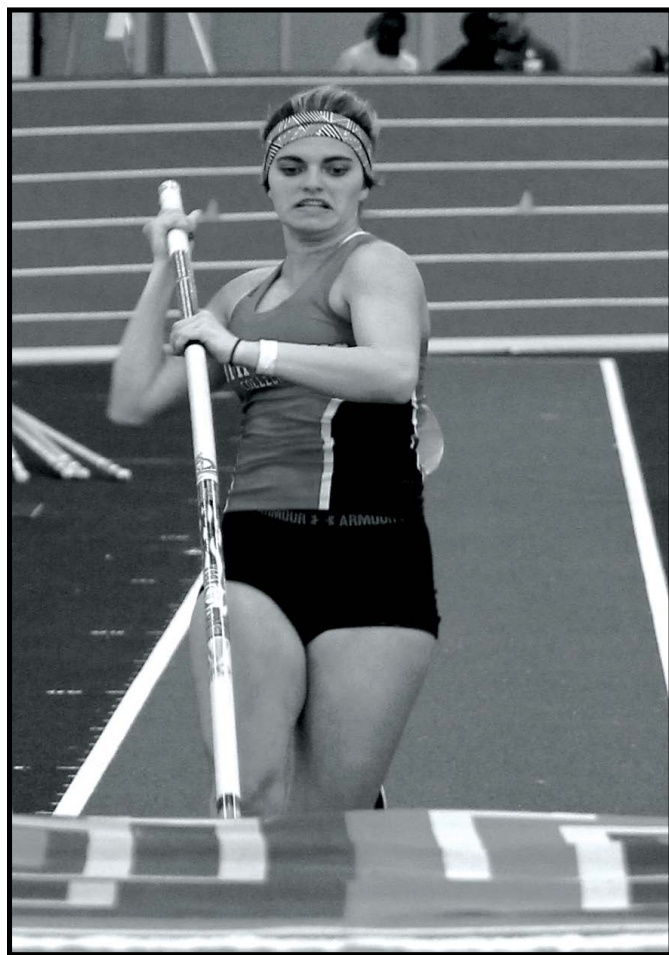
ers so that they can have college hours completed before high school graduation," she adds. "This extension center also caters to our community's needs by offering workforce development and continuing education courses."

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Men's track team snags national championship

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a new personal best with a jump of 52 feet, 8.25 inches. Martin added 10



more points for the Texans in the team standings.

In the men's 60-meter dash, Keion Sutton placed third overall with a time of 6.73 and added six more points for SPC.

1:18.14, placing fourth overall and adding five points.

Sophomore Junior Charles placed third and earned six points in the men's 400 meters with a time of 46.57. Freeman placed third in the men's 800 meters with a time of 1:55:75, adding six points and setting up the Texans for a run at first place in the team standings.

"The big key for us was athletes stepping up in areas where we weren't expecting big points," said Vance. "Keion Sutton stepping up for third in the 60-meter race was a big one for us, and Holland Martin winning the triple jump from the first flight was huge."

In the men's 600 meters, Hood set a time of



The Lady Texans placed second behind New Mexico Junior College, after Ashley Hughes, Patrice Moody, Agnes Abrocquah, and Natassa McDonald placed second in the 4x400 meter relay with a time of 3:43.30.

Freshman Ruth Usoro won a national championship and set a SPC record for the women's triple jump, setting a mark of 42 feet, 8.25 inches. Usoro placed second in the long jump

women's 600 meters, freshman Janiel Moore added four points for the Lady Texans after placing fifth with a time of 1:35.13.

Seselia Dala and Leslie Romero competed in the women's mile run and collected nine points for SPC. Dala placed third with a time of 5:13.89, and

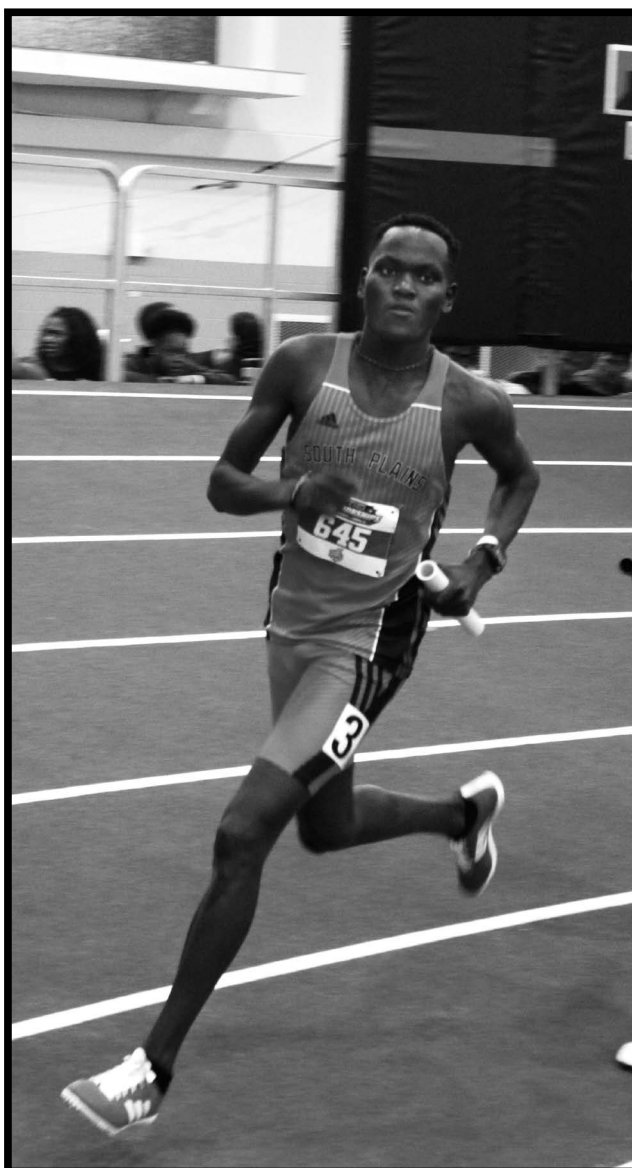
seventh with a time of 55.59. The two added a total of 5 points for the Lady Texans.

"Across the board, you could tell both the men and women were locked in and ready to compete," Vance said. "They did a great job doing exactly what they were supposed to do, and we are excited

with a mark of 19 feet, 3.4 inches.

In the women's 60-meter hurdles, Moody placed fourth overall with a time of 8.68, adding five points for SPC.

In the



Felix Kosgei runs in the 4x800 meter relay on March 2 at Texas Tech's Sports Performance Center in Lubbock.

All photos by KENDALL RAINER/ PLAINSMAN PRESS

Romero placed sixth with a time of 5:16.26.

In the women's 400 meters, McDonald placed sixth with a time of 55.40, and Abrocquah finished

to carry that over to the outdoor season."

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Culinary Arts Program receives donation from United Supermarkets

by KYLE EWING
Staff Writer

The new Culinary Arts Program at South Plains College recently received a significant donation from United Supermarkets.

United Supermarkets donated \$750,000 to the newly-founded program. Not only will this money help finish the college's new project, but according to Dr. Robin Satterwhite, president of South Plains College, "We're able to provide scholarships, and those scholarships allow to attract the best and brightest students to our Culinary Arts program."

United Supermarkets sees an added benefit to helping SPC grow. With the success in their chains of Market Streets stores, the grocery store chain sees the need to have highly trained and properly educated chefs and cooks to helm their kitchens.

According to Natalie Osuna, director of the Culinary Arts Program at SPC, the facility will be state of the art.

"They will have the proper environment to elevate their culinary skills, as well as have a quality education," added Osuna.

With many Texas high

schools forming their own culinary art programs, SPC looks to be a bridge for the students who are looking to work in the food service and hospitably sector. The college will aim to build upon what the students have learned in high school, while prepping them for the transition to a four-year school university that offer degrees in hospitality and hotel management.

Dr. Satterwhite says that the program looks to "provide an education for a number of students, who will [graduate] to a distinct and growing need in the Lubbock region."

Dr. Satterwhite said the program is designed to prepare "qualified workers with a strong background in food preparation and food safety, and a variety of other food-industry related skills."

Robert Taylor, CEO of United Supermarkets, said "that the Culinary Arts facility will go a long way to help you complete [the student's] mission of education and filling voids in the workplace."

United Supermarkets is also aware of the importance of the program, according to Taylor.

"The prepared foods sector is growing so

fast and it's created so many voids within our company," Taylor explained "We're thrilled to see an education venue that will prepare people to take advantage of that."

With regard the Lubbock community, Taylor added "We're thrilled for the people if this area, have a door open to them now. Where they can create a career that will be very beneficial to their family."

With the program's inarguable semester just months away, SPC and United are anxiously awaiting the opening of the joint facility and looking to their shared future.

The Culinary Arts Program is now enrolling students for the Fall of 2018.

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Students lead peers in educational growth using Innovation Fellows Program

by ADÁN RUBIO
News Editor

Many school programs allow students to improve their own learning experience.

But with one program, two South Plains College students provide resources to encourage educational growth among their peers.

University Innovation Fellows allows students to initiate change within their college community by providing necessary resources and educational opportunities to other students. Fellows take part in a lot of training and teamwork exercises in order to obtain the skills and knowledge to lead their classmates.

UIF, which was created by Stanford University's Hasso Plattner Institute of Design, trains many Fellows from around 200 universities. Recently, two SPC students, Sarah McLean from Waco and Nathan Clayton from Olton, were promoted to full UIF membership after weeks of training.

A lot of work goes into being a UIF member. But starting the application process to become a candidate requires dedication, as only two SPC students are nominated to apply for the program every year.

McLean, a mechanical engineering major, said there were other requirements that needed to be fulfilled for the application.

"After being nominated by faculty, we then had the opportunity to apply," said McLean. "We filled out a basic application, but that included making videos of ourselves answering questions, like 'What do we want to see changed in the world?'"

After applying for UIF and being interviewed by a Stanford UIF member, candidates take part in a six-week training period, which consists of online courses and campus projects. During this training, UIF candidates determine what problems need to be solved on campus in order to provide the proper solutions and resources.

Working with SPC students to solve problems on the Levelland campus was a task that McLean and Clayton attempted once their training was complete.

"We both are currently leading SEARCH Club, which is Student Entrepreneurs After Real Change," explained McLean. "We hosted a workshop to brainstorm problems on our campus with 30 plus-students."

UIF requires that members focus on the educational and innovative progress of their campus community. Despite completing a few of their intended tasks, McLean and Clayton still have

Clayton, a computer science major, said that he and McLean want to

ready to formulate their own ideas into an actual business. We're trying

trip, the Fellows took part in educational group activities and learned

ties, such as the Silicon Valley trip.

"The biggest thing this has helped me with is getting out and talking about things you wouldn't normally talk about," said Clayton. "It has taught me a skill of finding out information and finding ways of getting things accomplished."

Through the UIF program, students learn how to benefit themselves and teach other students within their college community to do the same. Despite the many opportunities they have already received, Clayton and McLean can still benefit from UIF.

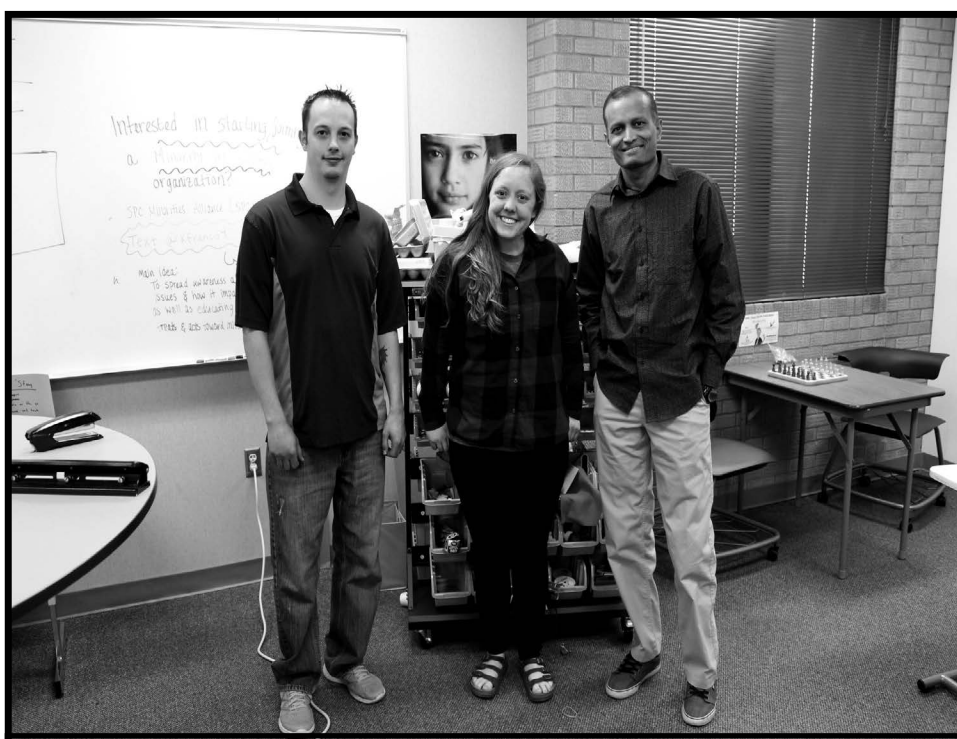
Humera Fasihuddin, co-director of the UIF program, said Fellows have access to a wide network of other Fellows and many immediate learning opportunities.

"When you're in school, you might aspire to become an innovator or entrepreneur in your field after you graduate," said Fasihuddin. "UIF gives you the permission to become that innovator now."

The improvement within a Fellow's college or the educational resources that a Fellow can provide to other students are just a few of the advantages that Fasihuddin said comes from having students involved with UIF.

"Sure, there's an awesome network, and there's a cool trip to Stanford," said Fasihuddin. "But most important of all, Fellows gain practice in being a change agent. They come to realize how a few straightforward actions, over time, can yield game-changing results."

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Nathan Clayton, Sarah McLean, and Dr. Ramesh Krishnan practice innovation in the Makerspace on March 8.
ADÁN RUBIO/PLAINSMAN PRESS

encourage growth within the SPC community through business-oriented activities.

"We've noticed that students in this area aren't typically ready

to make the students business-ready by hosting a resume workshop and a LinkedIn workshop."

Projects such as SEARCH Club and business workshops are opportunities for the Fellows to use skills they acquired through their training. But these are not the only opportunities for the two students to utilize and expand their innovative mindset.

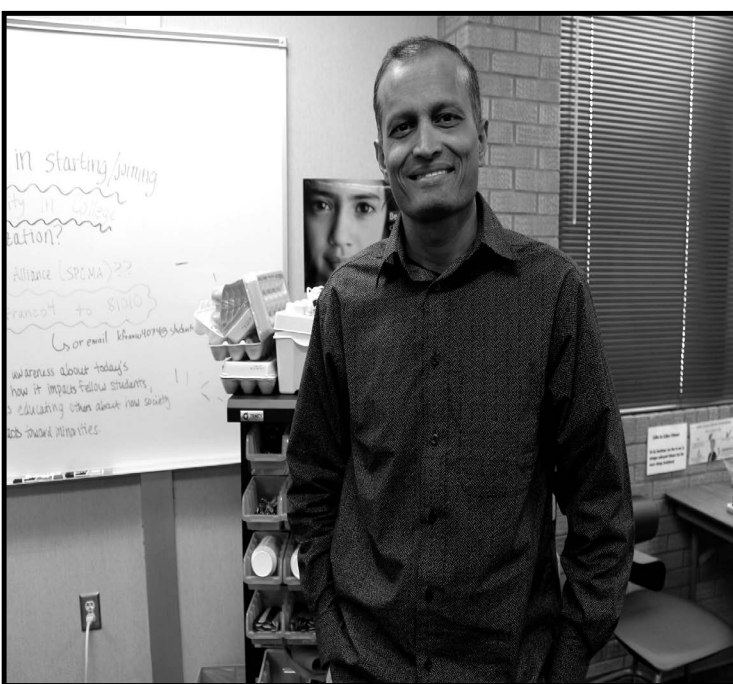
On March 15, the SPC Fellows traveled to Silicon Valley in California for a four-day meetup, which consisted of spending time at Stanford University and the headquarters for Google. During this

about utilizing different methods of thinking.

Dr. Ramesh Krishnan, professor of engineering at SPC, selects UIF candidates and acts as their sponsor through the process. He said there are many learning opportunities that a Fellow will get from this trip and the interactions that take place.

"It's all about how to change your thinking," said Krishnan. "The key concept that we talk about in this whole idea of innovation and entrepreneurship is a topic called design thinking. Design thinking is revolutionizing the industry right now and is used to solve any kind of problems for anybody."

Learning different critical thinking skills, such as design thinking, and being able to leave one's comfort zone are experiences that Clayton said he received from opportuni-



things planned for other SPC students.

for business," Clayton explained. "They're not

the headquarters for Google. During this

Regents approve tuition, fees increase for fall

By AUTUMN
BIPPERT
Editor-In-Chief

An increase in tuition and fees, a project proposal for an in-house CDL driver school and emergency management were among the topics discussed during the March meeting of the South Plains College Board of Regents.

Dr. Robin Satterwhite, president, proposed a \$10 fee increase per semester hour for out-of-district students, a \$5 fee increase for instructional support for the Lubbock, Plainview and Reese campuses, and a \$5 increase for internet support fees for online courses.

"It makes the decision harder to go to one of those campuses of convenience," Dr. Satterwhite said.

Tuition and fees for students who attend SPC satellite campuses will increase by \$10, beginning in fall of 2018. This increase will generate \$560,090 in revenue.

Dr. Satterwhite said, "As we've expanded our presence to Lubbock, Reese, and Plainview, we see many students choosing a

convenient location to go to school. We need to start moving towards a tiered tuition plan for these students who choose to go to our other sites."

Dr. Satterwhite also presented to the Regents a proposal for charging a flat \$50 tuition rate for students enrolled in high school articulated credit career and technical education courses who wish to receive transcribed CTE dual credit equivalents. High school students who are currently enrolled in CTE courses taught by high school faculty receive credit for these courses after they enroll at SPC and complete 12 credit hours.

The \$50 tuition rate would be a yearly rate that would allow a student to take an unlimited number of CTE credit hours offered at the high school.

Dr. Ryan Gibbs, vice president for academic affairs, discussed the project proposal for an In-House Driver School for truck driving training.

"This program is a five-week program with a total of 55 students, which is on the conservative end for one year to go through the two courses,"

Dr. Gibbs said. "There is cost involved, because it's something we'd take in-house. But we feel like the return would be

"This is something we feel like, as an institution, it's our duty to provide this type of training, not only for the students but

very profitable for the institution."

Dr. Stan DeMerritt, vice president for student affairs, discussed SPC's Emergency Management Plan. On Feb. 28, Governor

Greg Abbott sent a letter to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board calling for immediate action to address and ensure the safety of Texas' college campuses following the recent tragedy at Marjory Stoneman

Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

Dr. DeMerritt also mentioned the on-going ALICE Training that is being conducted by Chief Nickolis Castillo. Currently, 189 employees have completed the training. In order for the college to become certified, 427 employees must complete the ALICE program, according to Dr. DeMerritt.

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“It makes the decision harder to go to one of those campuses of convenience”

one that would be beneficial.”

He recommended that SPC continue to lease the runways at Reese and utilize the office space and classrooms where the previous program operated.

for the workforce needs,” Dr. Gibbs explained. “It makes the most sense to bring it in house and do it ourselves. And if we can build it to the size we feel we could get it too, which would be 85 to 100 students, it would become



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April 3, 2018

Plainsman Press

Students, faculty exhibit art, music during 'The Happening'

by AUTUMN BIPPERT
Editor-in-Chief

A "happening" is a performance, event or situation meant to be considered art – usually performance art. Happenings can be staged anywhere such as at galleries, theater settings or even on a street.

The Fine Arts Department at South Plains College hosted "The Happening" on March 1 through March 3. The term was first used by Allan Kaprow during the 1950s to describe a range of art-related events.

"The idea comes from the 1950's, and I took the various elements and brought it together," said Dr. Daniel Nazworth, chairperson of the Fine Arts Department.

On the first and second days, a performance was held in the Jones Theatre. The performance was a collaboration by Dr. Nazworth, Kristy Kristinek, instructor of fine arts, SPC's Ballroom Dance team, and SPC theatre majors.

Theatre majors performed a scene from Shakespeare's "Midsummer Night's

Dream." The SPC Ballroom Dance class performed throughout the night, and Kristinek performed a live painting on stage while Dr. Nazworth quoted Shakespeare monologues.



Kristinek painted a new painting each night.



Kristy Kristinek created a new painting live each night of The Happening.
KENDALL RAINER/PLAINSMAN PRESS

excellent addition," said Dr. Nazworth "and the collaboration was fun for both theatre and dance. Hopefully in the future we can do more things together."

The final day of "The

"Combining the lights, the theatre, the actors, and the artist, all with dance was a learning experience that stretched and allowed us to grow as people and as dancers. It taught us how to perform in different situations and gave us an inside look at the inner workings of the world of theatre."

During the event, art studios were open, a group created a mural, a jewelry casting class and demo was held, and a create-your-own ceramic tiles workshop was held.

Kristinek said. "Our

hallways resonated with

Department participated. Instructors from each area



Student ensembles performed throughout the hallways of the Fine Arts Building on March 3, the final night of The Happening.
AUTUMN BIPPERT/PLAINSMAN PRESS

Happening" featured multiple performances throughout the day. At 4 p.m., there were performances by the SPC Symphonic Band, SPC Jazz Choir and Jazz Band, along with some student chamber ensembles in the Jones Theatre. There were also several student ensembles playing in the hallways of the Fine Arts Building.

"Being part of something so much bigger than just the Dance Team was such a fun experience," said Vanessa Moffett, the ballroom dance team coach and assistant professor

the sound of student musicians, open art studios, and anticipation

helped plan and facilitate the event.

"There are plans in



The event ended with the theatre performance in the Jones Theatre.

"The Happening was an event filled with an artistic vibe of music, theatre, art and dance, providing our audience with a unique collaborative experience,"

of the evening's Theatre, Dance, and Live Painting Performances waiting to go on stage."

According to Kristinek, planning "The Happening" took the whole first part of the semester, because all areas of the Fine Arts

the future to host another "Happening," much like an Open House for our department," Kristinek said.

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Reporters, media students strive for factual journalism



Misinformation
[Editor's note: This story is the fourth part of the multi-part series "Misinformation," examining the causes and effects of the fake news crisis that began with Issue #7 and concludes in Issue #10. Several staff members took it upon themselves to interview and conduct research. The results of their combined efforts follow.]

by TINA GONZALEZ
Feature/Online Editor

Recognizing what is factual news has become a little more difficult with the constant spreading of fake news and misinformation.

But there are still journalists seeking to reveal the truth and factual news.

Those who produce fabricated stories just to get a reaction, whether it is good or bad, make it hard for readers to trust what is or is not the truth.

Troylon Griffin II from Houston, a communications major at

the University of Houston-Clear Lake, explained that, to him, fake news has been around since the beginning of media and journalism. But the term "Fake News" became popular after Donald Trump became president of the United States.

"People have always published false information," said Griffin. "People do it to get their point across."

Being objective in the communications profession leads readers to believe that you are not trying to persuade them in a certain direction, and only provide facts.

"Always be truthful in what you are saying," said Griffin, "not always trying to have a strong agenda in your work."

Griffin also adds that when someone has a strong agenda, when someone is very biased or is more interested in getting a reaction, there is a greater chance that their goal is to produce fake news.

"What is the point of having people read the news if it is not going to help or inform them in the proper way?" said Griffin.

Katelyn Rivera, a broadcast journalism major from Tarleton State University, says that it is important for journalists to always strive to report the truth, no matter what.

"Really try your hardest to report the facts," said Rivera. "Not your truth or someone else's truth, just the facts."

Rivera asserts that when politicians hear news that they don't want exposed, they deny the information to discredit the media and put doubt in the heads of readers. Doing this makes it difficult for journalists who are trying to uncover the truth.

Having multiple major news sources such as CNN, NBC and others is not a bad thing. But when each network favors or agrees more with the different parties, it could make believing the news hard, according to Quanece

Fraser, a broadcast journalism major from Tarleton State University.

"I do think that all news sources should be nonpartisan," said Fraser.

Fraser also added that the local news is usually nonpartisan, so she sees a lot more people trust their local news stations rather than trusting a network station such as CNN and FOX.

"Not that there is anything wrong with network news," explained Fraser. "I think it's very important too. But I think that being nonpartisan and just sticking with the facts could help with preventing fake news."

According to Jenna Horn, a senior from

Midwestern State University, politicians and other people in power try to discredit the media when something they may not like is being said.

"Be as accurate as possible," said Horn. "And own up to our factual errors."

Sometimes spreading fake news could be detrimental to the real hardworking journalists trying to uncover the truth, according to Douglas Piles, general manager of student media at Texas A&M University.

"It bugs me when I hear people say, 'Oh, that's fake news, when I know a bunch of journalists are busting their butts every day to tell the truth,'" said

Piles. "Stay true to your work."

Piles also adds that readers and future journalists should understand the difference between commentary and news.

Kate Rhoades from Brookhaven College explained that it is important for young journalists to consume a lot of news.

"Even if you are biased against a certain station or news organization, at least read some of their articles and see what they are saying," said Rhoades. "Do the research. Be a broad consumer of news."

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Taylor opens heart, home to students

by MEGHAN ARNOLD
Editorial Assistant

Many college students feel extremely lonely when they move away from home.

Jada Shae Taylor is a student who wishes

Sunday for any student who wishes to attend.

"I have a huge heart," says Taylor, "and Sunday Dinner has always been a tradition in my family. While at South Plains College, I met people who became a part of my family. I started Sunday Dinner because I feel that

it is a priority that I share my blessings."

Taylor, a sophomore early education major from Lubbock, explains that the dinners are open to anyone. An average of 25 to 30 students attend her dinner each Sunday. The dinners consist of food, drinks, and dessert, all provided by Taylor.

"I start cooking around 2 p.m.," said Taylor, "and dinner is served at 7."

She tries to make these days as fun and enjoyable as possible. Each Sunday, she hopes to see the dinners grow.

Personal experiences are what inspired Taylor the most to help others fit in.

"Feeling like you have a place where you belong is important to me," Taylor explained. "Throughout middle school and high school, I always felt like I didn't belong. And I know how hard it is to succeed when you feel misplaced. So, I try to welcome everyone to encourage them to prosper."

Taylor's charitable deeds inspired others

to give back to her. Her peers nominated her for

a Spirit of Martin Luther King Award at SPC for

"My goal is to receive my teaching degree,"

Taylor said. "I will then use that to become a Peace Corps volunteer. I want to be a teacher in Africa."

Taylor also has a dream to keep helping others as an early childhood education major. She explains that she attends SPC for the learning experience to help her grow. As for advice she has for other students, Taylor says, "Stay focused! Work as hard as you can while you are young. And love as much as you can."

Taylor said she enjoys taking good care of herself as well.

"I enjoy treating myself to well-earned shopping sprees and self-catering," she said.

Taylor says her biggest inspirations are her blessings.

"I am blessed with life, with loving family and friends,"

Taylor explained. "Every day that God wakes me is an opportunity for me to love and give to His people. It is the least I can do. All that I am and will be is because of God."

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Jada "Shae" Taylor carries on family traditions through college.

MEGHAN ARNOLD/ PLAINSMAN PRESS



Jada "Shae" Taylor receives spirit of MLK award on Feb. 27 in the Sundown room.

KENDALL RAINER/ PLAINSMAN PRESS

to change this with her kindness. She puts together a dinner every

it is my calling to be a service to others. For all that I am blessed to have,

Alum pursues music while continuing education

[Editor's note: This story is part of an ongoing project in conjunction with the South Plains College Alumni Association. The project highlights former SPC students and their achievements.]

by RANDI JINES
Opinion Editor

Marcus "Banks" Fitzhugh has gone from sliding and dancing around on the kitchen floor to performing at the House of Blues.

Fitzhugh attended South Plains College from 2014 to 2016, studying physical education, then continued his education in secondary education at Lubbock Christian University.

He says that his favorite part about SPC is how inclusive it felt and how everyone around was chasing after the same goals, creating a great

secondary education with encouragement from his grandmother and the desire to be involved in the lives of his future children.



Photo courtesy of Marcus "Banks" Fitzhugh

vibe to be around, which motivated him the weeks leading up to graduating.

The Lubbock native decided to pursue

"I decided to study education originally because I wanted to be able to coach and teach my future kids and my friends"

kids," said Fitzhugh. "I've always thought that would be really cool, and my grandmother told me as a teenager she thought I'd be very good at it."

Fitzhugh became involved in music when he was 10 years old. He would sing in the church choir with his brother on Sunday mornings and spend time making songs on the weekends. He explained that he would dance and slide around in the kitchen like Michael Jackson, and Usher's style inspired him.

"My inspiration stems from those of the past and my life experiences," said Fitzhugh, who graduated from Lubbock High School before attending SPC.

He now raps and creates R&B music while continuing to pursue his education.

He writes his songs based on what's going through his mind. He explained that sometimes they turn out good, and sometimes they do not.

"I'm moving away from the whole album idea," said Fitzhugh, "because I think we live in a generation that consumes music differently than before.

So, you probably won't get a full-length album from me any time soon. But I will be releasing singles periodically throughout this year. This means much more to me than putting out an album. Because, with singles, I can touch whatever subject I want, whereas an album sometimes has a theme and some subjects don't sound good together."

Fitzhugh has plans for his new music and what he wants his fans and listeners to realize.

"I hope that for this

work hard at my craft. I hope someday that it's respected and enjoyed."

A dream that most musicians hope to accomplish is performing at the House of Blues in Dallas, Texas. Fitzhugh accomplished this goal in December 2016. He explained that it felt like how he always dreamed it would. He had the chills before and after being on stage, which told him that he was doing what he needed to do.

"I will perform there again soon," said Fitzhugh.

"I'm speaking that into

existence now." With studying secondary education and creating music, Fitzhugh has plans to keep his music and education from colliding.

"I hope that for me, my music and life as an educator will be separate," said Fitzhugh. "Music for me is a release to vent and just express whatever I feel in that moment. As an educator,

you have to be careful, and I understand that."

You can find his music on all of his social media as @whoisbanks_.

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Law enforcement professor credits education for success

by **TINA GONZALEZ**
Feature Editor

Law enforcement is more than just a career for Lance Scott.

It is his passion. One could say it defines him.

Born in Levelland but raised in Perryton, Scott, chairperson of the Professional Services and Energy Department and associate professor of law enforcement at South Plains College, has always had the idea of being a police officer in mind.

Scott started his college career at South Plains College, earning an Associate of Applied Science degree in Law Enforcement Technology in 1994. However, Scott then took a break from college, before returning in 2002 to earn a Bachelor of Science degree from Wayland Baptist University in Occupational Education, with a Human Services/Criminal Justice specialization.

Scott later earned a Master of Science degree in Information Technology in 2008, a Graduate Certificate in Criminal Justice in 2010, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Information Technology in 2015, all from Capella University.

When he was growing up, Scott knew he either wanted to be a soldier or a police officer.

"I believe it is something I was born to do," Scott said, "and

this was God's call on my life."

Wanting to become a police officer started at a young age for Scott. That dream never changed.

"I remember seeing a police officer directing traffic at a school crosswalk when I was in kindergarten," Scott recalls, "and I think this was the first time that I thought of becoming a police officer."

Scott says his time at SPC influenced his life so much that he considers it to be the two best years of his life.

"It was so great I

and teach at South Plains College," said Scott. "Being there had a tremendous impact on my life."

He says that he

SPC that caused him to change.

"I eventually served as Law Enforcement Club President and was even elected Homecoming

the streets, and seeking justice for victims is very rewarding."

However, in 2002, Scott faced a difficult ethical dilemma while

individuals who Scott reported ended up being arrested and convicted. However, in that time, Scott was unable to find work in the one thing he wanted to do most.

"This was a difficult and humbling experience but reaffirmed my strong belief in always doing the right thing," said Scott.

Scott has had various jobs after starting out at the Sheriff's Office in Hockley County. He held positions of Jailer, Deputy Sheriff, and Jail Administrator. He also served on SWAT teams.

At SPC, Scott served as the Distance Education Network Coordinator and director of Instructional Technology, prior to becoming a law enforcement instructor.

"Teaching is the most rewarding and fulfilling job I have ever had," Scott said, "because it allows me to impact the future of the law enforcement profession. I love to see a student graduate from our program and go on to accomplish great things in the field of criminal justice."

In 1997, Scott got the opportunity to accomplish something very few do. He was named the Correctional Officer of the Year by the Texas Jail Association. Scott also received a Law Enforcement Achievement Award for Professional Achievement from the state of Texas.

"I am one of 84 peace officers in Texas to receive the Law Enforcement Achievement Award for Professional Achievement," Scott said proudly.

Despite the setback of not having a job in law enforcement for seven years, Scott has accomplished memorable things and has always stood by his life motto.

"Always do the right thing," added Scott.

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“Shift work, stress, dealing with people in crisis, as well as the politics of the position contribute to the difficulty. Helping people get through their crisis, taking criminals off the streets, and seeking justice for victims is very rewarding.”

struggled in high school, where he was more of an introvert. But it was

King," Scott added. "The faculty of SPC expected students to strive for

working for the Sheriff's Office in Hockley County. "I had witnessed some



Elected as Constable of Hockley County in Precinct 5, Lance Scott spends his day teaching future law enforcement students.
TINA GONZALEZ/ PLAINSMAN PRESS

decided that someday I wanted to come back

the culture, faculty, and learning environment at

excellence, and it truly set me up for academic success, even as I pursued my graduate studies."

Starting as a peace officer in the Hockley County Sheriff's Office wasn't easy at first, according to Scott.

"Shift work, stress, dealing with people in crisis, as well as the politics of the position contribute to the difficulty," said Scott. "Helping people get through their crisis, taking criminals off

activity that put me in a position of either staying quiet or face losing my job as the Jail Administrator and Deputy Sheriff," said Scott.

But things didn't end up in his favor at first. Shortly after Scott reported the activity, he was terminated from his position.

"This was a devastating, life-changing moment for me and my family," said Scott.

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'Game Night' lacks humor, ignores necessary plot elements

by ADÁN RUBIO
News Editor

A night of games, thrill, and bad jokes seems to be the basis for a terrible movie plot and bland characters.

"Game Night" is a comedic mystery movie about friends being

the movie's potential with an original plot, it falls flat due to many dull jokes and boring scenes.

The film focuses on Max (Jason Bateman) and Annie (Rachel McAdams), a married couple who enjoy hosting game nights for their friends. After a visit from Max's

game. During the game, the line between reality and fantasy is blurred, as Brooks is kidnapped by a real crime organization, and it is up to Max, Annie and their friends to figure out what is happening.

Overall, the premise is original and offers a lot of opportunities

for hilarious moments and plot twists. But this movie does not utilize these opportunities very well, as most of the jokes are forced and the plot is not engaging.

These problems can mainly be contributed to the cast and the character interactions throughout the film.

Bateman and McAdams' chemistry in the movie feels natural and is sometimes entertaining to watch, as their characters have different

personalities. But most of their scenes are not funny, as they attempt a joke that does not compliment their comedic styles, or they do not act off one another.

It is not just Bateman and McAdams that deliver all the bad

and Sarah. Despite the problems with Bateman and McAdams, the scenes that focus on Max and Annie are more interesting and funny

lingers on the idea that someone is behind the whole kidnapping of Brooks and the crime organization. After a few unnecessary plot twists later in the film, the focus goes back to the original idea



compared to the side characters and their unresolved issues.

Because of the actors and their performances, the entire movie felt like a glorified "Friends" episode with overused character dynamics and cheesy jokes that get a few chuckles at most. I did not enjoy anything about the characters and their interactions in the movie.

The characters were a big reason why I did not like this film. The plot was another factor that fueled much of my boredom while watching the movie.

"Game Night" has an original story concept that I really appreciate. It is the execution of this concept that makes the movie boring.

Throughout the first half of the film, the plot



that there is something greater behind all the crime.

There is no point in adding plot twists if they have no affect on the story. Just because the twist is unexpected does not mean that it is spectacular or changes the course of the plot.

"Game Night" is a movie that fails in comedy and story. Some people may enjoy the humor in this film. But it was not something that I enjoyed, nor was the storyline entertaining.

I give "Game Night" a two out of 10.

2/10

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dragged into dangerous criminal activity due to an unfortunate turn of events. Despite

brother, Brooks (Kyle Chandler), game night is kicked up a notch with a murder-mystery

personalities. But most of their scenes are not funny, as they attempt a joke that

Second season of 'Jessica Jones' introduces compelling mystery, characters

by ADÁN RUBIO
News Editor

New threats, intriguing mystery and answered questions are all things a Marvel fan can expect from the second season of "Jessica Jones."

This Netflix exclusive series is one of many that take place in the Marvel universe. "Jessica Jones" focuses on the titular character and her life as a private investigator with super strength.

The first season consisted of Jessica (Krysten Ritter) fighting to stop the tyranny of Kilgrave (David Tennant), a man with the power to force people to do anything with a simple command. Sadly, the second season does not focus on the intrigue behind Kilgrave. But it does offer a new mystery, which answers the questions fans have about Jessica's powers and how she obtained them.

Throughout the second season, Jessica teams up with her foster sister, Trish (Rachael Taylor), her friend, Malcolm (Eka Darville) and her attorney, Jeri (Carrie-Anne Moss), to further uncover the secrets behind her past and the car accident that

killed her family. During her journey, Jessica also encounters a new ally, Oscar (J. R. Ramirez), along with new foes who are involved with Jessica's origins.

The story was one thing I really liked about this new season. Despite being different from the first season, which focused on stopping Kilgrave, this new season changes the plot by making it about past secrets and the scientific cause behind people with powers.

This was a different direction that worked well with the mystery theme of "Jessica Jones." I really enjoyed learning about Jessica's powers and their unknown origins. Each episode left me wanting to watch more in order to learn all the secrets.

One problem I did have with this season's plot is its length and how there is little action close to the end of the season.

The second season, which consists of 13 one-hour episodes,

could have been shortened. Most of the mystery that hooked me at the beginning starts to diminish, as most of the secrets are revealed half way into the season and there is nothing new to learn.

With the introduction of different subplots, the last couple of episodes seem to focus on multiple storylines, some of which have no immediate impact on the main story. With a shorter season, the last few episodes would not drag, and the story could remain engaging until the final climax. I did not mind the subplots too much, as they utilized the minor characters more during

this season than the first one. After watching the second season, I am now really excited to see how these characters are used in future episodes.

Regardless of the issue with pacing, this new season was very

engaging and shows the potential of underrated Marvel characters. This show has taken comic book characters that do not receive much recognition and makes them popular.

Jessica is an interesting character on her own, and Ritter performs well as an antisocial, tough hero. I cannot wait to see Jessica in future episodes, or in other Marvel Netflix series.

Even though the first season was my favorite, the second season offers a great story with interesting characters. It is surprising that there is so much to learn about Jessica Jones, as she was not the most popular

Marvel character before the beginning of her series.

I am excited to see how this series progresses in the future, whether it be through crossovers with other Marvel series or continuing as a stand-alone story.

If you are a fan of the first season, a comic book fan or someone who enjoys a good mystery, I highly suggest you check out "Jessica Jones," as the second season is worth watching.

I give the second season of "Jessica Jones" an 8.5 out of 10.

8.5/10

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Back Talk: Workplace discrimination sparks debate

Businesses should hire workers who match their preferences



by **RANDI JINES**
Opinion Editor

Workplace equality has become a topic of discussion throughout the years, whether it be about equal pay or equal opportunities.

One topic that is not discussed often is job opportunities based on gender.

Many places hire predominantly female workers or male workers, depending on the job. Some businesses base their atmosphere on the services provided. Hooters is known for hiring women to gain the attention and business from men.

This has brought about the argument for equal opportunity in the workplace.

Many people believe this is unfair. But I disagree, for many reasons.

In a business perspective, people create their business around hiring people who fit what they have in mind to gain the attention of a certain group of people. This is a very smart technique, considering the amount

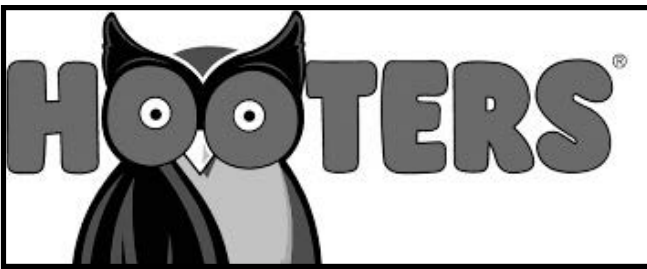
of money they could make off of these ideas.

Hooters has become a huge market across the country known for their wings and beautiful female waitresses. They train their employees to make everyone feel comfortable, and offer a light-hearted atmosphere. It obviously works, as it has become a popular place. Hooters is doing well from a business perspective with predominantly female employees.

People should be allowed to base their business off hiring a certain gender or a certain type of person. It all depends on how they want the atmosphere for their business.

If you think about it, every job is looking for a certain type of person to hire.

A high-fashion retail store would not hire someone who dresses casual, but that does not mean there is not a job out there looking for someone who does dress casual.



In my future career as a journalist, I would not hire someone who is afraid to speak up or put themselves out there. But that does not mean there is not a job out there for a quiet, reserved person.

As a small female, I would not be hired as security guard or a bouncer. But that does not mean

there is not a job out there for me.

There are equal opportunities for people to be hired if you are looking in the right places for a job.

It just takes some thought to understand that not every business is looking for a person like you, which is perfectly OK.

I don't believe that every person is fit for a specific job. Most of the time, people who do not fit the criteria pin the blame for not getting the job on not having an equal opportunity. Not every business wants to hire a buff male, a busty female, or a trendy hipster. But there are jobs out there looking for just that. There is equal opportunity for everyone if you take a look around.

The world is opening up more and looking for all different kinds of people. And there are more businesses beginning to hire more unique people.

The stigma of not enough equal opportunity should not block a person

from finding a job, because there is a job out there for everyone. Some people just don't fit the

idea of what the business has in mind for their workers. Each business should be allowed to have an idea of how they want their workers to look without being accused of unequal opportunities.

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Companies should hire qualified applicants based on experience



by **KENDALL RAINER**
Photo/Sports Editor

Equal Opportunity has been the basis of American society and Socialist movements since the early 1900s and is still a prevalent issue today.

with the suing party every time. Yet they still maintain their hiring practices. They claim that their business is focused on the entertainment of their male clientele and less on the food. Their rationale on the subject is that their girls are entertainers, audition for their roles and must maintain their appearance. If that is the case, then men should still be allowed to work at Hooters because there are gay men who would like to go to Hooters and have the same experience.

In reality, it would be smart for Hooters to transition to having men as servers to cater to the ho-

hired by a company based on race or religion.

Women who don't get paid the same amount as a man in the same position are being discriminated against because of their gender. If a woman or a minority were being discriminated against and their pay reduced based on their gender or race, there would be strikes and protests. If a man wasn't receiving equal pay at a business or even at a restaurant, no one would do anything about it.

Discriminatory hiring practices aren't only in white collar jobs or the food service industry, it also exists in jobs that



Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 states that employers cannot discriminate against applicants or employees based on race, sex, religion, color, or national origin.

If a male worker applying at a restaurant such as Hooters, who only hires female servers, was turned away based on being male, the company would be in violation of Title VII.

Hooters has been sued for their hiring practices in the past and have settled

mosexual crowd. Not only would it bring in more business, they would stop being sued for their hiring practices.

Men who are qualified and have experience with serving should be allowed to work at establishments such as Hooters or Bone Daddy's. It is unfair to be turned away from a job based on gender. Being turned down by an employer because a person isn't a male or female is the same as not being

require manual labor, such as welding or in the oil fields. Generally, you don't see women in either of those fields. While there are woman mechanics and oil workers, there is prejudice that women aren't physically strong enough to perform the tasks as efficiently as a man.

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Word on the Street

Do you support equal opportunity employment?



"Anyone can work anywhere. I believe as long as they learn how to do their job correctly, I don't feel like there should be a problem with what gender they are."

Reina Vargas
Sophomore
Pre-Nursing
Levelland



"There are jobs where it doesn't make sense. I think that jobs should be equal opportunity, unless there is a specific example where that would be a bad idea."

Madeleine Solano-Garretson
Freshman
Accounting
Aledo



"If I wanted to be a mechanic, I could be a mechanic. If a guy can do what a girl can do, a girl can do what a guy can do."

Claudia Delgado
Freshman
Therapy
Littlefield



"I'd say that everyone should have a shake to do whatever they want. I think there are people that may not fit the stereotype. For maybe a woman being a welder, I don't think there is any reason a woman couldn't be a welder."

Matthew Nichols
Sophomore
Business Administration
Sundown



"If you're looking for men in certain jobs and women in other jobs, then they should be able to hire based on what they are looking for. If you're looking for like a CEO, then I'm for equal opportunity."

George Osuna
Freshman
Undecided
Lubbock

Compiled by Kendall Rainer and Autumn Bippert

Lowering drinking age resolves, prevents societal issues



By MEGHAN ARNOLD
Editorial Assistant

If a law changed the legal drinking age to 18, the issues arising from the consumption of alcohol could decrease.

If America didn't make such a big deal out of drinking, there wouldn't be as much crime. In many coun-

tries, drinking isn't a big deal. In Germany, the drinking age is 16 for beer and wine, and 18 for any other alcoholic beverage. Since kids are raised around it, they have less interest in alcohol than Americans. They don't sneak around and do stupid things because they view it as a part of their daily lives. The crime rate is much lower than that of the United States.

If the drinking age changed to 18, we could form a country similar to Germany, a country that would treat alcohol like it's no big deal. Therefore, teens won't be as curious and sneaky. Teens are going to drink

no matter what. So if it was legalized, they could be safer.

People may argue with this idea, because they say teen brains haven't completely developed yet. Well, the human brain doesn't fully develop until age 25. So even at 21, brains aren't fully developed.

If teens are labeled as adults at the age of 18, they should be able to make any decisions for themselves at that point. If you can smoke a cigarette at 18, you should be able to decide whether you want to



drink. If you can fight for your country and conceal a gun at 18, you should be able to drink. Why be labeled as adults if you can't make any decisions for yourself?

Children wouldn't hide drinking from their parents as much if it were legal at 18. They would call their parents instead of driving drunk, because they wouldn't have to sneak around. This would also

decrease DWIs (driving while intoxicated), so many lives can be saved.

Those who are 18 won't have to illegally purchase alcohol through an older person anymore. This will also decrease the crime rate, and keep more adults out of trouble. Police officers won't have to arrest 18-year-olds drinking at a party if it was legal. If a 21-year-old was throwing the party, he or she wouldn't be held accountable if an 18-year-old was consuming alcohol.

Many teens begin college at the age of 18. So adults age 18 and older are all hanging out, which means all these people will probably party and drink together.

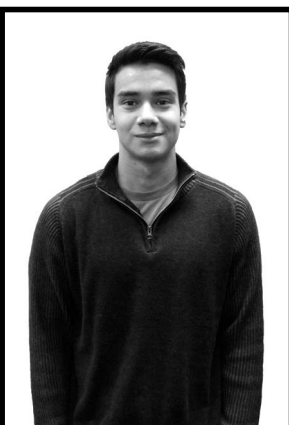
So to decrease illegal activity, the drinking age should be lowered. Once you enter college at the regular age, we should have the right to decide to drink.

Many positive outcomes come out of lowering the drinking age to 18. Fewer crimes will be committed. Fewer people will be sneaking around the law in order to drink. DWIs would become less common, and many lives would be saved. If America didn't make alcohol such a big deal, the country would be a better place.

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Trying important in living without regret



By DAVID MENDOZA
Staff Writer

If it fills your heart and mind with hope for tomorrow, it deserves your attention and ambition.

Though you may consider yourself incapable of ever proving worthy of holding it, you can only ever evolve through trying. Your greatest weapon is your self-esteem, and those who succeed accept and surpass the rejections presented to them.

Do not corner yourself within your overactive imagination. Nothing ever truly matches your expectations, and how you unravel a situation in your mind is harsher than anything that could be provided by reality. Though you may uncover humiliation and sorrow at the end of your efforts, you still own the moment when you

set your worries and fears aside to reach for what you believe in.

Others may mock you, but never surrender to their doubts. You are your own individual, and the expectations and shortcomings of others do not determine your success. Even if someone shares the same desire as you and falls to their choices, you are not cursed to repeat their mistakes. No matter what you have seen or have been told, your path is your own to follow. Though you may learn from others, only you can define your resolution.

Remember, you are not worthless. Everyone has within them the necessary genius and heart to find their ideal ending for themselves. You need only be willing to take the time to



to offer and how you must improve. Though you might not reach the dream you seek, that which prevents you from taking the first step is nothing more than your own insecurity.

You must learn to charge at your limits with the intention of bouncing off or breaking through, the future won through consistency and perseverance. You may seem weak now and your ideas idiotic, but all are at first. They require deliberate thought and practice to become something capable of drawing the world's attention. More than talent, that which separates you from the all-time greats and your ideal self is resolve.

Dare to live outside of the habits of

others. If you want more than what is average, you must be prepared to make sacrifices and to stand on your own. Through careful

how far they may fall.

There is satisfaction to be found in bitter defeat as long as it is earned.

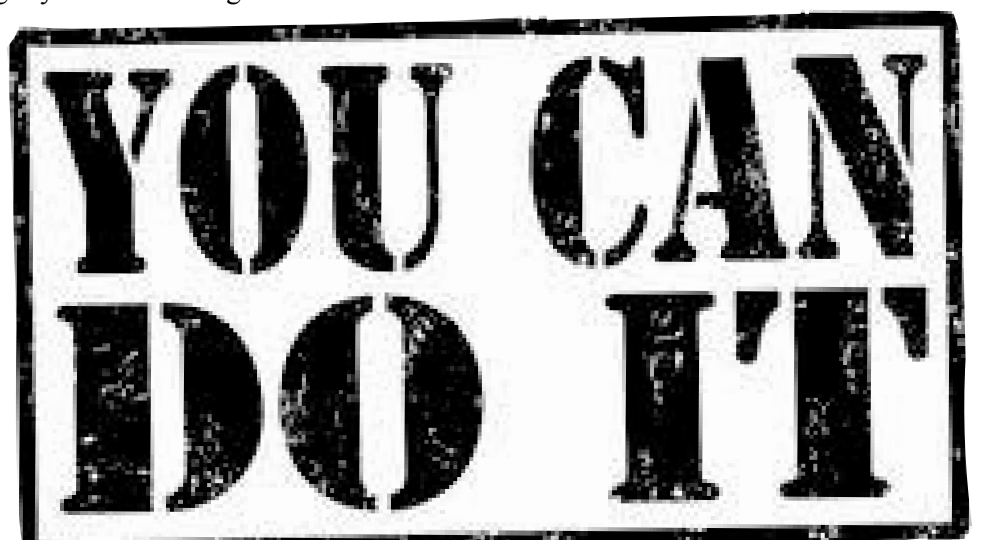
off-guard.

Should everything be robbed from you, nothing can ever take your pride in living for what you consider righteous. There is undeniable worth in trying alone and dying for what you believe in. Despite the world's cruelty, the final measure of a lifetime is what it gave to pursue its goal.

The worst thing that can happen to you is for you to consider your story over before it is given the chance to start. Be afraid, uncertain, and embarrassed, but never give up. Dedicate nothing less than your best effort, and the world will open up to you in ways beyond



look within yourself at all you have



planning, discipline, and courage, you can gain a sincere confidence few have. Those who stand atop the mountain are those with the bravery to climb to the peak when others won't. They make honest attempts and take calculated risks, knowing

Those who no longer walk the earth do not regret that their journey ended. Rather, they never learned to step with courage. To be safe from death is not to spend a lifetime hiding from it, but to show such passion and appreciation that it will never catch you

your expectations. Allow yourself to try, and even in failure, you will live without regret.

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Purchasing exotic animals dangerous, inhumane



by **AUTUMN BIPPERT**
Editor-In-Chief

Exotic animals are some of the world's most sought out pets by animal lovers and non-animal lovers alike.

But many people don't realize the danger they bring by taking them home. It is not just dangerous for people, but also for the animals. Exotic animals are normally wild animals and aren't meant to live in domestic homes. Exotic animals do not make good companions. They require special care, housing, diet, and maintenance that the average person cannot provide.

Unlike cats, dogs and other domesticated animals that had wildness bred out of them, wild animals aren't suited to life as pets. Although cute as babies, wild animals

quickly become too difficult for most people to care for. When that happens, both the animal and owner are at risk.

Whether the animals are caught in the wild or bred in captivity, few people can provide the care they require. As a result, wild animals often suffer from malnutrition or live in inhumane conditions. People who adopt exotic animals often attempt to change the nature of the animal, rather than the nature of the care provided. People use confinement in small, barren enclosures, chaining, or even painful mutilations, such as declawing and tooth

provide millions of animals for the exotic pet trade. Animals are typically captured from their native habitat and transported to various countries to be sold as pets. Backyard breeders also supply exotic animals.

It is far too easy to buy an exotic pet. More than 1,000 Internet sites offer to sell, give care advice, and provide chat rooms where buyers and sellers can haggle over a price. The sellers of these animals typically make no mention of the state or local laws regulating private possession of exotics, or of the dangers, difficulties, physical and physiological needs of the animals they

buyers appears to be of no concern in the lucrative exotic pet trade.

Breeders were selling these dogs for high profit, while telling people that

the wild. There are few places around the country that can take in wolfdogs.

Anyone breeding or adopting these animals are sentencing them to death.

Besides the many stories of people mauled or killed by wild pets, wild animals also pose many health risks



A few years ago, when the movie "Twilight" was popular, there was a rise in demand for wolfdogs.

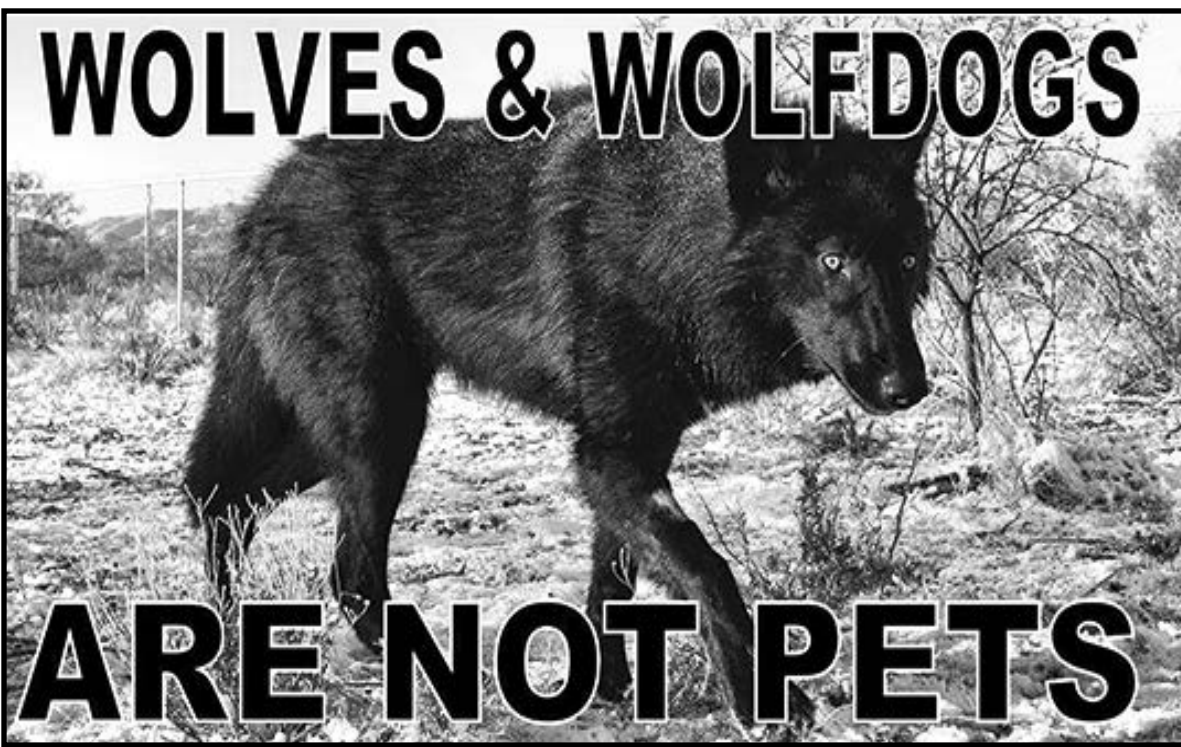
they were family pets and would cause no problems. This is far from the truth. Even though wolfdogs

are not wild animals, they are not domestic animals either. This resulted in many people giving up these wolfdogs. Unfortunately, animal shelters will not take wolfdogs because they are considered a dangerous breed. So when they arrive, the shelters put them down. On the other hand, people will also try to release them into the

wild. While wolfdogs are not domestic, they don't know how to survive in

to people and domestic pets. In 2003, prairie dogs sold as pets made people sick with monkeypox. The Centers for Disease Control see so many cases of salmonella from pet amphibians and reptiles that they recommend that no one with children younger than age 5 own these pets. Other diseases animals can transfer to people, called zoonotic diseases, include rabies, raccoon roundworm and herpes B virus.

Not only is it dangerous to humans, but it is cruel and inhumane to try to make exotic animals into house pets. By adopting these exotic animals, they are sentencing them to death.



removal, to change the nature of these animals.

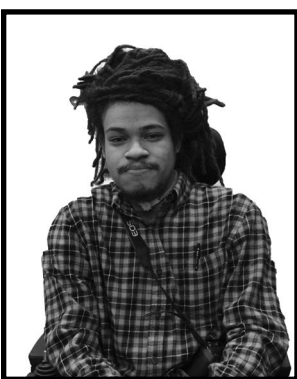
A variety of sources

peddle. The suffering of the animals in the hands of unqualified and hapless

Wolfdogs are a cross between wild wolves and large-breed dogs.

wild. While wolfdogs are not domestic, they don't know how to survive in

Higher teacher salaries necessary for educational improvement



By **CALEB BROWN**
Staff Writer

In our culture, we tend to glorify celebrities and athletes more than our educators.

The average pro football player gets \$800,000 to \$1 million a year or more, and a teacher in America only gets \$40,000 to \$50,000 a year, depending on what state he or she is in, and how long they have been working. I don't think that's right.

According to new data released by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Luxemburg is the number 1 country in the world when it comes to teacher salaries. An average

high school teacher in Luxemburg has a starting pay of \$73,000 and can even get paid more than \$100,000 a year, just depending on how long they have worked. The United States barely made the top five.

In the United States, there are more than 32 million Americans who are illiterate. According to the Department of Justice, there is a connection between academic failure and delinquency violence. Being able to read and write is a major factor in juvenile crime. The numbers don't lie, as 85 percent of kids who go through the juvenile court system is illiterate, and 70 percent of adult inmates read on a fourth-grade level.

I understand that some people just refuse to go to school, hate it and do not want to be there. That brings me back to my point. A teacher's salary does affect the effort and care of a teacher. But when a teacher doesn't care, why should the student?

I think if teachers were paid what they are worth, then they would put more

effort into their job. Teach them to love school and show that they really care, because some students don't always have parents at home who care for them. So when they go to school, they see it as boring or a waste of time. I remember that when

I was in high school, I was always so frustrated because I did want to

be a better educator. There are teachers who have to buy their own supplies,



learn, but some teachers would just over look me because of my appearance and disability. They probably didn't think I was capable of learning, which did discourage me. Eventually, I just stopped going to certain classes. As a result, I'm

don't care, then I don't care," which is a terrible thing to say to a student. The point I'm trying to make is if teachers were paid more, it would benefit everyone. It would motivate them to work even harder and give them the resources they need to

and that's not right. I don't understand how we literally spend billions and billions of dollars on the military.

Our budget is more than every country in the world combined. That says a lot. Even if we cut the budget just a little, we would still have the greatest military. We need to stop unnecessary government spending and invest more into our educational system. Only then will we truly be the greatest country in the world, not because we're a super power, but because of our intelligence.



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Hobbs pursues dream of becoming next American Ninja Warrior

By **KYLE EWING**
Staff Writer

Justin Hobbs is no stranger to challenges.

In addition to being the assistant track and field coach for South Plains College's men's and women's track teams, Hobbs is always finding new and exciting ways to challenge himself. His latest venture is sure to be an obstacle in itself, as he recently was accepted as a contestant on the next season of "American Ninja Warrior."

"American Ninja Warrior" is a television show featuring contestants competing for the best time on a grueling obstacle course that challenges their bodies to the limits. A series of regional championship rounds lead to a national competition that will be held in Las Vegas. This region's event was filmed in Dallas on March 24 – March 26. The season will premiere May 30.

Hobbs has been preparing for this opportunity during the past four years. After two unsuccessful attempts to make the show, Hobbs approached head track coach Erik Vance for some assistance. The two coaches collaborated with

Professor Billy Alonzo to prepare a video that led to Hobbs's selection as a contestant.

The turnaround from application to competition is fairly quick. Hobbs applied in late November

and had four months to mentally prepare for the event. Asked if he was nervous about the entire ordeal, he said "a little bit."

"I don't want to say no, but as a coach you under-

stand what the demands are for having success," said Hobbs. "So I try my best to prepare myself as much as possible."

The obstacle course is built to test the participant's strength and

balance.

Hobbs finds himself always looking for new and challenging ways to stay in shape for the show. When at home, he sometimes creates new tools to help train. While at track meets, he will always see if the city has a facility that can help his training for Ninja Warrior.

"I'm not nervous about one specific thing," Hobbs said. "I'm not

sure what to expect. I'm just more anxious."

Hobbs does have a few obstacles he hopes to avoid this season, "mainly the balance or fingertip obstacles, like the Cliff Hanger."

Some of the more iconic obstacles seem to be a lesser concern to him.

"The Warped Wall and the Salmon Ladder aren't easy," said Hobbs, "but I can do them more confidently now."

With such an extreme test of endurance on the horizon, Hobbs is persistently shaping his mind and body for the competition.

"I probably train four to six days a week," Hobbs explained. "The training takes a lot out of you, so you have to do rest and recovering."

On his days when he is resting, he can be found "doing a lot of things that work on your mobility, a lot of stretching, and rolling out."

"American Ninja Warrior" will be in its 10th season when Hobbs goes to compete.

"The obstacles get harder each year, because people get a lot better," says Hobbs.

With such a grueling history and new obstacles being built, Hobbs does

have a secret weapon of sorts. One of his past athletes, Britney Hanks, has been on the show twice now.

"She has really helped me, helping with the audition tape," said Hobbs. "She has really been a coach for me."

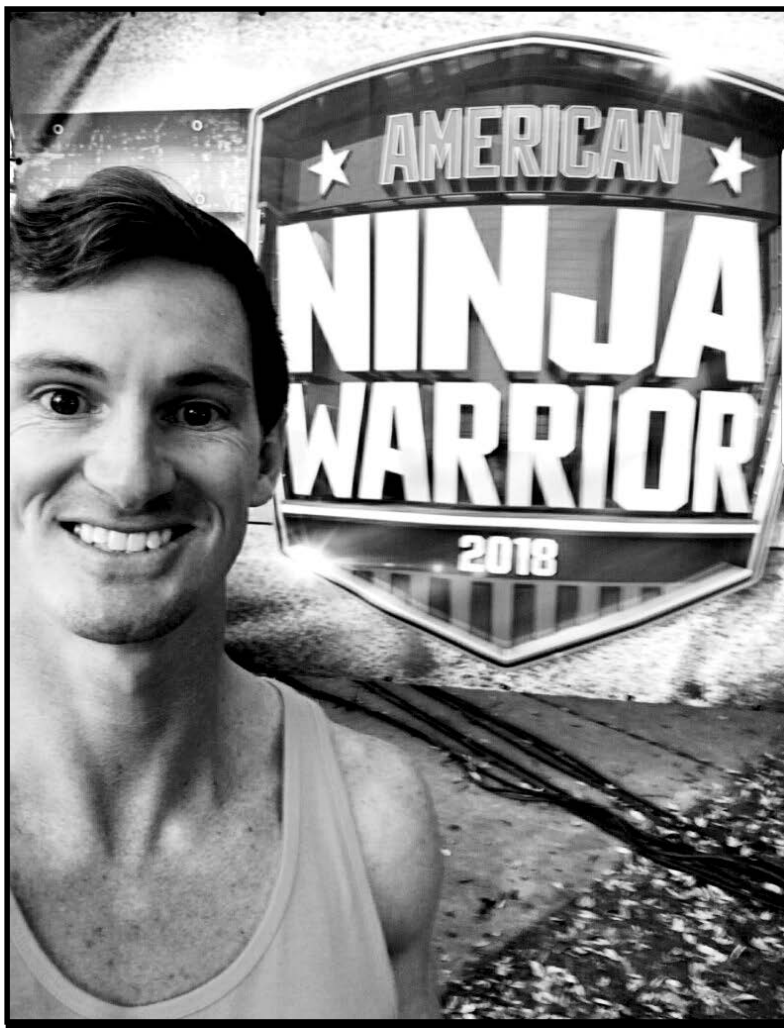
After returning from the competition, Hobbs explained "The entire experience was insane, and I loved every minute of it. It was fast and different than anything I have ever done, but I enjoyed every second of it."

While Hobbs' success on the show is to be revealed when the season premieres later this spring, he had nothing but praise for his experience.

"This program is a blast," said Hobbs. "I was completely humbled and honored to see all of the support that I received from everyone here at South Plains. Just like South Plains, ANW is a family environment that I was happy to be a part of, even if it was just for that short time."

As for advice for anyone who wants to follow in his footsteps, Hobbs said, "Start where you are,

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Justin Hobbs, assistant track coach at SPC, on the set of "American Ninja Warrior."

Photo Courtesy of Justin Hobbs

Soccer fans bring more passion than football



By **CALEB BROWN**
Staff writer

Soccer is better than football, not because it's my favorite sport, but because it's played all over the world.

If you were to ask a kid in some random village in Africa who Tom Brady is, they would look at you like you are crazy. But if you were to ask him who Cristiano Ronaldo is, he would know exactly who you're talking about. Ronaldo is arguably the best soccer player in the world.

My favorite team is the Dallas Cowboys. I have actually been to AT&T Stadium in Arlington when it was first built. I thought it was one of the greatest things I have ever seen. I especially love watching the Cowboys play on TV with my family on Sunday.

We get so into it. We're so loud and rowdy. It's a lot of fun, especially when they win.

A lot of people like the Cowboys. That's why they are called "America's Team." Football is definitely the most popular sport in America. Almost everyone I know likes football. Even my friends who don't like it will still sit down and watch it.

England, Spain and Germany. My favorite league to watch is the English Premier League, which is also the league my favorite team, Chelsea FC, plays in. They are based in London. I also really like the culture of soccer. It was invented in the mid-19th century by the English. But the Chinese claim they invented it and played a rather similar game.

I really like the stadiums. They are very unique. My favorite is the Camp Nou, which is in Barcelona, Spain. It's one of the biggest in the world, seating up to 100,000 people. The atmosphere is amazing and obviously

They don't always know what is going on, and only cheer when someone else is cheering. But a soccer match is much different. The fans are going crazy, chanting their team songs. Everyone is actually watching the game. There is much more passion involved, and they have some of the oldest rivalries in all of sports.

Although America does have its own soccer league called Major League Soccer, it is still pretty hard to find a fellow soccer fan who actually knows what he or she is talking about. Most Americans don't like soccer. They think it's just running and kicking a ball around.

But there is much more

Livestock judging team receives All-American honors to end spring season

By **MADDIE BENAVIDEZ**
Editorial Assistant

The South Plains College Livestock Judging team ended their spring season strong with a win in San Antonio and three All-American honors in Houston.

The Livestock Judging team traveled to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo on March 12, where they placed fifth overall and had three members receive All-American honors.

Drew Lamle from Columbia City, Ind. placed eighth in individual swine and eighth as an All-American.

Tanner Keeton from Borger placed as the reserve individual in sheep and goats, seventh individual overall and second as an All-American.

Ty Dumham from Meeker, Colo. placed seventh as the individual, tied for 10th place individual overall, and fifth as an All-American.

Jeyson Price placed 11th overall in the alternate contest, and Bailey Baade placed seventh in sheep and goats.

Conner Newsom, coach of the SPC Livestock Judging team, commended the All-Americans and their 4.0 grade-point averages.

Newsom says only 15 students are given the All-American awards, and SPC took home three, which is the most by any

team he has coached at SPC.

The South Plains College Livestock Judging team traveled to the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo and won the San Antonio Collegiate Contest.

The San Antonio Collegiate contest featured more than 21 teams from across the nation on Feb. 25.

It is SPC's first victory in San Antonio since the contest was first started in 2005.

Newsom credits the victory to the team's consistency.

Madison Shults placed sixth individually overall, first individually in sheep, and fourth individually in swine and goats.

Lamle finished ninth individually in goats, while Price placed third individually in sheep, and Julia Koltermann finished seventh individually in sheep.

Conner Cross placed seventh individually in goats and 10th individually in swine.

The SPC Livestock Judging team placed as the high team in the sheep, goats, and swine contests, and placed third in the oral reasoning contest.

On April 13, SPC will be hosting the 4H/FFA Livestock Judging contest in the Mallet Event Center in Levelland

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He plays for a team in Spain called Real Madrid.

But if you were to turn the question around, the average American likely knows who Tom Brady is, even if they don't like sports. In America, we love football, from high school ball to the NFL. I grew up watching my older brothers play. I've always liked it. My fa-

The main reason I like soccer more than football is because there is more competition. While the NFL only has 32 teams, pro soccer has hundreds of teams all around the world. Almost every country in the world has its own leagues and divisions. The continent with the best teams is Europe, especially in

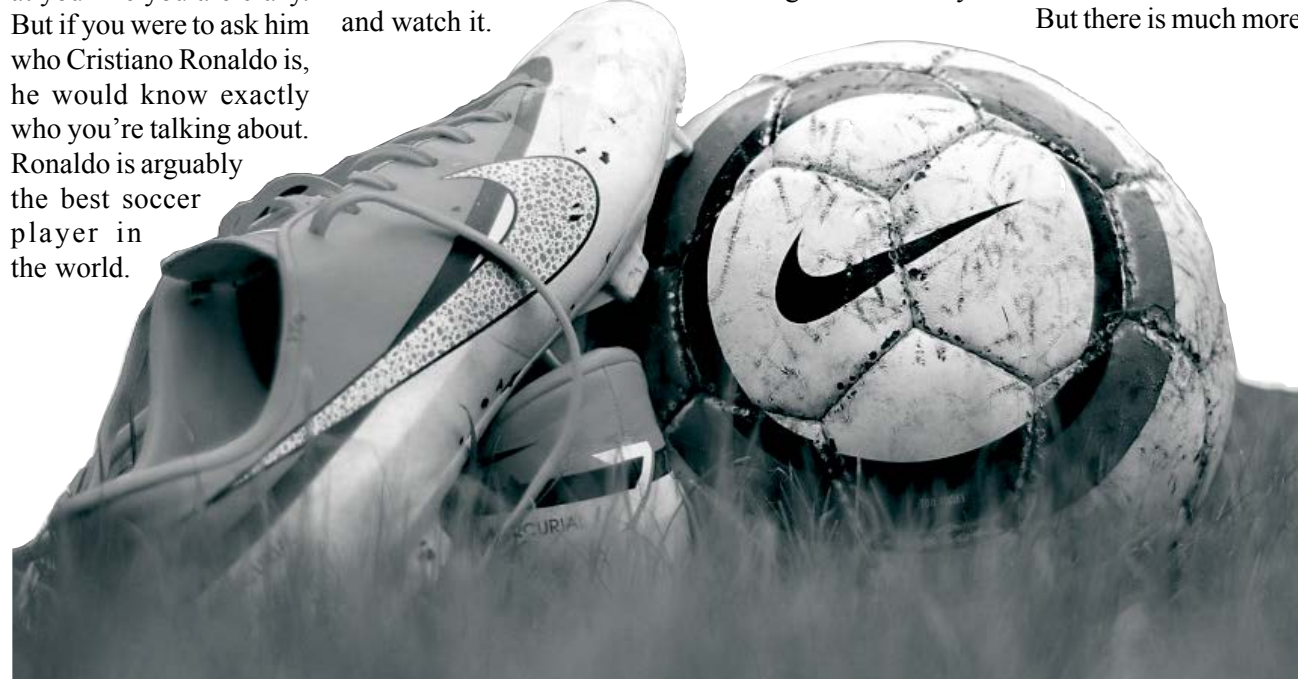
very loud. My dream is to go there one day and watch a game. No matter the outcome, just being there would be awesome.

Soccer fans usually are more passionate than football fans. When you go to or watch a football game, not everyone is paying attention. You see a lot of people on their phones or talking to someone.

to it. It's very technical and physical. You have to be fit and smart to play it.

Some people may like football or other sports, such as baseball or basketball. But for me, soccer is always going to be my favorite.

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Natural Wonder... Palo Duro Canyon offers fun activities, beautiful sights

by RANDI JINES
Opinion Editor

CANYON-The state park is located in the panhandle of Texas around, 20 miles from Canyon, Texas. It is 120 miles long, 20 miles wide, and has a depth of 800 feet,

Many people come to the state park to hike and enjoy nature. It is not unusual to see families, couples or a group of friends hiking on the trails with backpacks and water. People are also seen gearing up to ride the bike trails.

“Our busy time of year is usually from spring

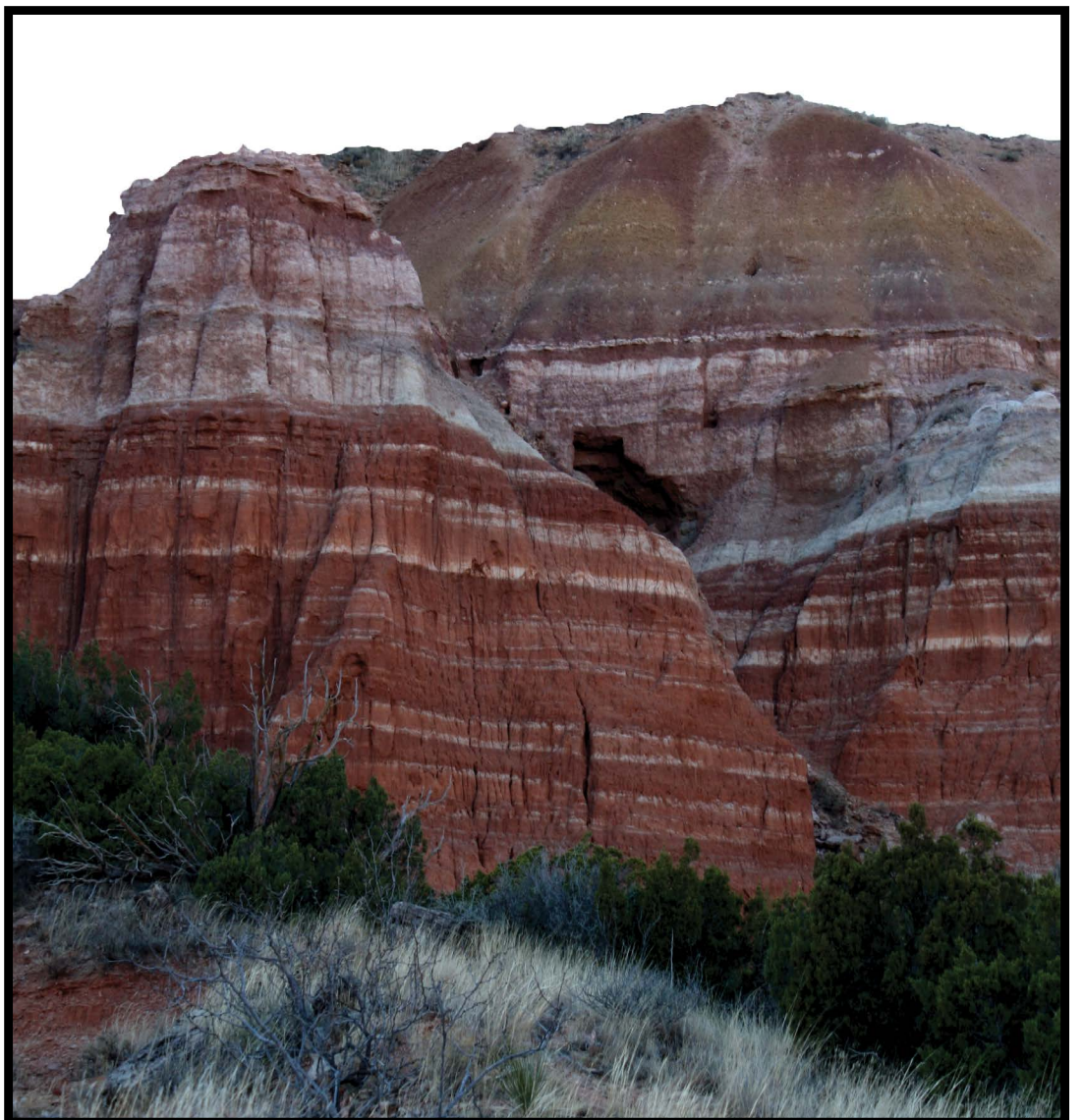
Bike trails also are offered along with the hiking trails. The bike trails range from easy to difficult, just like the hiking trails. If you are planning to bike, it is advised to pack the right protective gear, such as helmets and knee pads, along with plenty of water.

This canyon has beautiful views, from the depths and curves of the canyon, to the unique vegetation, to longhorns. The state park provides plenty of geological education.

There are plenty of features about the state park that explain some geology about the canyon.

“My favorite part about the park is the trails and wildlife,” said Cox. “I’ve also met many people from all around.”

A lot of these sights



with amazing scenery and plenty of activities.

Activities available include RV camping, tent camping, hiking trails, bike trails, horseback riding, and zip lining.

“Palo Duro Canyon is the second most visited place for camping in Texas and the most visited state park,” said Maire

break until August,” explained Cox. “We usually don’t slow down during the colder months either.”

The state park also has stables with horses for people interested in going horseback riding to see the sights.

For adrenaline seekers, there is also a zipline.

The zipline is

hikers to bring one gallon of water per person. This trail is called “The Lighthouse Trail,” which leads hikers to a rock formation that looks like a lighthouse.

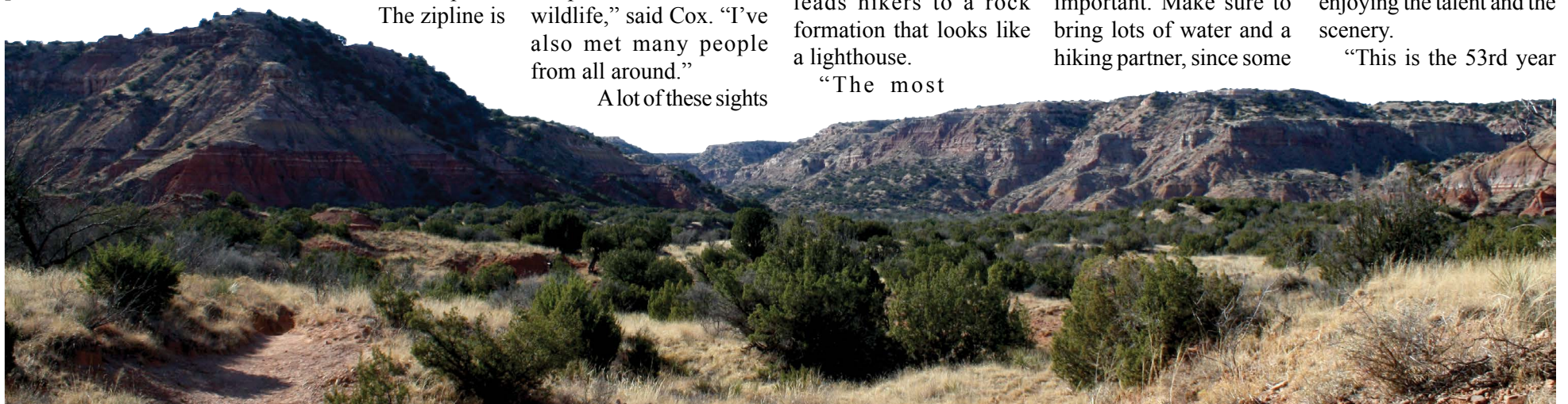
“The most

of pictures of this trail advertising for the park.”

Preparing for these trails ahead of time is important. Make sure to bring lots of water and a hiking partner, since some

The play ends with fireworks. It is the perfect way to cool down after hiking the trails while enjoying the talent and the scenery.

“This is the 53rd year

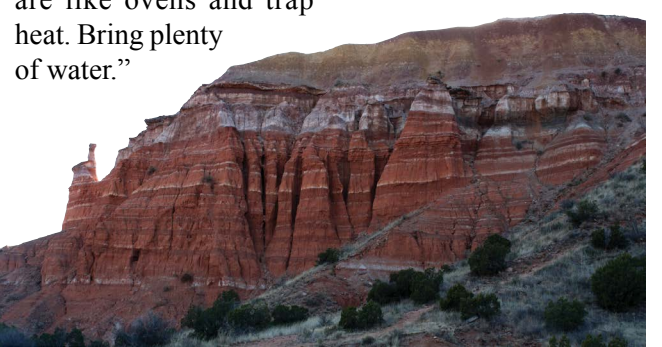


of the trails are difficult to hike.

“Keep an eye on the weather when you plan to visit,” said Cox. “It is 10 degrees hotter on the floor of the park, and the rocks are like ovens and trap heat. Bring plenty of water.”

for this play,” Cox said. “It represents what life was like in the area early on.”

This state park is family-friendly, with activities offered for all ages. It is also a learning



The Palo Duro Canyon also showcases a variety of events. There is a musical play called “Texas” hosted throughout the summer months. Performances begin in June and end in August. It is staged in the Palo Duro Canyon, with a meal offered prior to each nightly performance for those who are interested.

experience for everyone. The park provides an interactive, fun way to get exercise surrounded by beautiful scenery.

A day pass is \$5 for adults. Children age 12 and younger are admitted free. Reservations and late-night arrivals are also available for people looking to camp.

“The park is beautiful,” said Cox. “You don’t expect to drive up on a big hole in the ground in this area. And unlike The Grand Canyon, you can drive down onto the floor of the park.”

Cox, a seasonal clerk for Palo Duro Canyon.

There are buildings and cabins people can rent out. Some people even rent out a building to throw a wedding in.

almost a fourth of a mile across. They also offer two 800-foot ziplines to prepare for the longer one. Repelling is offered for those who are interested as well.

are seen on the hiking trail. One of the most famous sights is found on the longest hiking trail. This trail is six miles long and w a r n s

famous attraction is the Lighthouse Trail,” said Cox. “You’ll find a lot



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