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Intense training prepares future agents for border protection



Protecting Our Homeland

[Editor's note: This story is the first part of the multi-part series "Protecting Our Homeland," showing the life of U.S. Border Patrol Agents, trainees that begins with Issue #10 and concludes in Issue #12. Staff members took it upon themselves to interview, take photographs, and conduct research. The results of their combined efforts follow.]

by SARA MARSHALL
Editor-in-Chief

In light of recent local and worldwide political events, Americans are growing increasingly concerned with protecting the nation's borders from terrorists and illegal immigrants.

Every day, brave men and women come from all walks of life to attend the U.S. Border Patrol Academy at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center [FLETC] in Artesia, New Mexico. The training center was purchased by the Federal government in 1989, after the Artesia Christian College closed its doors.



A trainee pats down an 'illegal immigrant' role player during the trainee's Spanish class.

Soon after, they created the Office of Artesia Operations, which is one of three FLETC residential training sites in the United States. The 3,620-acre site houses many facilities which allow the United States Border Patrol to conduct basic and advanced law enforcement training.

"The Border Patrol Mission

is to detect and prevent terrorists and terrorist's weapons from entering the U.S., as well as preventing the illegal trafficking of people and contraband," said Jennie A. Marquez, assistant chief patrol agent. "This mission is inherently dangerous, because the violators are taking a great risk in accomplishing their illicit goal, and, at times, violence is the result."

Potential trainees go through months of waiting and extensive background checks before they are approved to go through several months of physical and mental agent training. Once through the academy, the trainees who are still there will graduate and receive their agent badges.

"The length and makeup of Border Patrol Academy training has varied quite a bit over the past 10 to 15 years, and continues to evolve as the law enforcement environment evolves," said Paul Clayton, senior border patrol agent. "When I was at the academy in the early 2000s, it was roughly 20 consecutive weeks of training where all the basic disciplines were taught together."

In Artesia, experienced instructors teach aspiring agents new skills such as Firearms, Pursuit Driving, Physical Fitness, Police and Border Patrol Operations, Spanish, Law and other real-world techniques.

By teaching trainees in a controlled environment, instructors can ensure the next generation of agents will be better prepared for what lies ahead.

"Each instructor has their own twist when teaching," Sergeant Major Frank Ayala said. "We have a wide range of instructors here, teaching many different techniques. An officer's safety is our number one concern here."

From their very first day at the academy, trainees are issued a fake sidearm to acclimate to the feeling of a weapon that will constantly be at their side. But they are not trained to 'shoot first, ask questions later,' as many may believe.

"The Border Patrol ensures that agents are properly trained to confront and diffuse these situations in a successful law enforcement conclusion, but sometimes, bad things

in defending our country and laid down their lives to protect the homeland."

Like many agents before her, Marquez heard about the U.S. Border Patrol through

a career fair held at Michigan State University.

"I had never heard of the Border Patrol before then, and I met some wonderful recruiters who opened my

or understand what the Border Patrol's mission is. This job isn't for everyone. But if you love the outdoors and have a strong desire to work in law enforcement, this is a great career to pursue."

Once trainees become U.S. Border Patrol agents, they have the possibility of being chosen for a variety of assignments, including patrolling international land borders and coastal waters to prevent the illegal trafficking of people, narcotics and contraband into the United States.

If a new agent is assigned to the border, he or she can expect to be responding to alarms in remote areas, detecting, preventing and apprehending undocumented aliens, smugglers of aliens and illegal narcotics at or near the land borders. Agents also could be assigned to work with the K-9 Unit, which uses canines to detect concealed humans and narcotics, Search and Rescue unit, and patrolling.

see "Aspiring" on page 2



Agents at the U.S. Border Patrol Academy conduct a 'concrete experience,' demonstrating the proper techniques to handle stressful situations an agent may encounter in the field.

PHOTOS BY TOVI OYERVIDEZ/PLAINSMAN PRESS

happen," Marquez said. "That is why we honor our fallen agents. They knew the danger

a career fair hosted by her college. She joined the U.S. Border Patrol 23 years ago at

eyes to a new career path," Marquez said. "Many people, men and women, do not know

Math, law enforcement student receives Burnside Scholar Award, scholarship

by BRANDI ORTIZ
Associate Editor

The Burnside Scholar Award was recently given to a South Plains College student.

Rachel Sarkis, a sophomore Math and Law Enforcement Technology major from Lubbock, received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Texas Community College Teachers Association.

In 2002, the TCCTA established the Burnside Scholar Award, an award named after the first executive director, Charles Burnside. This award is presented to one deserving student at the college of the current TCCTA president. This year, it was Professor Wayne Langehennig who got to select the recipient.

"I wanted to find someone who academically is doing very well," says Langehennig, president of the TCCTA and a Spanish professor at the Reese Center campus at SPC. "Someone who has a hard work ethic, and who truly paints a picture of who we are as a community college."

After asking around for recommendations on which student should receive the award, it was Sarkis' name which would be brought up from fellow colleagues.

"Rachel has been such

a trustworthy, hardworking, and exceptional person and math tutor for the past two years," says Alan Worley, chairperson of Math and Engineering Department at SPC. "I couldn't think of someone more deserving than she."

Sarkis says her talent is math, but her passion is law enforcement. She is

said Sarkis. "Since then, it has been more of a calling."

Sarkis says she hopes to complete her associate's degree in Law Enforcement Technology and become a certified peace officer. She also plans to complete her math requirements to transfer and complete her bachelor's degree in mathematics.

"Mathematics takes a

and the chairperson of the Professional Services and Energy Department, says that Sarkis could go far with her career in law.

"I see Rachel, in the long run, as an investigator," says Scott. "Possibly with the FBI, but definitely not just your typical street cop."

Though the overall goal for Sarkis is to become a detective, if she plans to work federally or for the state, which requires a bachelor's degree, she can use her mathematics degree to fill that requirement. But, Sarkis plans to stay local by applying to work at the Lubbock Police Department and working her way up.

"Short term, I want to kick in doors and get bad guys," said Sarkis. "But if something was to ever go awry then, with my mathematics degree, I can have a wider range of opportunities than I would have if I majored in criminal justice."

Sarkis says that she could not have followed her dreams without her professors.

"[SPC] has amazing professors," says Sarkis. "They are very encouraging and helpful when it comes to figuring out what is the right thing to do."

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Dr. Lance Scott, Wayne Langehennig, Rachel Sarkis and Alan Worley in front of the Law Enforcement Building on March 8.

BRANDI ORTIZ/PLAINSMAN PRESS

actively involved in the Law Enforcement Club, currently serving as vice president. She has recently been nominated to serve as president for the fall semester.

"My interest in law enforcement began when I took classes at Frenship High,"

lot time and energy to do the homework, but the law enforcement academy is just the same," Sarkis said. "Balancing the two is tough, but doable."

Dr. Lance Scott, associate professor of law enforcement and technology

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March 27, 2017

Plainsman Press

Voice of Hope works to counter sex trafficking



[Editor's note: This story is the fourth part of the multi-part series "Risqué Business," examining the dangers of prostitution that begins with Issue #7 and concludes in Issue #12. Several staff members took it upon themselves to interview, take photographs, and conduct research. The results of their combined efforts follow.]

by MATT MOLINAR
Associate Editor

For victims of human trafficking, and those who are struggling to leave the lifestyle of prostitution, help can be difficult to come by.

Voice of Hope in Lubbock is a social services organization that offers assistance to those affected by sexual crimes and violence. The aide provided is free and confidential.

Katherine Arrington says she, along with Jaime Wheeler, has been working with Voice of Hope for one year

as case managers for sex trafficking victims. Arrington says that before the two began working with Voice of Hope, the organization was lacking in services for sex trafficking victims.

"There were different needs," Arrington said in a recent interview with the Plainsman Press. "They realized these needs were different from those of rape victims. That's when they hired on Jaime Wheeler, who offered me my position."

Arrington says that the main focus of their work is victims of sex trafficking. She describes herself as a social worker for sex trafficking victims.

The organization offers many services to those affected, including a 24-hour crisis hotline, medical accompaniment, 24-hour SANE services (or Sexual Assault Nurse Examinations), counseling services, law enforcement accompaniment, case follow-up and referral, judicial accompaniment, and community education.

"We work with them directly," Arrington explained. "We provide as many services as we can give them to help them out. We also want to make sure we get them signed up for crime victim's compensa-

tion paperwork. We provide an on-sight counselor who works directly with the victim for free."

In 2016, Voice of Hope Lubbock worked with 55 cases involving human trafficking. Arrington says 21 percent of those cases involved children.

"Human trafficking is the second largest growing crime," Arrington explained. "What we see so often is that drug dealers find that they can sell a drug only one time. But with sex trafficking, victims are able to be sold more than once to make more money, and that plays into why it is such a growing crime."

Arrington says that our society thinks the women involved in prostitution are in it for fun. When she started working with victims, she soon realized the real issues at hand.

"The biggest mind shift for me has been seeing these women as victims," Arrington said. "It's astounding how these men can prey on vulnerable women. Seeing how

manipulative these men are really changed the way I look at the situation."

Arrington says she has worked with people from many different backgrounds, including some who have been sold into prostitution by their own parents. Other victims,

it's really dangerous, so they latch on to them. By the time a month passes, the guys turn on them and they're stuck, and it's hard to get out."

Some of the girls who receive help from the organization can be transported to safe houses around Texas. These

were in that position, I would have trust issues. Voice of Hope wants to come in and make them feel safe."

When a victim is first encountered, Arrington says she compiles a care package with basic hygiene products, snacks, and even socks.

"We've found that the girls are most excited about the socks they receive," Arrington said. "All of the stuff they had in their possession is taken away from them by their pimp. It empowers them to have their own stuff."

Arrington, along with Wheeler, makes weekly visits to the Lubbock County Jail, where they are able to meet with women who have been jailed on prostitu-

tion charges. Even if the individual is in jail, the police take a victim-centered approach, the same process they would go through with a trafficking victim, although resources are limited for inmates.

"We can get things going for them to prepare for their release," Arrington explained. "When they get out of jail, we want them to have the same resources. That's one of the main things we do."

Arrington says that a victim is met through many different ways. She says one way they meet victims is through law enforcement. When the victim is assumed to be involved in a crime, the police will call and ask Arrington or Wheeler to develop a relationship with them. They offer the care package in a bag and introduce themselves.

"We let them know who we are and what we're about," Arrington explained. "We let her know what's going to happen and give her a good idea so she can feel more comfortable. If they comply, we take them in and suggest they get a SANE exam from a nurse specifically trained to work with victims. We do this to make sure they are healthy - mentally and physically."

Arrington explained that, many times, victims return to their lives of prostitution after being "brainwashed" by their pimps and traffickers.

"No matter what resources we offer, they still might go back," she said. "We don't want that, but we still stay in contact with them as much as possible. We need them to know that we are present for them, and they can always reach out and receive help."

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Arrington says, have gone through a process she calls the "grooming process" from a pimp.

"They like to look for vulnerable people living in poverty," she explained. "The pimp will shower the victim with gifts and show them a better life. They don't know that

safe houses can provide recovery programs for the victims.

"We've sent many girls to different programs," Arrington said. "That's huge for them. While they're being trafficked, the victims don't have access to their basic needs. These programs offer a safe place, food, clothing, and access to a doctor."

According to Arrington, the Human Resource Coalition is working toward raising money to help establish a shelter for trafficking victims in Lubbock.

"It would be a really great opportunity for them," Arrington said. "The Human Resource Coalition aims to educate the public about what's going on and get as many people on board as possible."

Arrington says that because traffickers and pimps are involved in the situations, the victims could be in danger if they try leaving their lifestyles. They can also pose a danger for the on-site counselor.

"They are not safe at all," she added. "That's why it is important to have a great task force. We work with law enforcement, doctors and anyone else they might see when they come into contact with this kind of stuff."

Every month, the organization holds a START meeting (or Sex Trafficking Allied Response Team) when the task force is gathered into one room to discuss cases and further educate each other on the issue. Arrington says this way, law enforcement can approach a situation with the victim in mind.

"Everyone is working together to keep the girls from falling into gaps," Arrington said. "It's such a tricky situation, because they're lied to and develop trust issues. If I

Aspiring agents receive training at U.S. Border Patrol Academy

Continued from pg. 1

"We expect a lot of an agent," Clayton said. "We expect them to be able to handle potentially volatile situations, very often without any backup, professionally, efficiently, and safely. I believe those who are willing to put themselves at potential risk to enforce the laws are answering a higher call."

Being a Border Patrol Agent, especially in a small border town, has become a major part of Clayton's everyday life.

"Everyone knows what you do, no matter how hard we try to keep it confidential," Clayton said. "Even though we talk about what we do 'off duty,' a law enforcement officer is never really 'off duty.' You are trained to look at your environment, your world, even your life, from a different perspective, 24/7. Some might say that makes you paranoid, but I would say it makes you more conscious of your surroundings or your situation."

The Federal Government ensures all agents are well taken care of for all the dangerous work, long hours and stress spent being a Border Patrol Agent. The base pay for an agent starting out in the U.S.

an important mission in the defense of the United States," Clayton said. "Our brothers and sisters in the military typically fight for our freedoms far away from home, in foreign countries

A rewrite of the academy's curriculum was just completed this past summer. Beginning in May, all new trainees will attend a 117-day academy, where all the training is combined again.

New field tactical training has been added to the curriculum, as well as a redesigned Spanish learning program that is similar to entry-level college Spanish, but with a focus on Border Patrol specific vocabulary.

With these changes, the Academy can better prepare future generations of U.S. Border Patrol trainees and agents alike.

"I have been blessed with many opportunities to do different things all over the country," Marquez said. "When my time comes to retire, I know I will do so with a sense of pride and accomplishment, knowing that the future generation of Border Patrol agents is going to continue the mission of protecting our country."

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The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Artesia, New Mexico on March 11.

TOVI OYERVIDEZ/PLAINSMAN PRESS

Border Patrol can be more than \$40,000, depending on the position. Agents also receive competitive pay, paid time off, health insurance, life insurance and a generous retirement.

"The Border Patrol fills

and lands. The Border Patrol looks to attain those same objectives; defending and upholding the Constitution, from which we derive our most basic freedoms. But we do so on our own soil."

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Board of Regents approve Campus Carry Policy, tuition increase

by SARA MARSHALL
Editor-in-Chief

The Concealed Carry of Handguns on Campus policy, an increase in tuition and educational plans for the Lubbock Center were among topics discussed during the March meeting of the South Plains College Board of Regents.

Cathy Mitchell, vice president for student affairs, presented the final draft of the Concealed Carry of Handguns on Campus policy for the Board to vote on. Mitchell briefly offered an overview of the draft presented during the previous meeting. At the February meeting, Mitchell spoke about how SPC will ensure students can legally and safely carry weapons on campus, as per the new bill, Senate Bill 11.

"It will be enacted this coming August for community colleges," Mitchell said. "We had a group that was appointed by Dr. Satterwhite, with faculty and staff from across our campuses, that were looking at what we needed to do to comply with Senate Bill 11 and the campus carry. It was enacted for universities last August, and now it's our turn."

With no questions or com-

ments from the Board, the new policy was voted on and approved unanimously. On Aug. 1, this policy will take effect across campus for the Fall 2017 semester.

"I really think Cathy and her team have done a really good job," said Dr. Robin Satterwhite, president of SPC. "That team also includes student representatives, student government and the Residence Hall Association. And the process was all very inclusive and very comprehensive. We have done our due diligence in giving all the opportunity to comment on it."

Dr. Satterwhite also discussed possible avenues the Board could explore in which they could increase the tuition and fees for students in the Fall 2017 semester in order to supplement a possible decrease in state funding and the loss of tax revenues.

"We need to make sure we are providing the right resources for our students," Dr. Satterwhite said. "We anticipate we will have around a \$1 million loss, is what we feel the end of the year will be. We feel like we've done very well, and that we've managed our resources very carefully this year. But we're still in a

position where we're trying to recover from that huge decrease in tax revenues. And that's the biggest thing we're trying to overcome."

After discussing the options, Dr. Satterwhite proposed a \$7 increase in the out-of-district tuition to match the anticipated loss, which will generate \$985,539 in projected revenue. This projection is based on 98 percent of this year's enrollment numbers. The board approved this increase, which will be implemented for out-of-district students beginning Fall 2017.

Dr. Ryan Gibbs, vice president for academic affairs, gave a breakdown of the Lubbock Center and what kind of programs will be offered to new and current students of SPC.

"They are focused heavily on the workforce development side and technical education," Dr. Gibbs said. "One thing I find particularly interesting is we are adding 21 new sections to technical education programs by moving to the Lubbock Center. So, that is 21 more options for students to take courses."

These new sections will include four additional sections in automotive technology, which includes the Lubbock

Cooper School District Dual Credit program, and six additional sections in welding technology.

"There will be instruction happening morning, noon and night, Monday through Saturday," Dr. Gibbs said. "Workforce development is really focusing on the health science offerings. But construction trades will be offered for the first time in Lubbock, whereas there was not a space available at the ATC for construction trades, and the only place we taught those was in Plainview, up until being able to offer them in Lubbock."

Stephen John, vice president for institutional advancement,

presented an overview of the scholarships which have been awarded to current and future students of SPC as of March 6. These scholarships are being provided through SPC Foundation awards, SPC Program Scholarships, and third-party outside scholarships.

"The scholarship office has awarded \$2.3 million in scholarships to 1,316 students attending South Plains College this year," John said. "We have additional scholarship funds that are to be awarded, especially though special grants that the (SPC) Foundation receives and the CH Foundation receives to support nursing scholarships."

For the current academic year, the Foundation has provided \$804,425 in scholarship awards to 794 students. SPC Program Scholarships awarded \$715,232 to 339 students. Third-Party Scholarships awarded \$798,081 to 494 students.

"The Foundation board at its January meeting approved a scholarship disbursement for 2017 - 2018 of \$881,000," John said. "This is about a 5 percent increase over what was approved for this year."

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New Student Government officers elected for fall semester

by STACY JOHNSON
Editorial Assistant

The South Plains College Student Government Association recently welcomed four new officers who will officially begin their terms in fall of 2017.

The Student Government Association acts as an intermediary between students and the SPC administration. The SGA is also responsible for organizing student activities, events, and initiatives.

The SGA election was held on March 1. The incoming officers will learn from the current officers for the remainder of the semester before taking over in the fall.

The president-elect is Mikayla Holmes, a broadcast journalism major from Lubbock. During her term as the SGA president, the freshman says that she will strive to create a culture of diversity and looks forward to having a leadership role on campus.

Holmes says that at first, she was not intending to run for president. After encouragement from a peer, she decided to try it.

"It turns out, when I took that risk, I got the reward," she says.

Last semester, Holmes held the office of public relations coordinator. She currently oversees the SGA recruitment committee. At the end of

March, she will also be attending a Texas Junior College Student Government Association convention in Houston, where she will run for a state public relations position.

Rita Reyes will be taking the office of vice president, and will assist Holmes with her official duties. Reyes, a political science major from Lubbock, is an experienced SGA officer, having served

says the primary reasons she chose to run for office were to be more involved in school and to become more extroverted.

"It gets me more out there," she says.

A newcomer to the SGA, Graves expressed excitement about beginning her new role.

"I've never experienced this before, so I'm ready to get started because it sounds like a lot of fun," she adds.

Jessie Lozano will hold the position of commuter affairs representative.

Holmes encourages SPC students to join the SGA in their efforts to improve student life on campus. She adds that there are various committees that students can join to make a difference.

"There's a committee made up of all types of people on campus," says Holmes. "So we kind of get our voices heard."

She also emphasizes how joining student organizations such as the SGA can help students make friends and meet new people.

"It's so much fun," Holmes says. "If you join it, you will have a blast. I've made a lot of really cool new friends through SGA, and I've gotten a lot

of opportunities. If you join it, you won't be sorry. You'll have a great time."

Any student who wants to get involved with the SGA can go to the Student Life Office, located within the Student Center, to speak with a Student Life representative.

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PTSA hopes to raise funds through golf tournament

by SHELBY MORGAN
Staff Writer

The South Plains College Physical Therapist Student Association will host the Fifth Annual PTASA Golf Classic on April 1.

The event will be held at Shadow Hills Golf Course in Lubbock, with registration beginning at 9:30 a.m. The cost is \$160 per team, which includes, lunch, cart, and range balls. Mulligans will be available for purchase.

The two-man scramble begins at 11 a.m. with a shotgun start. The tournament will feature several contests

and games, including Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin, Wheel of Fortune, and Buy Your Shot. Lunch will be served after the rounds.

Participation sponsorships are available, which range from \$125 to \$1,200.

Proceeds from the tournament will benefit the PTASA and pay for travel to the Texas Physical Therapist Association Annual Conference in Corpus Christi in the fall of 2017.

"At this annual conference, we professionally develop, get the opportunity to meet potential employers, get to see presentations ranging from how to write your resume, in-

terviewing tips, and different treatment modalities and what works best for different types of ailments," said Shelby Nail, president of the PTASA. "I know the potential that it has to help our students. It's going to be great for our students to go and meet other PTA's and PT's across the state, and talk about the things that are affecting our state."

For golf tournament registration information, contact Randi Hanfield or Shelby Nail at (806) 416-6475, or email ptasagolfclassic@gmail.com.

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Mikayla Holmes, SGA president-elect, outside North Sue on March 22.
BRANDI ORTIZ/ PLAINSMAN PRESS



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BackTalk: Reasoning behind current drinking age debated

Underage alcohol consumption detrimental to teen development

Lowering drinking age causes fewer problems



by TYLER YORK
Online Editor

Lowering the drinking age means blatantly ignoring a potential increase in traffic deaths and a general decline in public safety. Anyone who ends up alive in spite of that should be totally fine.

The idea of reducing the drinking age from 21 to 18 has been hotly debated in this country, but in reality the choice has already been made. Many intelligent minds have taken evidence into account that told them 21 years of age is a reasonable limit to set for alcohol consumption. But looking past that, there are several other

important points that make a higher drinking age necessary.

Being cautious to lower the drinking age isn't just a matter of puritanical values or "the man" keeping young adults down, although I can understand how many in their position could see it that way. We all know there are plenty of teens out there who consume alcohol regularly anyway, so what's the difference, right? But there is a real concern, based on scientific research in countries that chose to reduce

the drinking age, that doing so in the U.S. will result in more traffic deaths involving intoxicated minors.

The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration has shown that around 900 lives are saved every year as a direct result of the current higher drinking age, meaning fewer traffic accidents involving underage drunk drivers.



This statistic alone shows clearly that lowering the bar means not only will there almost certainly be more fatal



accidents involving young people, it will be even easier, and in fact legal, for them to acquire the substance that will lead to their early deaths.

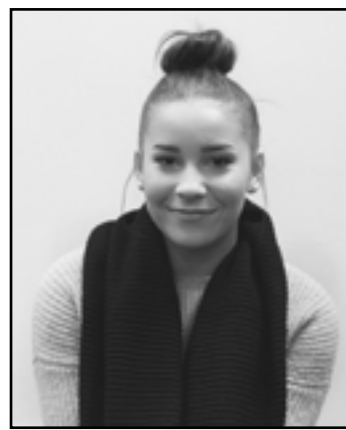
A major argument in favor of reducing the drinking age is the idea that the current age limit is unfair, when so many other legal age limits are set

at the age of 18. Legally, this is the age when someone can be tried in court as an adult. It's also the legal limit applied to several other activities: purchasing tobacco products, gambling, registering to vote. Men turning 18 are even required by law to sign up for selective service in the military. So many would ask: why is it fair to make the drinking age arbitrarily different than these other activities?

The truth is there is no magical threshold where, once crossed, a person automatically and officially becomes an adult. Each person matures differently, and we as a society do our very best to make attempts at setting up emergent adults for success. Young minds still have a lot of growing and developing to do, even up to the early-to-mid-twenties. Alcohol, more so than other legal drugs, reacts with your body in a way that can be harmful to that development process. It can significantly impair the judgment centers of a much older adult, not to mention a teenager with parts of their brain that haven't even completely matured yet.

I understand there are many teens nearing the 18-year-old mark who would likely prefer their rights to include legal booze. But there's really no harm in waiting. And it's clear to anyone who cares to look that there's a great deal of harm in allowing alcohol use earlier than teens are capable of handling it.

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by CHANISE RAY
Staff Writer

If being 18 makes you an adult in the public's eyes, then that should be the legal drinking age.

As everyone knows, in some states in America, the legal drinking age is 21. However, it was not always this way. The legal drinking age some years ago was 18. It also was the age required to vote and the age to get drafted into the United States Army.

However, that was a very long time ago. Some countries, such as Spain, Australia, and China, among others, have the legal drinking age of 18. Other countries, such as Italy, Germany, Switzerland, have a drinking age that is even lower, at just 16.

Countries with lower drinking ages allegedly have fewer instances of drunk driving, alcohol poisoning, and less binge drinking, which is a big problem in America. Since alcohol is illegal to drink for people under 21, young adults have to obtain alcohol from parties, which usually happen on the weekends. Sometimes, when people get to those parties, they tend to drink a lot because they aren't used to drinking alcohol. So they don't know their limits.

That can lead to black outs, alcohol poisoning, and even drunk driving. Teenagers always want what they cannot have. If you just let them have it, they won't want it so much and all the time.

How are 18 year olds allowed to vote, go to war, and even go to college, which is especially stressful for me, but they are not allowed to go to a bar and drink a beer? Not that I

wine a few times, and I am not talking about just in church. Drinking is not essential for me in order to have fun at a party, but being as socially awkward as I am, it does help. Since 18 year olds are not legally allowed to drink, they usually binge drink at parties or other events that they want to have fun at. This is especially harmful to the body, because it could cause alcohol

poisoning and long-term liver damage. In other countries, teenagers can get alcohol all the time, so there is no reason for binge drinking. I do think hard liquor is too mature for someone my age. I think the drinks with less alcohol should be legal for teenagers. Most adults don't drink them anyway, so someone has to.

Overall, the legal drinking age should be lowered for many reasons, but mostly to teach moderation. Once you are able to have something,

you stop wanting it all the time. At least that is what happens to me. My nanna always tells me, "I just like to drink whiskey before bed to go to sleep," and "I won't drink any other time." She's about 80 something, so I think she's doing pretty well, and she started drinking at a very young age. Maybe one day

America will get with the program and follow in the footsteps of Italy, bringing the drinking age down for good.

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am condoning stress drinking, but those are very grown-up things that people my age go through. Some people may



Man on the Street

What was the last text message you sent on your phone?



"Mrs. Escamilla has us writing too many papers!"

Vanity Morris
Sophomore
Radiology
Brownfield



"I can't do this anymore. My video games need me."

Isaiah Cantu
Freshman
Criminal Justice
Ralls



"Why are you like this?"

Madeline Dorris
Freshman
Kinesiology
Weatherford



"Meow"

Elias Cantu
Sophomore
Criminal Justice
Ralls



"Where's your charger?"

Kyra Lawrence
Sophomore
Design Communications
Lubbock



"Normal time today"

Lidia Guiral
Freshman
Sports Medicine
Spain

Compiled by Noell Luna and Mariah Deleon

Cure for disease hidden behind greed



by **BRITTNY STEGALL**
Opinion Editor

Greed is one of the most vial things in this world, especially when it becomes a choice between saving someone's life or making money.

As someone who has had multiple family members pass away due to cancer, known friends who have gotten HIV, and seen the horrific effects of AIDS, I want to, and I will, fight until the very end until I find out if there is a cure for any of these dreadful diseases.

I believe there is a cure for cancer, HIV, and AIDS, but America and the world are

fear of losing millions of dollars.

With millions upon billions

and crawl further into it. But instead of doing the right thing and saving someone's mother, grandpa, or any other family member, they stay greedy and would rather keep the money for themselves.

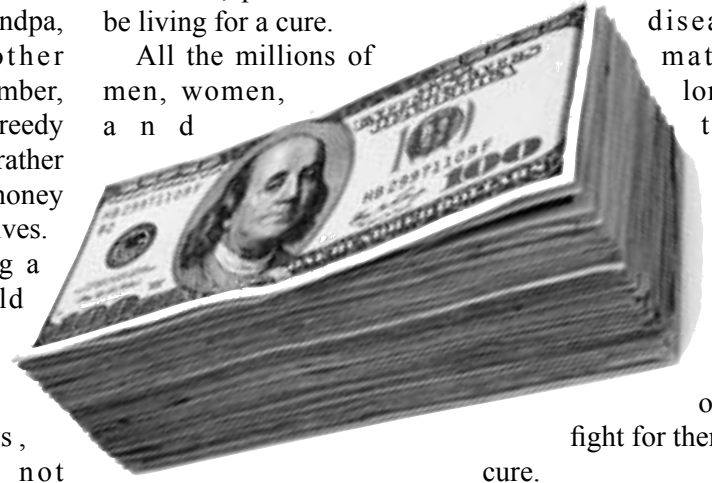
Finding a cure would bring in money by the millions, but I do not believe that it would reach the price that chemotherapy, HIV and AIDS prescriptions have reached. It's not the fact that they would not

make money from it, but the fact that they would not make enough of it.

Think about how the world could be different, the many possibilities that the world could change by just releasing a cure, if there is one. No more chemotherapy, no more \$12,000 medical prescriptions

for HIV, none of it. Instead of fighting through the treatment, patients would be living for a cure.

All the millions of men, women, a n d



the playing field, I will dig and I will find the cure for these horrifying diseases. No matter how long it may take, the people who are battling these diseases need someone out there to fight for them to find a

cure. People are far more precious than money could ever be. Would you shoot a family member if someone put a million-dollar check in front of your face and said, "do it?" I don't think so, because no amount of money is worth that! But if the world is hiding the cure, then they are essentially pulling that trigger and killing them in front of you.

People need to come together and help save their mothers, fathers, children, and all the other fighting the fight. Because everyone deserves a fighting chance.

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too greedy, self-righteous, and have no care for the many people with these diseases. They rely too much on money. If there is actually a cure for those diseases, they would never give it out, due to the

of dollars going into the treatment of cancer, HIV, and AIDS, why on earth would they give it up? The United States is in so much debt that if they released a cure, they would lose so much

Scientific research should place focus on global conservation



by **VANESSA DELGADO**
Staff Writer

Many people are passionate about the environment, but not nearly enough.

Money is spent on science that doesn't even directly affect our planet, or us, in order to satisfy the curiosity of the unknown. More funds that do not directly benefit the Earth and all of its inhabitants should be used toward saving our planet.

One topic in particular is space exploration. Space is very interesting, and there is so much still to learn. But before we focus on exploring space farther, we need to take care of the planet we are currently occupying. Every day our planet is becoming increasingly unhealthy.

Our air is becoming almost toxic in some places, due to the emissions from factories and cars. Plants provide clean air for the planet, and we are destroying it. Slowly, we are switching to healthier means of transportation, but the majority of the population still uses diesel or gas for their vehicles. Funds used for the exploration of outer space could be used to make even more environment-friendly cars.

Another widespread problem is deforestation. We use wood for many different

things. We make paper, build houses, and make fires out of it. With the high demand for wood and its slow growth rate, we are using it faster than it can grow.

Therefore, we are cutting down more wildlife habitats for human convenience. This is taking a toll on many different species of wildlife. We are taking away their homes, and many are killed in the process.

Nonrenewable resources are also being consumed exponentially. According to the United States Energy Information Administration, approximately 90 percent of the world's energy comes from nonrenewable resources.

If we used more renewable energy, the environment would become cleaner and healthier for everyone and thing that resides in it. Wind and solar energy are an easy solution to many of our environmental problems. The money could be used to encourage people to use renewable resources. It would also allow for the building of more wind turbines to save the planet.

Space exploration is fascinating, and it would be absolutely amazing to have conclusions to our unanswered questions. But it will not matter if we

continue to destroy Earth. The money spent on space exploration could be used to fund more renewable energy and

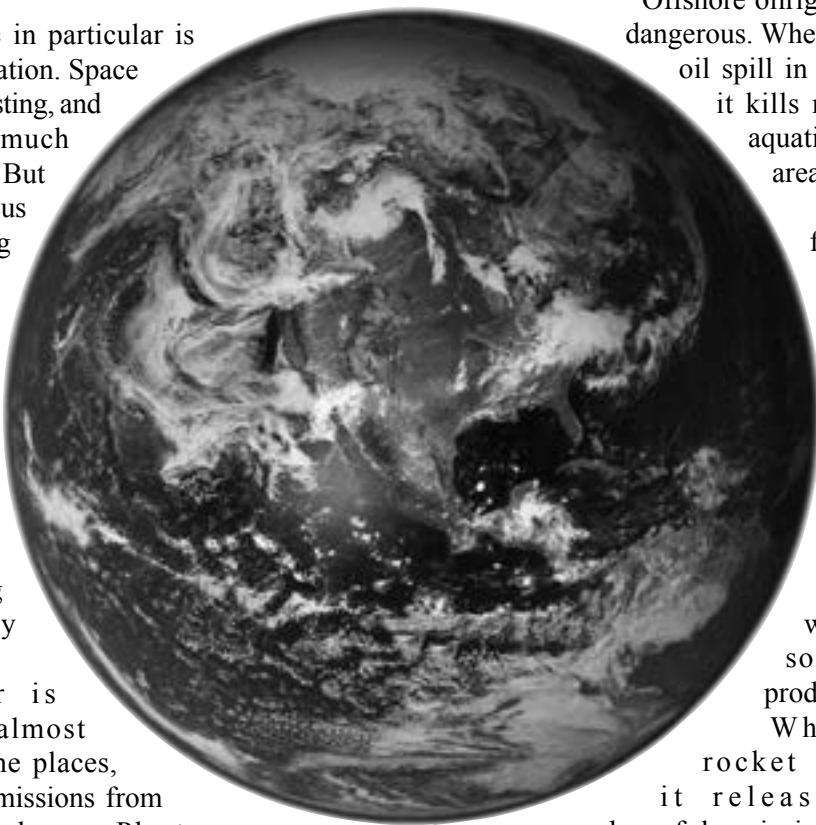
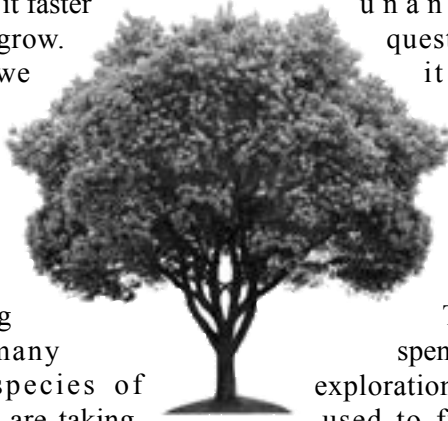
find innovative ways to clean the environment we have so easily devastated. The oceans are littered with trash, and it is killing many things living in those oceans. We have all seen or read about how plastic has an extreme affect on our oceans.

Offshore oilrigs are just as dangerous. When there is an oil spill in our oceans, it kills most of the aquatic life in the area.

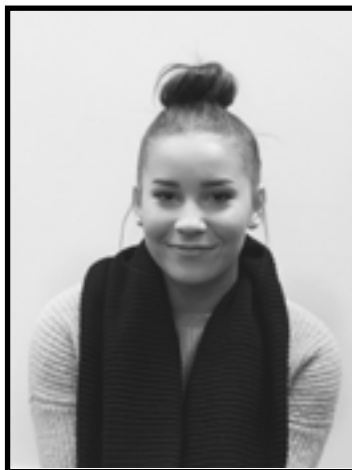
More funding would result in more research on faster and safer ways to clean our oceans and destroy the waste we are so willing to produce. Whenever a rocket launches, it releases many harmful emissions into the environment, causing even more damage.

It is time to pull together and make the necessary changes to our lifestyles in order to save our home and the habitats of our wildlife. Earth is beautiful, and it deserves to be kept clean for generations to come.

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Segregation of genders could benefit education



by **CHANICE RAY**
Staff Writer

Boys are toxic to my learning environment.

A topic no one really thinks about, but based on research is one worth discussing.

Same sex classrooms could be beneficial to the learning process of a specific gender. Just like most instances women, and men are different and should be treated as such. Think about this ladies, when you were in high school sitting in class, and it was that time of month. You had to go to the bathroom but were too self conscious to ask the teacher to go so you could change your tampon. Scared a guy might see the tampon slipping out of your back pocket. Scared that some idiot boy would ask you if your attitude was in fact your period. Imagine being in a room full of girls who all go through the same thing and aren't grossed out by a normal bodily function.

Having a same sex teacher could also help with the overall classroom

environment. A teacher that is the same sex as his or her classroom could help with understanding every student. Teachers of these classrooms are relating how they are all girls into their learning. Such as empowerment of women, feminism, and woman's rights. All things that should be incorporated into the learning of any female. It makes it easier that if those were implemented it would effect everyone in the classroom because everyone is the same sex.

Don't think just because I am just talking about girls means I don't feel for guys as well. I have heard many struggles of what guys go through in class. Especially in high school. However this

situation personally effects me which is the reason I speak on girls, that is what I know.

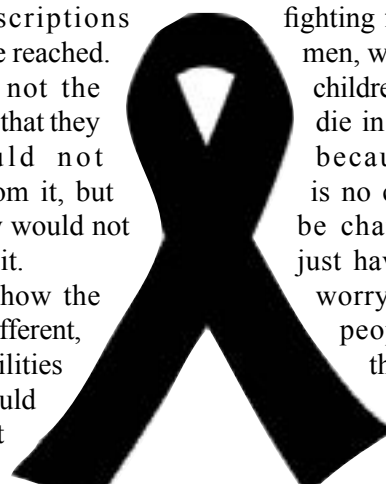
Same sex classrooms for females eliminates the anxiety of competition in the classroom with other guys. Specifically courses such as math and science which are allegedly male dominated. Also for males, they could peruse stereotypically feminine classes such as music or art.

Today not many public schools are a single sexed school. These institutes are usually private schools that make you pay which ultimately if you come from a private school it means you're at least a little bit smart because they have grade expectations unlike public schools. Same sexed public school could be just like that.

Honestly I cannot believe I am going for this side of the argument about same sexed schools, however, the research I did made a lot of sense. The biggest distraction for a girl in high school and in college is boys. Especially with all of the maturing we are doing at this age. School comes first though and I would rather have a good education than have a boyfriend. I think.

This was an interesting debate topic because it makes me think how much different my learning process would have been if I was schooled in a same sex classroom. In high school I was all about boys. Always had a boyfriend, always had a crush. I've been unfocused in classes because of a guy or have been in a bad mood in classes because I just got dumped which made me miss my teachers lesson on polynomials and trinomials. Boys are very distracting, and girls and guys both deserve the right to be in the best learning situation.

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March 27, 2017

Plainsman Press

Innovations in 3-D printing technology lead to greater accessibility

by TYLER YORK
Online Editor

As the tiny machinery precisely whirs itself across the platform below, it's difficult to shake the sensation of observing the world's smallest construction operation.

In the Solid Modeling classroom on the second floor of the Technical Arts Building on the Levelland campus, it feels as though the future has arrived at South Plains College, just without any sound or spectacle. There are several recent innovations in technology that feel ripped from the pages of science fiction,

such as virtual reality video games and self-driving vehicles. But topping them all is the emergence of the technique of creating objects using 3-D printing.

The process of 3-D printing has gone

through several different names since its modern inception in the mid-1980s. It was originally given the name stereolithography, literally meaning "three-dimensional printing," by a man named Chuck Hull and his company 3D Systems.

Back then, the procedure for quickly creating solid objects from simple materials took substantially longer than it does now. The primary means of doing so was through the process of using lasers to systematically harden liquid plastic in a desired shape and size. The machines were massive, and they cost thousands upon thousands of dollars to maintain and continue operation.

Compared to today's tiny, sub-\$1,000 3-D printers, it's easy to draw a parallel like that between the room-size computers of the 1960s and the modern laptop.

It may surprise SPC students to learn that there are a few of these magical fabrication machines within throwing distance of the walks they take to class every day. But that is precisely the sight waiting behind the walls of the Solid Modeling classroom led by Mike Coler, an instructor in the Computer-Aided Drafting and Design Technology program on the Levelland campus.

Coler recalls a time when the original stereolithography technology was much less convenient and affordable.

"Back then, the machine we had was \$250,000, and we got it through a federal grant," he recalled about his time working with the old stereolithography devices. "Now they can get this \$1,500 machine and print a part to see how it will work in a few hours before

having to spend all the money to manufacture it."

The most common process for 3-D printing involves feeding a coiled roll of plastic wire into a heated nozzle that traces a path across a platform, leaving a single layer of plastic at a time, and building an entire solid object from the bottom up. Imagine a cake with multiple layers all stacked one on top of the other, but the layers are all composed of very finely laid plastic.

Times have changed for 3-D printing, but the process is just as useful as it ever was. Industries all over the world are adopting it to cheaply test

ing smartphone holders, with the lightweight nature of the plastic meaning better fuel economy for the vehicles.

A few years ago, NASA 3-D printed a rocket engine injector that passed a significant hot fire test, and the injector created 10 times more thrust than previous parts made in a similar fashion. They even sent a small 3-D printer up to the International Space Station, so astronauts can print needed tools on-demand without needing to bring extra parts.

On the more unsavory end, a group known as Defense Distributed has designed and made

freely available an open-source 3-D model called the "Liberator," a gun for which 15 of its 16 total parts can be printed on any home 3-D printer. The body of the gun takes less than a full

night's sleep to be outlined. Defense Distributed reportedly created the Liberator to demonstrate the lack of power the government really holds over gun distribution.

Prosthetic limbs, and even organs, are also finding their way to the public. Amputees are receiving affordable arms and legs rather than the steeply priced alternatives. Doctors and scientists are even finding breakthroughs with the ability to print both artificial structures and living cells

at the exact same time, helping replace organs that would normally come from potentially years of waiting for a donor.

"They're developing 3-D printers that will do edible items, like frostings, cakes, candies and stuff in different shapes, out of just extruded chocolate," Coler explained.

Toymakers, fashion designers, work-from-home entrepreneurs, artists, musicians, and even students are all on the seemingly endless list of groups who can benefit and profit from the use of 3-D printing. It's a real benefit to SPC students to have these machines to learn on for the wide variety of fields they may go on to explore.

Phyllis Kennon, program coordinator and assistant professor of technical graphics at SPC, opened the door to another room with pictures hung on the wall of the 3-D models her students have designed in her classes. Several models showed what looked like cross sections of virtual objects that twisted around and stuck out at sharp angles.

"This is what you would give to a machinist to create this," Kennon indicated toward the cross-sectioned

model inked on paper. "But the drafter has to learn to visualize it. So we use the printers to give them a 3-D object they can hold, and touch, and turn

without any experience with the process.

"It's big technology that's in the industry," said Coler. "There's companies all over

"When some [students] get into their careers, they're going to be making things that don't exist," explained Kennon. "So they have to imagine it, they have to get it down on paper, and they have to explain it well enough that either they or somebody else can make it a reality."

Both Kennon and Coler hope the



3-D printers in the Solid Modeling classroom in the Technical Arts Building. TYLER YORK/PLAINSMAN PRESS

over in their hands to really get a sense of the scale and the real dimensions of the thing they're creating on the screen."

that look for people that can use these techniques. So we help students learn skills with these printers that can be used just about anywhere, in a

department can help more students learn about the 3-D printers used on campus. But Coler says he knows why the lid has been kept on for so long.

"We're a secret department, kind of like the CIA," joked Coler.

Thankfully, all of this "classified technology" doesn't require special security clearance.

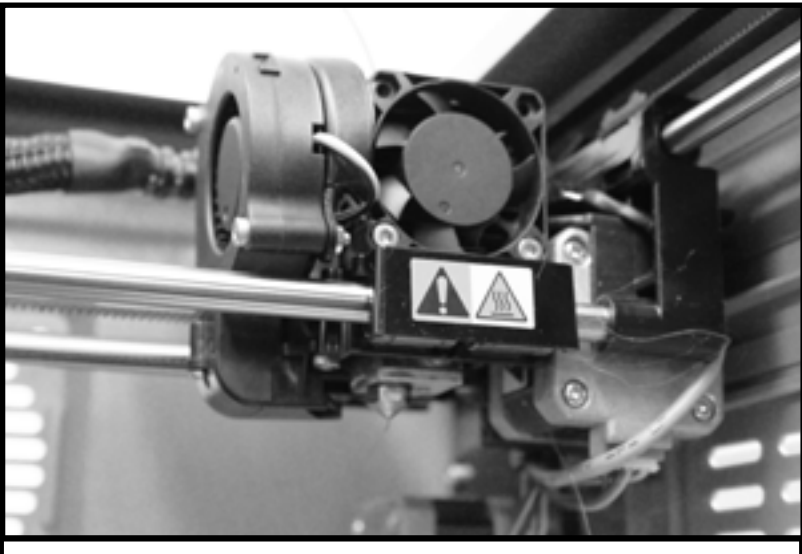
"As long as they help pay for the material, I have no problem," Coler confirmed. "If the program creates a .stl file, we can build a part."

The .stl file type is the one that is used to cut a model into the individual layers executed by the printer.

"Stereolithography, the original name for the process," Coler said with a smile and an air of once again parting a secret technological

curtain. "A bit of history, hidden right in the file itself."

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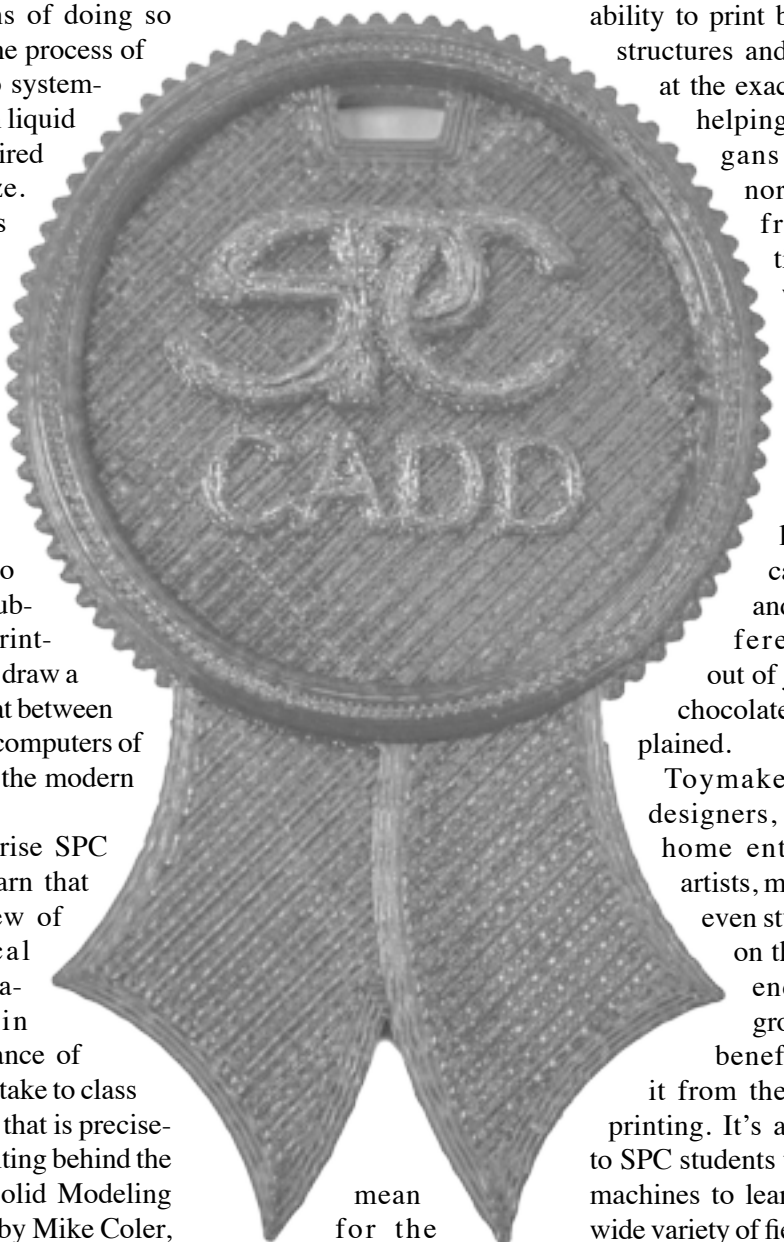


A 3-D printer's printhead that heats and extrudes plastic filament. TYLER YORK/PLAINSMAN PRESS

product designs, quickly see changes made to part models, and even make prototypes for much larger and sturdier constructions without wasting valuable resources in the process.

"Then you can go into full manufacturing and have the machinists and all that make it," said Coler. "It's much nicer and cheaper to test it this way."

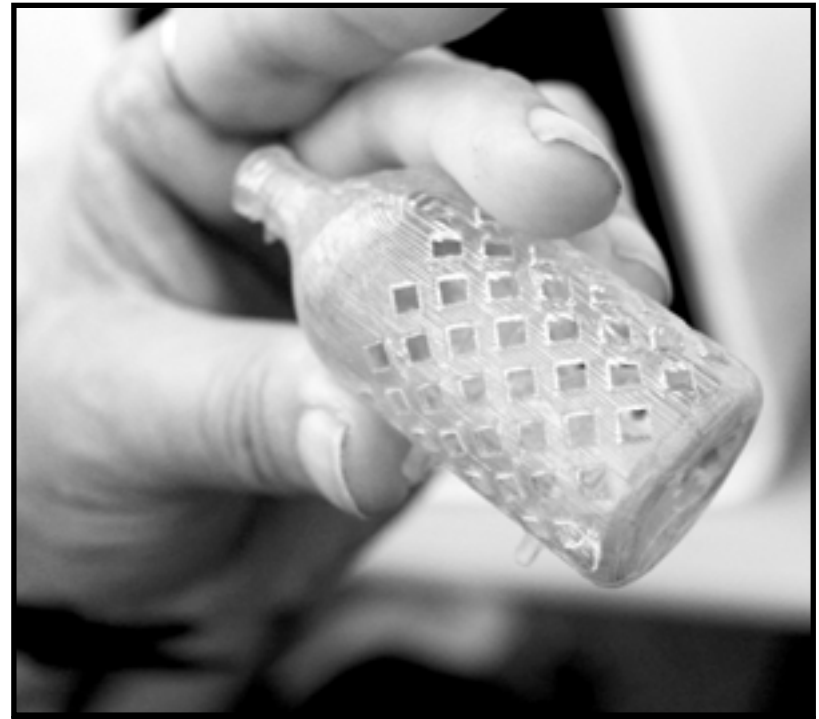
What does this



mean for the average person?

It's natural for many to have an out of sight, out of mind mentality when it comes to technical machinery, so most people might assume 3-D printers are either highly niche industrial devices or novelty toys. But 3-D printing has become a major staple in almost every industry in the world.

General Motors has used "rapid prototyping"—another term for 3-D printing—to build parts of the floor console in the Chevy Malibu contain-



A small bottle printed on an older stereolithography machine. TYLER YORK/PLAINSMAN PRESS

Clearly 3-D printing isn't leaving the production world anytime soon. There is a case to be made that prospective employees with 3-D printing skills might gain favor with future employers over those

number of jobs, or even just for fun."

It might seem like futuristic daydreams, but the idea of students bringing virtual objects into the real world is one of great utility and innovation.

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The South Plains College Upward Bound Program is looking for Resident Advisors for our Summer Residential Program. Applicants should be responsible, self-motivated, team players, and value education. Applicants must have successfully completed at least one full year of college classes at the time of hire and have a minimum of a 2.5 GPA.

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For more information, please contact:

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TRiO Works!



Alum creates distribution company, travels the world

by ALEX PEREZ
Feature Editor

[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.]

From the windy city of Lubbock, Terry Hill energized his passion and began his journey to his dream job with help from South Plains College.

Hill graduated from SPC in 1980 with an Associate of Science Degree in Science and soon after began at Texas Tech University to finish off his education with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Microbiology.

Hill had always been a part of the West Texas community, as he was born in Lubbock and then moved to Levelland with his family when he was in sixth grade. Hill's father worked in the oil industry and moved the family closer to work.

Having grown up so close to the campus, South Plains was a no-brainer for Hill to start off his higher education. He recalls his fun times in West Texas as a young, but determined, college student who took an interest in chemistry and engineering.

"South Plains let me see the world was a bigger place," says Hill.

Being a part of a community-based student body helped Hill grow, not only as a student but as a person too. During his time on the Levelland campus, he served for many student organizations, including Student Government. Hill was a senator for the student body

during his sophomore year at SPC before he transferred to Texas Tech.

He describes his involvement at SPC as, "Not just academics." He states that his experience in the classroom was more than just the curriculum. He also learned life lessons that would follow him and help him into a successful career.

"Obviously when you are 16, 17, 18, you don't realize the affect of your education," Hill said. "I had a couple of really good professors that taught me how to study and learn."

Hill bonded with a couple of his professors who kept him going and motivated him to succeed. Hill said that Bob Beck and Richard James were the two biggest influencers, the ones who really pushed Hill to achieve his goal and then some.

By Hill's definition, college is all about learning and then studying what you learn to then put it in action. With the tools to study and learn, Hill was set

work in the medical field. He ended up really liking the distribution industry and decided to make a career out of it. After graduating, Hill put off medical school, moved to Dallas and began working for a distribution company.

Since then, Hill has relocated to Seattle and worked at a distributing company called Univar for about 30 years, before retiring. He now runs his own distribution and consulting company, APEX.

At Univar, Hill started out as the regional vice president until 2002, when he was promoted to president and senior vice president of U.S. operations. Hill had this title for about five years, and he was in charge of more than 100 locations across the country. He also created and built key distribution areas around the country.

In 2007, Hill's life got really exciting when he got the position as chief commercial officer and then executive vice president of industry relations. During this time, Hill had the opportunity to really explore the world, as he was studying the cultures and commerce of many other countries.

"A boy from Lubbock and Levelland literally got to see the world," says Hill. "They were all a little bit different," Hill explained, "but interesting to watch. China's evolution of their economy and Europe had a lot of history and cultural differences."

Hill was given the opportunity of a lifetime to explore the world and help create growth strategies for countries such as China, Mexico and Brazil.

After having a



great career at Univar, Hill retired in August 2015. Although he is retired, he is still working on his own company, consulting with companies and organizations.

Hill is taking it easy and

living by his motto, "No wasted days." With the news that his wife of 32 years has an incurable form of lymphoma, Hill and their four children stay close to home. Hill's wife is now in remission, which their whole family is grateful for. Working with the marriage ministry at his local church, Hill and his family have found content in their life.

Hill continues to get involved in the community and continues to give back to SPC with his scholarship for students who are transferring to Baylor University. He also is on the board for Chemical Educational Foundation, which provides chemistry for grade and middle school-age children.

Encouraging education is

his hidden passion. You Be the Chemist is an organization that is a competition that is structured like the national spelling bee. Instead of words, there are chemistry problems, with the winner getting a trip to the White House. Through this organization, as well as the multiple foundations Hill is a part of, he has helped millions of children get into chemistry and biology.

Hill credits SPC for helping him begin his journey to a wonderful career.

"No matter where you started life, it is a great adventure," said Hill. "Take full advantage of every opportunity and every interaction."

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Engineering major credits family for motivation

by MATT MOLINAR
Associate Editor

With a great amount of motivation and discipline, one student at South Plains College has garnered success by working hard and staying determined.

Nancy Muñoz, a sophomore engineering major from Levelland, spends the majority of her time devoted to her education, as well as multiple student organizations.

Muñoz is a Campus Ambassador, a member of Phi Theta Kappa, and a math tutor in the STAR Center. She also serves as president of the STAR organization, president of the Catholic Student Ministry, co-president of SEARCH and a University Innovation fellow.

"I do everything," Muñoz said. "My free time is spent doing the engineering homework I have."

Muñoz credits her family as her main source of motivation. She says her main goal is to become employed at a well-paying job to be able to return the favor of her parents raising her and allowing her to experience the opportunities she has had.

"I'm doing all of this because my parents were immigrants," Muñoz said. "I

want to end up with a good career, because I want to give back. My parents, as well as my little sister, motivate me. I see my little sister doing all of these things in school and it makes me so proud. I want her to be just like me."

Muñoz says she plans on staying in the state with the job she is working toward, settling down close to her family with somebody she loves. She plans on transferring to Texas Tech University, where she will continue with a minor in business. However, she will have to stay another year at

SPC in order to qualify for a scholarship.

"I was super psyched to go to Tech next semester," Muñoz said. "But I want to apply for the Terry Foundation Scholarship, and I'm too young for it. You have to be 20 by May 1. I don't turn 20 until May 21."

Muñoz says the reason she chose to major in engineering is because she enjoys being able to accomplish challenges as a minority who may not be expected to do so.

"In engineering, women are the minority," Muñoz said. "I chose it because I think if other people can do it, then I can do

especially being away from Frank, my boyfriend."

As a member of University Innovation Fellows, Muñoz, along with SPC student Timmy Friesen, were able to participate in a conference at Stanford University during their Silicon Valley meet up. She was able to meet with 300 University Innovation Fellows from different areas across the globe. During the conference, the students were able to spend time at the Google Headquarters and maker space garage, Stanford design school, SAP (System Applications and Processing), and Microsoft headquarters.

"We did a lot of activities over design and innovative thinking," Muñoz said. "We also learned how to design maker spaces. We are currently in the process of getting a maker space in our Math Building at SPC."

Muñoz says that devoting the amount of time she puts in for academics and student organizations is easy at SPC because of how involved the professors have been in her education.

"The things I like most about SPC are the professors and the cost," explains Muñoz. "The professors are really here to help you and get you prepared for a place like TTU."

Muñoz says that staying organized is the key to being involved and getting the most out of your classes. She explains that confidence and organization are important to her success.

"I would say get a planner," Muñoz said. "Be sure you know how to organize your time, especially if you're going to be in any clubs or organizations. Be prepared to come out of your bubble, and be confident in everything that you do. If you show passion towards something, people are going to be attracted to that."

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Photo courtesy of Terry Hill.



Nancy Muñoz makes her way to the STAR Center on the Levelland campus on March 21.

MATT MOLNINAR/PLAINSMAN PRESS

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Architecture plan changes for delighted professor

by **SHELBY MORGAN**
Staff Writer

It wasn't the career path that Tom Stalcup originally planned for his life, but it is one that he has thoroughly enjoyed.

He graduated with a Bachelor's of Architecture Degree from Texas Tech in 1984 and worked as an architect full-time, until he began taking classes part time at South Plains College learning to do AVID, a video editing software. He also taught construction and rigging classes part-time.

He was planning to move to California and use his architecture background to design movie sets and thought knowing about video production would help. He graduated with an associate's degree in Performing-Arts

Technology from SPC in 1998. One thing led to another, and when a position opened at SPC, he began to teach full time in January of

whole thing funny is my high school drafting teacher is the one who encouraged me," Stalcup explains, "and he told me that I should teach because

never teach. But almost 20 years later, here I am."

He often volunteers his time and talents to help produce music videos and projects in his spare time. A friend of his created a company, and together they created and produced 28 episodes of a series about local musicians that aired on the PBS station in Lubbock.

"One of the things that I am most proud of while working at SPC was co-producing two seasons of "StoryTellers & Music Makers" - hosted by Kenny Maines," he said. "Kenny interviewed local musicians, and fellow producer Doug Nelson and I taped the shows in SPC studios with several of our faculty

and students helping with the productions. The shows then aired on KTXT-PBS. Meeting and working with these artists and the crew members was a truly great and rewarding experience."

Aside from teaching in the classroom, Stalcup has also had the opportunity to travel around West Texas working on various concert tours, productions of SPC events, and also local area charity events. He has been able to meet many entertainers, producers, and technicians at those events and during seminars, lectures, and concerts for students and the community.

"I'm thankful that I met some great students who impressed me with their talents, hard work and attitudes at SPC," Stalcup said.

Away from campus, Stalcup is a member of Lubbock Industrial Lions Club and serves as a volunteer with

Lubbock Meals on Wheels. He and his wife Janis enjoy taking day trips to various parts of Texas and the surrounding areas. Though they have no children of their own, they take great pride in loving and spoiling their 12 nieces and nephews, 20 great nieces and nephews, and one great-great nephew.

After an almost 20-year tenure at SPC, Stalcup is gearing up for retirement. He does not currently have plans for his retirement, but hopes that he will have an opportunity to be able to return to teaching in the Creative Arts Department part-time.

"I've already told my wife that if I don't teach a little bit, I'm not doing anything," Stalcup said. "I want to see what it's like to not do anything for once."

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Tom Stalcup has spent nearly 20 years at SPC, later becoming the Video Production Program Coordinator.
JORDAN PATTERSON/PLAINSMAN PRESS

1999, later becoming program coordinator.

"The thing that makes this

I have a real knack for patience with drawing. I told him that he was crazy, and that I would

Cowork provides quiet place for local students, faculty

by **SHELBY MORGAN**
Staff Writer

Students now have another study space option available that has the conveniences of a coffee shop and the quietness of a library.

David Lamb-Vines, Lubbock native and 2004 graduate of South Plains College, and his wife Leann, are the owners of the art for goodness sake Fine

regarding the welcoming space we provide that we've come to believe giving a

are multiple power outlets to accommodate laptops and devices, secure Wi-Fi, and

packaging, and mail delivery are also available.

"We aim to serve both students and faculty with our services," said Lamb-Vines.

Located at 1810 19th Street in Lubbock, The Co-Work is available by appointment, which can be scheduled by calling (806) 771-2727. It is open Monday through

the evenings and on Sundays. The cost is \$5 hourly, with the first hour free. Additional rates include \$15 for four hours, \$25 per day, \$60 for three days within one week, \$100 for six consecutive days, excluding Sunday, \$175 for 12 consecutive days, excluding Sunday, and \$300 for 24 consecutive days, excluding Sundays. Special pricing is available for group meetings.

"It's a really good place for people who want to work in a setting where there are other people working also," said Lamb-Vines, "and the kind of friendships and collaborations that can form when people work together, even if they are working on different projects. The whole idea is that the energy that one person is feeling about their project can

bleed over into helping other people who are working on their project."

The art for goodness sake Fine Arts Gallery participates in the Louise Hopkins Underwood Center First Friday Art Trail, which is a monthly event that showcases galleries and other fine art venues for public enjoyment.

"This is also a place to be that's in an art gallery setting," Lamb-Vines added. "We have 15 different artists that are showing. We are on the First Friday Art Trail. Our art changes every month, and we get new work and artists in on a regular occasion. We have been an art gallery since 2010, and will now offer the co-work aspect of it."

The grand opening was held on March 25. Students and faculty of SPC are invited to come by and see what they provide. The Co-Work is the only of its kind in Lubbock and the surrounding area, according to Lamb-Vines.

More information on the Co-Work can be found on their website at www.CoWorkLubbock.com.

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Cowork owners David Lamb-Vines and wife Leann. Offers plenty of space and comfort.
SERGIO MADRID/PLAINSMAN PRESS

warm, comfortable and invigorating place to work is something our guests would welcome and appreciate," said David Lamb-Vines.

The Co-Work features an art gallery setting with a quiet, comfortable atmosphere. Free coffee, tea, creamer, and sweetener are provided for visitors. There

a wireless printer. Paper, postage, stamps, envelopes,

Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., or by appointment in

energy that one person is feeling about their project can



The Fine Arts Showcase Concert on March 9 in the Jones Theatre on the Levelland campus featured the Concert Choir, Symphonic Band, Jazz Ensemble, Brass Ensemble, Saxophone Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, and Jazz Singers.



PHOTOS BY BRANDI ORTIZ/PLAINSMAN PRESS

I Prevail gives fans memorable night in Lubbock

by HANNAH NELSON
Staff Writer

Fans from all over the Texas area experienced a night of excitement, head banging, and more as the “Lifelines” tour made its journey to Lubbock.

I Prevail performed at Jake’s Backroom on Feb. 28. The band is currently on their headlining tour, with support from Wage War, Islander, and Assuming We Survive.

A few hours before the event, fans were already lined up outside, waiting in anticipation for the show that evening. When the doors opened, the fans stormed into the venue hoping to get the best view of the bands performing.

As the lights faded, the first band, Assuming We Survive, took the stage. The venue was still pretty empty, but that didn’t stop the first band from bringing the energy. Possibly one of the more memorable moments of the night happened during the first band’s performance. In the middle of the set, in between songs, the band asked one of the audience members and his girlfriend to come up to the stage. The singer handed the man coming up to stage a microphone. The crowd cheered for the couple as the man asked his girlfriend to marry him. After she says yes, the couple embraced, and the band congratulated the couple before continuing the rest of their set. This was a very spe-

cial moment for everyone attending the concert to witness.

The second band to perform for the night was Islander. As they began their set, the crowd started forming. There was even a select group of fans who started the crowd surfing that remained a constant theme throughout the night. This band was a powerhouse of energy that fed the Lubbock crowd.

As the night continued, the crowd got wilder and wilder.

band from performing a set full of energy and excitement after having to stop and restart their first song. The crowd was insane during Wage War, with crowd surfers and mosh pits constantly happening from every section. During the last song of Wage War’s set, the singer got the crowd to raise their hands in the air to go with the music. It was a very nice way for the crowd to come together and connect with the music.

Finally, the headlining band for the night took the stage for a sold-out show. The stage lights faded into an almost pitch-black stage. The crowd cheered as a stage full of light appeared and the first song, “Come and Get It” began. This high-energy song made the crowd explode, with people singing, jumping, and dancing along as the band performed.

Since the last time the band visited Lubbock, the band recently released their debut album, “Lifelines.” Many of the songs that the band performed were from this new album, including the first song.

A unique part of this band is their use of vocals. The band has two different vocalists, both sounding clean and harsh. This allows the band to merge



I Prevail’s Brian Burkheiser (vocals), and Steve Menoian (guitar) at Jake’s Backroom in Lubbock.
HANNAH NELSON/PLAINSMAN PRESS

The venue became packed right before the direct supporting band, Wage War, began to perform. At the beginning of the set, the band experienced a few technical difficulties. However, that didn’t stop the

crowd to sing along and have fun. They have the ability to transition from high-energy, heavy verses to super catchy choruses that make you instantly want to sing along.

One of the best parts of the set was when the band used a unique way to play a little bit of cover. The band called a fan from the VIP meet-up earlier that day to come up to the stage. One of the band’s hard-core singers, Eric Vanlerberghe, proceeded to talk to the crowd and even call out another band member for not being able to keep a relationship. In all good fun, the band and the fan on stage proceeded to perform a verse of Avril Lavigne’s “Complicated”. As the banter continued, the band went on to play parts of songs “Hates Me” by Puddle of Mudd and “Bodies” by Drowning Pool. These select verses all lead up to one of the band’s most popular releases, their cover of “Blank Space.” This was a great time for everyone in

the crowd to sing along and have fun.

Rock concerts are the main source of entertainment for music lovers. It is a way to let off steam, relax, have a good time. However, there is also a sense of unity at shows with the audience. The band took a moment after “Blank Space” to talk about a serious topic. Vanlerberghe talked about his friend who committed suicide. The singer stressed the message that everyone in the crowd was meant to be there that night. He explained that every member of the audience is loved by someone and worth more than they may know.

After this speech, the band started the last song on their set list, “Crossroads.” The audience jumped at what they assumed might be the last chance to get every ounce of energy out before the night was over. However, once the band left the stage the crowd was not ready to leave. The fans cheered from every sec-

tion of the venue for one more song. Soon after, the cheering increased as the lights flashed back on and the band took the stage again for two more songs.

That is when a rainbow of lights flooded the stage and venue. The crowd did not hold back at all during this encore. At the vocalists’ request, the crowd split down the middle and a wall of death formed. Two sides of the crowd gathered together, leaving the middle of the pit empty. Then, as the music grew heavier, the two sides ran into the middle in sequence, meeting each other and forming a mosh pit.

Overall, the night was an incredible show full of liveliness and heart-felt moments. Fans were able to head bang, mosh, and sing the night away. There was an infectious feeling in the air as fans left the venue full of contentment.

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Rock band finds inspiration through emotions

by DESIREE MENDEZ
Staff Writer

Residue is an alternative rock band is going for an electric rock fusion vibe.

The lead singer and creator of the Austin-based modern alternative rock band is Corey Trahan. Residue has played with numerous national acts, including Adema, Powerman 5000, Hurt, and Papa Roach. The band is currently endorsed by Dirt-Bag Apparel.

The band is composed of: Corey Trahan, vocals, from Beaumont; Josh Fortenot, drummer, from Mississippi; Donovan Cavanaugh, guitar, from New Jersey; and John Bock, bassist, from Connecticut. All currently reside in Austin.

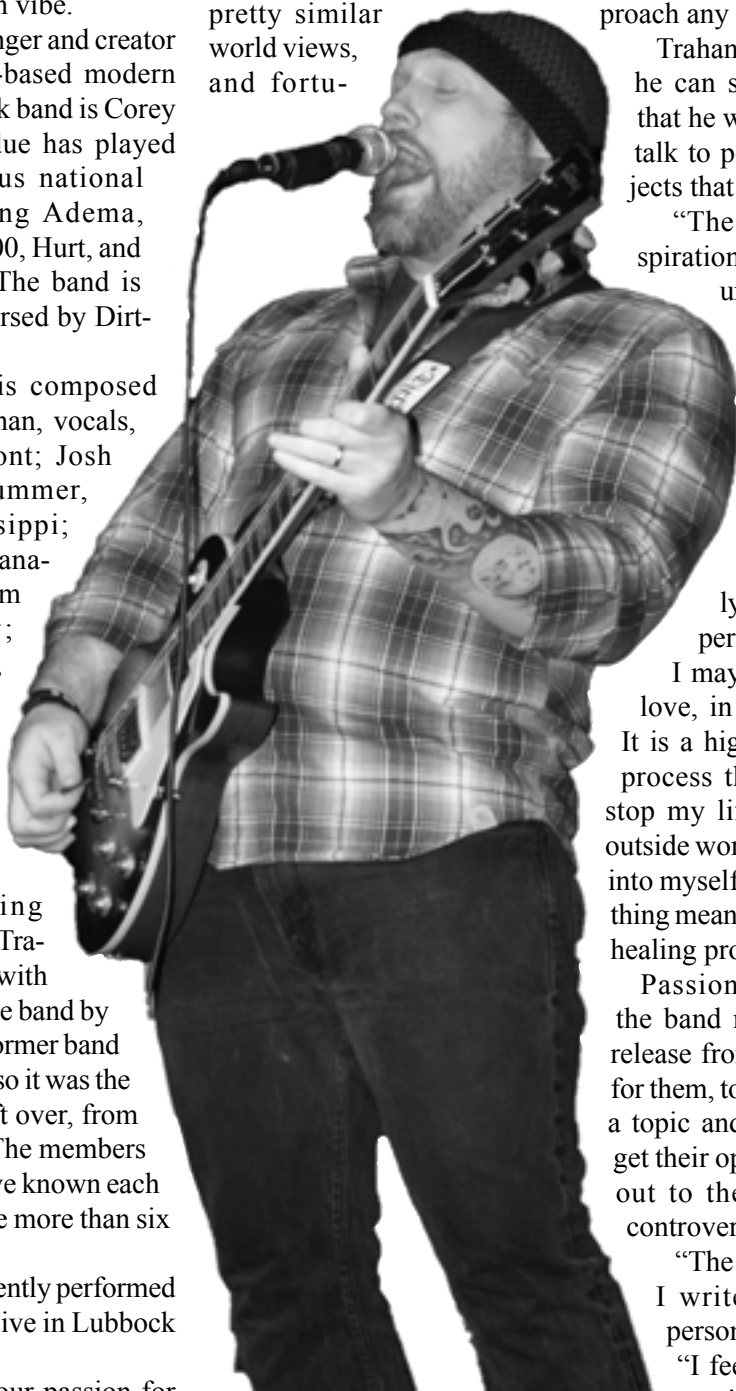
Residue started touring Texas in 2008. Trahan came up with the name for the band by taking over a former band that he was in, so it was the residual, or left over, from the old band. The members of the band have known each other for a little more than six years.

Residue recently performed at Backstage Live in Lubbock on March 4.

“We share our passion for music with the people we love,” said Trahan.

Trahan and Fortenot both write the music they perform. “I think what inspires me to write with Corey is mainly that we both prefer to tell a

story in our songs,” explained Fortenot. We want to express something meaningful, and also about ideas that we value. “We both have pretty similar world views, and fortu-



just a fun guy to write with, because he’s open to basically anything, even if it doesn’t set well with him right away. I think that’s the best way to approach any creative project.”

Trahan says he feels that he can sing about topics that he wouldn’t normally talk to people about, subjects that are personal.

“The number one inspiration for lyrics is the underlying music,” said Trahan. “It’s mood, the atmosphere it creates, how it makes me feel. Once I connect to the music, it usually sends me into a personal place where I may be frustrated, in love, in fear, et cetera... It is a highly introspective process that forces me to stop my life, “blow up the outside world” and dive deep into myself to pull out something meaningful. It is a very healing process.”

Passion is what drives the band musically. It is a release from the real world, for them, to show passion for a topic and sing about it to get their opinion or message out to the world without controversy.

“The music and lyrics I write are extremely personal,” said Trahan. “I feel like if you’re a musician, and you’re not personal, then you’re just an entertainer, not an artist. Music is a connection medium. It is meant for folks to express things they cannot in conversation. There are many topics that I would never bring

nately the writing comes pretty naturally.”

“Some of that is us having played together for more than five years, but I think most of it is having that common goal,” added Trahan. “Corey is also



Residue, led by Corey Trahan, rocks Backstage Lubbock on March 4.
DESIREE MENDEZ/PLAINSMEN PRESS

up with even the closest of my friends or family that I feel comfortable writing about. I know that somewhere someone will listen and no longer feel like they are alone on the topic. I tend to write about religion, politics or just whatever is personally bugging me at the moment.”

Trahan offers some advice to inspiring artists.

“Perspective is the key to any form of art,” he said. “Don’t get overburdened by your environment, or lost in the details of every day. Maintain your passion and love to create something new and unique. Lastly, don’t get too worried about technicalities of your instrument, painting skills, whatever, since technical ability is not the bottom line -- the ability to connect to others is.”

To check out Residue’s music, go to <http://residuerocks.com>.

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March 27, 2017

Plainsman Press

Nintendo Switch offers home console, portable gaming

by **MATT MOLINAR**
Associate Editor

A new video game console is being hailed as a breakthrough in both home console as well as portable gaming.

I was immediately sold

onto a TV, two Joy-con, or controllers, that come in two color variations, a Joy-con Grip, which holds the two Joy-con on a frame that allows you to hold the two as a traditional gaming controller, a power adapter and an HDMI cord.

The screen on the Switch

an iPhone 7+, with the screen bezel making it half an inch bigger. The half-inch-thick tablet has a power/sleep button, two volume buttons, an air vent, a headphone jack, a slot for Nintendo Switch game cards, two stereo speakers, a kickstand with a micro SD card slot under it, and a USB type C power receiver.

On each side of the tablet are two slots where the Joy-

design allows for games to be played in tablet mode, with the Joy-con attached, and in tabletop mode, with the Joy-con in hand, away from the console.

This has made waiting for appointments and passing time between classes enjoyable. I purchased the game "Snipperclips," a local multiplayer puzzle game that has made for very entertaining moments for me and my friends and family. The design of the Joy-con allows for each piece to be used as a single controller for party games such as "Snipperclips" and "Mario Kart 8 Deluxe," which comes out on April 8.

The left Joy-con has L and ZL bumper buttons. I was slightly disappointed to learn that the ZL and RL buttons, which look like trigger buttons, aren't spring triggers like the Xbox controller. It is just a button with two positions. However, after playing the games I purchased, you really don't need a trigger.

The left Joy-con

direction pad, the - button and a screen-capture button, something I love to use and always wanted on my old Xbox.

The right joy-con has the + button, the R and ZL buttons, X, Y, A, and B buttons, another joy-stick and the home button, which allows you to switch between your home screen and the currently running software.

When my friends and I have a free period, we get together with four Joy-con and have a great time, instead of waiting around with nothing to do.

The other game I purchased for my Switch was "The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild," the biggest launch title for the console. When docked, the Switch runs at 1080p, allowing for the beautiful graphics of the game to be shown off. I haven't played console video games since the Xbox 360 came out, so the graphics of the Switch are very impressive. Many say the graphics of the Switch are unimpressive because of the announcement of 4k-display capability from consoles proposed for the future. To that, I ask, "What do you expect out of a small tablet with a vent?" I think the graphics are very impressive for the size of the console, and I wouldn't be able to notice the difference otherwise.

When in table mode, the Switch produces the display at 720p and still allows for advanced rendering and the same beautiful graphics.

The tablet has touch-screen capability, which isn't available on either of the games I purchased.

The Switch has very limited online access. Unlike other modern game consoles, the Nintendo Switch lacks a market for apps such as Netflix and Youtube. This has been a large complaint from Switch owners. But when you have a smart TV, an app store on the Switch just doesn't seem necessary.

But I wouldn't lose hope just yet. When you close a video game, a message pops up asking you to confirm to "Close the software," which may mean these apps could show up on the Nintendo eShop in the future.

The only technical issue I have experienced with the Switch so far is how easily the Joy-con can lose the signal. If I'm sitting just 10 feet away from the Switch while it's in TV mode and I am holding the Joy-con near my body, the signal seems to become weak. Thankfully, this doesn't happen often. But if it happens at the wrong time, it can be very inconvenient.

My overall impression of the Switch is that it is an awesome, innovative piece of technology that really opens a new door for the future of video gaming.

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Photo illustration by MATT MOLINAR/PLAINSMAN PRESS

on the Nintendo Switch upon learning about its ability to run as both a home console and a portable console. So I placed my pre-order as early as I could, and on March 3, I picked up my Switch, which had 80,000 preorders in the first three days.

Included in the box is a tablet, which is essentially the console, a dock that outputs the display from the Switch through an HDMI cable and

is roughly the same size as

con can slide into place. This

also includes a joy-stick, a

'Breath of the Wild' breaks ground with open world, RPG elements

by **RILEY GOLDEN**
Entertainment Editor

The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild

Take control of Link on a journey to save Princess Zelda and all of Hyrule in a groundbreaking addition to the "Legend of Zelda" series.

"The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild" is a third-person, action/adventure video game available on the Nintendo Switch and Wii U that released to eager fans on March 3, 2017, after being in development since 2011. And it was well worth the wait.

Link has been asleep for 100 years after falling to Calamity Ganon, whom Princess Zelda has been holding at bay since taking Link to the Shrine of Resurrection. Link wakes up and is presented with the Sheikah Slate at the beginning of the game, giving the player access to the map of the massive, beautiful world of Hyrule. From the

forested and snowy lands of the Lanayru Range and the desert of the Tabantha Frontier to the volcanic area of the Eldin Mountains, Hyrule has every type of environment imaginable.

These environments are not just looks, as they actually affect Link's health by making him too cold, too hot, or just flat-out making him catch fire in the volcanic area. Gaining access to these areas can be challenging, but it's not impossible.

There are a ton of different types of clothing and armor in "Breath of the Wild" that make Link capable of not only withstanding more damage but also the different elements that the player will encounter throughout the game.

To be able to stand the crisp cold of the Lanayru Mountains, the player must acquire the Warm Doublet, which boosts Link's resistance to the cold. To be able to survive in the volcanic Eldin

Mountains, the player must acquire at least one piece of the Flamebreaker Armor, a somewhat silly looking stone and metal set of armor that is fire proof. Although I thought that the Flamebreaker armor might work in the desert, this is not the case. I have yet to find the heat-resistant outfit, but this doesn't necessarily mean I can't explore the desert. I could wait until night time and equip my Warm Doublet, or I could cook something that would give me heat resistance.

In "Breath of the Wild," the player can hunt deer, boar, fish, pick plants and vegetables,

mine for salt, or purchase any number of things from markets around the land of Hyrule. Then the player only needs to go to a campfire with a stove top and drop up to five ingredients in the

really add an extra level of customization to Link.

High-level armor is important when fighting enemies in certain areas of the map because they have stronger weapons and are more

Often, the player will encounter these enemies on the way to a Sheikah Tower or Shrine.

The Sheikah Towers are glowing orange until Link climbs them and places his Sheikah Slate in the podium and activates them. Activating the Towers unveils the section of the map that the tower is in and makes the tower glow blue.

The Shrines are scattered all over the map, and they are some form of a large-scale puzzle that reward the player with a Spirit Orb. Once having

collected four Spirit Orbs, you can exchange them for either a heart container or a stamina vessel. You will want to add at least 10 hearts to your original three because that will give you the ability to get Link's Master Sword, the only sword in the game that doesn't break. But having at least one extra stamina vessel is nice, because stamina is required for running and climbing, which helps with movement speed.

This could very well be one of the best games of this generation, receiving perfect scores from all major publications. I give "The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild" 5 out of 5 stars.



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stove and cook things such as Spicy Pepper Seafood that provide cold resistance, or Chilly Seafood Rice Balls, that provide heat resistance.

One of my favorite armor sets to wear when I'm not facing harsh conditions is the Soldier's Armor, a silver set of armor that provides quite a bit of protection and looks cool. The player can also dye clothing and cloth parts of armor sets that

The weapons available at the beginning of the game are simple, low-level wooden spears or clubs, along with some metal weapons here and there. But as players progress through the game, they will find much more powerful swords, axes, spears, and bows that are all different and extremely aesthetically pleasing. But sadly, they almost all break at some point.

And with better weapons come tougher enemies. Bokoblins, short, stocky, goblin-looking creatures, are some of the first enemies the player will encounter. Not long after, they will be short work for the player. But the farther the player takes Link on his journey, the harder the enemies will become to dispatch.



Lifetime of struggles portrayed by three actors in 'Moonlight'

by TYLER YORK
Online Editor

On occasion, it can seem that life is split into chapters, each one starring a distinctly different version of the same person. "Moonlight" takes that idea to a wonderful, poignant extreme.

The plot of the movie "Moonlight" follows the three-part tale of a young black boy, Chiron, growing up in Miami. Each act of the film represents distinct personas he embodies at different times in his life, and they're each titled after three of Chiron's different nicknames. Chiron struggles to overcome a long list of rather adult adversities, including poverty, a drug-addicted mother, emotional abuse from those close to him, his own uncertainties about his sexuality, and his internal fight to understand and fully express his role in life.

Above almost everything else, and in some cases even above the brilliant acting, this film shines because it has a wonderfully striking, almost dreamlike, visual style that makes the production seem like a childhood memory. Most scenery is comprised of blue shades accenting the bare white backdrops, with hazy pinks scattered in some sunset shots. Color is used to great effect even in the transition scenes between

the acts' title cards, with red and blue acting as separators between the stages of Chiron's life and personality.

There is a scene that sticks out as being beautifully shot that involves Chiron and his

no uncertain terms the relationship held by this mother and son.

Each actor who plays the three distinct versions of Chiron are phenomenal at allowing their individual

er Chiron living in Atlanta, the character has completely closed the world out around him, deciding to fully lean into dealing drugs, which is a role in which he believes he can finally show the world that has

when it's discovered that director Barry Jenkins made sure none of the actors portraying Chiron ever interacted, on-set or off. It's outstanding that each actor could turn in such moving performances despite being so separate in their approach.

With other authentic performances from the likes of Naomi Harris as Paula, an addict and emotionally absent mother of Chiron, and a stoically three-dimensional portrayal of both drug dealer and role model Juan given by Mahershala Ali, "Moonlight" is led by a cast that is able to hand down a dazzling display of life that is at once tragic and touching.

There's a lot to say about how "Moonlight" fared at the Academy Awards this year. Starting with the incredibly historic accolades, it is the first film with a completely black cast, the first LGBT film, and the second lowest-grossing film in the United States to ever win Best Picture. For his role as Juan, Mahershala Ali is also now the first Muslim

ever to win an Oscar for acting. The awards rained down on "Moonlight" at the Oscars, and with absolutely every justification.

However, this year's Oscars will likely go down in historical infamy for its botched delivery of the Best Picture award. The presenters' card was given in error, and "La La Land" was announced the winner, only for the cast and producers of that film to have to inform "Moonlight" that it was, in fact, their win. It's unfortunate that such a deserving win was overshadowed by the giant mistake, but both casts handled the incident with such respectful grace. Had it happened the other way, I imagine it would have gone exactly the same.

If you're on the fence about seeing "Moonlight" just because it seemingly came out of nowhere to win Best Picture, let me be the one to inform you that there are more reasons to see this film than there are numbers to count them. It's a coming-of-age story that is deeply beautiful, painful, and joyful, weaving a tale of hope and the human condition. It's a message that we all deserve to be exactly who we really are. I give "Moonlight" 5 out of 5 stars.



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mother Paula involved in a stare-down across a dark hallway, with an ominous pink cast falling through the open door behind her. The gentle music, the slow-motion action, and the futility of her silent screams at Chiron as he stares blankly back at her are deeply unsettling, yet create a visual spectacle that works with a delicate touch to illustrate in

roles to feed into a whole person, sadly detached from the world around him. Alex Herbert as "Little," the elementary-school-aged Chiron, is meek and heartbreakingly numb, even at such an early age. Aston Sanders as Chiron in high school is wavering and afraid of getting too close. By the time Trevante Rhodes appears as "Black," the old-

scorned and pushed him that he can no longer be moved.

Each actor does an unbelievably nuanced job of depicting the internal turmoil of growing up the challenging combination of poor, black, and gay in an environment where many would struggle with any one of those individually. This multi-actor cohesion is only made more remarkable

'Logan' amazes with brutal action, emotional plot

by RYAN FITZGERALD
Staff Writer

The final Wolverine standalone film starring Hugh Jackman as the Adamantium-infused, super mutant brings a long awaited, R-rated take on the classic character.

Hidden somewhere near the border between Mexico and Texas, Logan cares for an ailing Charles Xavier (Professor X), who continues to suffer from chronic seizures. Balancing his traditional edginess and rampant alcoholism with the need to maintain a sense of secrecy about his entire situation, Logan takes jobs as a limo driver in an attempt to accrue enough money to bail Charles and himself out of their current situation.

While doing this, Logan's plan to hide from the outside world gets upended when he is introduced to a young mutant who is very much like him. The rest of the film chronicles the tale of Logan's battle with his desire to resist the use of violence and his dedication to Charles, who has repeatedly served as a father figure, despite Logan's resistance to the idea of any kindred relationship. Though viewers have be-

gun to feel this father-son dynamic between Logan and Charles build throughout the last series of "X-Men" films, this somewhat hidden, but understood relationship is finally brought to fruition with the film. The beginning of the film presents Charles in a declining mental state, so Logan must take it upon himself to care for the man who once cared for him despite his gruff exterior.

If anything, the beginning of this movie sheds light on Logan's need for a father and Charles' need for a son, and how each of them fulfills that role for the other. The Wolverine, as a character, is not an individual who pays respect to just anyone. Throughout their time together, Charles has been the one individual who has tried to make Logan's life better, rather than worse. He has always been the sole individual who has seen and continually wants the best of Logan.

They also share several common experiences - both are loners, deeply introverted in their own ways. When Logan needs to get away, he

hides, while Charles spends much of his downtime in solitary environments - in an attempt to escape the infinite number of voices in his head.

Both have a desperate need for family, and they know that. Logan resists the conventional family montage, because in the past, every person he has attached himself too has been ripped away. Throughout the "X-Men" franchise, Logan has been haunted by the death of Jean Grey, the woman he loved who had to die at the tips of his own claws.

In contrast, Charles' friendship with Logan could possibly be an attempt to redeem his failed friendship with Erik Lehnsherr (Magneto). Erik knew Charles like no other, and when Xavier took in Wolverine, it was to make up for when he failed Erik. In personality, Logan and Erik are both the mental and emotional results of tragic pasts that have led them to impulsively seek violence. Both are emotionally driven by their damaged pasts, which translates into the volatile and highly reactive response to any situation.

"Logan" simultaneously reads as an origin story hidden beneath a narrative recording the final chapter of the Wolverine saga. Why does this matter? Because the new mutant is X-23 - Logan's daughter. Though a DNA-replicated,

test tube clone, X-23 and Logan share more than just the Adamantium claws, regenerative health and superhuman senses and reflexes. They

connect on a deeper, more personal level, in which Laura (played by Dafne Keen), who just like her "dad," has a predilection for rage, a difficult personality and an aggressive demeanor. Wolverine was the creation of the Weapon X program, the clandestine, genetics operation that attempted to create a super soldier by coating Wolverine's skeleton with an indestructible alloy. As depicted in the movie, Laura (X-23) is the product of a similar militarized, scientific program which utilizes the DNA left over from super mutants to build an army of super-powered children illegally somewhere in Mexico.

This replication of character is important. The film does more than just tie together their fundamental commonality as being scientific

experiments gone horribly wrong. The movie sets up a father-daughter relationship in which Logan pulls the best from himself to care for and

spinoff, though it is not clear how Laura and the rest of her displaced super mutant friends will fit into the role.

Overall, director James



protect his "family," which includes Charles, Laura and her fellow mutants.

Coincidentally, Laura emotionally evolves throughout the movie to become a reflection of her father in attitude and worldliness. Violence may not be the whole answer, but a necessary means to protect the loved ones who they value greater than themselves.

So what's to become of this new mutant, the new Wolverine? The X-men franchise can now take a turn, setting up an all new X-Men crew led by Laura as the new Wolverine. Viewers can follow the comic series to see that she takes the place of her father, even donning Wolverine's traditional yellow suit.

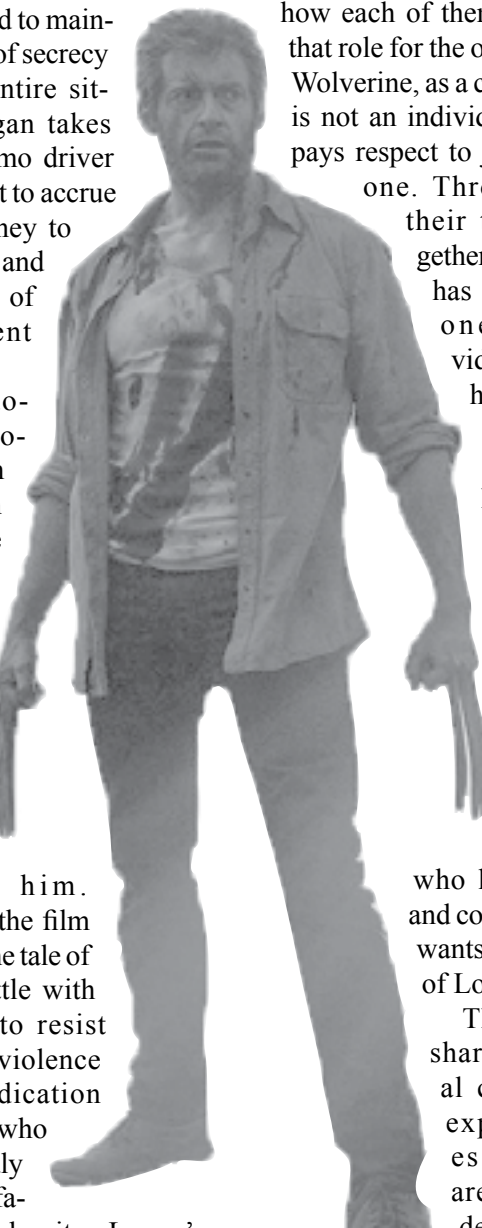
Fox has announced that they're working on a "New Mutants" film, as an X-Men

Mangold's film balances the tender and the emotional with the raw and rough. Logan is finally presented to audiences in a way that channels the animal that always has been tucked away within, the way Wolverine should have always been depicted - a claw-swinging, cigar-smoking, cranky, cuss machine with a sarcastic sense of humor and a good heart. Luckily for fans, they also get the pre-teen daughter of this complicated character who will amply carry forward the Wolverine persona.

I give "Logan" 5 out of 5 stars.



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Remake of 'Beauty and the Beast' perfectly portrays original story

by VANESSA DELGADO
Staff Writer

"Beauty and the Beast" is a Disney classic. It's a tale that is fun for all ages and provides a positive theme for younger children.

As a little girl, I can remember a childhood

my excitement when it was announced that there was a new live-action film coming out.

The tale of Belle is widely known. She is a smart woman, but an oddity in the small village in which she lives. Nearby, there is a prince that has been cursed, and he is commonly known as the

of Belle, on and off the screen. She is extremely intelligent and charismatic. Unafraid to be herself, Watson shows her similarities with her character.

Her voice was light and joyful throughout the film, which fit the theme of the movie.

Watson is very widely

movie, his acting and voice-over are rather great. Watson and Stevens made a great pair in this beloved film.

"Beauty and the Beast" may be widely known as a children's movie, but the live-action film opens it up to more audiences that prefer actual actors and actresses as opposed to motion picture characters.

With such advanced technology, the effects looked amazing. You almost couldn't tell that the personified household items were animated. The details were impeccable.

The live-action film stayed true to the original. It was

almost identical to the original. One of the more drastic changes was the addition of a new song sung by the Beast.

There was some controversy about the movie when it was released became one of the characters, LeFou, played by Josh Gad, in the film is gay. During the movie, there were very subtle hints in the way LeFou acted that suggested he was homosexual. But the only scene that strongly suggested it was when he was dancing with another man at the end of the movie. But that's hardly enough cause to not see a movie based on a homosexual character.

The cast was picked out

perfectly, and each character is a huge part in the movie, even if they were not the main focus of the film.

The movie was very well executed and as amazing as I hoped it would be. The songs were sung beautifully and continued to inspire excitement throughout the film.

I give this movie 4 out of 5 stars.



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based on the many Disney princesses.

They were all very intriguing and always overcame adversity. They stood for what was right, and I knew I wanted to grow up into a woman with their morals and beauty. So you can understand

'Beast.' She slowly learns to love and care for him, and he returns her affection. Due to their new-found love, the curse is ultimately broken.

Emma Watson plays the role of Belle in the film. It was a match made in heaven. Watson represents the illusion

known for her role as Hermione Granger in the Harry Potter films. Since the end of the films, she has taken on other movie roles, but I think this is her best one yet.

Dan Stevens plays the Beast. Although he is mainly animated throughout the

Glover finding success as versatile entertainer

by RYAN FITZGERALD
Staff Writer

The recent rise in Donald Glover's stardom seems to have appeared out of the blue.

At age 28, Glover has made his mark in the realms of television, music, stand-up comedy and cinema. His success would be easily replicated under the assumption you have fantastic writing skills, gritty on-stage moxie, an encompassing screen presence, savvy acting chops and some serious, yet off-the-wall, comical awareness.

After graduating from New York University in 2006, Glover started his career writing for NBC's "30 Rock." Three years later, he got his start on NBC's "Community" - a cult sitcom which follows the eccentric and bizarre educational journey of a group of misfit friends who all met while taking classes at a local community college. Behind the Scenes of "Community," Glover started putting in work as the Childish Gambino - launching his alter ego's musical career, which garnered Grammy nominations in 2015 for best rap album and performance.

In his most recent television endeavor, "Atlanta," Glover put FX on the map again with his latest comedy-drama series that follows two cousins navigating the Atlanta rap scene in an effort to prove themselves, while improving the lives of their friends and family around them. As the network's best new show, "Atlanta" has received nothing but praise from critics and has taken home awards from the

Golden Globes, Writers Guild of America, the American Film Institute and even the NAACP.

In 2010, Glover took to the stage to try his hand at stand-up, in his Comedy Central special, "Weirdo." Glover takes the audience along for a ride through his life, from tales about his childhood adoration for Cocoa Puffs or getting punched in the face by a bum while leaving someone a voicemail to personal observations about fame, relationships and race. Each story is entertaining and spiced up with a selection of grown-up language. The entire show is whimsically crafted and flows



well, in contrast to a more traditional stringing together of one-liners.

More recently, Glover has made his way to the silver screen. In 2010, a "Community" fan suggested that Glover be cast as the new Spider-Man, fueling an Internet campaign centered on the widespread use of the #Donald4Spiderman hashtag. Then in 2015, Glover's path took off in a new direction, drifting away from the music and television careers that he became known for.

Following a string of small roles in "The Lazarus Effect" and "Magic Mike XXL," Glover emerged as Rich

Purnell in "The Martian" - the sleep-deprived, coffee-fueled, awkward NASA astrodynamics engineer who comes up with the way to bring astronaut Mark Watney (Matt Damon) home from Mars.

Toward the end of 2016, Disney and Lucasfilm announced that Glover had been cast as a young Lando Calrissian in the upcoming Han Solo stand-alone film - where he will take on the role of the sly smuggler and gambler who first owned the Millennium Falcon, was originally portrayed by Billy Dee Williams in the beloved "Star Wars" series during the 1980s.

Most recently, Jon Favreau took to Twitter to announce that his live-action "Lion King," remake would star Donald Glover voicing the leading role as Simba. Next to James Earl Jones, who will once again voice Mufasa, Glover will bring a youthful spirit back to Disney's animated classic.

Donald Glover's stock continues to increase. It's been confirmed he even has a role in this year's "Spider-Man: Homecoming." Maybe a nod to the snubbing Glover took in 2010, when Sony cast Andrew Garfield instead. Nonetheless, Glover, like some pop culture gem, is multifaceted - finding success in all areas of entertainment. It's as if he can do no wrong. He's smart, clever and poised to become the decade's next big Renaissance man.

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by RYAN FITZGERALD
Staff Writer

Lego's latest take on the life of the Caped Crusader is something never before depicted in a Batman movie.

The current movie-going audience probably deals with superhero fatigue these days, in some form or fashion. Additionally, the last thing a superhero movie fan wants is another origin story, re-producing the death of Bruce Wayne's parents, Thomas and Martha.

The Lego movie brings us a fresh take with a new spin on an old tale. The character of Batman first appeared in Detective Comics in 1939. Brought to life by Bob Kane

and Bill Finger, the story of Batman now spans generations, with comic strips illustrating the tales of the Bat having run for nearly eight decades. The original "Batman: The Movie" debuted in 1966, and then an additional series of films took off in the late 1980s and throughout the 1990s.

But for "The Lego Batman Movie," the standard, go-to storyline was changed. You see, Batman fans know what to expect, who they'll be getting as the Batman

- an egotistical, narcissistic billionaire who balances his commitment problems with the need to continually avenge the death of his parents by spending his nights sweeping crime from the streets of Gotham City.

Batman - as far as characters go - is afflicted, dark and brooding, yet a genius in his own way and misunderstood. Will Arnett's gritty voice and expressionless delivery are perfect. But what "The Lego Batman Movie" does so brilliantly is make light of all of this. The film provides viewers with ridiculous fun, without taking itself (or Batman) too seriously. It takes jabs at the seriousness that has been associated with the character since its incarnation.

The movie is beyond clever. In the beginning, the mov-

ie throws everything at you, including every villain imaginable. Batman starts by laying down tracks, beatboxing his own theme song, while lyrically describing how great he is - all while defeating every classic bad-guy in the Batman repertoire, as he traditionally foils the Joker's plot to destroy Gotham City once again.

Early on, the movie allows viewers to accompany Batman on a stereotypical evening, where a loner who saved the lives of thousands, wanders throughout his mansion in his silky red bathrobe, while still donning the cowl through the entire night - openly mocking Bruce Wayne's fascination of

cally offers any appreciation for everything Alfred does. Viewers get a glimpse of his reluctance to be seen as a father figure to Dick Grayson (Robin), in addition to the feelings that slowly develop for Barbara Gordon, who eventually stakes her claim as Batgirl.

Most importantly, the film offers insight into the complicated relationship between Batman and the Joker. The world can finally see that the Joker is more than just the transgressive opposition to Batman, but the fuel and fire that drives Bruce Wayne to dedicate himself to a life as the masked vigilante. Without Joker, there really is no Batman. There is no villain

in the Batman universe that can manipulate, and take advantage of, Batman's jagged-perception of reality the way the Joker does - they're the greatest of foes, matched in wit and ingenuity.

All in all, "The Lego Batman Movie" is visually exciting and full of color, but doesn't get caught up in the world of Lego, as its predecessor did. You get busy, eye-popping action sequences that keep your at-

tention drawn to the story at hand.

Still, there is something melancholic about watching the Dark Knight practice his guitar solos or watch romantic comedies alone in his home theater. The movie is the perfect satirical piece that shows just how ridiculous and solemn Batman really is, and, arguably, needs to be. Nevertheless, this fatuous and farfetched interpretation of what it takes to be a superhero is why fans stay committed to the timeless, masked crime fighter.

I give "The Lego Batman Movie" 4 out of 5 stars.



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Texans suffer first loss before national tourney

by STEVEN GEHEGAN
Sports Editor

The South Plains College men's basketball team is looking to bounce back from the first loss of the season while preparing for the NJCAA National Tournament.

The top-ranked Texans had been undefeated entering the Region V tournament that took place March 8 to March 11 at Frenship High School in Wolfforth.

The Texans took on Western Texas College in the semifinal round of the NJCAA Region V tournament on March 10. Despite a good shooting night from the Texans, they dropped a 82-74 decision for the first loss of the season.

The Westerners jumped out to a 19-9 lead to start the game, before the Texans were able to go on a run and take a 25-23 lead. After trailing 32-31 at the

end of the first half, the Texans were able to come back and take the lead in the opening minutes of the second half. But Western Texas was able to



Jahlil Tripp pulls up for a jump shot against Western Texas College on March 10 at Frenship High school's Tiger Pit.

PHOTOS BY DOMINICK PUENTE/PLAINSMANPRESS

retake the lead and held it for the rest of the game, outscoring SPC 50-43 in the final 20 minutes of play.

Freshman forward Jahlil Tripp led the team in scoring with 18 points, while freshman guard Josh Webster chipped in 17 points and had a team-high four assists. Sophomore forward Shawntrez Davis came off the bench to lead the team in rebounding with six and added seven points.

The Texans were able to dominate in first-round action of the Region V tournament, downing Hill College, 100-78, on March 9.

The Texans were able to keep up with a consistent offensive attack as Hill College focused their efforts on stopping sophomore guard Jordan Brangers. But with a great defensive effort, the Texans cruised to victory.

After getting off to a slow start offensively, the Texans were able to get their offense going and built a 50-39 by the end of the first half.

In the second half, the Texans were able to continue



Grantham Gillard looks for an open man against the Hill College defense March 9 at Frenship High school's Tiger Pit.

pouring on the points, matching their first half-point total.

Freshman guard Grantham Gillard led SPC in scoring with a season-high 22 points, while Brangers added 16 points. Tripp led the team in rebounding with eight and added 16 points. Webster led the team with eight assists while con-

tributing 11 points. Sophomore guard Roberto Gallinat chipped in 12 points off the bench.

Looking to secure a perfect record with the regular season nearing an end, the Texans did just that with a 109-76 victory against Western Texas College on March 2.

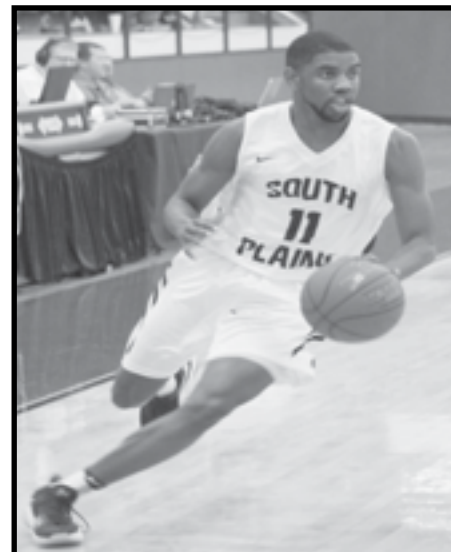
The Texans' offense was hot all night long. Brangers was able to break Marshall Henderson's school record of 128 3-pointers in a season, with the record-breaking shot coming in the first half.

The Texans were able to get off to a fast start on offense, knocking down 10 3-pointers.

In the second half, the Texans cooled of some, but not enough to let Western Texas back into the game. SPC out-scored Western Texas 46-37 in the second half to finish the regular season with a perfect record.

Tripp led the team in scoring and rebounding with a sea-

son-high 26 and 13, respectively. Brangers chipped in 19 points, while red-shirt freshman guard Raquan Mitchell added 17 points. Webster led the team in assists with seven and added three points. Gil-



Josh Webster drives into an open lane against Hill College on March 9 at Frenship High school's Tiger Pit.

lard added 16 points off the bench, while Gallinat chipped in 14 points.

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Lady Texans receive national bid after regional loss

by DOMINICK PUENTE
Editorial Assistant

The South Plains College women's basketball team gained a national tournament bid after falling short of a NJCAA Region V Tournament championship.

After finishing the regular season with a string of

victories in conference play, the Lady Texans entered the regional tournament ranked as the No. 2 seed from the Western Junior College Athletic Conference.

The Region V tournament was held from March 8- March 11 at Frenship High School in Wolfforth.

The Lady Texans advanced to the second round of the regional tournament, but fell short after losing a nail-biter to Collin County Community College, 77-70, on March 10.

Through a tough first half for SPC, the Lady Texans managed to create offensive opportunities, getting the ball to starting sophomore forward Yanina Inkina.

After the end of the third quarter, the Lady Texans trailed Collin County, 62-45. However, the Lady Texans continued to put pressure on offensively and found open shots for some well needed points.

SPC rallied in the fourth quarter, scoring 25 points, but Collin County managed to hold

off the late charge by the Lady Texans.

In the first half, the Lady Texans took a 15-13 lead in the first quarter. Facing foul trouble early, SPC gave up the lead after only putting up 13 points offensively and allowing 24 points.

Inkina led the Lady Texans offensively with 22 points to keep SPC within arm's reach of a last-second win.

Sophomore guard Jasauen Beard also found offensive success, finishing the game with 15 points.

Sophomore guard Elizabeth Cera was able to drop in 10 points against an overwhelming Collin County defense.

In the opening round of the regional tournament, the Lady Texans defeated Ranger College, 61-46, on March 8.

The Lady Texans began the game with a slow start defensively in the first quarter, only putting up six points, and trailing Ranger College 8-6 going into the second quarter.

As the game progressed into the second quarter, the Lady Texans began to con-

trol both sides of the court offensively and defensively



Madeline Dorris drives into the paint for a layup against Ranger College March 8 at Frenship High School's Tiger Pit.

throughout the rest of the game.

SPC's defense stalled the Lady Ranger offense, allowing only eight points in the second quarter.

Offensively, the Lady Texans found success with screens and a few open jump shots to gain momentum.

The Lady Texans finished the second quarter with 21 points and a 27-16 lead going into halftime.

SPC continued to display their skill throughout the second half against the Lady Rangers, putting up 18 points in the third quarter and 16 points in the fourth quarter.

Although, the Lady Rangers struggled to produce points in the first half, Ranger College gained ground offensively, scoring 15 points in the third quarter.

With a 45-31 lead at the end of the third quarter, SPC's defense limited Ranger's offen-

sive production, forcing late shots and allowing no open looks to finish out the game.

The Lady Texans held Ranger College to 15 points in the fourth quarter, ensuring the victory.

Sophomore guard Brittany Smith led the Lady Texans with 18 points in the victory against Ranger College.

Cera finished with 14 points for SPC, while Beard and Inkina each put up eight points.

It is the first time in 15 years that the Lady Texans have advanced to the NJCAA National Tournament, which was held March 20 - March 25 at the Rip Griffin Center on the campus of Lubbock Christian University. Results were not available at press time

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Elizabeth Cera sets up the Lady Texans for a play against Collin County Community College March 10 at Frenship High School's Tiger Pit.

PHOTOS BY DOMINICK PUENTE/PLAINSMANPRESS



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Track teams earn honors at national meet

by **STEVEN GEHEGAN**
Sports Editor

The South Plains College track and field teams put on strong performances in the National Junior College Athletic Association Indoor National Championships.

The men's team placed second with 104.5 points, and the women's team placed third with 73 points at the two-day meet held in Pittsburg, Kansas.

The men's team had 17 athletes earn All-American honors, while the women's team had 13 All-Americans.

In the men's 60-meter hurdle event, the Texans swept the top three spots, with sophomore Robert Dunning placing first with a time of 7.93, freshman Mason Weh placing second with a time of 8.00, and freshman William Watson placing third with a time of 8.02.

In the mile run, sophomore Omero Rodriguez finished 12th with a time of 4:21.60, while sophomore Nicholas Rotich finished 13th with a time of 4:21.88, and freshman Felix Kosgei finished 15th with a time of 4:22.66.

In the 600-meter run, sophomore Okeen Williams placed first with a time of 1:17.98, while freshman Montel Hood

placed fourth with a time of 1:19.25.

In the 3,000-meter run, **K o s g e i** placed third with a time of 8:29.89, while Rodriguez placed seventh with a time of 8:38.13. Sophomore Jose Silva finished 13th with a time of 9:01.42.

In the 5000-meter run, sophomore Deric Martinez placed seventh with a time of 15:13.44, while Silva finished 12th with a time of 15:27.47. Sophomore **C o n n o r** Hughes finished 13th with a time of 15:33.56.

In the 4x400 relay, Williams, Hood, freshman Jordan At-

kinson, and freshman Rayan

Holmes placed fifth with a time of 3:14.18.

In the 4x800 relay, Ro-

driguez, Rotich, Kosgei, and

freshman Dekaryea Freeman

placed third with a time of 7:47.31.

In the distance medley

relay, Kosgei, Hood, Rodriguez and Rotich placed second with a time of 10:10.37.

In the high jump, sophomore Kwaume McGee placed third with a jump of 2.15 meters. Dunning tied for seventh with a jump of 2.05 meters, and freshman Laquan Nairn tied for 13th with a jump of 2 meters.

In the long jump, Nairn placed first with a jump of 7.61 meters, while sophomore Derrick Monroe placed third with a jump of 7.46 meters. Sophomore Saahir Bethea placed sixth with a jump of 7.35 meters.

In the triple jump, Nairn placed second with a jump of 15.65 meters, while Bethea placed eighth with a jump of 14.64 meters.

Monroe finished 16th with a jump of 13.47 meters.

In the Heptathlon, freshman Patrick Johnson placed seventh with 4,612 points, while sophomore Zach Hancock finished 11th with 4,490 points. Freshman Jonathan Witt finished 12th with 4,273 points.

In women's competition, freshman Natassa McDonald placed fourth in the 400-meter run with a time of 54.73, while sophomore Mauricia Prieto placed ninth with a time of 57.17.

In the 600-meter run, freshman Agnes Abrocquah placed fifth with a time of 1:32.85, while sophomore Latriceia Smith finished ninth with a time of 2:01.75.

In the 800-meter run, freshman Hellen Maasotuo placed fourth with a time of 2:15.86.

Maasotuo also placed third in the 1000-meter run with a time of 2:58.81, while sophomore Poro Gahekave placed sixth with a time of 3:00.92. Freshman Seselia Dala placed ninth with a time of 3:10.57.

In the 3000-meter run, freshman Leslie Romero finished 11th with a time of 10:42.91. She also placed fourth in the 5000-meter run with a time of 18:10.97.

In the mile run, Dala placed third with a time of 5:09.74, while Gahekave placed sev-

enth with a time of 5:14.34. Romero finished 19th with a time of 5:27.80.

In the 4x400-meter relay, the team of McDonald, Prieto, Abrocquah and freshman Safia Bright placed second with a time of 3:40.33.

In the 4x800-meter relay, the team of Smith, Gahekave, Dala and, Maasotuo placed first with a time of 9:19.26.

In the distance medley relay, a team of Gahekave, Smith, McDonald and Dala placed third with a time of 12:08.72.

In the long jump, freshman Cha'Kayli Gilbert placed fourth with a jump of 5.76 meters, while sophomore Felicia Frimpong placed eighth with a jump of 5.65 meters. Sophomore Melody Korie finished 10th with a jump of 5.52 meters.

In the triple jump, Frimpong placed fifth with a jump of 12.47 meters, while Gilbert placed eighth with a jump of 11.95 meters and Korie finished 13th with a jump of 11.01 meters.

In the shot put, sophomore Kiona Bradshaw placed seventh with a throw of 13.96 meters.

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Melody Korie practices the long jump at the SPC track on March 21.

TOVI OYERVIDEZ/PLAINSMAN PRESS

Brangers uses positive college experiences to influence daily life

by **DOMINICK PUENTE**
Editorial Assistant

Leading the South Plains College men's basketball team in offense and helping the top team in the nation get to their goal of a national championship is what Jordan Brangers has on his mind.

The 6-foot-2 sophomore shooting guard has put his mark on the SPC men's basketball program, leading the Texans offensively along with putting his name in the school record books. He recently broke Marshall Henderson's school record of 128 3-point field goals in a season during a sophomore night victory against Western Texas College on March 2.

Currently, Brangers is continuing his season campaign with 136 3's heading into the NJCAA national tournament in Hutchinson, Kansas.

Although SPC is 15 hours away from Brangers' hometown of Radcliff, Kentucky, he is happy with the decisions he has made to finally see his hard work pay off on the court and in life.

"My family has supported me through all of this and moving away to pursue my dreams," said Brangers. "My family and I knew that this is all about business, whether I went to play basketball for a major program such as Texas Tech, or just to get a degree to live life the way I want to. Either way, they have supported me."

Brangers says that he has received endless amounts of support through his ca-

reer from friends and family. Dropping out before his high school graduation, Brangers explained that it was more than three and a half years before he decided to go back to get his GED.

After acquiring his GED, he took a year off before at-

coach at SPC, presented the opportunity to play basketball for the Texans.

The sophomore sharpshooter has definitely made a name for himself with the help of coach Coach Green.

"When I first came to SPC, Coach Green was hard on me, but I knew he just wanted the best out of me and for me," explained Brangers.

The bond between Brangers and Coach Green has grown since he first stepped foot on the Levelland campus. The shooting guard explained how much potential Coach Green saw in Brangers and expectations for success.

"When I first started talking to Coach, I could tell that he cared and wanted the best for both of us," recalls Brangers. "He has seen things in me that I never imagined I would have accomplished. He has just pushed me to a different level."

As for his future, Brangers has signed his letter of intent to play for the Texas Tech University men's basketball team next year.

Brangers explained that playing for Texas Tech is a great opportunity to continue to grow his game and move closer to his overall goals.

"My goal is to be successful at Tech and graduate with some type of degree," added Brangers, "but everyone's dream is to play in the NBA, and if I could play well at the next level that first year, I will want to put my name in the NBA draft."

Brangers says that his choice to attend Texas Tech is because of the coaching staff and players for displaying their level of interest.

"Getting phone calls from coaches, and getting to talk to some of the players really influenced my decision," he said. "Also, the fans and supporters from Tech who took the time to message me on my social media like Twitter, wishing me the best out of my career and telling me to keep playing at the university was a great feeling."

Although Brangers has not decided on a specific major when attending Texas Tech, he said he has an interest in coaching and sees that as a strong career option.

As for his tenure at SPC, he is majoring in general studies and has enjoyed his time at the college and in Levelland.

"I love my team and coaches," Brangers said. "I have

met a lot of new people and developed a lot of friendships after spending this year here."

on the court. The gym is the go-to place here on campus."

While being on the court and finding ways to help the team tops his list of priorities, Brangers understands that you cannot get far on the court unless you achieve in the classroom as well.

"I have enjoyed my classes throughout this year," said Brangers, "and my professors know that we are on the same mission. They want the best for me, but want to make sure I leave with the knowledge I need to succeed in life. The professors make sure to hold me accountable for what I need to do, and I appreciate that type of teaching."

While his time at SPC is nearing an end, Brangers said he will continue to use the things he has learned and will hold on to new friendships he has made.

While the high-octane guard from Kentucky has spent limited time in Levelland, Brangers will be known as a Texan to the people of West Texas.

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Jordan Brangers goes for a layup against Clarendon College during a game on Feb. 23 at Texan Dome.

PHOTOS BY DOMINICK PUENTE/PLAINSMANPRESS

tending St. Catherine College in Springfield, Kentucky, then transferred to Motlow State Junior College before Steve Green, the men's basketball



Jordan Brangers drives to the bucket against New Mexico Junior College during a game on Feb. 13 at Texan Dome.

He said there have been benefits of attending a small and close college.

"I think the campus is beautiful, in my opinion," Brangers related, "and with Levelland being a small town, it gives me a chance to keep my focus on being successful in the classroom and keeping my attention

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Shriners Classic brings baseball, patient awareness together



by **DOMINICK PUENTE**
Editorial Assistant

With college sports growing, the Shriners Hospital for Children has used college baseball as a platform for spreading news about their hospitals along with stories about their patients.

A 17-year Astros Foundation tradition returned to Minute Maid Park, home of the Houston Astros. This classic has been known as one of the top

collegiate baseball tournaments in the nation.

Since 2001, this college baseball event has featured 29 different NCAA Division-I baseball programs. Every team attending the classic is by invite only.

Featuring a Big 12 Conference versus Southeastern Conference format, Baylor, TCU and Texas Tech competed against LSU, Ole Miss and Texas A&M.

Throughout the history of the College Classic, the foundation has hosted the number one team in preseason polls six times in tournament history, including two eventual College World Series Champions.

to society and spreading love for the sport of baseball.

Shriners' hospitals have been helping families and disabled kids for years, even allowing some of those children to meet teams and make new friends in the process.

Although the tournament was meant for bringing in top-seeded teams to compete against each other, the Shriners organization has gone out of their way to put their kids and their families first despite the troubles they are constantly facing in life.

As for the baseball aspect of tournaments such as the Shriners Classic, it is a great opportunity to bring some of the best teams and talent together to see them compete. I do not believe ranked opponents should only play at the end of the season in the College World Series or in conference play.

Playing against ranked opponents will make any team

better and prepare teams for conference play and possibly a title run.

I understand that scheduling

ipating teams for later down the road.

Putting your team against tough competition will make a team stronger and understand what is needed to prepare for achieving the goal of winning a World Series.

Having more tournaments will improve the overall quality in teams, but also incorporating organizations such as the Shriners is a great way to bring more people, love and attention to the sport and foundations.

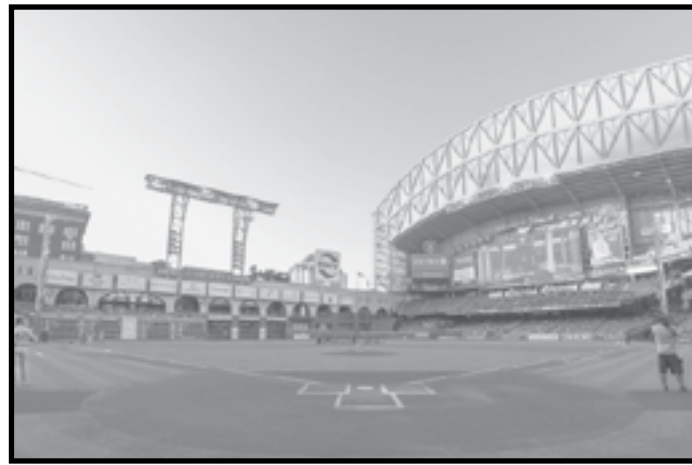
Although the main objective may be to play baseball, these tournaments can be a platform for Shriners and

others to get news out about what they are trying to accomplish and grab the attention of people who are lend a helping hand in any form.

Having tournaments such as the Shriners' Classic is a way to bring more people to watch the sport of baseball by matching up ranked opponents against each other. In turn, that brings more viewers to the sport of baseball and allows those viewers to receive the message that Shriners is putting out about supporting and donating to their cause of helping patients in need.

Platforms to send messages are constantly being used in social media and other sports. Baseball can be used to send messages. By creating these types of tournaments with wonderful causes, it will send positive messages throughout the country.

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Shriners Hospitals
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This baseball classic is a perfect way to incorporate sports with trying to contribute

March madness conference bids hinder tourney talent



by **STEVEN GEHEGAN**
Sports Editor

With the biggest tournament in National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I college basketball ongoing, each conference should send its best programs, not those that happen to win a conference's post-season tournament.

When you use a post-season conference tournament to decide who the automatic bid should go to, this creates several problems that mostly affect smaller

watch the games that pit the power conferences against each other, or the major conference that people choose to follow.

These tournaments devalue the regular season for teams in a conference that has only one bid to get into the National Tournament. While this way may seem more entertaining to some, what is the point of the regular season? Why would anyone watch their regular season, or, for that matter, why even play the regular season if the only way to get the bid is to win the conference tournament? If you want the casual

ence. While this may not seem like a major problem to some, it is to those conferences that those colleges represent. If a college wins its conference by multiple games, then it would make sense for that conference to send that school that won the regular-season conference tournament, than that team has an even smaller chance of knocking off a higher seed.

The better the team that makes the NCAA tournament, the better chance that conference or that college will benefit from it, such as the case several years ago when Wichita State University and Creighton University had success in post-season play for the Missouri Valley Conference. This caused the tourney selection committee to take that conference more seriously, and this helped a traditionally one-bid conference to get another one. Then these smaller colleges can get better recruits and even have the programs getting good enough to get into a power conference school, as Creighton did moving from the Missouri Valley Conference to the Big East Conference.

There are a lot of good smaller college teams that do not get a chance to get into the big tournament every year because of these useless conference tournaments. I do not believe in getting rid of them. I believe that non-power conferences should take a cue from what the Ivy League Conference used to do, which is give the automatic bid to the team that won the conference in the regular season.

If these non-power conference colleges want to gain more attention, then they need to give automatic bids to the conference's best team, not the team that won the conference tournament.

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fan to start watching these small colleges play, then you are going to have to give them



schools and conferences. First is the fact that those tournaments can devalue the regular season. This has more affect on smaller conferences, since most fans, like myself, like to

a reason to tune in during the middle of the season.

Another problem with the conference tournaments is the fact that the best team does not always represent the confer-

Underrated career of Romo impacts Cowboys franchise



by **SERGIO MADRID**
Editorial Assistant

Underdog. Undrafted. Underappreciated. Underrated. And maybe still underestimated.

The Cowboys have yet to release former starting quarterback Tony Romo, probably holding out for the right deal to be made before the draft. But Romo's time in Dallas is likely nearing an end.

Growing up Hispanic, you learn to deal with the inevitable. Your sisters are going to watch Selena a million times over, and neither God nor you can do anything about it. When you're the only boy in the family, your best hope is to have a good male role model to save you from an estrogen-infested home. Lucky for me, I had a couple of uncles to do just that.

My uncles would pick me up, or throw a cookout, and put on the game. More often than not, it was a Dallas Cowboy game.

Another thing about being Hispanic, you have a shortage of guys to idolize and look up to, especially when your favorite sport is football. So, for me, being able to watch a guy such as Romo lead the Cowboys on Sundays was a pretty big deal.

Romo was quick to reach rock star status. Of course, it's not very hard to do when you're the starting quarterback of the Dallas Cowboys and

you date women the caliber of Carrie Underwood and Jessica Simpson. Even if you're not a fan, according to guy-code, you're kind of forced to respect the guy.

But it is not his dating career that makes Romo such a well-respected man in the sports world. It is his heart and commitment to every guy who has shared the field with him.

Romo is, and always has been, a selfless player. He would rather die trying to win the game than sit out one play. So many times Romo went down, only to get back up and save the day with one of his famous, and sometimes not so famous, game-ending drives.

His toughness is a big attribute to his amazing play,

that, Prescott led the Cowboys to a divisional-round showdown against Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers, the best game of the 2017 NFL playoffs.

Lately, the big talk surrounding Dallas has been their impressive offensive line. But it wasn't always so. In fact, Romo was one of the voices that convinced Jerry Jones to start using first-round draft picks on linemen to protect him.

Romo spent so many years running for his life and doing everything he could to singlehandedly lead his team to many late-game victories. Now Dallas has a suitable offense, a defense on the rise, and a formidable coaching



though it was also his undoing as Romo has suffered many unfortunate injuries during his career. None sting as much as the collarbone fracture he suffered during a preseason game against the Seattle Seahawks last year.

Romo got his shot at starting quarterback through an injury to Drew Bledsoe, where he came in and showed that he gave the Cowboys a better chance to win. It would also be the way he was

staff, which is a formula for success in the NFL.

It must be a bitter taste for a competitive guy such as Romo to watch a franchise he's carried for so long finally get all the pieces to the puzzle, then not be able to fit in the overall picture.

Romo is certainly not a man without his faults. He plays big, so you can expect a lot of good, and just as much bad, from him. In no way am I trying to take anything away from true Cowboy legends Roger Staubach and Troy Aikman, two Super Bowl champions who did so much for the franchise. But Romo is the quarterback I grew up watching. To know he will soon be leaving Dallas burns a bit.

Romo is the most exciting, most spontaneous, most courageous player I have ever seen play the game. Wherever he ends up next, I'm sure he'll do the same. Despite what the naysayers may think, that's my quarterback.

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Southwest Showcase



National Ranching Heritage Center breathes new life into Old West

by **STACY JOHNSON**
Editorial Assistant

A tumbleweed blows across the sun-drenched hills past the legendary Four Sixes Ranch barn. Scenes reminiscent of the Old West transport visitors back in time.

Located in Lubbock, Texas on the northern corner of the Texas Tech University campus, the National Ranching Heritage Center is a free museum comprised of three sections: Proctor Historical Park, DeVitt-Mallet Museum and J.J. Gibson Memorial Park.

The center serves to preserve the rich cultural history of the American ranching industry, and to educate the public about the way of life of early ranchers and settlers on the frontier.

Proctor Historical Park leads guests on a chronological trip through the robust history of ranching. The sprawling 1.5-mile outdoor exhibit is currently home to 49 structures dating from the 1780s to the 1950s.

Perhaps the most distinguishing and impressive aspect of the park is the fact that the structures are not reproductions. All except for one are authentic structures, transported from their original sites to the Ranching Heritage Center.

The simpler structures were moved in their entirety, while those that were more complicated or challenging were dismantled at their original locations, transported in pieces, and then re-assembled on the park grounds.

The stone structures, for example, were impossible to transport without disassembly. Dr. Robert Tidwell, curator of historical collections, offers some insight into the painstaking methods used to recreate the historic architectural structures.

“The disassembly process actually took days and days and days, because we were carefully cataloging and recording the position and loca-

tion of each stone,” Tidwell explains.

Detailed drawings are made of the original structure before

ensure the historical accuracy of the park, the structures have been placed meticulously, with attention to even the smallest



the project begins. Individual pieces must each be carefully photographed, assigned a code number, and documented according to their relative location to the other pieces.

A disassembly plan is created for the process and then followed in reverse order

details. Architectural elements are aligned to the same cardinal directions that they faced at their original sites.

“We have one structure, Las Escarbas, which is a large, two-story stone structure,” Tidwell says. “And in its original building site, it was built partway into the side of a low

Despite the fact that most of the attractions are not native to the city, the park has Lubbock literally at its core. The hills along the grounds are composed of debris from the devastating tornado that tore through downtown Lubbock in 1970.

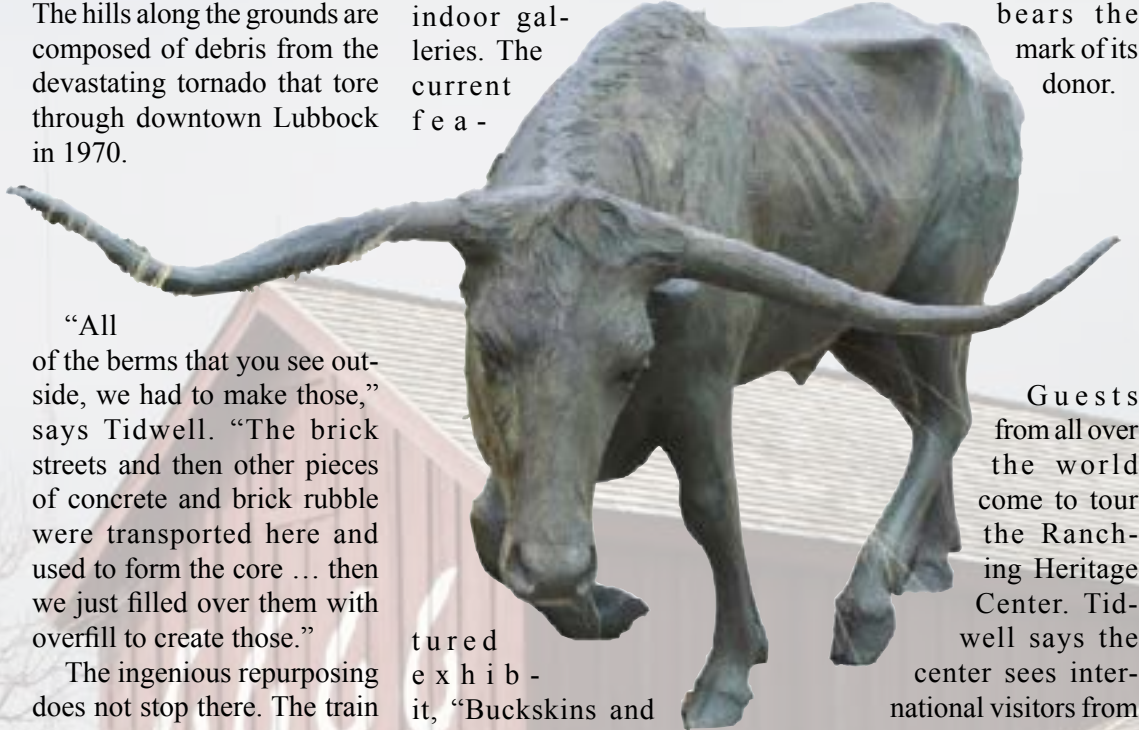
“All of the berms that you see outside, we had to make those,” says Tidwell. “The brick streets and then other pieces of concrete and brick rubble were transported here and used to form the core ... then we just filled over them with overfill to create those.”

The ingenious repurposing does not stop there. The train tracks near the Baldwin Locomotive feature originally ran parallel to the Brownfield Highway in Lubbock before the construction of the Marsha Sharp Freeway.

the park in the shade without the need to walk.

The DeVitt-Mallet Museum consists of seven indoor galleries. The current fea-

tures of longhorn steers representing the Texas trail drive era. Each expressive, life-size steer is branded and bears the mark of its donor.



tured exhibit, “Buckskins and Beads,” contains Native American artifacts and artwork, including items that were owned by Quanah Parker, a Comanche chief. Featured exhibits at the museum

Guests from all over the world come to tour the Ranching Heritage Center. Tidwell says the center sees international visitors from nearly every locale.

“You go through our visitor logs over the decades, and you will see people from every continent on earth except for Antarctica,” he says.



While examples of some of the earliest technology are housed within the structures, the Ranching Heritage Center is not behind the times. In ad-

change frequently. “As we do our exhibit planning, we like to stagger exhibits so that there’s something new every three to six months

According to Tidwell, the center serves an important purpose.

“We think it’s a special place,” he says. “There really



hill. So we did the same thing here. It’s built partway into the side of a low hill.”

The landscaping in the immediate surrounding area is recreated to the fullest extent that the local climate will allow.

The interiors of the buildings reflect what life was like for settlers in the early days of ranching. As if frozen in time, cast iron cooking pots sit on stone

to reassemble the structure accurately.

“In some ways, they’re kind of like our own Lego,” says Tidwell.



order to

hearths. Oil lamps hang from doorways and sit atop bedside tables. Pieces accurate to the period have been lovingly selected from local antique shops by volunteers and carefully arranged to create an authentic atmosphere.

dition to the educational signs that tell the stories behind the park’s attractions, the center offers guests a smartphone app to guide them through the park, along with multimedia details and descriptions of what they can find there.

During the warm months, guided trolley tours begin each Thursday at 10 a.m., allowing visitors to sit back and enjoy

or so,” Tidwell says. “We want to keep something fresh, and interesting, and new on a fairly regular basis.”

Upcoming exhibits include the topics of handguns and cattle rustling.

A ranching museum would not be complete without cattle. J.J. Gibson Memorial Park, located at the center’s entrance, is home to 19 bronze sculp-

aren’t that many museums like ours out there. We also preserve a very important part of the state’s history, and also this region’s history. What would the Southwest be without ranching?”

PHOTOS BY STACY JOHNSON/ PLAINSMAN PRESS
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