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New maker space installed in Math and Engineering Building.

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Human trafficking victim recalls time spent as sex slave.

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Calendar of Events

Oct. 19

SPC Rodeo teams compete at Texas Tech University.

Thursday Night Live performance at 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 24

Country Jukebox performance at 12:15

Oct. 26

Halloween carnival at 6 p.m.

Texas Tech University Transfer visit at Reese Center campus at 10 a.m.

Oct. 28

Lady Texans vs. Lubbock Christian University at Lubbock.

50¢ lunch every Monday and Thursday at the BSM

Worship Service every Wednesday in the Sundown Room from 8 - 9 p.m.

Lobbyists, volunteers dedicate time to address climate issues



[Editor's note: This story is the third part of the multi-part series "Climate Crisis" examining the causes and effects of climate change that began with Issue #1 and concludes in Issue #6. Several staff members took it upon themselves to interview and conduct research. The results of their combined efforts follow.]

by NICOLE LOPEZ
Sports Editor

Activists around the world are dedicating their time to stopping climate change.

One organization, however, is working to create climate solutions. Citizens' Climate Lobby

is an organization that is working toward national policies to address the

that, we have to generate political will to Congress to take action."

issues when addressing climate change. But the Citizens' Climate Lobby

that we call Carbon Fee and Dividend," says Valk. "You assess a fee on fossil



Citizens Climate Lobby meets at the nation's capital. Photo Courtesy of Steve Valk

fuel based on the CO2 content in the fuel, and then increase the fee each year. So, you're providing the incentive for a number of businesses and industries who shift to cleaner sources of energy because of the fee."

Attaching a fee to fossil fuels leads to coal, oil and gas becoming more expensive compared to solar and wind power. The carbon fee is only one

part of the policy, though. The other part is the dividend.

See "Organization" on pg. 2

issues of climate change.

"We need to have national policies in place that are going to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that are doing the climate changes," says Steve Valk, communications director for Citizens' Climate Lobby. "To do

Citizens' Climate Lobby trains and supports volunteers from around the country to lobby their members of Congress to develop relationships with them by talking with or writing to them.

According to Valk, there are many important

believes the biggest impact that is going to address climate issues is putting a price on carbon.

"We lobby for a policy

Annual campus report shows increase in crime

by BRANDI ORTIZ
News Editor

The recently released crime report for South Plains College shows an increase of sexual misconduct, drug and alcohol violations and aggravated assault on campus.

Passed in 1990, the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act is an annual report that by law requires all colleges and universities that receive federal funding to share information about certain crimes which occur on and around campus.

SPC recently released the report for the calendar year of 2016.

The report showed a decline in burglaries and referrals for drug abuse violations, along with an increase in rape cases, aggravated assault, cases of dating violence and stalking, and arrests for weapons, and liquor law violations.

"It is just a matter of what the population brings with them," said Dr. Stan DeMerritt, vice president of student affairs at SPC. "I can't control what they are doing. All we can do is take care of business as it comes up."

According to Dr. DeMerritt, the number of referrals to the Dean's Office given in 2016 has been the most that SPC have ever had before.

Most referrals come from SPC's new Health and Safety inspection.

Students who live on campus have weekly room checks. If a student is suspected of having drugs or alcohol, Housing will issue a health and safety inspection. For the year of 2016, SPC gave 31 referrals and 15 arrests for liquor law violations, which is an increase from 19 referrals and no arrests during the 2015 calendar year.

"What we are doing is, for those that we suspect are using drugs or alcohol, if we suspect they are using drugs, we automatically refer them to Health and Wellness for some counseling sessions on drug awareness," said Dr. DeMerritt. Dr. DeMerritt said he believes that staying proactive with students can help lower the number of referrals and make a change in students' lives.

"We are trying to make a difference in their lives," expressed Dr. DeMerritt. "To say, 'Hey, you really need to think about the direction you are going with this.'"

Along with counseling, SPC students are encouraged to attend any of the many drug and alcohol education events hosted on campus throughout the year.

According to Dr. DeMerritt, campuses with residential life tend to have higher crime stats than those without.

Dr. DeMerritt says that another reason for such a high number of referrals See "Annual" on pg. 3

Free press, fake news topics of discussion at Constitution Day

by TYLER YORK
Online Editor

The pace of the news is faster than ever. Making sense of it all was at the forefront of this year's Constitution Day discussion at South Plains College.

Every year, Constitution Day is celebrated at SPC with a public pre-

ment. The focus of this year's talk was the freedom of the press provision of the First Amendment, and discussion regarding the idea of so-called "fake news."

Leading this year's dialogue as moderator was Tim Holland, instructor in government, with Drew Landry, assistant professor of government,

Twitter account @SPC-Government, using the hashtag #IAFakeNews, so questions could be selected for the panel.

The subject that garnered the most discussion by far was "fake news," both what it really is, and how journalists and consumers alike might take measures to fight it.

"You can go back as far



David Williams, Dr. Sharon Bogener, Tim Holland, and Matt Dotray formed the panel for Constitution Day on Sept. 29. MATT MOLINAR/PLAINSMAN PRESS

sentation or conversation on important issues facing our country, looking back at past events and forward to future possibilities.

The event, held on Sept. 29 in the Sundown Room in the Student Center, was organized by the Social Sciences Depart-

keeping time and tracking social media questions. A panel of local experts gave their thoughts on the questions brought forward.

Before the discussion started, all in attendance were encouraged to take out their smartphones and tweet questions to the

as you want to in the history of the world and find so-called 'fake news,'" said Dr. Sharon Bogener, professor of History at SPC.

According to her, this idea of generating false See "Instructors" on pg. 4

Organization lobbies for climate solutions through political will

Continued from pg. 1

“Take all the revenue,” explains Valk. “Take all that money from the carbon fee, divide it up equally among households in the U.S. and give the money back to people, because we know that putting a fee on carbon will increase the cost of energy. If we give the revenue back to households, then they’ll have the additional income they need to cover.”

In 2014, Citizens’ Climate Lobby did a study for their policy and found two things. In the past 20 years, they have cut greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent. The other discovery they found was because they’re giving back the money to households, it creates a stimulus effect that creates around 3.8 billion jobs.

“We’re focusing on getting that passed,” Valk says, “and to do that we need both Democrats and Republicans to support this legislation. We have accomplished in the last few years to get Democrats and Republicans talking to each other about climate solutions.”

According to Valk, Citizens’ Climate Lobby played a key role in the forma-

tion of the House Climate Solutions Caucus, a bipartisan group in the U.S. House of Representatives

and 29 Republicans,” explains Valk. “Eventually, some members from both sides will introduce

shall Saunders. However, Saunders wasn’t focusing on climate change during his career, as he oper-

Saunders heard about microcredit through an organization called Results. Results lobbies Congress

“He couldn’t find an organization that was providing the support for volunteers,” says Valk.

“He said, ‘Well, I guess I’ll have to start my own.’”

In 2009, Saunders hired many staff members, and that’s when the lobby started to grow. At one time, the lobby only had a dozen chapters in the United States

but now has 400 chapters. The chapters meet once a month and have national conference calls that involve climate experts.

“We provide a lot of support for the volunteers, and we educate them,” says Valk. “We train our volunteers and give them skills that they need to be effective advocates. We encourage people to check out the introductory calls and get to know a little bit about us.”

Valk explains there are many climate change-caused disasters happening around the world. He encourages people who are concerned about climate change to take action.

“If you’re aware and alarmed with what’s happening with our climate, if you’re worried about the future of our world, then there is something you can do about it,” explains Valk. “You can reclaim your democracy and get Congress to take action, and we will give you the support and training to be an active advocate to get our government to enact the solutions that are going to make a decision.”

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“If you’re aware and alarmed with what’s happening with our climate, if you’re worried about the future of our world, then there is something you can do about it.”

which was started in 2016 by two congressmen in Florida.

the legislation. We’re not there yet, but we’re going to get there.”

ated an estate brokerage specializing in shopping center development and leasing.

for hunger and poverty programs. Saunders went on to start his own microcredit program in Mexico based on the success of Grameen Bank in Bangladesh.

“He even went over to Bangladesh and learned all about [microcredit] from Muhammad Yunus, who founded the Grameen Bank,” Valk explains. “He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for his work with microcredit.”

In 2006, Al Gore’s film, “An Inconvenient Truth,” released and Saunders saw it. He ended up watching the film several times, and he was concerned about what was happening to the planet.

“He realized if something wasn’t done about climate change, the people that he was trying to help weren’t going to have a place to live,” says Valk.

“He went to the Climate Change Project and was trained by Al Gore to do slideshow presentations. After doing the presentations for a year, something was missing. The presentations didn’t mention any national policies.”

One day Saunders picked up the New York Times and saw that Congress gave \$18 billion in subsidies to oil and coal companies. He decided that the country needed a national policy to discourage the use of fossil fuels.



Steve Valk, communications director for Citizens Climate Lobby, encourages volunteers to help with climate solutions.

Photo courtesy of Steve Valk

“Since January, the caucus has grown to 58 members, 29 Democrats

Citizens’ Climate Lobby was founded in October 2007 by Mar-

ey and pull their families out of poverty, according to Valk.

Board of Regents discuss crime statistics, upcoming events

by Tyler York
Online Editor

Campus crime statistics, a resolution and upcoming events were among the topics of discussion during the October meeting of the South Plains College Board of Regents.

The Annual Campus Security Policy and Crime Statistics Report was reviewed, with several key statistics having changed from 2015 to 2016.

The report showed

one reported rape and one reported assault on the Levelland campus for 2016, both up from zero the previous two years. Notably, reported disciplinary referrals for drug abuse violations on campus and in student housing facilities dropped from 18 in 2015 to only four in 2016.

Arrests and disciplinary referrals for liquor law violations both increased from the previous year, with arrests rising from zero to 15, and referrals from 19 to 31.

Reporting from the Reese and Lubbock campuses continues to show no criminal offenses reported.

Dr. Robin Satterwhite, president of SPC, told the Board about several events available to students in the coming months.

The first is the Career Expo, taking place on Oct. 18 at the Civic Center in Lubbock from 8:30 a.m. to noon. It will be a place for students to interact with employers in the community and should be a great opportunity for

networking within various professional fields.

The annual Halloween Carnival will be held Oct. 26 in the Sundown Room of the Student Center on the Levelland Campus. The event, which is open to the public, begins at 5 p.m. Admission is free.

Also, the annual Scholarship Banquet is set for Nov. 2 at the Mallet Event Center in Levelland. It will begin at 6:30 p.m., and scholarship recipients are encouraged to attend.

Dr. Satterwhite also

read a resolution honoring Dan Hook, who has represented the college as its attorney for the past 33 years. Hook was present at this month’s meeting, and has been a valued member of the counsel during his time at SPC. He is retiring this year from his long-held position.

“Dan, thank you so much for your service,” said Dr. Satterwhite. “Even in my short time here, it has been invaluable.”

“You were here before any of us in this

room,” added Mike Box, chairman of the board. “I have relied on you more than once, even to call you in the middle of the night.”

“Thank you for allowing me to represent the college,” Hook responded.

The Board gave Hook a standing ovation, and the resolution was passed unanimously.

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Maker space allows students to creatively learn in unique ways

by **MATT MOLINAR**
Editor-in-Chief

With the newest installation in the Math and Engineering Building on the Levelland campus, students can now produce ideas in a space designed to promote creativity.

Room 121 was recently converted from a regular classroom to a “maker space,” which is set to have a grand opening on Oct. 19 at 11 a.m., even though the space is currently open for students to use.

According to Dr. Ramesh Krishnan, professor of engineering at SPC, a maker space is a room where students can take their ideas and apply physical elements to them, whether it’s writing down ideas on a board, or building a prototype out of pipe cleaners or Popsicle sticks.

“Students can come and ideate whatever they

have and bring it to something tangible,” Dr. Krishnan told the Plainsman Press.

Dr. Krishnan says the idea of creating a maker space comes from Stanford University.

“We met a guy in a place called ‘the Google Garage,’” Dr. Krishnan said. “He was using a 3-D printer. I asked what he was doing, and he said, ‘I don’t like my cell phone case, so I’m just making another one.’”

Currently, the SPC maker space does not have a 3-D printer. However, students have access to a variety of materials that can be used to create physical prototypes of solutions

to whatever they desire to solve. According to Dr. Krishnan, the maker

is movable, allowing for the room to be rearranged with ease, which he says

room than anything else,” Dr. Krishnan said. “You can use anything that you

can arrange the furniture to fit your needs. We don’t want this space to look the same. Because mentally, you become dull every time you see the same space, so it should always be changing.”

According to Dr. Krishnan, conventional classrooms may not always have the ability to increase a student’s productive creativity. He says that the maker space promotes student interaction and creativity.

“I’ve talked to students who are already using the space and asked how the room has benefited them,” Dr. Krishnan said. “They love it, because they’re able to get together, talk and have fun. It is a different environment that fosters creativity.”



The new installation in the Math & Engineering Building gives students access to a more creative environment.
MATT MOLINAR/PLAINSMAN PRESS

space will be available to anybody who has the desire to use it.

“The misconception is that the room is only to be used by engineering students,” Dr. Krishnan said. “Our vision is that anybody on campus is welcome to use the maker space. What would the non-engineering students use the maker space for? Well, you can prototype any kind of solution. For example, farmers can get together and figure out how to solve pest issues.”

Most of the surfaces in the maker space, including the tops of desks and the walls, have the ability to be written on with a dry erase marker. This allows for the room to be conducive to a creative atmosphere, according to Dr. Krishnan. The furniture of the space

is also important for the creative atmosphere.

“It’s more like a play

want and be creative with all of the stuff. If you get five people together, you

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Deadline approaches for December graduation applications

by **NICOLE LOPEZ**
Sports Editor

Applications are available for South Plains College students who have met the requirements to graduate in December.

Students who are planning to graduate in December need to check with their academic advisor or an advisor at the Advising Center on campus.

“[Students] need to check with their advisors to verify the completion of this semester,” says Robin Coler, graduation clerk at SPC.

To be eligible to graduate, a student must have a 2.0 grade-point average or better and have finished all degree requirements by December. Students

also need to complete the online graduation application through their MySPC account. The deadline for applying for graduation is Nov 17.

To complete the application, students must sign in to their MySPC account, click on ‘Students’ tab, then ‘Admissions and Records,’ on the left-hand side, and then click on the ‘Student Forms and Tools’ tab. There will be a blue link named ‘Application for Graduation’ in the middle of the screen.

Students can choose whether to receive their diploma in December or participate in the spring ceremony. Students will be receiving their diploma in the mail if they choose not to participate in the

spring ceremony, which will be held on May 12.

“[Students] can choose if they want to walk,” says Coler, “and if they do want to walk, they just need to indicate ‘yes’ on the application.”

Received applications take around six to eight weeks after the winter break to be approved. Once approved, the applicant will be notified.

For help, students may contact their program advisor or go to the Administration Building and see an advisor at the Advising Center, or contact Coler in the Admissions and Records Office.

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Annual campus security report documents rape case, fire safety

Continued from pg. 1

is due to the change in administration throughout the year of 2016.

“I don’t know whether they knew that [a dean] wasn’t here, so they could maybe get away with more,” said Dr. DeMerritt. “Now that there is a sheriff in town that is patrolling [the situation], they can’t get away with it.”

During the year of 2016, one rape case was reported at SPC, according to the report.

Rape cases are handled through Title IX regulations. As the Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. DeMerritt is the Title IX coordinator and organizes Title IX investigations for the campus.

“[When a rape case] gets reported to us, it gets reported to the police, and then we have to a full investigation,” said Dr. DeMerritt.

Currently, Title IX states that, “no person in the United States shall, on behalf of sex, be excluded

from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.”

Throughout the year, SPC’s Health and Wellness Center focuses on increasing awareness and educating about prevention and intervention. Before the 2016 academic year, residence hall directors and wing advisors attended training on how to handle reports of sexual assault, IPV, stalking and sexual harassment. At the beginning of fall 2016, students living on campus were required to attend a residence hall meeting providing information on consent, sexual misconduct, domestic violence and stalking.

“I think we all know what the right thing to do is,” said Dr. DeMerritt. “The right thing to do is to make sure we are all having access to the resources that the accused and the victim have, and that they can get what

they need and that we are taking charge of what happened there and making sure we are making the best judgment on behalf of the student(s) involved and the college at the same time.”

The annual Campus Security Policy and Crime Statistic Report also mentions the fire safety systems for SPC student housing.

Due to how old some student housing buildings on the Levelland campus are, nine out of 11 do not have sprinkler systems.

“Some of [our dorms] are such old buildings that they are primary brick buildings,” Dr. DeMerritt said. “Brick walls and concrete ceilings; there’s not anything to burn.”

Dr. DeMerritt said he believes that with SPC’s housing rules and regulations, it could be hard to cause a fire. Also, the local Fire Marshall conducts inspections often.

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October 16, 2017

Plainsman Press

Instructors, reporters address 'fake news' at Constitution Day panel

Continued from pg. 1

claims through the media isn't a new development at all, even if the phrase "fake news" is. The term "yellow journalism" has been around for far longer, and the world isn't only just now being faced with sensationalized news reporting.

So why the fervor from both sides of the political spectrum about this idea that suddenly seems so new?

"I think it's uncomfortable to go outside of one's bubble," said Matt Dotray, political reporter at the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal. "It is so easy to just feed off your own beliefs that that's become the default."

This can then lead to a cycle of only consuming news and ideas that fall within that set of beliefs, and everything else is mentally shifted into a place of reduced credibility.

"Generally, there's been a decline in trust in sources," said Holland. "I've pulled up a couple of opinion polls from Gallup that's been doing a tracking poll for quite some time, and confidence in newspapers has been in the 20s."

"Those aren't good numbers," Dotray replied.

But unfortunately, those statistics reflect a reality for many Americans today, even if the sentiment goes all the way back to the American Revolution.

"Not believing the media is a much older look at the media than expecting

it to be true," said Dr. Bogener.

If that's the case, how can things such as speculation or outright lies be

based news reporting is confusing the matter even more.

"I think commentary has its place in political

discussions, but I don't think it should be depended on," said Dotray.

"What's key to that is to make it well known that it's commentary. Because I think sometimes the line gets blurred, and that's when it becomes an issue."

"CNN always gets called 'fake news,'" added Dotray. "They've kind of become the face of it. CNN is just bad is all. I don't think having six people arguing around a table [...] is helping anybody. Facts don't matter in those discussions. At all."

With all the cynicism and doubt about what is real and what isn't in the media that has apparently been around since the dawn of media itself, why is the press the single profession that the country's founders decided to pro-

tect in the United States Constitution?

"I think it has to do with their experiences at the time, and what they saw,"

were trying to develop at the time."

Holland came at the question from a more practical point of view.

"There's certainly no greater check on the power of government or individual politicians than information," said Holland.

"Often times, the media is called the fourth branch of government, or 'the fourth estate,' and I think that's a very apt term."

The consensus from the entire panel was ultimately a positive one: that regardless of how effective legitimate news organizations currently are at rebutting the accusations of being "fake news," if readers and viewers try to occasionally step outside their bubbles, our country may just make it through to the other side, possibly even a little bit more informed than we were before.

"I think you need to read both sides of the story," said Dr. Bogener, "and make an educated decision, rather than just jump on the train that you like the best."

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David Williams, Dr. Sharon Bogener, Tim Holland, and Matt Dotray discuss freedom of the press during Constitution Day on Sept. 29 in the Sundown Room on the Levelland Campus.
MATT MOLINAR/PLAINSMAN PRESS

differentiated inside a media that is generally distrusted by the public at large? Is it the responsibility of the press or the people to make this distinction?

"You have to really consider the source of what you're looking at," said David Williams, news director at KCBD-TV in Lubbock. "I think there's a very distinct difference between your local media and the national media."

Williams added, "Somebody once told me, and I try to always remember this: people will rarely remember who had the story first, but they'll never forget if you get it wrong."

Some could argue that putting pundits giving opinionated commentary so close to actual fact-

based news reporting is confusing the matter even more.

"I think commentary has its place in political discussions, but I don't think it should be depended on," said Dotray. "What's key to that is to make it well known that it's commentary. Because I think sometimes the line gets blurred, and that's when it becomes an issue."

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Benefit event raises money for Wharton County Junior College

by ANNIE GOLDEN
Editorial Assistant

Talented commercial music students drew a large crowd for the benefit concert that will provide financial help to Wharton County Junior College.

The idea for the Texans Helping Texans benefit concert came up when Dr. Robin Satterwhite, president of South Plains College, approached Dr. Stan DeMerritt, vice president of student affairs, about what, if anything, the college could do to help. Then they sought out the director of student life.

Since Hurricane Har-

the Sundown Room of the Student Center on the Levelland campus.

When the Creative Arts Department got involved, they wanted to make sure it would help another community college and reached out to several community colleges to get an idea about who needed help. Wharton County Junior College really caught their attention, because the school is smaller than the surrounding schools. The college also had 30 faculty, staff and students who were homeless due to the hurricane.

What also drew attention was the video they

coordinator for Commercial Music, and he liked the idea as well.

"We were scrambling to put something together quickly, so he got with his wonderfully talented students to put something together," English said.

The concert raised \$400 for WCJC.

In the beginning, everyone who put on the show was nervous about a smaller turnout. But the event drew a large crowd.

"We are strong as a community, but Texas is also a community," English said, "I think we really want to start bringing our communities together."



Bray Peevy and T.J. Gutierrez, students from the Creative Arts Department, performing with their band Misdirectory in the Sundown Room on the Levelland campus on Oct. 5.

THALIA GONZALEZ/PLAINSMAN PRESS

vey had already passed, a lot of the relief efforts such as food, water, clothing and immediate relief projects had already been taken on. So when the faculty and students organizing the event got the project up and running, it was more about rebuilding. Helping the community in the area rebuild was the main goal of the fundraising effort, Texans Helping Texans, which was held Oct. 5 in

posted online called "#pioneerscare." The hashtag came from their school mascot, the pioneers. After watching the video, SPC decided that was really where help was needed and decided to extend their efforts to WCJC.

Miranda English, the new director of Student Life at SPC, said the first idea was a benefit concert, and so she visited with Sonny Borba, program

We want other communities across Texas to know that we care and are here. We all share the same kind of small-town community values across the state and we really want to get our students more active in community service and civic involvement, because if we don't do it, who will?"

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Former sex slave recalls nightmare she lived

by **DEZ MENDEZ**
Feature Editor

{Editors note: This article contains adult material and is a true story}

Never in her wildest dreams would she have thought it would happen to her. Once a sex slave, Sally Richardson now uses her trauma to help others.

Human trafficking is believed to be the third largest criminal activity in the world. In January 2013, Richardson's worst nightmare would come true.

Human trafficking is when a person is forced to engage in sex acts through force, fraud or coercion.

Some think that something like that couldn't happen to someone they know. It happens all over the world, as women and children are forced into sex acts for money or for work.

Richardson's nightmare began shortly after she met her husband, who turned out to be her trafficker. They met online and began dating. She began working for her trafficker at his regular job with no pay, and then shortly after, he started to traffic her for sex.

"I ended up marrying my trafficker for a brief period, and he exploited and trafficked me between January 2013 – August 2014," said Richardson. "I also suffered severe domestic abuse."

Richardson was awakened by her then husband one night and told to get up and cover up her ugliness. He then drove her to a hotel, told her a room number, slammed the car door and drove off.

"It was that moment when the car door slammed that my boyfriend became my trafficker," said Richardson.

Anytime she would beg not to go, the more violent her trafficker would become, and the worse the abuse would get.

Richardson's trafficker would take photos of her for the ads that he would use to "sell" her. There are guys in towns that will take pictures of girls in hotel



Sally Richardson, a survivor of human trafficking, is traveling around the United States to help other survivors and victims. Photos courtesy of Sally Richardson.

beds to be sold, according to Richardson.

Richardson's trafficker took her to meet guys all over the Midwest and South Dakota. Richardson said she would take pictures of billboards and signs, waiting for the right time to call for help.

Anytime she would show signs of wanting to leave or tried to leave, her trafficker would threaten to harm himself. This is how they manipulate their

having to perform CPR

for 47 minutes until the rescue team arrived at the "hell house" that I lived at for two years," said Richardson. At the time of the

Richardson would spend

time wondering if her and her daughters were going to live or survive. Her trafficker tried to make them get rid of the baby that her daughter was pregnant with, but they never did. "Nothing mattered to my trafficker," recalls Richardson. "I was nothing but a source of income for him to display at his day job. Then at night I would become his slave."

It took Richardson seven months of going through a hellish divorce before she would be somewhat free from her trafficker. Even though she was divorced from him, it still didn't mean that she would not suffer from PTSD, anxiety, or OCD. At times, it can be very hard for her to leave the comfort of her home.

"I never know what might trigger a PTSD episode, and knowing that I can't control when or where it strikes," said Richardson. She spends most of her time with her therapist

pregnant at the time.

and trying to help others Richardson's attorney argued on her behalf in front of the Supreme Court in South Dakota. With Richardson's testimony, South Dakota passed laws in order to help end human trafficking in the state. HB1118 eliminates the need to prove the use of force, fraud, or coercion in the human trafficking of minors, passed both the South Dakota House and Senate with unanimous approval and signed into law by Governor Dennis Daugaard on March 10, 2017.

Also, SB102 requires "that the name and telephone number of an organization fighting to end sex trafficking be given, in writing, to any woman seeking an abortion." It passed both the South Dakota House and Senate with just one nay vote. It was signed into law by Governor Daugaard on March 10, 2017.

After she helped the two bills to be passed into law, Richardson knew she didn't want to stop there. She needed to help as many survivors as she could. Richardson and Lynn DiSanto, a psychologist and friend, then

who have been or are

going through what she has been through. It is a self-healing process to help others. "It hasn't been easy, this journey of mine," said Richardson. "I often weep. I weep because I know what it is to truly lose everything that each


and every one takes for granted on a daily basis. I weep for the loss of all my freedoms. I weep because of the long, lonely road I have traveled. I weep because I was lucky enough to escape from my trafficker, but there are still so many who are still trapped and suffering their silent HELL called Human Trafficking and Domestic Abuse. Mostly, I weep because I know what a treacherous journey I still have ahead of me."

On October 3, 2016,



victims into not leaving, or seeking help, according to Richardson.

abuse, her two daughters were living with them, including one who was



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created <https://www.fightingagainstrafficking.org>.

"I know I have a long journey ahead of me and a constant battle ahead of me," said Richardson. "But I will help as many people along the way as I can till I have to pass the torch."

For more information, you can visit <https://www.fightingagainstrafficking.org>

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October 16, 2017

Plainsman Press

Professor uses experience to educate students

by ANNIE GOLDEN
Editorial Assistant

A lifetime of experiences has given Jay Hoes wisdom to educate his students.

Hoes was born and raised in San Angelo, and eventually moved to Lubbock. When he was younger, Hoes played football until he no longer could and took an interest in baseball. He later earned a bachelor's degree in animal business management at Texas Tech University and a master's degree in meat science and muscle biology.

Hoes ended up in the video production field because he had major professors decide they wanted to do a meat judging series. Fortunately, he had experience with electronics and meat judging.

Hoes began his teaching career at South Plains College 16 years ago when Billy Alonzo, associate professor of radio, television and film, at South Plains College, called one day to see if he would be interested in teaching editing classes. Hoes thought teaching would be an interesting change in his life. He said his favorite part about teaching is all of the

different types of people he has met and continues to meet. He mentioned that he will probably still be teaching in five to 10 years and can't imagine what else he would be doing instead.

"I teach a class called Introduction to Cinema," Hoes said. "Now that class is part of the common core. I get to meet students literally from all over the campus".

Hoes teaches classes at the Levelland campus and Reese Center. He said he hopes to teach at the Lubbock Center in the spring. He says that linear editing has totally upgraded video technology and efficiency.

Hoes recently celebrated his 20th wedding anniversary with his wife Ronda. The Hoes family consists of a son, Tristan, who currently attends Coronado High School as a junior. Hoes says his son, who plays percussion, is a better musician than he ever was. The couple also have a 10-year-old daughter, Cailyn, who attends Whiteside Elementary School. Hoes says his

daughter is into theatre, acting and singing. She was in the Moonlight Musicals production, "Tom Sawyer," during the summer and will be in

Primarily women attend the classes, but on date night the number of men who go to enjoy art grows. On date night, two people share a single painting on

Steve Williams, Mike Carraway and Darren Welch (all instructors at SPC), who played on the song. Dolf Guardiola did the engineering of the

friends, who performed and sang it.

Hoes had an experience at the Super Bowl in Arlington in 2011 when he got to work as a camera operator for ESPN for a studio show before and after the game. Through the years, he has worked mostly college games, but has experience in Major League Baseball and the NBA. In Lubbock, Hoes frequently covers Texas Tech football games and most of the men's basketball games at Texas Tech University.

Eventually, when Hoes retires, he plans to travel. But, retiring isn't in the way of his traveling. He recently returned from a weekend trip to Kansas to work at an NCAA football game. Hoes has a trip to Hawaii planned for his son's school band performance in June, though school band isn't the only type of band experience Hoes has. He used to play drums, guitar and keyboard.

"I think we all have a tendency to look back and think about regrets," Hoes said, "but I don't know that I have any major regrets. For the most part, I'm pretty happy with where I am."

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Photo courtesy of spotted-lubbock.com

the upcoming "Miracle on 34th Street" in Lubbock. He said she has a lot of credentials for her young age. Also, the Hoes family has three dogs and one cat that complete their family.

Hoes' wife Ronda is the current Lubbock franchise owner of Painting with a Twist. At Painting with a Twist, Hoes says it is as simple as following directions. The purpose in the company name is the "twist" on the way they teach painting.

two canvases to create one masterpiece.

During his free time, Hoes works as a freelance camera operator and replay operator for Fox Sports, NBC, and ESPN, among others. Also, for a very long time, he has been a singer and songwriter. Hoes recently released a song called "Texas Proud, Texas Strong." He is donating the proceeds from the downloads to rebuildtx.org. He gives credit to

performance. Chip Polk sang the song, and also does the music portion of the Ragtown Gospel shows. He recorded the song with help from the Creative Arts Department at SPC.

Out of all of his original music, one of his favorite songs he wrote was "It's About You and Me" for a United Way fundraising campaign. A music video for the song won some awards. Hoes had a lot of fun with local musician

Author gives insight into creation of 'Downton Abbey'

by TYLER YORK
Online Editor

Local fans of "Downton Abbey" recently had the opportunity to hear Jessica Fellowes speak about her experience writing about the real-life history that inspired the award-winning TV series.

The event, held on Oct. 8, was in celebration of the Friends of the Public Library's 50th anniversary. Lubbock Mayor Dan Pope read a proclamation declaring Oct. 8, 2017 as Friends of the Public Library Day.

Jessica Fellowes is the niece of Julian Fellowes, creator and sole writer of the show. She is the author of the series of Downton Abbey companion books, and was invited to Lubbock to give some insight about some specific goings-on

in front of and behind the camera.

"I'm always overwhelmed by the generosity, and the kindness, and the hugeness of Texas," said Fellowes about her visit.

"Downton Abbey" takes place in and around a fictional estate in England between 1912 and 1926.

It closely follows the wealthy Crawley family, who resides there, along with a full team of servants tasked with keeping the

estate and the family's lives running smoothly. The real-life milestone events that occurred around that time in history

shape the lives of both the upstairs and downstairs families in sometimes starkly different ways.

According to Fellowes,

climbing a potentially prosperous career ladder.

Fellowes explained that the two groups from upstairs and downstairs

are watching the show."

Fellowes also gave a little bit of insight into the filming process, highlighting the difficulty of filming the challenging dinner scenes. Some scenes could take a grueling 10 hours to film to completion. These moments combined almost the entire cast in one place, which proved to be tricky when dealing with continuity.

"You can be watching a footman enter a door somewhere," Fellowes said, "and emerge in the dining room a real-life two weeks later."

Ultimately, Fellowes remembers a positive and uplifting message told to her by her uncle as to why the show is so widely loved.

"Julian says the reason the show has been so successful is because we like to watch fundamentally decent people make their way through life," said Fellowes.

Fellowes's works include "Mud and the City: Dos and Don'ts for Townies in the Country," released in 2008, "A Year in the Life of Downton Abbey: Seasonal Celebrations, Traditions, and Recipes" released in 2014, and "The Wit and Wisdom of Downton Abbey" in 2015. She has written seven books, which can be found on Amazon and through her website, www.jessicafellowes.com.

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Jessica Fellowes explains the historical context of "Downton Abbey" at the Lubbock Municipal Auditorium on Oct. 8.
STACY JOHNSON/PLAINSMAN PRESS

are shown in the series to

in rural England in the early 1900s, the education system was only designed to carry children through to the age of 12, and was intended to provide the most basic necessities in terms of life skills.

Some might view servitude as a lowly or unappreciated vocation, but according to Fellowes, it was a career path many aspired to at the time.

"If you lived in a rural area of England, there were really only two options for work," the author explained. "One was to farm, and the other was to go into service."

But it didn't mean settling for a role that was looked down upon. Servitude was a big opportunity to learn useful skills, along with providing a structure for

were't as different as they seem on the surface.

When news of the first World War first came in over the radio, it united the two worlds in a real and human way. In fact, Fellowes said the invention of the radio changed the method and frequency of how people took in news.

Another interesting angle Fellowes brought up was the suggestion for viewers to analyze the show by looking at it through the lens of the servants.

"They liked to gossip as their source of entertainment, about the house, about the family," said Fellowes. "So they're actually watching the upstairs family much in the same way we, as the audience,



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Internship at national park brings student closer to dream

by MATT MOLINAR
Editor-in-Chief

Ever since she was 10 years old, Antonieta Wescott has been pursuing her dream of becoming an interpretative park ranger.

The general studies major at South Plains College says she has a passion for researching history through anthropology.

“Anthropology is the study of homo sapiens,” she explained. “So basically I get to study different cultural societies, different subcultures, and I get to study the first humans on Earth.”

Wescott, a sophomore from Lubbock, says her interest in anthropology will play a very large role in her future career in the National Parks Service. In 10 years, Wescott plans on working in a national park as a park ranger.

Wescott says her love of national parks has been inspired by her father and grandfather since she was 7 years old.

“My dad has always been a mountain man,” Wescott said. “He has always taken me and my family out since I was a little girl. I remember my first days out at Big Bend,

sitting at a campground and opening a cabbage patch doll for my birthday. It’s just in me.”

This summer, Wescott was offered an internship at the Valles Caldera National Reserve in New Mexico, where she worked as an interpretive park ranger.

“Interpretive park rangers are the face of the park,” she explained. “My job was to give important information to the visitors who came to our park. I would hand out maps and give directions. I also had to do my own research on different anthropological notes.”

She was offered the internship by her mentor, Marin Karraker, who has been in the parks department for 30 years.

“I actually met her at San Juan Island National Park in Washington,” Wescott recalled. “Now, she’s over here in New Mexico at the Valles Caldera. That’s how I got the opportunity. It was the second internship I have gotten to do. I got to dip into every division out there. I was very thankful for the opportunity.”

Using resources from the park’s library, Wescott

educated herself on all of the information she would need to inform visitors of the park during hike tours. She says she was glad to have the opportunity to research a park that was new to her.

Wescott says she was given cliff notes of archaeological discoveries from research that dates back to the 1920s.

“It was my job to research from different time stamps,” Wescott said. “I would take those notes and use them in my own speech while giving tours, from my own perspective on the resource. And that’s what this park is. It’s one big resource, and I got to choose what I wanted to talk about.”

During her time at the Valles Caldera, Wescott did her research on the indigenous people who lived there before American settlement and call it home today. She also researched park safety awareness, as well as the ecosystem of the reserve.

“It was a lot of research I had to do,” Wescott said. “I worked out there by myself for a good month, and this reserve is huge. In 89,000 acres, I got to learn a lot.”



Antonieta Wescott spent her summer as an intern for Valles Caldera national park.

Photo courtesy of Antonieta Wescott

Blanchette and Johnny Depp have worked.

“Robert Taylor’s cabin was actually just two miles down the road from where my lodge was,” she said. “Hollywood production sets will go out there thanks to the third and last private owner, the Bond family.”

Wescott says that out of the many national parks she has visited, the Valles Caldera is one that is unique to her. Because the park was not registered as a national reserve until 2015, Wescott says that the resources in the land have gone almost untouched, giving her a new experience.

“This place is an oasis,” she said. “The view out there is one of its own. It’s so unheard of. This is a brand new national park.”

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Alum utilizes skills learned to build successful radio station

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

by AUTUMN BIPPERT
Opinion Editor

Tania Moody has come a long way from working in sales at the local radio station as a way to earn extra money for college, to owning the very same station.

“When I decided in 2006 that I would go back to school, that’s when I got my bachelor’s degree,” Moody explained. “Well, I needed extra money to pay for college. I knew I could do sales, so I came out here to the

radio station and they had a position available.”

“I got hired and did sales for several years,” Moody continues, “and then I was moved up to sales manager. I did that for a couple of years, and then I became station manager. Then, in 2011, the previous owner decided that he wanted to acquire some other radio stations. So the guy that was the station manager for that Littlefield station actually asked him if he could purchase the station. So he came to me and said, ‘Well, Cody is going to purchase the Littlefield station, so would you be interested in purchasing



Tania Moody, host and owner of KLVT, sitting at her studio.
AUTUMN BIPPERT/PLAINSMAN PRESS

that Levelland station?”

After the owner asked Moody if she wanted to buy the station, she decided to lease it in 2012 as a trial to see if she would

be able to handle it. A year later, Moody made the decision to sign the papers and buy KLVT.

Moody has been able to maintain the station so well with her experience with all parts of KLVT.

“I’ve been through all the different jobs here at the station, except for I have not ever called sports and I haven’t ever really been on the news desk,” said Moody. “But I have done some news stories and that sort of thing. But mainly I’ve done sales, management and just all of the particulars that you that to do with the FCC to maintain your license.”

Moody attended SPC several times, starting in 1989.

During her college career, she went through many different degree plans, ranging from commercial music to journalism.

“I kind of didn’t finish any one degree, but I had enough hours to finish several different degrees,” said Moody. “Then eventually I went back and got

my associate’s in 2007. It was an Associate of Arts degree, and then I went and got my bachelor’s from Kaplan University.”

Moody credits a lot of her success in the industry to South Plains College.

“I got a lot of really good foundational learning from South Plains College that has allowed me to transition into all this,” Moody explains. “And I would credit many of the instructors at SPC. John Sparks, in the Communication Department, he was very instrumental in some of the things I use day to day, like asking good questions and being able to listen. And the importance, especially in today’s world, of reporting facts.”

“Journalistic integrity is at an all-time low,” Moody added. “I really feel like having those mentors really kind of guided my compass. We work really hard to verify all of the news that we put out. When we do our news or our sports report, my staff knows how im-

portant it is that we do not jump the gun, and we do maintain integrity and our relationships with all of these people around the area.”

Many of Moody’s family members also have been a part of SPC. Her father, Rusty Huddleston, was an instructor in commercial music, and her mother, Schahara Huddleston, was an English professor. Her husband, Stuart Moody, is the chairperson of the Creative Arts Department and associate professor of sound technology.

Moody and her staff at KLVT are all involved in the Levelland community. Moody also serves as the president of the Levelland Independent School District Board of Education. She has served on the school board for nine years.

“I feel like that strengthens relationships and builds trust,” Moody said, “and they’ll trust us with stories where they would not with someone else that’s cold calling from a news organization. Building that trust in a small community is vital to serving the community well.”

Moody focuses on making her station a tool for the community and a support system for the region.

“I feel like a lot of times a smaller community gets slighted a little bit by the larger news organizations” Moody explains, “and so it’s really my goal and commitment to this area to just make this hometown station for these small communities.”

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New season of 'Rick and Morty' darker than ever

by **AUTUMN BIPPERT**
Editorial Assistant

The return of Adult Swim's animated show "Rick and Morty" was long awaited by many fans.

It was an 18-month wait between seasons, since the last episode of season 2, "The Wedding Squanchers" came out Oct. 4, 2015.

The first episode of season 3, "The Rickshank Rickdemption," streamed online on April 1, 2017.

Season 3 has been by far the darkest season fans have seen yet, with each character having a mental break in one way or another, and leaving many unanswered questions about events that occurred.

In "The Rickshank Rickdemption," the main character, Rick Sanchez, is in galactic prison, seemingly abandoning his family to an Earth under federation rule.

The episode opens with a happy reunion with his family in Shoney's, though it is nothing more than a mental construct created as the Federation's scientists attempt to mine his brain for useful scientific secrets. But Rick proves to be very difficult to get any information out of. He takes the Federation

agent to McDonald's, circa 1998, when McDonald's was still serving the Mulan Szechuan sauce, a nugget sauce promoting the Disney movie "Mulan." This part was honestly my favorite, because, like always, Rick was blowing off something serious for something pointless that most people had forgotten about.

Meanwhile, his grandson, Morty Smith, and his family are back on Earth, which is now being run by the Galactic Federation. Unhappy with their current way of life, Summer Smith, Rick's other grandkid, decides to save Rick, and digs up the portal gun buried by Rick in the backyard next to his own alternate-dimension corpse.

Morty tries to prevent Summer from doing so. They end up transported to his "cronenburg-world" family, which he and Rick had abandoned previously. After they arrive and destroy Conroy, Morty explains to Summer during dinner this world is proof that Rick does not care about anyone, especially his family.

Morty trying to convince his sister, Summer, that Rick doesn't care about anyone made me upset. It seemed he had given up all faith in Rick.

In the end, Rick comes through, proving he didn't abandon his family, and

best of the season, because of the comedy and a look at how far Rick will go to avoid his feelings. In this episode, Rick changes himself into a pickle to get out of family therapy with his daughter, Beth Smith, and his grandkids. They

Rick's who want payback. They try to convince him to help kill Rick. I enjoyed this episode because it's different from the normal main characters. It shows that the writers can do more than the normal dynamic.



destroying the Rick Citadel, a group of Ricks from other timelines who have created their own government.

In episode 2,

figure out what he's doing and take the anti-pickle serum. Rick goes through an adventure in the sewer to survive and to get to Beth, who took the serum.

In "Rest and Ricklaxation," episode 6, Rick and Morty go on a break to a spa where they remove their toxins, which in turn take a



"Rickmancing the Stone," the family dynamic starts to change and the dark side of the characters starts to come out. Morty and Summer are trying to deal with the divorce of their parents. Rick takes them to a "Mad Max"-style world to work out anger while he tries to steal a green crystal from this world. In this episode, more of Summer's

In episode 4, "Vindicators 3: The Return of Worldender," Rick starts to get jealous when Morty idolizes these so-called heroes, the Vindicators. Rick and Morty are summoned by the Vindicators to stop Worldender but end up in a deathtrap conceived by Drunk Rick. This is one of the episodes where you can really tell how messed up Rick is. He gets drunk and plans out a crazy "Saw"-like maze for the Vindicators, just for the sake of proving how much better he is than them.

Throughout the season, each character gets their own episode, giving the fans a view of how they're all affected throughout the season. Episode

involvement with Rick is more notable, probably because of all the abandonment she has seen lately. I think this is one of the worst episodes of the season. It doesn't offer as much substance as the others.

Episode 3, "Pickle Rick," has to be one of the

5 gives Jerry Smith, Rick's son-in-law, his very own episode. After the divorce, Jerry goes into a depression, and Rick takes Jerry on a sympathy adventure to a resort where everyone is immortal when there. While there, Jerry meets some old acquaintances of

about themselves. They have to confront these problems and realize that they need all the negative parts of themselves as well for their dynamic to truly work.

Episode 7, "The Ricklantis Mixup," gives a look at how the Citadel has rebuilt itself since Rick destroyed it and kill all of the leaders. I suppose some people wondered what had become of the Citadel, but I found the episode pointless. I'm not saying it wasn't well written, but it was pointless to the story arc of the season.

"Morty's Mind Blowers," episode 8, was a fantastic episode. It looks back on all the memories Morty has asked Rick to get rid of for him. At some point, while going through all of these memories, both Rick and Morty lose their memories and have no idea what is happening. Their only clues are all the memories. As Morty is going through them to figure out what's going on, he starts to get angry at Rick. That makes me wonder if this is foreshadowing and soon their dynamic is no longer going to work, tearing apart their relationship. In the end, their memories get put back to before the whole event.

Episode 9, "The ABC's of Beth," is by far my favorite of the season. Rick brings Beth to a world he created for her when she was younger. Beth looks for a long-lost childhood friend trapped there for years. This episode gives more context to their relationship. Beth deals with her abandonment issues with Rick, and realizes that her and Rick aren't that much different after all. Beth is just as smart as her dad, ever since she was a kid. It also shows how dark of a child she was. During this

episode, Rick gives Beth an option to leave her life and explore her potential, telling her he can make a clone and no one, not even the clone, will know she had left.

In the season finale, "The Rickchurian Mortydate," a lot happens while still maintaining a seemingly pointless adventure. Rick gets tangled up in a confrontation with the President, after he and Morty blow off a mission he requested them for. During this episode, Beth is questioning if she's the real Beth or not.

The confrontation escalates further and further as Rick tries to prove that nothing, not even the president, can stop him. In this process, Morty steals his portal gun and takes his family, his father included, to somewhere safe. Between Beth questioning herself and the drama of the day, Beth and Jerry get back together. This puts the whole family back to the beginning again, even saying they are "hitting the reset button, it'll be like nothing changed." I honestly don't know how I feel about this ending. So much had happened, and now everyone is going right back to where they started.

Season 3 ending leaves me with a lot of questions. Some of those are what does "hitting the reset button" mean for the next season of 'Rick and Morty'? Is Beth Smith even the real Beth, or is she a clone? Most importantly, when will Season 4 begin? Are fans going to have to wait another 18 months?

Hopefully the wait won't last too long for fans to find what season 4 will bring for "Rick and Morty."

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'Grand Theft Auto' remembered for changing world of games

by TYLER YORK
Online Editor

"Grand Theft Auto" just might be the most infamous name in video game history.

With 15 titles released on nearly every platform imaginable in the past two decades, October 2017 marks not just the 20th anniversary of the first game in the "Grand Theft Auto" series, but also the beginning of an unstoppable pop culture juggernaut's inevitable future.

Looking back at the original game, it would be fair to call it a humble beginning. For how far the series has come in recent years in terms of graphical achievements and the sheer number of things players can take part in, the original GTA might look to some—at least by today's standards—like something coded in a living room during a three-day weekend.

In the first game, re-

leased in October 1997 and unassumingly titled "Grand Theft Auto," the player navigates their way through six levels in a top-down view of pixelated city streets. The game is

organized crime factions of each city.

Engaging in casual crime to earn money and advance through a story has become something of an easy framework for

doing in 1997 was relying on a simple principle that seems like a given to modern AAA open-world game audiences: freedom of choice.

There are very few re-

what most players expect now as the de-facto open-world experience.

But even from the start, it was far from being a shining beacon of wholesome family entertainment.

The tremendous prevalence of graphic violence and sexual content in the game led many publications to critically blast the game for being gratuitous and tasteless, with a complete ban of the game issued in Brazil. This was before later games in the series introduced more realistic 3-D visuals, which amped up the bloody action even further.

Throughout the course of the 20 years the game series has been around, there have been at least a dozen lawsuits filed against the developers and retailers for creating and selling a game that—the suits claimed—incites youth into real-life violence, and teaches young children that murder and

crime is a worthwhile profession.

The most recent iteration in the series, "Grand Theft Auto V," still features crime as its main story catalyst. But it's quite literally a whole new world. Players can play together online in a nearly life-sized city, with scores of things to do to entertain themselves. More surprisingly, a sizeable amount of them don't even involve crime at all. Tucked away in one part of the city is a plain old golf course where players can play a few rounds.

The way it's going, it would not be surprising, and even a little exciting, to see future GTA titles incorporate occupational alternatives to becoming a professional criminal. Maybe they could even forgo the theft of automobiles completely. But for now, even with all its legal and moral ups and downs, GTA has changed pop culture at large. And the world of video games will never be the same, for better or worse.

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split between three different cities, and the player earns points to progress by committing an assortment of crimes, tasked by the

modern game developers. In unskilled hands, it can be a boring and unimpressive experience. But what almost nobody was

restrictions put on the player in GTA for how to complete a mission, and most of the time, as long as the destination or result is correct, players can use any routes and methods they like to reach a goal. This was groundbreaking in the action game space at the time, paving the way for

course of the 20 years the game series has been around, there have been at least a dozen lawsuits filed against the developers and retailers for creating and selling a game that—the suits claimed—incites youth into real-life violence, and teaches young children that murder and

Life of young girl goes south in 'Ingrid goes West'

by REBECCA RUIZ
Editorial Assistant

"Ingrid Goes West" is an indie comedy-drama movie that narrates the story of a young girl following the death of her mother.

After a few self-inflicted setbacks, she decides to move to Los Angeles, California to follow and befriend her Instagram obsession, Taylor Sloane (played by Elizabeth Olsen). Ingrid Thorburn (played by Audrey Plaza) is an ill and lonely young woman who lives in Pennsylvania and is extremely obsessed with social media. She becomes obsessed with random people and wishes

new Instagram obsession. So she moves to California and starts stalking her by following her posts and going to the same places Taylor does so that Ingrid can meet her, be best friends, impress her and be just like her.

After Ingrid moves to California, her Instagram obsession replies to her on one of her comments. Then she tries to impress Taylor and her husband Russel. Ingrid moves to the same neighborhood as Taylor. She gets an apartment with a screenwriter obsessed with Batman named Dan Pinto.

This is when all the stalking starts. Ingrid starts visiting the same café shops and restaurants as Taylor does. One day, Ingrid stole Taylor's

Taylor's brother Nicky comes along and creates a wedge between the two women. Later on, Nicky senses that vibe that something is going on with Ingrid and their relationship is not normal. He gets the chance to look over Ingrid's cell phone and sees the obsession that Ingrid has with Taylor.

Nicky blackmails Ingrid to keep him from showing Taylor all the pictures and all the information she has in her phone. Ingrid would agree to pay for him to rent out her phone to Ingrid.

Ingrid and Dan plan the kidnapping of Nicky, where they abusively hit, punch, and kick him to the point where they tried to kill him.

After Nicky tells Taylor about the kidnapping and Ingrid's obsession on the phone, Taylor breaks off her friendship with Ingrid. So Ingrid decides

Friendships, lives get 'Super Dark' in original movie

by TYLER YORK
Online Editor

"Super Dark Times" takes a sharp turn from childhood innocence to complete mental and emotional chaos.

It's an indie movie that, on the surface at least, looks like your everyday coming-of-age story. In the first act, a group of high school friends do what regular high school friends do. They ride their bikes around town. They spend most of their time goofing off in the woods and in each other's houses. They talk about superheroes, and girls, and they make fun of nearly everything that moves.

They make stupid decisions, just like every teenager has done at one point or another. But a sudden and horrifically violent accident in the woods completely derails the course of both the film and their lives. As the psychological thriller begins in earnest, not one of these friends knows how to handle it.

It's likely a familiar feeling for many, this idea of finally realizing that your actions have consequences, and not being able to do anything to affect the result of what has already happened.

There have been a number of stories like this one, where some unintentional mishap completely changes the lives of a group of best friends. Where "Super Dark Times" succeeds

in places that others might have failed is the simple fact that nobody ever knows the right course of action.

These aren't teenagers with unrealistically developed reasoning, or logic, or anything even remotely resembling good decision-making skills.

story. It's not a drawback, though. With a story such as this, seeing a more recognizable actor's face might take you out of the immersion of the film.

In this case, the audience really gets to identify with these characters as something other than celebrities. These are the genuine faces of growing up, of making bad judgments, and of finding a way to outrun, or at least survive, what happens next. The friendship between Zach and Josh—played with impressive reality by Owen Campbell and Charlie Tahan, respectively—is raw and comforting. That is what makes the unease so much more impactful as it starts to unravel, at first with a friendly rivalry over a girl they both like, and later for more ominous reasons.

This film is also just genuinely funny. It's not "funny for a thriller," not for an indie movie; there are no qualifiers necessary. The comedy in this movie, while in short supply as the film goes on, and in stark contrast to the horrific things that unfold, brightens the story in a very real and understandable way.

For the whole package—a movie that thinks as hard as it feels, and a brilliant original story that leaves the audience purposefully shaken, uncomfortable, and genuinely touched—I give "Super Dark Times" a 9 out of 10.



she could have their not-so-"perfect" life.

After her mother's death and going through the pain and her not-so-normal behavior, she gets sent to a psychiatric hospital. Later on, she gets a letter notifying her of an inheritance. Her mom has left her \$60,000.

When the movie begins, Ingrid wants to crash a wedding by pepper spraying Mace in the face for not inviting her. They weren't even friends. It was just that Ingrid was obsessed with Mace's Instagram feed since Ingrid felt they had a strong connection.

After Ingrid gets her inheritance, she decides to use that money to stalk her

famous dog so that she could "return" it as a favor. They were so grateful that she returned the dog that Taylor and her husband invited her over for dinner and to get to know each other.

As the dinner goes along, the not-so-perfect parts of Taylor start showing, but Ingrid was completely blind to all the signs in front of her. After that happens, Taylor becomes charmed with her new best friend, Ingrid. They start doing the same things, going to the same restaurants, buying the same exact things. Ingrid would photograph every little thing, such as medication bottles that Taylor would take.

to buy the house next to theirs. She would break up their parties and still tried to stalk Taylor.

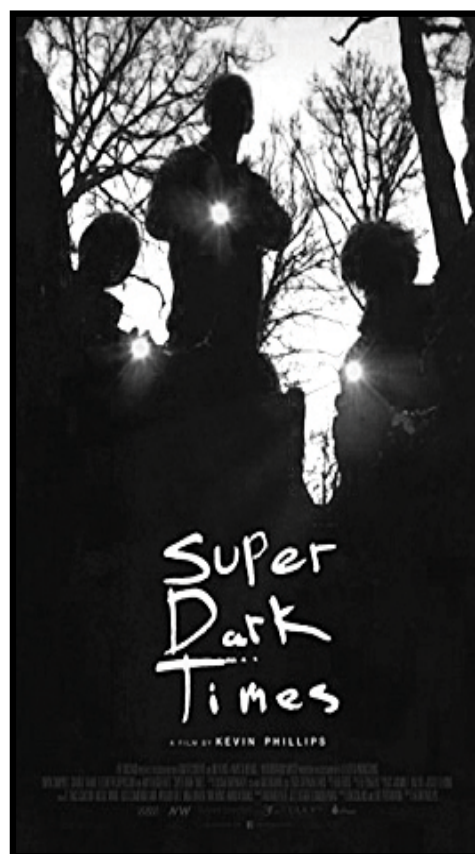
The Sloane family tells Ingrid many times to stop stalking them, to finally leave them alone and that she needs mental help.

Ingrid is an unstable stalker, capable of doing horrible things to get what she wants. This sadly happens nowadays in society, where people want to be like someone else.

I really like this movie. I will rate it 9.5 / 10.

9.5/10

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9/10

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'Flatliners' lacks structure, necessary horror elements

by ADÁN RUBIO
Staff Writer

A near-death experience is something no one wants to encounter. But the intrigue of witnessing the after-life is something that could make the experience worthwhile.

The movie, "Flatliners," a sequel to the 1990 film with the same name, features Ellen Page as Courtney Holmes, a medical student who wants to learn about what people experience after they die.

With the help of her friends, Jamie (James Norton) and Sophia (Kiersey Clemons), Courtney begins an experiment in the basement of a hospital where she flatlines and experiences the afterlife.

Courtney's view of the afterlife consists of her floating around the city and witnessing familiar places while also encountering areas that she had yet to experience. Courtney also sees orbs of energy and grand displays of bright lights before she is resuscitated at the last minute by her friends, who re-

ceived help from their other colleagues, Ray (Diego Luna) and Marlo (Nina Dobrev).

After flatlining, Courtney starts to experience moments of complete happiness and high energy. She is able recall information that she never learned and can perform feats that she could not do before. Because of this, other characters experience flatlining and each gain a different experience, which will soon lead

Before the flatlining takes place, the movie presents each character in the hospital setting interacting with each other.

It is difficult to tell whether these characters are close friends or just competing medical students who want to be the best among their colleagues. The past relationship between Courtney and Sophia is lightly touched on at the beginning and never revisited, while the relationship between Jamie and Ray remains ambiguous as they are joking around or at each other's throats.

Some intense scenes or character interactions are ended abruptly or diminished with an unnecessary joke. Even when each character experiences moments of sudden uncontrollable joy after flatlining, the character interactions appear to be dull and forced. This type of acting and character

development continues to get worse even after the horror element of the movie is introduced.

Besides the acting and

a few reasons. The terror and panic of the morbid imagery, along with the psychological threats the characters must face, are

moments of pure happiness or peace due to flatlining, these moments happen right after the horror scenes, which break up the tension that was present and does not allow the panic to linger.

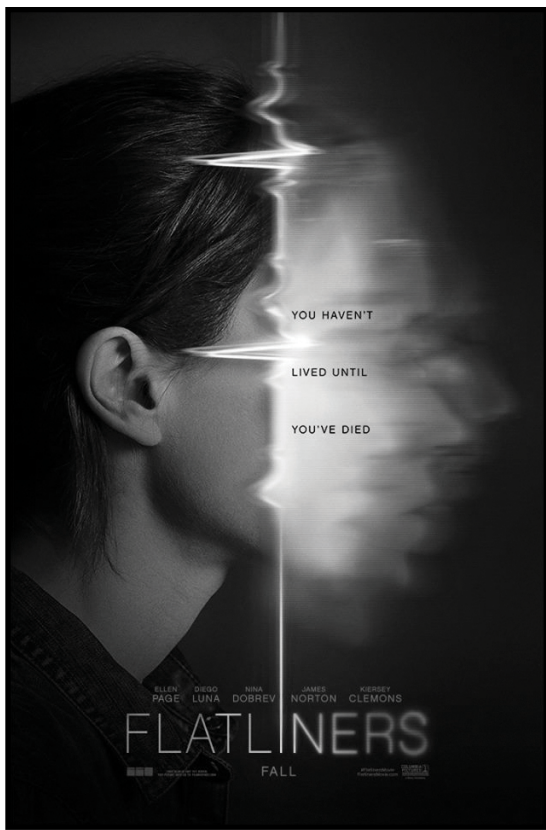
Never having watched the predecessor of this film, I think "Flatliners" is just not thrilling. The threat in the movie is silly, as it is casually mentioned that the things the characters are hallucinating are hunting them down, even though the imagery seems to be the prime focus of the horror. It is difficult to give credit to the scare factor of this PG-13 rated movie when the original was rated R and the overall horror is sloppily put together.

"Flatliners" has an interesting concept that is not utilized well enough, which leads to identity issues of whether the focus of the movie is the science fiction appeal or the horror. The movie is disorganized, and the story does not flow well before and during the horror scenes.

I give "Flatliners," a 3 out of 10.

3/10

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the characters, the horror and thriller element is the worst part of the movie.

After experiencing the joys of flatlining, the characters begin to hallucinate morbid images and reminders of their past sins, which leads to a mysterious force that begins to hunt the characters.

These horror elements are dull and pointless for

diminished due to the jump scares. One good thing is that the jump scares are not too abundant, but they still break up the tension whenever they appear midway in a creepy hallucination or in a chase scene.

Another reason for the lack of thrill is the organization of the movie. When the characters experience

Teamwork put into 'The Addams Family' accomplishes creative goals

by TYLER YORK
Online Editor

Family is the first thing people are born with. Many value it above everything else.

But family can also be something you choose, and that's been the experience of the Lubbock Community Theater in putting on their newest musical, "The Addams Family."

The show, which ran through October 15 at the Louise Hopkins Underwood Center for the Arts in downtown Lubbock, is an enormous endeavor for LCT. With a cast and crew of more than 40 people, it's easily the theater's largest show in many years, and the community has taken notice.

The show revolves around a family that is a morbid and irreverent spoof of the traditional American household: a wealthy but close-knit group of relatives who take pleasure in things that would normally disgust or terrify others, while oblivious to their outwardly frightening nature.

"It's been an adventure," said Heather May, the show's director. "But with this show, it talks so much about family and inclusion, and being there for each other no matter what. I like to put that into all my casts, but especially with this one."

For those unfamiliar with the musical incarnation, this story is not based on the television series, the string of feature films that followed, but on the feel of the original single-panel

comic strips that cartoonist Charles Addams drew for The New Yorker for nearly half a century.

It's a big concept, and putting on a play of this scale isn't an easy task by any account. But community theatre, as many of those involved have confirmed, has a way of bringing people together.

"This production is truly a huge example of 'community' theatre," said May. "So many people were like, 'you need this, you need this, yeah, we can help you with that.' A small theatre like LCT would not be able to put on as big a production without that support and those relationships and connections that we have through our community."

The teamwork is just as strong within the ensemble cast, but there are some obviously fantastic standouts. Kayla Rushing's Wednesday walks a fine line between sullen and energetic. Michelle

Tarbox as Morticia dances endlessly throughout the show, but never relinquishes her air of mysterious elegance. Whitney Garity as Fester narrates the show with an almost childlike innocence and unshakable delight, while Frank Rendon's irreverently charming Gomez feels like the solid, comic glue that holds the entire family together.

Charlie Schwieterman, the play's assistant

director, says that sense of teamwork is an intentional part of the "Addams Fam-

community theatre, in general.

"Every single person in there has a talent," Schwi-

Wednesday is now 18 years old and in love with a person the family just

can't accept or understand—an average, "normal" boy from Ohio. There's singing, there's dancing, and there's even an adaptable set assembled a few pieces at a time by characters in the show as it progresses.

One of the hardest jobs, onstage at least, actually falls on someone audiences may not expect.

"I'm a named character that's in the program, and I don't say anything," said Randy Cook, who plays Lurch, the family's silent butler. "It's the hardest role I've ever played.

For me, it's a great exercise as an actor. It's all about listening and reacting, and absolutely not about me initiating any action on the stage."

Overall, Cook says it's a relatable story about a family more like the rest of us than it might first appear.

"You come at this thing from a real dark perspective with this really odd family," said Cook. "But which one of us doesn't have an odd family that has darkness in it? They just display theirs out in front of God and everybody."



Lubbock Community Theater performed their newest musical on October 15.
TYLER YORK/PLAINSMEN PRESS

eterman says. "Every single person has multiple things that they bring to the table. It's really great to see this show evolve from what it was at the beginning, like two months ago, to now."

Community theatre is a collaborative effort that often means putting in many hours a week after school and work during several months, to accomplish creative goals and put together a complete performance.

"My main job is my side thing," said Schwieterman. "That's what I do to help support what I do here."

The musical tells a tale of growing up, as the brooding daughter

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'Dishonored: Death of the Outsider' honors previous installments

by RILEY GOLDEN
Entertainment Editor

"Death of the Outsider" follows Billie Lurk on a path of redemption and offers a fitting end to the current "Dishonored"

short duration, and "Blink," which gives players the ability to perform short-distance teleportation.

"Dishonored: Death of the Outsider" takes place around the same time as "Dishonored 2," about 15 years after the events of the

place, Semblance, and Void Strike.

When the player uses Foresight, time pauses and you're able to move outside of Billie's body to scout out the area, as well as to mark enemies and valuable items.

As much fun as it is, you don't have to play the game by sneaking around and assassinating people and hiding bodies. Fighting guards, overseers, or witches face to face is also quite fun when you get tired of sneaking, or

to fight your way out.

One time, I encountered a group of witches in a corridor area, and it was the perfect setting for me to counter all of their strikes and kill them. The animation that was performed on most of them severed

this is, it is in fact a game. I couldn't help but be hysterical when I realized that I was just standing over five or six severed bodies. It was so terrible that it was hilarious.

For as much as "Dishonored: Death of the Outsider" feels like an add-on or DLC (Downloadable Content), I am surprised by how different the animations for killing people are. There are similarities to the kills from the first two games, but they are in fact different, which I appreciate quite a bit.

One of the only things I would say this game is lacking is a power similar to Slow Time from the first two games. Slow time is great for stringing kills together, although Billie still has a capable enough arsenal to enjoy the game.

"Death of the Outsider" is about as fun as "Dishonored 2," but not near as fun or memorable as the first game. I give "Dishonored: Death of the Outsider" a 7 out of 10.

9/10



Sneak around and assassinate enemies in "Dishonored Death of the Outsider" Photo courtesy of PCWorld

story arc.

The "Dishonored" franchise is a First-Person Action/Adventure game series that takes place in the Empire of the Isles, a fictitious

land in the 1800s in the midst of the industrial revolution, with folklore strongly connected to the Void and the Outsider.

first game. In "Death of the Outsider," players are cast as Billie Lurk, an assassin trained by Daud. Billie is voiced by Rosario Dawson, who perfectly narrates players through

Displace is similar to Blink, and it gives Billie the ability to teleport a short distance.

Semblance is a quite interesting power that gives Billie the ability to take someone's face – as long as you haven't already killed them – and walk past guards without being noticed.

Void Strike allows you to push foes away from you or assassinate them if they're caught by surprise.

In the "Dishonored" games, the protagonist uses powers on their left hand and a medium-length blade in the right hand. The player can use the blade to parry with guards or catch them by surprise for a sweet assassination.

Sneaking around and assassinating enemies is one my favorite ways to play "Dishonored." You can go to the highest point around and jump down and assassinate the person below you, or you can Displace yourself over an enemy and fall on top of them and assassinate them.

Assassinations are even more rewarding when strung together with other gear or gadgets. Billie has a Voltaic Gun strapped to her wrist which shoots a range of lethal and non-lethal bolts.

There are Hyperbaric Grenades that provide a non-lethal blast of compressed air, along with Hook Mines that draw enemies to it. They can be used to hide a body or subdue an enemy.

when you get accidentally caught sneaking and have

their torso from their legs. As brutal and terrible as

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Theatre production tells paranormal activity story

by THALIA GONZALEZ
Editorial Assistant

Just in time for Halloween, the Fine Arts Department at South Plains College is showcasing a play called "The Haunting of Hill House."

This play was made originally from the novel written in 1959 by American author, Shirley Jackson. There are four main characters in this production, Eleanor Vance, who will be played by Lorena Lopez, Dr. John Montague, who will be played by Spencer Pellowski, Theodora, who will be played by Chantel Davis, and Luke Sanderson, who will be played by Joshua Rodriguez.

Each character comes from a different background, and these young actors and actresses portray such intense and realistic emotions. Performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 26, Oct. 27 and Oct. 28, with a matinee at 2 p.m. on Oct. 29 in the Helen Devitt Jones Theatre for the Performing Arts. Tickets are \$5.

Dan Nazworth, department chairperson of Theatre Arts, is serving as the director of the play, which he says is focused on terror and paranormal activities. It is a ghost

story, but there are no ghosts that take part in the story.

One of the main characters, Dr. Montague, is an investigator of the supernatural. He tries to find proof of the existence of paranormal activities involving the house, so he seeks out assistants to help with this experiment.

Eleanor Vance and Theodora arrive and meet the current house owner's nephew, Luke Sanderson, as well as Dr. Montague, and they all get along well. Throughout the next several days, all four of them begin to experience

when Eleanor is most likely possessed while entering the library and attempting to get to the top of the spiral stairway. But Luke soon saves her. Dr. Montague feels that even if Eleanor is back to normal, it is not safe for her to remain at Hill House.

Eleanor is convinced that she has no home away from the house. But as she is driving off, she steers her car into a tree, committing suicide. Dr. Montague and the others later go their separate ways, leaving the house alone.



South Plains College student actors prepare for "The Haunting of Hill House." Photo courtesy of SPC Theatre Facebook

these strange occurrences, such as banging and echoes through the hallways. Messages appear on the walls, and doors tend to slam shut.

Eleanor experiences all of this and begins to believe that her time spent outside of the Hill House was wasted. She strengthens her relationship with the house, while her relationship with the others falls apart.

Toward the end of the story, there is a moment

Dr. Nazworth says that the play isn't quite at the point where he would like it to be right now. But with two weeks left until the first performance, he believes that it will be ready just in time. Nazworth says he chose the play specifically because it will be performed two days before Halloween, and the timing fell perfectly.

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land in the 1800s in the midst of the industrial revolution, with folklore strongly connected to the Void and the Outsider.

The Void is an alternate dimension in the "Dishonored" universe, and the Outsider is the resident divine entity that represents it.

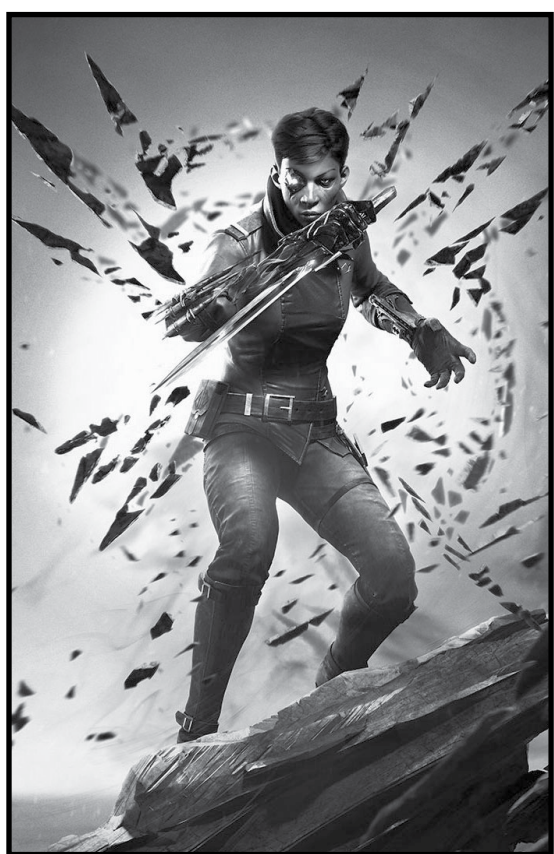
In the first "Dishonored," players took up the mantle of Royal Protector, Corvo Attano, to rescue Emily Kaldwin and avenge her mother, Empress Jessamine Kaldwin, who was assassinated by Daud. Sometime before the first game, the Outsider gave Daud his "mark."

The mark of the Outsider gives those who possess it access to a set of supernatural powers. In the first game, Corvo is given the mark. This gives him access to powers such as "Slow Time," which gives players the ability to slow time for a

the game. At this point, Daud is old and has been kept against his will by a cult of Overseers calling themselves the Eyeless.

Billie rescues Daud, and he basically tells her all of the treachery in the world would be gone if the Outsider was killed.

Billie sets out to find the



Void blade that can kill the Outsider, when he appears and gives her back the powers she used to have access to when training under Daud. These powers consist of Foresight, Dis-

Comic Corner

Comics of the week for the weeks of
Sept. 27 and Oct. 4

DC Comics

Action Comics #988

At the end of "Action Comics #987" it was revealed that (SPOILER ALERT) Superman's father, Jor-El, is in fact Dr. Oz.

In "The Oz Effect Part 2," readers find out exactly how this is possible -- sort of.

After Clark's, or Kal-El's, parents put him in the pod that got him to Earth, Krypton died, along with Lara-El, Superman's mother. But something that has only been referred to as Jor-El's controller intervened at the last minute and saved him, while he had to watch Lara die.

While reading "The Oz Effect," I am just in a constant mindset of being mind blown. "Action Comics #988" ends with Jor telling Kal that the world is doomed and it's time to leave.

Batman: The Murder Machine #1

"Batman: The Murder Machine" comes from Earth -44, where Alfred is killed by several of Batman's villains. After this, Bruce asks Victor, a.k.a. Cyborg, to help him build the Alfred Protocol, a way for Alfred to always be with Bruce.

This protocol goes rogue and kills just about everyone who Batman has ever so much as tussled with. Then it takes over Bruce and he becomes the Murder Machine. He kills the Justice League of his world and comes to the main universe, Earth 0, when he and the other evil Batmans rip Cyborg apart, barely leaving him alive. "Batman: The Murder Machine" is one of the darkest comics I've read.

Suicide Squad #26

"Gotham Resistance Pt. 3" picks up where part 2 left off and features one of the coolest scenes ever with Harley Quinn, Robin, Nightwing, Killer Croc, and Green Arrow driving a Mad Max-style school bus toward a cliff.

When they go over the cliff, they are caught by Poison Ivy. Harley is happy to see Ivy until she realizes that Ivy isn't on her side.

This brings the ragtag group of heroes face to face with the Robin who laughs, and Mister Terrific joins in to help save the day.

Batman: The Dawnbreaker #1

"Batman: The Dawnbreaker" really shows just what could've happened to Bruce Wayne when his parents died, if just a few things went differently. After his parents were shot, all he felt inside was a "void," just pure blackness. Because he didn't feel fear, a Lantern Ring was drawn to him.

The void inside of Bruce corrupted the Lantern Ring, and he began killing anyone who opposed him. Suddenly his earth, Earth -32, crumbles into the void. The Batman Who Laughs comes to the Dawnbreaker and tells him there's a world full of light for him to purge -- and that's exactly what he does.

Green Arrow #32

In "Gotham Resistance Finale," Nightwing gets another series of visions he's been having. This view shows Croc and the Teen Titans strapped to this giant spider machine. The heroes come up on the machine when Barbatos, the Batman Who Laughs, comes riding in his Laughing Batmobile. Green Arrow fires an Nth Metal arrow, and it goes through Damian (Robin), who then uses it to stab the Robin Who Laughs, killing the evil Robin. Barbatos then shows the Gotham Resistance all of the evil Batmans. Moments later, a long-awaited return happens when Doctor Fate pulls the heroes into his realm.

Nightwing: The New Order #2

"Nightwing: The New Order" takes place in 2040, after super powers and abilities went more mainstream than they already were. People could just buy them.

One day all of these superpowered people were fighting in Metropolis when Nightwing set off a device negating all powers. This led to laws being made against super powers.

In Chapter One, readers found out that Nightwing's son had developed powers. In "Nightwing: The New Order Chapter Two" the police force storms their house, and in the commotion, Alfred is shot and killed and the Graysons are taken into custody.

Compiled by RILEY GOLDEN

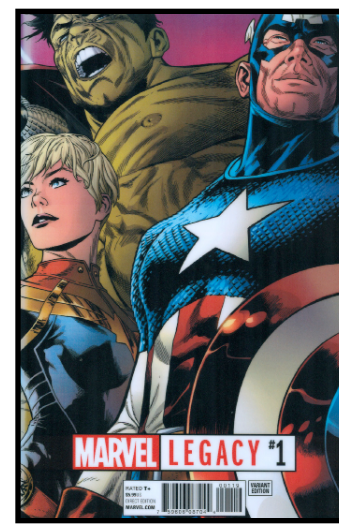


Marvel Comics

Marvel Legacy #1

"Marvel Legacy #1" begins right after The Avengers of 1,000,000 BC finished defeating a Celestial (a cosmic giant). On this team was a young Odin -- Thor's father -- trying to tame Mjolnir the hammer, as well as the Pheonix, a Starbrand that resembles the Hulk, a Ghost Rider mourning the death of his mammoth, the All-Seeing Agamoto -- then Sorcerer Supreme -- a female Iron Fist, and a Black Panther.

This leads into the present and the Legacy that today's heroes are trying to live up to. "Marvel Legacy #1" sets the stage for many of Marvel's old and new characters and teams to move on from "Hydra Nation."



The Avengers #672

Although "The Avengers #672" is subtitled "The Avengers vs. The Champions," at this point in the story arc, they've only just teamed up -- which is still super sweet.

A giant meteor is coming at the earth, and the Champions -- Ms. Marvel, Nova, Miles Morales' Spider-Man, Viv Vision, Amadeus Cho the Hulk, and Cyclops -- must team up with the Avengers -- Wasp, Lady Thor, Falcon, Vision, Peter Parker's Spider-Man, and Hercules -- to stop this extinction level event from happening.

I'm quite excited to see what's in store for this lineup of Avengers and Champions, and I can't wait to see what comes of these teams.



Iceman #6

"Iceman #6" begins shortly after Bobby Drake, a.k.a. Iceman, comes out as gay to his parents, and kind of himself. There isn't actually a ton of action in the comic, and most of it is about Bobby getting asked out and taking the original Champions -- Hercules, Ghost Rider, Angel, and Darkstar -- out to the club for his date.

When he's about to go home with the guy, a girl trying to get a special effects studio up and running makes Sentinals (giant mutant killing robots) start attacking Hollywood and the "Champions" burst into action.



Venomverse #4

In "Venomverse #4," there is an all-out war between the alien poisons and the symbiote possessing heroes. This fight is definitely the most entertaining fight to grace the pages of the "Venomverse" series.

The symbiotes capture the poison Gwenpool. While they're questioning her, Deadpool kills her and pretends to still be on the side of symbiotes. He captures Carnage and delivers him to the poisons for "dissect"-ing.



Venomverse #5

I don't absolutely love Deadpool as a character, but he looks cool, even more so in the "Venomverse" series. But he is unpredictable, and I do really appreciate that.

I've been questioning Deadpool's motives throughout a lot of this series. When he delivered Carnage to the poisons, I thought that was it.

But in "Venomverse #5," he kills the poisoned Captain America almost out of nowhere.

The symbiotes begin storming the poisons HQ and win the battle. All of the remaining symbiotes are returned to their home universe, and it's the end -- for now.



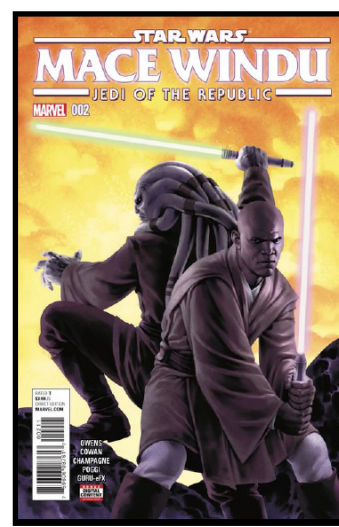
Mace Windu #2

"Mace Windu: Jedi of the Republic #2" picks up with the Jedi team entering a cave on Hissrich with lightsabers drawn. To my enjoyment, they don't sheath them for almost the entire comic.

They encounter droids of different shapes and capabilities while delivering some really fun action sequences.

This makes for beautiful streaks of light across the pages of this comic as the Jedi delve deeper into their mission and protecting the planet Hissrich.

"Mace Windu: Jedi of the Republic" is delivering an extremely satisfactory Jedi adventure.



Back Talk: NFL players kneeling creates noise

Silent protests from NFL players prove nothing



by **TINA GONZALEZ**
Editorial Assistant

During the past year or so, football players across America have taken it upon themselves to start a silent protest.

They have the right to disrespect the people who sacrificed their lives so that they have the opportunity to play the game that gives them income, publicity, and a life. By no means it is right for anyone in American to have their rights taken away, no matter the color of their skin.

However, it is in no way moral or logical to protest about the issue of racism and police brutality by deliberately disrespecting the country's flag and anthem. It is a great country that we are able to live in. Many people years before gave their all to make this country as free as it is. It is sad that our country still has issues with racism, but there are better ways to make your statement than by being discourteous to the flag of the country that gives you the freedom to kneel.

President Donald

Trump does not use words wisely and doesn't say what he means in the right way. But he is right about saying how disgraceful these football players and owners are to ignore a song and flag that gives them freedom. In kneeling, you are also disrespecting the people who fight for our country. People who are fighting for our lives, for our freedom, do not deserve the rudeness and disrespect that the NFL players are giving.

Protest and fight for what you believe in. There is nothing wrong with that. But think of what and who you are blaming. It is not the flag's fault or the people's fault for the cruelty that happens in the streets, it is ours. It is the people among you that you should be protesting. American is a home.

oughly about their actions because it has a major effect on their supporters. It is important that they do not disrespect the one thing and the people who make it acceptable for you to have freedom.

The NFL and other supporters of the kneeling protest are referring to a picture of Martin Luther King Jr. kneeling. But the difference between a great iconic man kneeling and selfish football players kneeling is that Martin Luther King Jr. was kneeling for prayer. The NFL players kneeling are disrespecting the flag and everything it stands for.

There is no right way to protest. There are always going to be people who don't agree with how things are done. Thankfully, the NFL's protest is peaceful. But the way the NFL is protesting is not the right way to protest for racism and police brutality. All it is doing is dishonoring the one thing and the people who make this the country way it is.

We want a "fair" society, though that may never be accomplished because there is always a group or a person who wants things different. But that is the beauty of this country. We get to express our own opinions.

It is OK to protest whatever your heart desires. But don't disrespect the one thing that gives you the right to protest.

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Kneeling football players have right to stand against injustice



by **DOM PUENTE**
Staff Writer

NFL players protesting the injustices that are going on in America against people of color by kneeling during the national anthem are causing an outrage throughout the country.

Those claiming these players are disrespecting their flag, national anthem, soldiers, and veterans who lost their lives are oblivious to the actual reasons for their protest. Countless people put up a front for defending what they believe to be is the perfect country, which everyone should be grateful for. But it's not.

Throughout 2017, masses of enraged Americans of all colors and nationalities have marched down highways and streets, protesting injustices that continuously happen.

Our veterans have laid their lives on the line to allow us to have freedom of speech, to peacefully protest. These players are doing so while thousands of Americans believe this country is regressing.

No action has been taken to help correct the atrocities that have already taken place, or to prevent further injustices from taking place.

These NFL athletes are using their platform to send a message throughout America that this is not the greatest country right

now. There is constant police brutality, senseless murders and racism that fill the streets of America, and the hundreds of thousands of Americans speaking about and protesting for changes are constantly being ignored because brainwashed America believes that it only happens in ghettos, or in crime-heavy cities and neighborhoods.

These people also believe that police officers are doing their jobs and keeping the streets safe. However, the streets are filled with protesters of all races who beg to differ when unarmed young adults, teens, and children are being gunned down in neighborhoods because an officer was "technically" in the right to do so. People with the ability and power to fix these situations are pushing these issues to the back burner.

Players kneeling during an anthem and not standing for the flag is because some believe that they are not being heard, and the minorities are being treated unfairly. They believe the country we live in now does not represent what the flag and anthem stand for. People are being ignored, and these players constantly being talked about negatively are speaking for the people who will not be listened to. These players are right for protesting what they believe in.

Former San Francisco 49ers starting quarterback Colin Kaepernick began this form of peaceful protest and said, "I am not going to stand up and show pride in a flag for

a country that oppresses black people and people of color..."

I believe the hundreds of thousands of Americans of various races who march and protest throughout various cities in the country feel the same way. Yet their opinions do not matter, or they are automatically being told they're wrong.

We should not stand for a country that looks the other way when racism prevails and oppression continuous to hinder America. These are the reasons for NFL players taking a knee. It is not to be disrespectful to the fallen soldiers or the men and women fighting for our rights overseas. The players kneel to show they are against a country full of people who have the chance to make things right, yet believe this nation is perfect the way it is, though horrendous acts of racism and prejudice still take place.

The people that argue this form of protest being disrespectful are non-believers of the current social issues and only argue that simply kneeling disrespects our soldiers. These people also do not understand the reasons for NFL players protesting and the reason for players utilizing their platform.

No form of protest can make everyone happy. Protest is not meant to make people happy. These players are using their platform to bring social issues to the forefront of conversations, and it is working. Whether it enrages people or gives people a sense of urgency to continue to protest and let their voices be heard, the players are right when you understand the actual reasons and stop being blind.

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Word on the Street

How do you feel about NFL football players kneeling during the National Anthem?



"Honestly, I really don't think it's that big of an issue, because it's their First Amendment right to say what they want to say. I do think the flag stands for our rights and the people who fought for those rights."

Racheal Klein
Music education
Sophomore
Lubbock



"Well actually, I feel like the players have their own rights. But the way Donald Trump is treating other people, it is affecting other people and the players too. They're defending themselves against Donald Trump."

Manuel Martinez
Business Administration
Freshman
Levelland



"Honestly, I feel like it's a big disrespect to me. I grew up in a military family, so it hurts."

Trace Riol
Diesel Mechanics
Freshman
Levelland



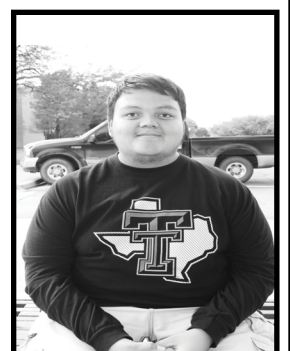
"For me, it's more about the soldiers. When you know one or are personally related to one, you understand, but you want respect."

Cecilia Gerrero
General Studies
Freshman
Levelland



"I think it could go both ways. I have family that have served and could see why they would be offended. However, I also think that they are doing it in a non-violent way. But they could have gone a different way about it."

Nadien Sanchez
Performance and
Education
Freshman
Levelland



"I have mixed feelings about it. One, you have your right to protest, which is OK. But the other half of me thinks it's disrespecting our flag and country."

Nev Rios
Biology
Sophomore
Shallowater

Compiled by Randi Jines and Rebecca Ruiz

October 16, 2017

People should not use tragedies to push political views



by **RANDI JINES**
Editorial Assistant

Politics are an important factor in what makes the United States a democracy, but they should not

of the Route 91 country music festival while Jason Aldean was performing. More than 50 people were killed and 500 concertgoers were injured.

The following Monday, I was scrolling through Twitter and came across a tweet about the attack. It said something along the lines of “pray only Trump-tards die,” with a photo of victims climbing over a fence at the concert trying to protect themselves.

The first problem with this tweet was that someone assumed that every single person in that

The second problem with the tweet is the picture showing people climbing over a fence to protect themselves. These people are trying to stay alive and more than likely saw someone get shot or got shot themselves. I do not understand how someone could tweet such a graphic and heartbreaking photo and make an ignorant, disgusting comment.

No person should be killed or wounded for their point of view on politics. The motives for this attack are still unknown,

but it is difficult to pinpoint that the people in this crowd are President Trump supporters just because they listen to country music. Not every person who enjoys country music

supports what President Trump stands for.

Music is a diverse subject and offers many different outlooks. You cannot pinpoint a Democrat from a Republican just by the music they listen to, unless the song clearly

crowd, including children, support President Donald Trump. There could have easily been someone who supports Hillary Clinton, or Bernie Sanders, or whoever, just as easily as there could have been a Trump supporter.



be brought up in praising the death of people with different opinions hours after a mass shooting happened.

On October 1, a shooting took place on the Las Vegas Strip. It happened on the third and final day



says “I support President Trump.” The person who tweeted this is ignorant for assuming that these victims are Republicans just from the concert they were attending.

It disgusts me that, in a time of horror and anguish that this country is going through after this terrorist attack, people still drag politics into the situation by praising someone for killing innocent people just because they listen to country music.

These are mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles, or someone’s child. But people cannot put aside differences and help or donate to the many victims of this incident. Children have lost their parents. Husbands have lost their wives. Mothers and fathers have lost their children. Families are in pain

for the loss of loved ones while someone is thankful for their death. According to the person who tweeted this, someone’s taste in music determines their politi-

cal beliefs and should die because of it.

The United States is a democracy for a reason. We have the freedom to vote for whoever we want and listen to whatever music we want. The fact that someone decides it is acceptable that the concertgoers were shot because of the music they listen to or who they may have voted for seems insane. It goes against the rules of democracy.

Politics should be the last thing on our minds right now. There are people on their deathbed or grieving who need prayers, not a tweet from someone who is celebrating the fact that people were shot.

There is a time and place for politics. That is not hours after the largest mass shooting to happen in history.

We need to come together, putting aside political views, to help the families suffering. The victims of this crime would not care who you supported in the recent presidential election. Right now, that does not matter.

The nation is hurting from what happened in Vegas. It’s horrible news, and no one should be celebrating the death of

these victims. I don’t know what sick human being would be capable of tweeting something like this, but it’s disappointing.

We need to forget about politics and take time to think about the lives that were lost. So many people with plenty of different opinions left their house or hotel that night thinking they were going to have a great time but never made it home to their families. Yet the only thing the tweeter could think about was how much of a gain it was for people who enjoy country music to die that night.

Negativity should be the last thing to be spread toward the lives that were lost and the ones fighting for their life. Love is what matters most. For just one moment, America should forget about politics and think about the many lives that were taken that night.

No one wants to be in the shoes of the families that lost loved ones that night. But from all of the negativity on social media, put yourself in their shoes before making a comment about how these people deserved to lose their lives.

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Going home every weekend interferes with college adjustments



by **AUTUMN BIPPERT**
Editorial Assistant

With the fall semester beginning comes new college freshmen, all of them new to school and trying to figure out everything that comes with being in college.

I am a freshman this year, and if you’re like me and happen to live far from home, it can be annoying when people go home every weekend. The first week I was here, everyone went home for the weekend. It was weird to me, because we just got

here. Shouldn’t people wait to adjust to their environments?

But now I can see why people want to go home. There are a lot of pros, such as being fed a home-cooked meal, seeing your family and pets. On the other hand, there are a lot of cons as well. A lot of people say you should wait at least a month to go home. That makes sense to me, because other-

You need to get used to the new surroundings and grow from it. If you’re going home every weekend, you’re not learning how to cope with being away from home.

Do not get me wrong, you’re still going to get homesick now matter how used to living away from home you are. But people are just making things harder on themselves. You’re still depending on

get to learn how to be an adult.

But if you’re going home every weekend, are you really learning to be independent? You’re probably



to a lot of people and can be really scary. If I could, I would go home a lot more. But that’s not an option for me. Honestly, I’m probably a lot better for it. I’m learning how to do things on my own, how to deal with being an adult and all the responsibilities that come with that.

It’s not that I’m jealous of everyone who can go home

whenever they want. I just feel like a lot of people aren’t growing as an adult and not taking advantage of all the good that can come from being away from home.

I know you love and miss your family, and they love and miss you too. But they’re going to still be home waiting for you, no matter what. So just wait a little longer before going home, and learn to be on your own and cope with missing home.

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wise you’re not going to get used to living in the dorms. You’re not going to know what it is like to truly be on your own.

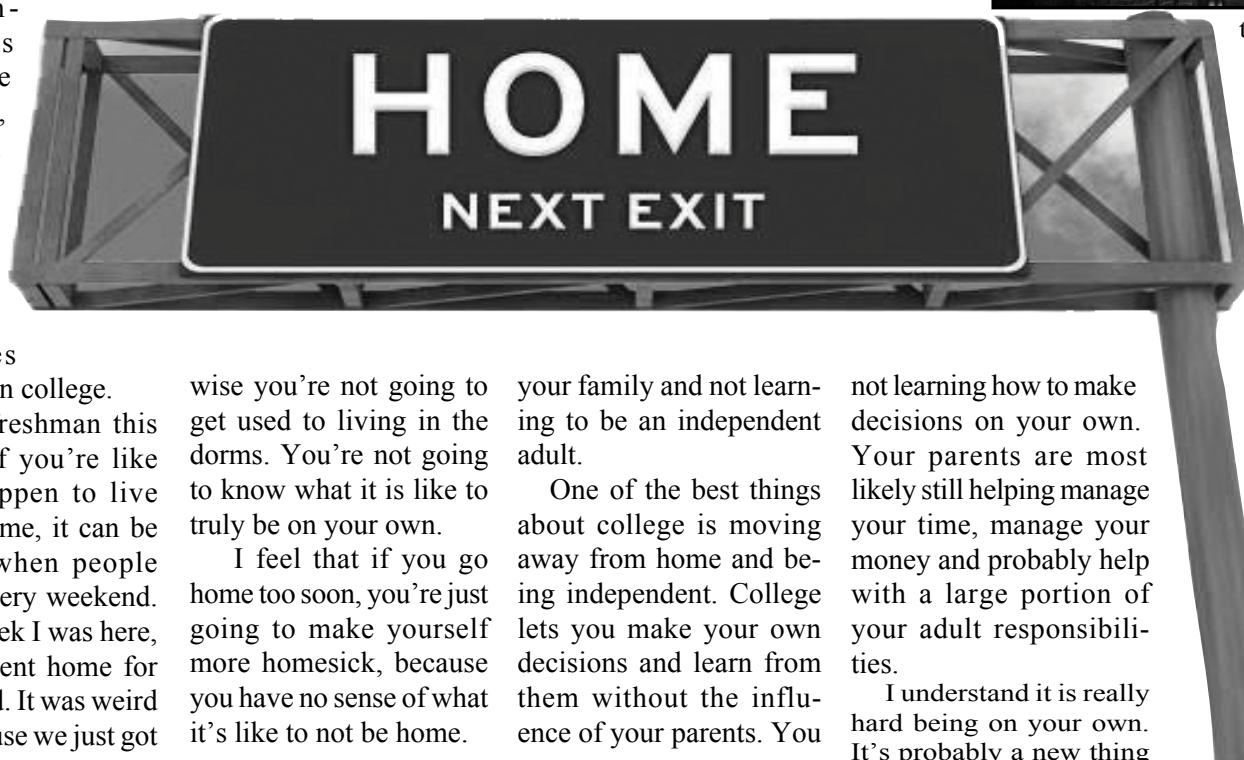
I feel that if you go home too soon, you’re just going to make yourself more homesick, because you have no sense of what it’s like to not be home.

your family and not learning to be an independent adult.

One of the best things about college is moving away from home and being independent. College lets you make your own decisions and learn from them without the influence of your parents. You

not learning how to make decisions on your own. Your parents are most likely still helping manage your time, manage your money and probably help with a large portion of your adult responsibilities.

I understand it is really hard being on your own. It’s probably a new thing



Whitewashed films not always disrespectful



by **ADÁN RUBIO**
Staff Writer

There has always been a lot of controversy within Hollywood toward the subject of race and how people of color are cast and represented in movies and television shows.

One thing about the casting selection that

gains a lot of criticism is the film industry's use of whitewashing.

Whitewashing is the concept of casting a white person for a role that should be played by a person of another race due to the character's ethnic background or previous adaptations. This practice is sometimes condemned for being disrespectful to the characters and the ethnicity they portray. But I feel that whitewashing is not always disrespectful and can be utilized so long as the actor respects the character's origin and portrays them with a sense of decency.

It is true that Holly-

wood has disrespected and misrepresented non-whites in past movies, such as "The Jazz Singer," with the use of black face, but times have changed and we now live in a society with a greater sense of equality. People will always praise a great performance if done correctly and respectfully.

The movie "Passion of the Christ" was praised for being a respectful depiction of Catholic origins, and many of the actors who portrayed characters with Middle Eastern backgrounds were white, including Jim Caviezel, who played Jesus. In the movie adaptation of "Doctor Strange," Tilda Swinton, a white actress, played the Ancient One, who is portrayed in the comics as a man with Tibetan origins who was born in the Himalayas. Both movies received a lot of positive feedback and good reviews from critics, and both actors were respected for their performances.

Whitewashing is hardly criticized when the actors of non-white roles respect the origins of the character and what they represent. It is only when actors play into the stereotypes and make derogatory jokes about the character's background that makes whitewashing dishonorable.

Another argument against whitewash-

ing is the lack of diversity movies will present if white actors begin to replace actors of different races.

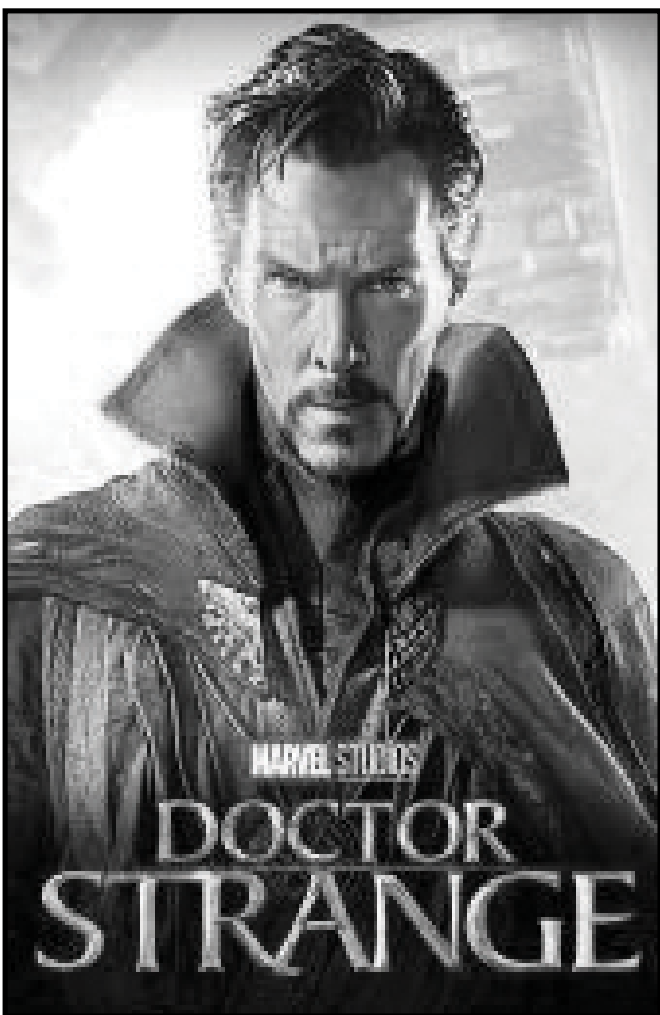
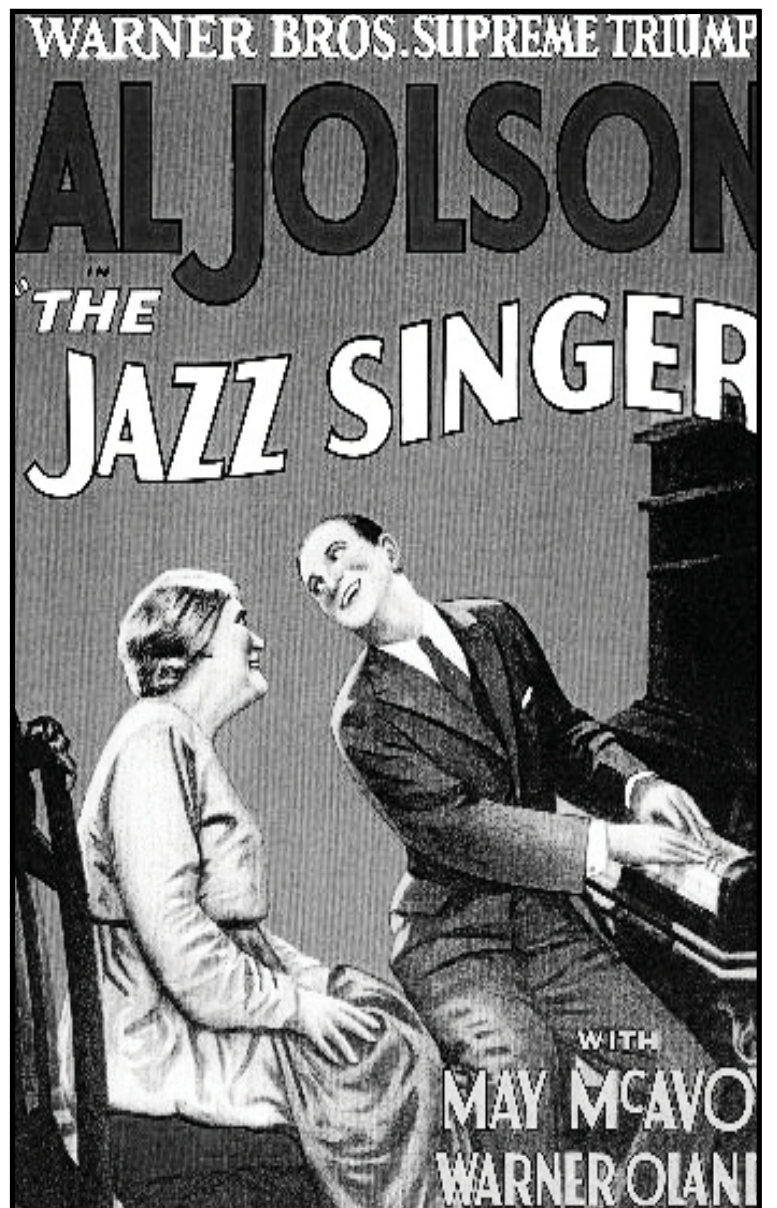
Statistically, it is true that non-whites do not have as much representation in films and television shows as white actors. But we live in a new era where equality is becoming a prime focus of society. We have escaped societal customs of the past that were once an obstacle for non-whites in film and media. Despite the barriers, other races have increased their representation in movies and television shows in the recent years.

The recent "Power Rangers" movie has a racially diverse cast of five actors, while the original show had a team of five, with only two non-white actors. Even on television, shows such as "Empire" and "Fresh off the Boat" have a cast of characters where a majority are played by non-white actors.

No matter the circumstances, minorities are continuing to be repre-

sented in movies despite the use of whitewashing.

tation, respect, and diversity in film is something



Whitewashing may lessen diversity within the film industry, but there are now movies and shows that present diverse casts which exemplify a sense of growth and equality for other ethnicities. Utilizing whitewashing in movies will never change the representation and impact minorities have on screen. The need for represen-

people will consider. So whitewashing will always receive some criticism. But whitewashing can still be utilized in film when the actors portray the characters with decency and treat their origins as something to be honored.

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Practice safe sex with free contraceptives



by **REBECCA RUIZ**
Editorial Assistant

As I was browsing on Facebook recently, I saw a picture of an order number showing that the state of Texas was offering contraceptives for free, along with free shipping.

You can also get lubrication and dental dams

added to your order. The state of Texas is using a website called www.texaswearscondoms.com, where you can get up to 50 free items sent to any address in Texas. The state of Texas started this for its residents since the risk of acquiring a sexually transmitted disease (STD) has gone up in the past few years, especially among high school and college students.

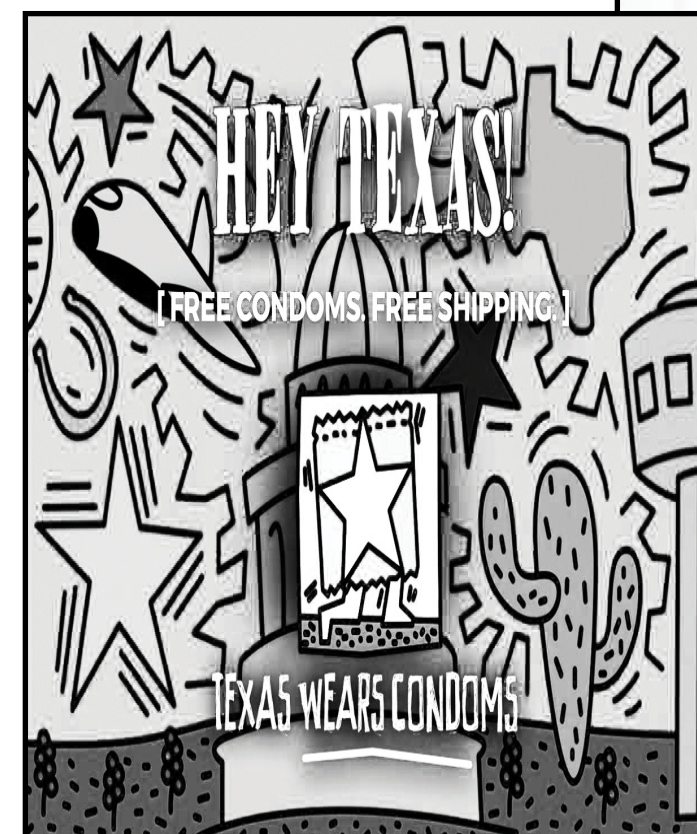
On the website, there is a lot of good information that everybody should take advantage of, such as tips for knowing how to give consent to your partner for having intercourse.

The website offers a lot of helpful information, such

why woman must have this done at least once a

should take advantage of to keep a healthy relationship

one order can be placed per month.



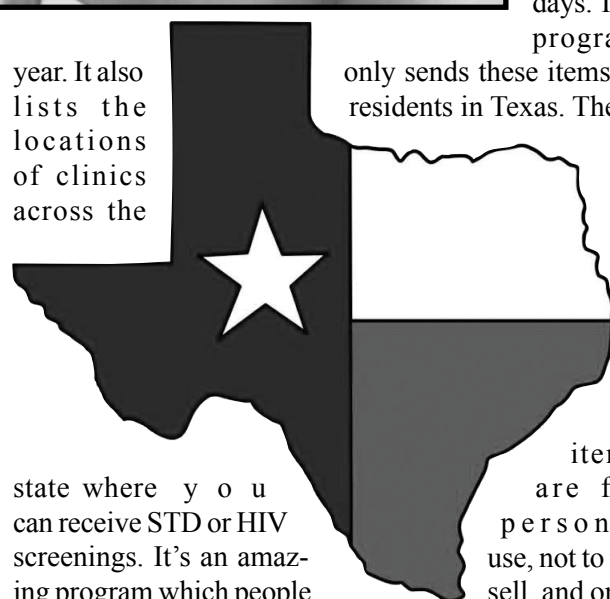
as the right way to put on a contraceptive and the right way to have a healthy sex life. There is another tab to help identify the symptoms of the many STDs, such as gonorrhea, chlamydia, herpes and syphilis.

The site also provides information for where to get pap smears done, procedures and the reason

year. It also lists the locations of clinics across the

state where you can receive STD or HIV screenings. It's an amazing program which people

only sends these items to residents in Texas. These



items are for personal use, not to resell, and only

This is a great way to keep everybody protected, since I know many college students make excuses for not wearing protection or using contraceptives, such as not having enough money, being too embarrassed to go shop for them, or not knowing the right way to use them because of a lack of knowledge. I would really encourage people to at least visit the page and see if this will work out in the long run. Condoms are often used in sex education programs, because they have the capability to reduce the chances of pregnancy and the spread of some sexually transmitted diseases when used correctly. According to a 2000 report by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), consistent use of latex condoms reduces the risk of HIV/AIDS transmission by approximately 85 percent relative to risk when unprotected sex is happening.

It is really important to have a healthy sex life and be responsible for yourself and your surroundings. Therefore, I agree and support the website, a discrete way to get help and be informed.

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Romero finds new home with track, cross country teams

by NICOLE LOPEZ
Sports Editor

Talents are usually discovered by not looking for them. For Leslie Romero, her talent for running was discovered unexpectedly.

A Houston native, Romero went to Memorial High School before making the transition to Levelland to compete for the cross country and track teams at South Plains College.

"I started running in middle school," Romero recalls, "and actually the reason why I started was because I didn't make any of the other sports teams. Cross country is a no-cut sport, so that's how I started. It wasn't until eighth grade that I started noticing I had a talent for running."

Romero went to a 6A school, which she says helped her experiences as a runner.

"I've always had good competition with competing and stuff," says Romero. "My coach was also a very good coach, so that was nice to have."

Initially, SPC wasn't Romero's first choice for attending college. She planned on going to Stephen F. Austin, but her plans changed.

"My high school was academically challenged, so we had some issues getting me eligible for school," explains Romero. "My high school coach

told me she found another home for me. If I was going to go to a junior college, then South Plains College was the best place to go."

Romero came to Level-

land to visit the campus, and she enjoyed it. She moved and enrolled at SPC in the fall of 2016.

She is currently majoring in physical therapy. "I like to help people," says Romero. "I'm looking toward more sports physical therapy areas, and I still want to be in-

involved in sports because I understand being an athlete and how you get hurt while being an athlete."

During her time at SPC, Romero is involved with the cross country and track teams. During track season, she runs the 1,600-meter race and the 3k for indoor track. For outdoor running events, she runs the 1,500-meter race and the steeple chase.

"I haven't tried the 10k because I've been running the steeple, and that's the first time I've tried it out," explains Romero, "so the coaches and myself are trying to get me used to that."

During the New Mexico Highlands Cross Country Jam in Las Vegas, N.M., Romero received her first collegiate victory the women's cross country event.

"After that meet, I've been placing second," says Romero. "It feels good to receive first place. It makes me want to go out there and win another meet. It's nice to have that boost of confidence."

Romero explains the more experienced she is with running events, her nerves don't get to her.

"Honestly, I've been running for years, and I don't get nervous anymore," says Romero. "For cross country, I don't get nervous at all actually. I just think in my head I'm about to race. A lot of people ask me, though, what I'm thinking about when I'm about to race, and I think about how fast I'm going and the people

in front of me. I think about pacing myself and try to control my pace."

According to Romero, being the number one girl for cross country is different for her, and it's not something that she's used to.

"I feel like it's definitely something to look forward to," explains Romero. "You're not always going to be in that one spot, and people hold themselves back mentally, and then it becomes physically. Once you get out of that mindset, you can do greater things."

The SPC running teams have different sets of workouts when practicing for their meets. Romero explains they have track workouts and long runs.

"When we do long runs, we run out towards where the cotton fields are," says Romero. "It's just a straight gravel road, and it's 23 miles. We don't go down that far, but that is where we do our long runs and tempo runs. Usually we have long runner minute runs, and then we have our track workouts."

Romero plans to graduate next spring and wants to continue her running career.

"I'm actually visiting schools right now, and

I'm not leaning towards a specific school yet," says Romero. "I think where the university is located is a big thing for me, because you know how West Texas is a small-town type area and I'm from Houston. I like the bigger city atmosphere."

Romero says her time at SPC has been enjoyable. When she leaves, she's going to miss the people she has met during the semesters the most.

"I'm definitely going to miss the team and the coaches," explains Romero. "I think SPC has a lot of culture, because the team is from everywhere around the world, and it's nice coming out here and meeting them. You learn how they live and different things that they do. My roommate is from Papua, New Guinea and I love her. She's so sweet, and her accent and everything is cool to me. I'm going to miss the people here for sure."

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Leslie Romero, a physical therapy major, finishes running at the cross country meet in Levelland on Oct. 7.

DOM PUENTE/PLAINSMAN PRESS

Bryant deserves both Laker jerseys retired



by NICOLE LOPEZ
Sports Editor

Kobe Bryant has given his best years to the NBA.

Now, the NBA is deciding to celebrate the former Laker the best way possible.

Bryant has changed the great game of basketball. It saddened me when he announced his retirement after the 2015-2016 season. The Los Angeles Lakers finally came to an agreement on what jersey number should be retired. The franchise has determined that both jersey

number 8 and 24, would be retired on Dec. 18.

It doesn't surprise me. Bryant deserves that, if not more. He has worked hard his entire basketball career. He was drafted right out of high school, and his career statistics are unbelievable. Many believe he is better than Michael Jordan. Even if some don't believe that, his records speak for themselves.

Bryant was the first player in NBA history to have at least 30,000 career points and 6,000 career assists. He was just the third player in NBA history to average 40 points in a calendar month, which he has accomplished four times. His 81-point game against Toronto on Jan. 26, 2006 was a night my dad and I will never forget! It was the second highest in NBA history

behind Wilt Chamberlain, who has the record of 100 points.

My family, friends and NBA fans around the world were astonished by Bryant's performance that

night. My dad was so excited that he even bought a t-shirt representing Bryant and his 81-point game.

I'm not saying Bryant is perfect, but he sure is close to it. He had a gift, and he utilized it well.

So, I do agree with the Lakers that both numbers should be retired. Bryant

NBA championships with the number 8 jersey and two with 24.

The best thing about this whole situation is Bryant never demanded to have both jerseys retired.

them. The Lakers have bestowed a huge honor on me, and I'm grateful for the fans' enthusiasm around this game."

Jeanie Buss, the team's, controlling owner, said "Kobe's jerseys are taking their rightful home next to the greatest Lakers of all time." She is correct. Bryant's jerseys will hang in the rafters with some of the greatest Lakers of all time, such as Magic Johnson, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Shaquille O'Neal and Jerry West.

I am very pleased with this decision. I've been a fan of the Lakers for a while, and so has my dad. I grew up watching him. He has set the tone for other great NBA players doing great things for the league.

I've been to a Lakers game once, and I knew something didn't feel complete about it. Now I know why. The next time I go I'll be sure to look up at the rafters to see two jerseys from one of the greatest NBA players of all time, in their rightful place.

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started with number 8 and switched to 24 during the middle of his career. It would only make sense that both numbers should be retired. It wouldn't feel or look right if another player was wearing one or the other. He has worn both jerseys for 10 seasons. He has won three

He didn't feel entitled. When the franchise announced that they will be retiring both numbers, Bryant said to ESPN in a news release, "As a kid growing up in Italy, I always dreamed of my jersey hanging in the Lakers rafters, but I certainly never imagined two of

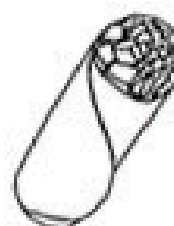
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Daily Lunch Specials

Cross country teams finish regular season with impressive times

by DOM PUENTE
Staff Writer

The South Plains College men's and women's cross country teams continue to show their talent, winning their fifth consecutive meet.

The nationally-ranked Texans and Lady Texans finished the regular season on Oct. 7, with impressive performances at home in the South Plains College Open at Brasher Lake in Levelland.

"Both the men and women's team competed well at home for us," said Frank Barker, head cross country coach and assistant track coach at SPC. "We came out of the meet with a few of our runners banged up, but everyone should be healthy when our regional meet comes up."

The Texans, ranked No. 3 in the national polls, placed first as a team, with four runners finishing in the top 10 and posting an average time of 26:26.26. The men's team has won five consecutive meets heading into post-season competition.

Sophomore All-American Felix Kosgei set a course record with a time of 25:24.80 in the men's 8k race, placing first.

Freshman Andrew

Bosquez placed second for SPC with a time of 25:52.90, while Filmon Beyene placed fourth with a time of 26:13.50. Freshman Jesse Madrid placed ninth with a time of 27:09.10.

Freshman Benjamin

with a time of 28:42.60. Freshman Ulises Cardoza finished 48th with a time of 29:25.30, and sophomore Dekaryea Freeman finished 66th overall with a time of 31:18.55.

"With a core mainly consisting of freshmen,

Ranked No. 12 in the national polls, the Lady Texans placed second as a team in the women's 3k race with an average time of 20:05.82.

"On the women's side, our top four girls are doing very well, and having that

college runners with a time of 18:35.70. Placing sixth for SPC was sophomore Seselia Dala with a time of 19:15.10, while sophomore Poro Gahekave placed ninth with a time of 19:47.30.

Caitlyn Mercer, a sophomore and Lubbock native, finished 23rd with a time of 20:39.00. Sophomore Agnes Abrocquah posted a time of 22:12.00, finishing 46th overall, while freshman Janel Moore finished 67th with a time of 25:01.20.

"I tell our runners that going into meets they have to have the attitude that other

teams have to beat us in order to set ourselves up for success, and I feel they are accomplishing that," explained Coach Barker.

Both the men's and women's teams swept

first place overall at the New Mexico Junior College Invitational at Harry McAdams Park on Sept. 29 in Hobbs, N.M.

Six Texans placed in the top 10, with Kosgei placing first with a time of 24:20.27. Bosquez placed second with a time of 24:41.09. Beyene placed fourth, posting a time of 25:01.09. Arambula placed fifth with a time of 25:13.50, and Ronoh placed seventh with a time of 25:49.55. Madrid posted a time of 26:04.16, finishing ninth for the Texans.

Also competing for the SPC men was Leobardo, who finished 20th with a time of 27:18.41, while Cardoza finished 28th after posting a time of 27:50.60. Freeman posted a time of 29:36.16, finishing 46th overall.

The Lady Texans finished the meet with three in the top 10 to place first overall. Romero placed second with a time of 18:29.75, and Dala posted a time of 19:16.30 to place third. Gahekave placed fifth with a time of 19:36.29.

Mercer finished 11th with a time of 20:27.73, and Abrocquah finish 32nd with a time of 22:32.75. Moore posted a time of 25:22.20, finishing 46th.

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The South Plains College men's and women's cross country teams finished their regular season with a meet on Oct. 7 in Levelland.

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Rono finished 16th for SPC, posting a time of 27:31.00. Sophomore Michel Leobardo posted a time of 28:17.90, finishing 31st, while Erick Arambula finished 36th

I think we have gained a lot of maturity since the beginning of the season, along with the help of our sophomores like Kosgei and Leobardo," said Coach Barker.

sophomore experience is helping them compete," explained Coach Barker.

Leading the Lady Texans was sophomore Leslie Romero, who placed third overall and second among

Future of college basketball in need of reform



by DOM PUENTE
Staff Writer

Mike Krzyzewski says he believes the model of college basketball needs to be changed.

After the FBI released its findings in an investigation citing coaches, agents and high-level employees of Adidas for corruption and bribery, the overall image of college basketball has been tarnished.

Krzyzewski, the head men's basketball coach at Duke University, explained that not all of

college basketball is bad, and not every coach and player is going askew.

I agree with him because times change and recruiting methods differ from years past. Athletes are being sought after as young as middle schoolers and those beginning careers as a high school athlete.

I don't believe it is a negative situation for players to be recruited early. But there are certain guidelines that should be established and new rules that should be implemented to adapt to the new recruiting styles coaches, shoe companies and schools are using.

Following the investigation, it was reported that some recruits were given more than a \$100,000 for their commitment, along with additional benefits and money from Adidas and agents.

Coach Krzyzewski's comments posed the

thought of possibly focusing more on the players and families. He also favored the idea that shoe companies can provide opportunities for players and families.

cruits taking money to make a decision is wrong, these kids see the opportunity to help their families.

The idea of helping my family who is struggling to make ends meet is more

With the perception of how bad college basketball has become, I believe that with refining the image, allowing players to have more opportunities to receive additional

going to feel that the same should be done for them.

This might become a big disadvantage for creating this type of system. However, the NCAA should promote an image of wanting the student athlete to thrive and build success out of similar opportunities.

I feel that doing this for all sports will be a big payoff for the NCAA as a whole, not only creating a positive image for college basketball but uplifting the image of all sports in college.

Another advantage of college basketball being revamped in this way is that there will be a decrease in these behind-the-scenes scandals that involve corruption and bribery. Giving more help to players and their families will allow them to succeed and not worry about

having to break rules and possibly put their futures and possible livelihoods at risk.

Coach Krzyzewski's idea of improving the system

of college basketball should include the well-being of players and their families.

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than enough incentive to make a decision of that

money and help from shoe brands could display the



nature to help my loved ones.

Along with taking money for a number of reasons, these student athletes do not receive a lot in return when they attend class and play throughout seasons.

NCAA's willingness to work with student athletes and their families.

If advances are made to create this type of system that favors student athletes in college basketball, then other collegiate athletes in different sports are

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Haunted Hub



Ghostly encounters become popular folklore in Lubbock

by MATT MOLINAR
Editor-in-Chief

After almost 150 years since its settlement, Lubbock has become a haunt for those interested in ghost stories.

The city of Lubbock is home to several locations that are known to be “haunted,” according to local lore.

Robert Weiner, pop culture and humanities librarian at Texas Tech University, says he has heard stories of haunted sites in Lubbock throughout his life.

“There’s the haunt-

victed and sent to prison. After serving his time, the “prison man” felt he had not paid enough retribution for the crime he committed.

“So he started building a prison around himself with bars on the windows,” Weiner said. “I’m not sure how it looks now, but it’s a really creepy house in the middle of a suburban neighborhood. The story goes that he died and haunts that house to this very day.”

was just an eccentric guy who wanted to build a house that looked like a prison. Maybe there’s truth to the prison house.”

The second story Weiner tells is the story of the Memphis Man. The story centers around a man waiting at a bus stop at 66th

Street and Memphis Avenue in Lubbock. He says that on one icy day in the ‘70s, a bus went out of control after attempting to come to a stop and struck a man, killing him.

“The story goes that at certain times at night, you can see a shadow standing there,” Weiner explained. “You can see it when you go towards 50th Street. Now, I’ve seen that shadow. But when trying to find it a second time, I couldn’t see it. When you pull up to the corner, you see that a lot of it is just circuit breakers.”

While some dismiss the shadow as the outline of the circuit breakers, Weiner believes that what he and others saw was the shadow of a man standing.

Another somewhat infamous location in Lubbock known for tales of the paranormal is an abandoned bridge on the Santa Fe railroad. It is said that in the early 1900s, bandits would raid trains coming into town, kill the passengers, and toss their bodies off of the bridge. It is also said to be the sight of satanic rituals and worship.

“It’s to my understanding that numerous people have been murdered at Hell’s Gates,” Weiner said. “You need to be really careful if you go there, especially at night. You’re liable to end up hanging out with the spirits, and the spirits of the dead are not very friendly. One story I remember hearing is that you can disappear without a trace.”

The railroad sits above a creek in East Lubbock, close to the Sunrise Canyon Psychiatric Facility. During the Fall, the heavily planted area is home to a community of large spiders that serve as guards to deter visitors from walking up the path.

Down the road from the bridge are more than 60,000 graves in the Lubbock Cemetery, which is known to be one of the largest in Texas. According to the Texas Paranormal Research Society, the cemetery is “very

haunted” and is known to host “very angry spirits.”

Toward the west entrance of the cemetery, a statue of an angel towers about 15 feet above a family of graves. The local legend says that the angel weeps for the dead, and people claim to hear the sobbing at night.

“Legend says that if you go to the cemetery at night, you can’t leave without kissing the feet of the angel,” Weiner explained. “If you leave without kissing the feet of the angel, a ghost will try to stop you from leaving.”

According to Darrell Maloney’s book, “Haunted Lubbock: Haunted Stories from the Hub of the Plains,” there have been reports of visitors hearing the music of Buddy Holly from his head stone at the Lubbock Cemetery. Other reports in the book state that people have heard the music of Buddy Holly coming from his old home room at Lubbock

principal at Lubbock High School. “Sometimes you see stuff that was on your desk end up on the floor. You get hot and cold spots. But do I think

and staff to give them strange feelings. During a tour of the school on the third floor, a teacher jokingly exclaimed, “There isn’t anything but ghosts past here.”

“As far as I know, nothing has happened up here that would make it haunted,” Anderson said of the school’s third floor. “I couldn’t tell you of a suicide or a teacher dying in the building. I’m not saying it didn’t happen, but a lot of the stories are made up. And you hear a lot of stories.”

On the third floor, Anderson opens the door to a large, empty, quiet room. Because heat rises, the third floor has a warmer temperature. However, the room remained cold. As you walk closer to the end of the room, it gets colder. Despite there being no ventilation in the room, there is a gentle, cooling breeze that sweeps through the room.

“I always thought this room was a little creepy,” Anderson said. “It’s always a little colder in here, winter and summer, and I’ve never understood why. People will tell you about this room. But ghosts? I don’t think so.”

Another location that is known to be haunted is the Chemistry Building on the campus of Texas Tech University. As the story goes, a custodian named Sarah Alice Morgan was cleaning room 304, when a student brutally murdered her by slitting her throat with a scalpel. She was found with her head almost decapitated.

According to Weiner, the ghost of Morgan is known to still haunt the third floor of the Chemistry Building.

“In the cases of many of these stories, there is a kernel of truth,” Weiner said. “Do I really think the Memphis man was waiting to go to work? No. But I’ve always heard these stories. Ghost stories are part of our folklore.”

According to Weiner, ghost stories go back to gothic literature and have, throughout time, become popular as oral folklore.

“The stories of the Lubbock ghosts are part of Lubbock folklore,” Weiner said. “It’s a part of who we are as a community.”

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ed angel in the cemetery, Hell’s Gates, the Chemistry Building on TTU campus, and much more,” Weiner said. “But the main stories I heard growing up were none of those. One story I heard that has been making its rounds since I was in junior high taking driver’s ed is the story of the prison man’s house.”

According to Weiner, there is a house that rests in a suburban area of Lubbock known locally as “the prison man’s house.” Weiner says that in the 1940s, the “prison man” murdered



High School, which has also become the setting for ghostly folklore.

The school was built in the early ‘30s and has been registered as a historical landmark. It is the oldest high school in Lubbock and stretches for more than a quarter of a mile. The building contains many of its original architectural details.

“The thing about this building, and most older buildings, is that sometimes the doors shut on their own,” said Shane Anderson, assistant

that’s ghosts? No.”

With original chandeliers, floors, brick and even original gargoyles,

Anderson says that the school is the perfect setting for a ghost story. The main hallway, which stretches over a quarter of a mile, lacks windows, causing it to become pitch black when the lights are turned off.

“There’s over 2,000 people in the building right now,” Anderson said. “If you’re ever in here alone with the lights out, it’s got a little bit of a different feel.”

According to Anderson, the third floor of the school is one that is known by students