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# PLAINSMAN PRESS

Levelland, Texas

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## Six students selected for NASA scholars program

by **MATT MOLINAR**  
Associate Editor

rovers are presented, they are placed on a test course.

they are scored,” Worley explained. “It’s kind of like a

er performs, and the overall presentation, NASA selects

also selected as Engineer of the Week. We’ve had several

to meet certain requirements,” Worley explained. “You must be a U.S. citizen. And you must be a student who is majoring in a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) field.”

When selecting participants, the organization looks into the applicant’s background, GPA, and participation in school activities and clubs.

The scholars who were selected from SPC this year include: Melanie Click, freshman Mechanical Engineering major from Sundown; Jim Cook, sophomore Electrical Engineering major from Lubbock; Timmy Frieson, sophomore Construction Engineering major from Lubbock; Ishmael Galindo, sophomore Mechanical Engineering major from Brownfield; Adam Martin, sophomore Computer Science major from Littlefield; and Osiel Valles, sophomore Mechanical Engineering major from Lubbock.

According to Worley, between 350 and 400 participants were selected to participate.

Cook was selected to attend the program from April 10 to April 13 at the John C. Stennis Space Center in Mississippi.

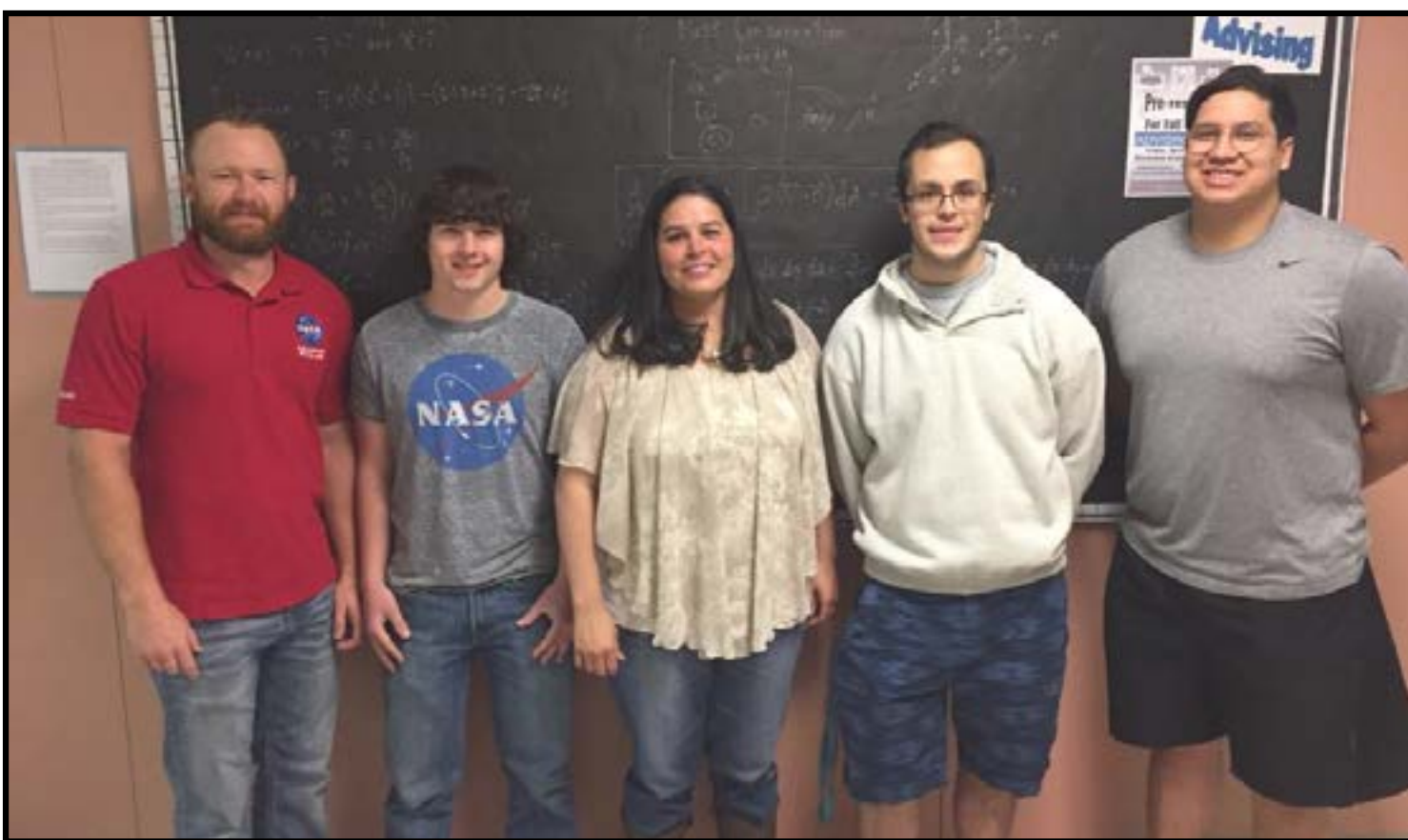
**See “NASA” on page 2**

Every year, students who show great interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics are selected by NASA to participate in the Community College Aerospace Scholars program.

This year, six South Plains College students were selected to participate in CAS. They will be able to participate in on-sight team projects, get a behind-the-scenes tour of space centers and listen to and speak with NASA engineers, educators, and astronauts.

“We have students go to one of NASA’s 13 space centers,” said Alan Worley, chairperson of the Math and Engineering Department at SPC. “What they typically do is work on a Mars rover prototype. They are put on a team with people from across the nation and have to meet a deadline to present their rovers that will pick up water, sand and rock samples.”

Worley says the students are given a budget in order to purchase pieces. When the



From Left: Timmy Frieson Adam Martin, professor Shirley Davis, Jim Cook, and Osiel Valles  
Photo courtesy of Alan Worley

“When the teams present their rovers in front of Nasa,

sales pitch. After looking at the budget, the way the ro-

the winning team to sign a contract with. One student is

students in the past who have won that.”

NASA pays for the students to make a trip to the space centers. The only price students are required to pay is for the application fee.

“In order to apply, you have

## Student joins campus police force

by **HANNAH NELSON**  
Staff Writer

different types of personalities,” she said.

She has learned a lot about SPC’s dynamic and unique aspects of the college.

“The school is more family

feel comfortable coming to.

“For sure, I want to make them feel safe,” Hinojos said. “I don’t want them to feel afraid to come to me.”

Hinojos said that she wants

where you are just in patrol or just one thing.”

Being able to get hands-on experience with everything is what drew her to SPC, and one of the main things she enjoys about her position.

“I am a very active person,” said Hinojos, “and I like to dip my hands into everything I can.”

Being the only female in the SPC police department, Hinojos is excited to be available for female students.

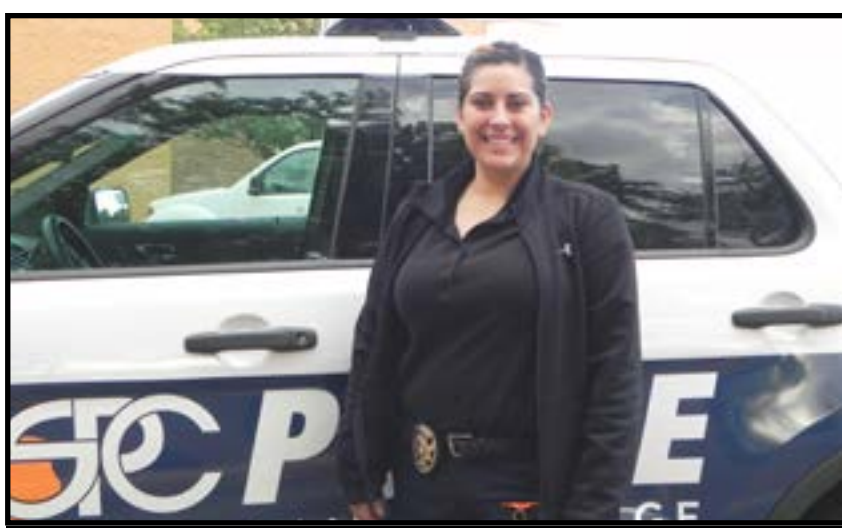
“There are some things a female doesn’t want to tell a male,” explained Hinojos. “I hope that it will help the female students be able come to me and tell me what is wrong.”

As for her personal life, Hinojos, 24, attended high school in Plainview. She also is celebrating her one-year anniversary with her husband.

“We don’t have any kids right now, but we want to have a family later on,” she explained. “We just wanted to get our careers started.”

Hinojos still attends classes at SPC. She is taking Law Enforcements classes, with the goal of completing her degree next semester.

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Ada Hinojos recently joined the Campus Police Department.  
**HANNAH NELSON/PLAINSMAN PRESS**

oriented I have noticed,” said Hinojos. “We all try to help each other out. You don’t just leave someone behind and just let them figure it out on their own.”

As time goes on, Hinojos wants to learn and familiarize herself with the students on campus.

“I just want to know the students more,” Hinojos said. “That is my goal.”

She says that she wants the students to be familiar with her, and for her to be familiar with them. She hopes that she can be someone who students

to ensure that students understand they can come to her for anything. They should also feel comfortable around her.

“They can call me or come to the office,” said Hinojos. “I am not here to scare them. I am here to help them out. Even if it is just advice in here. I want them to know that.”

Since the department is small, Hinojos is able to work hands-on with the chief, Nick Castillo. She is also able to gain experience.

“Here, I get to do a little bit of everything,” Hinojos said, “versus a big department,

## Lubbock Center set to accept students for fall

by **SARA MARSHALL**  
Editor-in-chief

Just in time for the Fall 2017 semester, South Plains College will be opening a new campus for college and dual-credit students seeking technical and workforce careers and certificates.

“It’s a really exciting opportunity for South Plains College,” said Dr. Robin Satterwhite, president of the college. “We feel like it’s going to really reach out and meet the needs of an expanded number of students in the Lubbock area.”

In 2015, SPC purchased the Shamrock Chevrolet automotive dealership on Avenue Q with hopes of converting the building into a new, stand-alone campus. The Lubbock Center has more than 77,000 square feet of instructional space, with eight high-tech computer classrooms with Internet access and 10 instructional classrooms with multimedia capabilities.

The Lubbock Center will house a millwork lab, metals lab, welding lab, automotive technology lab and con-

struction trades lab. The construction trades lab will also function as a rapid response training lab.

“There will also be admissions, financial aid, advising and testing, tutoring and business services,” said Dr. Satterwhite. “These will help support the overall needs of a student, including registering for classes, taking classes and paying for classes. All the things you would need to do, you can do right there at the new SPC Lubbock Center.”

For the past 20 years, SPC, Lubbock ISD and other community partners worked together at the Byron Martin Advanced Technology Center (ATC) to teach cooperative technical education programs. This cooperation has led to the expansion of the program and the shift to the Lubbock Center.

“We’re vacating the space we have at the Byron Martin Center,” Dr. Satterwhite said. “That’s owned by Lubbock ISD, and we’re going to be freeing up space for them. It’s a very positive separation. They needed more space, and

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May 1, 2017

Plainsman Press

# New Lubbock Center opening in time for fall semester

Continued from pg. 1

it's an opportunity for SPC to have a stand-alone facility where we have more of a presence in Lubbock. It's been a great relationship with Lubbock ISD, and even during the departure it continues to be a very positive relationship."

Most faculty and staff at the Lubbock Center will be comprised of preexisting employees from the Byron Martin ATC, who will be permanently moving to the Lubbock Center, along with student support staff from the Reese Center campus will be helping support the center.

Many of the programs once offered at the Byron Martin ATC in Lubbock will be offered at the Lubbock Center beginning in Fall 2017. Registration for fall classes began April 19.

"It's going to be very heavily focused around the technical education," Dr. Satterwhite said. "While we are going to offer some transfer education within the facility, it's going to be limited."

In recent years, Culinary Arts has become a very high-demand field of education and occupation. SPC has recognized this demand and is

including this new program at the Lubbock Center beginning Fall 2017.

Arts center," Dr. Satterwhite said. "The growing number of restaurants, particularly

Restaurant and Hotel groups have reached out to all the educational facilities, and they are

"Talented employees are moving from restaurant to restaurant, and the restau-

compliment of our program, because they are only going to take a student up to a certain level of proficiency, and that's when our program will take over."

Construction and renovations on the Lubbock Center began roughly a year ago, led by the McCutchin Construction Company based in Levelland.

"They have done a remarkable job of keeping us on time and on schedule," Dr. Satterwhite said. "They've enabled the project to move really smoothly. There have been very few surprises during the process, and I attribute that largely to their work."

Dr. Satterwhite said he does not believe that the Lubbock Center will pull away existing students from the Reese Center, also located in Lubbock.

"[The Lubbock Center] is really going to take those students at the Byron Martin Center and shift them over," Dr. Satterwhite said. "So I feel like it's going to meet our existing needs we have in Lubbock and some growing needs with the dual-credit students. I think we're going to have a growing population of students who want to identify a career opportunity in one of these areas."

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The new Lubbock Center, still under construction on April 26, is expected to be ready for the fall semester.

RILEY GOLDEN/PLAINSMAN PRESS

## NASA selects SPC students to participate in scholars program

Continued from pg. 1

He says that his time was well spent, interacting with noted engineers and researchers.

"I originally was told by a friend that I needed to apply," Cook said. "The experience was very much worth it. There were 44 students there from all over the country."

Cook says he benefited most from the group rover project and presentation.

"I had never really done a group project before," Cook said, "especially with students who are in the same or similar major. That's what I want to do. I want to work with a team developing new technology."

Cook says he wishes to dedicate himself to working on a solution that could remove manpower from war zones.

Cook will be graduating from SPC this semester, with plans to attend Texas Tech University in the Fall. He says he one day hopes to work for Tesla.

"I had the opportunity to speak to somebody who works for Space X, which is a company owned by Elon Musk," Cook said. "I got to ask him exactly how I get into working for an Elon Musk company, and he was able to give me

some very helpful information."

Cook says that a few of the students who attended the



Jim Cook attended the CAS program from April 10 - April 13 in Mississippi.

RILEY GOLDEN/PLAINSMAN PRESS

program were volunteers who had previously been selected. Although he would like to return as a volunteer, he says he simply just does not have enough time.

"I really wish I could go back and do it all again," Cook said. "But unfortunately, you are only allowed to participate

in the Lubbock area, is just phenomenal. The Lubbock

once because of the cost that NASA pays for. I would have absolutely no problem going back and doing it again."

Worley says the reason the program is so important to STEM students is because it "splashes a resume" and teaches the student skills they could only receive while working at a real job instead of in a classroom.

"It opens all kinds of doors," Worley added. "It opens doors to different jobs, internships and other opportunities. The main thing they learn is how to work as a team. They get a great dose of what to expect in the real world."

SPC students have been participating in the CAS program since 2002. Worley says that 10 students have taken internships at NASA. Ronny Baccus and Brian Butcher are two SPC alum who currently hold jobs at NASA. A total of 133 students from SPC have attended the CAS

program. "I'm proud of anyone who set goals and goes for them," Worley said. "Whatever it is. We just want our students to know that there is no ceiling."

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in desperate need of kitchen workers, cooks, managers."

This new culinary program will provide students with a deeper understanding for the culinary arts than what would be learned through on-the-job training.

Students have a difficult time filling those positions," Dr. Satterwhite explained. "The Lubbock schools are also developing their own culinary programs, which are not in competition to our own program. Really, they're in

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# Texas House bill tightens leash on service animal fraud



[Editor's note: This story is the third part of the three-part series "Doggone It!" examining the differences between therapy dogs, service dogs and emotional-support animals that begins with Issue #9 and concludes in Issue #12. Several staff members took it upon themselves to interview, take photographs, and conduct research. The results of their combined efforts follow.]

by **TYLER YORK**  
Online Editor

Texas may soon be cracking down on people attempting to take their pets where they don't belong.

In April 2017, the Texas House of Representatives introduced House Bill 2992, which would set up legal re-

course for people who misrepresent their animals as service animals.

According to the bill, it would be classified a misdemeanor "if the person fits an animal with a harness, collar, vest, sign, tag, or leash of the type commonly used by persons with disabilities" in order to receive special access or benefits normally reserved to service animal handlers.

This act, as of the current bill's text, would be punishable with both a \$300 fine and 30 hours of community service in a position that serves those with disabilities or visual impairments.

The bill is receiving mostly positive reactions, including that of Jeana Stearns, a Huntsville, Texas native and Emotional Support Animal (ESA) owner.

"I liked most of it, but still have some issues," said Stearns regarding the bill.

Much of the reason Stearns supports the bill has to do with her own experience seeing handlers try to pass off their animals as service dogs, or SDs.

"I have seen at least two cases that the SDs [were] questionable," said Stearns.

"I have seen and talked with

at least four other SD owners with their fully trained SDs. They have seen more. Since I live about one hour north of Houston and with the bullet train moving in, I'm sure that I'll see more issues coming into town."

Stearns gives some examples of red flags when encountering a person with a suspect service dog.

"This parent was claiming her 8 [month] old puppy that she had to take everywhere and had to carry—I never saw the poor thing touch the ground—was her SD," Stearns recalled. "She even had a play area for it at her work place. With toys, food and drink. Everyone was welcomed to visit and play with the pup."

"She would carry it into the school building and around the halls," Stearns added. "I never saw a vest (which is OK) but whenever anyone would ask why, she would say that it was her SD. Everyone was allowed to pet it."

In many cases, petting a service dog can cause the dog to lose focus and miss involuntary signals from the handler that could potentially prevent a seizure or other dangerous medical condition.

"Fully trained SDs are not

to react with anything but their handlers," said Stearns.

But Stearns also said she wishes lawmakers would focus more on helping protect those with Emotional Support Animals, or ESAs.

"I think that the bill simply doesn't help any legal ESA," Stearns said.

"I agree that fakes cause lots of problems, but so do people that run the stores or housing," said Stearns. "I know of people that finally get into housing and now have to

fight to keep their (legal) ESA but end up paying a pet deposit and pet rent just so they can keep the housing. The housing lists are around two years long where I live."

Ultimately, Stearns says Emotional Support Animals are often looked down upon, compared to Service Animals, and she thinks they both deserve higher legal status.

"I like to think of ESA as equals to EMTs," Stearns said.

"Although, they don't do as much as doctors (SDs), they do assist in the saving of others."

"Those that need ESA's don't have a choice," Stearns added. "Just like those with SD's don't have a choice. ESA's and SD's assist with saving lives and should be treated with respect."

Texas House Bill 2992 is currently pending in committee, and is set to go into effect September 2017, if passed.

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# Dewbre serving as vice president of NCMPR

by **VANESSA DELGADO**  
Staff Writer

There is no better job than doing what you love.

Dane Dewbre is currently the vice president and president-elect for the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR).

He is also the Associate Dean of Marketing and Recruitment at South Plains College.

NCMPR is made up of marketing and public relations professionals who are particularly involved in community and technical colleges.

"I'm a big supporter of community colleges," said Dewbre. "That's what makes what I do fun."

One of the reasons Dewbre loves community colleges is because of their diversity. At most universities, there is typically only the stereotypical college student. But at a community college, there is a wider range, such as parents, single parents, grandparents, and many others. Each one has a different path and background.

There is a wide variety of students and community colleges. Universities offer great benefits as well, but Dewbre found his passion at SPC.

Dewbre says that what he does is more than a job to him. It is what he loves to do, and it shows in his work. He helps those who are also trying to do what they love. If you love what you do, then you will nev-

er have to work a day in your life, because it won't feel like work, according to Dewbre.

Dewbre received his associate's degree at SPC in telecommunications, before going on to attend Texas Tech University. After graduating from Texas Tech, Dewbre got a job at Clovis Community

College in New Mexico at the age of 21. He was in the marketing department there for four years. While there, he was introduced to NCMPR.

He started as a District 4 director for NCMPR, and then later became an executive board member.

Since he is now vice president and president elect, he is preparing for next year when

he will become president. He recently attended the American Association of Community Colleges conference to talk about Word of Mouth marketing. He has been involved with NCMPR for almost 20 years.

Dewbre explains how the field of marketing and public relations has been altered.

"Digital media has been one of the biggest changes in the past few years," he said.

Dewbre has worked hard through the years to do what he loves. He has a very obvious passion for community colleges and says he is privileged enough to work for one and with others.

"Sometimes it gets so busy it gets a little difficult," adds Dewbre.

Hard work is always a must for anyone to reach his or her goals. Some advice Dewbre offers is, "Believe in what you're doing... make sure you know what their mission is and what they're about, and bring that connection to your job."

Dewbre's son, Sam Dewbre, is already following the great steps that his father has left for him. He is graduating from SPC in May as well.

Dewbre will soon become the president of NCMPR and has big shoes to fill. But his experience has prepared him for this great opportunity.

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Dane Dewbre, current vice president and president-elect for NCMPR, in his office on the Levelland campus on April 26.  
STACY JOHNSON/PLAINSMAN PRESS

# Commencement ceremonies set for May 12

by **BRANDI ORTIZ**  
News Editor

There will be a change in the ceremonies for this year's graduating students.

South Plains College will host the 59th annual Spring Commencement ceremonies for the Class of 2017 on May 12 in the Texan Dome on the Levelland Campus.

Students who have earned, or will be earning, their associate's degrees or certificates of proficiency will be honored during the commencement ceremonies.

Previously, the ceremonies were split in two according to the students' last name. Now, ceremonies will be separated by degree.

The first ceremony will begin at 9:30 a.m., and will recognize students graduating in the following fields: Associate of Arts, Associate Degree Nursing, Vocational Nursing, Commercial Music, Design Communications, Cosmetology, Electrical & Power Transmission Technology, Fire Technology, Law Enforcement Technology, Sound Technology, Video

Production Technology, and Welding Technology.

The second ceremony will begin at 1 p.m.. Students receiving a degree in the following areas will be recognized: Associate of Science, Associate of Arts in Teaching, Applied Rehabilitation Psychology, Child Development, Emergency Medical Services, Physical Therapist Assistant, Radiologic Technology, Respiratory Care, Surgical Technology, Accounting Associate, Automotive Collision Repair, Automotive Technology, Business, Computer Aided Drafting & Design, Computer Information Systems, Diesel Service Technology, Heating, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration, Industrial Manufacturing/Emerging Technologies, Office Technology, Paralegal Studies, Real Estate, and all dual-credit majors.

According to Robin Coler, graduation clerk at

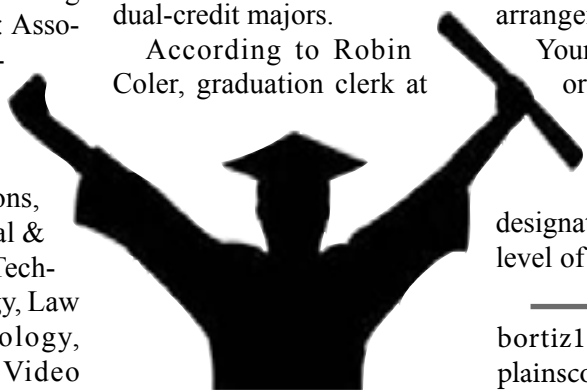
SPC, caps and gowns will be distributed for free starting May 1 through May 11 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.. Students at the Levelland campus can pick them up at the Admission and Records Office in the Student Services Building, while students at the Reese Center, Byron Martin ATC, and Plainview Center can pick up caps and gowns at Reese Center's Admission and Records Office in Building 8.

All students graduating during the first ceremony must report to the Physical Education Complex by 8:45 a.m., and those graduating during the second ceremony should report at 12:45 p.m.

Graduates with special needs will have access to the elevator located at the east end of Texan Dome to get to the floor for the Processional. For arrangements, contact Linda Young at (806) 716-2577, or Dawn Valles at 716-4675.

Guest in wheelchairs will have a designated area on the upper level of the Dome.

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Date	Regular Class Time	Schedule Exam Time
May 8, 2017 (Monday)	MW 8:00 a.m.-9:15 a.m.	8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.
	MWF 8:00 a.m.-8:50 a.m.	8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.
	MW 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
	MWF 11:00 a.m.-11:50 a.m.	10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
	MW 1:00 p.m.-2:15 p.m.	1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
	MW 4:00 p.m.-5:15 p.m.	3:15 p.m.-5:15 p.m.
	MW 7:00 p.m.-8:15 p.m.	5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
May 9, 2017 (Tuesday)	TR 8:00 a.m.-9:15 a.m.	8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.
	TR 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
	TR 2:30 p.m.-3:45 p.m.	1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
	TR 5:30 p.m.-6:45 p.m.	5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
	TR 7:00 p.m.-8:15 p.m.	7:15 p.m.-9:15 p.m.
May 10, 2017 (Wednesday)	MWF 9:00 a.m.-9:50 a.m.	8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.
	MW 9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m.	8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.
	MWF 10:00 a.m.-10:50 a.m.	10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
	MWF 12:00 p.m.-12:50 p.m.	1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
	MW 2:30 p.m.-3:45 p.m.	3:15 p.m.-5:15 p.m.
	MW 5:30 p.m.-6:45 p.m.	5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
	MW 8:30 p.m.-9:45 p.m.	7:45 p.m.-9:45 p.m.
May 11, 2017 (Thursday)	TR 9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m.	8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.
	TR 1:00 p.m.-2:15 p.m.	10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
	TR 3:30 p.m.-4:45 p.m.	1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
	TR 4:00 p.m.-5:15 p.m.	1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

## SPC to host annual Peace Officer Memorial at 10 a.m. on May 4.

The event will pay tribute to the law enforcement officers whose lives have been lost while serving and protecting citizens across the United States.

For more information, contact Dr. Lance Scott, instructor in Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Technology, at (806) 716-2558.

# BackTalk: Airstrike on Syria fires up debate

## United States bombing pales in comparison to Syrian civil war

## War declaration necessary to prevent further Syrian attacks



by TYLER YORK  
Online Editor

The atrocities committed in Syria should come to an end. But random bombings ordered by the United States will only make the situation worse.

Chemical warfare has become an unfortunate staple of war. But its roots run deeper than the last few decades. Its prohibition on the battlefield actually dates back to the 17th century.

The Strasbourg Agreement, signed by France and the Holy Roman Empire, was a treaty to prevent the use of poisoned bullets in battle.

In 1919, the Treaty of Versailles made poison gas illegal in Germany. In 1925, the Geneva Protocol set up a ban on chemicals in warfare, including gases, liquids, devices, and biological agents.

Even as recently as 1993, Syria had participated in the Chemical Weapons Prevention treaty. This agreement created a timeline for the end of use

and destruction of chemical stockpiles in 192 states.

In 2013, the United Nations discovered Syria had been producing and stockpiling chemicals for warfare. Syrian president Bashar Assad had allegedly ordered the Syrian military to use Sarin gas on civilian targets.

Most recently, in April 2017, the attack on Khan Shaykhun is the deadliest chemical attack in the Syrian civil war since the attack four years prior.

In 2011, the United States first became involved in the Syrian civil war by providing aid to rebels in the form of food, water, and trucks. This evolved into cash, intelligence, and later, full-on training of Syrian rebels. But this is not uncommon.

The Syrian civil war has become a proxy war. It has created an opportunity for many states and countries to use tactical resources to oppose external enemies. A prime example is Russia, which has been using its own planes and helicopters to attack Assad's enemies in the war for several years.

In April, President Donald Trump called for 59 missiles to hit a single airbase in Syria as a punishment for the recent chemical weapons attack.

The question of President Trump's recent bombing order

isn't about whether the United States should intervene in Syria. The problem is the act comes off as uninformed righteousness.

That justification completely ignores the years of violence and terror wielded by a leader on his own people. It is, at once, too strong for an outsider's butting in, and too weak for a global superpower's righteous justice.

The United States has already involved itself in the war, with no positive results whatsoever.

Without formal action, running around the outside of a war that doesn't involve the United States can only ramp up the already dangerous situation. Not to mention the possibility that seeing the United States getting involved in such a flippant way might only encourage other nations to do the same. There is a real danger here of escalating the Syrian civil war to a war of a much larger scale.

President Trump's erratic bombing order is heavily out of proportion with the brutality of the Syrian civil war. The United States should do something to stand up for the victims in Syria, but not based on immature and misguided whims.

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by RILEY GOLDEN  
Entertainment Editor

President Donald Trump just ordered an airstrike on the Syrian base that launched the chemical attack on Khan Sheikhoun, and liberals are standing behind him.

Americans are coming together for the first time in support of President Trump's decision to retaliate against Al Assad's use of chemical warfare, but it was not enough. If President Trump wants America to be involved, we need to get wholeheartedly involved.

Assad has been assaulting civilian cities since the conflict started in 2012, and he's showing no signs of stopping. Although President Trump said that we couldn't let children being attacked with chemicals go unnoticed, they are the same children that he refused to let into this country. He even attempted to leave visa holders in the Middle East to deal with the conflict, instead of coming back to America.

But America retaliating only because of the chemical warfare says that we are OK with everything else he is doing, and I am not.

I am not disregarding the American lives, or other innocent lives that might be lost, if we went to war. But I believe with the few hundred lives that we might lose, we would stop Assad from taking thousands more. And, no one life is worth more than another.

I understand that it is our duty as Americans to protect Americans. But, furthermore, we are all humans, and I believe that it is also our duty to protect humanity and keep an entire culture from being wiped off the map.

America already had the highest military budget of all the world leaders. Then President Trump increased it when he got into office. Russia may be intimidating because they're known to be tough, but their military doesn't stack up to ours.

North Korea also continues to demonstrate that they are not a threat to us, because they haven't been able to successfully launch anything.

But if America wants to go to war, we won't be alone. Major powers such as France and Germany that were on opposite sides of the first two

world wars are on the same side, and they're all against Assad and terrorism.

It seems, at first glance, like it might be a cut and dry conflict, but it's not.

In January 2012, protesters were marching in Aleppo when security officers fired the first shot, killing one man. The total death toll of the incident reached eight people. The rebels began to organize and their society collapsed. To muddy things up, Assad began releasing terrorists into the rebel groups to make it harder for other countries to back them.

The insurgents and terrorists broke off from the rebels and formed the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, or ISIS. Then, secretly, Under President Barak Obama, the United States and the CIA began training the Syrian rebels, and Russia started giving aid to Assad's forces that were fighting the rebels.

I think it's time for the United States to declare war on Assad, and the rest of the major world powers will join in against the terror of Russia, North Korea, and Assad.

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# Lowering renewal age of driving licenses reduces risks for elderly



by VANESSA DELGADO  
Staff Writer

Many people die from accidents involving a vehicle, whether they were a driver, passenger, or pedestrian.

People are always looking for new ways to make our roads safer. Car accidents are almost always caused by human error, rather than mechanical malfunctions.

Most senior citizens who

have their driver's license have been driving for quite some time. Most of them have become more skilled throughout the years. But because of illness, fading vision and hearing impairments that come with old age, after 70, the driver should have to retake the driving test every 10 years due to concerns involving safety.

My grandfather has the early stages of on-setting dementia. He has loved to drive his entire life. But soon after the effects of his illness started surfacing, he started running into things when he was driving. My grandmother has never had her

driver's license. Therefore, my grandfather was their only means of transportation. He insisted that he was perfectly fine while driving.



But one day, my grandfather dropped my grandmother off at a doctor's appointment and then proceeded to head to the store. My grandma did not see my grandpa for 36 hours

after that. There was an Amber Alert sent out, and cops were out searching for his vehicle. He was later found hours away from home.

To ensure his safety and the safety of others, his license was revoked.

This is only one example of how dangerous it can be for the elderly to have a driver's license if it is not periodically checked.

They might not be particularly happy about it, but it will protect many people from possible accidents. Currently, in Texas, after age 79, the only additional

requirements is they have to renew their license in person, and they have to do a vision test.

After the age of 70, the number of accidents goes up. This is no coincidence, and people need to start taking notice that this is a problem. There are plenty of efforts made to prevent drunk driving. But hardly anyone recognizes the risk with elderly drivers.

Not only are they in danger, but the people around them are too. They can have a slower reaction time, as well as other problems that cause car accidents.

If they are fit to drive, then it won't be that much harder to take an extra 30 minutes to complete a driving test. It can prevent accidents and save

money, time, and even lives down the road.

I do not understand why so many are against the idea when it has so many benefits. We need to start making it a priority to protect the elderly from others and themselves.

Having to renew a driver's license every 10 years will not be too much of an inconvenience. It is better to spend this little bit of time protecting people from others and themselves, than having to pay the price later.

People have spoken up about it before, but not nearly enough. That needs to change.

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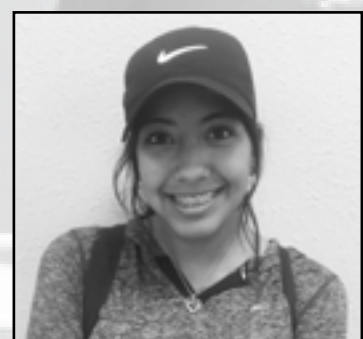
# Man on the Street

What is the most important lesson you've learned this semester?



"The most important thing I learned this semester is how to reach out and meet new people."

Alani Juarez  
Freshman  
Education  
Anton



"Sleep over looks!"

Waiki Ornelas  
Freshman  
Physical Therapy Assistant  
Levelland



"Don't wait until the last minute."

Mikayla Hoople  
Sophomore  
Pre-Nursing  
Lubbock



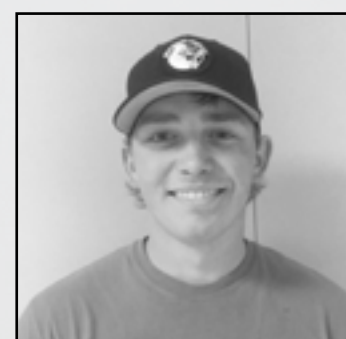
"Study hard!"

Trenton Jones  
Sophomore  
History  
Levelland



"I learned how to be responsible with attending classes and studying on my own time."

Fabian Amalla  
Freshman  
Computer Aided Drafting  
Anton



"Show up to class."

Jamien Day  
Freshman  
Welding  
Levelland

Compiled by Noell Luna and Mariah Deleon

# Legalizing prostitution may lead to positive outcome



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

by **MATT MOLINAR**  
Associate Editor

The global sex trade has become a big industry for prostitutes and a problem for victims of the sex trafficking epidemic.

Prostitution is a taboo issue that has been debated in many countries, including the United States. Some countries have legalized the practice, while others have simply decriminalized it. If regulated correctly, prostitution could be legalized while cracking down on human trafficking.

While humans deserve the free will to sell their bodies as they please, this can open doors for sex traffickers to run underground businesses. The current laws for the sex trade exist to protect and reduce the number of victims.

In the state of Texas, it is a crime to even suggest that you may be buying or selling sex. If you are convicted more than three times for prostitution, you will serve jail time. So what happens to the girls who are stuck in the practice?

Unless they're lucky enough to live somewhere such as Lubbock, which has a task force that is actively involved in keeping women out of prostitution, they may be out of luck.

This is why prostitution should be legalized. If the goal is to keep these girls off of the streets, we should start by opening up brothels outside of the city limits for those who are seeking a job in prostitution. This way, we can increase tax revenue while reducing the number of those who might conduct business with an underage prostitute or human trafficking victim.

People who oppose the legalization of prostitution believe that legalizing it would create a higher STD

rate. But we must take into consideration how brothels in Nevada operate. Contractors who work in Nevada brothels are required to



test for STDs and STIs at least monthly.

People who oppose also believe that the human trafficking rate will increase. But there is no logic behind that. At worst, we may see the numbers remain the same if



it were to become legalized. Legalized brothels would be state regulated, just as those in Nevada are.

Legalizing prostitution could help combat human trafficking. In Germany, prostitution was legalized, which dropped human trafficking rates by 10 percent during the first decade of 2000, according to a study done by Harvard Law.

With prohibition laws in place, pimps can threaten human trafficking victims with the prostitution laws, making it less likely for them to trust law enforcement. If the practice were legalized, a relationship can be formed between trafficking victims and law enforcement.

According to Donna M. Hughes, a researcher on human trafficking from the University of Rhode Island, legalization of prostitution would mean the practice would be regulated. These regulations would determine where, when,

and how prostitution can operate. Decriminalization of prostitution is what I would consider a very bad idea.

When a legal offense becomes decriminalized, all laws regarding the act are eliminated and law enforcement officials are no longer able to intervene. If prostitution were to become decriminalized, the probability of somebody being forced into prostitution would become much higher.

So let's say the United States legalized prostitution. While the state is regulating brothels, law enforcement can begin to focus on serious sex trafficking crimes. People who voluntarily prostitute themselves would be kept out of jail, while illegal pimps and traffickers are charged for enslaving people.

Morally, I think prostitution is wrong. But who am I to judge somebody for his or her choice of profession? I have had the pleasure of meeting an escort

who holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry. This person is hard working, determined, and excited about his career in the sex industry. Although it may not be my cup of tea, if somebody is that passionate and determined about a profession, why shouldn't they be able to do it?

In the United States, \$1.2 million is spent each year on enforcement costs regarding prostitution arrests. The spending is not worth it, because prostitutes will pay their expenses or spend time in jail and get right back to it.

While I understand that the prostitution laws are in place to protect children and reduce human trafficking, prostitution should be legalized in order to truly combat human trafficking and reduce the amount of dedicated prostitutes in jail and in the streets.

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# Good mothers deserve more appreciation



by **SHELBY MORGAN**  
Staff Writer

Mother's Day is a day out of the year for you to recognize the mothers around you. But for all they do for us, they deserve more than just one day.

I was blessed with one of those moms who would drive 30 minutes to Wal-Mart at 10:30 the night before a project was due just to make sure that we finished it, and that it was perfect. She would iron every piece of clothing my siblings and I wore, and she always made sure that we never did without.

She worked as a helper for my dad, who is a welder, for almost 15 years, which meant long hours in the sun and in the cold. More often than not, it also meant drive-thru dinners. We never knew the difference. After she stopped working with my dad and began working in the school cafeteria, she would pick me and all of my friends up from school with hot, fresh cheese

sticks and soft drinks for all of us.

I don't think I realized how lucky I was to have a mom like her then, when I would gripe at her for dancing in front of my friends and complain when I didn't get my way. But I definitely thank God for giving me the best mom I could ever ask for.

I'm immensely grateful for all the memories she made sure that we made growing up. She would drive to my school when I was in Kindergarten and drop off my bike, then ride her own bike back to pick me up at the

happens to me, I immediately pick up the phone to call her and tell her. She doesn't get annoyed when I call her 12 times in an hour because I'm trying to make chicken fried steak and have no idea what I'm doing. She's always patient with my brother, sister, and I, and she is always



end of the day so that we could ride our bikes home together. She always had random crafts for us to do, such as painting popsicle sticks or finding sea shells to make picture frames out of. These are memories that I will cherish for the rest of my life.

Now that I'm an adult, she is one of my best friends. Anytime that anything

the biggest supporter in our corner, cheering us on at any given time. She's also the first one to call us out when we're wrong.

She is constantly encouraging us to not just let life pass us by, but to actually live. Whether that means jumping out of an airplane at 11,000 feet in the air, or returning to school, her

response is always, "Do it. One day you'll be old and won't have the chance."

When I had my own son, I finally realized the love that my mom has for us, and the depths that she will go just so that we could always have everything we could need or want. Society paints a picture of moms who have it all together in a Mrs. Clever-

esque world with this insane notion that when you become a mom you automatically gain super mom powers. But nobody tells you about the hard stuff, the yucky stuff, the hide yourself in the bathroom for five seconds of silence stuff, the sleepless nights, or the broken hearts that you just can't fix when you have a kid. I've learned the hard way that it's not all rainbows and butterflies.

But my mom never let us know when times were tough. If she was having a down day, we didn't know about it as kids. If she made a promise to us, she always kept her word, no matter how many obstacles she had to jump through or go over to get it done. I pray that if I can just be half the mother that she is, I'll be alright. And one day, maybe, just maybe,

my son will think of me the same way.

The next time you see your mom, give her a big hug and say thank you. You don't know the sacrifices that she has made in order to make sure that you have everything you need, and that you are happy and healthy. And if your mom is anything like mine, she deserves all the praise every day of the year. Flowers and presents are nice, but nothing beats hearing that all of her efforts through the years didn't go unnoticed.

So, hi Mom. Thank you for every single thing you do for me. I am forever grateful for you, and I wouldn't be who I am, or where I am, without you. I love you more.

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## Graduating student gives insight to college experience after military



by **SERGIO MADRID**  
Editorial Assistant

College is a whole other beast than the military, but one I needed to switch my brain back to normal as I was in a state of constant worry in the military.

Seriously, it seemed anytime I was relaxed in the Navy, I would get in trouble.

I started my time here at South Plains College in the Commercial Music Building where I studied music.

The more I learned about music, the deeper I wanted to explore it.

Some of the instructors,

such as Sonny Borba and Ed Marsh, had some very interesting classes, which I attributed mostly to the way they deliver the information.

Though, after a certain amount of time, music theory and the way some of the instructors taught was causing me to become disenfranchised with music.

There are so many rules and regulations some have in regard to music and how it's meant to be played. Also, most of the students there are worried about learning music rather than making music, which was my end goal.

I didn't want to move around the "structure" of music, but

semester, and decided to drop a few classes and look for

contemplated becoming an English major, as I wanted

the Newsroom, talked with some pretty cool people, and

math, but sometimes juggling everything I do outside of SPC and my class loads were a bit much. But it showed me that I am the type of person who can handle a multitude of tasks, though sometimes with help.

Being older, more mature and having many grown-up priorities, it is hard to connect with younger students whose biggest worry is whether their parents are going to buy them something. You want to hang out or meet up at a party or bar, but something always seems to come up.

That's not to say I don't enjoy myself or vacation, but there is a culture change I want to install within my family. Most people in my family are uneducated and lack motivation to change their hardships. They don't want to do more than they need to get through the work week.

I grew up differently, not wanting to be like them. I didn't want to follow in their path of early-unwanted pregnancies and low-income jobs.

Leaving Lubbock to join the military was the first step. Finishing college was my second, and now I look toward continuing education, making a name for myself to honor my late grandfather, and setting a positive example for my younger cousins, my niece and nephew, and someday kids of my own.

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Burning the Midnight Oil band photos near the east side of Lubbock.  
TOVI OYERVIDEZ/PLAINSMAN PRESS

rather let it move around me, the way I write and the way I play. I came to this conclusion a few weeks into my second

another major to pursue.

Knowing that becoming a song writer was my goal, I looked toward literature and

to do more than just read and write.

During this time of changing majors, I formed a band with a few old friends from high school who were jamming a lot while I was in the Navy.

We were hanging out one night and I told them how I picked up the guitar in the Navy and would write songs from time to time. I played a song for them, and we haven't looked back since.

In my search for a new major, someone told me about the journalism program they offer at SPC and how good it was. I looked into it and decided to give it a shot.

After a rough first semester, I decided I could really get into journalism if I applied myself a bit more. Though most of the people who are pursuing journalism are not what I consider my kind of people.

I found some comfort in my final two semesters at SPC in

acquired some new skills to help me through the rest of my college career and possibly in my professional career as well.

The paper allowed for me to write about concerts, festivals, bands, dogs (mainly my dog) and other things I took an interest in. But it also allowed me to get out of my comfort zone and explore other aspects of media.

Other than music and journalism, I came across a few other classes I enjoyed, such as Geology. I became a member of the "Rock Whisperers," the geology club led by professor Aaron Greene. There is also sociology, studying people, society, and doing interactive projects, taught by Brant Farrar.

Some classes took a lot out of me and were focal points of some of my semesters. Chemistry and college algebra were two among those classes. I'm good with

## Journalism still very much alive despite technological advances



by **BRITTNY STEGALL**  
Opinion Editor

Just as the world evolves, so do the things around us.

Journalism, to some people, may be dead. But to this journalist, it is only evolving. I hear all the time as a journalism major, "Why did you choose that career.

You know its dying, right?" To some of you, that might be the case. But there is one thing everyone who agrees with that statement fails to realize. While print newspapers and nightly news might disappear with the years to come, there is a rise in the internet and social media.

No one can say journalism is dead. Journalists may die, but journalism never will. It is alive and well, and it will continue to be. It might just be in a different form than you would expect. There will always be a bright future for myself and other journalists, no matter the year or what technology they create. The world will always need

credible and great journalists. The internet is the fourth medium of journalism, so how can journalism be dead if the internet is considered to be just that?

This generation of journalists and the ones who will come after us need to embrace this evolution instead of fighting it. Just like we learn to ask the right questions and how to format our stories, we need to learn how to use the internet, different mediums, and gain experiences in

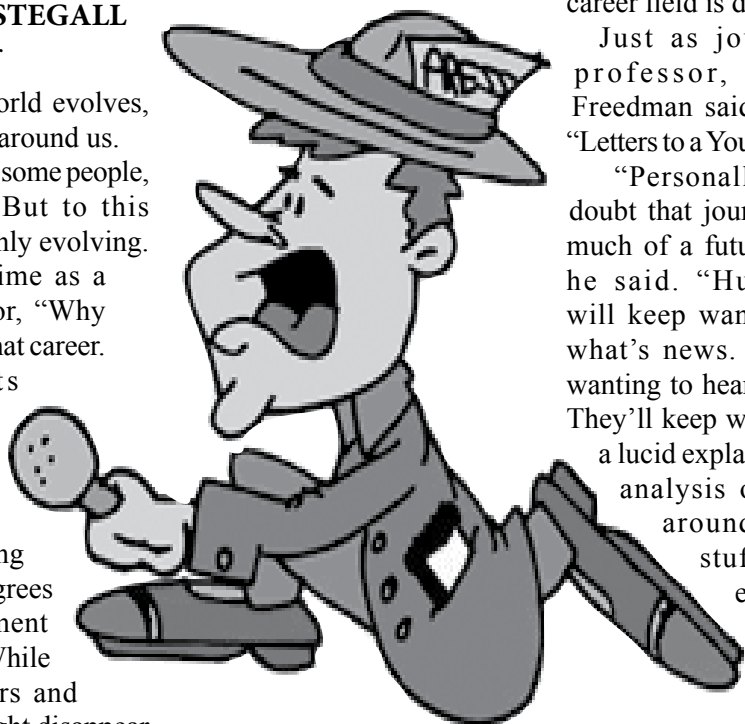
Journalism will always be evolving, just as it did in the years before any of us were born. It's up to us to adapt just as the journalists before us did, if this a career path you wish to pursue. The world will always need journalists who are trustworthy and credible just as much as the world needs policemen and doctors. The world will always need journalism. So if you're a journalist or wanting to major in journalism, do not ever let someone tell you that your career field is dying.

Just as journalist and professor, Samuel G. Freedman said in his book, "Letters to a Young Journalist":

"Personally, I have no doubt that journalism has as much of a future as a past," he said. "Human beings will keep wanting to know what's news. They'll keep wanting to hear a good story. They'll keep wanting to have a lucid explanation, a smart analysis of the events around them. That stuff will never, ever go out of style."

There is no doubt that journalism will continue to evolve, just as it has done in the years prior. But storytelling will never go out of style. And storytelling is what keeps journalism alive. But in order to keep ourselves alive as journalists, we need to embrace the change in our career field and take it in full stride.

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different areas to the best of our abilities.

We need to learn to make the best out of a sticky situation.

The journalism field has come a very long way, from the 1830's when a penny press was made to now when you have major newspapers such as the Boston Globe and The New York Times. Then there is the internet, where you have everything at your fingertips with the touch of a button.

## New sound causes rift among Paramore fans



by **HANNAH NELSON**  
Staff Writer

Fans around the world are freaking out about Paramore's newest release.

As this new era approaches, everyone is eager to see what the future holds for the band.

The last time that Paramore released a new album was in 2013 with their self-titled album, "Paramore." However, Paramore is now back with their new single "Hard Times." Information was also announced about their new album, "After Laughter."

Paramore completely dropped the ball with the news of their new album and release of a single. The band really didn't promote anything up until the day before the single release. All that fans ever received were very strange and vague Twitter posts.

A few days before the release, band members Hayley Williams, Taylor York, and Zac Farro teased bits and

pieces of the album artwork. This turned out to be a really smart move. Instead of hyping up the release for weeks and weeks, they just shocked their fandom. This caused an immediate freak out between "ParaWhores." Every music news outlet quickly had stories about Paramore, and fans were posting all over the internet about it. Paramore ended up even trending before noon.

The single, "Hard Times," is a completely different direction from their previous music for most fans. The song has old-school styled vibes and a unique funky rhythm. When first listening to the song, old-school fans have to take a step back. This isn't the normal style that is expected from Paramore. The song starts out with a very joyful intro that completely contrasts with the lyrics. Williams begins the song with, "All that I want is to wake up fine, tell me that I'm alright, that I ain't gonna die." The song really reflects a dark time for the band and getting through the "Hard Times." They are not the same Paramore as they were for "Brand New Eyes" or one of their most popular releases, "Riot."

Paramore has been a band for more than 11 years and have created five albums. Their first album was released in 2005, when the lead singer was only 16. It wouldn't make sense for the band to be creating and writing the same music.

True music grows with the artists. As people change, the music is going to change like it should. The band is smart to change their music to fit who they are now as individuals. If the band kept releasing the same style of music, it would become boring.

As for the album set to release on May 12, it is hard to know exactly what fans can expect. Obviously, the album is going to be different than previous releases. After the album cycle of "Paramore," the band lost their bassist Jeremy Davis, leaving Williams and York as the only remaining members.

For a while, the future for Paramore seemed bleak. No one knew if they were going to continue as a band or separate.

However, the band is back and ready to face the music world again with their new style. One of the biggest announcements was that drummer Zac Farro was returning to the band. This seems to be a big topic for this new album.

This new era is going to be a very exciting time for the band and fans. Even though not every person is a fan of the new music style and direction, Paramore is definitely going to be the band to watch out for this summer.

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# Experiences in Newsroom inspire student to seek new path



by HANNAH NELSON  
Staff Writer

The summer before starting at South Plains College, I went to orientation and met my advisor.

At that point in time, I was a Journalism major and was assigned to Charlie Ehrenfeld as an advisor. I went in and randomly decided to change my major to advertising. This wasn't the best decision that I made in my life. I should have definitely stuck with journalism. However, I've changed my major more than the weather in Texas changes. Poor Charlie had to deal with changing my major for me and putting me into classes he isn't even an advisor for.

While making my schedule, there is one class that Charlie put me in: Publications 1. It wasn't until my first day in class that I realized that I would be writing for the campus newspaper. I spent most of my first semester learning and improving my writing. If I ever looked at one of my articles from my first semester in the Fall of 2015 and compared it to my writing now, it would be completely different. I ended up taking a break from the paper that spring semester. However, I learned during that break how much I missed writing. As soon as registration opened for the

Fall 2016 semester, I was in Publications 2. For me, this semester was a completely different situation than my first. I was so excited to start writing again. I really started to venture out of my comfort zone with stories, taking on more stories than I normally would.

The experience that I have gotten from the Plainsman Press has already helped me tremendously. You learn to be confident in your writing. You don't know who is going to read one of your articles, so you have to trust your own writing, especially when it comes to opinions. When I write an opinion, I am putting my own personal thoughts out for people to agree or disagree with. I've learned to be confident with my own thoughts to share with any reader. The Newsroom also

full of such talented people come together and create an amazing paper. Plus, thanks to the paper, I can now write

For this article, I had to take my own pictures that night at the concert. One thing I have

hangout. Even if I didn't need to work on a story, I could always just go and

to and be around. We now message on Snapchat and geek out over tarot cards



500 words about anything. My favorite experiences from being a part of the



always tried to avoid is pictures. I



sit in the Newsroom at the back table.

I can normally always find Sara in there playing music, and I could never complain about the station choices. The best music, in my opinion, was always playing in the room. Our Editor-in-Chief, Sara, is

and colorful hair. She is now my go-to hair stylist after helping me get the orange hair I had been wanting all semester.

This semester, I also met Ryan, who will talk about Paramore and "Rupaul's Drag Race" with me during class. We will sit down every Tuesday and talk about the latest "Drag Race" episode. We predict who we want to win and go home. It has been really fun to find someone to share things I enjoy with.

teaches you how important each individual is to the final publication every two weeks. It is so cool to see a whole classroom

Plainsman Press are from my concert reviews. My review about the I Prevail

will write anything but avoid taking

someone in the Newsroom I know I can always talk to. Whether I need help with sources, writing, or the printer, she has always been able to help me. She is someone I can just go and hang out with in the Newsroom during my off period.

This semester, I have met so many friends through the Newsroom. Dez has been such an amazing person in my life this semester. We met at the back table of the Newsroom, which is my normal spot. Throughout the semester, I have learned a lot of things that Dez and I have in common. She is a really cool person to talk

find my love for writing.

Being a writer for the Plainsman Press for three semesters has been one of the best parts of my time at SPC. I didn't even know how much I loved writing before this last year on the staff. I will be continuing to write at West Texas A&M, but it can never replace the Newsroom. I've loved being a part of it. I want to thank the entire staff for being such incredible people. I will miss walking into a room that welcomed me every day.

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concert is one that I will always be proud of. This article gave me the ability to write about something I was very passionate about and enjoyed. Regardless of writing a story or not, I was going to the concert. I Prevail has been one of my favorite bands for a while. I spent weeks before the concert talking to I Prevail's publicist to get a press pass for the event. It was sure an amazing experience to cover and review a concert as a fan.

pictures at all costs. I faced a huge fear, and was able to take pictures during the concert in the photo pit. The pictures didn't turn out that bad, if I do say so myself. I had one of the best times of my life during this concert, and I am able to remember it forever with my article.

The best semester, by far, has been this spring. I have had so many amazing experiences and formed relationships with so many great people. I could go into the Newsroom at any time during the day and just

# Friendships, experiences give student everlasting memories



by **BRITTNY STEGALL**  
Opinion Editor

Just like many great adventures, mine must come to an end.

Journalism is not just a career. To me, it is a way of life. It is my way of changing the world. I joined the journalism field in the hopes of one day changing the world. I believe

there is good in this world, but someone has to be out there to find it. My love for writing goes beyond just diaries and journals; it is part of my life. Without it, I believe I would be lost. I did not decide to pursue journalism until my junior year of high school. It is one of my best decisions in my life.

Joining the Plainsman Press has also been one of my best decisions I have made since graduating from high school. It has been my second home at South Plains College. My first semester in college was the fall of 2016. To say I was nervous was an understatement. My second day of class, I walked into Publications. This was my first of many steps towards the career path I chose. The Plainsman Press staff welcomed me. They welcomed every single one of us with open arms.

My first semester on the staff, I was only a staff writer. You could say I was just testing the water, before diving straight in. It was rocky in the beginning, with late stories, nervous interviews, and long nights. But I would not change a single thing, minus a late story here and there. I learned what it was like to essentially be a journalist. I know when I graduate and actually get a real job in journalism that it will be very different. It will be longer nights, stories, and hard-headed people.... More than there are in this Newsroom. But I would not trade a single thing for a different chance.

This semester, my second, I became the Opinion Editor. That was not in my plans. I heard about how hard it was, and the late nights from 2:30 p.m. to possibly sometime the next morning, every other Tuesday and Thursday. I had no desire

to be there that late, but a certain pinky promise made me change my mind.

Charles Ehrenfeld, a.k.a. "Charlie" to us all, is truly one of the best advisors and friends to all at SPC. Fate did not land me Charlie as an advisor, but my career field did. Near the beginning of my first semester, I made a pinky promise to him, a promise I fulfilled this year. I promised I would become an editor before a left. I want Charlie to know how thankful I am to him, for holding me to that promise. All the long Tuesday and Thursday nights were worth it. Through the struggles, arguments, and all the victories, I loved every bit of it. It was

you held me to that pinky promise. So, plain and simple, thank you.

Friendships are something special and on this staff. You gain many. Many of these friendships I hope will hold through the years, no matter how far apart we are, or the different paths we take. You may not like some people, and you may get angry for people not turning in a story, but it is like a family. It is a family; it is the Plainsman Press family.

editors: First, there is Sara Marshall, editor-in-chief.

My first semester, I did not think I wanted to get to know her. There was nothing against her, I was just hesitant. If anyone ever gets the chance to meet her, do it. She will change your life. I got to know her this semester, and it was too short to say goodbye. She is by far my best friend on this staff. She is always there to give a smile, hugs, a helping hand, or words of encouragement.

for what she has done for me, not only on the staff but in my life.

Unlike many on the staff, Steven keeps to himself most of the time. We did not do much on the paper together, but he was always there to talk to. I do enjoy talking and anyone who likes to listen. He was always there to enjoy a conversation with. Steven always kept a calm composure, and he always had my back and made sure I was

have with you both on the staff. Brandi had my back at times when I might have needed it, and you both always gave me a laugh. Thank you for being you.

Let me just say how scared, nervous, and out of place I was while taking my first photograph for a teacher feature I wrote my first semester. I barely knew how to even work the camera, but Tovi was there to help. She is one of the best photographers I know, and she gave me the confidence to take my first photograph. She helped me with the Man on the Street pictures and taught me how to grayscale and get the brightness and contrast just right. She gave me many laughs and smiles by

OK. Thank you for being a friend that I could always count on.

Computers and me do not really work well with each other, but Tyler showed me the ropes a bit. I know so much more than I did a semester ago, and it is because he took the time to show me how and teach me.

just talking to her. If someone were the light in a dark room, it would be her.

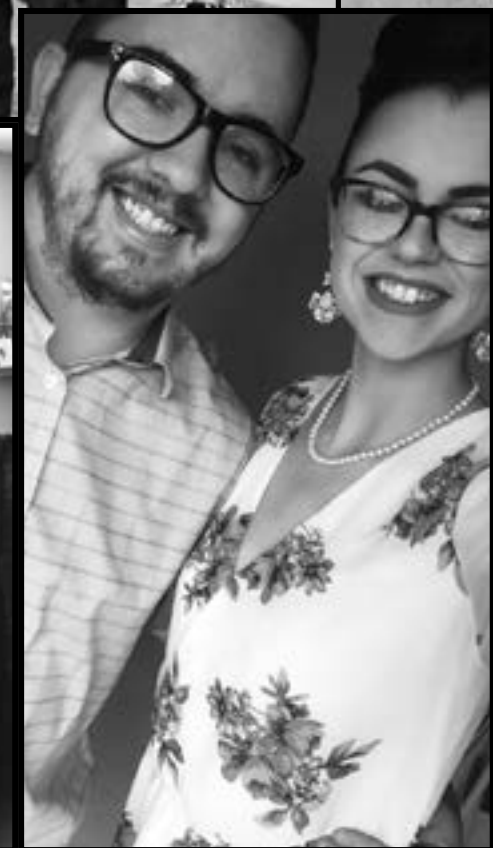
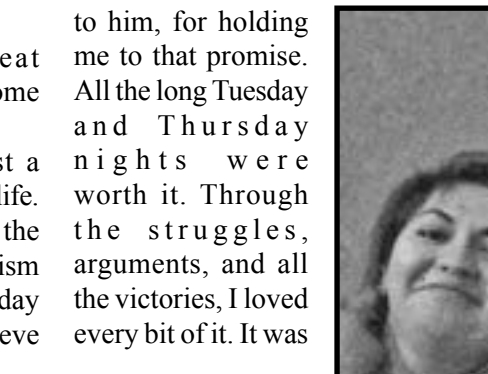
There are many more people on the staff, but they are just a few who really changed my life. But there are a few people who changed my life and helped me on this journey before I began it.

My parents and brothers are always there for me, and they never fail to always tell me how proud they are. They are my number one fans, and my mom has every one of my papers. They are more than just my support system; they are my family. Without family, I believe you would go nowhere in life. Whether they're blood or not, it is still a family. I always knew I could do anything because of them, and I am forever thankful for that. I love you all for being the support system I need.

To my wonderful boyfriend, Timothy, thank you. Thank you for always having a part in my journalism life. Thank you for listening to countless stories and giving me your feedback. Thank you for believing in me that I could be an editor when I was scared to become one. You always have faith in me, and you never doubt that I can do anything I set my mind to. You are one of my biggest fans, and I know you always will be. I love you and thank you.

So this is why my journey as an editor for the Plainsman Press has come to an end. In the fall of 2017, I will be at Angelo State University, majoring in Mass Media with a specialization in journalism. I plan on making the newspaper there a home. I'm not sure if I will have the same relationships I have on the Plainsman Press, but I will treasure every moment that I had here. I'm beyond excited to start my new journey, and cannot wait to see what the future holds for me.

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Whatever you needed, she was there, even if she had a page or a story she had to finish. I would sit and talk to her for hours after

class, and she kept me sane. Checking to see if I was OK, and just stopping to say hello are among her best qualities. She deserves so many thanks, and I cannot thank her enough

New staff members joining next semester are very lucky to have Tyler. He is not only a good I.T. guy, but a good overall person.

A friendship that is probably one of the strongest in the room, I had more than just publications with Miss Brandi and Alex, and I am very pleased that I did. Goofing off during Paper Night talking about anything and everything are some of my favorite memories I will

tough, and I wanted to pull my hair out and cry sometimes. But it was worth it. I learned so many new things this semester that I never thought were possible, and it was all because

I know I have not been on the staff as long as some, but I believe the experience is just as good.

And these are my experiences with a few of the



# Student reflects on friendships made in newsroom



by **STEVEN GEHEGAN**  
Sports Editor

staff. But that changed when I became an editor for my final years, when I met many people who I will remember for the rest of my life.

Of course, I will start off with the man who has been my mentor for the past two years, Charlie Ehrenfeld. While it may seem like at times he was tough, he always cared about me, and all of what he did made me a better sports writer. I am the writer I am because of his blue pen, and I will take everything that I have learned during the past few years and carry it with me for the rest

she remained around the Newsroom. I was always happy to have all the classes together and being there to help each other with school work, even if it felt like I helped her more than she helped me (especially with math). But I still enjoyed working with her the longest out of all the people I met at the Newsroom. She is an extremely quirky person who I will miss.

Then there are the people who I had the honor to meet when I spent my first semester as an editor, and got to spend some extremely long and

about videogames from. Riley was always with Matt Molinar, a great person who was always there to help me when I needed it this semester. I got to know Matty even better.

Then there was another person I went to Frenship with, Tovi Oyervidez. While I never got a chance to meet her in high school, I got the honor to meet her in the Newsroom, and I am sure she is the nicest person that I will ever meet in my entire life. She was always there when I needed something and was always doing things to help me out. I always wished I could have done more for her, and was glad I got to spend some of

my 21<sup>st</sup> birthday with her. Thanks again for the present. It made the night better. I always have enjoyed seeing her, because, no matter what, she was always happy and will

person to me. While I did not get to spend as much time with her, something looking back on now I would change, she always seemed like a kind person who enjoys her life. Despite not being as close to her as some of the others, I

I got to know during my last semester here, starting with Tyler York. Tyler is probably one of the nicest guys I have ever met. It is always nice meeting someone else from Florida. While we did not spend a lot of time together,

It has been a long, memorable two years, as I have discovered what it is I want to do with the rest of my life.

After graduating from Frenship High School in 2014, I thought I had a plan in mind. I was going into the field of computer science. I had always been good at math and was able to work well with computers. I spent my first year at South Plains College as a computer science major. After a year, I had discovered that might not be what I want to do. And after thinking things over during that summer, I had decided that I wanted to try to be a sports writer, and work for a university.

So, at the start of my second year, I enrolled in several journalism classes, including Publications, which is where



of my life. I will always be thankful for all that he has taught me.

fun nights with. There is Riley Golden, someone I knew from Frenship, but



always enjoyed the time we spent together and will miss her when I am gone.

Then there were the two guys who I am close to. The first is Sergio Madrid, who I

enjoyed getting to know you through the videos you posted, and the time we spent in Dallas. I enjoyed sharing a room with you and getting to know you. I am happy you were nice enough to put up with me on my 21<sup>st</sup>.

Then there are two non-editors, Jordan Patterson and Desiree Mendez, who I got the privilege to get to know. I was happy to spend time with Jordan when we competed together in the sports event at TIPA and helping prepare for that. Also, I was happy to spend a longer amount of my free time in Dallas with her, especially since we share the same opinions about most of what happened in Dallas. Then there is Desiree, who was always nice and friendly. She seems to think about everyone else but herself, and I will miss her a lot.

Then there is the very loud Brittney Stegall. She always says what she thinks to me, and she is always willing to listen to me. I enjoyed the time we spent getting to know each other this semester. She always seemed so pure, and the more time I spent around her seemed to make me a better person. I wish you the best of luck with your life in San Angelo.

Then I saved the last person for the one who I will miss the most from the Newsroom, Sara Marshall. During the past year, I got to know her, and I am not the biggest fan of why we became close. But I will always be happy that it happened. I always enjoyed being able to talk to you about what was going on in my life, and you being able to help me with all my problems, no matter what they were. I always felt that we were good friends, even though I spent a lot of time giving you hell, while you would relate me to a female dog. I will always remember you as one of the best friends that I have had in my life, and will miss you the most when we go our separate ways. Thanks again for all that you have done for me, and I wish you well in the future.

I will miss all of you, and the Newsroom, with all the time I put in there. I will miss it all when I am gone.

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my life changed. The first year I spent mostly writing sports opinions and whatever else was needed. At first, I was shy and was not real close to many of the people on the newspaper

I will start with the first real friend I made at the paper. During my second semester, I made a great friend in Haiden Hawkins. While she was only a writer for one semester,

got a chance to get to know him even better. Riley is a great guy who I always enjoyed getting to know and learned



be hard to ever meet someone like her again.

Then there is Brandi Ortiz, who I got to know when we had a science class together with Tovi. I had fun eating

got to know during the past few years with the classes we had together. Then there's Dominick Puente, the only person I can talk sports with and all the things that I did

got to know during the past few years with the classes we had together. Then there's Dominick Puente, the only person I can talk sports with and all the things that I did



lunch with her every other day before class while we all tried to get through geology. I enjoyed working through long nights with her because she was funny and always made me feel better. I got to have lots of fun celebrating her birthday with her.

I also met Alex Perez, someone who always expressed her emotions, while being a kind and friendly

outside of class. I enjoyed the time that we spent between class together sharing stories of the things that he has done and what we are going to do with our lives. It was always nice to talk sports with you, since most of the others knew very little about any kinds of sports, and passing on what knowledge I have to help you out next semester.

Then there are the people

# Newsroom changes life of journalism student

by SARA MARSHALL  
Editor-in-Chief

Some of the first words I ever heard in the newsroom were "The newsroom will change your life, if you let it."

At the time, I just laughed. They were such unassuming words, innocent and empty. Or so I thought for a very short time.

I began my academic career at South Plains College during the Fall 2014 semester, right after graduating from Andrews High School that spring. Despite being in journalism all three years of high school, for some reason I thought it would be a good idea to pursue an Agriculture Communications-type of degree.

After a semester of trying to do that nonsense, I realized my heart and soul was still in journalism. I desired to write stories that would move people to heartbroken tears, or want to laugh with sheer joy. I yearned to capture photos that not only told the subject's million-word story, but added depth to my many words inked on the pages before me.

It was time I got back into the world of journalism.

Two years, several awards and multiple positions later, I'm realizing the weight of those very first words I heard in the newsroom. I quickly realized my dad was right; I should have stayed in journalism all along. In two short years, I've lived the good, the bad and the seriously ugly. But I honestly don't regret a single moment.

Journalism can be absolute blast. But for me, it has also been extremely physically, mentally and emotionally taxing.

I've lost copious hours of sleep while staring at empty Word documents, trying to force some type of coherent thought on to the blank pages before me. Seriously, writer's block is the stuff real nightmares are made of. And being a perfectionist with a procrastination complex makes it a million times harder on my already fragile college student mental and emotional state.

But those many, many lost hours of shut eye have led me to some of the most moving, brilliant stories. In two years,

I've told so many stories. I've encouraged voices which had once been unknown to be heard by the world. I've told happy stories about beautiful puppies and their hard work helping people. I've painted breathtakingly painful scenes of a young girl's repeated sexual assaults. I've shown that SPC isn't as small a town as I had once thought (thanks, Banner Boy!). I've toured the

Everyone in the newsroom becomes a family, in a way. Though we can be a bit dysfunctional at times, there's nothing I would change. I love all my staff so very much, and I wish I could recognize all of you. But, unfortunately, I only have so much room on my page.

One of the first people who was nice to me in the newsroom was Jenny. Oh goodness, this girl has been there for everything I've had to deal with since joining the paper. She has seen me cry at the dumbest things, and she has laughed with me for the best moments. She taught me that it's OK to brag about all the animated films you watched last weekend while you were home alone.

Jenny proved to me that you shouldn't be afraid to be yourself, even when there's people who dislike who you are. Even though we don't go to

determined as her. Some may only see a pretty face, but I know that she has equal parts smarts and sass. Matty and Riley sometimes drive me crazy, but they're wonderful and hard workers when they want to be. I know that Matty will be a fantastic heir to the editorial throne.

Then there's Brandi. Oh my gosh, this girl has been my rock this year in the Newsroom. She's a girl after my own heart, trying to be tough when the world feels like it's crashing down around you. She's taught me that it's OK to be upset and that sometimes a hug is the best cure for anxiety. Sometimes you just need a hug.

More recently, I've befriended several other staff members. There's Steven and Dom, crazy sports writers who know

hair color she wants each month. Though her exterior seems rough and unapproachable, this girl has been the most dependable, trustworthy friend I've had in a while.

Lastly, there's Tyler and Des, the two 'adultier adults' in the newsroom. Tyler is an absolute nerd who has shown me that technology is a lot cooler than I had thought, though I'm still learning about it. I don't know if I'm friends with him because of how awesome he

lot (especially at 4 a.m.). But, at the end of the day, he's still



Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Artesia, New Mexico, and was able to make lifelong connections to federal agents there.

My actual dad is just as encouraging of my journalism career. All of my family has been so supportive of my writing and photography, always reading my stories and calling me when they love (or hate, if it's politics) something I've written.



is, or because of how awesome his wife is. And then there's Des, journalist, cosmetologist, full-time mom, Cub Scouts Leader, and soon-to-be Girl Scouts Leader. She has proven the value of never giving up what you want, even if you had

My parents are the first people I call whenever I get an award, the first I share my new stories with. My little sisters are the reason I push myself so hard to be a good writer, especially my youngest, Rea. I want to prove to her that even though she's a



school together right now, she still tries to help me with assignments and stories. She tries her best to give me photography tips, even if they don't stick. I don't know what I would do without Jenny by my side the past two years, and I'm so happy to have her in my life. I cannot wait until I get to go to school with her again.

that I know absolutely nothing about sports. They totally love when I struggle to explain the sports section as we're going over the paper. They've become the brothers I've always wanted, and I'm seriously going to miss the random, and occasionally

to put it on hold for a while. She never gives up, and she's seriously one of the strongest people I have ever known.

girl, she can do anything, be anyone. My family is my biggest inspiration in my writing.



Lastly, if it weren't for the newspaper, I probably never would have started dating my fiancé. We started dating the summer before I became photo editor, and I've been with him ever since. Devon has been there for every breakdown and struggle I've dealt with. But he has always encouraged me to keep going, despite all those moments. Even when I wanted to quit, he pushed me to keep going because he knew I would regret it, and he was right, like usual. If it weren't for Devon, I probably wouldn't be where I am right now, winning awards and kicking butt. And I'm so happy I get to share the rest of my life with this crazy dork.



ridiculous, talks when waiting between classes. We can level with each other and be real, and I appreciate that friendship so much.

Next there's Brittny, beauty queen and occasional sass queen. She's an absolute delight, and too sweet for words. I have no idea where she puts all the sarcasm and attitude in her little body, though. It will be a mystery for always, I'm sure. And there's Hannah, who never seems to know which

And the professors, goodness. Well, being the oldest of three girls, I've gotten used to my dad always pushing me to be better than I was yesterday. I had absolutely no idea that when I entered those doors to Room 130 in the Communications Building, I was going to inherit two more dads to watch out for me.

First, there's Charlie. This man drives me absolutely crazy, but I love him so much. He's one of my biggest cheerleaders and tries to give me every opportunity to put myself out there and go farther in my career. We're both so stubborn, so we butt heads a



This past year, I have been the editor-in-chief of the Plainsman Press. What a ride it has been. I've learned so much as a writer, photographer, editor and person. Some of my best and worst, moments of my last year at SPC have occurred during this time and within the Newsroom walls. But every moment was worth it.

Being in the newsroom, I've met some of my closest friends. Each newspaper staff member has touched me in some way, even those who were here only for a short time. I guess that's the problem with having such a big heart.

Another group of people I've become friends with is 'the squad.' This ragtag group of people are absolutely crazy, but they're great. They've all taught me to chill out, and that I need to worry about personal health

more than deadlines. Alex is a seriously hardworking girl, and I wish I could be as

## Geology club takes weekend trip to explore Southwest

by **SERGIO MADRID**  
Editorial Assistant

The Rock Whisperers explored some of the Southwest's most beautiful and interesting sights, applying classroom knowledge during a much-needed weekend getaway.

The geology club is one of the more intriguing groups at South Plains College. We can agree studying the Earth is fascinating enough, but to actually experience the Earth is what draws students to it.

Aaron Greene, geology professor at SPC, has led the group for quite some time and with much enthusiasm. He has made an impact on many students, such as geology club president, Garret Fowler, who says Greene's class is the reason he is now pursuing geology as a profession.

A trip of a lifetime, or at least one worth remembering, definitely helps leave a mark on students. This year's geology club trip was just that.

On April 22, the geology club, better known as Rock Whisperers, set out for a weekend exploring

Carlsbad Caverns, the Guadalupe Mountains National Park, and Big Bend.

The first stop was at a local BBQ joint in Carlsbad, (N.M.) Danny's BBQ, where some students filled up a little too much before the long hike through Carlsbad Caverns.

Once we arrived at the

caverns, Greene allowed for the students to check the Gift Shop, where a multitude of handmade goods, such as pottery, colored rocks, and small animal sculptures were sold.

On the way inside the caverns, there is a scale model map of the caverns, with information about different regions of the caverns.

There is a theater right outside the main entrance to the caverns, and a point-of-no-return spot where a park ranger explains the basic do's and don'ts of the caverns, as well as to spit out your gum, for whatever reason. There is a spit bucket specifically for gum.

This is a fascinating sight, as it takes thousands of years for these structures to form, usually at a pace of less than 10 centimeters every 1,000 years.

By the time you make it

back up top near the place you entered the caverns from.

After the caverns, the group gathered back on the buses and headed to Guadalupe Mountains National Park.

inside the information center that displayed the wildlife within the park, and headed for the next campsite in Big Bend. The ride was long and dreary, filled with desert sand,

Terlingua, now a "ghost-town," has some rich history that mostly involves the mining that took place there. But it also has a great view of the canyon and a famous restaurant.

That restaurant is the Starlight Theater, famous for being an old movie palace but now offering the infamous "Diego Burger," a pound of beef from hell.

Four club members attempted to finish the burger, but only three were victorious. We paid the price though, as it weighed heavy in our stomachs for quite some time.

The group then headed back to camp and waited for an arriving meteor shower. As we laid under the stars, deep conversations began, and the group shared stories back in forth, pointing and counting every shooting star we saw.

The following morning, Fowler and I woke up before everyone else and got a good look at a bunny that seemed like it was being hunted by a low-flying vulture.

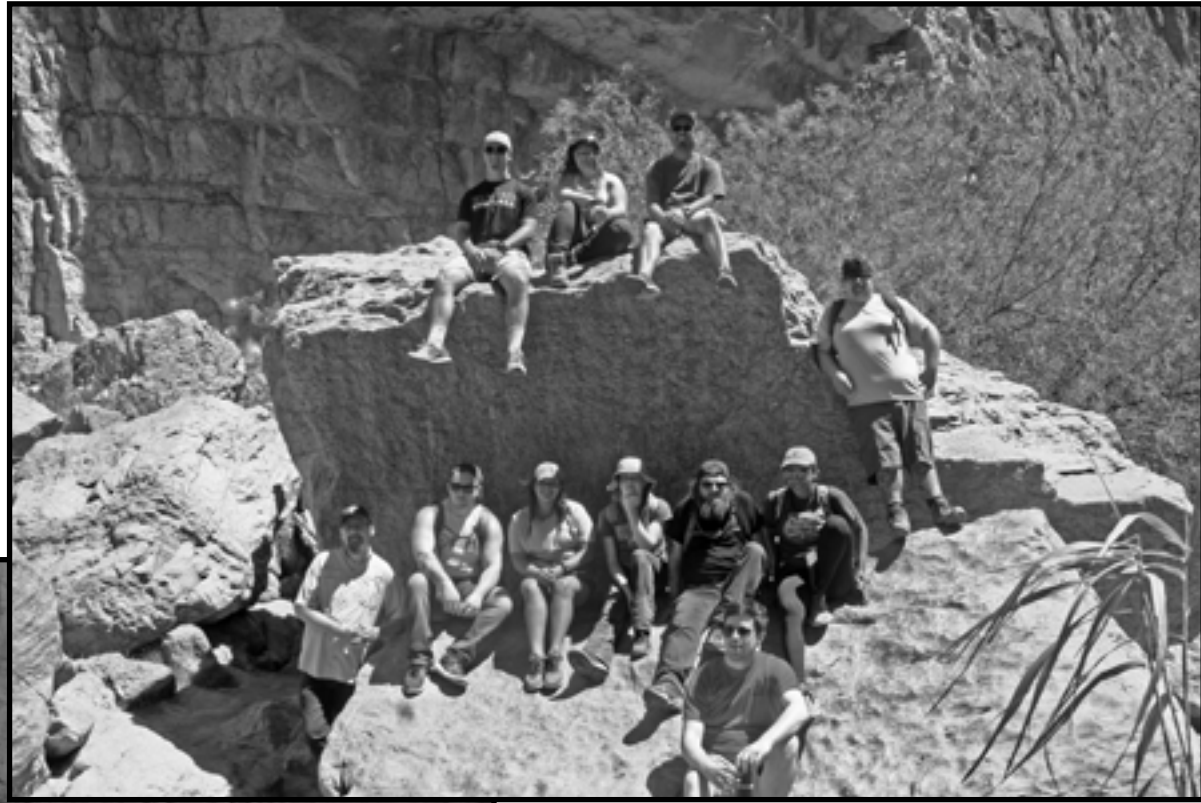
Also, a roadrunner worked its way through the campsite just as we were taking it down. It was cool to see how these animals unassociated with people tend not to mind or stray from humans in that matter.

On the way back to Lubbock, the spiral notebook got passed around. This time, each of us added to a drawing, dealing with Bjorn and Marcel, and, of course, professor Greene. It was quite the masterpiece.

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Kyle Ewing and Ryker Allison do their best "Titanic" impression over the Big Bend River during the geology club's stop at Big Bend Canyon in Terlingua.  
**SERGIO MADRID/PLAINSMAN PRESS**



Upon arriving at the park, the group set up camp. By that time, it was late and time for dinner. Ryker Allison, a geology major at SPC, and a couple of other students began cooking fajitas marinated by, Sean "Rader" Reilly's wife. Reilly was one of a couple student-veterans in the group.

As the sun was setting, I broke out my guitar and played a few songs until Fowler set up his telescope and everyone peeked at Saturn and its four moons. It was hard to see but still very much intriguing.

In the morning, the group broke down the camp, took a look at a small museum

mountain scape, and winding roads.

On the bus, students passed around a spiral notebook to write a story with everyone contributing a sentence. In our epic, a mean man named Bjorn came across a shell named Marcel, and I hesitate to tell you the rest.

Nonetheless, this was a great way to get everyone interacting with each other while also passing time.

Upon arriving at Big Bend, the group once again set up camp, and a few students went down to the river to look at Mexico. It looked just like the United States side, but there was something about knowing you were staring into a completely different country.

After resting a bit, the next step was an old mining town inside of Big Bend National Park called Terlingua.

## Wallace Theater entertaining new generation of audiences

by **DESIREE MENDEZ**  
Staff Writer

Once upon a time, in a small West Texas town, there was a man who wanted to open a movie theater in Levelland.

The Wallace Theater was created in 1928 by Wallace Rose Blankenship. Blankenship had owned more than 30 theaters in the West Texas region. Bob Hope and Walt Disney wrote letters to Blankenship congratulating him on his success in the theater business.

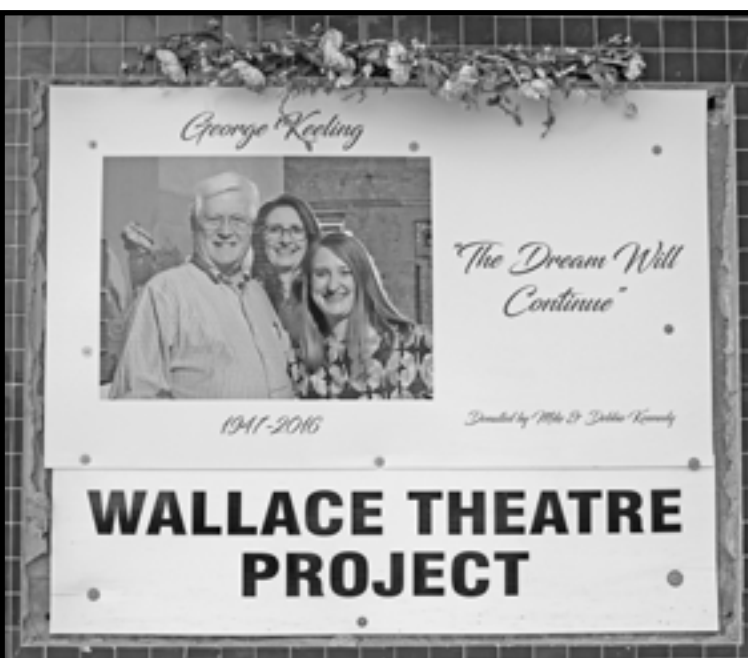
The original Wallace Theater was built in 1925 across the street from its current location. He saw potential in Levelland, and that great potential is still thriving today.

On October 5, 1949, the Wallace Theater reopened as "West Texas' Finest." The Wallace was fully renovated to the theater that Blankenship had been dreaming of since 1926. At the time, the Wallace Theater was a state-of-the-art theater that boasted E-7 Simplex projectors, 4-star Western Electric Sound, fully upholstered opera chairs, and, most impressively, fully automatic air conditioning. The renovated theater included deep carpets to hide foot traffic sounds, a cry room and a smoking room.

"The lights of the marquee were described to be as bright as any you would envision on

Broadway in New York City," said Alycyn Keeling. "This is where they would like to take the theater back to currently."

support the second story, and additional steel work was done in the loft to reinforce the roof. Alycyn Keeling recalled,



The historic Wallace Theater in downtown Levelland provides monthly showtimes for the local community.  
**SARA MARSHALL/PLAINSMAN PRESS**

George Keeling purchased the Wallace in the early 2000s. The Levelland resident wanted to be able to bring the Wallace back to life and bring entertainment back to Levelland. His daughter, Alycyn Keeling, is currently the executive director of the Wallace.

When George Keeling purchased the building more than 10 years ago, there were significant structural concerns with the second story and loft. Steel beams had to be installed in the ceiling of the lobby to

"We had to hire pigeon catchers to catch all the pigeons we kept finding in the theater area from the damage on the roof."

In 2015, they established their non-profit organization, "Levelland Wallace Theater." The Levelland Wallace Theater Organization now owns the theater. They have a board of directors of five people and an advisory board of 15 people to help grow this project and help it become what the community needs it to be.

The Wallace currently hosts live music concerts, films

and art shows featuring local artists. The Wallace team is continuously working to increase our programming and provide more entertainment experiences for Levelland and the surrounding communities.

The Wallace is starting to show movies once a month, and they are starting a Kid's Club on the second Saturday of the month. The Wallace recently showed "E.T." to kick off their movie nights at the Wallace.

"The goal for the Wallace, other than just reopening, is to once again be a source of great pride and inspiration for the community," said Keeling. "It will be a gathering place for the community, where people can find entertainment in Levelland without having to go to Lubbock and can enjoy

the company of their friends and neighbors."

"The Wallace will be a cultural institution in the community where patrons will have the opportunity to find new and exciting entertainment," added Keeling. "It will revive the nostalgia and wonderful memories that so many members of the community cherish, but will also seek to create new memories and nostalgia for this generation."

The Wallace is a non-profit organization, and all donations to the Wallace are tax deductible. Proceeds from every event held at the Wallace goes toward the remodeling of the theater.

"In addition to developing the programming at the Wallace, a large part of the

project is working to preserve and retell the history of the Wallace," said Keeling. "We are still working to identify people in photos and are looking for more old photos and news about the Wallace. This is an area where we need a lot of help from the community. We've had a great response so far, but we still need help with more of the pieces."

How can you help and get involved? Follow updates and "Like" their Facebook page, sign up for their e-mail list to be notified about upcoming events, and visit the Wallace Theater website at [www.wallacetheater.com](http://www.wallacetheater.com).

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May 1, 2017

Plainsman Press

# Law enforcement student wishes to pursue career in Border Patrol

by SARA MARSHALL  
Editor-in-Chief



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

Davis Browne has a passion for law enforcement, with hopes of seeking a career in the United States Border Patrol.

"For law enforcement now, it's kind of criticized and looked down on," Browne said. "But you just have to look past that. Don't take someone else's word for it. If you want to do Law Enforcement, then do it."

A sophomore at South Plains College studying Law Enforcement, Browne says he hopes to one day use

his degree to pursue a career within the United States Border Patrol.

"I've wanted to do Law Enforcement since I was a kid," Brown said. "My dad wanted to be a trooper, but he never got an opportunity. So it's been kind of a whole family thing."

Prior to attending SPC, Browne lived in Snyder, attending and graduating from Hermleigh High School.

The family business has helped Browne make several Law Enforcement connections through the years. Seventeen years ago, Browne's father began Texas Rustic Metal Art. Though he's in school full time, Browne tries to find time to help in the business, since it has been such an influence in his life.

"When we started doing metal art, we started talking about Law Enforcement more and more, because we did a lot of work for them," Browne said. "In 2014, we made the sign in front of the Law Enforcement Building at SPC. We did all the work through Dr. Lance Scott, and he started talking to me about the Law Enforcement program at SPC."

In Fall 2015, Browne began taking classes in the

Law Enforcement program. He quickly made several friends, participating in intramurals and the Law Enforcement Club regularly.



Davis Browne stands in front on the law enforcement sign that he and his dad made for the Levelland campus on April 27.

SARA MARSHALL/PLAINSMAN PRESS

"SPC has had a great impact on my life," Browne said. "I've made new friends that I wouldn't have if I hadn't come here. It's helped me figure out life on my own, and to rely less on my parents."

After touring the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Artesia, New Mexico during the Fall 2016 semester for class,

Browne realized how much he wanted to pursue a career with the U.S. Border Patrol.

"It was an experience you don't get to do in your daily

cool. Something you don't get to do every day. And that's kind of the perk of law enforcement and the college here; you don't usually get to do that type of stuff as a regular person."

Browne has a personal friend who has worked with a Border Patrol Agent who lived in Fort Davis and was later stationed in Idaho, where he is currently serving on the Canadian border for the Border Patrol.

"There's just so many options to move around the nation," Browne said. "And then there's so many jobs you can do. There's the marine unit. They have their own SWAT team. It's kind of like taking all the law enforcement jobs you can do and putting it into one federal career. I just really

like the variety of choices the Border Patrol offers."

As he will be graduating from SPC this month, Browne plans to look into the Border Patrol after taking care of college and student loans.

"If I don't get into the Border Patrol, then I would like to be a detective some day," Browne said. "Investigation kind of law enforcement is where I'd like to end up. But, for sure, in the next couple years, I'd like to start within law enforcement. I ask a lot of questions, so investigative law enforcement makes sense."

Browne says one of his biggest goals in pursuing Law Enforcement is changing people's minds.

"Not everybody is bad," Browne said. "The stigma of law enforcement is they're just out to get everybody. You know? Like not everybody's bad. There are bad apples, but most of them are good."

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## Student participation keeps psychology professor motivated

by RYAN SHANKS  
Staff Writer

When Alicia Barr was sitting in Dr. Daniel Gilbert's class at the University of Texas at Austin, she realized her passion for psychology.

"My most influential experience in college was taking a class with Dr. Daniel Gilbert, at UT," "He was such a fantastic and enthusiastic professor, and being in his class convinced me that I wanted to pursue a Ph.D. in Social Psychology"

Dr. Barr earned a bachelor's degree in psychology at Texas, before going on to attend Arizona State University for graduate school. She obtained her doctoral degree in Social Psychology.

Upon completing her degree, her parents and in-laws were still living in Lubbock. Also, by the end of graduate school, she and her husband of 18 years had a daughter. Barr had always wished she lived closer to her grandparents (who lived in Austin), so Barr wanted her daughter to live near her grandparents. That is the main reason Barr and her husband returned to Lubbock, she says.

Dr. Barr has been a professor at SPC since 2001, having taught General Psychology, Social Psychology and American Minority Studies.

"Some days are great, and other days are more of a challenge," explains Dr. Barr. "Often, this is related to the topic for the day. Students are inherently more interested in dreams than in research methods, and the time of the semester students are more energized is at the beginning of the semester, rather than

the last few weeks of the semester."

Dr. Barr says she enjoys the diversity in terms of the students at SPC in terms of their personalities and demographics.

"In the classroom, I truly appreciate the extroverts who are willing to participate in discussions," Dr. Barr says, "but I equally appreciate the quiet, more reserved students."

Dr. Barr said she appreciates the students who stay a few



Dr. Alicia Barr lives her passion for connecting with students by teaching psychology at South Plains College.

JORDAN PATTERSON/PLAINSMAN PRESS

minutes after class and share their impressions and insights about class that day. She says her favorite part about teaching at South Plains College, is "When I can actually see insight or the proverbial 'light bulb goes on' in a student's expression."

When Dr. Barr began working at South Plains College, her children were very young (5 months and 2 1/2 years old). At that time, her

children gave Dr. Barr more insight into class discussions on child development. Her family, to their chagrin, has also provided her with more personal examples of various phenomena that she can share with students.

However, Dr. Barr says she thinks the main influence her personal life has on her professional life is that she understands that all of her students are individuals with lives and challenges of their own, just like those in her own family.

"I think my parents had the most significant impact on my career choices," said Dr. Barr. "My mother was a middle school and high school math teacher, and my father was a history professor. I always thought I'd like to be a professor, so that I could have my summers off. But obviously they both influenced my choice of being in academia and teaching."

If she wasn't a professor, Dr. Barr suspects that she would be working as a laboratory scientist.

Her advice for students is, "Work

hard and understand that real learning and exemplary grades take effort. But also recognize that if a class does not seem easy, that does not mean you are not capable of succeeding. Research tells us that the individuals who excel in any area are the ones who put in the most effort and practice."

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## Interest in medical field sparks career for alum

by SHELBY MORGAN  
Staff Writer

[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.]

Following her heart and her interest in the human anatomy led D'lena Ipson to her career as a radiology tech.

An Andrews native, Ipson is a 2014 graduate of the South Plains College Radiologic Technology program. She currently works at University Medical Center in Lubbock as a Radiologic Technologist.

Every day, she works alongside physicians to help pinpoint and diagnose patients by producing 2-D and 3-D images of tissue, organs, bones, and vessels of the body using some of the most technologically advanced equipment in the medical field.

"I enjoy working with patients and being a part of helping them feel better," Ipson said. "Sometimes we're the first line of defense in helping doctors diagnose patients when they come into the ER, by getting a better look inside of their body."

She always knew that she wanted to be a part of the medical field to help people. So the decision to go into the

radiology program came easy to her. She has always had a fascination with being able to see what's going on with the internal organs and bones.

"I like the reward of getting to help people," said Ipson. "I always knew I wanted to be in the medical field. But I knew I didn't want to be a nurse."

When Ipson isn't working, she enjoys hanging out with her coworkers, friends, and

said. "Most of us completed the program together and became very good friends. I also worked at the Bookstore at Reese while I attended SPC, and I met my best friend there."

She thrived at South Plains College because she is from a small town, and the smaller campus and class sizes were familiar to her. Because the classes were smaller, she was able to get to know her instructors one-on-one, which made it easier to communicate with them.

"I like the small feel of SPC," explained Ipson. "It was nice how people are there to help you if needed anything, or had any questions."

She encourages anyone considering entering the Radiologic Technology program to go for it. There will always be a need for the health care field, and there are job opportunities across the country for radiological technologists. Radiology techs can find employment in a variety of institutions, such as hospitals, dedicated imaging centers, or a clinic or private doctor's office, depending on one's education, abilities, and interests.

"My only advice is to stay ahead, and pay attention," Ipson said. "You can never be too prepared for the kinds of cases you will get, because each one is different."

In the future, she hopes to continue working in the radiology department and hopes to have the opportunity to travel more.

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D'lena Ipson uses state-of-the-art equipment such as this portable x-ray machine at University Medical Center.

SHELBY MORGAN/PLAINSMAN PRESS

# Mermaid makes splash at Lubbock Arts Festival

by DESIREE MENDEZ  
Staff Writer

**[EDITOR'S NOTE: This story contains some "nontraditional" answers.]**

A long time ago, in the mystical blue waters of the Mediterranean Sea, a mermaid was born of the moon and sea.

Moon Mermaid (her legal name) first surfaced in 2003, when she began her adventures. Moon began to perform and entertain as one of the world's first solo performing mermaids. She was the first mermaid spotted in Arizona, where she is from because she loved the warm swimming weather that is year-round.

When Moon first started, she started entertaining for children's parties and events. It was tricky for Moon when she first started, because no one had heard about hiring a mermaid. They were only seen in aquariums.

Once Moon started performing for larger events and worked hard at promoting herself, her business began to grow. Moon now has a whole crew of pirates and mermaids. She also has a 28-foot mermaid lagoon, a 40-foot traveling tank.

"I look back and can't believe how far and how much I've grown," said Moon. "I never would have thought I'd be a full-time mermaid or a children's book author. You really can be anything you want when you grow up."

During full moons, Moon is known for braiding wishes

into her long blue hair. When Moon is not entertaining or braiding wishes, she loves to search for treasures and enjoys creating beautiful, magical items to wear.

Moon provides a wide range of entertainment, from reading with kids to swimming in a 40-foot tank. Moon has lots of magical friends, including mermaids and pirates. One special pirate is Captain Jack Sparrow impersonator, Janty Chattaw.

Moon loves to be able to share her magic with kids and adults

"Everyone is so excited to see us, and bring magic into their lives because they don't

Moon did mention that she doesn't like all the pollution in the water, especially plastic because the poor sea turtles get caught in them or end up eating them, which makes them very sick.

"I did find out that Austin

They reconnected at a resort in Arizona where he was teaching kids to be pirates and she was teaching kids to be mermaids.

"Our goal one day is to be married," said Captain Sparrow.

"My first and only love used to be the sea. But now my first and only love lives in the sea."

Moon has a children's book out called, "Moon Mermaid and the Treasure of Friendship."

She reads it to the kids who come to see her, and she gives them treasure and loves talking with her little friends. She is currently working on her second book called, "Moon and the Pirates."

Moon says that keeps up her mermaid figure by swimming a lot. Her bottom half weighs 65 pounds, and teaching kids how to be mermaids isn't easy, she says.

Moon and Captain Sparrow live apart currently. She is from Arizona, and he is based in Southern California. But they do work a lot together, and Captain Sparrow will be moving to Arizona.

Moon doesn't use any



Moon Mermaid goes for a swim in her 40-foot tank at the Lubbock Arts Festival in the Lubbock Civic Center.

DESIREE MENDEZ/PLAINSMAN PRESS

breathing apparatuses in the tank. Captain Sparrow is trained in CPR and was a lifeguard. Her pirates are trained and certified as well.

parties, music festivals, corporate events, meet and greets, photo opportunities, company parties, conventions, grand openings, hotel entertainment, bookstore readings, hospital visits, zoo and aquarium visits, festivals, fairs and weddings.

Moon also sells pictures, mermaid jewelry and mermaid tails for adults and kids.

Moon Mermaid and Captain Sparrow were recently in Lubbock to appear at the Lubbock Arts Festival, which was held on April 21- April 23 at the Lubbock Civic Center.

You can contact her on Facebook at TheMoonMermaid, [www.themoonmermaid.com](http://www.themoonmermaid.com), or check out her store at <http://store.themoonmermaid.com>.

Captain Jack's website is [www.PiratesForHire.com](http://www.PiratesForHire.com).



Some of Moon's pirates are her mermaid handlers.

Moon Mermaid and her enchanting friends have been hired for events such as children's parties, celebrity

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no longer uses plastic bags, yay go Austin," said Moon.

Moon is currently engaged to Captain Sparrow.

Captain Sparrow says he was fascinated with pirates when he was really young. He started 10 years ago, when people would tell him that he looked like Jack Sparrow or Johnny Depp. While performing as Captain Jack at a resort, he met Moon, and they fell in love.

"Captain Sparrow and Moon met roughly around 300 years ago when he was a young pirate, the first time," Captain Sparrow said jokingly.

## Local churches come together to honor Christ

by DESIREE MENDEZ  
Staff Writer

St. Paul Lutheran Church, St. Luke Episcopal Church, St. Michael Catholic Church and others ministries from the Levelland Ministerial Alliance, hosted a Stations of the Cross service downtown on the corner of Houston Street and Avenue G on April 14.

The Stations of the Cross were represented by the confirmation class of St. Michael's Catholic Church.

The community gathered around to experience the Stations of the Cross. It was a very touching experience.

Steven Sanders, a

Levelland resident and English instructor at South Plains College, participated in the event with his wife and son. While growing up, Sanders wasn't very religious. So being able to experience the Stations of the Cross with his family was very touching and meaningful to him.

"I wanted to be able to carry the cross with my son and have a very meaningful experience," explained Sanders. "When you have that weight of the cross on your shoulder, you begin to feel what Jesus felt. If I am getting tired with this five-pound cross on my shoulder, I can just imagine what Christ felt carrying a 100-pound cross. It makes it easier for

you to understand what Christ went through, especially being whipped and beat and then spit on while dragging his cross. It was a much more profound and moving experience than I ever thought it would have."

This was the first time that the churches gathered and put this type of Stations of the Cross event on. It was very beautiful and meaningful. It showed that no matter the religion or background that we can all gather to praise Christ.

The Levelland Ministries is planning on having this same event next year.

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DESIREE MENDEZ/PLAINSMAN PRESS



# Childhood trauma causes depression

by **DESIREE MENDEZ**  
Staff Writer

**[EDITOR'S NOTE: This contains true stories about the affects of suicide and sexual assault. The article maybe a trigger for some who have experienced or are experiencing similar situations. No names have been changed. These are real people sharing their experience to raise awareness.]**

Suicide is a serious topic that tends to be only talked about behind closed doors, or not talked about at all.

"I've been dealing with suicidal thoughts since I was 13 years old," said Ashley Duran. "I've never felt like I belong, like I was never good enough."

Duran has a past filled with physical, sexual, mental, and emotional abuse. She always tried running from her memories, whether it be through drinking, abusing drugs, self-harm, and even attempting to take her own life. Duran says she has attempted suicide more times than she can count.

The last time was on July 21, 2013. She doesn't remember much of what happened, except that she was too tired to care. Duran says she was too tired to live and face the pain of her past and present.

"I was tired of being a burden, tired of people constantly looking over their shoulder, because they were worried," said Duran, a Levelland resident.

She began to shut down because of depression. Because of her depression and suicidal thoughts, she made the choice to be admitted into a psychiatric unit in 2013, because she knew if she didn't that she would continue to attempt taking her life until she succeeded.

This cycle is vicious. Even though even after almost four years, sometimes suicide still crosses her mind. Every day, Duran deal with ups and downs. Sometimes she doesn't want to get out of bed, and feels like dying.

"I just want the emotional pain to end," said Duran.

"I take medication. I talk to my friends, and family. I try to work through it. That is all I can really do."

When Duran was in the hospital in 2013, she met one of the most loving people, who became one of the most important people in her life. She was someone who was facing her own battles, and, to say the least, understood what it was like to be at such a low point in life.

However, she would never let Duran do the same for her. She was a lost cause; her mind had already been made up. As Duran started to recover, she became worried. She wanted this person, who had given her so much hope, to find that

same hope and fight. Duran begged and pleaded for days at a time. It was then that Duran saw herself through her friend, and it hit her hard.

"I had finally felt what it was like to be on the other side of the road," said Duran.

On July 21, 2015, that person who had come to mean so much, who had helped Duran through one of the darkest times in her life, decided to take her own life. Duran says that she will never be able to explain the pain and anger she felt that day.

"Pain that I still feel to this day," said Duran. "For the first time in my life, I saw things not from the inside, but rather from the outside - from the other side. I will never be able to express how sorry I am, sorry for everything I have put my loved ones through."

Duran has been married to Andrew Duran for 14 years. He has known her since she was 12 years old.

"I've been with her since the beginning, through all the good and bad," said Andrew Duran. "At first, I didn't know how emotionally torn she was. It was a typical high school relationship."

Even after they got married and finished school, things

was shackled by depression, anxiety and suicidal thoughts. She lost her spirit, and worst of all, her hope.

It was all boiled up until she tried to take her life.

"I was devastated and

mother, mentioned there's just no sugarcoating the trauma that disables your child's life.

"Years passed and by now you become numb to the haunting memories, just when you thought you had done

heart, or the molester had no conscience.

Duran said she was sexually assaulted by family members when she was 12. She says she was molested by a different family member when she was

peace. No doctor can bind her wounds. Nothing you say is comforting. You can't tell her to forget it and move on, for it is impossible to purge a memory of a grave trauma. Everything you do will never be enough."

Duran then met Andrea (Dre) Corrales, her longtime friend.

"Since the very first day I met Ashley, I felt a connection to her," said Corrales. "It was in that moment I knew I wanted her in my life."

As they got to know each other better, it was very apparent to Corrales that her friend had a rough life.

"I don't know if I would've had the strength she was able to muster, and at such a young age," said Corrales. "As time went on, our friendship grew stronger."

Corrales tries to educate herself, so that she is able to help Duran when she has one of her bad days.

"Duran was dealt a horrific hand, but she has managed to do her best with what she has," said Corrales. "That's true strength to me, and in the midst of all the craziness, she also managed to bring awareness and educate me about mental health issues."

Despite all the odds that were stacked against her, Duran finished Cosmetology school in December of 2014, and graduated from SPC that following May 2015.

If anyone you or anyone you know have thoughts about suicide, please seek help. There are many resources out there such as, National Suicide Prevention Lifeline Phone Number, 1-800-273-8255, Crisis Text Line Text 741741, <http://www.crisistextline.org>, or the Health and Wellness Center on the SPC campus.

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Ashley Duran, husband Andrew and their kids enjoying an afternoon at the Lubbock Arts Festival. Photos by **DESIREE MENDEZ/PLAINSMAN PRESS**

heartbroken that I could do nothing to make her feel happy enough to want to live," said Andrew. "Even our children had no effect on this outcome."

To this day, it is a daily struggle. They are not a normal family. They live life to try make it the best for Ashley.

Some things will trigger Ashley's anxiety or depression, and all they can do is try their best to be supportive and make the situation better.

"Things are better," said Andrew, "but I will never be able to get the thought out of my mind that I could possibly come home and find Ashley dead. It's a daily struggle, and I take it as is, one day at a time. Tomorrow is not promised, and the fact that she is still here gives me hope."

One of the things that Andrew lives by, and truly believes, comes from his favorite movie, "The Crow."

"Love Never Dies" When someone dies, you remember the things they loved and when you lose someone or something -that love you have for them will never die," said Andrew. "If anything, it will only grow stronger. For people who are struggling with suicide, what better gift can you give to them than love? Who knows? It just might make a difference."

Sandra Smith, Duran's

everything in your existence to protect your own child, you learn that the giant has attacked her in the worst possible way," said Duran. "It has entertained her with suicidal thoughts."

Smith lives day by day wondering if it's the day her daughter will take her life because the rapist had no

11. She also said she was molested when she was 5 or 6, but doesn't remember the age because she blocked the memory.

"My pain cannot compare to the mental debilitating thoughts that my daughter has to deal with every day," Smith said. "No amount of therapy can bring back her



seemed normal. He knew about her past. But at the time, it wasn't something that came out openly as a problem. Andrew knew that she had tried to kill herself before, and he witnessed her inflict self-harm on herself. But it wasn't tying into what would later be a bigger picture.

Then they had their son, Drayvin. After a few months, Ashley was suffering from postpartum depression, yet things seemed normal. It wasn't until they had their daughter, Atavynn, that she actually broke. Something inside her broke.

Andrew watched helplessly as the young woman he loves so much, who was so caring, loving and free-spirited,

Check out the  
Plainsman Press Online  
to read our coverage of  
the Slut Walk  
in Lubbock  
on April 29.

Photo gallery and story will  
be posted on May 8.

SLUT WALK

## 'Lego City' delivers fun, smashing gameplay

by RILEY GOLDEN  
Entertainment Editor

Fast cars, pretty women, and beautiful views that have one thing in common. They're all built out of Legos.

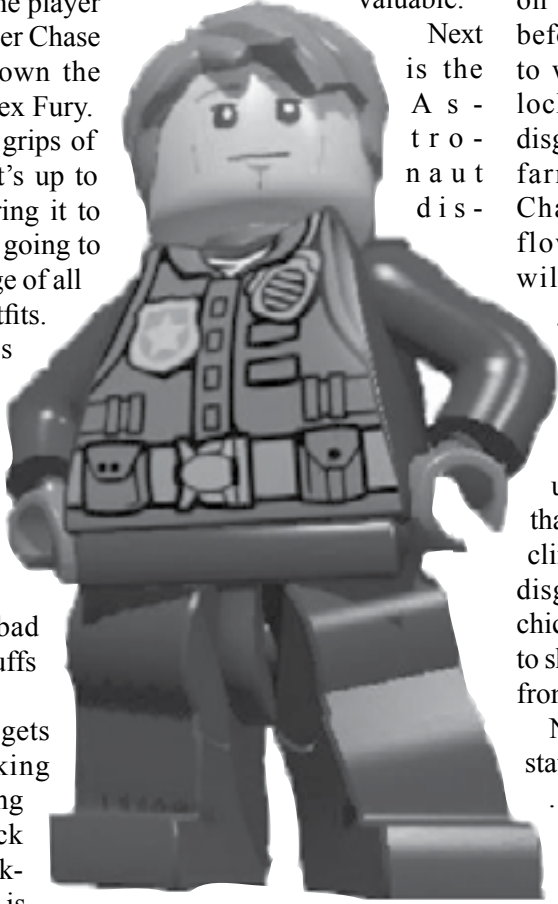
"Lego City Undercover" is a third-person action/adventure game in which the player takes control of Officer Chase McCain to chase down the criminal known as Rex Fury.

The city is in the grips of a crime wave, and it's up to Chase McCain to bring it to a halt. To do so, he's going to need to take advantage of all of his undercover outfits.

The player starts out in Chase's civilian clothes but shortly gains access to a police uniform. It's really a blast to hop behind the wheel of a police car, chase down a bad guy, and slap some cuffs on them.

Next, the player gets a very typical-looking robber outfit, wearing a black beanie, black eye mask, and a black-and-grey shirt. This is under the criminal disguise. While wearing one of the criminal disguises, the player has access to a crow bar and a color gun. The crowbar is used to break open doors, lockers, or hatches, and the color gun can be equipped with different colors that will help the player complete certain objectives.

The player then unlocks the Miner disguise. This disguise gives Chase access to dynamite vending machines which can be found all over the city, as well as a pickaxe that allows Chase to break up piles of rock that could be blocking an entrance or hiding something valuable.



Next is the Astronaut disguise, which gives Chase access to these little white cubes that open up to reveal a satellite dish that beams down an object, broken legos that need to be assembled, or even an alien for the player to chase down and cuff. The astronaut disguise also gives Chase a

fun laser pistol. Later on in the game, Chase also acquires a jet pack that can only be used with one of the astronaut disguises. Chase is then sent to assist an old farmer, and he tells Chase to put on some overalls before he can get to work. This unlocks the Farmer disguise. With the farmer disguise, Chase can water flower pots that will grow into a giant sunflower that works as a platform, or one that grows vines up a building that the player can climb. The farmer disguise also gives Chase a chicken that the player can use to shoot eggs at people or glide from one spot to the next. Next, Chase is sent to a fire station to acquire something. To do so, he has to don a fire fighter disguise. This disguise gives Chase a handheld water-sprayer that the player can use to put out fires, and an axe that can be used to chop down wood that is nailed across a door. Lastly, the player gains access to a construction worker disguise. This disguise gives Chase a jackhammer and the ability to fix electrical breakers

run through the story once. I would've really appreciated a 20 to 25-hour-long story mode. But I digress, because there is still a lot of fun to be had in the game.

There are a lot of real-world and pop culture references in the game. Chase gains with each disguise, there will be a circle on the ground indicating which tool can be used where. There will be parts of the game and story mode that can only be accessed later on,

once the player unlocks the disguise. With all other Lego games that I have played, the player is accompanied by one or more companions that all have different abilities, so I like that the player is able to flip through the different disguises, instead of having four other companions, which makes for a much less cluttered experience. Although there aren't usually any extra characters hanging around, a friend can still seamlessly drop into your game via splitscreen coop at pretty much anytime.

My least favorite part about the game is how short the story is. There are a lot of ways to

get distracted in "Lego City Undercover." But even then, it only takes about 15 hours to

The most noticeable and most hilarious pop culture reference in the game is when

run through the story once. I would've really appreciated a 20 to 25-hour-long story mode. But I digress, because there is still a lot of fun to be had in the game.

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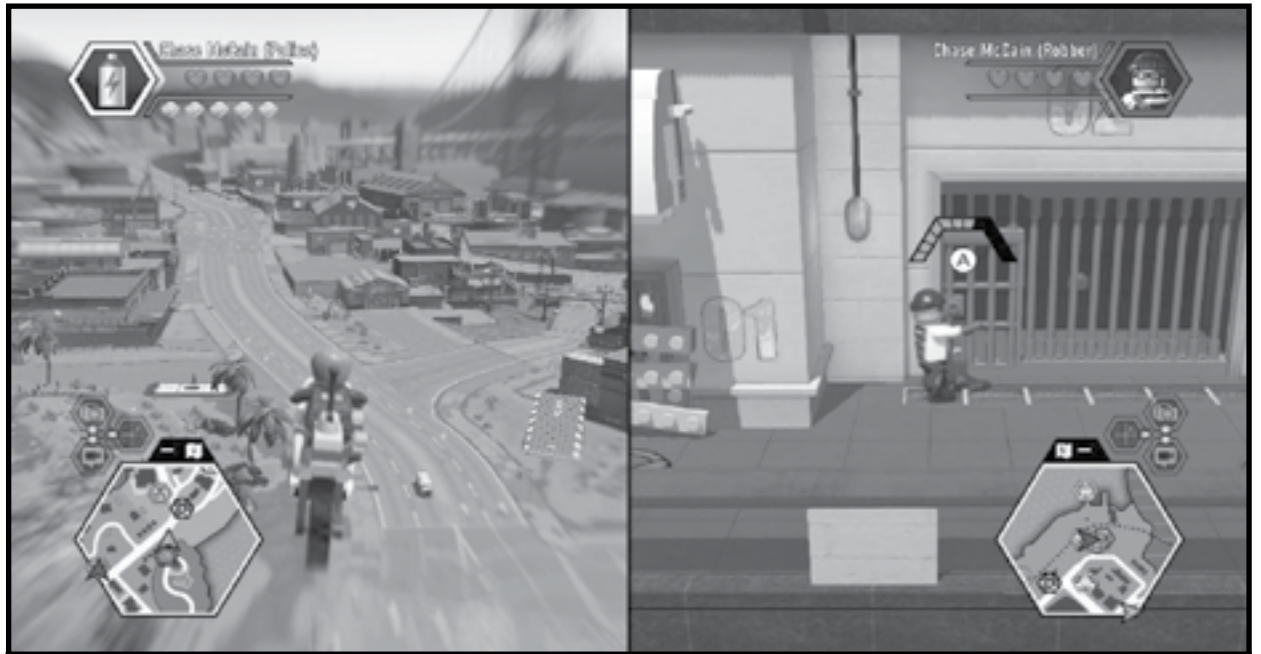
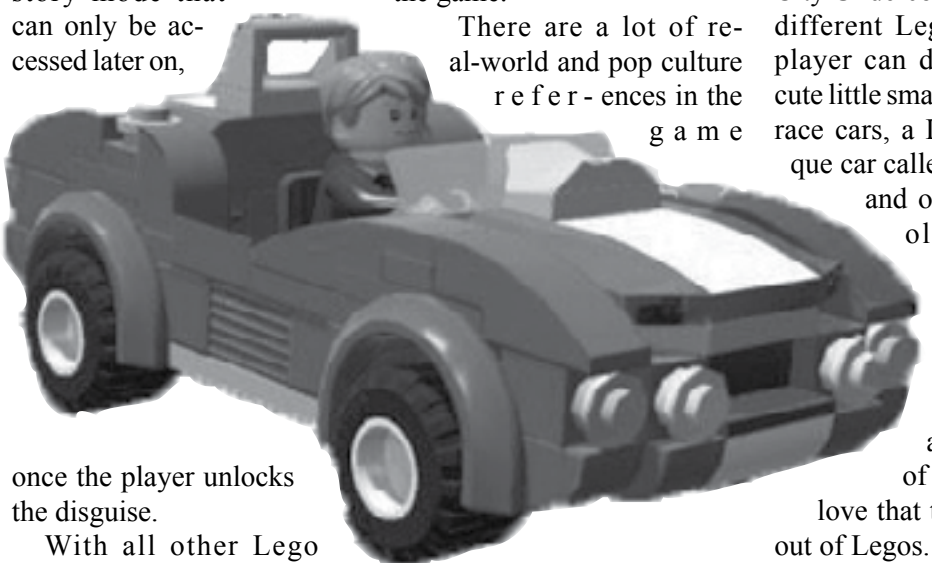


Photo illustrations by RILEY GOLDEN/PLAINSMAN PRESS



## 'Belko' leaves social issues behind for kills, spectacle

by TYLER YORK  
Online Editor

The best part about working a thankless, corporate office job is going home at the end of the day.

That freedom vanishes in an instant when the employees of "The Belko Experiment" find themselves locked in their building. A mysterious announcer pits them against one another in a violent game, and the result leaves the audience wanting.

In one of the most brutal films I've ever seen, "Belko" paints an interesting portrait of yielding to authority. But it's covered in a liberal coat of gore that will turn an enormous number of people off from its underlying message, myself included.

In the desolate inner city of Bogotá, Colombia, a group of office workers inhabit a building that looks like a sterile monument to the corporate world. It thrusts itself past the barren, crumbling surroundings and safely into the skyline above. The coworkers leave their bubble of security when massive metal plates cover every escape route. A voice on the intercom then informs them they are now participants in a social experiment.

The rest of the film plays through the employees' social breakdown, their fight for morality, and the violent rampage that follows.

There are two real-world experiments that mirror the themes present in "Belko," and it's clear the film's creators studied them well.

The first is the one known as the Milgram Experiment, a series of tests conducted by Stanley Milgram at Yale University in 1961. This experiment involved a researcher instructing a "teacher" participant to give a memory test to a third "learner" in another room (actually an actor in on the study). With every wrong answer, the "teacher" would administer electric shocks to



the "learner." These increased in voltage, until the "learner" fell silent and unresponsive.

The results showed that most people will go to great lengths to continue complying with authority, when doing so seems to be harmful, or even fatal, to others.

The second is the Stanford Prison Experiment, infamously led by Philip Zimbardo in 1971. This was a test performed on college students placed into randomly-assigned roles of authority. During the course of a week, the students assigned to be guards became

increasingly abusive and aggressive. The students acting as prisoners became more distressed and submissive to acts of psychological torture carried out by the guards.

Both of these experiments involve troubling questions about blindly following authority. "Belko" seems to want to feature that as its main theme.

In reality, the movie's spots of intelligence and thought-provoking symbolism are unfortunately overshadowed by its celebration of primal savagery.

The grim situation at the start of the film only becomes increasingly darker and more ruthless. There is a brief moment of bitter-sweet catharsis, followed almost immediately by more hopelessness through the conclusion. The horror of the acts these former friends carry out on each other gives the viewer very little payoff beyond being a witness to a corporate bloodbath.

For those who are considering watching "Belko" to see a thoughtful social commentary, the time is better spent with a documentary. For those wanting a fiesta of blood, guts, and white collar cruelty, many Quentin Tarantino films do it better. For those who are standing in front of the box office because the film they wanted to see is sold out, this movie will fill a spare hour and a half.

I give "The Belko Experiment" 3 out of 5 stars.



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# Student athletes explore interest in rap music

by **CHANISE RAY**  
Staff Writer

Two South Plains College students have led amazing athletic careers so far and continue to impress.

However, they have also shown that they are very talented in another area.

Dabrasia Baty and Saahir Bethea are proving to be more than average with their artistry of making music. It is rare to catch an athlete who plays a sport and has music as a hobby. Unless you're Master P, or for some of you who do not know who that is, then let's just say Troy Bolten from "High School Musical."

Baty was a point guard on the SPC women's basketball team who was seen as a floor general. Despite her fierce presence on the court, Baty claims to be very shy. She says her mom was hesitant at first to hear about this new journey she was taking into her music career because of her shyness.

However, toward the end of the basketball season, Baty's life took a slight turn. Dealing with her depression, she turned

mother realized Baty's talent right away.

Rapping about everyday life experiences, she hopes

raised in the suburbs of Dallas, Texas.

Despite the sound of that, she says her life wasn't easy.

whatever I wanted, I got. The only difference with that was I had to work for it. It's a different type of work, like

doing good in school, and taking care of my business."

Baty says she has always had a passion for music.

"I used to always have a mic, a piano," she said. "I had every instrument, almost every instrument, you can name. But I never really got a chance to go do as much with it as I wanted to because of basketball, because that was what was first."

Baty says she's new to rap and had no idea this would be how she contributed to music, but she says she is thankful.

Baty takes classes in the Commercial Music Building hoping she found her niche. She doesn't leave anyone out in her music audience. She says her music is for everyone.

"It could help everybody," said Baty. "I don't wanna just limit myself to one genre, or one group of people." The style of music Baty makes is

what is generalized as rap music. Baty says she doesn't want to put out any of her music unless it is perfect. The young artist explains she is just going with the flow and seeing where her music takes her.

Bethea, a sophomore on the SPC track team, is known as "Sah" for short. He says his cousin inspired him to start making music.

"I looked up to my cousin . . .," said Bethea. "He was just my inspiration to start doing it, you know, putting words together and the fancy rhythm. It was cool, and at that moment, it just made its way into my heart."

Bethea, who grew up in Philadelphia, Penn., seems

to show through his music the popular topics that he has known all his life.

"When it comes to putting together sentences, there's a sense of real into it," Bethea explained. "I grew up in Philadelphia, so that was just around me. It was nurtured."

"When you speak about topics on what you want to write about, it's not too many things you can say that you experience," he added. "So drugs, money, sex, all that was just in my childhood of growing up."

Being so far away from home while pursuing his education and competing in track, Bethea has found comfort in his music. He says he plans to continue his music career when he transfers to the University of Kentucky, the school he committed to on a track scholarship.

Back home in Philadelphia, Bethea has a group that make music together. The group named themselves Grind 4 a Purpose. Bethea hopes to get his music out there with a free music streaming application called Soundcloud, which is very popular for aspiring amateur musicians.

Both students show a lot of passion for their music, spending hours a day in a studio.

"We be in here, got class the next day early in the morning, it don't even matter," said Baty. "We getting to it. This is what we love to do."

Bethea and Baty even have a few songs together. "What You Up To" is the newest song the two have made together. Using the quality equipment the SPC Creative Arts program offers, the two

are able to record, mix, and edit all of their songs for free because of their participation in classes.

Another student works with the duo and actually mixes the songs.

They continue to show their passion and do what they seem to love, which is make music. The three seem very knowledgeable on the process it takes to create music. If any other students want to show their talents, the artists are always looking to collaborate with fellow students.

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Dabrasia Baty working in the South Plains College music studio in April 27.  
**CHANISE RAY/PLAINSMAN PRESS**

to her music. Eventually Baty shared one of her songs with her mother, and, of course, her

to help people going through some of the same things. Baty, also known as D Babi, was

"I grew up a little bit different," said Baty, "Not to say I had everything, but

## 'Free Fire' unique take on crime genre

by **RYAN FITZGERALD**  
Staff Writer

"Free Fire" was different. It is puzzling, yet in some odd way, surprising.

In a surprisingly snarky and dark way, the film seems to reflect a mash up of Quinton Tarantino's "Reservoir Dogs," with a bastardized stage production of some new "West Side Story" spinoff.

"Free Fire" is centered around a 1970s-arms deal gone awry. Irish separatists intend to buy a truckload of automatic

as the idea of honor among thieves is thrown out the window.

At this point, the film becomes an extended shootout that resembles the final act of any gangster movie or western film. This is what the story becomes — a narrative spun out

than by design, contribute to particularly clear visuals, which perfectly captures the mayhem of bullets ripping through the shoulder pad of someone's suit, or flinging about dirt and debris, as they ricochet off concrete columns in every direction.

same old Boston warehouse — no change in location or scenery. Yet Wheatley stands firm with his creative vision, with equally imaginative camera angles to make the film feel fresh throughout.

"Free Fire" is generally entertaining, a bit cynical, and offers an exchange of the juxtaposition of wit between two factions. The characters are all portrayed as an egocentric, rag-tag group of morons who have no clue how to conduct business as responsible adults.

Instead, audiences could rejoice in the fact that each character's lifespan in the film ends as a result of the age-old mantra, "he had it coming."

I give "Free Fire" 3.5 out of 5 stars.



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of the comedic aspects of the violent calamity that ensues.

The film, in and of itself, is a bit of a satirical piece — exploiting the stereotypes associated with a modern Hollywood shootout and making fun of the most boisterous of the crime noir genre. There are bullets flying everywhere. No one ever seems to need to reload a weapon. Everyone gets nicked, bullet wounds snowball, and then each character over reacts in response to the severity of the situation. Still, members have time for the occasional cigarette, the over-dramatic hunt for more ammo and even time to worry about the destruction of their new suits, all the while poking fun at one another throughout the entire incident.

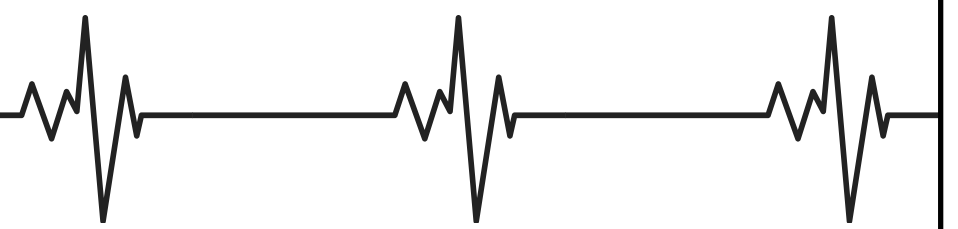
If it wasn't for the cast's charisma and smooth play off one another, the film would have fallen flat. Moreover, the export use of lighting and flamboyant colors may have contributed to the stylistic choices of the 1970s,

"Free Fire" expresses a new level of irony, in that being an organized criminal is far from the under-the-radar, clandestine, espionage-esque operation that many think it is. Rather, it's really just a mess of misinformed, particularly shallow agendas among individuals who do not know how to communicate, or really play well with others.

The story ends predictably, as someone watching this film through the eyes of exaggeration and ridicule would expect. Director Ben Wheatley offers what would almost be considered a parody, with a film that exposes a preposterously elaborate plot that looks past motive and plan for something reactionary and unrefined.

The film keeps viewers vested in the players, and the mysteries as to why each character is reluctant to just call a truce or step away from the action. The movie seems to reach a point when moviegoers forget that the entire film occurs on the main floor of the

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# 'Preacher' brings controversial questions to niche series

by RYAN FITZGERALD  
Staff Writer

Pulling from comics and graphic novels as source material for new television series and movies has reached an all-time high.

Film-goers will recognize several titles associated with the more famous properties of the comic world, which span the past two decades, including 1994's "The Crow," the "Blade" trilogy, and newly-depicted origin stories of several Marvel and DC staples such as "Daredevil," "Elektra," "Ghost Rider," "Hellboy,"

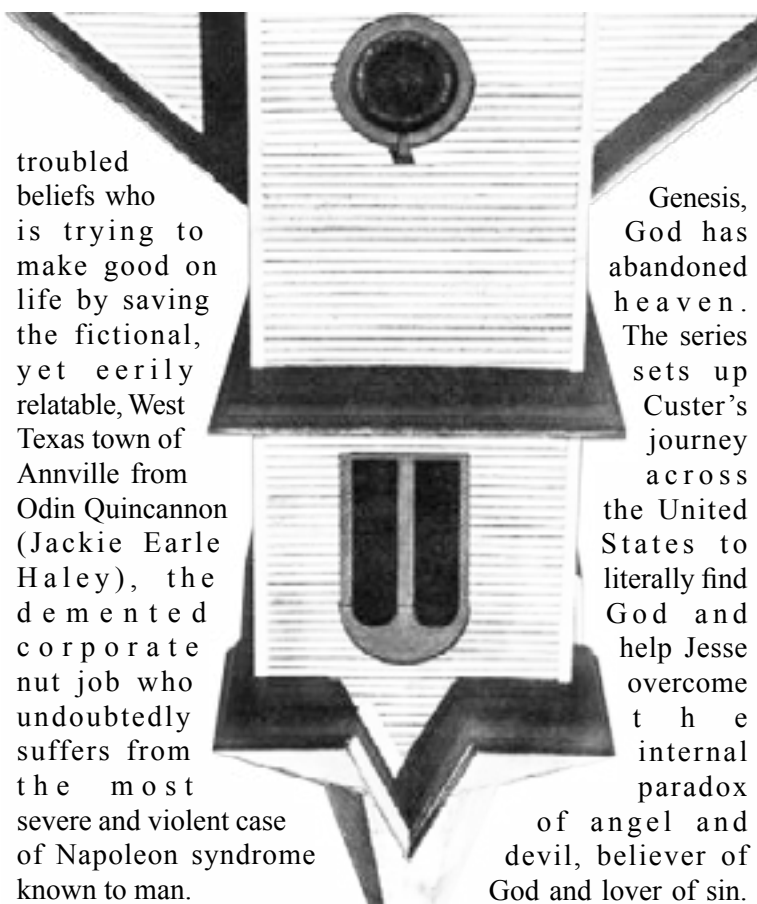
future lineup of shows. AMC, most notably, locked down "The Walking Dead" first, bringing the original 2003 comic series to life in 2010 and making the title one of the most watched series in the history of television.

Following the success of "The Walking Dead," the CW and Warner Bros. Television established its stake in this new adaptation of comic-centric television by bringing a collection of superhero series focused around several of DC Comics' more underdeveloped characters, such as the Flash, Green Arrow and Supergirl.

adaptation of a classic graphic novel to television audiences.

The first season of "Preacher" was introduced last year, bringing the same adult-themed content that viewers have come to expect from AMC.

"Preacher" began its run in the comic world under the Vertigo imprint in 1993. Vertigo was created by DC Comics as an outlet to publish new stories that contained more graphic content, explicit violence, profanity and other controversial subjects - all of which did not fit into the restrictions originally set forth



troubled beliefs who is trying to make good on life by saving the fictional, yet eerily relatable, West Texas town of Annville from Odin Quincannon (Jackie Earle Haley), the demented corporate nut job who undoubtedly suffers from the most severe and violent case of Napoleon syndrome known to man.

But what makes the series (and graphic novel, for that matter) so intriguing, is that at the beginning of the series, as Jesse is stumbling in his faith of God, he becomes possessed by a supernatural creature named Genesis.

Genesis is an otherworldly offspring of the coupling of an angel and a demon... a love child of sorts. Genesis, as an entity, has no individual will but is composed of goodness and evil, a power that rivals only God himself. It makes Jesse the most powerful individual to walk the Earth.

Upon housing Genesis within his body, Jesse is serendipitously granted a holy tongue, with which he garners the ability to command others, using his words. To complicate matters, upon the creation of

Genesis, God has abandoned heaven.

The series sets up Custer's journey across the United States to literally find God and help Jesse overcome the internal paradox

of angel and devil, believer of God and lover of sin.

He attempts to settle the confliction he feels between follower and apostate.

Throughout the season, viewers are introduced to a plethora of interesting characters, including Cassidy (Joseph Gilgun), the wild, party-friendly, Irish vampire, and Tulip, Jesse's former lover and partner in crime from a past life that Jesse is continually fighting to forget.

"Preacher" was brilliantly delivered by creators Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg. Both producers, who have been longtime fans of the original series, initially considered an unwavering, faithful translation of the source material, but was talked out of that idea by original writer, Garth Ennis - who

preferred an approach that was faithful to, and in the spirit of, the original series that would include the best elements of the 1990s run of the comic, yet translate to a television adaptation that would contain fresh and various storylines.

Despite exceptional writing and a narrative that can't help but drag you into the story head first, the cast is truly what sets this show apart. Dominic Cooper brings a sense of grizzled charm, with the right balance of bad boy, to the screen to keep viewers vested in his spiritual struggles. Ruth Negga (now an Academy Award-nominated actress thanks to her performance in "Loving"), brings grit and spunk to the reckless spitfire that is the character of Tulip. Other characters from the series make their appearances, including the gay angels, Fiore and DeBlanc, Sheriff Hugo Root and his disfigured son, Eugene (known as Arseface).

Overall, the series will continue with its second season in June, as Jesse, Tulip and Cassidy set out to answer the question set up through everything that happened during the first season: If these is no God, does life have meaning? The end of the first season, and presumably beginning this June, the quest to find God and get answers for the big man's abandonment of heaven and his supernatural responsibilities will finally begin.

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"Green Lantern," "Hulk," the "Punisher" and, of course, "Batman," "Superman" and their affiliated adversaries.

During the past several years, cable networks such as AMC and the CW have begun taking hold of rights to a new mature, independent string of characters and properties to work into their

Still, these shows are designed to appeal to a larger national audience, as they don't feature the more gruesome, and arguably, more memorable storyline associated with "The Walking Dead."

More recently, AMC has reached deep into their bag of purchased material to bring a new, uncanny and unearthly

by the Comics Code Authority (CCA), which attempted to self-censor the industry. Thankfully, publishers broke with the CCA's regulation of comic books and their related materials in the late 2000s.

"Preacher" chronicles the story of smalltown Texas preacher, Jesse Custer. He is a man of questioning faith and

# Suicide mystery handled with care in '13 Reasons Why'

by HANNAH NELSON  
Staff Writer

A new Netflix series turns a tragic tale into a hard-hitting show full of heartbreak, devastation, and guilt.

"13 Reasons Why" covers the story of high school teen Hannah Baker, who committed suicide. You follow Clay as he receives and listens to 13 tapes that Hannah recorded before killing herself. These tapes are delivered to every person who was involved in Hannah's death.

On them she describes what each person did to be on the tapes. Most of the people who have listened to the tapes are not even aware of what they did until Hannah tells them.

You see Hannah experience high school through flashbacks to tell her story. She experiences many typical high school drama scenarios. However, as the series continues, situations build and escalate. Hannah goes from dealing with small problems that every person typically experiences to traumatizing situations that completely unravel her life.

This show doesn't try to sugar coat these issues presented. Even now, suicide is still a delicate situation to talk about, especially for media purposes. However, this series completely changes the game. The content seems to

get heavier and heavier with each episode.

Possibly the most forceful part of the series is Hannah's suicide scene. The episode actually shows Hannah in her bath tub slitting her wrists with a razor. This was a defining moment for the show. It makes the story real and painful. This is something most producers

you uncomfortable, hurt, angry, and confused. Most of all, it is going to make viewers understand that suicide can't just be ignored. It is a real issue that needs real support. Since its

Reason Why" has. Not many shows discuss issues such as

Show that you care about someone who needs it. It could

possibly save a life, just as it could have saved Hannah's life. For many people, this is their real story, whether they are suicidal, have been raped, or don't see their potential. Let "13 Reasons Why" spark the change for hope, support, and awareness.

If you are looking for a binge worthy show to watch during your free time, this show may not be for you. However, if you want to educate yourself about a tragic issue within our world, please watch this show.

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suicide and rape. From start to finish, every episode is forceful.

There is a problem with all the attention this show has received through social media. The message portrayed in "13 Reasons Why" is worth so much more than just a tweet or Facebook post. Even though the show may be fiction, it showcases real-life occurrences. The issue of suicide deserves to be acknowledged and spread farther than a social media page.

After watching "13 Reasons Why," take emotions that you felt and let them empower you to make a difference. That is the real message behind this show. The show is not meant for entertainment. Each episode is going to make you uncomfortable, make you cry, and make you think. While watching, realize that you could be someone's Clay or Jessica. You have the potential to save a life that you didn't even know was in jeopardy.

would be hesitant to show, because it is a hard concept to grasp.

But "13 Reasons Why" is focused on pushing boundaries. It's going to make

release, "13 Reasons Why" has exploded on social media. Everyone is talking about this show on Facebook and Twitter. It is easy to see why, as no show has done what "13

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## Track teams prepare for nationals with dominating performances

by **DOMINICK PUENTE**  
Editorial Assistant

The South Plains College track and field teams have continued to post dominating results as the end of the season nears.

The Texans, have gathered 35 national qualifying marks, while the Lady Texans have gathered 38 national qualifying marks.

1:53.42, while Dekaryea Freeman finished 16<sup>th</sup> with a time of 1:56.08.

In the 1500-meter run, freshman Felix Kosegi finished 18<sup>th</sup> with a time of 4:02.91.

In the 100-meter hurdles, freshman William Watson placed fifth with a time of 14.49, while freshman Mason Weh placed eighth with a time of 14.87.

In the 400-meter hurdles,

Laquan Nairn placed second with a jump of 7.70 meters, while sophomore Saahir Bethea finished fourth with a jump of 7.40 meters. Sophomore Derrick Monroe finished sixth with a jump of 7.27 meters.

In the shot put, freshman Patrick Johnson finished eighth with a throw of 11.30 meters, while sophomore Adrian Williams placed third in the javelin with a throw of 58.99 meters.

Abrocquah placed third with a time of 3:45.95.

In the women's long jump, freshman Cha'Kaylin Gilbert finished 10<sup>th</sup> with a jump of 5.70 meters.

The SPC track teams also competed in the David Noble Invitational in San Angelo, which unfolded April 6 - April 8.

In the men's 200-meter run, Charles placed first with a time of 21.20.

In the 400-meter run, freshman Montel Hood placed third with a time of 47.16, while Atkinson finished sixth with a time of 47.50.

In the 800-meter run, Freeman finished fifth with a time of 1:57.10.

In the 1500-meter run, Downs Jr. finished sixth with a time of 4:08.80.

In the 5000-meter run, Kosgei placed first with a time of 15:24.00, while sophomore Omero Rodriguez placed second with a time of 15:30.37.

Sophomore Nicholas Rotich placed third with a time of 16:12.72.

In the men's 10,000-meter run, sophomore Jose Silva placed first with a time of 34:01.74, and sophomore Connor Hughes placed third with a time of 35:20.96.

In the 110-meter hurdles, Weh placed first with a time of 14.55. Freshman Patrick Johnson placed second with a time of 15.40, and freshman Marcus Weeks finished fourth with a time of 17.41.

In the 400-meter hurdles, Williams placed first with a time of 50.90. Holmes placed second with a time of 51.11,

In the shot put, freshman McLendon Hill placed first with a throw of 15.85 meters.

In javelin, Williams placed first with a throw of 63.57 meters, and sophomore Zach Hancock placed second with a throw of 39.61 meters.

In the women's 200-meters, Prieto placed first with a time of 23.86, and Abolaji placed third with a time of 24.27.

In the 400-meter run, McDonald placed first with a time of 53.46.

In the women's 10,000-meter run, freshman Leslie Romero placed first with a time of 19:23.07. Sophomore Poro Gahekave placed second with a time of 19:29.16, and freshman Lydia Mancillas placed third with a time of 23:07.27.

In the 4 x 100 relay, a team of Abolaji, Prieto, Taylor Hill and Safia Bright placed second with a time of 45.14.

In the 4 x 400 relay, a team of Smith, McDonald, Prieto and Abrocquah placed first with a time of 3:42.21.

In the discus, freshman Janina Price placed second with a throw of 42.30 meters.

In women's javelin, Katelyn Clarkston placed second with a throw of 36.78 meters, and Candace Thomas placed third with a throw of 36.07 meters.

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Candace Thomas gets her practice throws in for javelin at the SPC track on April 12. **TOVI OYERVIDEZ/PLAINSMAN PRESS**



Laquan Nairn practices his long jump form to prepare for Nationals at the SPC track on April 12. **TOVI OYERVIDEZ/PLAINSMAN PRESS**

The NJCAA Outdoor National Championship will be held in Hutchinson, Kansas from May 18 - May 20.

While preparing for the National meet, the teams competed in the John Jacobs Invitational on April 15 in Norman, Oklahoma.

In the 200-meter run, freshman Jordan Atkinson placed sixth with a time of 20.98, while freshman Junior Charles placed third in the 400-meter run with a time of 48.03.

In the 800-meter run, sophomore Robert Downs Jr. placed sixth with a time

freshman Rayan Holmes placed third with a time of 52.11, while freshman William Watson finished sixth with a time of 52.86 and sophomore Robert Dunning finished eighth with a time of 53.47.

In the 4 x 400-meter relay, a team of Charles, Atkinson, sophomore Okeen Williams and freshman Montell Hood finished second with a time of 3:10.04.

In the high jump, sophomore Kwaume McGee finished eighth with a jump of 2.00 meters.

In the long jump, freshman

In the women's 100-meter run, freshman Omotayo Abolaji finished sixth with a time of 11.82.

In the 200-meter run, freshman Safia Bright finished ninth with a time of 24.73.

In the 400-meter run, freshman Natassha McDonald placed first with a time of 53.94, while sophomore Mauricia Prieto placed fourth with a time of 55.77 and freshman Agnes Abrocquah finished ninth with a time of 56.96.

In the 4 x 400-meter relay, a team of sophomore Latriceia Smith, McDonald, Prieto and

while Watson placed third with a time of 51.95.

In the men's 4 x 100-meter relay, a team of Roje Jackson-Chin, Charles, Watson and Atkinson placed second with a time of 40.87.

In men's high jump, McGee placed first with a jump of 2.10 meters.

In the pole vault, freshman Jonathan Witt placed first with a vault of 3.97 meters, and Collin Rodriguez placed second with a vault of 3.82 meters.

In the long jump, Derrick placed first with a jump of 7.63 meters, and Bethea placed second with a 7.53-meter jump.

## Love for fighting leads student toward Taipei Summer Olympics

by **ALEX PEREZ**  
Feature Editor

Honor, dedication and practice is the life motto of one student fighter.

Most of the world has been a spectator for multiple MMA fights, but imagine training for half of your life, and now being able to compete in the Taipei 2017 Olympics. This

fantasy has become a reality for Bruce Wang.

Wang, a freshman who attends classes at South Plains College's Reese Center campus, and many other students from around the country were selected to try out or and compete at the 2017 29<sup>th</sup> Summer Universiade Olympic Games in Taipei.

Wang will be representing

SPC as he goes to compete in his home country and fight in a style called Wushu. Wushu is new to the Universiade Olympic Games. It is a mix of all Chinese traditional martial arts, and soon, Wang will get the honor of competing in the sport for Team USA. Wang is an experienced fighter who says he is ready to take on the new challenge in Taipei.

In order to be a part of Team USA, Wang and seven other fighters performed to their best ability and were judged by a panel of six, who then chose the final four. One was Wang.

The young fighter moved to the United States in 2008 with his uncle. He played basketball in high school for a bit, but soon began his training in martial arts with his uncle.

"I kind of don't like doing team sports, so I chose fighting," said Wang of his introduction to martial arts. Wang's uncle runs his own gym in Lubbock, the United Martial Arts Training Center, and is a USA national team coach. With his past experience, Wang's coach and uncle is an excellent source for training.

Wang's first big fight being coached by his uncle was one of his interesting fights.

"I was nervous and kind of freaked out a little bit, but still really calm," recalls Wang.

Wang was 17 at the time when a promoter came to his uncle and asked for a fighter to go against another fighter.

Since three fighters were either injured or could not do it, Wang stepped up to the challenge. After deciding to take the fight, it was later revealed

him. In the second round, he came back with a vengeance and ended up winning by TKO in his first fight.

"I told myself, I have to

only has three fights in Wushu but has been successful in the sport. His event will be from Aug. 26- Aug. 30.

Wang is a very humble



Wushu fighter Bruce Wang prepares himself for the 2017 Taipei Olympics with Coach Lee on April 25 at the United Martial Arts Training Center.



Martial artist and SPC student Bruce Wang will represent the United States in the 2017 summer Olympics. **PHOTOS BY ALEX PEREZ/PLAINSMAN PRESS**

to him that he was going up against a 27-year-old black belt in Tai Quan Do. At the time, he was still being introduced to the fighting scene.

"My uncle told me to just take the fight, because I had nothing to lose," said Wang.

"I tried to throw some crazy punches, but the guy got me with a lucky punch," he added. "So I got knocked down, in the first round."

Fortunately, the bell saved Wang, and his coach talked to

finish this round," says Wang about his fight.

With the Universiade Olympic Games coming up, he trains with his coach for about three hours a day and as much as he can on weekends. A full-time training schedule would be six hours a day. But since Wang is a part-time student at SPC and has a part-time job, he has a dedicated schedule to fit everything in.

Wang, who plans to pursue graphic design in the future,

fighter who keeps to himself and trains hard to get the championship. He has been given the opportunity to go to the Universiade Olympic games before, but let a senior teammate go before he did. Wang says he holds himself to a high standard, but does not believe in flaunting his talents.

"Everybody has to lose at some point," says Wang.

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# Fining NBA coach for opinion hurts league image



by **DOMINICK PUENTE**  
Editorial Assistant

Having the ability to speak out about problems within different sports should not be hindered by league offices with fines or other punishments to maintain their image.

The NBA recently fined Grizzlies coach David Fizdale after he ranted about the officiating after their first playoff game against the San Antonio Spurs.

After comparing the number of free throws the Grizzlies had with the Spurs' Kawhi

Leonard, Leonard had more free-throw opportunities than the entire Grizzlies team.

The league fined Fizdale \$30,000 after his rant, which I believe is unnecessary and hurts the league overall.

Whether Fizdale was right about his team being treated unfairly because Spurs coach Gregg Popovich and his team have pedigree, while Fizdale and the Grizzlies are rookies, or just lack the experience, is another topic for debate.

However, fining coaches and players for speaking their mind is idiotic. Coaches and players should have a voice in the organization to express their thoughts about how they are seeing things and what they

the league commissioner and office know what needs to be fixed.

As for Fizdale, he should have every right to express his concerns. The league office demands players and coaches have press conferences after games and throughout the season. If the NBA sets those guidelines, coaches and players should have the right to express their feelings on any issue, even if it is expressing disgust toward officiating or the NBA overall.

Although the NBA is a business, the coaches and players should be able to utilize freedom of speech without having to be fined or punished.

Throughout the years, the league has fined countless coaches and players for expressing their thoughts on the NBA. Yet when the league has something to say, whether it be good or bad, no one is looking over the league's actions.

The league is made up of fully-grown men and women who are educated enough to process situations and come up with their own responses. For an organization to glorify a response from a player or

coach who states a positive response, then burn another player for expressing his concerns, is not just.

As for the idea of utilizing criticism from coaches and players to help build the NBA, I think, as a collective whole, the league office is not comprehending how well that could benefit the league and allow more positive outcomes.

Allowing coaches to talk about the concerns of players with the NBA and the overall system should be allowed to better the league, which, in

turn, will bring better results and more people to the sport of basketball.

Instead of fining individuals thousands of dollars for their own opinions, the league should consider the criticism as advice or hints to work on what needs to be fixed to create a better system and cohesive organization.

I do understand that Fizdale was fined for ranting about the officiating, while all three officials have officiated more than 400 playoff games combined. There is still room for error

in even the most experienced officials.

The difference in the number of free throws does indicate that maybe the officials were not partial to the Grizzlies. While it might not be about pedigree, Fizdale had every right to be upset and should have been able to voice his concerns without receiving a fine so the NBA could save face.

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## MVP race heats up with Westbrook, Harden



by **CHANISE RAY**  
Staff Writer

Russell Westbrook is one of many obvious picks for the 2017 MVP award in the National Basketball Association.

However, Westbrook, the star guard of the Oklahoma Thunder, has people thinking what will happen if he doesn't win. Russell Westbrook has had an amazing season so far, which is the reason he is even in the running for MVP. A rival player on the Houston Rockets, guard James Harden, has shown he is not someone to mess with as well.

Although there is already talk of Westbrook taking the MVP home, Harden hasn't shown a hint of dismay and continues to show his dominance early in the playoffs.

Westbrook has continued to amaze me as he breaks records and shows his versatility. He

recently broke Oscar Robertson's NBA record with his 42<sup>nd</sup> triple-double. However, that may not secure his chances of winning the MVP. I recently saw a stat that the Thunder have won just 55 percent of their games, and no player since the NBA-ABA merger in 1976 has won the MVP award on a team that had a winning percentage less than .561. Reading this made my opinion change about who should be the MVP.

Typically, the MVP is, of course, the most valuable player. But he should be the most valuable for the winning team.

Harden is currently another obvious pick for the MVP this year. Some say he is having one of the best offensive sea-

me, Westbrook's triple-double feat shouldn't be taken lightly. Regardless, I do believe that if either one of the amazing athletes that I have mentioned do win the MVP, they will be very well deserving of it. Both Westbrook and Harden have shown incredible strength during this season while playing similar roles for their teams. With the OKC Thunder recently losing their star player, Kevin Durant, to Golden State, you can tell they have suffered from that loss. Pushing forward, Westbrook continues to carry his team on his back.

Harden, on the other hand, has always been the go-to player for the Rockets. His size and structure remind me of a shooting guard.

However, the way he handles the basketball is graceful and effective. He uses his speed to attack the basket. Also, he is seen as a threat behind the 3-point line.

Westbrook's game is quite similar. He also uses his speed to create shots for himself. However, Westbrook seems to be a well-rounded player, being one of the first players to al-

most average a triple-double. Amazing enough as that sounds, I wonder who will receive the 2017 MVP. It will truly be a surprise, whoever wins.

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## Sports organizations have right to boycott N.C. bill



by **STEVEN GEHEGAN**  
Sports Editor

Sports can play an instrumental role in social change, and right previous social injustices.

The state of North Carolina has made news lately for its

ball conference championship games from Greensboro, N. C. While moving sporting events out of a state might not seem like a big deal, it cost these cities millions of dollars in lost revenue, because of all the people who flock to the state for the games.

It seems strange that it took North Carolina so long to repeal the bill, because the NBA and the ACC gave the state plenty of time to change the bill. The NBA waited so long that it was starting to get bad press for not moving the All-Star game fast enough, which seems unfair. Changing bills takes time in our system of government, and it was fair for those organizations to give the state time to change the bill, unlike what the National Football League did when moving

their funding to the University of North Carolina and North Carolina State University if the ACC ever boycotted the state of North Carolina again.

This just seems like a desperate move from a group of angry adults. The ACC has every right to protest a bill that is as unjust as that one. This bill only effects those two university because they are state funded. It would have no effect on Duke University. Since it is privately funded, the state cannot do a thing to them.

This just seems like a petty move that other sports organizations need to do something about. While it may seem like the state has the ACC's hands tied, and the ACC is moving its championships in football and basketball back to Greensboro in the near future, other leagues can help them out.

For one, the ACC may not be able to move the playoff games, but the National Collegiate Athletic Association can. But they seem to care more about money than helping others, so that seems the least likely to happen. But the NBA and the NFL can pull their All-Star and Super Bowl out of the state for as long as the bill remains in place.

The state of North Carolina does not seem to learn its lesson from the past bill. It needs for other people and organizations to help the ACC.

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unjust bathroom bill that has recently been repealed. While there were many reasons for the change, one was sports related. In a smart move by the National Basketball League, the All-Star game was moved out of Charlotte, N. C. Also, the Atlantic Coast Conference pulled its football and basket-

the Super Bowl out of Arizona several years ago.

With all the bad press that North Carolina got for that bill, you would think that they would learn their lesson. But it just seems that the state is bitter. There was a new bill just passed that said that the State of North Carolina would pull

## Robinson, Boren earn chance to compete in National Finals Rodeo

by **STEVEN GEHEGAN**  
Sports Editor

The South Plains College men's and women's rodeo teams capped a strong spring season by advancing two athletes to the National Finals Rodeo.

Sophomore Rainy Robinson and freshman Chet Boren will represent SPC at the College National Finals Rodeo, which will take place June 9 – June 17 in Casper, Wyoming.

Boren, from Vernal, Utah, claimed the title of Southwest regional champion by earning the most points in men's steer wrestling with 585 points. Robinson, from Caldwell, Idaho, won the Southwest regional championship in barrel racing with 530 points.

The teams competed in the Tarleton State Rodeo, which

was held April 20 – April 22 in Stephenville.

In the breakaway roping event, freshman Lariat Lerner posted a time of 2.7 seconds in the long run and 100 seconds in the short run, scoring 30 points and placing seventh.

In the goat tying event, freshman Jenna Dallyn posted a time of 7.4 seconds in the long run and 8 seconds in the short run, scoring 125 points and placing third. Freshman Megan Burbidge posted a time of 8.1 seconds in the long run and 9 seconds in the short run, failing to score any points. Freshman Baylee Henderson posted a time of 8.1 seconds in the long run and 100 seconds in the short run, also failing to score points. Freshman Avery Gonzales competed but did not score as well.

In the barrel racing event,

freshman Alex Odle posted a time of 15.75 seconds in the long run and 15.74 seconds in the short run, scoring 40 points and tying for sixth.

In the men's steer wrestling event, sophomore Coy Surretts posted a time of 4.4 seconds in the long run and 4.6 seconds in the short run, scoring 175 points and placing first. Freshman Riley Hayes posted a time of 5 seconds in the long run and 14.3 seconds in the short run, scoring 35 points and placing sixth.

In the team roping event, freshman Kade Sherwood and freshman Stefan Ramone posted a time of 6.8 seconds in the long run and 6.3 seconds in the short run, scoring 130 points and placing second.

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# Fine as Wine

## Local vineyards thrive in West Texas climate, soil

by SARA MARSHALL  
Editor-in-Chief

As high quality, artisan alcohols become more popular in the United States, local growers are taking advantage of the booming market in West Texas.

Beating out international wines and the top wines in the United States, Trilogy Cellars of Levelland

Being the only U.S. Malbec to win a gold medal at TEXSOM offered those at Trilogy Cellars the validation they were seeking. But the winery's success would not have happened had three friends not come together with an idea to change the face of wine-making.

kind of mushroomed. We weren't exactly planning on opening a tasting room when we first started making our wine, but we came across the building at a good price and thought 'Hey, why not? Let's do it and see how it goes.' And so far it's gone real well."

Balancing the vineyards and the winery has been the family's favorite part of the business.

"I've always wanted to be part of the wine business and take it from the field to the bottle," Hill said. "I think it's really neat that we can do that. There aren't many industries that you can grow like we have, and it's great. When I was farming cotton, I never got to see a t-shirt that my cotton made."

Growing premium grapes

from right here. The problem is, you have to adjust for the climatic conditions here; it's not California, not Italy. It's not France. Growers here usually adjust pretty easily. But I mean, we pretty much give the soil whatever it needs. We don't have a lot of organic matter. Pretty much anything the plant needs, we have to supply."

According to Bolen, in April, the vines have a bud break, which represents the first leaves that begin growing. In May, the clusters begin to flower, but due to heavy rains and unusually warm spring weather, this may be as early as the end of April. In June, the grape clusters are formed. In July, veraison occurs, which is the changing of grape color from green to purple. By August and September, the grapes are ready to harvest, which may even occur as early as July this year. When the first frost occurs, typically in late November, the plants go into dormancy until the next growing season.

Once the grapes are harvested, they must be crushed, pressed and

fermented. The fermented grapes are then aged in either wooden barrels, for red wines, or stainless steel tanks, for white wines.

help at all. Now we're glad to have him here, and he's got more experience than anyone here. We've learned a lot of things the hard way. We would do it wrong the first time and then figure out in time how to do it correctly. And with Pierre, I think we're going to, especially with new growers, skip that trial and error period and go straight to the right way to do things."

After successfully growing wine grapes, the families came together to open the Trilogy Cellars on the downtown Square in Levelland on Nov. 17, 2016. Hill says that the most important thing a person seeking to be a part of the West Texas wine movement can do is become involved in the business as soon as possible.

"There's a need for people in the vineyard, but not necessarily those who are college educated," Hill said. "I mean there are vineyard managers, but that's not something you're going to get into right out of college. You'd have to be a hand for a while."

According to Newsom, both sides of the business require patience. If you rush

brought home gold, silver and bronze medals from the 2017 TEXSOM International Wine Awards at the Irving Convention Center on Feb. 22.

"It was a little bit shocking," said Steve Newsom, co-owner of Trilogy Cellars. "We were against some of the best wines in the U.S. The toughest wine competition in the U.S. is the TEXSOM, and they bring in the absolute best judges in the world. We were kind of nervous about TEXSOM."

grapes. Originally, the three had only been producing Malbec for their friends and family for fun, but it quickly evolved into so much more.

"We started making wine in harvest of 2015," Hill said, "and it just

in West Texas is not an easy task for all growers, but these three families are confident in their vineyards.

"This is a really good place to grow anything," Newsom said. "We've proved that. Some of the best quality cotton, and the highest yields in the world come

a mature production bloom," Bolen said. "This all depends on how well the plants have grown, and if you've had any crazy weather conditions, bitter colds, freezes, hail. All those things kind of set you back."

Whenever the three vineyards encounter a problem, Dr. Pierre Helwi, the West Texas regional viticulture extension program specialist, is there to help. Viticulture is the study of grapes and grape growing. Helwi's job is to take scientific projects, which tend to be extremely complicated, and make it practical for local grape growers.

"It's been really helpful," Hill explained, "because in the past, we've had people in his position that didn't have any experience growing grapes, and it wasn't much

in, you will rush out just as quickly.

"As in anything in agriculture, business is number one," Newsom said. "The work ethic is the same between the vineyard and the winery. You have to be very personable, and you want your customers to be entertained when they come in. They want to be entertained."

Trilogy Cellars plans to release new wines later this year and enter more wine competitions.

PHOTOS BY SARA MARSHALL/ PLAINSMAN PRESS

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