

Women's Protective Services of Lubbock honors women affected by domestic violence

by **DESIREE LOPEZ**
News Editor

Women who were killed by an intimate partner or family member in Texas and those who have survived domestic violence recently were honored and remembered during a Candlelight Vigil.

The event, with Women's Protective Services of Lubbock playing host, was held on Oct. 2 at the Lubbock County Courthouse Gazebo.

The service began with a prayer and was followed by a recognition made by Shelia Patterson Harris, a member of the Lubbock City Council. She offered special recognition to the WPS of Lubbock Candle-

light Vigil. Harris strongly encourages every citizen within the city of Lubbock to join WPS in the effort to actively address and eliminate family violence.

After the recognition, employees of WPS read the names of the victims

Irma Linda, ended the event with her success story of how she got out of an abusive family and how she turned her life around. Linda graduated from high school and college, then began her own loving family, despite her

was organized by Steven Garcia, coordinator of community education, outreach, and legal for WPS. It is his job to conduct presentations, training, donation drives, and public appearances. He also oversees the assistance of clients with legal issues such as filing charges, divorces, custody, child support, and immigration.

"Women's Protective Services is a non-profit agency dedicated to the elimination and prevention of domestic violence," explains Garcia. "WPS services

clothing, counseling, educational classes, assistance with employment and benefits, and advoca-

as the Victims of Crime Act and Violence Against Women Act. They receive state-level funding



of domestic violence and their county of residence.

family's past of domestic violence.

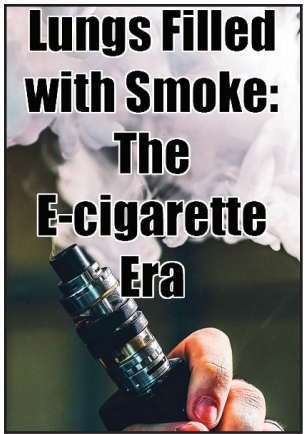
The guest speaker, The Candlelight Vigil



Women's Protective Services of Lubbock held an event in remembrance of those who were killed by an intimate partner or family member in Texas and those who have survived domestic violence, in Lubbock on Oct. 2.

ALL PHOTOS BY DESIREE LOPEZ/PLAINSMAN PRESS

Vaping increasing in popularity with teens



[Editor's note: This story is the second part of the multi-part series "Lungs Filled with Smoke: The E-Cigarette Era" examining e-cigarettes, vaping and the effects they have on society and the health of users that begins with Issue #2 and concludes in Issue #6.]

The names of the interviewees have been changed to protect their identities.]

by **VICTORIA DE SOUZA**
Feature Editor

The increasing popularity of electronic cigarettes among teenagers is a result of the easy access and targeting a young audience in the promotion of vape products.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), nearly two in five students in 12th grade report vaping within the past year. This has been raising concerns about the impact on vaping on brain health and the potential for addiction in teenagers.

The use of e-cigarettes by teens has been increasing for the past few years. In 2016, the NIDA released data showing that

teens are more likely to use e-cigarettes than cigarettes.

In 2018, research by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that an estimated 3.6 million adolescents were using e-cigarettes.

With the e-cigarettes companies, such as eCigs and JUUL, targeting teens and young adults with frequent appearances of the products on social media, that impact has been increasing sales of the products and inducing people to become consumers. In 2015, JUUL spent more than \$1 million in promoting their product on social media.

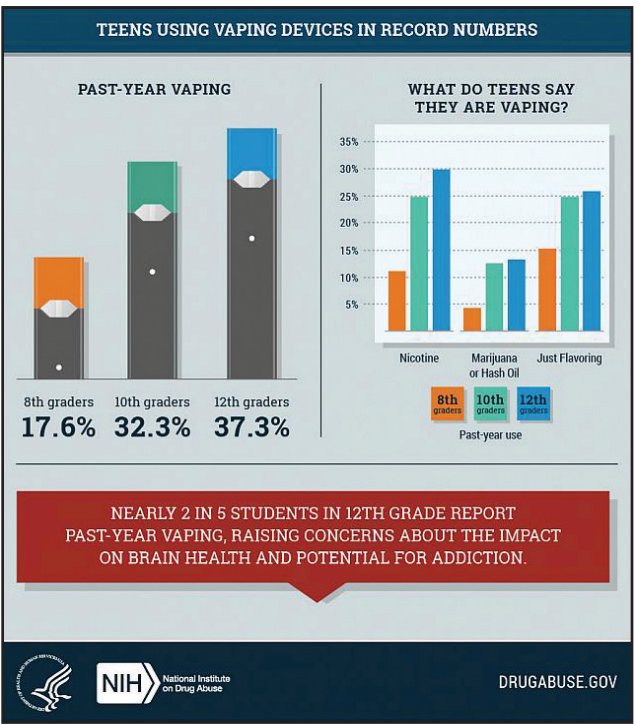
The rising number of hospitalizations related

800 reported cases and 11 deaths in 45 other states. The state of Texas enacted legislation to increase the minimum age to purchase electronic cigarettes to 21 on Sept. 1 of this year.

The first death in the state related to vaping was reported by the Texas Department of Health Services on Oct. 8.

Around 20 percent of high school students in 2018 consume e-cigarettes, according to the National Youth Tobacco Survey.

Richard Winslow (not his real name) is an 18-year-old high school student in the Levelland area who said experimenting with vaping was a means of escape.



to e-cigarettes has been pushing lawmakers to step up to change regulations for the production of e-cigarettes and how they can be obtained.

The Texas Medical Association has confirmed more than 70 cases of vaping-related illnesses in the state of Texas. Nationally, there have been more than

"I started vaping a year ago," recalled Winslow. "I was in a dark place. I used my sister's vape. I could say I started to feel the need to continue using it to feel good and feel something new."

Gabriel Regnedel (not his real name), another high school student

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cy to victims of domestic violence."

WPS is funded by government programs such

through the Office of the Attorney General and

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Book signing, reading held for 'Passe-Partout'

by **AUTUMN BIPPERT**
Editor-in-Chief

"Passe-Partout" tells the tale of two lives, two narratives centuries apart, as they unravel the mystery of a hidden magic of writing.

"Passe-Partout," written by Stephen M. Sanders, assistant professor of English at South Plains College, tells a narrative of two characters, Paul and Cyprus, in another dimension.

The Levelland campus Library hosted a book signing for Sanders on Oct. 2. He had copies of the book for sale, which were sold out at the event.

Sanders also read passages from his book at the signing.

The fantasy narrative is divided into two "books." "Book One" follows Paul, who is in vaguely modern day, while "Book Two" follows Cyprus, who is living at some time in the Middle Ages.

Sanders said he kept details of time periods vague on purpose in order to avoid having to make sure he didn't have to spend a lot of time on details and live up to research of past time periods.

The protagonist in each "book" is trying to solve the mystery of the death of their father figure. Through the "book," each character discovers that these deaths are far bigger than he thinks.

"Passe-Partout" took

about eight years to write, according to Sanders. He began writing his book before his son Stellan was born, and then took a break to help take care of him.

"After he (Sanders' son) was a little more self sufficient, I decided to get back into writing my book," Sanders explained. "I had so many ideas of what I thought I could do better than everybody else, as if it was that easy. And it's not that easy."

Sanders said that he is a poet by training, and he has only written poetry most of his life. He wanted to see if he was able to write something other than what he has been used to.

"It's been received decently, which is encouragement to keep on," Sanders said of his book.

Sanders said that he wanted to express in his book his own teetering relationship with faith.

"How can I talk about that into a murder mystery/fantasy (book), and how can I talk about things I don't see other places," Sanders said. "So this book is like a squished together compendium of everything I was thinking about and everything that I am."

Sanders explained that he wanted to write a book with characters he hadn't seen well represented before. His book features main characters who are LGBTQ, women and people of color.

"Being an English

major, you see a lot of cliches, and tropes you should avoid," explained Sanders, "which I think makes you harder on yourself. I wanted to make sure I had characters of color, characters that are LGBTQ, as major characters and protagonists. I wanted them displayed as just people."

He said he wanted to present people from all

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Electronic cigarettes causing increase in number of students with respiratory issues

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from the Levelland area, explained how curiosity lead him into the habit of vaping.

“I was hanging out with my junior buddies when I was a freshman,” recalled Regnedel. “They had vapes, and I tried it, and it was a shocking experience. It was very flavorful.”

Richie Hook (not his real name), another student from the Levelland area, said he used e-cigarettes for two months as a casual thing to do that did not last.

“I was honestly interested in it because of all

the tricks that I saw people doing with the vapor,” said Hook. “But then I realized that I was not getting nothing out of that besides losing my money.”

Winslow, Regnedel, and Hook each said that although they are younger than the minimum age to purchase e-cigarettes, it is easy to obtain the product. Almost any person they ask buys it for them.

According to NIDA, teens who consume e-cigarettes are 30.7 percent more likely to start smoking tobacco products, while there is only an 8.1 percent chance

of a non-user starting to smoke.

Regnedel mentioned that a couple of months ago he consumed tobacco cigarettes, but said that being a user of e-cigarettes did not lead him to cigarettes.

“I don’t believe that vape lead me to try cigarettes, because I always vaped, but I never was bothered by the smoke of cigarettes,” said Regnedel. “My dad was a smoker for all of his life and passed away from lung and liver cancer.”

Recent media reports about how unsafe using e-cigarettes may be are

causing some users to reconsider their actions.

“Vaping, in general, doesn’t concern me,” said Regnedel. “I believe the danger is on the THC-based vapes.”

Winslow, who has been vaping for a year, said that after seeing the news about e-cigarettes, he started to be concerned about how vaping could lead him to have issues with his lungs.

DeEtte Edens, associate director of Health and Wellness on the Levelland campus of South Plains College, reports that the number of students presenting symptoms of vaping-related issues has been increasing on campus.

“We have an increase in the number of students that have been seen for upper respiratory issues that are also users of vape,” said Edens, “and, unfortunately, some of them have been presenting strong side effects.”

Jayden McDaniel is a 19-year-old SPC student who has been vaping for two and a half years.



McDaniel mentioned that his usage of e-cigarettes, THC-based and regular vapes, started as a habit to help him deal with his issues with stress and anxiety in high school.

“It was always available to me, so I just kept using for the nicotine,” said McDaniel. “I tried THC vapes, and they made me feel better, but I did not enjoy the taste.”

The lack of regulation for e-cigarettes based in THC has been brought to the attention by the public, since the use of cannabis products are prohibited by federal law. But they are being produced on the black market.

“These products have no regulation by the Food and Drug Administration regulations,” said Edens, “and there is no knowledge of what kind of chemicals are being mixed and later being inhaled by the consumers.”

Consumers of e-cigarettes, whether THC-based or not, say that vaping has brought them judgements from others who may not have consumed or do not have knowledge of what it is.

Consuming e-cigarettes is not safe and must be stopped immediately, according to the FDA.

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Professor discusses debut novel at Library event

Continued from pg. 1

different types of life as just people in his book and not as “others,” because in this part of the country, you don’t see people represented well.

“I was always paranoid of treating characters that aren’t white, cisgender male with respect and dignity,” Sanders explained. “I had one reviewer say,

the book is written by a person who comes from a place of an ultra-strict form of Christianity. He said that people who come from that place in their lives might find this book challenging.

“I hope you get ticked off when you read it (the book), because that means that you’re thinking about it,” Sanders said. “I wanted to make something

exhibit some of his same Obsessive Compulsive Disorder tendencies.

“I didn’t realize I was transferring some of my angst to this character,” Sanders said.

Sanders explained that the book cover was designed by one of his former students, Delany Price Jackson. Jackson is a graduate of the Graphic Arts program at SPC and



Stephen M. Sanders, assistant professor of English, signs a copy of his book “Passe-Partout” on Oct. 2.
AUTUMN BIPPERT / PLAINSMAN PRESS

“Why don’t you point that out on the back of your book, that you have these minority characters?” I said, because they’re just characters in my book. They’re normal people. I’m not going to take advantage of someone’s minority, or who they are, to sell a book.”

Sanders said he was scared to show his book to his parents. He said

moving, something that would move me when I read it.”

Sanders explained that he has Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, which made writing his book difficult at times. He said that he would find himself writing the same sentence in his book 10 to 15 times.

He said once he read the book over, he noticed that his character would

currently is an adjunct instructor at the college.

“She did really good work,” Sanders said. “It was a process of several months of work. She was amazing at narrowing down on what I wanted for the book.”

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Victims of domestic violence remembered at candlelight vigil

Continued from pg. 1

Health and Human Services. They also receive funding through the local level by grants and foundations. WPS is truly thankful for the addition-

to bring awareness to the public. To stay updated on upcoming events, visit www.wpslubblock.org.

The mission of WPS is to create an environment of empowerment for women, children, and

to Garcia, one in three women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime.

If you know someone who needs help, it is encouraged to become informed or lend a sympathetic ear. Do not blame the victim. Instead, guide them to community services, confront the victim with the danger, and help develop a safety plan.

If you are the one who needs help, you do not have to suffer alone.

“You are not alone in this,” explains Garcia. “It is not your fault, and you don’t deserve this. WPS can help you and your children.”

If you are a victim, do not hesitate to call WPS at (806)-747-6491.

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Members of the community were invited to take part in the candlelight vigil for the remembrance of domestic violence victims.

DESIREE LOPEZ / PLAINSMAN PRESS

al funding they receive from private donations and fundraisers.

According to Garcia, there are various fund-raising events and donation drives held throughout the year designed to assist the families staying at WPS and

families, and to eliminate family violence, according to Garcia. They hope to intervene in relationships where domestic violence is present and bring awareness to the public.

WPS specifically hopes to reach the entire population since, according

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Crime report shows decrease in burglary, increase in stalking

by **DESIREE LOPEZ**
News Editor

An increase in stalking and motor vehicle theft, along with a decrease in burglary, are among the reported in the 2018 Annual Campus Security Policy and Crime Statistics Report.

Dr. Stan DeMeritt, vice president of Student Affairs, had assistance from Dr. Lynn Cleavinger, dean of students, and Nickolis Castillo, chief of the South Plains College Police Department, with collecting information and disseminating the report before Oct. 1.

It is required by law that all post-secondary institutions receiving federal financial assistance disclose campus crime statistics and security information every year, according to the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act of 1990.

One case of rape was reported on public property in Levelland in 2018, while no cases were reported the previous year, therefore, showing a slight increase.

Cases of fondling decreased from one case to zero, while cases of aggravated assault also decreased from four cases in 2017 to zero in 2018.

Two cases of burglary were reported on campus property in student housing facilities on the Levelland campus, which is a decrease from the four reported cases in the 2017 crime report.

Only one case of motor vehicle theft was reported for on-campus properties in 2018, while two cases were reported on public property.

There were no cases of incest, statutory rape, robbery, or arson reported on the Levelland campus in 2018.

In 2018, one case of

domestic violence was reported on public property in Levelland, which shows a small increase compared to zero in 2017. Cases of dating violence decreased from one to zero in 2018 for on-campus student housing facilities.

The number of stalking cases increased from zero to eight on on-campus properties, and two out of those eight were at on-campus student housing facilities.

“We have a case with multiple reports involving the same person,” said Dr. DeMeritt, vice president for student affairs, at the October meeting of the South Plains College Board of Regents meeting. “So that’s why it looks inflated than what it usually is.”

These stalking cases were all reported from the Levelland campus.

One arrest was made in 2018 for carrying or possession of a weapon

at an on-campus student housing facility. No disciplinary referrals were given for carrying or possessing a weapon on the Levelland campus.

Three arrests were made for drug abuse violations on on-campus property, and one of them was at an on-campus student housing facility. This is a slight increase from zero arrests reported in 2017. A total of 14 disciplinary referrals were reported for drug abuse violations in 2018, declining from 19 in 2017.

A total of 21 arrests were made in 2018 for liquor law violations, while a total of 19 disciplinary referrals were given on the Levelland campus. Both totals are decreases from the 2017 report, which included 28 arrests and 47 disciplinary referrals.

“We know for a fact, that if you look at disciplinary referrals for liquor law violations, we had a

group of students in the fall of 2016 that continued into the spring of 2017 that continued to cause problems for us,” explains Dr. DeMeritt.

Three fires were also reported in 2018. An accidental grease fire occurred in one of the Smallwood apartments, which had property damage of \$100. In Lamar Hall, a lit sparkler caused a fire with no property damage. Lastly, in the kitchen of North Sue Hall, a fire caused by burned popcorn was reported, but there was no property damage.

According to the Annual Security Report, South Plains College’s goal is to create a truly safe campus that can be achieved through the full cooperation of all students, faculty, and staff.

“We take care of this (report) every day and try to make sure that we’re taking care of what we need to report and being

very transparent with it and not hiding numbers, not inflating numbers, not ventilating numbers and being very truthful with what we find,” explains Dr. DeMeritt.

It is encouraged to act responsibly, work collaboratively together, and whenever possible assist each other to promptly, accurately and effectively report all unsafe incidents and criminal offenses to campus security authorities or responsible employees.

The Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Report can be found on the SPC website at <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/studentconsumerinformation.php> under Security, Crime, and Fire Safety Reports.

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Renaming of Science Building, fall contact hours among topics discussed at Regents meeting

by **AUTUMN BIPPERT**
Editor-in-Chief

The South Plains College Foundation Annual Report, approval for renaming the Science Building and fall contact hours were among the topics discussed during the October meeting of the South Plains College Board of Regents.

Stephen John, vice president for institutional advancement, presented the SPC Foundation Progress Report for 2018 to 2019.

“The Foundation had a very successful and very productive year,” John explained. “Net assets for the Foundation grew 2.54 percent to a record, \$23,182,702. While this growth was a little bit less than what we experienced a year ago, when we closed up fiscal year 2018, the fact that we were able to end the fiscal year with the positive change in that aspect was really good.”

John also said that the Foundation received a total of \$1,918,308, including \$743,516 in contributions to new and existing scholarship funds.

“We had 597 individuals, businesses and organizations give to the Foundation in fiscal year 2019, and that was a 21.6 percent increase in the number of donors,” John

said. “The number of individual donors increased by 39 percent over the prior year.”

John said that individuals and SPC employees contributed 45 percent of the total gifts that the Foundation received, with employees making 17 percent of the contributions and individuals at 28 percent. Also, 39 percent of total gifts were contributed by businesses and organizations.

“The fact that our employees are giving a little more than a sixth of the amount of funds that are received by the Foundation is a good sign of support from our employees,” John said.

John added that after discounting grants received for the Lubbock Center, the average gift amount was \$1,330.

“The Foundation exists primarily to provide scholarship support or support college students,” explained John. “And this last fiscal year, 853 students benefited from those scholarships that total \$953,095, which was a record of about a 4.75 percent increase in the amount of scholarships awarded the prior year.”

John also said that the average scholarship awarded was \$1,117, which increased by 12 percent from 2018.

The Foundation’s Per-

manent Scholarship Endowment grew by 2.3 percent, equalling \$20.8 million. The Founders Opportunity Endowment grew by 4.1 percent to \$4.2 million. The permanent endowment for the Founders Opportunity Endowment fund reached its goal of \$3 million, which was set in 1998, for the 2019 fiscal year.

“The primary source of contributions over the past 21 years has been from our two fundraisers, the Scholarship Gala and golf scramble,” John explained. “That is really what has fueled that to that \$3 million over that period of time. Our two fundraising events this last year raised \$236,000 in net proceeds for scholarships. They were both very successful, and they continue to be an important source for scholarship funds.”

John also mentioned that nine new scholarship endowments were established, and seven additional funds reached endowment status during the year.

Dr. Robin Satterwhite, president of SPC, presented a letter from the William R. & Sandra L. Wheeler Charitable Foundation, Inc. that requested that as a part of their \$7 million donation toward the reconstruction of the Science Building that

the college rename the building the “Helen and Wilburn Wheeler Science Building,” which was approved by the Board.

“Mr. Wheeler and I’ve been discussing this, and he’ll be delighted,” said Dr. Satterwhite. “They were very impressed and very excited about the renderings of what the building would look like. He’s very proud to have his father’s name on that building, and we should be very proud of that.”

Wilburn Wheeler was a member of the college’s first faculty, and his son, William Wheeler, is an alumni.

The college also has a \$5 million commitment from the Helen Jones Foundation and \$350,000 from the Montgomery Family Foundation.

“This is the largest construction project we’ve entered into on this campus ever,” Dr. Satterwhite said. “I just am very convinced that this is will be transformative for our college. It will be one of the first things students see. It will change the face of one of our most sought after educational facilities here at the college.”

Dr. Satterwhite said that they anticipate a groundbreaking ceremony and formal announcement of the name change sometime in January.

Dr. Stan DeMeritt,

vice president for student affairs, presented the Fall 2019 Contact Hour Report. Dr. DeMeritt pointed out that the college saw a dip in contact hours by 1.2 percent, which is 21,856 hours. The college has a total of 1,842,944 contact hours.

According to the report, contact hours for the Levelland campus dropped by 6.3 percent, which is 54,304 contact hours. The Reese Center also saw a drop of 8.7 percent, or 25,328 contact hours.

The Lubbock Center and Plainview Center saw a rise in contact hours, 11.9 percent (17,552 hours) and 1 percent (608 hours), respectively.

Dr. DeMeritt also presented the Clery Report on Crime and Safety for 2018.

“You’ll find most of our activity, not surprisingly, happens on our Levelland campus as related to housing,” Dr. DeMeritt said. “That’s very common and just part of having a residence life on campus.”

The college is required by the Clery Act to report all crime from the previous year on Aug. 1.

Dr. Ryan Gibbs, vice president for academic affairs, informed the Board that the college received the Texas Workforce Commission Skills Development Grant

Award, which is a grant of \$506,719.

Dr. Gibbs also reported to the Board that the college’s nursing program was recommended to receive accreditation by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing.

It also was announced at the October meeting that Board members Linda Patton and Ken Williams are resigning, effective immediately, due to moving outside of the tax district. Williams’ term was to end in May of 2020, and Patton’s term ends in May of 2024.

Chairman Mike Box appointed himself, Bobby Neal and Ronny Alexander to the Appointment of Regents Nomination Subcommittee. The committee will decide to either find someone to fill these chairs immediately, or wait until May for the candidates to run for the position.

Whoever fills Williams’ chair will serve a full six-year term, while whoever fills Patton’s chair will serve for the remaining four years of the term.

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Love of music helps professor get through hard times

by **DESIREE LOPEZ**
News Editor

For Dr. Sesha Wallace, seeing her students give meaningful performances are her best memories and make her happy to be teaching at South Plains College.

Dr. Wallace is from a small town in Texas called White Oak. She graduated from White Oak High School, which had a graduating class that year of only 83 students. After she graduated, she attended Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches and was, at first, majoring in music education.

Right before her third year at SFA, Dr. Wallace had fallen ill and became paralyzed from the shoulders down. According to Dr. Wallace, doctors could not figure out why it happened, but soon found out that she had contracted Lyme disease.

"I was in ICU for a week," recalled Dr. Wallace. "When I got out of ICU, I had my mom bring my saxophone up to the hospital. I was still paralyzed, but we propped up my arms and the saxophone with several pillows because I wanted to see if I could still move my fingers through some scales."

Dr. Wallace explained that thinking about whether she could ever be able to play again was one of the scariest experiences she had.

"I had a life-changing experience in the hospital," Dr. Wallace says, "because at a certain point, they [the doctors] didn't know if I would ever regain my strength."

After this experience, she gained a different perspective on her life.

"I thought a lot about what I wanted to do with my life," explains Dr. Wallace. "We figured out that I would be able to play saxophone again, and so I thought, 'Do I want to be a band director, or do I want to be a saxophone professor?'"

She soon realized that she wanted to become a professor for her instrument and teach others the saxophone. Therefore, she changed her major to saxophone performance.

"The last thing I had to do before I left physical and occupational therapy, and before I was discharged from the hospital, was that I had to actually play my instrument," recalls Dr. Wallace. "I remember having to go outside and play some etudes and scales for them."

She returned to college six weeks into the semester, but was determined to finish the semester. She did, earning a 4.0 grade-point average.

As a college student, Dr. Wallace played in the Lumberjack Marching Band at SFA. She also performed in a saxophone quartet and a wind ensemble. There were only four freshmen at SFA that made it to the top ensemble, and Dr. Wallace was honored to have been one of them.

According to Dr. Wallace, she was in a coed fraternity called Beta Omicron Beta for about a year and a half. The fraternity's whole purpose was to preserve military marching, since a lot of bands now do horse-style marching. She was also a member of the Pi Kappa Lambda honor society.

Dr. Wallace graduated from SFA State University in 2008 with her Bachelor of Music degree after four and a half years, as she did an additional semester toward her graduate degree. She finished her education there summa cum laude, which means she graduated with the highest distinction.

After she finished her bachelor's degree, she began looking into schools to get her master's and doctoral degree. She tried to decide between Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge and Texas Tech University in Lubbock. Wallace had a connection at LSU and decided to take a private lesson from a professor

in Louisiana. Later, her high school band director, Mark Crim, mentioned TTU and recommended she look into it. She had the opportunity to fly to Lubbock, take a private lesson, and audition at TTU, all thanks to her high school band director, who she refers to as her mentor.

While in Lubbock, Dr. Wallace had the chance to meet David Dees, who's the professor of saxophone at TTU. She would listen to many of his recordings and CDs, but never made the connection until she got there.

In the end, Dr. Wallace decided to attend TTU because she enjoyed Dees' teaching style, she felt recruited and wanted, and because it seemed like a better fit for her. She graduated from TTU with a Master of Music degree in saxophone performance in 2011 and later earned a doctorate of musical arts in saxophone performance in 2013.

After her master's, she auditioned for a school in London to get an artist diploma. She spent a week for auditions and was accepted into the school. Unfortunately, it was too expensive to attend, so she stayed at TTU to get her doctorate.

Dr. Wallace had many professional teaching experiences throughout her college career. She had her own studio with about 25 students and has taught many private lessons. She also assisted a few musicians such as Fred J. Allen and Dr. Brian Utley.

After she finished her

doctorate, she took a job in Longview, as the woodwind specialist for the school district, Longview ISD. According to Dr. Wallace, it's a 6A high school, and she went to almost every campus every day. She also taught the beginners in middle school.

"I started a 5th grade

Dr. Wallace ultimately wanted to work for a college, so she looked for jobs in the area. After applying to a couple of jobs, her professor from TTU, David Dees, sent her an email about a job opening at South Plains College.

"I kind of wanted to move back to Lubbock anyway," says Dr. Wallace, "because I liked it better out here. All my friends were here, and I remember looking at the job description and thinking, 'That's my job. That's exactly what I want to do.'"

Dr. Wallace felt that SPC was a perfect fit for her and was delighted to have gotten the job.

She has worked for SPC since 2014, and started her sixth year this semester. She started out as an instructor of music and was promoted in 2018 to assistant professor of music.

"Coming to SPC was like a breath of fresh air," explains Dr. Wallace. "It was a very nice change, and I love this job. It would be really hard to leave, because this is a good place to work, and I like it."

She teaches freshman music theory for Fine Arts music majors, music appreciation, and when there are enough students, she teaches music fundamentals. She also teaches the small ensembles for flute, clarinet, and saxophone, along with private lessons for woodwind students.

Dr. Wallace and

Dr. Debra Gelber, assistant professor of fine arts music and choral director, decided to start the Fine Arts 5K Run at SPC. She also helps with the SPC Band Camp for middle school students during the summer.

She has professional memberships in the North American Saxophone Alliance, Music Teachers National Association, Texas Music Educators Association, and Pi Kappa Lambda Honor Society.

Dr. Wallace has performed across the United States, including Arizona, Illinois, Oklahoma, and at Carnegie Hall in New York.

She has also performed at the World Saxophone Congress XVI, which was an international conference at St. Andrews University in St. Andrews, Scotland.

Music has been very impactful on Dr. Wallace's life.

"It means a lot, and it's changed my life," Dr. Wallace expresses. "Music has kind of shaped the path of my life, and I couldn't see myself doing anything else."

Dr. Wallace wants all students to know that they do not have to be a music major to join the SPC Band. She would like to encourage students who want to continue playing, or students who want to learn, to join the band. Instruments can be provided if needed, and scholarships are given to those who participate.

Dr. Wallace advises students to not be scared to ask for help during their educational or professional careers.

"Your teachers are here to help you in whatever way we can," explains Dr. Wallace. "Whether it's asking for advice or letting them know that you're having trouble, we have the resources on campus. If we can't help, we can send you to someone who can."

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Dr. Sesha Wallace shares her talent with students in the Fine Arts Department.

Photo courtesy of Sesha Wallace

class of woodwinds, so flute, oboe," Dr. Wallace said. "I started those students on their instrument from day one. We would play, test, and assign them their instruments, so I taught them how to start playing."

She would travel to three different middle school campuses and do sectionals with the woodwinds.

"I love teaching middle school kids," said Dr. Wallace. "I think they're super cool."

During the time she taught for Longview ISD, she was an adjunct for East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, where her high school band director taught.

Alum finds lifelong career in hobby

by **VICTORIA DE SOUZA**
Feature Editor

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

For Bethany Longoria, her music career has always been an experience of joy.

Born and raised in Levelland, Texas, Longoria began pursuing her passion for music at South Plains College.

With her interest in music growing since she was in middle school, Longoria knew that music was going to be a profession that she wanted to pursue.

"In middle school, I joined the choir and ended up doing choir all the way

up to my senior year of high school," said Longoria.

Even though she enjoys having music as a part of her life, she did not expect to be able to study music as a college career.

"I have always had a passion for music and performing, but never thought you could go to school for it," recalls Longoria. "I took a tour through the Creative Arts Department and immediately fell in love! And I knew that was what I wanted to do."

Her contact with SPC was constant throughout high school.

"Our class went to the Senior Sneak Peek," said Longoria. "I took a tour

and fell in love with the school."

After graduating from Levelland High School in 2009, Longoria enrolled at SPC in the Fall of 2009 to study Commercial Music.

While at SPC, Longoria was introduced into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and was involved with the SPC community.

"Getting to know all the different kinds of people was one of the things that I enjoyed the most in my experience at SPC," said Longoria. "I definitely

ly made some lifelong friends."

Longoria graduated from SPC in the Fall of 2013. She said that she is grateful for being able to achieve her goals with the help of SPC. The opportunities given to her to make connections in the music world helped her to be able to find a job in her career.

"Job hunting was hard, like in any other profession, but was very hard to find something stable in the field," mentioned Longoria. "And I ended up falling in love with teaching my art."

Longoria is working as a vocal instructor at the School of Rock in Lubbock and also serves as a worship leader at Lakeridge Methodist Church.

"At the School of Rock, we are focused on instructing kids and adults in how to sing in a proper way to the best use of their

abilities," said Longoria. "We don't just teach about music, but also how to work well with others, take criticism and responsibility in following your passion."

Also, church and the presence of God plays a very important part in her life.

"In this past eight years of leading worship, I have learned so much about God and myself," Longoria said. "Having such an amazing community helps me with life. I feel like I am always learning and God is always challenging me."

Now a proud mother of a 2-year-old girl, Longoria enjoys spending time with her daughter and binge watching her favorite TV shows in her free time.

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Bethany Longoria combines her life passion with her college career.

VICTORIA DE SOUZA/PLAINSMAN PRESS

'Twisted' leaves audience surprised after series comes to abrupt end

by **DESIREE LOPEZ**
News Editor

A troubled high school student has just been released from juvenile detention after five years. He hopes to make amends with his childhood friends, but his past keeps haunting him.

“Twisted” is a teen drama, mystery, and thriller television series. It came out in 2013 on the television network, Freeform. The show follows teenager, Danny Desai, played by Avan Jogia. When he finally gets to come home, he soon realizes that things are not the way they used to be in his hometown of Green Grove, New York.

Danny was convicted of murdering his aunt by strangling her with a jump rope when he was 11 years old. His best friends were in the backyard when the crime occurred, so they saw the aftermath and were then scarred for life.

His two childhood best friends, Lacey and Jo, have since parted ways and are no longer friends. Jo Masterson, played by Maddie Hasson, is a social outcast who is still haunted by the past. Lacey Porter, played by Kylie Bunbury, has a high popularity status that she tries to contain.

Throughout the series, Danny tries to earn back

the trust of Jo and Lacey. Jo easily forgives him, mostly because she is in love with him. She is also his only friend. Lacey and Danny eventually begin to talk to each other in private, but strong, romantic feelings between the two interrupt their friendship. Lacey hides the relationship so that the news won’t hurt her social status, and Danny does also because it is what Lacey wants.

Things were going well for Danny. He was fitting in and his two best friends were on speaking terms with him. But then Lacey’s best friend, Regina Crane, played by Karynn Moore, is found murdered in her own house after a

Danny denies the accusation, but he is in possession of Regina’s necklace, which is the only thing missing from the crime scene. Later, a murder weapon is found with Danny’s fingerprints on it.

After all the evidence comes to light, Jo and Lacey become skeptical of Danny and question whether he killed Regina.

During this time, Danny’s mother, Karen, played by Denise Richards, seems to be the only person who truly believes that her son did not commit the crime he is being accused of.

Karen used to be very

victed, her status plummeted. She’s gotten to the point where she no longer

ny praised his father and thought nothing less of him. But as the series

a boy who murdered his aunt or about a girl who is in love with a murderer.



house party she hosted. Danny instantly becomes the prime suspect.

involved in her community and was very social. But after her son was con-

Danny’s father passed away six months before Danny was released. Dan-

continues, speculation that Danny’s father may be alive comes to light.

“Twisted” is full of dramatic twists and turns that the audience would have never expected. The changes from drama to romance to mystery keeps the audience on the edge of their seats. The show easily can captivate the viewer’s attention.

One thing I began to notice while watching the series is that Jo seems to become more of the main character than Danny. She has more roles and lines, and the plot somehow begins to revolve around her. It eventually takes the spotlight away from Danny, which makes one question whether the show is about

Another thing that disappoints me is that the show only has one season. The show was canceled after ratings crumbled. It went from having more than 1.5 million viewers when it first started to less than 800,000 viewers by the season’s finale.

The fact that the series ended with a huge cliffhanger devastated me and left me with so many unanswered questions. I guess you can say that the rest is up to my imagination.

For these reasons, I give “Twisted” a 7 out of 10.

7/10

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'Mixed-ish' shows challenges of growing up in biracial family

by **VICTORIA DE SOUZA**
Feature Editor

The life of bi-racial a girl in the 1980s takes place in the television world in “Mixed-ish,” with the conflicts that her family went through in new life journey.

“Mixed-ish” is a prequel spin-off from the two series “Black-ish” and “Grown-ish.” The “ish” world of Kenya Barris is introduced through the childhood story of Rainbow Johnson, or “Bow”, played by Arica Himmel.

Created by Barris, Peter Saji and Tracee Ellis Ross, the story presents a closed look at how Bow’s life as a child with a Black mother and a white father in a society where interracial marriages were not very common.

The story is narrated by Ross, who plays the

grown-up version of Bow in “Black-ish” when she is a doctor who is married with five kids. Bow tells her story to her kids, so that they know how challenging it was being biracial in the 1980s.

In 1985, when Bow was 12 years old, her life was turned upside down. She was happily living in a perfect world in a hippie commune where there was no racial differences and every one prays, eats and sleeps together. To her, this life was perfect. But to the government, it was a radicalized cult that violated more than 47 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosive (ATF) regulations.

After Bow’s parents, Alicia, played by Tika

Sumpter, and Paul Johnson, played by Mark Paul Gosselaar, moved to a suburban area to be able to provide a safer and better

chelle Harris, and Johan, played by Ethan William Childress, trying to find where they belong.

To Bow’s brother, Jo-



life for their family, Bow finds herself trying to find her identity.

Being a child of mixed race leads to Bow and her siblings, Santa Monica, played by Mykal-Mi-

han, the transition to the “real world” is one big adventure in discovering everything around him, from learning how to use a toilet to playing with the ice machines.

On the first day of school, the children find themselves in a situation about not fitting in with any group, since they are half Black and half white. In 1985, these two groups had a very determined separation. The journey to adapt to this new life begins for all three kids, but it is challenging for Bow to choose what side she is part of.

Living in the city, the family has more contact with Grandpa Harrison, played by Gary Cole, and Aunt Denise, played by Christina Anthony, who help the family to feel more included.

“Mixed-ish” brings a point of view not really explored much in “Black-ish,” when Bow is always mentioned to be the hippie and not considered to be fully Black. Also, it adds an extra cultural view into what it was like growing

up in a mixed racial family in the 1980s, which was not considered normal.

The series has a lot of potential to grow to become as big as “Grown-ish,” since the mixed race family and children are vast parts of our society. With the changes of time, the multiracial marriages and a different perspective on the stereotypes of a traditional family, where the mother stays home and the husband is the provider, became more accepted.

Episodes are released weekly on the ABC Network and Hulu, offering a little bit more insight into Bow’s childhood.

I give “Mixed-ish” 7.5 out of 10.

7.5/10

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Making your own clothes has benefits



by **ABI HERNANDEZ**
Opinion Editor

you buy clothes, you usually are only buying the brand of the product and the type of material.



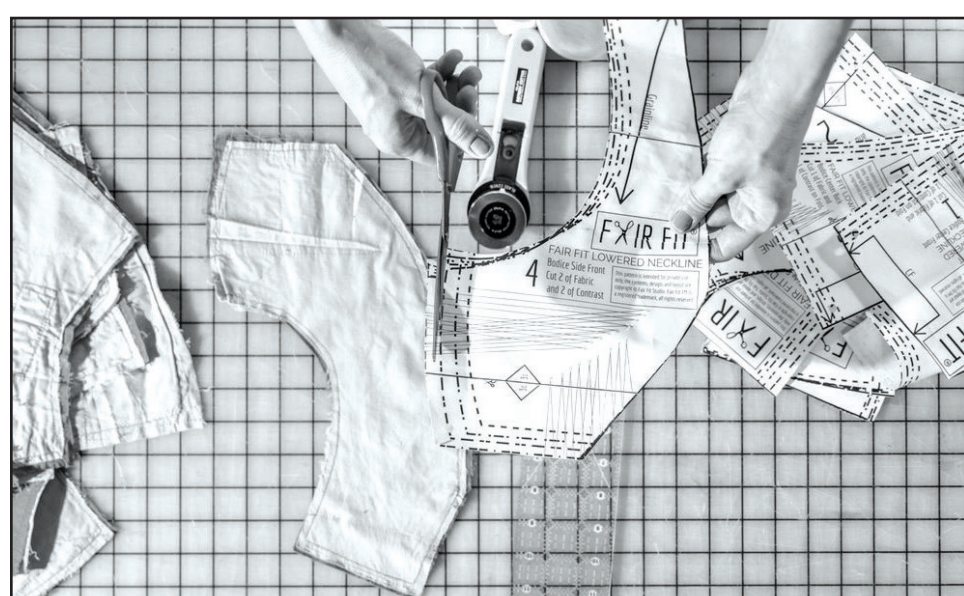
style. Making your own style is like showing your creativity and also helps people express them-

selves. Drag Queens are a prime example of expressing themselves with what they

you can do on your own for free? With enough practice and dedication, you possibly could

to certain stores, the sizes only range from x-small to medium. The average person is medium

Also, making your own clothes gives you a chance to learn how to sew. Sewing is a skill



Many clothing companies have many different types of machines

Also, the more people get a certain item, the higher the demand will be and the higher prices will get.

It's also extremely affordable and really fun to

wear, because it is all about appearances.

I have a cousin who likes to dress up in drag, and he makes every outfit he wears by hand. He

even sews his own wigs. All his outfits are made out of fabric he buys from a cheap fabric shop in Lubbock. When he makes his outfits, they are his own ideas, and they fit him

perfectly, since he tailors them to his exact size and comfort.

Making your own clothes can turn into the start of a new career. Why go somewhere and pay extra for something

even become a tailor, or a fashion designer for some big-time company with a popular label. For example, the singer Selena Quintanilla designed and made all of her band's outfits herself.

or large, and they don't carry larger sizes. If you make it on your own, you will never have to worry about finding the perfect size again. Many stores carry smaller sizes of clothing in stock, so

that a lot of people don't have that is very useful. It also comes in handy if your clothes get a rip in it. Then you can just mend the hole.

Another advantage of making your own clothes is that you gain self-esteem. When you make your clothes, it will be something you like and look good in. It also gives you a sense of pride, as you can look at your clothes and be like "yeah, that's right! I made this!"

Also, when you make your own clothes, you can show off to your friends. You will have clothing that nobody in the whole world has that you made uniquely for yourself.



that produce their clothing. If we made our own clothes, it could be beneficial in so many different ways.

For starters, making your clothes is a whole lot cheaper than going to the store and buying anything made mechanically. When

be able to see how creative you are. If you make your own clothes, you can make your own unique



When

Sewing can also lead to new jobs that are looking for a seamstress.

Sometimes, if you go

some of the larger people cannot find clothes as easily as people who wear smaller sizes.

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Word on the Street

What is your favorite thing about fall?



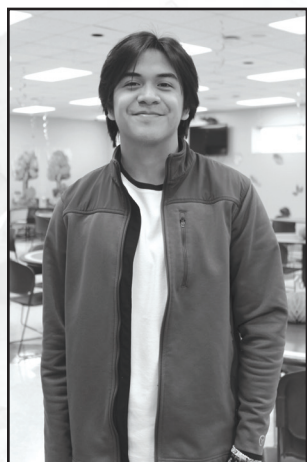
"Being able to use sweaters, hoodies. I just enjoy the warm feeling, rather than the excessive heat from summer."

Allison Sandoval
Pre-Engineering
Sophomore
Lubbock



"My favorite thing is Thanksgiving, because that is my favorite holiday. We make a lot of food, and I get some quality family time."

Janessa Harrison
Psychology
Sophomore
Lubbock



"I like the gradual change of the weather from hot to cold, and I also enjoy that in the fall we have Thanksgiving that I can enjoy with my family."

John Manacuo
Computer Science
Sophomore
Lubbock



"Halloween is my favorite part because I get to dress up, but I don't really enjoy the cold."

Ariel DeLeon
Undecided
Freshman
Olton



"The weather is my favorite thing, because I feel like the cold helps everyone be more happy and calm."

Darricia Alexander
Nursing (RN)
Junior
Lubbock



"I love spooky time, Halloween, scary movies and the cold weather."

Angela Rodriguez
General Studies
Sophomore
Plains

Compiled by Victoria de Souza

October 14, 2019

Plainsman Press

Women's cross country team claims third meet title

by **KENDALL RAINER**
Associate Editor/
Photo Editor

The third-ranked South Plains College women's cross country team continues to dominate, placing first at three out of their four meets they have competed in so far this season.

The Lady Texans earned their third meet title, while the Texans placed fourth, at the South Plains College Cross Country Invitational held on Oct. 5 at Brashear Lake Park in Levelland.

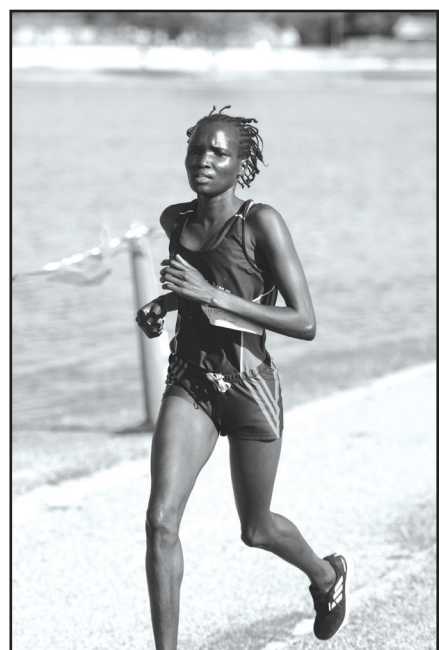
In the women's 5-kilometer run, SPC finished with 39 points and a total team time of 1:37:56.10, and an average time of 19:35.22. New Mexico Junior College placed second in the meet with 41 points and an average time of 19:49.74. El Paso Community College placed third with 44 points and an average time of 19:56.34.

Sophomore Gladys Jemaiyo was the first Lady Texan to cross the finish

line. She finished with a time of 18:04.90, good enough for second place overall. Freshman Daisy

placing fifth with a time of 18:58.80.

Sophomore Dorcus Ewoi finished seventh with a time of 19:15.70. Sophomore Itzel Garcia-Santo finished 11th with a time of 20:36.30, while Nyia Sena finished 14th with a time of 21:00.40.



Sophomore Gladys Jemaiyo running in the women's 5-kilometer race at the South Plains College Open, which was held on Oct. 5 at Brashear Lake in Levelland. Photo courtesy of Wes Underwood/Marketing and Recruitment Office

Kibet wasn't far behind, points and an average time

of 27:53.48, while Angelo State placed third with 87 points and an average time of 29:22.36.

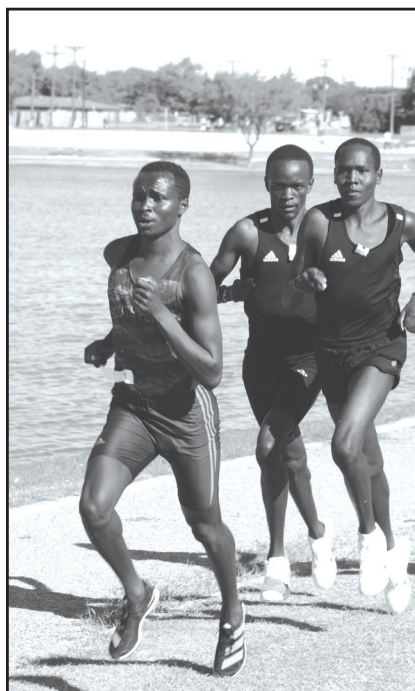
Sophomore Alex Kitum placed fifth for the Texans with a time of 26:44.80, while freshman Adbrizak Ibrahim finished seventh with a time of 27:17.60.

Sophomore Yusuf Mohamud crossed the line at 29:48.50, finishing 24th overall. Freshman Ryan Robinson finished 27th with a time of 30:25.20.

The Lady Texans placed first at the New Mexico Junior College Invitational held on Sept. 27 at McAdams Park in Hobbs, New Mexico.

SPC finished with an overall team score of 26

and an average team time of 19:24.04 in the 5-kilometer run. NMJC placed



Members of the men's cross country team running at the South Plains College Open. VICTORIA DE SOUZA / PLAINSMAN PRESS

second with a score of 39, while Ranger College placed third.

Jemaiyo was the first Lady Texan to cross the

finish line. She finished with a time of 18:04.14, good enough for second place. Kibet wasn't too far behind, placing third with a time of 19:02.88, while Ewoi placed fourth with a time of 19:19.61.

Garcia-Santos crossed the finish line at 20:13.24, good enough for an eighth-place finish. Sena followed by finishing ninth with a time of 20:20.29.

In the men's 8-kilometer run, the Texans placed fourth overall in the team standings with a score of 103 and an average time of 28:12.96. NMJC placed first with a score of 47, followed by Ranger College in second and UT-Permian Basin in third.

Kitum placed first with a time of 24:53.71, while Ibrahim crossed the line in second place with a time of 25:06.98. Robinson finished 26th with a time of 27:51.78.

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Rodeo teams place third at Vernon College

by **KENDALL RAINER**
Associate Editor/
Photo Editor

With only two rodeos left in the fall season, the South Plains College men's and women's rodeo teams each placed third at the Vernon College Rodeo.

The rodeo was held on Oct. 3 - Oct. 5 at the Wilbarger County Event Center in Vernon.

The Texans earned 260 points in the team standings. Clarendon College placed first with 530 points, followed by Tarleton State in second with 470 points.

In steer wrestling, freshman Clay Guthrie placed fourth with a time of 5.0 in the long round and a 5.3 in the finals, finishing with an average of 10.3 and tacking on 90 points for SPC. Sophomore Logan Kenline finished seventh in the event

with a time of 5.9 in the long round and a 9.7 in the short round, finishing with a 15.6 average. Sophomore Britton Bedke finished eighth with a time of 5.8 in the long round and no time in the finals, averaging 104.5 and adding 90 points.

Sophomore Stefan Ramone paired with Eastern New Mexico's Tee McLeod in team roping. The two posted a time of 7.2 in the long round and a 5.6 in the short round, finishing with an average of 12.8 and adding 128 points to the Texans total. Sophomores Hayden and Hadley

Cloward teamed up to run a 6.0 in the long round and a 15.5 in the finals, averaging 22.3 and adding 40 individual points.

The Lady Texans earned 155 points in the



A member of the South Plains College rodeo team competing in steer wrestling at the Eastern New Mexico University Rodeo.

Photo courtesy of Wes Underwood/Marketing and Recruitment Office

team standings. Texas Tech placed first with 290 points, while Tarleton State placed second with 255 points.

In the breakaway roping finals, Clara Barrington placed second with a time of 2.9 in the long round and a 2.9 in the finals, ending with a 5.8 average and adding 95 points. Freshman Elle Eagles posted a time of 2.8 in the long round and a 12.1 in the finals to finish the event with an average of 14.9, good enough for sixth place.

In goat tying, sophomore Kaytlyn Miller finished ninth after a 6.4 run in the long round and an 8.8 in the finals. She had an average of 15.2, adding 60 points for the Lady Texans.

Sophomore Kenzee Zent finished ninth in

barrel racing with a time of 17.62 in the long round and a 24.34 in the short round, finishing with an average of 41.96.

The men's and women's teams also competed at the Sul Ross State University Rodeo held on Sept. 28 in Alpine.

The Lady Texans finished with 65 team points and posted a sixth-place finish in their second rodeo of the 2019 season.

In breakaway roping, Eagles placed fifth with a 2.3-second run in the long round, followed with a 4.5 in the finals. She had an average time of 6.8, scoring all 65 points for SPC.

Miller finished 10th in goat tying after posting a time of 7.2 in the long round and had no time in the short round. She finished with an average time of 107.2.

The Texans finished ninth in the team standings, adding 75 points to their season total.

Britton Bedke placed fifth in steer wrestling with a time of 5.4 in the long round and a 4.5 in the finals. He finished with a 9.9-second average, adding 45 points to SPC's total. Dawson Steward placed sixth in the event, posting a time of 4.9 in the long round and finishing with a 5.0 in the finals. He averaged 9.9 and added 30 points for the Texans.

Hayden Cloward and Hadley Cloward earned a seventh-place finish in team roping. The duo ran a 5.9 in the long round but did not post a time in the finals, ending with an average of 105.9 and 20 individual points.

The men's and women's teams returned to action on Oct. 10 - Oct. 12 at the Frank Phillips College Rodeo in Canadian. Results were not available at press time.

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AMaizing Maze...

At'l Do Farms provides family friendly fall fun

by KENDALL RAINER
Associate Editor/
Photo Editor

One of the many traditions associated with fall is going to a pumpkin patch or corn maze.

At'l Do Farms offers both festive family fun activities to Lubbock residents and those from the surrounding area.

At'l Do Farms opened its gates for their 19th year of having a corn maze for the public on Sept. 14. The maze will remain open through the fall season until Nov. 9. At'l Do Farms is located at 6323 FM 1294 in Lubbock.

Hours of operation are 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. Their weekend hours are from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, and 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday. The farm also relies on good weather to stay open. When there's a lot of rain, the farm has to close because the maze is too muddy for people to walk through. In the event of bad weather, visitors may keep their tickets and return at a later date.

The farm features a main intricate corn maze with eight different "Maize Passports" that help you solve the maze. There also is a very

featuring both Marvel and DC comic characters, local university and college logos, patriotic-themed pumpkins and cartoon characters.

"In 2002, we added the cow train and corn cannon, and by 2003 we had added the hay-rides and Pumpkin Hollow," said Patti Simpson. "After that, we didn't really add any attractions, but we began working on our grounds. We dug the pond and planted the trees and the grass."

On Saturdays and

not very long after we saw it we figured it was

Texas Tech logo, in 2004, a Lubbock-themed maze

iest time of the year is the first three weekends

an event offered every year called "Homeschool



something we wanted to do. By March or April, we decided we wanted to make a maze."

Patti Simpson said that they felt the new business would be a great way to work as a family and do something different but still be able to use their agricultural roots and the land they already possessed.

This year's maze design features the word "Lubbock," wind turbines, and the Texas Tech University logo, along with clouds with lightning, a tornado, and a chaparral bird, the mascot of Lubbock Christian University.

When you start the maze, you come up to a sign that has multiple mailboxes where you can choose from a variety of "Maize Passports" that provide different ways

featuring a horse and a roper in 2006, a Buddy Holly-themed maze featuring a silhouette of

in October, mainly Saturdays.

"People come from a pretty good distance," said

Days At The Maze," which they held on Oct. 1 this year.

At'l Do Farms doesn't



the singer in 2011, "The Wizard of OZ" 75th anniversary, featuring the four main characters in 2013, a representation of the American Gothic painting in 2015, and a veteran-themed maze featuring a saluting soldier next to an American flag in 2018.

"A lot of times we try to see what is going on around us and usually something stands out," Patti Simpson said of how designs are chosen. "We do try to do things that represent our area like Buddy Holly."

Patti Simpson said that the process of creating the maze starts with planting the corn on a North and South and East and West axis, creating a grid pattern. The design for the maze is then drawn on grid paper.

"When the corn is about six inches tall, we go through with the design

James Simpson. "We've had people from Abilene, we've had people from

only do mazes. During the offseason (December - August), the venue can



Hobbs (New Mexico). So it does attract people from a pretty good distance."

James Simpson said that he believes his farm and maze stand out from

be rented out for weddings, corporate events, and private parties. The venue has a rustic barn with seating and lighting.

"Once we decided to be open year-round and have a venue for events, that is when we decided to build the barn," said Patti Simpson.

They also have a windmill decorated with lights in the foreground with a pond and fountain in the background.

Patti Simpson said that one improvement that they will begin to work on in the offseason is re-building the concession stand and build it out of a grain silo.

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Photos by
AUTUMN
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DE SOUZA/
PLAINSMAN
PRESS



straight forward maze called Fairy Tale Trail for younger children.

Children and adults can take a ride on the cow train in barrels that are pulled by a tractor.

The farm also features a corn cannon, with guests getting three tries to shoot ears of corn at targets in a field to win prizes.

Two hayrides are offered, including one that will take you to the pumpkin patch, where you can pick pumpkins ranging in price from \$1 to \$20. The other will take you through Pumpkin Hollow at night, where there are around 150 jack-o-lanterns. Some of the jack-o-lanterns have designs

campfire can be rented for \$30 for two hours.

James and Patti Simpson have been making the

to get through the maze. Each passport has questions corresponding to numbered posts within the maze. The ques-

maze on their land since 2001. The Simpsons said that the farm has been in Patti's family for generations. The couple began farming cotton, grain, sorghum, and wheat.

As farming is a seasonal business, the Simpsons said they began to look for a way to diversify their business in the offseason.

"We saw an article in a Progressive Farmer magazine (about corn mazes) in December (2000), and we opened the business in September (2001)," Patti Simpson explained. "So

tions vary in difficulty, and give answer choices that have either left or right in parenthesis next to them indicating which way to go. If you get the wrong answer, you will most likely end up lost or taking a long way around. The questions have varying topics, such as Girl and Boy Scouts, Bible verses, farm animals and more.

Some of the more interesting maze designs from previous years featured the Masked Rider mascot, along with the

and a back sprayer (to kill the corn plant), and we spray out the design using that pattern," said Patti Simpson. "We mark the field with numbered and lettered flags to give us a reference point."

Spraying out the design takes about three days, according to James Simpson, and then they continue to irrigate and water the crops until they are fully grown.

James Simpson said that the farm attracts around 40,000 to 55,000 guests per year. The bus-

