

Board of Regents discuss CampusShield app, rank promotions

by **KAITLYN HYDE**
 Photo Editor

The new CampusShield Smartphone App, the Scholarship Gala Update, and the Online Resume for Prospective Students, Parents, and the Public were among the topics discussed during the March meeting of the South Plains College Board of Regents.

Dr. Stan DeMerritt, vice president for student affairs, presented the Emergency Preparedness Efforts which include classroom posters that will be available on all SPC campuses. The posters provide information for students and faculty, as well as telephone numbers to call during an emergency.

“These will be hung in every classroom and every public space around campus, across all facilities,” Dr. DeMerritt said. “People will look at these posters and immediately see what to do in an emergency, and we are looking forward to that.”

Dr. DeMerritt also discussed the new CampusShield Smartphone App which was launched March 18. Features of the new app include an anonymous tip button which allows photos and/or video to be submitted to law enforcement, Safety Escort, which allows an individual to request a safety escort on all SPC campuses, and an Emergency Button, which can immediately connect to campus safety forces.

“Students can also do a Friend Watch, which can help students around campus but also when they are outside of the community,” Dr. DeMerritt explained. “A person can set up three to four friends at a time, and the app will let their friends know then they are leaving a destination, and it can also tell their friend(s) how long it will take them to arrive to their next destination.”

The CampusShield App also has maps of all SPC campuses and a Bus Tracker, which provides contact information for Spartan. The new app is easy to use, and it is free to download.

Dr. Ryan Gibbs, vice president for academic affairs, reported information regarding the Southern

Association of Colleges and Schools Commission

Steven John, vice president for institutional

aid costs, and student success, as well as degrees

CONVENIENCE

Report safety concerns, including photos / videos



PEACE OF MIND

Calls campus safety forces in emergency situations

Dynamic treatment options make PTSD manageable



[Editor's note: This story is the fourth part of the multi-part series "The Monster: Conquering Anxiety" examining types of PTSD, their causes and ways to overcome anxiety that began with Issue #7 and concludes in Issue #12.]

by **MAKAYLA KNEISLEY**
 Staff Writer

You trap your feelings into a time capsule. But it eventually becomes too

eyes over and over like a slideshow.

Your body is in the moment, while your brain is in the past. You become terrified to sleep because the nightmares bleed into your dreams.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) develops in some people when they experience a shocking, scary, or dangerous event.

Dr. Alicia Barr, professor of psychology at South Plains College, said people who are placed into situations where their lives are in danger can develop PTSD, such as “people who serve in the military, women who are raped, people who are in car accidents, and people who are exposed to natural disasters.”

Marcie Miller, associate professor of psychology at SPC, said that peo-

witnessed some things that happened to somebody else, or learned about something happening to someone who is interpersonally close to them.

“Some people think you have to had almost died,” Miller said. “But it could be learning about your mother almost dying that could even trigger PTSD.”

Miller explained that people who were exposed to war can experience PTSD, as well as first responders, victims of domestic violence, and people who were mugged or who were held hostage.

Symptoms usually begin within three months of an incident, according to NIMH. However, it can sometimes begin years after as well. In order for adults to be diagnosed with PTSD, they must have: a re-experiencing symptom, an avoidance symptom, arousal and

PTSD Treatments and Therapies



Psychotherapy



Alternative treatments (yoga and acupuncture)



Virtual reality exposure



Medication



MDMA-assisted therapy

full and explodes. The memories spill out and replay in front of your

ple can develop PTSD if they've experienced a serious threat to their life,

reactivity symptoms; and

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on Colleges (SACSCOC) 5th Year Report update. SPC has until Sept. 13 to present a report that address 24 of 33 standards that are reviewed for the 10-year accreditation, along with a summary of the college's quality enhancement plan impact report.

“This process started in May 2018,” Dr. Gibbs explained. “Currently, we are on schedule to have a final draft complete and mailed a month before the due date.”

advancement at SPC, discussed the Online Resume for Prospective Students, Parents, and the Public that is available on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's website.

The resume provides comparative data from a peer group that SPC has been assigned to which is comprised of Amarillo, Central Texas, Navarro, Tyler JC, Blinn, North Central, Del Mar and SPC. The report also presents enrollment, financial

and certificates awarded by peer institutions.

John said that overall, the college is performing on par with its peers. From data given, it shows that students at SPC are successful in the classrooms.

Julie Gerstenberger, director of development and alumni relations, presented the results from the 21st annual Scholarship Gala. The gala raised more than \$228,000, with 100 percent of the going

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Mocktail Madness encourages fun without alcohol

by **KAITLYN HYDE**
 Photo Editor

Getting behind the wheel of a vehicle after consuming alcohol is a serious crime.

Drinking and driving

intoxicated (DWI). However, even consuming a small amount of alcohol can lead to harmful situations.

This is what the Alcohol and Drug Committee (AoD) at South

which was held March 5 in the Sundown Room in the Student Center Building on the Levelland campus.

“At least 103 students attended the event, and I had several students af-



Student organizations created signature mocktails for the Mocktail Madness event that was held in the Sundown Room in the Student Center on the Levelland campus on March 5.

KAITLYN HYDE/PLAINMANS PRESS

is referred to as driving under the influence (DUI), or driving while

Plains College was trying to teach students at the Mocktail Madness event

ter driving the peddle car

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Regents review student security project

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to to benefit SPC scholarships.

"This is what that Scholarship Gala does," explained Gerstenberger. "We want to reward excellence, and we really look for the students who have earned the opportunity to have an award."

Gerstenberger also announced that next year's gala could possibly be held on the third Thursday in February of 2020.

Dr. Robin Satterwhite, president of SPC, presented the Faculty Rank Promotions, along with

the Faculty Tenure Recommendations.

Faculty promoted to the rank of professor include Hye-Gyung Ji, John Kennedy, Glenda Bryant, Kay McClellan, Sharon Race, and Stephen Williams.

Faculty promoted to the rank of associate professor include Debra Gelber, Keila Ketchersid, Amanda Rakhshandeh, Angela Roberts, Christopher Neal, Nancy Smith, Brent Wheeler, and Robert Wood.

Faculty promoted to the rank of assistant professor include Kevin Beough, Sherley Bedore, Tamie

Coltharp, Janine Fox, Janet Hargrove, Ryan Heth, Timothy Holland, Benjamin Keltz, Kiley Leone, Fausto Montes, Raylene Nuffer, Michael Slaughter, Tara Strawn, Jessica Williams, Camy Brunson,



Caleb Humphreys, Stephen Sanders, and Sarah Thompson.

Faculty granted tenure include Laci Alexander, Kevin Beough, Clinton Bishop, Rodney Busby, Kristie Cole, Janine Fox, M. Travis Hawk, Susan Horn, Megan Keith, Larry Kirk, Allison Maddox, Fausto Montes, Eric Niederhauer, Patti Thompson, Bang Wang, Darren Welch, and Marc Wischkaemper.

Community comments were made at the end of the meeting by Levelland residents Joe D. Brooks and Mary Siders regarding the new facility in downtown Lubbock.

Brooks addressed the Board of Regents by

asking for transparency among the college's leadership.

"I have visited with some of the Board of Regents members, and not once has this issue been on your agenda," said Brooks. "I take it personal, because I am from Levelland, and I know the tax dollars don't make up for it. But when we haven't been asked, or been given a rod to fish with, how do we know if and when these things are already done?"

Mary Siders, with the Levelland Chamber of Commerce, also addressed the Board. She, along with Brooks, expressed concern and asked

the Board to find options to bring more students to South Plains College.

"South Plains College does a lot for our community," Siders said, "and we realize that. But the Board should reach out to the business community and ask for our input. Business owners are very fluent in sharing things with the Chamber of Commerce... So we just ask that you communicate with us."

Both Siders and Brooks asked the Board to think of what is best for South Plains College and for the community.

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Mocktail Madness event teaches students dangers of drinking

Continued from pg. 1

with drunk goggles say, "Man, I don't ever want to drive drunk," said Crystal Gilster, director of Health and Wellness at SPC. "So, I would say the event was a great success."

Mocktail Madness was a great way for clubs and organizations to get involved, because it was a way to promote their organization, along with a chance to win money for their organizations. The purpose also was to show students how to have fun without drinking and encourage safety.

"This is the first year that our president, Denisha Lewis, brought back Black Student Union to SPC," said sophomore Josiah Spence. "We wanted to come back and try to raise money for our organization, but we also want to raise awareness of what BSU is and tell students that it is a club for all races. BSU is a club to bring cultural awareness and bring people to the culture of Black people and the society that we live in."

The 10 clubs involved and their booth themes were: Black Student Union, Speakeasy, Prohibition; 6th Man, Shooters Basketball; Design

Communication, Dead End Kids; Student Government Association, Beach theme; Residence Hall Association, Pep in your Step; Plainsman Press, Newsies; Law Enforcement

Club, Folsom Prison Blues; Catholic Student Ministries, Fiesta; Intramural Sports, Sports Bar; and Anime Club, Drink of Fate Death Brigade.

In order for clubs to

(TABC) would give them "drunk goggles" and the student would have to drive a pedal car through an obstacle course.

The poker chips that were given out were used as a way for students to vote on the best mocktail

Students who attended the event had the opportunity to enter a drawing for Uber credits and gift cards. Winners were Autumn Bippert, Ulises Cardoza, and Ricardo Torres.

"I'm really impressed



Students were given punch cards at the Mocktail Madness event to keep track of how many drinks they had through the night. If a student had too much to drink, the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission would give them "drunk goggles" and the student would have to drive a pedal car through an obstacle course.

KAITLYN HYDE/PLAINSMAN PRESS

participate, they each had to come up with a theme for their booth and serve a signature non-alcoholic mocktail to students. Once students checked in at the event, they were given a punch

card and two poker chips to participate. The punch

card was used to keep track of how many drinks they had throughout the night. If a student had too much to drink, the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission

of the night and the best booth. The club with the most poker chips by the end of the night was awarded cash prizes. The winner for best mocktail was a tie between Catholic Student Ministries and their Horchata Mixer and Black Student Union and their Prohibition Punch. The winner for best booth was Black Student Union.

"I think students are going to get a lot of opportunities from coming to this event and enjoy their time with their friends without the influence of alcohol," said sophomore Erica Wiggins.

with the outcome," said Miranda English, the director of Student Life at SPC. "We really did get to engage students in the safety aspect that we wanted to. So having students sit down with TABC representatives and realize that even though they've only had two drinks, what it does to their body and how it impairs their ability to function really opened some eyes."

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Scholarship gala raises funds for current, future students

by DANIELLE SALAZAR
Staff Writer

Raising financial support for future and current students at South Plains College was the goal for this year's Scholarship Gala.

The 21st Annual Scholarship Gala at South Plains College was held February 28. This year's event was hosted by City Bank at the Mallet Event Center in Levelland, Texas.

According to Julie Gerstenberger, director of development and alumni relations at South Plains College, "This year's Scholarship Gala was very successful."

"The event was very close to a sellout," she added. "But last year's gala was a complete sellout. This year's Scholarship Gala was a success."

More than \$228,000 was raised at this year's Scholarship Gala, according to Gerstenberger.

The Scholarship Gala is an annual event that brings together a community that raises money for student scholarship awards. Raising funds is the main reason for having the gala, but it also gives SPC a chance to show guests how much their donations are valued and how a scholarship award can impact a student's academic success, according to Gerstenberger.

The theme for this year's event was "Unlimited Opportunities." The gala is responsible for creating opportunities for students who want to continue their education.

This event is planned in advance, and tickets were sold months before.

While students choose to further their education, scholarship awards are able to assist students financially. All profits from the gala go directly to student scholarships.

"My favorite part of the night is being able to see how amazing this fundraiser is, and how much money is raised for student scholarships," said Gerstenberger.

The night began with a private cocktail hour for guests with top-level sponsorships. This was the second time that alcohol was available for sale at the event, with all profits from sales going into the scholarship funds.

Guests were seated and served a meal while entertainment was provided by students in the Creative Arts Department at SPC. There were three performances delivered by students attending SPC.

Also participating in the event were Campus Ambassadors who represent SPC and the college's values. Guests also participated in live and silent auctions, as well as raffles.

"The Scholarship Gala is a benefit for the students and the student ambassadors that get to attend and participate in the evening," said Gerstenberger.

Last year, students attending SPC received more than 900 scholarships.

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PTSD manageable with treatment options

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two cognition and mood symptoms, for at least one month.

Miller also said that PTSD will show up in an average person within three months, but sometimes symptoms will develop as early as within a month, though sometimes it can be years.

A common misconception, according to Miller, is that if symptoms don't show up right away, then you're fine.

Sometimes people will have some symptoms but not enough to be diagnosed, Miller said, and they might not be diagnosed for another six months or later until they have enough symptoms for meeting the criteria for PTSD.

"Symptoms generally include the person reliving the traumatic event," said Dr. Barr.

Dr. Barr said someone who has experienced a traumatic event will have a very detailed memory of it.

"If their memory is triggered, the event unfolds in their head," explained Dr. Barr. "It feels like they're reliving that event."

Dr. Barr said that sleep problems or recurring nightmares are common and can even develop into the person not wanting to go to sleep because of trying to avoid the nightmares, so they become sleep deprived.

"Folks who develop PTSD are hypervigilant," said Dr. Barr.

Miller explained that two people could have the same diagnosis but will experience different distressing symptoms.

"Intrusive thoughts that are distressing, such as memories or images that kind of intrude into their thinking, can take over and cause distress," Miller said.

Avoidance is very common, and people with PTSD might avoid certain environments, people, places and objects, according to Miller. Some people may have trouble experiencing positive emotions and may lose interest in things they used to be interested in.

"Reckless and self-destructive behaviors can be real common too," Miller pointed out. "That could include substance use, or excessive speeding. Doing physically risky things."



PTSD also manifests a little differently for children and adults, according to Miller.

"Adults will have these intensely detailed emotional dreams about their trauma," Miller explained, "where as

children might have dreams that they identify as distressing, but don't remember what it was about."

Miller also mentioned that children might reenact traumatic events in the way they play or story tell. They might describe how they are feeling as "they don't feel good," as if they were sick, while adults are better at explaining how they feel.

to more avoidance and more negative emotion.

Dr. Barr says that humans are social animals and need each other.

"Deep down, we know that we're better off when we have people close to us," said Dr. Barr.

"It gives us a sense of safety."

For



"For children, you're often looking for changes," Miller said. "They become socially withdrawn or avoid certain people in certain places."

Dr. Barr said she thinks that PTSD is the kind of disorder that will always be with someone on some level after it develops.

About half of the people who suffer from PTSD will always have it during their life, but the other half could find relief within a matter of months, according to Miller.

Some resilience factors that may reduce the risk of PTSD are seeking out support from people, finding a support group, learning how to feel good about actions during danger, learning a positive coping strategy, and learning how to act or respond despite of fear, according to NIMH.

"I think sometimes the myth behind PTSD is that there's some kind of weakness or inability to cope," said Miller.

someone who has developed PTSD and does not feel safe, to suddenly be abandoned by family and friends or who aren't trying to understand, would absolutely make it worse."

Researchers thought that if they had people who just experienced a trauma to sit down and tell them in detail what they experienced, that it would help them debrief and get over it, according to Dr. Barr. However, what they found is that it increased the likelihood of developing PTSD, and essentially people need room to decompress on their own, because some people can work through it by themselves.

Researchers are studying risk and resilience factors, along with genetic and neurobiology, taking more of a biological approach.

"With any disorder,

"Structurally speaking," she added, "there are some findings that suggest that folks with PTSD show structural differences in memory, in emotional centers of their brain... the limbic system specifically."

Miller explained that the Limbic system is the

for treating PTSD are antidepressants, according to NIMH, because it can help control PTSD symptoms such as worry, anger, and feeling numb.

Beta blockers can be used if the doctor feels it is right for the patient, Dr. Barr said.

"Beta blockers basically decrease blood pressure," Dr. Barr said, "in theory decreasing epinephrine

are a pretty common approach," said Miller, adding that while some may be classified an antidepressant, they can work well for alleviating symptoms of anxiety in PTSD.

Miller also said that antidepressants can help with sleep disturbances, mood swings, hypervigilance, and emotional reaction.

"A lot of antipsychotics are also approved for antidepressant treatments as well," Miller mentioned.

Miller said Psychotherapy (talk therapy), Cognitive Behavioral Therapies (CBT), and Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) are often used to help treat PTSD.

Psychotherapy may help people identify and change their troubling thoughts, according to the NIMH.

According to the American Psychological Association (APA), CBT helps individuals learn how to be their own therapist with exercises in sessions and outside of sessions. This helps the person to develop coping skills to learn how to change thinking of problematic emotions or behavior.

CPT is a specific type of CBT which can help people with PTSD learn how to challenge or modify unhelpful beliefs, according to the APA. CPT is usually delivered during 12 sessions. By practicing this therapy, patients create new

or adrenaline."

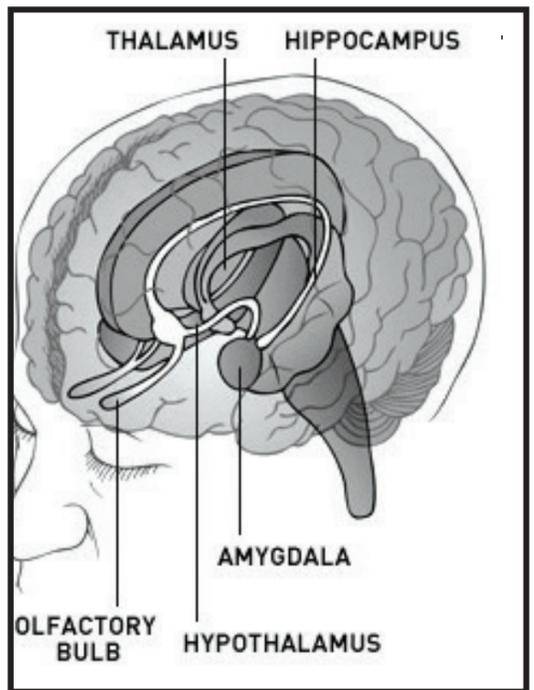
Dr. Barr explained that some people who have PTSD will remember the trauma. So when the memory is triggered they remember the event, and adrenaline or epinephrine is released in their system. This gives them a physical reaction,

part of the brain that is involved in human behavioral and emotional responses, especially negative and fear.

The Limbic system is just above the brainstem and underneath the cerebral cortex.

"If you were to find your temples," Miller said, "picture your fingers all the way into the center. That's where those structures exist, one in each hemisphere."

Within the Limbic system, there are two major structures, the Hippocampus and the amygdala. According to Queensland Brain Institute, the amygdala has a big role in emotional responses. The amygdala also plays a key role in forming memories, specifically memories related to fear.



and the chemicals

will help to sear this memory deeper, and in more detail, causing the memory to become more potent. So the next time that memory gets triggered, they release more epinephrine. It is the cycle that makes the memory stronger and stronger.

"Beta blockers will decrease levels of these chemicals, and essentially make that person less likely to be creating this super potent memory that's harassing them," said Dr. Barr.

Antidepressants can help control sadness, worry, and anger, which are commonly seen with PTSD symptoms.

"Antidepressants

conceptualization of the traumatic event.

CPT is strongly recommended to help treat PTSD, according to the APA.

Some self-help tips include working on slowing your breath, relaxing your muscles, working on grounding techniques such as describing objects as you touch them, saying the alphabet backwards, and facing your fears and building upon bravery.

Miller said she thinks that acceptance of the idea that humans change in response to

conceptualization of the traumatic event.

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Alum discovers passion for art following advice from professor

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

by **REBEKAH HARVEY**
Feature Editor

Many college students know what it is like to change their major.

For Catherine Argueta, changing her major was also part of her college experience.

Argueta was born and raised in Lubbock. She graduated from Lubbock High School in 2007. After high school, Argueta decided to attend South Plains College, a decision she based on the smaller class sizes.

“Everything about SPC seemed like an easier transition from

high school,” Argueta explained. “I absolutely loved being a Texan! All the professors were great. I especially loved my Art professors, which is why I ended up changing my major to Art.”

Argueta came to SPC majoring in Biology, with a minor in Art, but soon realized she enjoyed her Art classes more than her Biology classes.

“Both were equally stressful,” said Argueta. “But I felt that I was more focused in my Art and Art History classes, therefore I was more successful.”

Argueta also knew she wanted to work with children. After talking to pro-

“She (Black) talked about how a teaching certificate in Art was a bit different than other subject areas,” explained Argueta, “and that once I received my certificate, I could teach any grade level I wanted. Once I heard that, I jumped on board and changed my major.”

After attending SPC, Argueta transferred to Texas Tech. Where she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Visual Studies with an emphasis in painting. She also received her teaching certificate so she could teach art.

“I love having the abil-

ity to showcase my students’ work,” said Argueta, who now teaches art at Cavazos Middle School in Lubbock. “We do lots of exhibits and competitions throughout the year, and now you can always find Cavazos artwork throughout our community, like the South Plains Fair, the Civic Center, the Arts Festival, et cetera...”

When she isn’t teaching art, Argueta spends most of her time with her kids, Catalina, 2, and Jason, 8.

“I also think it is important to continue creating,” explained Argueta, “so I always make sure to do my own art, whether it’s a small five by five drawing or painting, or just doing the projects I assign to my students, whatever it is, as long as I keep my artistry going and growing.”

For anyone pursuing a similar path, Argueta

advises others to “keep at it.”

“I think a lot of people

going and doing what you feel is necessary.”

She also advises to be prepared for the emotions of teaching.

“I think this is what a lot of first-year teachers struggle with,” Argueta explained. “Kids can be difficult sometimes, but they are also so, so amazing.”

Despite the struggle at times, Argueta knows that what she is doing has impacted many students.

“It’s definitely worth it when a student tells you how much you’ve impacted their life,” said Argueta, “and

how grateful they are to have you as their teacher.”

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Catherine Argueta poses in front of artwork done by her students in her classroom.
REBEKAH HARVEY/PLAINSMAN PRESS

Student chooses SPC for college experience

by **VICTORIA DE SOUZA**
Opinion Editor

Donald Duane Sanders II is enthusiastic about education and looks forward to making the classroom a fun place for students.

A sophomore at South Plains College, Sanders currently resides in Arlington, Texas, with his mother Lashunya Sanders and his cousins.

During his free time, Sanders enjoys listening to almost all kinds of music, along with watching animes and sports.

A Human Development and Family Studies major, Sanders plans to pursue teaching after completing his associate’s degree. He also would like to be a football, volleyball or basketball coach.

Sanders would ultimately like to coach basketball at a college or university, but mentioned, “If I stay in high school, I at least want to win two or three championships.”

Sanders decided to study to become a teacher because he said he believes that the classroom must have a very fun and entertaining environment so the kids can learn and enjoy the process.

“I want to be able to leave an impact on my kids,” said Sanders. “Even if like they don’t go to college, at least they had a change in their

character and I made an impact on their life.”

Before coming to SPC, Sanders attended the Southeast campus of Tarrant County Community College. He said that he enjoyed his classes, but the college did not have sports or dorms. That was one of the main reasons he decided to transfer.

“I felt like I wasn’t growing as a person and I really wanted that experience,” explained Sanders. “I feel like knowledge is really important to people being impactful with other people.”

After one of Sanders’ close friends came to study at Texas Tech University, he was encouraged to go out and live the full college experience.

In the process of looking to obtain a full college experience of living in the dorms, meeting new people and participating in campus events, Sanders found SPC. After coming to a student orientation, he learned interesting facts about the college.

“It’s funny, because where I live there’s a street that’s called Levelland,” Sanders said

“Even if I didn’t have the opportunity of going to college, I still want to go because I think learning is important.”

“My mom noticed that when we came back from



Donald Sanders says he came to South Plains College to get the full college experience.

REECE TURNER/PLAINSMAN PRESS

the student orientation.”

The thing that Sander enjoys the most about SPC is the atmosphere of a small city and how friendly the community is that he found at the college. He likes how accepting and open minded the school is, a different experience than at his previous college.

“I think people just realize we’re different,” Sanders said. “We’re in a different part of our lives, and we should have fun.

Everybody’s really calm and respectful of each other.”

Sanders also mentioned how Levelland reminds him of the city where he lived for most of his childhood in Mississippi, and how enjoyable the environment is.

“It just feels like at home,” said Sanders.

When it comes to motivation, Sanders is always looking for ways to motivate himself. He knows that he can improve his skills to become a better person by working hard at his academics.

Sanders says that the one thing that motivates him is the importance of education in his life.

“Even if I didn’t have the opportunity of going to college, I still want to go because I think learning is important,” added Sanders.

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Former student becomes published speech professor

by **REBEKAH HARVEY**
Feature Editor

Before becoming a professor at South Plains College, Kelley Finley was a student who was involved in many campus organizations.

After getting her bachelor's and master's degrees from Wayland Baptist University and Texas Tech University, respectively, she returned to SPC for the opportunity to teach speech to college students.

Finley grew up in Bledsoe, Texas on a cotton farm. She had to commute to school every day.

"I went to school in Whiteface, 23 miles from my hometown," she recalled. "We didn't have a middle school or high school, so we had to commute."

According to Finley, she chose to attend SPC because it was so close to home.

"I had no career aspirations," she said. "I just didn't know what else to do after high school. SPC was affordable, and my parents had both attended SPC. So it was an easy choice."

As a Texan, Finley was very involved on campus.

She lived on campus in Smallwood Apartments. She was a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society for two-year colleges, and served as a Campus Ambassador and as president of the Baptist Student Ministry during her time at SPC. She was also a member of the forensics team and participated in the Miss Caprock Scholarship Pageant.

"At SPC, I met Laura Dickinson, who taught Public Speaking and was the coach for the forensic team," said Finley. "She encouraged me to continue my education and to think about getting a Communication degree."

After attending SPC, Finley transferred to Wayland Baptist University. While at WBU, she pursued a Mass Communication minor. Finley was very involved at Wayland, just as she was at SPC. She participated in plays with the Theater Department and also helped with the TV department.

By her final year at Wayland, Finley found what she wanted to do.

"My senior year, I decided I wanted to teach speech to other college

students," she explained, "so I knew I had to get my master's."

After Wayland, she attended Texas Tech University to get her

at a daycare, as a waitress, and at Cavender's Boot City in Lubbock.

After Texas Tech, Finley taught English and speech to high school and

explained. "I applied as soon as there was an opening, and when I was offered a job, I jumped at it! It's a great place with great people and great students."

Finley currently teaches Public Speaking, Introduction to Communication, and Business and Professional Speech. She also has been serving as the president of the Faculty Senate.

Finley also recently wrote a textbook with fellow instructor Janine Fox. They wrote the textbook "Entry Level to Executive: All Communication Counts" because they believed students shouldn't be paying upwards of \$100 for a speech textbook. They also decided to write the book to fit the needs of their students.

"We like that it's a consumable, that we have tear-out pages in the back," explained Finley. "We like that our students have that option. We like the way it looks. We like that it's marketed to South Plains College, and when you get that book you don't say, 'Wow, that was a huge waste of money.' It's got resumes and interviewing, so even if you only use it for public

speaking, it's got stuff you can use well into your adult life. We're proud of it, and it was a labor of love."

When not teaching, Finley spends time with her family and is very involved in the community.

"In my spare time, I read and watch movies," Finley said. "I have three kids, so my spare time is usually spent with them."

Finley is also on the King's Kids PDO board and helps on Wednesday nights with the children's program at First Baptist Church in Levelland. She also enjoys researching issues relating to health and essential oils.

For students who want to obtain a Communication degree, Finley says it is a very useful degree to pursue.

"You can do so many things with a Communication degree," she explained.

Finley also encourages teaching at the collegiate level.

"If teaching is your thing, then I highly recommend you teach in college," Finley said. "It is the best job ever!"

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Kelley Finley, a speech professor at SPC, co-authored a textbook for speech students. **REBEKAH HARVEY/PLAINSMAN PRESS**

master's degree. While attending Texas Tech, she served as a Teaching Assistant. Being a TA helped Finley know that she truly wanted to teach. While attending Texas Tech, she worked

middle school students in Whiteface for four years. At the end of those four years, there was an opening at SPC.

"I loved my time at SPC, and I knew it was where I wanted to end up," she

Married musical duo releases third studio album

by **DEBRA MONTANDON**
Staff Writer

Brent and Emily Wheeler still make time out of their busy lives to play guitar together after 20 years.

They are married, but they make time to play music together and with others in the industry. Brent is the director of guitar studies at South Plains College, while Emily is a part-time instructor.

They recently released their third CD titled, "Maybe I am." Emily and Brent both play guitars on the CD, and they are joined by Kristin Bassett as the vocalist, Joy Harris on Bass and Alan Shinn on drums. Emily has already started writing more songs to create another CD.

Their CD can be purchased on Spotify, Amazon, CD Baby, or from Brent or Emily Wheeler on campus.

Brent is from Las Vegas, Nevada, while Emily grew up in northern Utah, outside of Salt Lake City.

When Emily was in graduate school in Ohio, there was a day she received an email asking her to apply to work at South Plains College.

"It looks impressive on my resume that someone asked me to come here and try out," she said.

She was going to fly down and interview but not take it. She and her husband had no desire to move to Levelland. When she saw the college, it was a "game changer," she recalled, adding, "very few schools have the funding for the arts

program like they do here. When you walk in and see the facility, it is a no brainer. Most

student and country music star.

"People here are very kind, warm and real,

"The kids get to come and play on professional instruments. They also get to perform in the Tom T. Hall performance hall. It is super fun for the kids."

Emily Wheeler said moving to Levelland and working at SPC has lasted 16 years.

"We really like it," she said. "It is very unusual to have the faculty that is here and the support of the administration. To have the funding for the arts in higher education is rare."

Emily Wheeler started playing the guitar at the age of 4. Her father is a musician and professor. Her home was full of enriched music, but her interest was never forced. Brent and Emily met because of her father.

Brent Wheeler started playing the guitar at the age of 10. His dad was a professional musician also.

They have four children, ages 13, 10, 7 and 5. The two oldest are already playing the guitar and participate in the SPC Youth

Live program. The eldest also plays bass guitar for a band at SPC.

Emily Wheeler also teaches at Texas Tech University and Lubbock Christian University. Her classes include Jazz and guitar, performance, and Jazz ensembles.

Emily Wheeler said there were several female guitarists who influenced her, but her father played a large role in her love for music and guitar.

Brent Wheeler says that he was influenced by several people, including his father, who was a "top 40 musician." He also once played in "Purple Reign," a tribute to Prince. He was one of the founding members of the tribute band, playing with them for three years.

The Wheelers can often be found playing in Lubbock at the Funky Door or the La Diosa Cellars and Bistro in Lubbock. They also play private venues as well.

Brent has also signed a

contract with the Lubbock Symphony.

There are so many ways for musicians to make a decent living today that didn't used to be available, according to Brent Wheeler.

"There has never been a time before when you could make money independently and not rely on a record label," he explained. "It also puts a lot more on self-motivation. At the same time, you have to have self-discipline to be sure they are shaking hands, reaching out with emails, or whatever the media that works for them."

"It is a fun industry, but we go non-stop," he added. "They are busy from 5 a.m. until midnight constantly, and that is like a freight train moving down the track."

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Brent and Emily Wheeler released their third CD, "Maybe I am." **DEBRA MONTANDON/PLAINSMAN PRESS**

schools don't have what this school has in terms of the equipment and the administrative support. It was exciting when I saw the recording equipment and what all the rooms are equipped with, the excitement of the kids and their passion for it."

She went to her room and called Brent, telling him, "I think we are moving here." Brent's response was "What???" Most people haven't heard of Lubbock, Texas, much less Levelland. Brent added that the professors of South Plains College really found Emily when she was 18. Someone had seen her teach kids.

Brent Wheeler said he knew of SPC through some contacts and Lianne Womack, a former SPC

which is very nice," Emily Wheeler said. "It isn't like anywhere else we have lived. It has a nice charm to it."

Brent teaches private lessons, jazz, country, blue grass, western swing, vocal jazz ensemble and topics for the professional musician such as concert promotion and venue management.

Brent Wheeler also created a youth program for kids between the ages of 10 and 17. It is called SPC Youth Live. It leads up to the "Explore the Arts" summer camps, where they teach music and how to play in a band. "It takes place after school throughout the week," said Brent Wheeler.

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April 1, 2019

Plainsman Press

'Captain Marvel' boasts stunning female lead with strong morals

by **AUTUMN BIPPERT**
Editor in Chief

An ultimate soldier is not defined by their ability, but rather their compassion and morality.

The latest movie in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), "Captain Marvel," directed by Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck, is the first film in the MCU with a female superhero as the center of the movie.

"Captain Marvel" follows Carol Danvers, also known as Vers, as she is in the middle of a galactic war between two alien races. The movie doesn't take much time explaining the two alien races, so you have to figure out things as you go.

Vers, played by Brie Larson, is training as a warrior on the Kree planet of Hala. Her

by the enemy race known as Skrulls. When she is being interrogated, she

didn't know she had, she also finds more bravery and strength in herself.

Jackson. Fury follows Carol through her journey to discover herself and protect the planet from the Skrull she believes is a threat.

Carol discovers that what she thought was true about the war she's apart of is a lie. She becomes "Captain Marvel," turn against the Kree. This tests her strength in a way she has never experienced before, and she gathers the strength from all of her past experiences to get up again.

"Captain Marvel" presents a strong feminist message, showing that it's OK if you fall, as long as you always get back up. The final fight scene

offers a powerful metaphor for what can be accomplished if you stop waiting to be told

movie that has been highly anticipated.

The movie was also very nostalgic. Set in the



sees glimpses of her past life on Earth as test pilot Carol Danvers.

Annette Bening plays Carol's mysterious mentor in the Air Force, Dr. Wendy Lawson. Maria Rabeau, played by Lashana Lynch, helps Carol reclaim her personality as her best friend. Maria is a fellow pilot who never got the shot she deserved because she was a woman and a young mother.

Carol's



mentor, Yon-Rogg, played by Jude Law, is constantly telling her to not let her emotions get the best of her.

But when she goes on her first mission, Vers is captured and interrogated

Once she escapes from the Skrull ship, she lands on a different planet Earth. On Earth, Vers begins to piece together her past life as an Air Force test pilot. As she discovers memories she

most important relationship, however, is with young S.H.I.E.L.D. agent Nick Fury, played by Samuel L.

Final 'Madea' movie emphasizes families sticking together through tragedy

by **DANIELLE SALAZAR**
Staff Writer

After receiving awful news about a family member passing away, Madea and her family gather around as she announces that she will be planning the funeral.

This family meeting

will be the starting point of the journey that Madea will take.

"A Madea Family Funeral," released into theaters on March 1, was directed by Tyler Perry. This hilarious movie is a must-watch.

The dynamics of this film has a plot twist you won't see coming. "A

Madea Family Funeral" is the 13th and closing chapter of the Madea movie series that has been directed and produced by Perry.

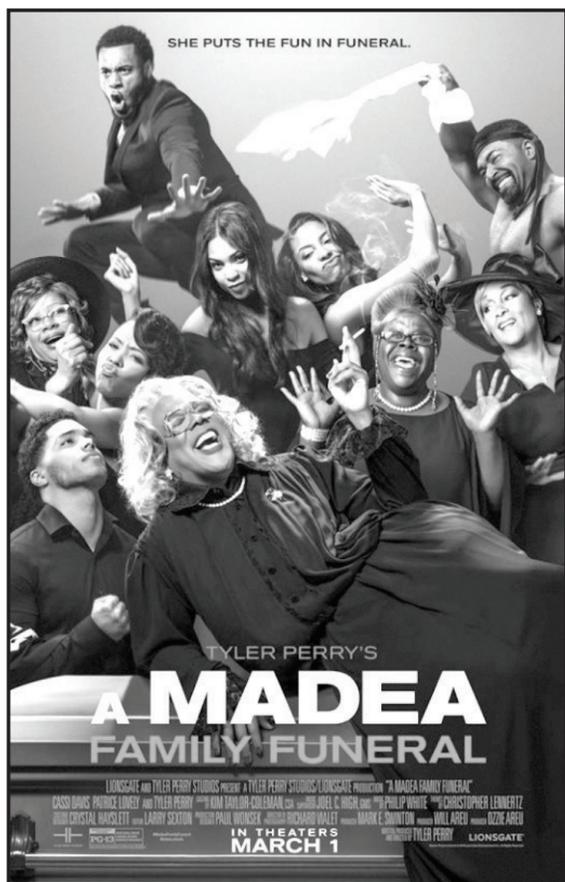
Perry created the character Madea, also known as Mable Simmons, an elderly African American woman who is tough and will do anything to keep her family together, even through the toughest times. She is very blunt and is not ashamed of how she acts. Her character is very genuine and fun to laugh at while watching "A Madea Family Funeral."

With her family's support, she will put together her family and a funeral, no matter how hard she has to try or how loud she has to yell. This amazing film is about what families go through. The

movie is set in a small town in Georgia. The

and twists that are interesting, and Madea will

and loud, her wisdom and sense of family



family comes together for an anniversary party, but then the event turns into a mixture of different family situations. This comedy film is aimed toward family with its PH-13 rating. Even though this is a movie centers around a funeral, there are moments filled with joy, along with moments that can bring tears to your eyes.

I enjoy movies that I can relate to because I have experienced a family funeral myself. This movie hits the jackpot with how crazy it can get. Family funerals are very hard, and it can get dramatic.

Throughout this film, there are family secrets

do everything to keep her family from tearing apart. Madea always seems to know what to do and what to say to her family to keep them from breaking apart.

This movie reveals how, even in the saddest times, families can come together, no matter what. The comedy is a perfect balance for this type of film. Madea will bring you to tears by laughing so hard.

Her unique way of getting things done is what makes this film so hilarious. Her character is very funny, and she will show her family just how important it is to be there for each other. Even though Madea is crazy

is what always makes the Madea films so enjoyable to watch. Her character will definitely make you laugh.

I rate this movie an eight out of 10, because it wasn't my favorite Madea movie. It was just a different film with some new characters. The audience was introduced to a new side of the family, and I just wasn't used to that side of the family. But this movie is still very funny. My family and I could not stop laughing.

8/10

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9/10

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'Greta' offers suspense through dark tale of stalking

by **KAITLYN HYDE**
Photo Editor

A simple act of kindness can go a long way. But for some, it can end in a life-altering disaster.

Directed by Oscar-winning filmmaker Neil Jordan, "Greta" stars Chloë Grace Moretz and Isabelle Huppert.

A very naive young woman named Frances, played by Moretz, is on the subway one day and notices a purse that is left behind. Trying to be a good person, she returns the purse to the owner, Greta, at her home.

Greta is an eccentric French piano teacher who loves tea and good music. The two strike up a harmless friendship, but Greta's behavior eventually becomes increasingly erratic and Frances does whatever it takes to end the relationship.

Watching the trailer before going to see the film made me intrigued, because I do like thrillers and I also like who was casted in

the film. However, I did read some reviews, and a few said to lower my expectations for this movie. So I really didn't know what to think going into this film.

Moretz does a good job of playing her part, and she has a lot to do with her character because she has to go through a lot of different emotions at a rapid pace throughout scenes.

There are also parts that were physically demanding. I think Moretz handled them very well and was able to pull it off by delivering a sympathetic

performance. She was believable and was able to play as a naive person who is not used to living in the city, which is important for the storyline to work.

She makes choices so anyone who has ever lived in a big city before is going to look at her and wonder why she is making the decisions that she is making, even after seeing all of the red flags Greta's character gives off throughout the film.

This film would not even be close to as good as it is without Moretz and Huppert as the two lead actresses. Without a doubt, the star of this film is the title character, Greta, played by Huppert, who essentially plays three different characters.

At the beginning of the film, she plays a gentle, welcoming woman who seems to want to know more about Frances once her purse is returned to her. Then she quickly becomes an obsessive person who is stalking Frances on social media and watching her at work. Lastly, it becomes a toxic, psychotic relationship



early on that just about anybody can realize it was a situation they needed to get out of. I felt like I was constantly waiting for the protagonist to see these obvious signs. When she doesn't, it becomes a little frustrating.

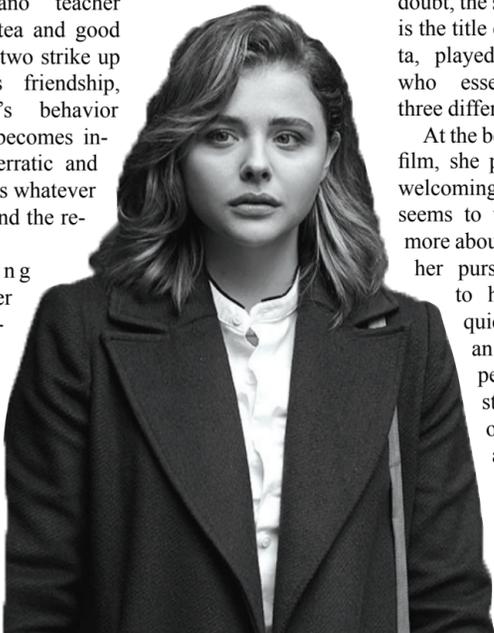
Yes, her character is naive, and that is established early in the film. So I felt I could give it a pass after seeing she was a trusting person. But there eventually comes points in the movie when some physicality would have been a good thing to see, and I didn't see that from Moretz's character at all.

Still, there are some high points to the film. There is a great build up of suspense. There are parts when tension brews for awhile, and it is a well-directed film with good acting. But it builds to a finale that asks the audience to take the end of the film at face value, while I think there are so many different ways that this character could have gotten out of the situation she ends up in.

I would give "Greta" an eight out of 10.

8/10

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Exciting gameplay overshadows forgettable story in 'The Division 2'

by **REECE TURNER**
Entertainment Editor

Most humans have been wiped out by a fatal biological super-bug, but somehow this bug is weaponized.

Secret groups of government agents, or "Division Agents" are considered to be the last line of defense in rebuilding and defending the nation.

In "The Division 2" players get to create and play their own Division Agent and scour post-apocalyptic Washington, D.C., looking for supplies, weapons, and, most importantly, reclaiming the enemy-occupied landmarks and neighborhoods by force.

"The Division" franchise has some history as a pretty bland third-person-shooter with loads of potential. The genre of "shoot-and-loom" games maintains a meager standard in the massive multiplayer online role-playing game (or MMORPG) world.

The first "Division" game was fairly bland. The beginning was strong, the story was decent, but the "endgame" was severely lacking at launch. Ubisoft's developers were very receptive throughout all of "The Division's" lifespan. They listened to their players and offered fixes and content to respond to the suggestions of their fans.

"The Division 2" is almost similar to the first game, but with all of the balance fixes, loot, and content that it had lacked from the beginning. It is a much better game that raises the bar in the MMO shoot-and-loom genre.

The story is reasonably engaging, though a little boring for my taste.

After reaching the level cap of 30, the gear-score grind begins, along with openings for different "specializations" that unlock more ways to play the game.

There are three specializations, and each gives a new tree of "perks" that help refine your preferred play style.



I find myself not paying attention during the more significant events, but that is because my taste in shooters does not include semi-realistic, hyper-tactical super soldiers. I don't like working or playing for "The Man." I am more of a sci-fi fan. However, this does not take away from my experience, because the gameplay is excellent.

The beginning is not very challenging, but the endgame is. "The Division 2" truly starts after 20 to 30 hours of gameplay, when you start unlocking "World Tiers," which are essentially harder versions of the world the player is already roaming. The open world also becomes much more dynamic after level 30. The world is always moving, changing, and being occupied or invaded by different enemy factions.

"The Division 2" does not emphasize, but merely includes, the "Tank, healer, DPS" style of MMO, albeit with a more complicated execution. The specializations have something for (almost) everybody, whether a player wants to focus on explosives, sharpshooting, survivability, or pure gun damage-per-second.

"The Division 2" would not be complete without "Dark Zones" or DZ. Dark Zones are contaminated, quarantined areas that are unlocked later in the game. The DZ is where players go for some of the best loot, and player vs. player conflict. The DZ was arguably the best part of the first "Division" game.

In "The Division 2," the Dark Zone is split into three smaller areas instead of one large one. The three DZs "normalize" each player's gear

score, which balances everybody's armor and damage output. This way, nobody has the edge over another player by having better gear, so players are rewarded for higher skills.

Each DZ has a unique landscape which forces players to move and react in certain ways. One DZ is compact and busy, while another is very open and spacious. The third is a bit of a balancing act between the other two. Additionally, Dark Zones can gain an "Occupied" status if the "big bad" faction, the "Dark Tusk," takes over the zone. That changes the mechanics to be much more unforgiving. In Occupied Dark Zones, normalization is turned off, gear score matters, and the NPC enemies are harder and smarter.

Dark Zones also have the option for a player to go "Rogue," which toggles PVP activity for somebody who would rather hunt other players instead of the PVE content. The Occupied Dark Zone removes the rogue option entirely so that players can shoot other players on sight.

"The Division 2" is a step in the right direction regarding the genre and triple-A games in the first place. "The Division 2" is the first game released in 2019 that does not feel like a \$60 beta test. Yes, there are bugs, as annoying as they are, but they are few and far between.

Props to Ubisoft for their successful releases during the last few years. "The Division 2" is a breath of fresh air. The gaming industry is in a very greedy state, bringing

a world full of battle royals, and unfinished, cash-grabbing piles of hot garbage as far as multiplayer games go. —cough- "ANTHEM" —cough- (Good job, staying true to your reputation, EA). The rest of the gaming industry should consider letting their developers make the games, not their shareholders.

"The Division 2" is far from perfect, and I fear the redundancy of the first game might leak into the second a little bit. But I also have a little faith that Ubisoft will keep listening to their players, and consider fan's suggestions when creating future content. I

8/10

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April 1, 2019

Plainsman Press

John 5 and the Creatures electrify Lubbock with 'Invasion' tour

by **REECE TURNER**

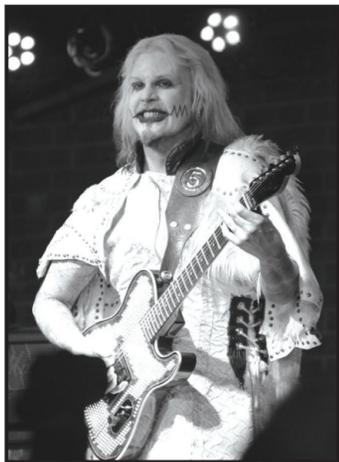
Entertainment Editor

Smoke pours from a fog machine, obscuring almost the entire stage. An ambient tune is playing, and the audience falls silent.

A strange swamp-like creature appears and prances around the stage for a few seconds, causing the crowd to scream at the first sight of John 5 and the Creatures. A few seconds later, John 5 appears on the stage in full makeup, lights in his mouth, and of course, his guitar in hand.

John 5 is the guitarist for Rob Zombie and has played for other legends in the music industry such as Marilyn Manson and David Lee Roth. Since 2004, John 5 has recorded eight solo albums, which he seems to trickle out song by song via YouTube

JOHN 5



or live shows. He is currently on his "Invasion" tour, which included a stop at Jake's Backroom in Lubbock on March 1.

The show was opened by "Jared James Nichols" and "Dead Girls Academy" who put

on a good, but cramped performance for a fan base that did not have the same appreciation for them that they had for John 5. The stage

was very small for the opening bands, which forced them to tone down any stage presence that they might have wanted.

After intermission, the crowd refilled their drinks and waited impatiently for the guitar god to reveal himself and bestow upon them his generous gift of instrumental guitar. Meanwhile, the stagehands set up Halloween yard ornaments around the stage.

John 5 and the Creatures bring energy to the stage that I have not seen before. Some people might think an instrumental guitar concert might be a bit dull. But John 5 had the entire venue erupting, jumping, screaming, and begging for more. He lets his guitar do the talking and singing for him.

Only a few sentences were spoken in between songs, a few of note were, "I love Lubbock" and "Who says metal-heads can't enjoy country?"

John 5 and the Creatures' setlist was mostly composed of

songs off of their album "Season of the Witch" and a few recently-

all of his songs stand out to be genuinely unique. I was able to recognize and

the show dynamic and exciting.

It was a pleasure



John 5 and the Creatures performing at Jake's Backroom in Lubbock, Texas.

Photos by **REECE TURNER/PLAINSMAN PRESS**

released songs from his "Invasion" album, including "ZOINKS!" and "Here's to the Crazy Ones." Every song was beautifully executed. Watching John 5 display his creativity and technical skills with machine-like precision was

One of the best parts of the concert was that, even for instrumental guitar,

name every song from the very beginning.

John 5 had an arsenal of different stringed instruments that he quickly rotated throughout the show, including a banjo, a few different guitars, and a smaller lute-looking thing that I could not quite identify. The effects of rotating his instrumentation made

watching John 5 and the Creatures perform, especially after getting to know him a bit more during a telephone interview just a few weeks before the show. John 5 has nothing short of fantastic guitar skills, and I cannot wait to see what he does next.

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Former SPC professor achieves bluegrass dreams

by **DEBRA MONTANDON**

Staff Writer

Alan Munde was a traveling musician and 40 years old. He traveled a lot, but he had a wife and daughter and was ready to settle down a little

He was in a group called "Country Gazette" and had performed at South Plains College a couple of times. In 1986, he got the opportunity to teach and settle down in Levelland.

"I sure do miss it," Munde said of the Creative Arts Department at SPC. "Buildings used to be just opened for the day. But here, people didn't want to go home, so the building was open all night. It is a good place here, for sure."

Munde performed with the Pickin on the Plains band, Steve Williams, Ed Marsh and Flatlands Bluegrass on March 1 in the Tom T Hall Recording and Production Study in the Commercial Music Building in Levelland.

Munde was a professor at SPC until 2006. He now resides in Wimberly, Texas.

"I'm retired from teaching," Munde said. "But I am still trying to be a banjo picking star. Put your thumb and index figure almost together, and that is how close I am to achieving that."

Munde was about 14 when he started playing the banjo. He played the guitar first, and about a year later he started picking the banjo. His brother and sister played the accordion. He enjoyed his playing so much that he did not keep track of how many hours he practiced.

"Ask my mother," Munde said jokingly. "She is the one who kept track of the hours. She probably notched it in the door frame with a knife."

Munde said he would never put the banjo down unless he had to go somewhere. He would play for

what ever it is. Country, jazz, classical guitar players. If rock and roll has a guitar base, then I like that."

When asked how many CDs he has made, he paused, then said, "24 sounds good, but before that was LPs."

it became. The program started in 1975 with John Hartin. When Munde arrived, the program was called "Country and Bluegrass Music."

"With Munde being at South Plains College, he drew people from all over the world to come here,"

camp has been in session more than 34 years.

Some of the famous musicians Munde has played with include Johnny Bush and Fiddlin Frenchie Burke. He played in the band County Fair with Burke, who Munde says "had a hot band."

"They could really play," Munde said. "They just burned it."

Steve Williams first taught at SPC in 1989, then left for 10 years to go on the road to play music. He came back in 1999 and has been teaching for 20 years.

The associate professor of commercial music plays the guitar, dobro, steel guitar, lap steel, bass and harmonica. He was 12 when he started taking lessons and playing music. He grew up loving blues, soul, and country. Williams enjoys playing old country music and blues, though he can also be heard playing '60s music and more modern pop.

Back in the 1990s, Munde, Williams and Marsh put together the Steve Alan Trio and would jam on any given Friday night.

"He is one of the heroes," Williams said of playing with Munde.

Like Munde, Williams' words of wisdom for a rising artist is to "take it seriously, work hard, practice and keep your head on straight. Don't get into drinking and all that bad stuff. It is hard, and people are always encouraging and tempting."

Also performing on March 1 along with Alan Munde was the "Pickin' on the Plains" ensemble and the Flatland Bluegrass band.

Levi Humphreys played the mandolin and shared vocals in the "Pickin on the Plains" band. Jason Sain played the guitar and shared vocals. Sain described playing with Munde as "Incredible."

Leah Bynum played violin and vocals. Her twin sister Megan Bynum performed on bass, violin and also vocals. The sisters said playing with Munde was "Once in a lifetime, iconic and surreal."

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DEBRA MONTANDON/PLAINSMAN PRESS

a while, set it down, then go back and play more.

"It was about getting your fingers to these magic places," Munde explained. "It's like a pilgrimage. You walk where others have been. Your fingers are where other famous people have played. People can tell you to play this cord, but it isn't the same as when your fingers make the sounds."

Munde counts bluegrass legend Earl Scruggs among his role models.

"To this day, I can still listen to his music and be thrilled by it," said Munde, who also lists Doug Dillard from the "Darlins" band of the "Andy Griffith Show" and Eddy Shelton from Dallas as his influences.

He said his favorite form of music is, "any music that is creative," adding, "I like pickers,

As for advice for aspiring musicians, Munde offers, "Get as good as you can on your instrument." The good musicians I knew not only had their music good, but their life was in order, where their lifestyle didn't demand more than their music brought in."

"Play your music all the time, and be around musicians where music is made," he added. "Just make music your lifestyle. It's not the money. You get to know some of the best people in the world. You meet people who want to know you, be around you, and play music with you. That's really good. It is the best you can do. Work really hard at your craft."

When Munde arrived at SPC, the bluegrass program was already going, but he influenced it and helped it grow into what

says Steve Williams. "He is world known and highly respected."

Once a year, Munde comes back to Camp Bluegrass at SPC in the summer. Joe and Paula Carr helped manage the camp with him. The

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Mapping capabilities of Roomba raises concern



by **MAKAYLA KNEISLEY**
Staff Writer

Roombas are mapping people's homes while cleaning the floor.

Roombas, the small robotic vacuum cleaners, were made to help people reduce the amount of housework. However, iRobot, the company that makes Roomba, made their two latest models, 960 and 980, able to map out the floor plan of the home. Most people thought this was so the robot could function around the rooms better, so it would bump into fewer objects and accomplish a better vacuuming job.

However, Colin Angel, who is the CEO of iRobot, said that the company has access to all of the maps

and plans on selling the maps to other companies, such as Google and Amazon. iRobot later came out saying that their CEO misspoke, and that the company has no intention of "selling" the mapping data. They also said that they are wanting to provide the data, with the consent of customers, to other companies to help improve smart homes and devices.

What may be true is that they are not going to "sell" the data. But how are they going to get the consent of customers? Will it be in the long agreement that everyone

then the company has "your permission" to give out the mapping data of your house.

iRobot has not said specifically how they are going to ask permission. To me, that seems a little sketchy. Also, why does iRobot need to map out your house, store it in their data base, and "give" it to other companies to help smart technology? To me, that does not make a lot of sense. I do not understand how a map of someone's home could possibly help companies improve smart technology.

Another issue I have with this is how do we know who the company is giving the information to? Will the company give the data to the government? iRobot saying they are wanting the information to help smart technology could just be a ploy for helping the government spy on us.

Will this mapping data just end up as more ads for us? Everyone already knows that cookies remember what you search and

then puts ads on Facebook and other so-

are valid are what happens if iRobot's

companies give them more money if they could get the mapping layout for that house? What if that house is sold? Will iRobot delete the map of that house if the new owners don't want to consent?

Because Roomba maps out each room, does the company know what room your children sleep in by the room where it bumps into the most toys?

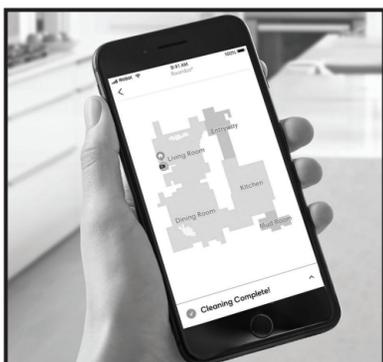
What iRobot is doing could be a catastrophe and could hurt individuals. Not to mention that the house map storing feature has "sketchy" written all over it, especially since it sounds like the Roomba models 960 and 980 have already been mapping customer's houses without notice

or the permission of customers.

Is iRobot making a robot that is helping with house chores, or is it a robot to spy on us? Personally, I believe it's more of a spying tool, a way for the company to make more money for themselves,

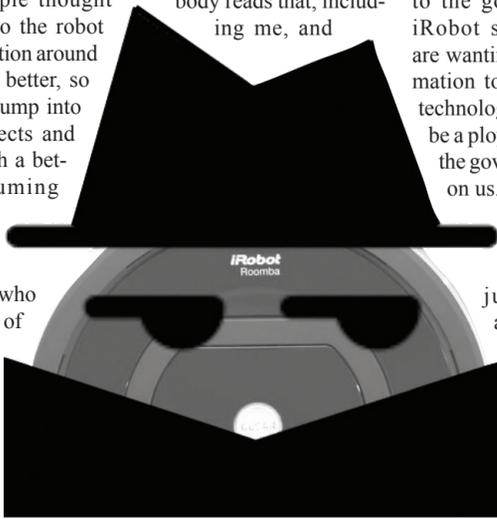
and they are just telling us that it will help with the smart home technology.

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cial media sites that go hand in hand with what was searched. Will

data base gets hacked? Then that hacker has maps of many houses.



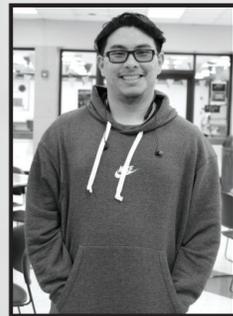
has to approve before using? If so, hardly anybody reads that, including me, and

Word on the Street How do you stay motivated?



"The easiest thing is to think about how I am one step closer to where I want to be. It's easier to think of the future and getting ahead in life, instead of just worrying about another test or exam that's coming up."

Alexis Garcia
Microbiology
Freshman
Lubbock



"I constantly check my schedule and try to keep myself up to date on what I need to do. I also try to look at where I want to be in the future, and that helps me reach those goals."

Caleb Rosales
Business Administration
Freshman
Lubbock



"I just study and try to plan out everything that I have to do. I do this every day. I plan out my homework and how much time I have to put into studying for all of my classes. That's how I get my work done without stressing myself out."

Prachi Sharma
Nursing
Sophomore
Muleshoe



"I use my future as motivation. I'm looking forward to getting a job and being successful. But for my classes, I study hard and I read the books to help me be successful in my classes."

Trent Rolan
Criminal Justice
Sophomore
Brownfield



"I like to take a good break and take some time to relax while I study. It helps me destress and kind of helps me revamp for the next semester. What also keeps me motivated is knowing that I'm almost there."

Julissa Mireles
Criminal Justice
Freshman
Ropesville



"First of all, I want to make a 4.0, so that keeps me engaged in my schoolwork. Secondly, I just want to gain as much knowledge as I can because I never know if I may need that information, and that keeps me motivated."

Francis Nizigiyimana
Biology
Sophomore
Burundi

Compiled by Kaitlyn Hyde

Social media dependency detrimental to other aspects of life



by **KAITLYN HYDE**
Photo Editor

Social networking addiction is a phrase that is used to refer to someone spending too much time using Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other forms of social media.

The overuse of social media is getting worse in society, to the point where it interferes with other aspects of daily life.

There's no official medical understanding of social networking addiction as a disease or disorder. Still, the cluster of behaviors that is associated with the excessive use of social media has become the subject of research.

It is fair to say that many

people spend far too much time on social media and may, at the very least, describe themselves as being "obsessed," if not addicted.

Addiction usually refers to compulsive behavior that often leads to negative effects. With most addictions, people feel compelled to do certain activities so often that it becomes a harmful habit, which then interferes with other important activities such as work or school.

The use of social networking sites has become the cornerstone of modern communication

the impact that modern technology has on our lives – both positive and negative.

On the positive side, social media outlets such as Skype, Instagram, and Facebook allow for staying in contact with family and friends on the other side of the planet.

Unfortunately, people spend hours every day updating their status, uploading pictures, commenting on walls, playing Facebook games, reading updates from others, and searching for new friends to add.

From a mental health perspective, I see concerns that have been raised about the negative impact of the excessive use of social networking sites on the health and wellbeing of users, especially of young people who are enthusiastic users of this technology.

I have read about a few studies that were conducted in 2011 that found that, for a small minority of individuals, there was a significant detrimental effect on many aspects of their life, including their real-life relationships and academic achievement among those still in education. It had been argued by researchers

that such signs are indicative of addiction.

During the past few years, there has been a rapid increase in studies that assess how excessive social media use

excessive checking habits, which often derives from what is commonly labelled as one's "fear of missing out."

The good news is that very few people

eating out with friends or constantly checking your smartphone while watching a movie in a theater.

Some people may consider excessive use



and connection, as it allows users to create a sense of belonging.

In recent years, the mental health community has become increasingly interested in

can impact health negatively. Social media use for a minority of individuals is associated with a number of psychological problems, including anxiety, depression, loneliness, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, and addiction.

Because social media is most frequently accessed via smartphones, their usage is intimately intertwined. Their mobile nature contributes to

are genuinely addicted to social media. However, social media use is habitual for many, and it can start to spill over into other areas of their lives, becoming

problematic and dangerous.

Other behaviors may be annoying rather than dangerous, but may be indicative of problematic social media use, such as checking social media while

of social networks to be a phenomenon that first began in the 1990s when internet use was starting to spread. Even then, people theorized that heavy use of the Internet might impair someone's performance at work, in school, and in family relationships.

Nearly 20 years later, there is still no agreement that excessive use of the Internet or social networking services is pathological or should be considered a medical disorder.

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Lack of regulation concerning for parents, YouTubers



by **VICTORIA DE SOUZA**
Opinion Editor

The lack of regulation by Youtube to protect children who use the video platform is causing concern for parents and YouTubers.

The controversy concerning child exploration on Youtube became a trending topic in less than 24 hours on other social media such as Twitter.

Even though this situation has been exposed before on the Internet, the

hashtag #YoutubeWakeUP received even more attention after February 17 of this year when YouTuber Matt Watson updated the video, "Youtube is facilitating the sexual exploitation of children, and it's being monetized."

Watson's video talks about how the Youtube search algorithm can easily uncover pedophilia rings on the video service, and there is evidence that those videos are being monetized for brands such as McDonald's, Lysol, Disney, and Reese's, among others.

video to very inappropriate content. The algorithm at Youtube will keep providing more videos with this kind of content since that was the last topic searched.

Quickly after a search for "bikini haul," you can find videos from older women to young girls. Searching brings to the viewer very similar content and eventually becomes a "wormhole," which happens when you get stuck in one kind of content on Youtube. The content starts to involve children in inappropriate situations, or just a normal video that is sexualized by those individuals. In many of those videos, young girls are wearing a bikini or small clothes.

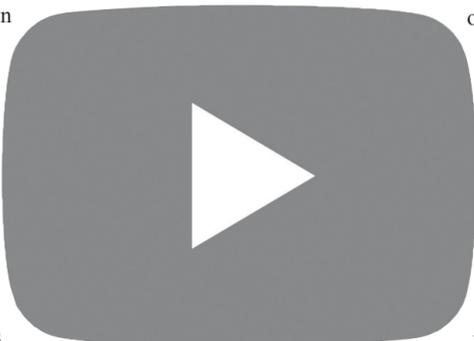
The comments usually can be found by predators exchanging phone numbers, social media con-



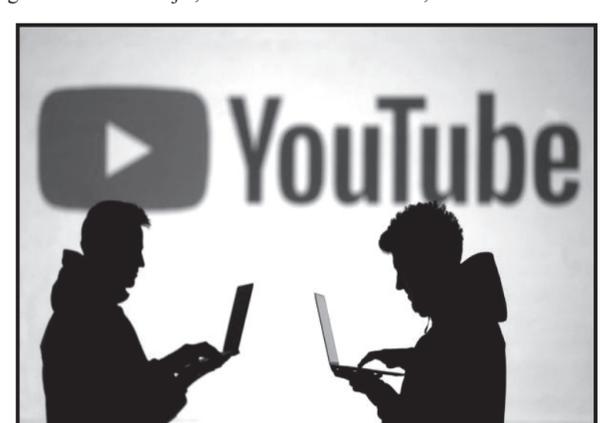
tacts and links to actual child pornography. They also comment with suggestive sexual emojis, and

timestamps. The timestamps are a comment of a specific time in the video. In this situation, those

duce content if one of the rules of enrollment is a person must be older than 13?



The video shows how a Youtube user can, in less than five clicks, or less than 10 minutes, move from a normal, innocent



encourage those young girls to make more content such as demonstrating gymnastic or yoga poses, trying clothes on, showing "morning routines" or licking popsicles.

In those videos can be found one of the characteristics of these predators in the comments, which are the

timestamps mark a position or actions that the are found to be provocative or the minor exposed a little bit too much by accident.

Also alarming is the fact that many of those videos are not on the original channel, as it is believed that predators record and re-upload after Youtube has taken the right measures to avoid exposing children to those situations.

Youtube is still allowing people to see the videos but removing the ability to write comments.

It shows that Youtube is aware that the unusual behavior exists. In response to the situation, Youtube changed the policy on video related to kids or focused on children.

Also, around 400 channels were

banned from the platform, and the comments were disabled on a huge number of videos. Disabling the comments is basically one of Youtube's ways to 'protect' children from inappropriate comments.

Youtube has updated their policy and started to apply a policy of three strikes before a channel or account is deleted from the platform.

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Universities suffer from waning meritocracy



by **AUSTIN CARTER**
Editorial Assistant

Ambitious students are forced to cope with the reality that the prestigious colleges and universities they aspire to attend don't handle admissions fairly in light of the largest prosecuted college admissions scandal in United States history.

The FBI investigation has resulted in dozens of people being charged, including actresses Felicity Huffman and Lori Loughlin. In the actresses' efforts to buy their children's way into universities, they were charged with conspiracy to commit mail fraud and honest services mail fraud. Also among the accused

are business executives and a fashion designer, all people who can afford to bribe administrators, counselors and coaches through the guise of donation. Rich parents can give their children the opportunity to achieve the most prestigious degrees, while the top universities can build things such as new libraries without digging into their coffers. The investigation revealed that this influx of unearned admissions has been going on since 2011, and perhaps longer.

With anecdotal accounts of shifty admissions practices springing up through the years, and the fact that most attendees of Ivy League universities hail from rich families, the scandal is more disheartening than shocking. Usually, Ivy League universities admit less than 10 percent of applicants, meaning good students full of potential who have worked hard their entire lives to maintain a high grade-point average can be edged out by students who bring millions of dollars

in donations with them. Currently, no universities have been charged, but coaches have allegedly given students fabricated histories in athletics to make them more appealing as applicants.

Many students still believe in the American dream, the idea that hard work and perseverance can lead to prosperity. But opportunity is not fairly distributed. Students who are not affluent can't afford to wait for years hoping they make the cut one lucky semester, regardless if they barely lost their spot to an underperforming library builder. While colleges are commonly understood to be places of academia, brilliant applicants who aren't edged out by corruption may still be rejected in favor of athletes.

Surveys have shown that most Americans believe in meritocracy, the idea that opportunity and success should be afforded based on a person's merit. Most people believe in the logic that people are entitled

to what they fairly earn and shouldn't have their

the university is not forcing all applicants

decades. Students should strive to seize their potential



Huffman (left), Loughlin (right)

opportunities usurped by a less competent person. If universities put an end to underhanded admission practices, they still wouldn't be able to have a system based purely on meritocracy because of the prevalence of affirmative action.

Affirmative action started in 1961 as an executive order to prohibit institutionalized discrimination. But it quickly turned into a tool for universities to maintain admissions quotas for gender and race. Universities have strived to meet these quotas, whether or not each race or gender offers enough candidates who meet its academic standards. Schools such as Harvard have been sued over admitting students for diversity, not only accepting the best applicants of that race, but a mix of elite and lesser students.

Not accepting only the best ensures

of the same race to compete with each other, but can lead to genius students being turned away. Harvard claims it does not enforce quotas, but a lawsuit against them threatens to remove race

and never forget that merit does still carry weight in admissions. But with the astronomical number of applicants Ivy League universities receive each year and the shifty admissions practices that have been

brought to light, students should be



from the application process so students may be judged solely on merit.

Diversity and donations that improve the quality of life on campus are great things, but both have been attained through dubious means by universities for

prepared for rejection and always have a backup plan. Keeping an open mind about which university to attend and improving grades are a student's best hope of getting a quality education.

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The College Admissions SCANDAL BY THE NUMBERS

- Parents paid between **\$15,000 and \$75,000** per ACT or SAT to have someone like the test for their children
- The scandal sparked conversation about **wealth disparities** in elite universities and Affirmative Action
- 50** parents were indicted in the scandal
- Celebrities involved in the scheme included actresses Felicity Huffman and Lori Loughlin

Veterans Affairs reforms leading to more efficient care, less pill pushing



by **MICHAEL MANGEL**
Staff Writer

The healthcare services offered to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs is one of the most disorganized, understaffed and heavily criticized agencies of the government.

On average, 22 veterans a day commit suicide, according to Task and Purpose, a veteran-run online newsletter. What's not said about this is that the majority of the people

who take their own lives are older than 50. It's not necessarily those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

The VA is not adapting with the times. They are focused on those returning home and forgetting about those who served previously. They are not seeking their needs. So when veterans feel abandoned, they tend to feel that no one cares about them, resulting in them taking their own life.

President Donald Trump recently signed into effect a suicide prevention Task force on March 5, 2018. This is the first time the VA is seeking to do something other than push pills. The VA has seemed to be about a quick fix and not a long-term, permanent solution.

One former submariner living in Minnesota spent the better part of a decade high on pain pills

rather than being given physical therapy and pain management. His quality of life drastically declined because he was unable to attend school. He would forget what to do during the day because of his pain medication that he needed to take to be able to function.

Through the years, his body built up a tolerance to the point that a 30-day supply of pain pills was only lasting him 15 days. It got as bad as only lasting 10 days. The VA did not refill his prescriptions because of fear of addiction, but addiction had already set in.

It was not until the VA started allowing veterans to see outside doctors that this veteran was able to seek physical therapy for his injury pain management, as well receive counseling and many other medical

services needed for him to live a normal life.

Aside from the VA just being pill pushers,

All hope is not lost, though. The new VA director



This is not a stand-alone story. There are many other stories like this out there, and I don't believe this is the way veterans should be treated for the sacrifice they put forth. They need

they left \$6.2 million set aside for suicide prevention. That's money that could've

seems to be going in a new direction, allowing people to see doctors outside of the VA clinic in a timely manner instead of having to wait months for appointments. He has increased awareness of the suicide prevention hotline, and has made counseling more available for more service members.

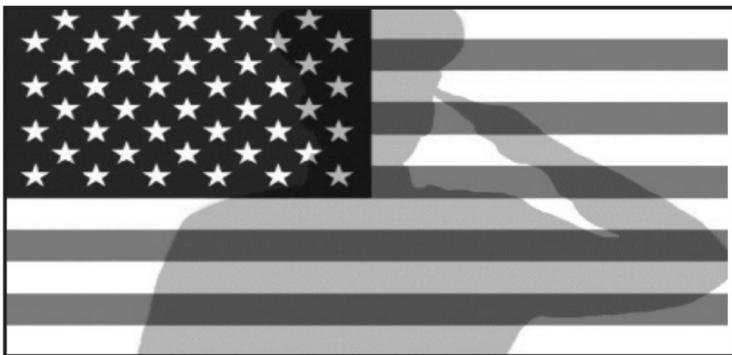
No government entity will ever be perfect, but it's nice to see one trying to get better.



better healthcare when they return home, whether they served four years or 30 years. They need better healthcare options, and they need more treatment than just pills.

been used to hire more counselors or staff and improve the VA clinics. There are many things I could do with that money, but they just let it sit there.

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Lady Texans fall short despite strong performance

by **KENDALL RAINER**
Associate Editor/
Sports Editor

The South Plains College women's basketball team fell short in the third round of the NJCAA Division I National Championship tournament despite strong play in the first two games.

The No. 10-ranked Lady Texans matched up against the No. 2-ranked Gulf Coast State College

the offensive end from Gulf Coast's Dominique Banks, then knocked down both free throws to put SPC up by one (66-65) with 1:34 left on the clock. Gulf Coast answered with two free throws after a foul by freshman Sarah Shematsi, bringing Gulf Coast back up by one at 67-66 with 1:17 remaining.

The next minute remained scoreless until Gulf Coast's Farcy Lya hit a free throw after

clock. Sophomore Gabbie Green drove down the court as the clock was ticking down and shot a last-ditch three-point attempt that fell short with only two seconds left on the clock.

Hunter led the scoring for SPC, recording a double-double with 17 points and 13 rebounds. Hunter was 7-for-16 from the floor and 3-for-5 from the free-throw line. Green had 14 points in her final game as a Lady Texan,

hitting six of her 15 shots from the field, including 2-for-5 from three-point range. Green also recorded four rebounds, three assists and two steals.

"I could not be more proud of every player on our team's effort," said Petree. "There wasn't a lot left out there. It was a one-possession game. One little 'my bad' over the course of 40 minutes determined a battle between two really good teams."

Shematsi scored 11 points on 4-for-12 shooting from the field, including 3-for-9 from the three-point line. Freshman Ruth Koang contributed

seven points, knocking down two of her six shots from the field and going

3-for-4 at the free throw line.

Germond and Oceane Robin each had six points. Germond was 2-for-8 from the field, hitting two three-pointers, while Robin went 3-for-7 from the field and had two rebounds.

The Lady Texans shot 36.6 percent from the field and 27.6 percent from beyond the three-point arch.

SPC topped Seward County Community College 87-61 in the second round of the NJCAA National Tournament on March 20 at the Rip Griffin Center in Lubbock.

Shematsi led the scoring for the Lady Texans with 28 points, knocking down 11 of her 20 attempts from the floor. She also was 4-for-7 from behind the three-point arch, and pulled down three rebounds. Hunter recorded a double-double with 20 points and 16 rebounds in her 29 minutes on the hardwood.

Govan and Germond poured in eight points each. Govan shot 3-for-6 from the field, including 2-for-4 from the three-point line. Germond also shot 3-for-6 from the field, including 2-for-4 from behind the three-point arc.

Koang grabbed eight points on 4-for-9 shoot-

ing from the field. Green scored six points, hitting two shots from the field. She also grabbed 13 rebounds and six assists. Robin had seven points on 3-for-5 shooting from the field and shot 50 percent from the three-point line.

SPC shot 46.7 percent from the floor and 40.9 percent from behind the

Govan had seven points and five rebounds on 2-for-6 shooting from the field. She also was 3-of-5 at the free-throw line.

SPC shot 38.2 percent from the floor and 33.3 percent from beyond three-point arch.

The Lady Texans competed in the NJCAA Re-



Sophomore Keke Hunter driving towards the basket against Gulf Coast State College in the NJCAA National Championship Tournament in Lubbock on March 21.

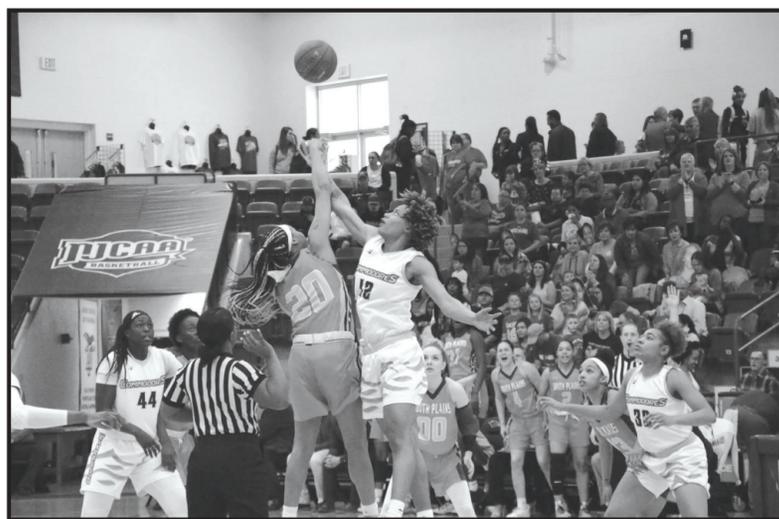


in the Elite-Eight round of the NJCAA National Tournament held on March 21 at the Rip Griffin Center on the campus of Lubbock Christian University.

"I've said all year that I thought we were two of the best teams in the country," said Cayla Petree, head women's basketball coach at SPC, at the post-game press conference. "They're a team full of Division I players, and they have maybe the best coach in junior college basketball, so this game was nothing less than expected."

Sophomore Keke Hunter drew a foul on

a foul by freshman Caroline Germond with 12 seconds left on the



three-point arch. The Lady Texans also out rebounded the Lady Saints 51-25.

SPC routed Harford Community College 77-52 in the first round of the NJCAA National Tournament on March 18 at the Rip Griffin Center in Lubbock.

Hunter and Germond led the scoring for the Lady Texans. Hunter recorded a double-double with 19 points and 12 rebounds, shooting 6-for-11 from the floor. Germond shot 7-for-13 from the field and was 4-for-8 from the three-point line, finishing with 19 points as well.

Shematsi poured in 11 points on 4-for-13 shooting from the field and was 3-for-8 from behind the three-point arc. Green added nine points, hitting three shots from the field, including one three-pointer.

gion V tournament on March 6 - March 9 on the campus of Abilene Christian University.

SPC defeated Ranger College 50-44 in the first game of the Region V tournament on March 6. Hunter and Shematsi paced the Lady Texans with 21 points and 14 points, respectively.

The Lady Texans later fell to Odessa College in their second game of the tournament. Green led the scoring with 19 points, while Hunter was close behind with 18 points.

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Photos by
AUTUMN BIPPERT AND KENDALL RAINER/ PLAINSMAN PRESS

Women place third at NJCAA National Indoor Championship

by **KENDALL RAINER**
Associate Editor/
Sports Editor

Freshman Dorcus Ewoi was crowned the national champion in the women's mile run, while the South Plains College women's track and field team took home the bronze medal in the team standings at the NJCAA National Indoor Championship.

The championship meet was held March 1 and March 2 in Pittsburg, Kansas.

The Lady Texans finished with 63 team points. Barton County

placed first in the team standings with 119 points, while New Mexico Junior College placed second with 103 points.

Sophomore Ruth Usoro placed fifth in the women's 60-meter dash with a time of 7.56, adding four points for the Lady Texans. Usoro also placed second in the women's triple jump with a jump of 41 feet, 0.25 inches, garnering eight more points.

Ewoi captured the national championship in the women's mile run with a time of 5:03.16. Freshman Gladys Jemaiyo finished sixth with a time of 5:09.46. The two

combined for 13 points in the event.

Jemaiyo and Ewoi also placed second and third, respectively, in the women's 3,000-meter run. Jemaiyo crossed the line at 10:11.58, while Ewoi finished with a time of 10:12.79.

Jemaiyo placed third in the women's 5,000-meter run, clocking a time of 17:16.70.

In the 4x800 meter relay, Itzel Garcia-Santos, Nyia Sena, Angela Rodriguez, and Lynda Martinez finished fourth with a time of 9:36.25. In the women's 4x400 meter relay, Janiel Moore, Patrice Moody, Hanah

Mills, and Elon'a Jones added three more points with a time of 3:58.34.

The Texans placed fifth in the team standings with 53 points. Iowa Central placed first with 90.5 points, followed by Barton County (Kansas) with 80 points. Cloud County placed third with 63 points, and Coffeyville (Kansas) finished fourth with 59.5.

Deion Lightfoot added nine points for the Texans by placing third in the men's 60-meter hurdles with a time of 8.04. Denvaughn Whymns finished sixth in the event with a time of 8.13.

In the men's 60-meter

dash, sophomore Willari Watson finished sixth overall with a time of 6.81, adding three points.

In the men's 6x800 meter relay, Japhet Toroitich, Ulyses Cardoza, Bosquez, and Yusuf Mohammed finished fifth with a time of 7:50.55.

In the men's 3,000-meter run, freshman Alex Kitum finished seventh, crossing the line at 8:31.79 and earning two points.

Sophomore Bryson Deberry tacked on eight points for the Texans in the men's high jump, placing second after clearing the bar at 7 feet, 0.50 inches. In the men's

long jump, sophomore Holland Martin placed second with a leap of 25 feet, adding eight points, while Whymns placed third in the event with a mark of 24 feet, 7.75 inches, picking up six points for the Texans.

Martin also placed second in the men's triple jump and tacked on eight more points with a leap of 51 feet, 5.50 inches. In the men's pole vault, freshman Rylan Olguin added four points with a fourth-place finish, clearing the bar at 14 feet, 9 inches.

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Texans make Final Four appearance at NJCAA National Championship

by **KENDALL RAINER**
Associate Editor/
Sports Editor

After capturing a national title a year ago, the South Plains College men's basketball team advanced to the 2019 NJCAA Division I National Championship Tournament, but fell short after reaching the final four.

The second-seeded Texans fell to No. 3 seed Vincennes State College (Indiana) 85-67 in a semifinal game of the NJCAA tournament.

The NJCAA tournament was held on March 18 - March 23 in Hutchinson, Kansas.

SPC didn't allow the Trailblazers to secure much of a lead for the majority of the first half, controlling Vincennes' lead to within one or two possessions until the final four minutes. The Trailblazers utilized a 13-7 run in a four-minute span to widen the gap to 38-31 by the end of the first half.

The Texans regained some ground at the beginning of the second half, tying the game at 47 after two made free throws from sophomore Deon Barrett with 14:32 on the clock. Vincennes then went on an 11-1 run in the next two minutes to take a 10-point lead at 58-48.

Despite the Texans'

best efforts, the Trailblazers continued to tack on points, increasing the deficit through the remainder of the second half.

Sophomore Gaige Prim led the scoring for the Texans, recording a double-double with 29 points and 15 rebounds, despite having to return to the bench after picking up

Sophomore Chris Orlina poured in 14 points, knocking down four of his nine attempts from the floor. Barrett added seven points, shooting 2-for-6 from the field, including one three-pointer. Sophomore Jonah Antonio chipped in six points on 2-for-7 shooting from the floor, hitting a pair of three-pointers

of his free-throw attempts in his 13 minutes on the hardwood.

Despite shooting 43.8 percent from the floor, the Texans were out-rebounded 30-40 and had a 14-4 turnover margin.

SPC topped Eastern Florida State College 82-74 in the Elite-Eight round of the NJCAA tournament on March 21.

Orlina led all scorers with 23 points, shooting 6-for-10 from the field, including 2-of-4 from behind the three-point arch. Orlina also hit nine free-throws and pulled down six rebounds. Barrett poured in 19 points on 6-for-13 shooting from the field, including 5-of-10 from behind the three-point arc.

Prim recorded a double-double with 16 points and 10 rebounds, shooting 4-for-6 from the floor and adding eight points from the free-throw line. Sophomore Trey Wade had nine points on 4-for-7 shooting.

Sophomore Koray Gilbert added seven points, while Antonio had five and sophomore Charles Jennings had three.

The Texans shot 49.1 percent from the field and 37 percent from the three-point arch. They also out-rebounded the Titans 37-26.

SPC knocked out Trinity Valley Community College 82-75 in the Sweet 16 round of the NJCAA tournament on March 19.

Prim and Wade led the scoring for the Texans. Prim poured in 22 points on 6-for-10 shooting from the field. He also hit 10 free throws and grabbed nine rebounds. Wade shot 10-for-16 from the field, including one three-pointer, accumulating 22 points as well.

Barrett recorded 15 points, shooting 4-for-9 from the field, including 3-for-7 from behind the three-point arc. Antonio added 12 points on 4-for-11 shooting from the field.

SPC shot 49.1 percent from the field and 35

percent from the three-point line.

The Texans competed in the NJCAA Region V tournament held on March 7 - March 9 at the Moody Coliseum in Abilene.

In the first round, SPC topped Temple College 87-79 on March 7. Wade recorded a career-high 31 points in the victory.

The Texans then defeated Ranger College 85-75 in the semifinals of the Region V tournament on March 8. Prim and Orlina paced SPC with 29 points and 18 points, respectively.

The Texans secured the Region V title after pushing past Odessa College 73-71 in the Finals on March 9. Prim led the scoring with 27 points, while Orlina wasn't far behind with 20 points in the win.

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Gaige Prim drives toward the basket at the NJCAA National Championship tournament in Hutchinson, Kansas held on March 18 - March 23.

Photo courtesy of Wes Underwood/Marketing and Recruitment

his fourth foul early in the second half. Prim shot 10-for-16 from the field, with nine of his points coming from the free-throw line.

Redshirt-freshman Christian Wilson tossed in six points off of the bench, shooting 2-for-2 from the field and hit both

Teams impress at Sweetwater Rodeo

by **MICHEAL MANGEL**
Staff Writer

The South Plains College men's and women's rodeo teams won three events at the Ranger College Rodeo, drawing them closer to the top of the Southwest Region.

The Lady Texans finished third on the weekend after earning 162 points. Tarleton State won with 310 points, while Weatherford College placed second with 180 points.

The Texans finished fourth with 225 points. Ahead of them were Western Texas College with 310 points, Weatherford College with 495 points and Tarleton State with 595 points.

The event was held March 24 in Sweetwater.

With three rodeos left, the Lady Texans

are currently sitting in third place in the region with 1,324.5 points. They trail Tarleton State and Weatherford College, who have a 2,245 and 1,505 points, respectively. The Texans are in fourth

7.6 in the long round and 6.7 in the finals.

The Texans had two cowboys in the steer wrestling finals. Logan Wiseman won the event with 123.3 points. Dawson Stewart grappled his way

with a time of 12.4 in the finals, collecting 120 points.

The Texans gained another 20 points when Colton McCarley paired up with Texas Tech's Cameron McCarley. They averaged 19.0 for the rodeo.

McCarley was one of three Texans competing in the tiedown roping finals. He placed fifth with a time of 19.6 and was awarded 55 points.

Hayden Cloward placed sixth in tiedown roping with a time of 23.0 and earned 20 points for the Texans. Britton Bedke placed seventh with a time of 109.5. He ran the fast time in the long round, before missing the finals and received 50 points.

The two teams return to action on April 4 at the Western Texas College Rodeo in Snyder.

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A member of the men's rodeo team practices in preparation for the next competition at the Western Texas College Rodeo in Snyder on April 4.

KAITLYN HYDE/PLAINSMAN PRESS

place in the region standings with 2,155 points, while Tarleton, Weatherford and Clarendon are the front runners now.

Freshman Elle Eagles led all Texans with 150 points and an average of 14.3 in goat tying. She placed first with a time of

to third place, adding 80 points to the total. Wiseman had a time of 4.7 in the long run and 3.9 in the finals. Stewart had times of 4.9 in the long round and 4.6 in the finals.

Stefan Ramone teamed up with Tarleton State cowboy Jhett Trenary in team roping. They placed

Track teams open outdoor season with top performances

by **KENDALL RAINER**
Associate Editor/
Sports Editor

The South Plains College men's and women's track and field teams opened the outdoor season by earning multiple event titles in their first two meets.

The teams competed in the Fearless Champions Open held on March 23 on the campus of Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

In the women's 1,500-meter run, freshman Dorcus Ewoi placed first with a time of 4:44.20. Freshman Gladys Jemaiyo placed third, posting a time of 4:52.26.

Sophomore Ruth Usoro placed first in the women's 200 meters, crossing the line at 23.46.

In the men's 110-meter hurdles, sophomore Deion Lightfoot placed first with a time of 14.30. Not far behind was freshman Decoven Young, who placed seventh with a time of 14.74. Sophomore Brandon Letts placed third in the men's 100-meter dash, posting a time of 10.43.

In the 400-meter hurdles, Lightfoot placed fifth with a time of 53.09. Japhet Toroitich placed first in the men's 800 meters, crossing the finish line at 1:56.36.

In the men's 4,000-meter run, Jesse Madrid placed first with a time of 15:26.85, while Filmon Beyene clocked a time of 15:45.06, good enough for fourth place. In the men's 1,500-meter run, sophomore Andrew Bosquez placed second with a time of 4:00.93.

Letts, A.J. Pemberton, Adrese Atkins and Willari Watson placed second in the men's 4x100 meter relay with a time of 40.05.

D'Juan Martin placed fourth in the men's long jump with a leap of 23 feet, 3.25 inches. Denaughn Whymns placed fifth with

a mark of 22 feet, 7.75 inches.

In the men's high jump, Bryson Deberry placed second, clearing the bar at 6 feet, 11 inches on his second attempt.

The teams opened the outdoor season by taking three event titles at the Wes Kittley Invitational held on March 16 on the campus of Abilene Christian University.

Bosquez placed first in the men's 1,500-meter run with a time of 3:59.93. In the men's 100-meter hurdles, Whymns placed first with a time of 14.39, while Lightfoot placed second with a time of 14.46.

In the men's 100-meter dash, Willari Watson placed second, crossing the finish line at 10.71.

Alex Kitum placed third in the men's 5,000-meter run, posting a time of 15:12.28. In the men's 3,000-meter steeplechase, Madrid placed third with a time of 9:50.06.

Deberry placed first in the men's high jump, clearing the bar at 7 feet, 1 inch on his third attempt. In the men's hammer throw, sophomore Riley Finnegan placed second with a throw of 135 feet, 5 inches.

Freshman Bryce Spencer placed third in the men's javelin throw, hitting a mark of 183 feet, 7 inches.

In the women's 1,500-meter run, Ewoi placed fourth with a time of 4:54.10. Jemaiyo placed third in the women's 5,000-meter run, crossing the line at 17:41.86.

In the women's 400-meters, Janiel Moore placed third with a time of 58.58. Freshman Hanah Mills placed fifth with a time of 59.48.

In the women's javelin, freshman Akira Phillip placed fourth with a throw of 134 feet, 7 inches.

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Diggin' Dogs...

Prairie Dog Town offers refuge, tourist attraction

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

The prairie dog has been around for thousands of years, although little has been recorded of its lifestyle until recent history. Most Americans have heard of the little animal but have never seen one or known what it does and why.

Once the most abundant mammals in North America, Prairie dogs have lost 95 percent of their population due to hunting, poisoning and habitat loss. Prairie Dog Town is helping to preserve the population that is still in the Lubbock area.

Prairie Dog Town is located inside Mackenzie Park in Lubbock, overlooking Meadowbrook Golf Course. There is no admission charge, and it is open to the public year round from dawn to dusk daily.

"Prairie Dog Town was started by the original park superintendent



established in Mackenzie Park in the early 1930's by Kennedy Clapp and his wife. When the government's poisoning program became in effect, they were alarmed at what might happen to the prairie dog population.

When it was first started as the first protected prairie dog colony of its kind, there were only four dogs and two burrows.

"Every year when the pups are born, of course it changes drastically, and then they go out into the rest of the community

age 2, breed only once a year, and the average litter size is three to four pups. Their lifespan is typically four to five years in the wild.

The prairie dog colony was moved to the current location when Mackenzie Park became a state park in 1935.

Within five years at its current location, Prairie Dog Town became a tourist attraction for the city of Lubbock. The 2004 Lubbock Convention and Visitors Bureau tourism study showed Prairie Dog Town as the fifth most visited attraction in Lubbock by visitors from outside the city.

"It's year round, we have people driving in," Gallagher said. "People will be running down the interstate from Amarillo. They'll drive down just to see the prairie dogs. It happens all the time."

The City of Lubbock's website provides a Prairie Dog fact sheet, along with a scanned booklet "Our Comic friend the Prairie Dog and the story of Prairie Dog Town, Texas!"

In 2004, Prairie Dog Town had a major

Meadowbrook Golf Course. The renovation to Prairie Dog Town included a pavilion and viewing area, interpretive signage, sidewalks,

the "listening room" or "barking room," located about six feet below the entrance.

The prairie dog is a social creature with others of its kind. It lives in colonies, or towns, that consist of dozens or hundreds of individual, adjacent burrows. Each burrow is occupied by single family of two adults and several pups who go about their daily routines. At one time, West Texas contained thousands of prairie dog towns with a total estimated population of just under one billion. One town covered 37,000 acres and housed 400 million prairie dogs.

Prairie dogs are

create an environment around their colonies that provide homes and shelter for a myriad of creatures.

The Black-tailed Prairie Dog also is a critical food source for a number of animals. Since Black-tailed Prairie Dogs are the only prairie dog species, and one of only a few rodents that do not hibernate in the winter, they are vitally important winter food sources for prairie predators. Biologists have concluded that nine prairie species are dependent on prairie dogs and an additional 20 species opportunistically take advantage of prairie dog colonies. A total of 117 species have some relationship with prairie dog colonies. Those



for the Lubbock Park Department," explained Ronny Gallagher, the park operations manager for the City of Lubbock. "As a way to try to preserve that portion of what they

and the rest of the area," Gallagher explained about the current population. "And so we never have a clue as far as exactly how many are in there."

Prairie dogs have a

with a scanned booklet "Our Comic friend the Prairie Dog and the story of Prairie Dog Town, Texas!"

In 2004, Prairie Dog Town had a major

a new parking area with a turnaround and bus parking, perimeter fencing, and ADA accessibility.

The prairie dogs dig elaborate systems of burrows in flat prairie lands to create "towns" that are comprised of many different tunnels. The burrows are easily identified because of the large mound of dirt surrounding the entrance, providing a vantage point to spot approaching predators as well as flood protection.

The burrow is dug straight down, or at a slight angle, for 12 to 20 feet, where it then runs

primarily vegetarian, living on grasses, herbs and weeds. Occasionally, they will supplement their diet with grasshoppers, beetles, spiders and other small insects. Like



species that are considered dependent on prairie dogs include the Burrowing owl, the Golden eagle, the Ferruginous hawk and the Black-footed ferret.

The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies stated in their Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Memorandum of Understanding in 1999 that: "All member affected agencies agree that Black-tailed Prairie Dogs are an important natural component of the short to mid-grass ecosystem. As such, Black-tailed Prairie Dogs serve as an indicator of the overall health of this important habitat type in western North

America. Further, the presence and abundance of Black-tailed Prairie Dogs reflects humankind's commitment to maintaining all natural components of the short to mid-grass ecosystem so that all uses of this type are sustainable over time."

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Photos by **AUTUMN BIPPERT AND KENDALL RAINER/ PLAINSMAN PRESS**



thought was a vanishing part of the Lubbock area prairie."

Prairie Dog Town was

low rate of reproduction compared with other small mammals. They become reproductively viable at

renovation with funding from Premier Golf, the management company for the City of Lubbock's

carpet, toilet, nursery, dry room, turnaround room and pantry. The conning tower of the burrow is

their cousin, the desert rat, prairie dogs do not drink water but get needed body moisture from their food.

"Like most wild animals, we cannot feed them," Gallagher said. "They fend for themselves. And the reasoning being when you feed a population like that, you create an artificial food source. So you'll create an artificial population load, and then when that artificial food source disappears then you have mass starvation."

The Black-tailed Prairie Dog is a "keystone species," defined as one whose presence and activities are critical to the entire ecosystem. They