



Distinguished Alumni honored for working as physician in White House

by **ADÁN RUBIO**
News Editor

Lejeune in Jacksonville, N.C., in 2005. In 2016, he was promoted to the position of physician by President Barack Obama and remained in that position through the change in administration. For his career accomplishments, Dr. Jackson will be recognized at the 2018 SPC Distinguished

Alumni Presidential Reception at 5 p.m. and the All Employees Recognition Banquet on May 10 at 6 p.m. at the Texan Dome on the Levelland campus. He will also be recognized during the 60th Annual Commencement Ceremony on May 11 at the Texan Dome.

said Smith. “To be considered for our Distinguished Alum awards, you have to exemplify great characteristics in your career field and your community.”

From being deployed in Iraq to working in the White House, one South Plains College alum has strived to serve his country.

Dr. Ronny Jackson, a Levelland native and current physician to the president of the United States, recently was nominated by President Donald Trump for a position as the Veterans’ Affairs Secretary.

Dr. Jackson will be honored as the college’s 2018 Distinguished Alumni for demonstrating exceptional qualities throughout his career.

After graduating from Levelland High School, Dr. Jackson attended SPC and received his associate’s degree in science in 1988. He received his bachelor’s degree in Marine Biology at Texas A&M University in 1991, and later graduated with a doctorate in medicine at the University of Texas Medical Branch in 1995.

Dr. Jackson completed his residency training at the Portsmouth Naval Medical Center in Virginia in 2004, before joining the Second Marines Combat Logistics Regiment 25 at Camp



Dr. Ronny Jackson, physician for President Donald Trump, has been selected to receive the Distinguished Alumni honor. Photo Courtesy of Stephanie Smith/Alumni Relations

Dr. Jackson was promoted to the position of physician by President Barack Obama and remained in that position through the change in administration. For his career accomplishments, Dr. Jackson will be recognized at the 2018 SPC Distinguished

Waymon Jackson, Ronny’s father and former mayor of Levelland, said he is really excited about his son being nominated for the position.

“I think he will do a great job,” said Jackson. “I feel it is a great deal.”

Jackson also said he appreciates that his son is being recognized at SPC as the 2018 Distinguished Alumni.

The Distinguished Alumni award was not a yearly award when it was first established in 1987.

According to Stephanie Smith, SPC Alumni Relations coordinator, the award was only given every five years due to the lack of an alumni relations position. But the honor is now awarded to a few alums each year.

“Since 2016, it’s been a yearly award process,”

Smith said that a lot of work is put into selecting the Distinguished Alumni from nominations submitted by community members, faculty and staff.

“Whenever those are then submitted, they are presented to our Distinguished Alumni Recommendation Committee,” said Smith. “That committee is currently made up of SPC faculty and staff. Here in the next couple of years, we are going to add alumni on to that committee.”

Reading close to 15 to 20 nominations is the main task of the committee that Smith said requires a lot of consideration. Once the committee decides on the top four nominees, the nominations are sent to SPC President Dr. Robin Satterwhite for the final decision.

As the Alumni Relations coordinator, Smith said she does a lot of work

See “Former” on pg. 2

Participants display talent in Annual Speech CommiCon

by **MEGHAN ARNOLD**
Editorial Assistant

Students competed for prizes and scholarships through public speaking during the Second Annual Speech CommiCon at South Plains College.

A total of 20 students participated in the event,

Joe Juarez with “Taking Risks,” Alexiah Meil with “Ocean Pollution,” Chris Mullins with “Eating Less Red Meat- Health Benefits of Seafood,” Duke Cullins with “Magellan Pants,” Caleb Scoggins with “Ideas Have Consequences,” and Sarah Reyes with “Benefits of Working at Chick-Fil-A.”



Second and first place winners of the Second Annual Speech CommiCon are Joe Juarez and Duke Cullins. Commi Con was held in the Sundown Room on April 18. PLAINSMAN PRESS PHOTO

which was held April 17 and April 19. The students were broken in to two rooms of 10 on April 17, with six chosen to advance to the finals. All contestants had to give persuasive speeches within the time limit of seven minutes.

The six finalists were

Juarez was selected as the audience favorite after voting, and he received second place from the judges. Cullins was announced as the winner of the competition.

The Speech CommiCon idea was first created

See “Speakers” on pg. 2



“WASP: The Untold Story A Photographic Exhibit” shows the lives of women in Sweetwater, Texas during WWII. The display in the library is on loan from the WASP museum. AUTUMN BIPPERT/PLAINSMAN PRESS

Library displays exhibit highlighting Women Service Pilots

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

The WASP display has landed in the South Plains College library on the Levelland campus.

“The WASP display is a small photographic representation of the WASP Museum collection about the Women Airforce Service Pilots, WASP,” said Jim Belcher, director of libraries at SPC. “The

display shows the women at work and at play as they learned and performed a vital service during the war.”

“WASP: The Untold Story A Photographic Exhibit,” which will be on display at SPC from April 16 to May 4, shows a handful of the thou-

sands of photos that were taken during World War II, and their experience in West Texas and the area now commonly referred to as the ‘Big Country.’

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, trained male pilots were in short supply. Qualified pilots were needed to fight the war. The Army also was desperate for pilots to deliver newly built



sands of photos that were taken during World War II. These photos showcase the WASP life at Avenger Field, during World War

II, and their experience in West Texas and the area now commonly referred to as the ‘Big Country.’ After the attack on Pearl Harbor, trained male pilots were in short supply. Qualified pilots were needed to fight the war. The Army also was desperate for pilots to deliver newly built trainer aircraft to the flight schools in the South. There were 28 experienced civilian women pilots

who volunteered to take those ferrying jobs. They formed the country’s first

See “Women” on pg. 2

Cover to Cover

Biology professor retiring after 30 years at SPC.

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‘Flatbush Zombies’ release their second album.

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‘Legends of Tomorrow’ expands characters, plot in third season.

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Women’s Rodeo Team aims for first national title.

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South Plains College celebrates 60 years.

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April 30, 2018

Plainsman Press

Women Service Pilots featured in WASP display

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female squadron late in the summer in 1942.

"These women had tremendous impact both on the conduct and outcome of WWII and the course of women in aviation," Belcher said, "more than 1,000 women pilots ferried aircraft, towed

smallest trainers to the heaviest bombers."

Belcher explained that while the WASPs were members of and served with United States Armed Forces units, they were not granted veteran status until 1977. In 2010, they were recognized for their service with the awarding

not received. It also is a testimony to the women and men of today as to what can be done when women ignore those who tell them 'women can't do that'."

Between November 1942 and December 1944, 1,074 more women were trained to fly first in Houston and then moved to Avenger Field

in Sweetwater, Texas. Nancy Love and Jacqueline Cochran founded the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron and Women's Flying Training Detachment programs, which became the WASP.

"This will give people a taste of what is available at the WASP Museum in Sweetwater," Belcher explained. "It is an easy day

trip and a wonderful experience for all ages. There are aircraft, uniforms, and displays of many types. It is a part of our history as a country and part of Texas history."

Belcher explained that aviation and history buffs alike will enjoy this display. It has connections to war history, aviation history, West Texas history,

and the women's movement history.

"It should also appeal to those interested in the achievements of women and in showing their daughters what can be done by those willing to step out and try," he added.

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The WASPs often took photos of things to remember during their time at Avenger Field.

AUTUMN BIPPERT/PLAINSMAN PRESS

gunnery targets, served as test pilots and trained other women to fly. They flew more than 60 million miles, operated from more than 100 bases and flew more than 75 different models of military aircraft, including the

of the Congressional Gold Medal.

"We wanted to honor these women, of which there are less than 100 still living," Belcher said. "And contribute to giving them some of the recognition they deserve but have

Speakers utilize, hone skills in Speech Commi Con

Continued from pg. 1

when Kelley Finley and Janine Fox were on a five-hour road trip back home from a conference. "We discussed ways to promote our classes and the majors we have to offer our SPC students, and came up with the Speech CommiCon," Fox recalled.

If students participate in the event, there are some benefits that can be earned for the students.

"We all offer extra credit to our current students who participate," said Fox.

She also explains that there are some cash prizes available. The Levelland Campus and the Reese Center Campus both donated money to the Speech CommiCon toward the cash prizes. Staff members also collected donations from the community. Some of the top participants will also be offered some scholarship opportunities.

One large scholarship available to speech students is the Helen Star Roberts Scholarship. This is the scholarship that allows the professors to offer cash to the speech students.

Fox explained that her future plans for the Speech CommiCon was to watch it grow.

"What we really want everyone to know is that Speech can be fun," said Fox. Who wants students to see that speech classes are not that difficult.

"I want the Speech CommiCon to be very known," Finley added.

Finley said that she doesn't want a student to leave SPC without hearing about the Speech CommiCon at least once.

The professors hope to continue to improve and spread the word about the Speech CommiCon.

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Former student honored for serving United States

Continued from pg. 1
to search for the selected honorees each year.

Selecting Jackson for the 2018 Distinguished Alumni award consisted of years of planning. According to Smith, he was considered a few years before his promotion to a two-star admiral and his nomination for the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs.

"We have been looking at Dr. Jackson since 2014," said Smith. "That was when he was with President Obama. It was on our radar to begin reaching out to him when he

was going to retire. He had announced that after Obama's administration, he had planned on retiring."

to him, he accepted, and he was very excited, very humble," said Smith of offering Jackson the Distinguished Alumni award.



It was not until Jackson's recent nomination that the committee tried to contact him.

"When we reached out

"We offered it to him, and he accepted it at the end of January."

Honoring former students is something that

Smith said is important for colleges. The Distinguished Alumni award and events, such as the Presidential Reception, are both ways to honor exceptional alums such as Jackson.

"It was a concentrated effort on the need to recognize our former students," said Smith regarding the reason why the Distinguished Alumni award was started. "Community colleges, colleges, universities. They all know the importance of making sure that former students are taken care of. It is the highest honor that our college can give a former student."

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60th Commencement ceremonies set for May 11

by ADÁN RUBIO
News Editor

With the end of the spring semester approaching, graduation quickly follows for those who are completing their time at South Plains College.

Two commencement ceremonies will be held at the Texan Dome on the Levelland campus on May 11.

The first ceremony will take place at 9:30 a.m. for certain majors, and the second ceremony will take place at 1 p.m. for other majors. Students should go to the South Plains College website and click on 'Apply Online' under the 'Student Services' tab, then click on the 'Graduation' link on the right of the page, and then click on the 'Commencement Ceremony Instructions'

link on the right to determine which ceremony he or she should attend.

Robin Coler, SPC graduation clerk, said graduates from last fall and this spring are expected

For students to be eligible for graduation, he or she must have a grade point average greater than a 2.00 and must have completed all degree requirements, or be in the

rolled, there is an application under the 'Graduation' link that can be emailed to Coler or sent by mail to SPC Admissions and Records at 1401 South Plains College Avenue, Levelland, 79336.

Caps and gowns will be distributed free of charge from April 30 to May 10, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Admissions and Records Office in the Student Services Building on the Levelland campus or the Student Support Center in Building 8 at the Reese Center campus.

For more information, click on the 'Graduation' link on the SPC website, or contact Coler at (806) 716-2572, or by email at rcoler@southplainscollege.edu.

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process of completing their requirements during the summer.

For enrolled students who have not applied for graduation, an online application is available by logging into MySPC.

For students not en-

to attend the ceremonies.

"There will be a total of 819 participants," said Coler. "438 in the morning ceremony, 381 in the afternoon."

PUBLICATION STATEMENT

The Plainsman Press is published every two weeks during regular semesters by journalism students at South Plains College in Levelland, Texas. Opinions herein are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the staff, the administration, Board of Regents, advisor or advertisers.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Plainsman Press encourages signed letters to the editor. Published letters are subject to editing. Letters should be brought to CM 130 or mailed to our address at the college.



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New chapter awaits for retiring biology professor

by **TINA GONZALEZ**
Feature/ Online Editor

After his time in Chattanooga, Dr. Wages went

the different ways it could infect an animal.”

He was about to pursue his PhD at Southern Mis-

graduate school, Dr. Wages focused mostly on

both worked at the time. His wife and youngest daughter also got their nursing education at SPC.

“South Plains College has been a good place for me and my family,” Dr. Wages said.

Dr. Wages said that early on he learned that if you don’t have good coworkers you won’t be able to enjoy your job.

“Thankfully, I have great coworkers,” said Dr. Wages, who serves as chairperson of the Biology Department. “I enjoy working with everyone, and everyone has been a big help to me over the years.”

Realizing that teaching was his true calling, Dr. Wages has taken value in the work he has done with his students.

“I really enjoy working with students and getting to know them,” he said. “Seeing students that weren’t excited about biology when they first started the semester getting into it and working hard is a great joy to see.”

While Dr. Wages says he will truly miss the classroom, he is excited for the next chapter of his life.

“I am going to miss the classroom and teaching,” Dr. Wages said. “But I am looking forward to spending time with my family and getting the opportunity to travel.”

Dr. Wages and his wife plan on going to different national parks, and moving to Arlington to be with their daughters and grandchildren.

“Over the years, I have learned that I have been really happy,” he added. “I love it here at SPC, and I’m glad I found a job that I like and that suits me.”

“I am proud of the everyday work I got to do here at SPC,” Dr. Wages concluded.

Dr. Wages and his wife met in 1971 in the Chattanooga Times Free Press newsroom, where they

wouldn’t have been able to get to where he is today without the love and support of his wife.

“We have been married since 1972,” said Dr. Wages. “With her, I would have never made it through graduate school.”

Dr. Wages says he assumed that he would end up doing more research and working in a lab, before getting bit by the teaching bug.

“I started out as a graduate student teacher like what most students do,” said Dr. Wages.

“That’s when I started realizing I like to teach.”

Since January of 1988, Dr. Wages has been a member of the SPC faculty, teaching anatomy and physiology to the pre-nursing students, along with biology and zoology.

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“I didn’t take my first biology class until my junior year. Right after that class, I went and changed my major.”

to pursue his master’s degree in biology

At Southern Mississippi, Dr. Wages got the

opportunity to experience something few get to do.

“I was able to take

to Texas Tech University.

“I came to Texas Tech to work with Larry Rob-

erts, who was the top tapeworm man in the country at the time,” said Dr. Wages.

During his years of

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Plans for travel and quality time with family are ahead for Dr. Samuel Wages.

After 30 years of teaching, the professor of biology will be retiring at the end of the spring semester.

Born and raised in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Dr. Wages went to college

at Southern Mississippi

University.

“My field was parasitology

at the time,” said Dr. Wages.

“I was working with a killer amoeba that could cause a rare form of meningitis. I looked at

care of the school mascot, which was a golden eagle, said Dr. Wages. “I got to take her to all the football games.”

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Dr. Sam Wages is retiring after teaching at South Plains College for 30 years.
TINA GONZALEZ/ PLAINSMAN PRESS

in Chattanooga thinking he was going to be a math major. But he earned a bachelor’s degree in biology instead.

“I started out as a math major just because that is what I scored highest on the ACT test,” recalled Dr. Wages. “I didn’t take my first biology class until my junior year. Right after that class, I went and changed my major.”

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| SPRING SEMESTER 2018 FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE | | |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Date | Regular Class Time | Schedule Exam Time |
| May 7, 2018 (Monday) | MW 8:00 a.m.-9:15 a.m. | 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. |
| | MW 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. | 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. |
| | MW 2:30 p.m.-3:45 p.m. | 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. |
| | MW 5:30 p.m.-6:45 p.m. | 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. |
| May 8, 2018 (Tuesday) | TR 8:00 a.m.-9:15 a.m. | 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. |
| | TR 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. | 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. |
| | TR 2:30 p.m.-3:45 p.m. | 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. |
| | TR 5:30 p.m.-6:45 p.m. | 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. |
| | TR 7:00 p.m.-8:15 p.m. | 7:45 p.m.-9:45 p.m. |
| May 9, 2018 (Wednesday) | MW 9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m. | 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. |
| | MW 1:00 p.m.-2:15 p.m. | 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. |
| | MW 4:00 p.m.-5:15 p.m. | 3:15 p.m.-5:15 p.m. |
| | MW 7:00 p.m.-8:15 p.m. | 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. |
| May 10, 2018 (Thursday) | TR 9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m. | 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. |
| | TR 1:00 p.m.-2:15 p.m. | 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. |
| | TR 4:00 p.m.-5:15 p.m. | 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. |



CLASS OF 2018

Congratulations

YOU DID IT

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING
OUR STUDENTS ACHIEVEMENTS
LIBRARIES WILL BE CLOSED MAY 11TH

April 30, 2018

Plainsman Press

Student pursues passion in sports film

by MADDIE BENAVIDEZ
Editorial Assistant

Bailey Seay often can be found behind a camera, capturing South Plains College basketball players moving down the court, throwing up shots, and grabbing rebounds.

"I came to South Plains College because it was affordable and my dad came here, so I was going another one down the line," said Seay, a freshman from Seminole majoring in radio, television, and film. "A lot of my friends came, so I wanted to try it out."

He says he found his passion for filmed in extra-curricular activities in high school.

"In my senior year of high school, I filmed the basketball games," Seay said. "I didn't do a lot

of editing, and I wanted to get more into that, and I just always liked taking videos and pictures of people. I wanted to make a career out of it."

Seay's favorite sport is basketball, so standing on the sideline of the courts is a way for him to be a part of the game.

"Filming the basketball games here at SPC is really fun," he said.

"I like playing, watching, and filming basketball. Go Texans."

In addition to filming SPC's basketball teams, he's also working on campus.

"I'm a work-study for Billy Alonzo, the best

advisor and professor here at SPC," Seay said.

He says Alonzo has

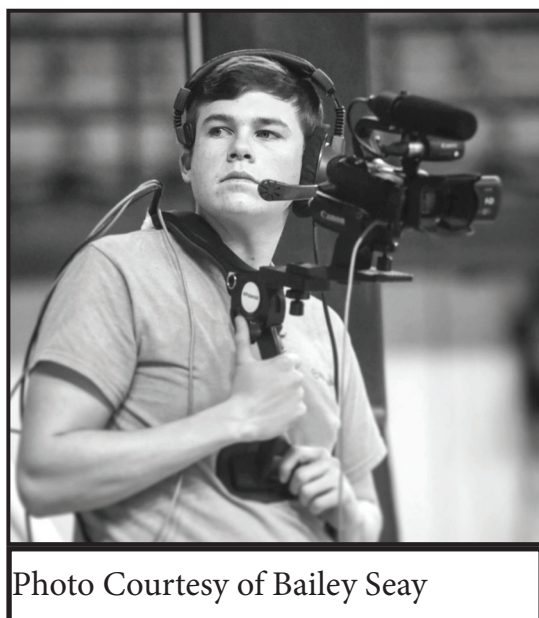


Photo Courtesy of Bailey Seay

been the most influential professor in college, helping him improve his craft.

"Billy has helped me a lot with writing," Seay said. "When I first came here, I wasn't good at writing stories. He has

sat down with me and helped me come up with words, sentences, and phrases to better my stories."

With all the activities Seay has going on, he still has time to keep his grades up.

"My first semester, I had a 4.0 GPA," Seay said, "and I've never done that in my life. So I was proud of myself."

Seay's communication professors have all had a hand in nurturing Seay into the student he has become.

"I really wasn't talkative in high school," he explained. "I took Mrs. Greene's speech class. It really got me out there and helped me open up

to people so I could have conversations with them more."

Seay says he pushes himself to make good grades and do everything he has been able to do at SPC.

"I give myself motivation," he said. "I set a goal for myself, and I want to achieve it. I'm not doing it for or because of anyone else."

College is nothing like high school, in Seay's opinion.

"In some ways, it's easier," he said. "You can make your schedule the way you want it. If you have a job, most employers will work around it to help you be successful."

Seay plans to graduate from SPC in December.

"I plan to go to Texas Tech University and get my masters' degree in communications," he said.

When asked where he thinks he will be in seven years, Seay said he will probably stay in the Lubbock area.

"I'll most likely be working doing some editing, or shooting," he said. "Maybe I'll be filming or directing somewhere."

Sports is the genre of film Seay says he wants to pursue.

"If the opportunity comes up, I could venture out to something else," Seay said, "but I like the excitement and adrenaline that sports brings me."

One motto that keeps Seay going each day is "Carpe Diem."

"Live it while you got it," Seay said.

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Alum values lessons learned at SPC

[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 RANDI JINES
Opinion Editor

Ty Gregory made the most of his time at South Plains College by joining a club, holding a job and creating memories.

His journey began after he graduated from Levelland High School, then attended SPC from 2000 to 2003.

While he was at SPC, he was a Pre-Med major and also studied Business Administration.

"SPC was a great value

for my family," Gregory said. "I was the oldest of three brothers, and we were two years apart, all attending college at the same time. SPC has numerous scholarships available, and the cost of attendance was much less than the price paid at a four-year institution."

Gregory credits his learning at SPC to smaller class sizes. He explains how it helped him learn more about his career.

"SPC has great faculty, and the class sizes allow better interaction with



Ty Gregory, SPC alum, now works as a pharmacist at United Supermarkets.

Photo Courtesy of Ty Gregory

the professors," added Gregory. "I knew then, and still feel, that the quality of education I

received from SPC was top notch and prepared me for my career."

Gregory was taught some valuable lessons at SPC he would carry on throughout his life.

"SPC taught me how to study," explained Gregory, who went on to attend and graduate from Texas Tech University. "SPC also helped round out my social and networking skills. The group work and interaction with students from different backgrounds made

me a more well-rounded person. These skills were invaluable in addition to the knowledge gained from the coursework. The staff at SPC truly cared

about your success, and it showed in their daily approach to educating their students."

While at SPC, Gregory was also active in the Phi Beta Lambda Business Club. His favorite memory of his time on the Levelland campus was when he traveled and competed with the Phi Beta Lambda Business Club. He also received the Thomas Spencer Award.

"The Thomas Spencer Award was awarded to the top male student upon graduation from SPC," said Gregory. "I received it at graduation in May 2002. I was proud to win the award, and it felt like a great closing statement for my time at SPC."

Gregory also held a steady job throughout college and encourages current students to do the same.

"I held a job the entire time I was in college,

but school was my first job and priority," said Gregory. "You have to always show up and give your best effort in all that you do."

He enjoys spending time with his wife, Lauren Gregory, who is a business professor at SPC, and 4-year old son Greyson. He also enjoys playing golf, playing his guitar and woodworking in his spare time.

Gregory did not stop his journey of learning after graduating from SPC. He went on to study Business and Pharmacy at Texas Tech, earning a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree and Doctor of Pharmacy. He now works at the United Supermarket's Pharmacy in Levelland.

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Flatbush Zombies release inspiring album

by MEGHAN ARNOLD

Editorial Assistant

A new album by Flatbush Zombies is a creative, lyrical, and was deftly produced.

Flatbush Zombies are a rap group from the Flatbush section of Brooklyn, in New York City. The group members are Meechy Darko, Zombie Juice, and Eric Arc Elliot, who also serves as their record producer.

They recently released their second album, "Vacation in Hell," on the Glorious Death Recording label. There are nine features on the album, including Joey Bad***, Asap Twelvy, Bun B, Jadakiss, Portugal the Man, Dave B, DIA, Nyck Caution, and Denzel Curry.

To get their fans pumped up for the album, they have been giving a preview of the album. They released "Headstone" with its music video as a sample for what's to come. The Zombies also came out with a promotional skit and an album trailer. It

excited many of their fans, including me.

Flatbush Zombie's first album, "A Laced Odyssey," debuted in the top 10 of the Billboard 200 album chart. So, they hope to strive even farther with their new creation.

My favorite song is "Vacation," the third track on the album. Joey Bad*** made a star appearance in this song. In an interview with Ebro on Beats1 Radio, Flatbush Zombies said that Joey Bad*** showed up without a pen and spit the verse in the same session when he first heard the beat. They also released an official music video to this song on April 19,

with the crew rapping on a yacht. This song is about how hard they worked to get their names out there with their own blood, sweat, and tears. Now they are getting the recognition they deserve and their career feels as if it's a vacation, because they love what they are doing.

"U&I" is a captivating song second on my favorites list, and track 13 on the album. DIA has a feature in this heartfelt melody. Each member shares a smooth verse over production from member Eric Arc Elliot. Eric states on Twitter, "A lot of people will search for an eternity for unconditional love." He explains that

sometimes you get that love from your family, and other times you don't. Brothers are bonded by blood first, but friends are bonded by love always.

This song really speaks to me, because I was never rich in the family department. I had to build bonds with other people, and they became the family within my heart.

"Facts" is a Flatbush Zombies banger on the album. Jadakiss features on this track and

discusses with Meechy Darko about the cold hard truth about most rappers. Many rappers in the game

moments in his or her life, and this song taps into that.

Last, but definitely not least, is "Glory," the track that closes the album.

The Zombies enlist Denzel Curry for a light, introspective song. All four rappers talk about their

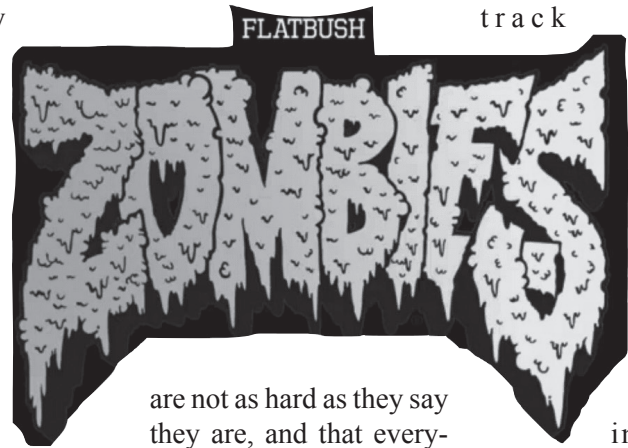
insecurities, failed relationships, and hardships. They discuss how they contributed to their own difficult situations. Unlike other introspective Zombies songs, this one has a more positive outlook and tone. It was a way for them to tell everyone to be more conscious with their your actions, because only you create the outcome of your future.

There are several more extremely inspiring songs on this album. I recommend that everyone check it out.

"Vacation in Hell" is a very creative and breath-taking album. I rate it a 10 out of 10!

10/10

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'Super Troopers 2' entices fans with nostalgia, original plot

By KYLE EWING
Staff Writer

This is a fair warning to anyone who has never watched one of the films made by comedy troupe "Broken Lizard."

"Broken Lizard" is known for their crude, and often over-the-top style of comedy, which can turn away some movie-goers. They are the same film makers who have produced movies such as "Beerfest," "Club Dread," and "The Smoking Salmon," just to name a few.

If you enjoy wholesome movies, those the whole family can appreciate, let this be a warning before watching any Broken Lizard films.

With the aforementioned warning out of the way, "Super Troopers 2," which hit the theaters on April 20, is the direct sequel to 2001's "Super Troopers." The movies follow a group of misfit Vermont Highway Patrolmen who are anything but your typical officers of the peace.

The opening scene doesn't hold back. The film embraces the absurd. After a short but quirky appearance by Seann William Scott and Damon Wayans Jr., the movie dives into the story.

After the wild opening is revealed to be a day-dream of one of the cast members, the now-fired group of ex-patrolmen are found working a mundane construction job in Vermont. While their professions have changed, their

attitudes and work ethic remain the same.

As the movie progresses, it is revealed that the patrolmen lost their jobs due to the mysterious "Fred Savage Incident." While this incident is not explained until the mid-scene credits, there are a few well-placed references to the prequel while setting up the story for the remaining of the film.

Their former captain sets up a secret fishing meeting in Canada for the group. They are soon told they will be given temporary jobs as Vermont Highway Patrolmen in a newly-acquired piece of land that was previously Canadian soil.

The formerly disgraced patrolmen are happy to return to their duties, while the locals of the newly "Americanized" area are anything but ecstatic about their new public servants.

The animosity between the local townspeople, including the now displaced Mounties, and Vermont Patrolmen set up some pretty hilarious moments. The movie does well to play with the pseudo-rivalry that exists between Americans and Canadians. While some could

find some of the jokes flat, for the most part, the comedy that comes from



this rivalry is genuinely rib-tickling.

Rob Lowe's Guy Le Franc, a former hockey player and the current mayor of the ex-Canadian town, is a huge asset to the film. While he plays a lighter role in the first and second act, he becomes the main player in the film's third act, all the while supplying laughs and pushing the plot forward.

The hijinks from the first film are alive and well in the sequel. The actors do a good job at not over-selling the rehashed jokes. In some cases, they expertly mix the film's new plot with some of the running jokes from the prequel, while not overstaying their welcome.

The bulk of the film deals with the animosity between the Americans and Canadians, and in typical "Super Trooper" fashion, they are quixotically placed into a massive drug ring. The less-than-

ideal group of officers are tasked with foiling the drug ring, but not before



the officers partake in some of the narcotics they began seizing.

The film's third act has the once rivals, of the Mounties and the Vermont

Patrolmen, teaming together to tackle the town's drug ring. The climax of



the film is the standoff at a sawmill where the drug ring is busted.

After the bust, it is revealed that the newly-acquired American land

will now stay part of Canada, which leads to a prompt and well-placed slew of insults and eventual brawling between the two police departments.

While it may not produce such a following as the first film, and some movie-goers may be put off by the style of comedy, I highly recommend going to see the film. The sequel is full of the crude humor that made the prequel into the cult classic that is today.

I would rate "Super Troopers 2," eight out of 10.

8/10

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April 30, 2018

Plainsman Press

'Black Lightning' offers unique depiction of comic book heroes

by ADÁN RUBIO
News Editor

Freeland is in shambles, and it is up to one electrifying superhero to save the day.

"Black Lightning" is a new DC Comics television show that airs on the CW. The show centers around a retired superhero with electric powers who gets back into his costume to fight the 100 gang, a criminal organization that causes tyranny within the city of Freeland.

The show recently completed its first season, which delves into the origins of Black Lightning and his desire to rid Freeland of all the drugs, corruption and crime.

Jefferson Pierce (Cress Williams) is a school principal who has given up his past life as a crime fighter. After the 100 gang kidnaps his daughters, Anissa (Nafessa Williams) and Jennifer (China Anne McClain), Jefferson suits up as Black Lightning one last time to save them.

After witnessing the negative impact the 100 gang has on Freeland, Jefferson decides to

disapproving of his efforts. With Tobias Whale (Marvin Jones III), the murderer of

was interesting seeing Black Lightning, a DC superhero who rarely gets recognition within pop culture, in his own live-action television series.

The show does a great job of diving deep into the origins of Black Lightning and presenting the source material with exciting action and interesting characters.

Learning about a superhero I do not normally read about in the comics was very entertaining. I hope to see a second season that reveals more about Black Lightning.

I really enjoy the overall story arc in this show. Later in the season, Black Lightning discovers that Tobias is behind the distribution of a new drug known as Green Light. This drug is responsible for the appearance of metahumans in

Freeland and plays a part in the origins of Black Lightning's powers.

Seeing Black Lightning facing a huge crime organization was very interesting, as he is a complex character facing many issues. Jefferson is a person who is conflicted by his need to be Black Lightning and his desire to be a role model as a school principal.

I really like how the show represented Black Lightning as a superhero who needs to fight crime in order to find strength within himself to lead his students.

I also like how the show utilizes the rest of the characters. Black Lightning's allies, such as Gambi, who has a complicated past, and Anissa, who later develops powers and becomes the heroine known as Thunder, develop into intriguing characters as the season progresses.

These two characters were my favorite in this season, as they were not just basic sidekicks to Black Lightning. With Gambi's experience as a former secret government agent and Anissa's newfound powers, these characters play an important role in the show by investigating the Green Light distribution.

"Black Lightning" has many intriguing characters who I cannot wait to see again in future seasons. But the acting in this show is one issue that stands out the most.

Despite the characters being interesting and complex, the performances of the actors are dull and do not seem natural. The actors do not have a great chemistry with one another when performing dramatic or lighthearted scenes.

The only performance I enjoyed was the acting of Marvin Jones as Tobias Whale. He is a great villain, as his acting is not over the top or bland, as is the acting of the other actors.

"Black Lightning" is a good show that anyone can enjoy. People who do not read comics can appreciate the story, while comic book fans will enjoy seeing Black Lightning on screen.

With a few flaws and an intriguing, original story, "Black Lightning" has some good qualities other super hero shows do not have.

I give "Black Lightning" an eight out of 10.

8/10

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'Legends of Tomorrow' mixes original story, action in new season

by ADÁN RUBIO
News Editor

The time-traveling misfits are back to fix history and save the world. But it will not be easy with a time demon wreaking havoc.

"DC's Legends of Tomorrow" is back on the CW with new adventures and characters. The third season, which centers around time-traveling DC Comic characters within the Arrowverse, begins right after the events of the season two finale.

The Legends now have to fix anachronisms, which are historical misplacements throughout time. Whether it be Julius Caesar in modern day Aruba or a sabretooth tiger in P. T. Barnum's circus, the Legends have a lot on their plate.

This new season brings back the previous cast, such as White Canary (Caity Lotz), the Atom (Brandon Routh), and Heat Wave (Dominic Purcell), along with the addition of new team members such as Kid-Flash (Keiynan Lonsdale) from "The Flash" and Zari (Tala Ashe). The Legends also face many threats, such as the return of the immortal psychic Damien Darhk (Neal McDonough), and new enemies, such as

Nora Darhk (Courtney Ford) and the time demon Mallus (John Noble).

In order to keep Mallus from escaping his dimensional prison, the Legends must fix

continues to be really creative and engaging.

Every episode spotlights the characters' strengths and abilities by putting them in dangerous and sometimes funny

stand out and really exciting to watch.

Despite the memorable characters and episodes, the third season has some recurring and new issues.

One thing that has

new characters to a big cast, there is not enough time in each episode to fully represent everyone. One's favorite character could appear in many episodes and then rarely

four of "Arrow," Darhk feels overused.

Even with new villains, such as the demon Mallus, the threats do not seem too exciting.

Throughout the majority of the season, Mallus remains trapped in another dimension and does not do much. When he does possess one of the Legends, it feels forced and unnecessary, as the characters quickly stop the minor threat.

Regardless of these flaws, the third season of "Legends of Tomorrow" is still fun and suspenseful. Fans who enjoy the previous two seasons will really like this new chapter in the series.

The characters are great, and the adventures continue to surprise me with their creativity and action.

I give "DC's Legends of Tomorrow" an eight out of 10.

8/10

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anachronisms created by the Darhks.

This new season was very entertaining to watch. I really enjoyed the new characters and the creative plots within each episode.

I really liked how this season utilizes characters from the previous seasons and dives deeper into their backgrounds. The relationship between Citizen Steel (Nick Zano) and Vixen (Maisie Richardson-Sellers), or the return of time traveler Rip Hunter (Arthur Darvill), are all characters focused on more during the third season.

With new adventures, such as the Legends fighting in the Vietnam War or facing Black Beard's pirates, the series

situations. The action this season is great, especially when it is a huge fight scene consisting of most of the characters.

The characters are a big part of what makes this show stand out from its Arrowverse counterparts, such as "Arrow," "The Flash" and "Supergirl."

The cast has great chemistry, whether it be a dramatic or comedic scene. The characters have different, fun personalities that work well together.

The different episodes and plots allow for different combinations of characters to tackle certain situations. This makes each episode

not been fixed from the previous seasons is the abundance of characters. The series' most loved quality is also a part of its downfall.

With the addition of

Damien Darhk, the selection of villains is bland. I really like Darhk as a main villain. But after appearing in season two of "Legends of Tomorrow" and season



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Back Talk: Video games considered as sports controversial

Competition, skill in playing video games similar to sports

Sports require physical effort, unlike video games



by **KENDALL RAINER**
Photo/Sports Editor

When we think about sports, football and soccer come to mind. But most people don't think about video games.

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, a sport is defined as "an activity involving physical exertion and skill in which an individual or team competes against another or others for entertainment."

There is a huge difference between competitive gaming and casual gaming. Casual gaming is when you sit down and play a game for fun. But competitive gaming is a sport, when you group together with your friends and form a team, with your only goal to beat everyone who stands in your way.

Gaming technically requires physical exertion. When you are playing a video game, whether it be a shooter or a strategy game, your whole body

is in the game. Your brain is racing, processing information and reacting to every detail and move your opponents make.

Sometimes gamers move along with their character, even if they are playing with a controller or keyboard. But with the invention of consoles such as the Wii, or an accessory like the Kinect for the Xbox, you can actually physically move your body and the character on screen moves with you. You are physically exerting yourself in any of these scenarios.

It's no secret that video games require a certain skill set. In shooter games, such as "Call of Duty" or "Battlefield," the player

You can play video games as an individual in one-on-one battles, or you can gather a team of your own to play against another team in the game. Some teams that are created are competitive teams, and can be professional gamers. Yes, there is a professional side to the sport, just like football, soccer, and basketball, among others.

The sport also has an official title, which is E-Sport. It contains many different leagues across all gaming platforms and across a multitude of games. The leagues consist of Apex League, "Call of Duty" World League and "Overwatch" League, to name a few.

Just like in professional sports such as football and soccer, these professional gamers get paid. They receive sponsors like NASCAR drivers do. Most of them are also YouTubers, which you can get paid for and also sponsored through. There are also hefty grand prizes in league and world final competitions.

Some might say that gaming is one of the most versatile sports in the world, due to its wide variety of games and platforms you can play on.

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has to have great hand-eye coordination to process what your eyes are seeing, as well as to move the analog sticks or buttons and eliminate your opponent before they can eliminate you. Gamers also have to have impeccable reaction time to react and counter-react to your opponents. The player also needs the knowledge and strategy to create a weapon loadout that will out-do your opponents every time, along with the skill and training it takes to be better than the other team.



by **TINA GONZALEZ**
Feature/ Online Editor

A sport takes physical activity such as running, jumping, and climbing.

But sitting and moving your thumbs back and forth on a controller is not a sport.

Some may argue that playing video games is a sport. But playing video games for hours is not a sport. One may consider it a competition, but it is barely that.

Just because you can make a competition out of it does not make it a sport. You can turn drinking water into a competition, but that doesn't make it a sport.

Playing "Call of Duty" or whatever video game it is that you play requires no physical movement. All you are doing is sitting there looking at a screen. Even indoor sports such as soccer, swimming, or gymnastics take serious athletic ability.

I understand that some boys take video-game playing seriously. But it cannot be compared to any type of sport.

I know that there are national competitions for that kind of stuff, but the only thing you have to

train is your mentality. That is just a quarter of what an athlete has to train for. Athletes have to worry about their body, mind, and image. The only thing a video-game loser worries about is how fast they can move their thumbs.

Playing video games for hours at a time benefits no one. It doesn't make a person stronger or healthier. In fact, it probably makes them unhealthy and lazy.

All you need to know for video-game playing is the controller and different buttons. Athletes have to train constantly and strategize every game,

help a person. My cousin's husband would sit in front of his little monitor and play games that didn't even make sense. He gained weight. He wasn't involved in his relationships anymore because he was so focused on a video game that wasn't going to benefit him in any way.

Playing sports at least helps your health.

Yes, playing video games could be a profession. But what kind of profession is that, just sitting there not doing anything but staring at a screen?

Playing video games is more of a hobby than a sport or a profession.

It is something you should do during your free time, not something that takes up all your time.

If some people can't even define cheerleading as a sport, how can anyone justify playing video games as a sport?

Even cheerleading requires lots of physical training. With video games, on the other hand, not so much.

In the definition of "sports", it says that a sport requires physical exertion. That is why there is an "e" in front of Esports, because it is electronic and nothing physical.

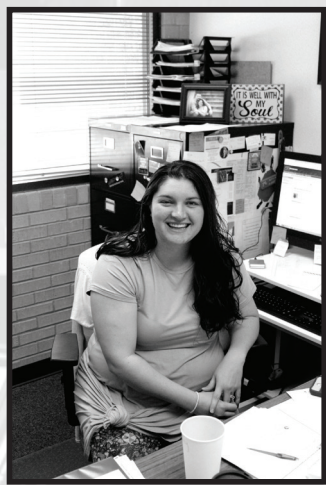
All in all, professional video-game playing is not a sport and shouldn't even be considered close to anything sports related.

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Word on the Street

Do you think college should be free?



"I do not believe that public colleges or universities should be free, because I feel like that would allow people to go to college for as long as they wanted and take as many classes as they wanted, and there would be no incentive to get out. I also love getting paid for teaching college, and if the students aren't paying, then who is going to pay my salary?"
Kelley Finley
Assistant professor of speech Bledsoe



"No, I think instead what we should be doing is giving more money to STEM-related majors to bring more people into those types of majors and help grow the economy a little bit more. But the way our economy is shaped right now, making college free wouldn't help it."
Nancy Munoz
Sophomore
Pre-Engineering
Levelland



"I think community colleges serve a part of the population that we should be focusing on, on a national level. Having said that, anything you give for free isn't valued, which is a shame. So I can see both sides. I want higher education to be accessible for all. But at the same time, it probably should cost something so it can be appreciated and so people can work for it."
Aaron Greene
Assistant Professor of Geology
Slaton



"I think so, because there are a lot of people out here that need an education, and I know there is a lot of people that go to college but never get their degree. I think giving them a free education would be a good thing."
Nikolaus Coldiron
Sophomore
Radio, Television and Film
Lubbock



"If we do make college free, what is going to be the impact on the community itself? Would there be a tax raise? It sounds like a good idea, but I think the prices we are given now is kind of pushing it."
Ethan Villa
Sophomore
Pre-Engineering
Lubbock

Compiled by Meghan Arnold and Kendall Rainer

April 30 2018

Journalism major recalls learning experiences, close friends



by **ADÁN RUBIO**
News Editor

Throughout my life, I was never certain about what I wanted to be when I grew up.

As a kid, I played a lot of video games, read books and graphic novels and watched a lot of television and movies. Growing up, I always imagined I would be creating video games, writing comics and directing movies one day.

But it was not until I started high school that I realized that all these dream careers involved some form of writing.

I have always enjoyed writing, whether it be in school or writing random stories during my free time. I decided to major in print journalism, as there are many opportunities to go to different events, meet new people and to hone my writing skills. Even though it was not one of my dream careers, I knew that the countless opportunities I would get from journalism would introduce me to new experiences that could later form my future.

It was not until I walked into the Plainsman Press Newsroom that my first journalism experience began.

Being a member of the Plainsman Press staff was my first opportunity to escape my comfort zone at South Plains College. Despite being at SPC for only one year, I still achieved a lot working in the Newsroom.

Meeting and working with new people while on the newspaper staff is one experience that I will always cherish.

The first, and most influential, person that I met is Charlie Ehrenfeld, my advisor. I met him at summer orientation when he helped me schedule my first classes and assured me that I was going to like being on the staff.

Attending Charlie's classes and working with him in the newsroom has been some of my most fulfilling learning experiences.

When I walked into the Newsroom on the first day of class, I only had one high school journalism class under my belt. I thought I had a long, tough journey ahead of me trying to learn the

ropes of the Newsroom. But after hearing Charlie's motivational speech at the beginning of the year, I knew I would be working in an environment where I could learn and hone my skills.

Charlie is one of my most favorite teachers I have ever had. He is always willing to help his students. I really respect how he critiques my work and gives me his most honest opinion.

I have always appreciated when teachers do not sugar coat my mistakes. I wish I could have stayed on the staff for at least one more semester and learned more from Charlie. He is one professor who I will never forget.

Being a print journalism major, I got the opportunity to meet other

were not a print journalism major is Margaret Kirby.

Mrs. Kirby was next to Charlie helping to sched-

me. Without them acting as role models, my start at the Plainsman Press would have been a lot more difficult.

have known the longest, since we both attended Coronado High School. Being a quiet, introverted person working with an

toward the rest of the staff and Charlie.

Maddie is a person who I am going to miss working with in the Newsroom. Whether it be in other classes or during paper nights, she always cracked me up with her funny roommate stories about Tina.

Meghan is a person who has taught me to look at life with a positive outlook. Her personality makes her great to work with in the Newsroom. Due to her attitude, I am constantly reminded to stay positive during tough or exhausting situations.

Kyle, Caleb and Jordan are people who I wished I could have talked with more. Since they did not attend paper nights, I did not get a good chance to get to know them. I wish them the best, whether they stay on the staff or explore new things.

The people I met during my time at the Plainsman Press gave me my best college experiences so far.

If I had not met these instructors and fellow classmates, I do not think I would have had any great college memories. Whether it be in or out of the Newsroom, these people are what made my SPC journey fun and exciting.

Being on the newspaper staff has given me many other opportunities to grow as a person and a journalist.

One huge benefit of writing for the Plainsman Press is the work environment.

Charlie works to make the SPC newspaper as close to an actual local paper. Working in the newsroom has exposed me to strict deadlines, the news writing process and designing the paper.

These are experiences that are hard to get at other colleges. I am grateful that I have been a member of the Plainsman Press to receive these opportunities.

Without the Plainsman Press, I would not have been able to travel to Dallas for the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association competition and conference and would have missed the opportunity to compete and meet other reporters.

Working in the SPC Newsroom has given me many chances to grow as a journalist and to interact with people in the journalism world. I will never forget the people I have met and the things I have done while at SPC.

I am very grateful that I got to experience everything the Plainsman Press has to offer. Being on the staff has given me memories that I will cherish forever.

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ule my first classes at orientation. Even though I only had one class with her during my time at SPC, I learned a

lot about the media field from her intriguing lectures.

These teachers are people who I would have never met if I was not on the newspaper staff. Whether I am attending Texas Tech University or working at my dream job, the knowledge I have acquired from these professors is something that will always be impactful in my life.

These professors are not the only people at SPC who have impacted me and my major.

During my first semester on the staff of the Plainsman Press, I met many student editors and writers who acted as mentors and role models.

I really want to thank Matty Molinar, Riley Golden, Tovi Oyervidez, Brandi Ortiz, Tyler York, Dom Puente and Nicole Lopez for showing me how the Newsroom worked and being examples of how a true reporter acts.

Whether it be answering my simple questions or walking me through

More importantly, I want to thank the other staff members who I have worked with since my first semester, and the ones who joined during the spring.

Working with Autumn Bippert, Tina Gonzalez and Randi Jines for two semesters has been a blast.

Working with Autumn as a staff writer and an editor has been a great learning experience. She

extrovert, like Tina, has been a fun experience. Working with her has helped me realize to take time to appreciate life and to have fun.

Being on staff with Randi has also been a fun experience. I did not get to know Randi until this spring semester. But through paper nights and a few classes together, I got to know her more and was introduced to her



has taught me a lot about InDesign and page layout when I attended my first Paper Night. I know Au-

funny demeanor, which I will miss.

I especially want to thank the staff members who I have had the pleasure of meeting this spring semester.

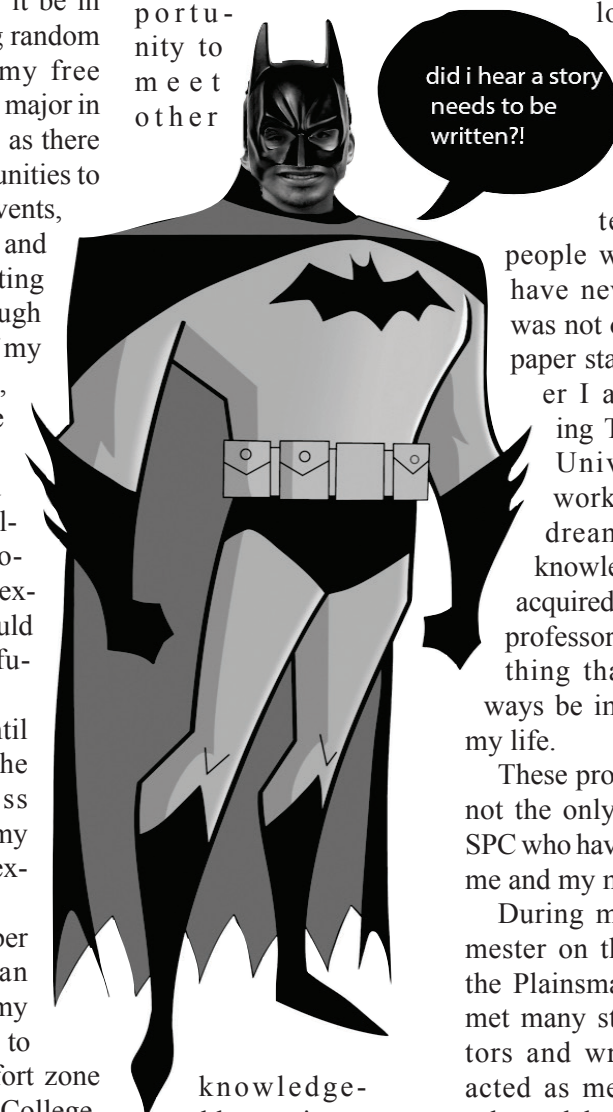
Kendall Rainer, Maddie Benavidez, Meghan Arnold, Jordan Patterson, Caleb Brown and Kyle Ewing are all people who joined the Plainsman Press during the spring.

It is bittersweet that I am transferring to Texas Tech, as I will not be able to work with these individuals at the Plainsman Press for another semester.

I really enjoyed working with Kendall in the Newsroom. Being the only two guys working during paper nights was very interesting. I will miss his sarcastic, hilarious remarks that he makes

turn will do great leading the staff next fall as editor-in-chief.

Tina is the person I



knowledge-able, passionate professors in the Communications Building.

Billy Alonzo is another teacher who is really passionate about what he does and what he teaches his students.

Whether it be in the classroom or on set in the TV studio, I really enjoyed working with Billy. He is fun and knows how to get his students excited

to learn about video production.

Another teacher that I would not have met if I

the process of how a story is published in the paper, these students were more than happy to help



Unexpected journey at SPC provides unique friends, experiences



by **MADDIE BENAVIDEZ**
Editorial Assistant

As someone who has lived in one place and been around the same people her entire life, good-byes are always difficult, unwanted and confusing.

It's hard to once again say goodbye to a professor who taught me so much and friends who became so close in such a short amount of time.

I graduated from Borden County High School, which is a 1A school in the middle of somewhere. So when it came to picking a college, SPC was not in my plans. I wanted to go to Texas State University or Texas Tech. I thought I would meet more people who were interested in the same things as I am and have more opportunities to try new things.

SPC was a last-minute, 'parents-begged-me-to-do-it' decision. They wanted me to stay close to home, which was actually a good choice for me. I still found a place where I could do something I was inter-

ested in and around people who are interested in those things too. This place was CM 130, the Plainsman Press Newsroom.

I joined the student newspaper staff at the start of the spring semester. Now, I wish I joined sooner. I came from a school that was limited to UIL events and year-book staff for journalism classes. I thought I wasn't ready to write for a college newspaper. In reality, this has been the best platform for me to gain journalism experience.

I wrote feature stories while on the newspaper. I have been able to meet some of SPC's most interesting students. I was able to take their stories and tell others about the amazing things they've done. The things I've got-

ten to learn about these people helped me to learn that I didn't need to go to a big college to meet unique people. So, I thank every teacher and student who

allowed me to tell their story. Charlie has been the most influential professor during my time at SPC. He has helped me gain knowledge about journalism and reporting. He treats every student like his own child. I can joke around with him, and he'll tease me endlessly about things like my "boyfriends." One thing I absolutely respect about Charlie is the effort he puts toward each student. He'll put his time and money in to make sure his students are taken care of. He goes beyond what's expected of a professor. I think he's one professor most students will look back and say, "Yeah, of course I remember Charlie. He's one professor who impacted my college career the most." At least, that's what I'll say. Thank you, Charlie, for all you've done.

Autumn has been a great friend on the staff. She has helped me whenever I need it. We've had some interesting and funny conversations between classes. That's what I'll miss the most about her. Kendall was also helpful in the Newsroom. He edited any photo whenever I needed it and gave

me his opinion even when I didn't. He's funny in his own way.

Adán is someone I've admired in the Newsroom. He's always on top of what needs to be done.

extra kind-of-way that only Tina can. My first thought was "Wow. She must be really excited." And now, we're roommates. Tina is the kind of person who will always

Autumn is willing to help and explain anytime you need it. Randi and Meghan tend to give some unusual but hilarious college partying stories. Kendall will edit your photos



Lifelong friendships created through Plainsman Press



by **JORDAN PATTERSON**
Staff Writer

The Plainsman Press has changed my life forever.

I have met some lifelong friends, as well as having experiences that I will keep forever.

These people have made the newspaper class worth it.

The professor, Charlie Ehrenfeld, is my favorite professor of all time, even though sometimes he gets on my nerves. He knows some of my family from Level-

land, so I cannot really act up. He is a really good professor and will help anyone in any way

that he can. I was not a public relations major or journalism major, so I did not have any other classes with him besides newspaper class. But from what I heard from other people that took his other classes, they told me that he is a great professor. Charlie was always there for me when I needed someone's advice about anything and would steer me in the right direction, even though sometimes I did not listen the first couple of times. Charlie always pushed me to be the best person, as well as a student, as I could be.

first met Matty at the mall when we worked together, and we also met through mutual friends. Matty was the person who introduced me to the Plainsman Press and I honestly never regretted taking this class even though it does not count toward my degree. Matty and I are such opposite people, which is why we got along so well. We kept each other in place while having a good time being friends. Matty transferred to Texas Tech this semester, and I will meet up with him next semester.

Tovi is such a motivating person. I used to sit in the Newsroom with her before class would start. Tovi and I both have English Bulldogs and would always talk about our dogs and send each

other pictures of them. We used to talk about random things in that Newsroom. Tovi has

with. But they are all very friendly and nice when I talk to them. They are a good group, even though it is a small group.

Plainsman Press will be something to always remember. I would honestly recommend it to anyone to take this class, even though it can be a lot sometimes. This class will change the way that you look at everything, as well as meet help you meet people who you never thought you would be friends with.

I will miss this class very much, and I wish nothing but the best to the students in this class next semester. I hope they have as much fun as I did.

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Then there was Dominic. Dom used to always give me such a hard time about everything that I did. He

still would help me take sports photos and I talk to him weekly. Matty is one my best friends of all time. I

before class would start. Tovi and I both have English Bulldogs and would always talk about our dogs and send each

such a big heart for life that is so wonderful. She would do anything to save an animal, as well as the Earth. She honestly changed the way that I look at life.

This semester, these people are not here, besides Charlie. But the people who are in this class this semester I am not that close

Student builds meaningful bonds with fellow peers



by MEGHAN
ARNOLD
Editorial Assistant

The Plainsman Press at South Plains College has allowed me to blossom as a young photojournalist.

In the 2017 fall semester, I took Charlie Ehrenfeld's Photography course. Charlie saw the potential in my photography. I honestly say he inspired me to keep it up and expand my talent.

A friend had mentioned his newspaper course to me, because I was determined to attend another one of his classes. Charlie probably thinks I took Newspaper to be with my friend, but he is honestly the main reason I joined the Plainsman Press staff. Charlie allowed me to see other talents within me. Therefore, he is my all-time favorite professor.

Autumn Bippert, the editor-in-chief of the Plainsman Press, definitely impacted me as an individual. Autumn is a very hard-working person, and it really inspired me to try new things. I was supposed to take photos for the paper, but I became an editor and writer just because I saw how hard-working



so many questions for her staff, and for that I look up to her.

Adán Rubio is probably

something, it is absolutely hilarious. He is always prepared and ready to volunteer to help by writ-

questions when I needed help, and amaze me with how fast he could write headlines. I look up to Adán because he is a very smart individual who I know will strive to do his best in everything he does.

Kendall Rainer is Autumn's boyfriend, and I must say they are the cutest couple ever. Kendall wrote all the sports stories. He worked hard to make the sports section in the paper amazing. Kendall may be a very straightforward person at times and bumps heads with me, but I see him has a brother who I fight with. Everyone on the staff is family. Kendall is the kind of guy I'd split a corn nugget with.

Maddie Benavidez grew the most as an editor this semester. She writes stories and is even better at writing headlines than I am. Maddie says what's on her mind, with no regrets. I look up to her for that, because she is honest with us. You don't meet very many people who speak the truth to your face.

Tina Gonzalez is the funniest person on the staff. She is always cracking up and having a good time. Tina is very caring and loving, so I honestly view her as a sister. I could listen to her stories forever. She is absolutely hysterical! Tina is

always giving me advice and making me feel bet-

ter when I'm down. She always gives off good vibes, so she is fun to be around. I can always rely on Tina to be there for me even when I'm no longer on the staff.

Last, but definitely not the least, is Randi Jines. Randi probably impacted me the most this semester. She has honestly become my best friend. Randi is a very encouraging person. She makes me feel more confident in myself. She helped me make new friends and included me in hanging out with her after school. I know Randi will always be my friend, and I look up to her so much for being so nice to me. She is beautiful on the inside and out.

I'm afraid I have to say farewell to each and every one of these amazing people. It's time for me to expand even further as a photographer, as I will be transferring to Texas Tech University. While I might not be on the staff anymore, they will always be my family. Paper nights formed a bond for each and everyone of us, a bond that will never be broken. For that, I will never forget them.

I will visit all the time and will always be there when they need me. I love them so much, and will sincerely miss them. This experience with these people made me realize I can do anything I put my mind to. I will take that lesson with me when I begin at Texas Tech. Goodbye, SPC!

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Charlie was a hilarious, chill, and caring professor.

Autumn was. She deals with so much and answers

the most quiet on the staff. But when he does say

ing tons of stories. Adán always would answer my

and making me feel bet-

Student motivated to continue education despite circumstances



By CALEB BROWN
Staff Writer

I have enjoyed my time at South Plains College for the years I attended.

There has been a lot of ups and downs, but no one ever said it was going to be easy. Going to South Plains College made me learn a lot, not just educationally, but also about myself. I achieved things I never thought I could do.

At first, it was a little intimidating and hard. But after my first semester, I got it and knew what needed to be done so I could be successful.

I'm not the smartest student, and we all have bad days, but we're all human.

That's why I really appreciate the professors I had, because they never quit on me.

They were patient with me. I will always be thankful for that. I think that's what makes South Plains a great school, because it's not just the professors who care, but the

staff as a whole. I think that's amazing. When I was growing up, going through grade school, you could say I slipped through the cracks. Some teachers

school, and I'm not even the oldest. I'm the middle child.

One day I'll never forget was during the last month of my senior year. A counselor pulled me out

home and told my mom I was going to college, and she was so happy for me. Ever since that day, my mom has and will always be my main motivator. On the days I just want

So the friends I grew up with were either in a gang, sold drugs, or were in and out of jail. But they knew I was different and never got involved with that. They were my friends, and

to hang out with me anymore.

But my real friends stuck with me even to this day and encouraged me to go to college, work hard to get out of

the hood, and never come back. So that's why when I'm at South Plains and I'm having a bad day, I think about my real friends who will never make it out. I do it for them.

I've loved my time at South Plains. I have made so many new friends, people from all over the world. But I think it is time for me to move on and continue my education at

a university, hopefully Texas Tech or LCU. I would be grateful for either one.

But I will never forget about my experience at South Plains.



could care less about me, or didn't think I would ever amount to anything, because of my appearance. Honestly, I never thought about college in high school. I was never pressured or educated about it. I'm actually the first one of my four brothers to graduate from high

of class to talk to me about what I wanted to do after high school. I was kind of puzzled by the question, because no one ever asked me that before. She started talking to me about South Plains College and told me I could possibly qualify for financial aid. I was so excited that I went

to quit, I just think about my mom. She tells me, I didn't raise you to be a quitter. Too many people want to see you fail.

That is very true. I won't lie. I'm not from a rich or wealthy family, and I didn't grow up in a nice neighborhood. Some would call it the ghetto.

they always looked out for me. But when I told my friends I was going to college, that's when I knew who my real friends were. Some just didn't support my decision and thought I was trying to be better than them and would just stop talking to me. They didn't even want

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