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Calendar of Events

Dec. 04

Country Fest

Dec. 05

Rock Fest

Dec. 06

Groove Fest

Dec. 07

Thursday Night Live Showcase

Dec. 11-14

Finals Week

Dec. 14

Final day of class

Jan. 02

Administration offices open for Spring

Jan. 16

First day of class

50¢ lunch every Monday and Thursday at the BSM

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

Reyes crowned Miss Caprock at Scholarship Pageant

by **BRANDI ORTIZ**
News Editor

last year, advancing to the top five.

interview during the pageant. The pre-interview

score, and a response to judges' questions on-stage

ferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) act. During the onstage judges' question, Reyes was asked about DACA, so she knew just the thing to say.

Rita Reyes was crowned Miss Caprock 2018 during the 60th annual scholarship pageant at South Plains College.

The event was held on Nov. 17 in the Tom T. Hall Recording Production Studio in the Creative Arts Building on the Levelland campus.

“When they called my name, I just felt relieved,” said Reyes, who represented the Student Government Association. “I don’t remember feeling, ‘Yay, me. I won!’ It was more like, ‘OK, I can breathe.’ [The experience] was amazing.”

Daughter of Rita and Abel Reyes of Lubbock, Reyes said she hopes to use the \$750 scholarship toward going to law school.

“I am thankful,” the sophomore Government major said. “The money is going towards good use. I am now one step closer to my goal.”

This is not the first time Reyes has competed in the annual Miss Caprock scholarship pageant. She represented Forrest Hall

“Honestly, I thought I had a better chance at winning last year than this year,” said Reyes. “I was a lot more confident then, but [being called] was a shock.”

The contestants participate in an interview with the judges before the show, then have two outfit changes and an on-stage

made up 50 percent of the total score. ‘After 5 Wear’ and ‘Formal Wear’ comprised 25 percent of the

was the last 25 percent.

Reyes said she is passionate about the recent issues involving the De-

“It was like the perfect question for me,” said Reyes. “I was so knowledgeable, and I knew this one certain fact. I felt like I was really passionate about the topic.”

Miah Hernandez, 19, a sophomore Pre-Nursing major from Lamesa, received a \$500 scholarship for being named first-runner up. Hernandez represented the Biology Club.

Rounding out the top five contestants for the night were: Allyssa Almaguer, 18, a freshman Pre-Veterinary Medicine major from Levelland who represented the Catholic Student Ministry; Tina Gonzalez, 18, a freshman Public Relations



Miah Hernandez and Rita Reyes celebrate their success in the 60th annual Miss Caprock Pageant on Nov. 17.
ANNIE GOLDEN/PLAINSMAN PRESS

See “Government” on page 2

South Plains College joins Levelland community in Christmas celebration

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

For the 60th anniversary of the founding of South Plains College, Levelland’s annual Festival of Lights was hosted on campus for the first time in a community-wide celebration to welcome the season with bright lights, holiday

“This year, we’re doing something a bit different,” Dr. Satterwhite told the community. “This year, we have the opportunity and the privilege to enjoy our first Festival of the Lights, thanks to Levelland Main Street and the Marigolds.”

Dr. Satterwhite then thanked the many or-

time of the year,” Dr. Satterwhite told the Plainsman Press. “It’s the perfect opportunity that we have as a college to do something for the community. This isn’t for us; it’s for the community. Something unique and exciting for a great holiday time.”

According to Dr. Satterwhite, Levelland Main

Feed Levelland Barbecue event offers free food, provides for community

by **ADÁN RUBIO**
Staff Writer

The front yard of St. Paul Lutheran Church was filled with people, as a long line extended from the main entrance while children gathered to play games on the grass.

People came to the church for the first Feed Levelland Barbecue Fest, which offered those attending a chance to donate to non-profit organizations and to enjoy a free meal.

This event, held on Nov. 11, began with people waiting in line to receive their free to-go plate of brisket, potato salad, and beans, while their children passed the time by playing carnival games for candy. While in line, people were given the opportunity to donate to organizations that are aimed toward gathering food for the needy, such as the Hockley County Food Box, Meals on Wheels, and the SPC Food Pantry.

Feed Levelland is an idea that was considered for an efficient way to help the needy in Levelland, while also collecting donations to help feed others who are not local.

Amanda Ullrich, the pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church, took inspiration from the barbecues the church organized in the past and added a new

element to establish this event.

“When I first came, I heard people talking about the barbecue they used to have,” said Ullrich, who has been pastor at the church for three years. “We realized that people missed it. Before, a lot of the funds were to help the church, but this time we thought, ‘Let’s just give it all away.’”

Ullrich described how she went to a lot of the local non-profit organizations to get flyers for the barbecue. Recognizing these different groups within the barbecue was one thing that Ullrich said she felt was important to begin arranging the event.

“My hope is not just to raise funds for these groups, but to raise awareness,” said Ullrich.

The formation of this event involved a lot of work from Ullrich and members of the church. A lot of the effort for the barbecue has gone toward preparing and serving good quality meals for the attendees.

Kristy Sanders, a member of the church who helped pass out plates of food, mentioned how preparing the food was a task that required a lot of work.

“It’s actually a multi-congregational event,” said Sanders. “The **See “Feed” on page 3**



South Plains College faculty and student organizations, as well as community organizations, displayed their parade floats on Nov. 30.
MATT MOLINAR/PLAINSMAN PRESS

cheer, and lots of hot cocoa.

Before the event started at 6 p.m., Dr. Gary Hudson, professor of fine arts in music, led the SPC Symphonic Band as they performed familiar Christmas melodies to kick off the event in front of the Christmas light display.

While the band performed, families were given the opportunity to take photos with Santa Claus before the event moved to the town square.

The event began as the president of South Plains College, Dr. Robin Satterwhite gave remarks on the opportunity to host the festival.

organizations that participated in the organization and service of the festival, including the Grounds and Maintenance Department of South Plains College, which spent months decorating the campus.

“I’d also like to thank all of our student groups and faculty groups that will be joining in the parade today,” Dr. Satterwhite said.

Before starting the parade, Dr. Satterwhite joined Rita Reyes, the newly-crowned 2017-18 Miss Caprock Pageant winner, in connecting power to the Christmas light display on the northwest side of the campus.

“This is the neatest

Street first suggested the college join in the community’s celebration.

“We were delighted to do it,” he said. “Really, this is just a community gathering where everyone can get involved.”

At 6:15 p.m., following the lighting ceremony, SPC faculty and student organizations, along with Levelland community organizations, started their parade floats, and headed down Magnolia Street as they made their way to the town square, where the SPC Dance Team performed.

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December 4, 2017

Plainsman Press

Feed Levelland Barbecue Fest brings community together

Continued from pg. 1

Catholic church has also helped. The meat was donated, so the men from our church prepared all of the meat and the beans as well."

The food for this

the meals, a lot was done to ensure that the event was publicized well, and that all plans were executed.

Jan Esch, a member of the church who assisted Pastor Ullrich with preparing the

said Esch. "We've planned every step. We've gone and asked people for money. We've explained to the town what's going on."

The donations given throughout this event are what give the members

The impact of these donations has helped the people at this event realize the value of what they are doing for the community.

Nicholas Acosta, a volunteer at Feed Levelland, said that gathering donations for the needy is something that is meaningful. Receiving assistance during difficult times is a personal experience that Acosta said he dealt with and is the reason why he notices the major impact of the donations.

"I think it's a good cause," said Acosta. "It means a lot to me personally to be able to come out and give families, who may not be able to afford food all the time, donations to help them eat."

Feed Levelland offers many opportunities to help people in need and brings

the Levelland community together. Thoughts on continuing this event for years to come are

The Feed Levelland Barbecue started from a desire to give to people in need. The event has



People wait in line to donate money and get a free meal at the Feed Levelland BBQ Fest held at St. Paul Lutheran Church on Nov. 11.
ADÁN RUBIO/PLAINSMAN PRESS

barbecue was one aspect of Feed Levelland that was not easy to provide. But before obtaining the food and ingredients for

barbecue, described the countless duties that had to be completed to get recognition for the event. "It's wild and crazy,"

of this church a sense of fulfillment.

"The Lord blesses those who try to do his work," said Esch.

Politicians continue struggling with climate control solution

by MATT MOLINAR
News Editor

Reducing the effects on the environment by carbon emissions has been a concern that has grown during the past few decades from a niche problem into a top priority that is heavily debated among politicians

The idea of combating climate by reducing pollution was introduced in legislation by former President George H.W. Bush, according to Drew Landry, assistant professor of government at South Plains College.

"H.W. Bush came up with this idea called 'Cap and Trade,'" Landry told the Plainsman Press in a recent interview. "Businesses that pollute would be given a cap as to how much they could pollute in a year. If they were coming out under that cap, they would trade what they had left to businesses

that needed to pollute more, hence the name. It wasn't the best idea in the world. But it was a step forward."

Landry says that the political polarization of climate change comes from what organizations back political parties.

"That's where you get a lot of the polarizing aspects of it," he said. "Big business has conducted its own tests on it and said, 'No. Climate change is not human-caused. It's not affected by oil.' Whereas the Democrats would be funded by left groups like the Sierra Club and other environmental agencies."

According to Landry, at the time, Republicans were in favor of having clean air and clean water, but they had concerns that the job market would be affected by the change. However, Landry says that

See "Battle" on page 3



Drew Landry says legislation could make it easier for Lubbock County to produce wind energy
MATT MOLINAR/PLAINSMAN PRESS

According to Landry, the Republican party took issue with the Cap and Trade legislation. However, in the '90s, the Democratic party picked up the idea of capping pollution and it became part of the 2000 campaign.

Government major awarded academic scholarship during annual pageant

Continued from pg. 1

Public Relations major from Lubbock who represented the Plainsman Press and Press Club;

and Destiny Lyon, 18, a freshman Elementary Education major from Lenora, who represented the SPC Cheerleaders.

Each student club or organization nominated a student to represent them in the annual pageant. Also competing were: Madison Birchfield, 20, a sophomore Radiology major from Lubbock who represented South Sue Residence Hall; Maria Isabel Botello, 19, a sophomore Computer Information Systems major from Ralls who represented SPeCtra; Esmeralda Cabrera, 19, a sophomore Education major from Muleshoe

who represented Phi Theta Kappa; Lizeth Elvira Doblado, 19, a freshman Forensic Science major from Pharr who represented North

from Ropesville, who represented the Baptist Student Ministry.

Other contestants included: Ambrosia Pollard, 27, a freshman Cosmetology Major from Lubbock who represented the Cosmetology Club; Jaynearose Quisenberry, 18, a freshman Pre-Veterinary Medicine major from Seminole who represented the STAR Center; Imelda Salcido, 19, a freshman General Studies and Surgical Technology major from Muleshoe who represented the Residence Hall Association; Jessica Sanders, 23, a sophomore Biology major from Lubbock who represented Campus Ambassadors; and Kaitlyn

Walden, 19, a sophomore Accounting major from Post who represented the Geology Club.

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Rita Reyes has a passion for government and plans to become a lawyer.

ANNIE GOLDEN/PLAINSMAN PRESS

Sue Hall; Erin Farrell, 18, a freshman Video Production Technology major from Homer, Alaska, who represented Tubb Hall; and Nicole Glenn, 21, a sophomore General Studies major

Walden, 19, a sophomore Accounting major from Post who represented the Geology Club.

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Annual stocking drive brings joy, gifts to children in need

by **AUTUMN BIPPERT**
Editorial Assistant

Santa's helpers are not just elves this year.

The South Plains College Reese Center library is hosting a stocking drive for children in need for the eighth consecutive year.

"We had students working in the Reese Library that came up with the idea about eight years ago," said Tracey Pineda, librarian at the Reese campus and director of the stocking drive. "One of them was part of a military family, and she was involved in an organization called Project Homefront that collected toys for children in military families, and she had toys left over. Another student suggested the extra toys be put in stockings and taken to local hospitals."

The Library is asking students, teachers and anyone in the community to donate. They are collecting new Christmas stockings and stocking stuffers to fill more than 200 stockings.

"We will be aiming a little higher than the 200 stockings, which was our original goal," Pineda said. "There are more children at some of the locations than before, and we have gotten a few additional requests for stock-

ings for children in some individual families that are struggling this year. I think our stockings have made such a good impression through the years that the organizations we have delivered to before are eager for us to visit again."

The Reese Center library welcomes any SPC student

to volunteer and help the library student workers and staff to help collect and stuff stockings. They are also receiving help from Texas Tech students in TRIO Student Support Services for the second consecutive year. TRIO students are first-generation college students who are looking to participate in service projects to help the community.

The stockings will be delivered to children in hospitals who won't be home around Christmas time, including Covenant Children's, University

Medical Center, and Covenant Levelland. Stockings also will be going to children in transitional homes, such as My Father's House, Women's Protective Services, and The Empowerment Restoration Center. The Empowerment Restoration Center in Lubbock was founded and directed by former SPC student Janet Railey.

The children receiving these stockings will be between the age of 5 months to 17 years old, and there are sibling groups in most of these locations.

Donations are being accepted through Dec. 15, and the first delivery is scheduled for Dec. 8. Donations can be dropped

off at the Levelland and Reese Center campus libraries, as well as at donation boxes located at both the Reese Center and Lub-

art supplies, paperback books, snacks, school supplies, caps and scarves, hygiene products, and much more.

the stocking stuffing can begin.

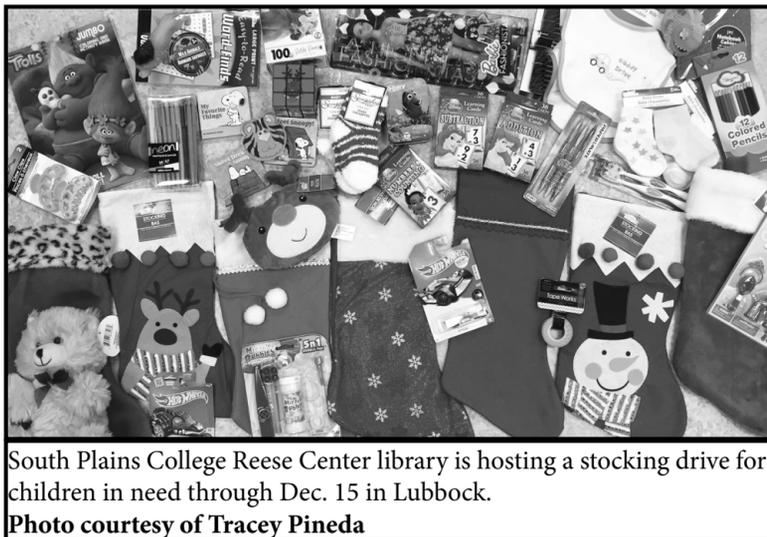
"It's fun, but a lot of work, and a little more complex than most students think at first," Pineda said.

After students finish filling and packing up the stockings, they will be hand delivered to as many children as possible.

During the past seven years, with the help of the SPC community of students, faculty and staff, the library has been able to donate hundreds of stockings to children.

"We are eager to keep up the good reputation SPC has in the communities we serve as people who care," said Pineda. "It's all due to the generosity of our students, faculty and staff that it's been possible for us to continue this long. Sustaining the project through different challenges has kept things interesting, maybe even suspenseful at times, each year since we began."

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South Plains College Reese Center library is hosting a stocking drive for children in need through Dec. 15 in Lubbock.
Photo courtesy of Tracey Pineda

"It's challenging and kind of complex," Pineda said. "There are a lot of moving parts. The goal is to take what we receive and prepare stockings for the children based on their ages and have enough to go around—

and not just enough to barely fill the stockings, but to fill them out. Seeing that come together is like witnessing a miracle almost."

As donations are received, students sort through the stocking stuffers and sort them by age appropriateness. Then

and not just enough to barely fill the stockings, but to fill them out. Seeing that come together is like witnessing a miracle almost."

As donations are received, students sort through the stocking stuffers and sort them by age appropriateness. Then

Battle for clean energy increases in local counties

Continued from pg. 1

because the concerns of Republicans differ from that of the Republican party, they must be approached with the issue from a different perspective.

"You talk to them about energy dependence and energy jobs," Landry said. "Then you have a different conversation and you can start to reach across isles that you didn't think you could."

In March, National Public Radio reported that Texas led the nation in wind energy as the fastest growing state in the industry, with wind turbine technician being a leading job title in the United States.

Just South of Lubbock, in Scurry County, lies one of the state's largest producers of wind turbines, according to Landry.

These advancements toward clean energy in Texas have been possible through the Electronic Reliability Council of Texas, known as ERCOT, a non-profit, membership-based council. ERCOT provides about 90 percent of the electric

power in the state. ERCOT is also known as the Texas electric power grid.

ERCOT's wind energy produces more than 25 percent of the organization's energy.

According to Landry, Lubbock's main power source, Lubbock Power and Light, or LP&L hopes to work with ERCOT. He says that LP&L's switch from the Southwest Power Pull to the Texas Grid would make it easier for the city of Lubbock to begin installing wind turbines and solar panels.

"There's an interesting relationship between LP&L and the Lubbock City Council," Landry said. "Their board has to have an approval from the City Council and the City Council has to approve their move to ERCOT. Then we will disconnect from the Southwest Power Pull. The Texas Public Utility Commission will have their vote in 2018."

In the summer, the United States pulled out of the Paris Climate Agreement under the administration of President Donald Trump. The agreement was a global

coalition that was meant to curb carbon emissions that contribute to our changing climate.

"He [President Trump] said it [removing the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement] would help out with jobs," Landry said. "His idea was that the more regulation you have over businesses, the less that they would be able to function. He would rather have a United States agreement."

According to Landry, President Trump and those in his party argue that the coal and oil industries will suffer from the switch to clean energy. He says that the research that goes into measuring the effects of climate change are questioned out of skepticism.

"They criticize the findings and the methodology," Landry said. "They criticize the whole basis of the science. With all of the stuff that is going on, I think that the Texas Public Utility Commission would have to allow for LP&L to join ESCOT."

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Board of Regents discuss local partnerships in November meeting

by **TYLER YORK**
Online Editor

An independent audit of the school, some student affairs updates, and a holiday partnership with the city of Levelland were some of the topics discussed during the November meeting of the South Plains College Board of Regents.

First on the agenda was a report that was released regarding an independent financial audit of SPC.

Among some of the notable items were a few reported losses in key areas, including \$3.2 million in lost property tax revenue, and the biggest operating revenue decrease was found in state grants and contracts.

Non-operating revenues were found to be down \$3.8 million, largely due to the fact that most of the previous year's funding in that area came from a grant that was not received for the current year. There is an expected increase of \$212 million in the tax base for 2018, according to the report.

The full audit report is available for review by request.

For an update on the current state of student life and activities, Dr. Stan Demeritt, vice president

of student affairs at SPC, was happy to report that "student life has been rocking and rolling."

"You can quote that," Dr. Demeritt added.

In the local community, a partnership was announced with the City of Levelland and Main Street to put on the city's annual Festival of Lights holiday parade.

"We'll start the lighting here," said Dr. Demeritt. "There will be refreshments here, and then the [...] lighted parade will start on this campus."

In past, the college has had its own event, but this joint effort is a move toward further involvement in the community's celebration.

"We're trying to do a collaborative effort instead of having two opposing events going on at the same time," added Dr. Demeritt. "Let's work together as a community."

The parade will begin at SPC, and continue down College Avenue, before turning left to the square in downtown Levelland.

Dr. Demeritt also announced the return of the tradition of the Sixth Man at SPC basketball games. The pep team has learned some of the cheers from the SPC cheerleaders, and

students are reportedly enjoying the sense of enthusiasm and fun that comes along with their presence at the games.

"We now have about 30 students that have said they want to participate as a Sixth Man," Dr. Demeritt said. "And if you've been to a basketball game this past week, you'll notice that the excitement is really picked up on the students' side."

This month's meeting concluded with an executive session that was not open to the press, the topic of discussion for which was reportedly property. According to SPC President Dr. Robin Satterwhite, there were to be no action items on the table during the closed session.

This type of closed meeting is provided for in Govt. Code 551.072, which states: "A governmental body may conduct a closed meeting to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the governmental body in negotiations with a third person."

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FALL SEMESTER 2017 FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE		
Date	Regular Class Time	Schedule Exam Time
Dec 11, 2017 (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.
Dec 12, 2017 (Tuesday)	TR 8:00 a.m.-9:15 a.m.	8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.
	TR 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
	TR 2:30 p.m.-3:45 p.m.	1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
	TR 5:30 p.m.-6:45 p.m.	5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
	TR 7:00 p.m.-8:15 p.m.	7:45 p.m.-9:45 p.m.
Dec 13, 2017 (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.
Dec 14, 2017 (Thursday)	TR 9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m.	8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.
	TR 1:00 p.m.-2:15 p.m.	10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
	TR 4:00 p.m.-5:15 p.m.	1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Library Extended Hours

<p>Levelland</p> <p>December 4th -6th Open until 10 pm</p> <p>December 11th & 12th Open until 10 pm</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <p>Plainview Center</p> <p>Regular Hours</p>	<p>Reese Center</p> <p>December 4th - 6th Open until 10 pm</p> <p>December 7th Open until 9 pm</p> <p>December 11th - 13th Open until 10 pm</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> </div>
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December 4, 2017

Plainsman Press

Representative O'Rourke visits Lubbock on Senate campaign trail

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

El Paso native Robert "Beto" O'Rourke is travelling the state of Texas to make history by running for a senate seat as Democrat to replace Ted Cruz.

A United States Representative for the 16th Congressional District of Texas, O'Rourke made a stop in Lubbock at the Mae Simmons Community Center on Nov. 16, the same day he was serving as representative in Washington, D.C, to listen to constituents and answer questions.

A large part of O'Rourke's campaign involves knocking on the doors of constituents to better understand the perspectives of voters in order to perform legislative duties that would benefit the needs of society.

As part of his Town Hall appearance, O'Rourke allowed for citizens to ask questions in the style of a forum after providing an update on his work in Washington.

"I want to listen to you," O'Rourke addressed the audience. "I want to serve you and I want to represent you. How can I do that if I hadn't had a chance to listen to you, and listen to what's on your mind?"

O'Rourke says that his campaign has had a very successful run, despite it being founded on grassroots participation. According to Stewart Williams, the Lubbock County chair of the Democratic Party, O'Rourke's campaign has been funded without the help of Political Action Committees, corporations or any other special interest groups.

"It's just people," O'Rourke said. "It's just human beings that are driving this campaign. It is the concerns of the people of Texas that I am going to fight for when I'm in the Senate."

O'Rourke says that when he first ran for Congress in 2012, he ran a very similar campaign founded on grassroots participation.

"I knocked on the doors of everyone I sought to represent," he recalled. "What I learned that surprised me, to my shame, was that veterans in El Paso were having a hard time getting into the VA [Veteran Administration Center]."

O'Rourke recalls knocking on the door of a veteran and pitching his campaign. After asking what concerned the man, O'Rourke says he found out that the veteran was trying to schedule an appointment with a mental

help specialist through the VA. The veteran found that the VA was completely booked and he would not be able to get an appointment for a year.

"I later learned that out of 141 mental health care clinics in the VA across the country, El Paso was ranked 141," O'Rourke said. "Dead last. Those that serve this country and put their lives on the line come back to El Paso with post traumatic stress disorder or military sexual trauma or any other signature condition of service and combat."

According to O'Rourke, it is estimated that, on average, 20 veterans will commit

suicide as a result of not finding the proper care in time for a worsening mental disorder.

After being sworn into office to represent District 16, O'Rourke made the VA in El Paso his number one priority.

"The wait time has gone from being the worst in the country to being right at the national average," O'Rourke said. "Our goal is to be the best in the nation. We focused on the number of mental health care providers in the VA. We started with 68 full time in January of 2013. Just last month, we had 113. We're opening up more appointment

slots, and seeing more veterans."

The changes O'Rourke has been a part of in the House of Representatives have inspired him to combat issues that veterans face in the Senate.

The issue that O'Rourke discovered while working on the Veteran Affairs Committee and plans to change involves the other than honorable discharge of service members. Those who have been other than

accessing a VA. This is part of the punishment of not having an honorable discharge.

"Part of their punishment is that they can't get into a VA," O'Rourke said. "Despite tens of thousands of them suffering from PTSD and other signature conditions of service. Amidst the suicide crisis that veterans face today, they are taking their own lives at twice the rate of veterans who have an honorable discharge. This is something we clearly need to prioritize."

According to O'Rourke, writing a bill as a Democrat in a Republican majority "is like a tree falling in the forest with no one around to hear it."

After partnering with Republican Congressman Mike Coffman, the two presented ideas to each other about how they would deal with the issue facing other than honorably discharged veterans.

After forming a consensus on the bill, it was presented to the Veteran

Affairs Committee. Because the process of passing a bill is tedious, many drafts die at any point in the process. A week before Veterans Day, the bill made it to the floor, where it passed with a unanimous vote, to O'Rourke's surprise.

"It's such an honor to be a part of Congress when it actually works," He said. "Republicans care as much for our Vets as much as Democrats do."

One of the questions O'Rourke answered was in regards to higher education. The question was asked by the father of a graduate student who had concerns about a bill that recently passed in the House of Representatives. According to O'Rourke, the bill has the ability to bankrupt every graduate student in the nation by

taxing them with a liability.

"There are headlines

O'Rourke, under the bill, teachers would no longer be able to deduct taxes from the money that they spend on school supplies.

"That's just being mean," he added. "Every teacher I've met does this at their own expense - buying things for the classroom to ensure that those kids will become successful, while churches and megachurches don't pay any taxes."

Another key issue O'Rourke is "fired up for" is the push for a wall that would span the border between the United States and Mexico. According to O'Rourke, the wall would cost approximately \$25 billion to build.

"Twenty-Five billion," O'Rourke said. "To cut off our relationship with Mexico, despite the one

million jobs that are connected to the 32 million lawful crossings that take place between El Paso and Ciudad Juarez. The very lifeblood of this hemisphere's binational community. The essence of what makes Texas strong and successful."

On Aug. 8, 2015, O'Rourke, along with more than 900 other runners, took part in a 10k marathon from El Paso to Ciudad Juarez to symbolize unity between the United States and Mexico.

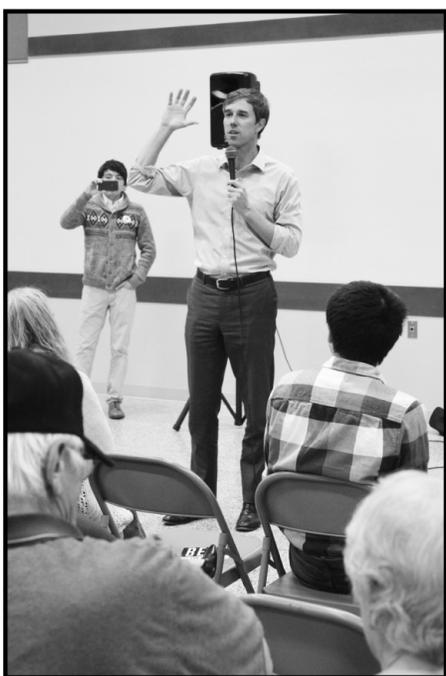
"The border has never been more secure and safe," O'Rourke told the Plainsman Press in an interview. "[Trump's proposed border wall] makes no sense whatsoever. Part of the reason we did that run is because facts alone don't get it done. You have to persuade people with emotional arguments to help them see things in a different way."

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Beto O'Rourke visits the Mae Simmons Community Center in Lubbock to speak with constituents and answer questions on Nov. 16.

RILEY GOLDEN/ PLAINSMAN PRESS



Helping students big reward for new Director of Health and Wellness

by **TINA GONZALEZ**
Editorial Assistant

Christopher Straface is looking forward to a change in his new role of Director of Health and Wellness.

Straface has been a counselor for six years. Graduating from Lubbock Christian University with a bachelor's degree in social work and a master's degree in counseling from Wayland Baptist University, he has a lot of experience in both fields.

"I just want to be a help and feel like it was time for a little bit of a change," says Straface. "But I am still in my field of work doing what I usually do."

Straface started out in ministry, but life had other plans for him. After talking to others about how helping others was important to him, he began to look at counseling.

"It just kind of unfolded," Straface reflected. "I really didn't even plan it."

As a teenager, Straface went through hard times that also guided him into the world of counseling. His background has helped him help others.

"Once I looked back and thought about what helped me get through those times," Straface recalls, "and it was other people that helped."

Straface's experience at SPC has been nothing less than great, he explains. At SPC, they really care about the students, he says.

"I enjoy working here with good people," said Straface, who says he is passionate about helping students at SPC.

"My focus gets to be helping students daily with daily life issues that would keep them from being successful and achieving their life goals," adds Straface.

There is a lot of support coming from Straface's fellow coworkers to help him learn more about the Health and Wellness Of-

for students with disabilities. He explains that the sexual assault prevention and disability services is where his main focus is.

"Specifically, we feel that the population of students really struggle coming through college," said Straface. "We are trying to see what else we can offer and what else can be done to help students with disabilities be more successful."

Straface explained that he takes his job and responsibilities seriously. "They have unique needs," said Straface, "and so we are trying to make sure that we are offering things to help them be more successful coming in and leaving college."

For sexual assault prevention, Straface is pushing for more awareness on campus if something like that occurs and what to do. About a year ago, the Counseling Office started an intervention program to help those who need the steps to take if one was to witness sexual misconduct and to also help faculty and staff identify when a student has been through depression or sexual misconduct.

Both agreed that Straface has great experience in the counseling area and administration.

Straface says that he has many plans for the Health and Wellness Office and for students at SPC to ensure that SPC is following the laws that govern providing health services and disability services. He wants to make sure that policy lines up with those laws to make sure SPC is doing the right thing for students.

Straface has two main roles as director of Health and Wellness. One is managing the counseling services and the health services. Another role he has deals with sexual assault prevention and services

Photo Courtesy of Christopher Straface



Christopher Straface transitions into his new position as Director of Health and Wellness on the Levelland Campus

Photo Courtesy of Christopher Straface

Straface explained

that he takes his job and responsibilities seriously.

"They have unique needs," said Straface, "and so we are trying to make sure that we are offering things to help them be more successful coming in and leaving college."

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English professor adores learning from diverse students

by RILEY GOLDEN
Entertainment Editor

Margaret “Buffy” Rattan is best described as a fun and dedicated parent, wife, and professor.

An instructor in English at South Plains College, Rattan was born in California, but has spent most of her life in Texas.

“I’m the only one in my family that wasn’t born in Texas,” she said. “I was pretty little when we moved back to Texas, because my dad had left college to join the Air Force.”

When Rattan moved back to Texas with her family, they lived in Canyon while her father finished his degree at West Texas A&M. But that isn’t where she grew up, or where she attended school.

“I grew up in Plainview – big city,” she said jokingly. “I started school in Plainview, and lived there through high school. Then, I came here, [SPC], and lived in Levelland to go to school.”

At SPC, Rattan does teach English, but it wasn’t until she attended college that she really got into literature.

“When I very first started here, I was going into nursing,” said Rattan. “I took anatomy and physiology, all of that kind of stuff, which I enjoyed, but then I took psychology with Dr. Skinner,

who is still here. I took English classes here that I adored, and I thought, ‘Oh my gosh. Anatomy and physiology, I mean that’s great and all, but it’s the psychology and English, that’s what I really like.’”

Rattan didn’t graduate from SPC, but she did transfer to a university.

“I got all my basics here, then transferred to [Texas] Tech,” she said. “When I transferred, I did

school.’ So, when my kids were really little, I taught preschool part-time, and I didn’t go to full-time high school teaching until they were older.”

When Rattan’s kids got a bit older, she got a job teaching English at Frenship High School.

“[I] taught at Frenship for six years,” said Rattan. “All of my kids graduated from Frenship, so we have been a part of that district for a long time.”

With all of her kids having graduated from Frenship and her no longer teaching there, Rattan says it was strange for all of them to not be going to Frenship.

“I got my master’s [degree] while I was teaching at the high school,” said Rattan. “Then I taught dual



Buffy Rattan is surrounded by literature in her new office on Nov. 16.

RILEY GOLDEN/PLAINSMAN PRESS

a major in psychology and a minor in English. My original plan was to either get a PhD in psychology or a PhD in English. But I had kids at that point, and I was like, ‘Well, I don’t have time to go to grad

credit with South Plains, and through Angelo State, then came here, and it’s been great.”

Outside of either teaching or attending school, Rattan says she likes to bake breads and knit. But

more than anything, she likes to spend time with her family.

“We like to do out-

she also visited him when he was stationed in Japan.

But her oldest son isn’t the only one who has been

the Women’s Leadership Institute at Tech.”

Rattan’s other daughter has decided to kind of fol-

“I feel like it all just fits in with who I am as a person. Because I genuinely love teaching, I love students, I love reading, I love learning new things. I learn as much from my students as they do from me.”

doorsy kind of stuff,” said Rattan. “We go to Palo Duro and go hiking and stuff like that as often as we can.”

Reading has also always been a big thing in Rattan’s family.

“My husband was a Spanish major, English minor, so our house has a lot of books,” said Rattan. “We read to them [her kids] from the time they were tiny babies, to way past the time that they could read on their own. Even when they were in middle school, I’d get them all on the couch and tell them ‘Let’s read a story!’ They can rattle off poems, they can say the jaberwakee poem from ‘Alice in Wonderland, so I was a bit of a nerdy mom.’”

Her husband is in social work. Whether it be in the military, a science related major, or going into teaching, all her children are successful in what they do.

“[My] oldest one is a Staff Sergeant in the Marine Corps, and he is stationed at Camp Pendleton,” said Rattan.

Rattan would often visit her son when he was stationed in Colorado, and

in the military or helped her see the world.

“The second son, he spent four years in the Marine Corps, then got his under grad at [Texas] Tech in three years,” said Rattan. “He had an interview at Yale, and I went with him. Oh my gosh, it’s gorgeous. I went to some English and film lectures on the Yale campus that were open to the public.”

Rattan’s third son has also studied the sciences, but still has a little more studying to do.

“The third son has a bachelor of science in chemistry,” said Rattan. “But, he has decided to go to PA school, and there are some biology and psychology classes that he doesn’t have, that PA school requires. So, he’s going to be here next semester, getting those pre-reqs. So, I’m excited because we can have lunch together.”

Rattan also has two daughters currently attending Texas Tech.

“My older daughter is a junior at Tech, and she’s majoring in biochemistry, and she plans to go to medical school as well,” said Rattan. “She’s in

low in the footsteps of her mother.

“The youngest is a sophomore at Tech and she’s going to be a middle school English teacher,” said Rattan. “She is also doing some undergraduate research with little kids.”

For Rattan, there isn’t much outside of her family and literature that she enjoys doing, which is why she loves teaching.

“That all kind of wraps up together to me, and that’s part of why I love what I do,” said Rattan.

“I feel like it all just fits in with who I am as a person. Because I genuinely love teaching, I love students, I love reading, I love learning new things. I learn as much from my students as they do from me. Every time they have a different perspective, they’ve been through different things. And that’s one thing that I really love about here, is that I have students of all ages, and I think that’s so cool. They have different things that they can bring to the classroom, so I really love that.”

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Student elected delegate for state physical therapy association

by RANDI JINES
Editorial Assistant

Shelby Jan Nail plans to use her role as a delegate for the Texas Student Physical Therapy Association to promote physical therapy and help benefit future students studying the profession.

The South Plains College student from Zephyr, Texas, has studied at Texas Tech before coming to the Levelland campus to study physical therapy. Nail attended the TPTA annual conference at Corpus Christi on Oct. 26 – Oct. 29.

Student members of the Texas Student Physical Therapy Association elected Nail as a delegate for the program she will represent and make decisions for physical therapy students across the Texas.

The TSPTA was created for physical therapists to advance in improving the movement of health and wellness in Texas. The program has the goals to empower society by recognizing physical therapists as experts in

movement and wellness, to empower the association by becoming relevant and dynamic by engaging in membership and meaningful communication, and empowering the physical therapy profession by attaining patient access for equitable payment for physical therapy services, according to the TSPTA website.

As a physical therapy associate (PTA) delegate, Nail sits on the TSPTA executive board with other physical therapy students

my attendance at the House of Delegates meeting in New Orleans next year, said Nail. “I represent PTA students across the state of Texas.”

During her time in New Orleans, she will have to meet with the House for three successive days to make decisions on issues that have far reaching implications for the association and for physical therapy professions. These meetings are executed through parliamentary procedure and address bylaws, the needs of physical therapy publicly along with the

members, and reach the goals that the association wishes to meet.

Nail will be able to voice her opinion and work with the TSPTA to improve the profession for other physical therapists and patients with her delegacy. This program allows members to make decisions and amend laws dealing with the physical therapy profession and physical therapy patients. It also is important in making physical therapy relevant and how impor-



Shelby Jan Nail recently was elected as a delegate for the TSPTA.

Photo courtesy of Shelby Jan Nail

Nail plans to use her position to make plans that will benefit future physical therapy students and patients.

“PT is vital to patient rehabilitation, but severely underutilized,” Nail explained, “It is my responsibility, not only in this position but as a professional, to promote PT and what is best for future students to best benefit their patients.”

Nail says she hopes to use her position as a delegate to make physical therapy a better experience for people who plan to pursue this profession and for the patients.

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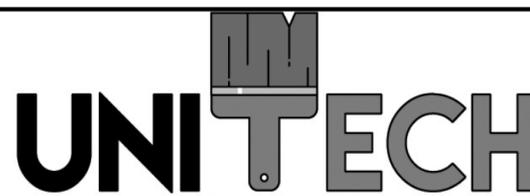


tant it is for recovery.

Nail has plans to learn, advocate, and promote for the physical therapy profession. “I’m excited about the opportunity to

learn,” said Nail. “This position is perfect

for advocacy, which is an important value, upheld by the PT profession.”



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December 4, 2017

Plainsman Press

Alum finds balance between her passions of fire fighting, photography

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

by AUTUMN BIPPERT
Editorial Assistant

Not only does Sussan Bell follow her passion, but she also gives back to the community while doing it.

Bell owns her own photography studio, Fire Angel Photography, while also serving as the first lady firefighter for the Levelland Fire Department.

"Photography has always been one of my passions," Bell says. "I'm an artist by trait, to be honest with you. I've always been able to draw and paint. When I was 3, I could draw a horse that looked like a horse, so it just evolved from there."

Bell attended the International School of Fine Arts in 1980 earned a master's degree in fine arts.

"I never did get a teaching certificate with that, and I wasn't about to go back to school," Bell recalls. "So I was always

teaching art and doing substitute teaching in schools, thinking maybe I could just substitute teach in art, which I did for several years. Then when my grandkids were born, I picked up a camera. That was 16 years ago."

Bell decided to continue her passion for photography by taking photography classes at South Plains College in 2007.

"I attended SPC 10

Paul Davidson and Wes Underwood. I did not get a degree (from SPC). I just took all the classes I could to start this business."

But it's not just photography for Bell. She uses paintings that she's painted herself for photo manipulations of her photos.

"Everything I use is basically stuff I've painted and then photographed, and then used them in the manipulations," Bell

pieces are just absolutely amazing."

Bell says she doesn't

on the department for 20 years. She comes from a long line of fire fighters.

something I've always wanted to do."

Bell manages both her

“I plan on doing this for as long as I possibly can because it is a fire, it's passion in me”

just take average photos for her clients. Each of them get her best she can give.

"I always give my clients a surprise," Bell explains. "I don't ever just take the pictures and go, 'here you go.' That's not the way I work. I always make them the best, like they were my best clients. Because that's how you keep your clients, and you always have returning clients."

Bell uses her studio to give back to the community as well.

"I provide a service of taking photos that parents can afford," said Bell. "My clientele are the people that don't normally get to go have photos taken, or have their kids' photos taken, because they can't afford it. And that's what I like about it, and plus I can give back to the community that way."

She provides services for the Main Street program in Levelland, as well as photos for the Fire Department.

She also gives back to community with the work she does for the Fire Department. Bell has been

"My great grandfather was just a basic volunteer firefighter in Oklahoma," Bell says. "My grandfather was a firefighter in the Merchant Marines, then my dad is a volunteer over in two departments in Oklahoma. And then my brother was a fire chief over in Oklahoma through his county. So I became a



firefighter because I married a firefighter."

Bell's husband, Bobby Bell, had been on the Levelland Fire Department for 40 years, before retiring four years ago. His family started the Levelland Fire Department in 1927.

"I enjoy it because it's a passion," Bell adds. "It's helping people. I became an EMT through the college (SPC). It's just

photography studio and fire fighting full time. She carries a pager on her at all times and goes to a fire when ever she is paged.

"I never go when I have a client," Bell explains. "But as soon as I get through with them, I go down to the station. I'm up in the middle of the night fighting fires, and we're out doing everything possible. That's was I do. I thrive on the adrenaline of the Fire Department and EMS. I thrive on the photography."

Bell hopes to be able to do both photography and fire fighting as long as possible.

"I plan on doing this as long as I possibly can because it is a fire, it's a passion in me," Bell says. "This (photography) will be until the day I die, because I love it. I mean, I'm constantly creating different things and making my own."

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Sussan Bell, Levelland's first lady firefighter, has been on the department for 20 years.
Photo courtesy Sussan Bell.

years ago," Bell said. "I took all the photography classes I could, with

explains. "It's a lot of work, but it is so worth it, though. The outcome, the

Engineering student wants to take career interstellar

by TYLER YORK
Online Editor

If one's future is written in the stars, there is at least one South Plains College student with an eye turned toward the things to come.

Ethan Villa, a sophomore engineering major from Lubbock, keeps himself busy with a healthy portion of schoolwork, socializing with friends, and generally trying to make sense of the reason things are the way they are.

Villa has an underlying love for reason, whether it be understanding something motorized, such as the inner workings of machinery, or the big philosophical questions facing humanity as a whole. He is currently considering pursuing mechanical engineering as a career, but he's not saying no to anything else that comes his way.

"I wanted to join the military as well," Villa said. "Because my dad was a Marine. He was Special Forces. And it was probably something I was looking forward to doing too. I'm kind of debating where to go. And the musician route as well, but I think that's more of a hobby, and just playing around really."

He has a background in martial arts as well, having trained in Brazil-

ian jiu-jitsu for more than six years.

"I haven't trained for three years, but I want to get back into that. But it's kind of costly."

There's nothing he would completely rule out, however.



Ethan Villa, engineering major, is considering pursuing mechanical engineering.
MATT MONLINAR/PLAINSMAN PRESS

"I think the most important thing is just—who cares what you do?" Villa said. "If you love doing it, just do it."

As his primary drive for performing well in life, Villa says it's something internal that's so ingrained in him that it's just second nature.

"College is just a lot of responsibility," he explained. "It's either you do it, or you don't. You get a good grade, or you're going to fail. A lot of the

math classes are like that. If you don't study, you're going to fail."

Villa's future plans include transferring to Texas Tech University, where he will pursue a bachelor's degree in engineering.

Something Villa doesn't believe in is the distraction of endlessly posting updates to social media.

"If you want to know, you can ask and I'll tell you about it," said Villa, "but I'm not going to post about it. I'm kind of old school. A lot of my family call me an old man, because I guess I just don't follow those trends any. I use my phone to text and stuff, but not really too much."

Villa has a great admiration for the Math and Engineering Department at SPC. He said he re-

ally feels connected to it. He once competed in the Robotics program, building and battling robots against other students in his classes, and he says it was one of the most fun experiences of his time on campus.

"They're just really helpful," Villa said. "I understand what they're saying. If you have any questions, they'll help you answer them. There's a lot of tutoring. I mean, there's just a lot of friendly peo-

ple over there. If you have a question in one of your classes, they will all help each other."

If money was no object, Villa has a pretty clear idea of what he would put his efforts into, for both himself and the people of the future.

"Honestly? I would like to work on interstellar travel," Villa said. "I don't focus on money. Money is nothing to me. Because the richest people have all the money in the world, but in the end, they're

always sad. Whatever I pass on, I want to see that they're still working on it. I guess something that I can do that people keep on doing. It would be neat to go to different planets, to see what's out there, instead of being trapped here where we are."

Villa's advice for future generations can be summed up in a single idea.

"Be a free thinker," Villa said. "Free thinking and having creativity really helps the world prosper."

"And just help each other out," Villa added. "If you have a group of people that are going the same way, you're not going to achieve it by yourself. You're going to have to achieve it with some help. And that's what I've learned in this program. If you try to do it all yourself, you can only go so far."

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'Doom' raises hell on Switch

by RILEY GOLDEN
Entertainment Editor

All Hell breaks loose and it's up to the "Doom Marine" to save the Solar System.

The original "Doom" came out on PC in 1993, and before last year's reboot, "Doom 3" came out in 2004.

On Nov. 10, Bethesda's 2016 First-Person Horror Shooter "Doom" (stylized "DOOM") reboot brought Hell to the Switch.

In "Doom," the Union Aerospace Corporation has been harvesting Argent Energy from Hell via Mars, when a researcher, Olivia Pierce, releases demons from their holding cells and begins trying to open a portal to Hell.

As the Doom Marine, the player slows down Olivia a little bit, but ultimately it's not enough and she opens the portal, unleashing Hell, and sending the Doom Marine to the Nine Circles, leaving him to try and survive

Finding an Argent Cell can also route a permanent increase in capacity to the Doom Marine's Health, Armor, or Ammo.

I prioritized my ammo

This is a fully automatic, ballistic weapon. The first mod I purchased for the Heavy Assault Rifle was one that allows for six mini-missiles to be fired in

erful, explosive plasma rounds. The Chaingun is a multi-barreled, revolving minigun that will tear through demons large and small.

appearance on the screen to let you know how many points it is worth.

The Arcade Mode has been great for hopping in and playing when I only

weapons, excluding the Chainsaw and the BFG.

Players can put their weapons to use by joining a matchmaking game, which takes virtually no time at all. Almost as soon as you enter matchmaking, you will join a game, which is extremely impressive. It means that not only did Bethesda and Nintendo do a good job with the algorithm that is responsible for placing players in matches, but it also means that a lot of people are playing "Doom" on the Switch. This is good, because it means developers can look to the success of "Doom" on the Switch as reason to develop games for the console.

Nintendo has previously been more passive with Mature titles coming to their platforms, but they recently released multiple statements about attempting to diversify the types of games coming to the Switch, as well as actively engaging in the development of Mature titles.

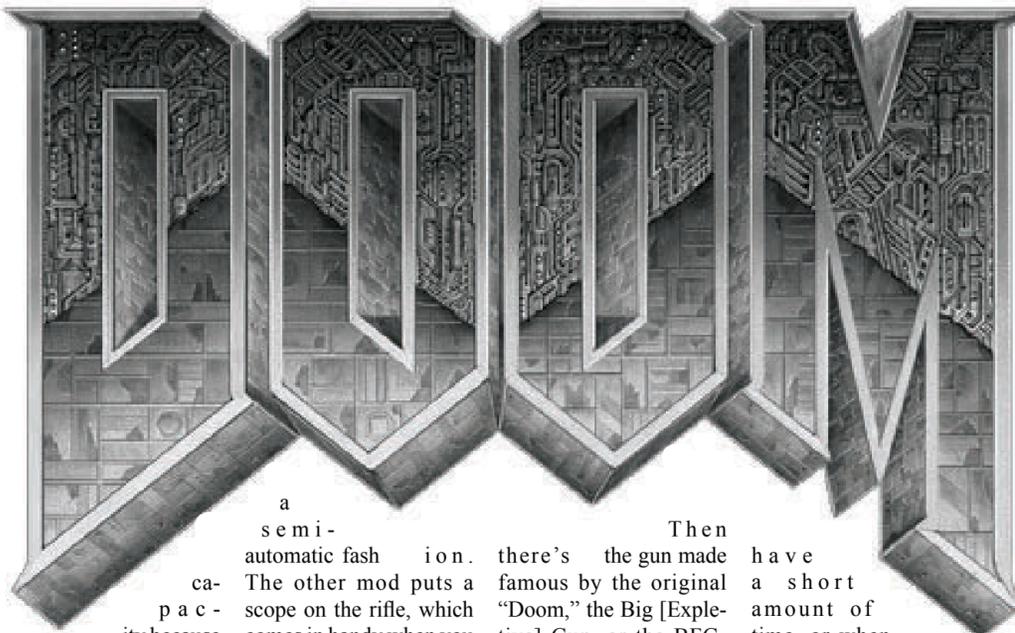
I really appreciate this because taking Triple A, M rated games on the go could be executed poorly, but "Doom" and "Skyrim" have proven that these games can look beautiful on Nintendo's new hybrid console.

The only real issue I had with "Doom" was that every now and then, the game would make a terribly loud noise, then completely lose sound. The first time it happened, I thought I had blown the speakers on my Switch. But, it's just something that happens that will more than likely be fixed in an update.

I would say "Doom" is a significant step in Nintendo's new direction, and it's a great game to have on-the-go. I give it an 8 out of 10.

8/10

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semi-automatic fashion. The other mod puts a scope on the rifle, which comes in handy when you want to pick off demons from a distance.

The player will also pick up the Plasma Rifle, a smaller rifle that works much better at close range than the heavy rifle. It

Then there's the gun made famous by the original "Doom," the Big [Expletive] Gun, or the BFG-9000. It fires a massive, green ball of energy that will kill everything in its path.

These weapons are all available for use in the Campaign Arcade Mode

have a short amount of time, or when my friends want to play. It's extremely nostalgic and makes it feel like you're actually playing an arcade game.

There are also even more weapons in the multi



Take on the demons of Hell in "Doom," now on Nintendo Switch. Photos by RILEY GOLDEN/PLAINSMAN PRESS

Hell and save the Solar System.

To survive Hell and its demons, the player collects Runes that provide different benefits, wears a combat suit called a Praetor Suit, and has an arsenal of weapons.

The dark green Praetor Suit was discovered near the Doom Marine in Hell's Kadingir Sanctum.

The suit has five different upgrade sections:

Environment Resistance, Area-Scanning Technology, Equipment System, Powerup Effectiveness, and Dexterity. These can be upgraded by finding Praetor chips on dead Elite Guards, security personnel in charge of protecting the Lazarus Project, which is the project Pierce was working on.

require ammo, is the Pistol, which is a plasma weapon that has an infinite number of trigger pulls. All the weapons have modifications, and the Pistol modification allows for a single-charged shot that deals extra damage.

The first weapon the player will find is the Shotgun, a quick, pump-action combat shotgun. It has two mods. One of the mods allows the player to fire a three-round burst, and

fires fully-automatic orbs of plasma that do quite a bit of damage. One of the mods allows you to send off a wave of energy that damages close-by enemies.

There's also the Super Shotgun, which is a sawed-off, double-barreled shotgun that fires shells initially both at the same time.

After being upgraded, each shell can be fired separately. The Super Shotgun has a wide spread and is good for taking out small, clustered groups of enemies with one pull, or powerful enough to take out most of the big guys in one-to-three trigger pulls.

There are also four particularly heavy guns that are great for taking out the bigger demons. The Rocket Launcher is a shoulder-mounted missile launcher, and the Gauss Canon is a plasma weapon that fires pow-

as well. Arcade Mode basically regurgitates the campaign, but you can freely play whichever level you'd like. There's also a scoring system with the points earned for each kill making an explosive

very similarly to the multiplayer matchmaking of the "Call of Duty" franchise. Players can customize their own Doom Marine and make their own weapon classes out of any combination of the





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'Battlefront II' excites fans with new gameplay, interesting features

by NICOLE LOPEZ
Sports Editor

In a galaxy far, far away the fate of the universe is determined by the battle of the dark side and the rebellion. Only one can win.

"Star Wars Battlefront II" has finally hit the shelves after the long wait and requests for the game. "Star Wars" fans were thrilled when EA finally announced that there would be a "Battlefront II" due to the high demand of the game.

"Battlefront II" has included a campaign in which the player goes on a journey through the eyes of Iden Versio, an imperial leader of a special force group called the "Inferno Squad." This campaign is a great addition to the game, and it also explains what happened to the rebellion and the empire between the end of "Return of the Jedi" and "The Force Awakens."

Versio is an interesting character, because usually in the "Star Wars" universe there's a good

over. "Battlefront II" will change all of that. To me, it feels like I'm watching a mini "Star Wars" movie because the graphics are very detailed and the effects are beyond phenomenal. The storyline is interesting, and players have a chance to play as familiar heroes during the campaign. I'm still a little disappointed in Versio's character during the campaign, but not enough where I don't want to stop playing.

The multiplayer mode was something I was ex-

citied for, and, for the most part, it didn't let me down. It is frustrating and confusing at times, but being a big "Star Wars" fan, I still find a new hope for multi-

player. There are five modes in multiplayer. There is a 20 vs 20 in Galactic Assault, ranging from zone control to bomb planting to a mode that is identical to Walker Assault, but doesn't really have the structure from the original "Battlefront." The game modes are fun, but what I found annoying is you can't pick which game mode you want to play. Whenever you join in Galactic Assault, it cycles you through all three

modes, so it's confusing at times because you don't know which one you're going to play. Picking which trooper you want to play is interesting. There are four, which are Assault, Heavy, Specialist and Officer. Each trooper offers something different. It's confusing, because you are only as good as your "Star Cards." "Star Cards" are actually really confusing, which I will explain more about later. The game also spawns you in a group of five and tells players to stick together to earn more Battle Points, but nobody ever really does. I can understand the concept that EA was trying to do, but it just doesn't work.

Many critics have said that Battle Points are a big issue, because those points determine if

you can be a hero or a villain during the gameplay. That means if you're better at the game, the better chance you will earn those points and become a hero or villain. Usually the better players become the hero or villain, which makes many upset because they argue it's not fair to an inexperienced player. I honestly don't see a problem with it. If anything, it should make a player determined to get better so one can earn those points to be a hero or villain.

There is also 12 vs 12 in Strike, a death match-

the mode so much better. You have to unlock some characters with the credits you earn during game-play, but it was so worth it for me when I

was able to unlock Darth Vader and use his force choke on another hero. That's another thing. It's a 4 vs. 4 showdown between heroes and villains. There are no rebellion soldiers or storm troopers. I live for this game mode. I play this mode mostly all the time because it's so enjoyable. I thought the original mode was great, but I honestly think this one is better. Also, there are new heroes and villains that they didn't include in "Battlefront." They added Yoda and Darth Maul, which is a great asset when playing Heroes vs. Villains.

loot box system, because many people believe you have to pay to win. It has been criticized so much that EA has taken away the option to use money in the game. Fans are being ridiculous. It's not paying to win if what you earn in the loot boxes aren't really good compared to your in-game achievements! I will argue about this with anyone who is against the loot box system. If someone wants to use their money to buy loot boxes, let them. It's not hurting anyone. If someone uses money to buy loot boxes, it doesn't mean that person is going to be better than you in the game. If they have better equipment, it doesn't automatically make them better. You make yourself better by playing the game and practicing. Using money or not, you will both earn the same equipment.

"Battlefront II" has a few problems, and it is a little disappointing in some areas. But I don't regret buying the game. I think, for what it's worth, it has great potential and it satisfies me. The graphics are the best gaming graphics I have seen in a video game. The hero or villain characters are fun to play,

and if you get past the problems in the campaign and galactic assault mode, it's not a terrible game. As you play on, remember, "May the force be with you."

I give "Star Wars Battlefront II" 7 out of 10.

7/10

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I was very excited about the game, because being a big "Star Wars" fan, it warmed my heart to see that this day has finally come. The original "Battlefront" was great. It had some hits and misses that "Battlefront II" has successfully made up for.

I've been playing this game for a few weeks, and I can confidently say that it is worth buying. I do have some problems with the game, but those problems are minor compared to all the additions "Battlefront II" has to offer.

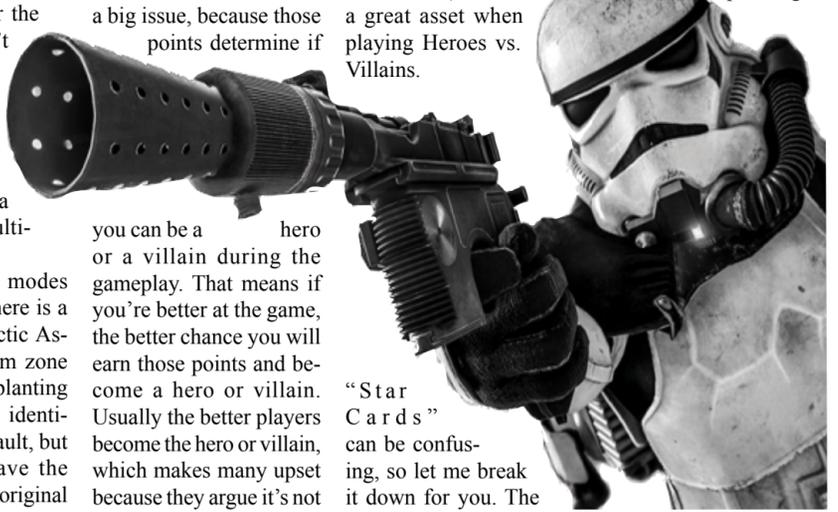
The original "Battlefront" lacked a campaign, which made many fans upset and in disbelief since most of the "Star Wars" games have a campaign. However, "Battle-

front II" has included a campaign in which the player goes on a journey through the eyes of Iden Versio, an imperial leader of a special force group called the "Inferno Squad." This campaign is a great addition to the game, and it also explains what happened to the rebellion and the empire between the end of "Return of the Jedi" and "The Force Awakens."

Versio is an interesting character, because usually in the "Star Wars" universe there's a good

over. "Battlefront II" will change all of that. To me, it feels like I'm watching a mini "Star Wars" movie because the graphics are very detailed and the effects are beyond phenomenal. The storyline is interesting, and players have a chance to play as familiar heroes during the campaign. I'm still a little disappointed in Versio's character during the campaign, but not enough where I don't want to stop playing.

The multiplayer mode was something I was excited for, and, for the most part, it didn't let me down. It is frustrating and confusing at times, but being a big "Star Wars" fan, I still find a new hope for multi-



player. There are five modes in multiplayer. There is a 20 vs 20 in Galactic Assault, ranging from zone control to bomb planting to a mode that is identical to Walker Assault, but doesn't really have the structure from the original "Battlefront." The game modes are fun, but what I found annoying is you can't pick which game mode you want to play. Whenever you join in Galactic Assault, it cycles you through all three

modes, so it's confusing at times because you don't know which one you're going to play. Picking which trooper you want to play is interesting. There are four, which are Assault, Heavy, Specialist and Officer. Each trooper offers something different. It's confusing, because you are only as good as your "Star Cards." "Star Cards" are actually really confusing, which I will explain more about later. The game also spawns you in a group of five and tells players to stick together to earn more Battle Points, but nobody ever really does. I can understand the concept that EA was trying to do, but it just doesn't work.

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style mode called Blast, a Heroes vs. Villains, and Starfighter Assault. I've only played Strike, Blast, and Starfighter Assault a few times, and I wasn't really interested in those game modes because it wasn't something I was drawn to. I was mainly interested in Heroes vs. Villains, and I love this mode.

I loved the mode in the original "Battlefront," but I think the sequel made

their class stronger, it's all about getting the crafting parts. I don't think it's a bad idea, because if I want to upgrade my "Star Cards" on a character that I'm trying to make better, I want to play as my strongest character to earn credits so I can earn crafting parts for my weak characters. It's not a bad concept. It's just a little confusing.

"Battlefront II" is still being criticized for its

and if you get past the problems in the campaign and galactic assault mode, it's not a terrible game. As you play on, remember, "May the force be with you."

I give "Star Wars Battlefront II" 7 out of 10.

7/10

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'A Bad Mom's Christmas' puts funny twist on traditional holiday movie

by ANNIE GOLDEN
Editorial Assistant

Get the gift of laughter with the new movie, "A Bad Moms Christmas."

Even the best mom has a bad side to her. But naughty moms can enjoy Christmas just as much as the nice ones.

With the holiday season in session, three over-burdened and under-appreciated moms, Amy (Mila Kunis), Kiki (Kristen Bell), and Carla (Kathryn Hahn), put a twist on the typical Christmas expectations.

The mothers are trying their very best to make their families happy and proud, but quickly become fed up with the strenuous work it takes to live up to good mom status around Christmas time.

Just as much as these ladies are moms, they are strong and independent women who work for what they want. So they decide to forget about being perfect. They all come to the decision to rebel against the not-so-fun parts of the holiday season.

With Christmas approaching, their own mothers decide to take charge of everything. But each of the 'bad' moms are not OK with this. So they decide to take charge.

It is empowering to see the real-world aspect in a Hollywood film, and what was even better was that they made the characters laugh at the issues in their dysfunctional lives.

Amy had just recently gone through a divorce, but found new love with Jesse (Jay Hernandez), who has a young daughter. She also has (older) children. While trying to perfect her blended family, get everyone gifts, and have an enjoyable Christmas, she also is standing off with her not-so-standoffish mother, Ruth (Christine Baranski).

Kiki is dealing with her first fatherless Christ-

mas, children, and more. She gets overwhelmed by her insane mother, who

her home life even more interesting, her greedy and absent mother sur-

up with less so they can enjoy their holiday.

I got just what I was

course words, and obnoxious, but realistic, experiences that put a funny and relatable twist on their holiday events.

Amy, Kiki, and Carla thought they were doing everything the right way. But those viewing the movie, including myself, knew it was all downhill when the moms started going too far.

I loved the traditional path the movie took with the families apologizing and forgiving one another, but the writer did not stop the humor aspect. That gave it a really nice, mood-boosting feel to it. My favorite part about the movie was how unique and appealing it was to the audience.

I would definitely go see it again, and recommend it to others looking to laugh about the behind-the-scenes work that goes into making every Christmas the best Christmas.

I give it a well-deserved 8 out of 10.

8/10

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gives her no breathing room. Her mother, Sandy (Cheryl Hines), even goes as far as moving in next door and wearing Kiki's face on her pajamas.

Isis (Susan Sarandon) is an obnoxious, rockermom who works at a spa that offers the service of waxing personal areas on men and women. That is where she meets her new lover, Ty Swindel (Justin Hartley). But to make

prizes her for "Easter" (so she thought), just before Christmas to ask for a \$15,000 loan.

The three 'bad moms' say to heck with it when all are surprised by their mothers. They end up getting drunk in the food court of the mall during the week before Christmas.

This is where things take a turn for the better, as the moms start putting

looking for out of this movie, as the rebellious adults incorporate fun back into Christmas.

Although the movie made you feel the traditional Christmas movie feelings, such as joy, tears of love, and heart warmth, it also takes you on a vacation from the perfectionist-style holiday expected from modern moms. There is exotic male Santa Claus dancers,

Dark side of social media highlighted by 'Tragedy Girls'

by REBECCA RUIZ
Editorial Assistant

An unexpected tragedy goes down in "Tragedy Girls."

"Tragedy Girls" is a horror / comedy movie starring two teenage girls, McKayla Hooper (played by Alexandria Shipp) and Sadie Cunningham (played by Brianna Hildebrand).

These two girls have a social media page called "Tragedy Girls" with a fan base based on a death-obsessed audience and gore. They use real-life tragedies to send their small western town their legacy and talent as modern horror legends. These two girls kill anybody that may be an obstacle in their way for fame.

The movie starts with Sadie making out with her boyfriend inside of his car. As the two are making out, Sadie starts hearing weird noises outside, since they were both parked at night at a creepy place. The boyfriend gets out of the car and gets killed by the most wanted serial killer from their hometown. This was all a plan from these two girls.

They finally get to kidnap the serial killer. Their hope was for him to teach them his methods so they can blame a rash of murders they're planning on him if it ever comes down to it. They left the serial killer tied up with ropes at a warehouse outside the town, telling him, "We're your biggest fans, dude!" as they leave to go have dinner with their families.

The movie works best

in the ways of savage but stealthy murdering leads to botched kills. One girl somehow ends up upside down, suspended by her ankle from a chain that swings her face-first into a live table saw.

These two girls would kill anybody who would get in their way for "news" and fame on Instagram. They will kill their friends, students at the school they attended, just

they have killed look like a runaway, or make it look like they committed suicide or just had accidents (where those occasions made them get mad). These two girls were "heroes" in their hometown for being able to work with authorities to "catch" the serial killer that they already had kidnapped, even though all the crimes were caused because of these two girls.

the need of stealing his Twitter followers. With the help of the sheriff's son, who is crushing big time on Sadie, Tragedy Girls' Twitter starts to soar, and so does the body count.

Later, it seems as Sadie has betrayed McKayla after Sadie gets all the praise after protecting the sheriff's son after the serial killer went inside their house to kill them

son, while McKayla plans with the serial killer to kill Sadie.

McKayla leads her to the attic at the school, and all four come along. The movie ends with the two girls killing the sheriff's son and the serial killer. They both get on good terms and plan to kill the rest of the people at the prom.

This movie was good. I didn't expect most of the things that happened, so that made it even better. This movie made me have the chills plenty of times, and I almost cried.

Movies like this one make you realize how social media is such a big thing for people. Social media, and being liked on it, is all they can think about. It's awful how society can be.

This movie demonstrates that and more. These 17-year-old girls kill innocent people for likes on Instagram. This movie is a must-see. I rate this movie a 9 out of 10.

9/10

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when Kayla and Sadie mess up (which, it was all the time). They don't really know what they're doing, and their ignorance

random people from their neighborhood for "likes" on Instagram, Twitter and on their Facebook fan page. They make people

McKayla starts having her doubts once Sadie encourages her to kill the ex-boyfriend she still swoons over. Sadie does this for

all. The two girls stop being friends. Prom comes, and they both go their own way. Sadie goes to the prom with the sheriff's



South Plains College Symphonic Band Fall concert featuring works by Praetorius, Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, and Grainger, was held on Nov 16, at the Jones Theatre for Performing Arts. ANNIE GOLDEN/ PLAINSMAN PRESS

'Justice League' unites fun, classic story

by RILEY GOLDEN
Entertainment Editor

[WARNING: FULL SPOILERS of "Justice League" follow]

The Earth is on the brink of destruction, and it's up to the heroes of tomorrow to unite and protect Earth.

On Nov. 17, Batman, Wonder Woman, Superman, Aquaman, The Flash, and Cyborg united to bring the "Justice League" to the big screen for the first time ever.

The film begins with a child's cellphone footage of Superman (Henry Cavill) before he died, then goes into the title screen and what seems like the actual start of the movie. I thought it was weird to start the film with found-footage that seems like it was meant to remind the audience that Superman died in "Batman v. Superman." It's talked about so organically so many more times in the film that audiences should have just been left to pick up on it.

After the title screen, no time is wasted on the unnecessary dialogue that plagued "BvS." Batman (Ben

Affleck) seems to be on patrol, but he is actually using the fear of a thief to draw out, wait for it, a PARADEMON!

In the comics and in the movie, Parademons are the soldiers of Apokolips, the apocalyptic world of the New Gods. They are humanoid in appearance, with black skin, bright yellow eyes, and wings. They're not pretty to look at, and they're portrayed quite perfectly. Seeing Batman fight a Parademon on the big screen is not only extremely satisfying for comic book readers, but the fact that it happens so early in the movie all but guarantees that the movie is going to be full of action.

After Batman wrestles with the Parademon for a minute or so, he captures it in a bat-net on a wall. It explodes, leaving a pattern on the wall. Batman, A.K.A. Bruce Wayne, radios Alfred (Jeremy Irons), and they discuss how this pattern of three boxes has been popping up in other places around the world.

Wonder Woman busts in on a bank robbery as the inciter of the robbery cocks his gun and prepares to kill all of the hostages. But Wonder Woman moves with super-speed to stop every bullet from hitting someone innocent. Then she waltzes off the scene in civilian clothes as Diana Prince, with the perpetrators tied up in the Lasso of Truth, willingly telling an officer all about the heist.

Batman's fight scene followed by another action-packed

is a great portrayal of the character, and I can't wait to get more of him in the solo Aquaman film, as well as a fleshed-out backstory.

Aquaman initially turns down Batman, so his next stop is with the fastest man alive, The Flash, A.K.A. Barry Allen (Ezra Miller). When Barry shows up at his place and turns the power on, "Rick and Morty" comes on the TV and Bruce Wayne is sitting in a chair in Barry's place.

in a live-action film is still really cool.

Apparently, Steppenwolf had been to Earth thousands of years ago, which is how the Mother Boxes got to Earth in the first place. The flashback that shows Steppenwolf coming to conquer Earth also pleased the comic community.

Basically, the three factions of the world, the Amazons, the Atlanteans, and man fought Steppenwolf back, with some help from a Green Lantern, separating

Atlantis. He realized that it's his duty as heir to the Atlantean throne to stop Steppenwolf.

Superman is dead when the movie begins, and it's a big part of what the heroes are dealing with while facing the world-ending threat that Steppenwolf presents.

The Mother Box in Cyborg's possession gives Bruce the idea of using it to resurrect Superman. When they do, Superman wakes up angry and delusional, leaving the League to do damage control.

don't actually use that term in the movie. They don't even call themselves or are they ever referred to as the Justice League in the movie.

There's a mid-credits scene that depicts the classic scenario from the comics of Superman and Flash racing, which put a huge smile on my face, although I was smiling through most of the movie.

The post-credits scene, which I almost cheered about, shows Jesse Eisenberg's Lex Luthor meeting with Joe Manganello's Deathstroke. I did not expect a Deathstroke appearance in this movie, and the fact that he was there, and looked great, was a great teaser to get me excited to see what's next in the DC cinematic universe.

After being disappointed with "Batman v. Superman," and "Suicide Squad" being OK, it makes me quite happy to say that "Justice League" delivered a classic take on the superhero team.

There is great chemistry between the League, which I wasn't really expecting. I felt that all the heroes were defined by the end of the film. Batman isn't stiff like he has been portrayed in earlier films. Wonder Woman is still kicking butt. Cavill seems to have embraced more of who Superman is and what he stands for. Cyborg was portrayed well with the screen time he had, and Aquaman and Flash really shined in the film.

There are some imperfections in the movie, but it delivered an extremely classic story of the Justice League that seemed like it was right out of a Justice League graphic novel.

I give "Justice League" an 8 out of 10.

8/10

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sequence with Wonder Woman whole heartedly pleased me because the pacing in "BvS" was slow and borderline boring.

Then, Batman begins trying to put this team together that he's been talking about since the end of "BvS."

Bruce Wayne stops at a small boat town looking for Arthur Curry, A.K.A. Aquaman (Jason Momoa). Bruce finds him, and (apparently) Aquaman doesn't really associate with Atlantis. So, he's just a loner who helps this small fishing town? I don't know if I buy this. I was taken aback when this was revealed, then I thought about it a little more. I decided that I'm open to this different, newer interpretation of Aquaman, because the rest of the role is done so well. Snyder and Momoa kind of brought this dude-bro essence to Aquaman, which was a fun and refreshing take on a character that could rip you apart with his bare hands or a wall of water. Momoa's Aquaman

Bruce makes advances at Barry about him being The Flash, and Barry smoothly shrugs them off. Bruce throws a batarang at Barry, and with Barry's super speed, time seems to slow down as he dodges and grabs Batman's batarangs. Filled with excitement after realizing Batman was standing right in front of him, he enthusiastically agreed to join Batman's team.

While all of this was going on, Steppenwolf (Ciaran Hinds), one of the New Gods of Apokolips, boom-tubed (teleported) his way into a vault in Themyscira, Wonder Woman's homeland. In the vault is a Mother Box.

In the comics, a Mother Box is something that, typically, all the New Gods have. It's essentially extremely advanced and powerful organic technology.

In the movie, the idea of a Mother Box is kind of condensed and molded to fit the narrative of the film. But seeing the Mother Boxes on the big screen

the three Mother Boxes. Each group did what they could to safeguard the Mother Box in their possession. The one that man had is the one that scientists were researching and the one that turned Vic Stone into Cyborg.

Diana is in the Batcave researching Victor Stone, A.K.A. Cyborg (Ray Fisher), when he hacks into the computers and asks Diana why she's looking for him. He agrees to meet her, even though he's been dealing with processing all of the information he stores now. In the comics and the DC cinematic universe, Vic Stone is visiting his dad at S.T.A.R. Labs when an accident occurs, and Vic almost dies. His dad uses technology from a Mother Box to save his son's life, turning him into Cyborg. At the beginning of the movie, Cyborg is in possession of the Mother Box that turned him into what he is now.

Aquaman didn't join up until he failed to thwart Steppenwolf from taking the Mother Box in

While they're trying to calm down Superman, Steppenwolf takes the Mother Box that they left behind.

Steppenwolf now has all three Mother Boxes and the movie is reaching its climax, while Superman flew away to gain control of himself with Lois Lane.

Batman, Wonder Woman, Aquaman, Flash, and Cyborg are trying to take on Steppenwolf and stop the Mother Boxes from destroying Earth, to no avail, when Superman shows up and helps the heroes put the beat down on Steppenwolf.

He gets scared and a bunch of Parademons begin attacking him when he and the Parademons get boom-tubed to an undisclosed location, although he probably got pulled back to Apokolips.

The heroes then settle down a bit. Bruce helps Clark get his family's house back, and they start discussing plans to turn the run-down Wayne Manor into a Justice League Watchtower of sorts, even though they



Justice League art display hosted by Lubbock-Con and Alamo Drafthouse. Photos by RILEY GOLDEN

'Master Race' delivers classic Dark Knight tale

by RILEY GOLDEN
Entertainment Editor

Bruce Wayne is old and battered. Superman has frozen himself in his Fortress of Solitude. Having been beaten

symbolically, Batman is taking on the whole notion of police brutality.

It is pleasing to see Miller take on such a hot-button issue, but what it kind of signifies is that Batman is right there with us. Bat-

Diana and Clark have at least one child together.

But, if that didn't paint a picture, the next several panels will. Diana asks for Lara, and she's told that her daughter is gone. To which Diana replies, "Again, Lara? Can't you leave him be?"

Then you see a beautiful, snow-covered page with a teenage girl floating at the top of it. Lara, Wonder Woman's daughter, has gone to the Fortress of Solitude to see her father, Superman, AKA Kal-El, AKA Clark Kent.

Lara, exploring the fortress, found a Kryptonian city that had been shrunk before Krypton, Superman's home planet, was destroyed.

"Dark Knight Universe Presents: The Atom" delivers Miller's interpretation of the Atom, and Lara shows up asking Atom to unshrink the Kryptonians.

In "The Master Race Book 2," Carrie breaks out of police custody with the help of what I would call the Bat-tank, and The Atom uses his technology to grow the Kryptonians, only to discover that the only surviving Kryptonians are followers of a cult leader called Quar Father, who wants to be worshiped as Earth's "New Gods." I feel that this is a reference to the actual New Gods of the DC Universe. It doesn't really mean much or signify much, but it's cool.

In "Dark Knight Universe Presents: Wonder Woman," Lara begrudgingly shows up to a training session with her mom, Diana. Lara believes that because of her Kryptonian heritage, she is indestructible. Lara tells her

Kryptonians. I can really relate to this, because my little sister is still kind of going through this rebellious phase. Seeing Wonder Woman, Queen of the Amazons, deal with her daughter—who could potentially be a much larger threat than my little sister ever could—with so much composure and maturity really puts things in perspective for me.

In "The Master Race Book 3," readers see Bruce and Carrie in the Batcave watch as Quar Father sends a Kryptonian follower down to Moscow with a pill that turns him into basically a nuclear bomb, and destroys it.

At this point, Batman decides it's time to shatter Superman's ice cocoon and put a plan into action to stop the Kryptonians.

"Dark Knight Universe Presents: Green Lantern" presents a very different and emerald take on Hal Jordan's origin story. It has him encountering three female Kryptonians for what's best described as a trippy encounter that traumatizes Hal and sends him on a journey of self-discovery.

In "The Master Race Book 4," Lara beats Superman tirelessly. Carrie helps Bruce get into fighting shape, and Flash tries to join up, but his legs are brutally taken out by a Kryptonian.

"Dark Knight Universe Presents: Batgirl" has Batgirl, Carrie, on a mission at the Gotham docks, that really demonstrates her impressive and brutal fighting ability.

At the docks, Batgirl is met by Aquaman, who has a grand entrance, as usual. He takes Carrie back under the surface with him, and "The Master Race Book 5" picks up with Carrie and Aquaman locating Superman, who had been cast in black matter and frozen in the arctic by the cultist Kryptonians.

The Flash gets taken to the Batcave to run operations for everyone else, since his legs are of commission. Batman wreaks havoc on the Kryptonians in his bat-tank to draw them all to a central location. With

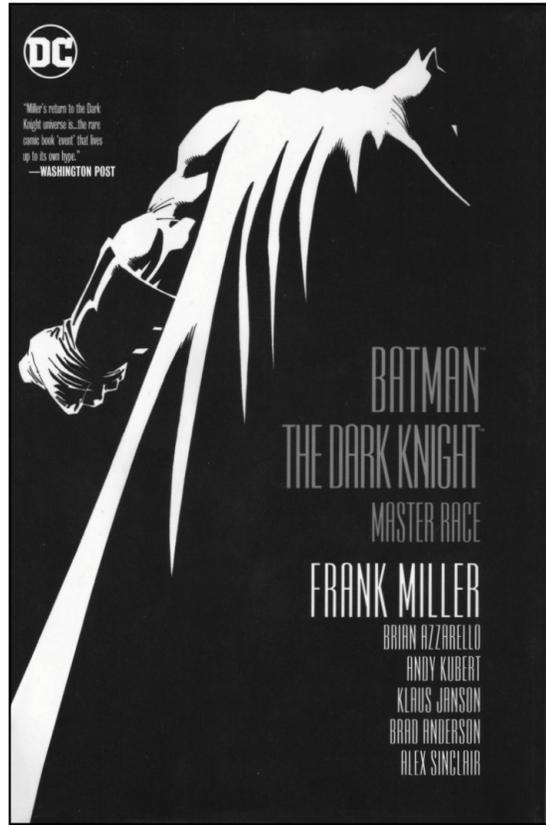
the help of Aquaman, they drop synthetic Kryptonite rain on the Kryptonians, draining them of their power.

Batman is in a metal suit, similar to the one that inspired his suit in the "Batman v. Superman" movie. Batman is brawling with a Kryptonian and starts taking a beating when Superman shows up in a metal suit similar to Batman's that would allow him to resist the Kryptonite rain.

After a short intermission of "Dark Knight Universe Presents: Lara"—when one of the Kryptonian men makes a d-

in the blood of Kryptonians.

"Dark Knight Universe Presents: Detective Comics" centers around Commissioner Yindel. It's a cool story with a really weird villain character in it. It doesn't really add all that much to the whole "Master Race" arc other than a "this is what Commissioner Yindel is up to" kind of story. But the weirdness lends its hand nicely in the book.



nearly to death, in "Batman: The Dark Knight - Master Race," the third installment in the "Dark Knight" saga, Batman, AKA Bruce Wayne, is being taken care of by his latest Robin, Carrie Kelley.

In 1986, Frank Miller's "The Dark Knight Returns" gave comic readers their first glimpse at the alternate future of the Dark Knight Universe and introduced Carrie Kelley, a girl that became Robin after saving Batman's life. In 2001, "The Dark Knight Strikes Again" took readers back to the Dark Knight Universe.

In 2017, 16 years later, Miller (writer) returned to the Dark Knight Universe to deliver the "Master Race," a nine-issue alternate future miniseries that has recently been collected in graphic novel form.

Miller has said that the reason he waited so long to return to the Dark Knight Universe is because he needed new material, newer social issues to tackle, and the current climate of our nation, both literally and figuratively, gave him that material.

This is evident in the first panels of "The Master Race Book 1" when the notion of unnecessary police force and brutality is presented by a young man who was doing no wrong and started being harassed by the Gotham City Police Department.

Batman, actually revealed to be Carrie under the cowl, is taking on police brutality in the form of standing up to the GCPD, as well as being beaten senselessly by them. Literally, Batman is taking on the GCPD's overuse of force. But,

man has always been the underdog, but this goes to show that the rich don't always lack compassion for the poor. In fact, it's as if Batman symbolizes the group of rich people who are fighting Trump's tax bill that would cut taxes for the rich. We're all in this together, and Batman is an exceptional example of this.

Batman, or Carrie, gets beaten senseless by the cops and is taken into custody for questioning. She's asked by Commissioner Yindel where Bruce Wayne is, and she answers with a story about how Batman was basically beaten to a pulp and never recovered.

The sequence of panels ends with Carrie telling Yindel that what she believes doesn't matter. Although Batman is alive, most of what Carrie said is true.

At the same time, Diana, AKA Wonder Woman, is fighting a Minotaur with a baby boy wrapped in a knapsack strapped to her back. When she returns home, the Amazon



zons that greet her ask if they can help with Jonathan. In the normal DC Comics universe, Jonathan is the name of Superman's and Lois Lane's child, so this immediately lets you know that

mother that she's not like her. She's not an Amazon, she's Kryptonian. Then she darts off to join the cultish

vances at her—"The Master Race Book 6" picks back up with Batman, Superman, and Batgirl putting the beat-down on the Kryptonians. They're running scared when Quar Father looks back at Batman and effectively kills him with a pinpoint heat vision beam.

In "Dark Knight Universe Presents: World's Finest," Batgirl and Lara have a confrontation and Wonder Woman steps in to defuse the situation.

"The Master Race Book 7" picks up with Superman taking Batman to the Lazarus Pit—a well known source of longevity in the DC Universe that can potentially drive someone mad. Bruce comes out of the pit looking like he's in his prime. He's delusional at first, but Superman is able to calm him down. Lara tries to take her brother, Jonathan, at Quar Father's request, and her and the Kryptonians are met with full resistance by Wonder Woman and the Amazons.

"Dark Knight Universe Presents: Strange Adventures" has Hawkman and Hawkgirl teaming up with Green Lantern.

"The Master Race Book 8" has Lara joining forces with her mother, Wonder Woman.

Batman and Batgirl devise a plan, and Superman flies to Amazonia to meet a Wonder Woman drenched

"The Master Race Book 9," Batman, Superman, Atom, and Lara are the key figures in defeating the Kryptonians and restoring order to Earth.

This is followed up by "Dark Knight Presents: Action Comics," which really nicely wraps up "The Master Race" for all of the heroes, and they all basically ride off into the sunset.

Everything about the book transcends time. The art is a mashup of modern digital comic art with traditional-style penciling, as well as popping colors that invoke a sense of new and older comics all at once. The story will always be used as a marker of the social and political make up of our country at this point in time.

Written by Miller and Brian Azzarello, drawn by Andy Kubert and Klaus Janson, and colors by Brad Anderson and Alex Sinclair, "Batman: The Dark Knight - Master Race" delivers a truly classic tale of the Dark Knight and his super friends.

I give the graphic novel a 9 out of 10.

9/10

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Comic Corner

Comics of the week for the weeks of
Nov. 8, Nov. 15 and Nov. 22

DC Comics

Action Comics #991

“The Oz Effect Part 5” brings a conclusion to the story arc, but creates more questions.

Jor-El, Superman’s father, has basically come back from the dead, with a piece of Kryptonite lodged in his head. Wielding a staff that relieved the pain of the Kryptonite, it was also driving him mad.

Kal-El, Superman, and Jor-El were finally starting to connect when Jor was pulled away by a portal, leaving Superman to find his father.

Batman #35

In “The Rules of Engagement, Part 3” Selina Kyle, Catwoman, is fighting Talia Al Ghul, daughter of Ras Al Ghul, who is the leader of the League of Assassins, for the right to marry Bruce Wayne, the World’s Greatest Detective.

Talia is the mother of Damian Wayne, the current Robin.

The sword fight between the two women is enjoyable, and the entire story arc has been extremely relateable. In all of its outrageous glory, the story is very grounded in a real-world situation that a large number of people have found themselves in, in some form or fashion: merging families.

This is definitely something I’ve been through, and seeing a character I cherish go through this is inspiring.

Batman: Lost #1

Following the events of “Metal #3,” in “Batman: Lost,” Batman is lost in the Dark Multiverse. Barbatos is showing Batman how he supposedly had a hand in all of Batman’s cases, from the very first one, making him the idolized detective that he is.

Barbatos tells Batman that he has only shown him a handful of the Dark Batmen that all of Batman’s fears and failures have produced in the Dark Multiverse.

The entirety of the “Dark Knights: Metal” arc has been pretty mind-bending, but “Batman: Lost #1” is mind-blowing.

Hal Jordan and the Green

Lantern Corps #32

In the third part of the “Bats Out of Hell” “Metal” tie-in, “None More Black,” Green Lantern squares up against his evil Batman counterpart, the Dawnbreaker.

Hal Jordan, Green Lantern, is nothing if not inspiring, and his inspiration shines, literally and figuratively, in “Bats out of Hell Part 3.”

The Dawnbreaker’s ring absorbs light, and upon discovering this, Hal puts his ring to strobe, constructs a massive Green Lantern megazord, and puts the beat-down on the Dawnbreaker.

The pages are filled with contrasts of bright green and solid black, which works beautifully.

The Batman Who Laughs #1

In “The Batman Who Laughs #1,” on Earth -22, in the Dark Multiverse, The Joker pushes Batman to his breaking point. Batman kills The Joker

Upon dying, the strongest form of Joker toxin is released into the air, and Batman, having just snapped his neck, was in close enough proximity to the Joker to get infected, and his brain started rewiring. Batman and The Joker became one, and Batman killed the bat family, the Justice League, and Superman’s family.

Then Barbatos shows him the whole Dark Multiverse, and sets him and all the other evil Batmen lose on Earth 0.

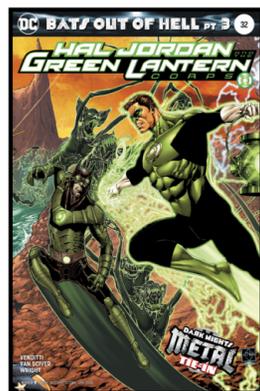
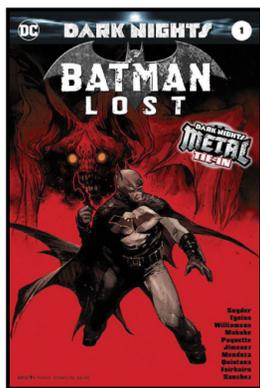
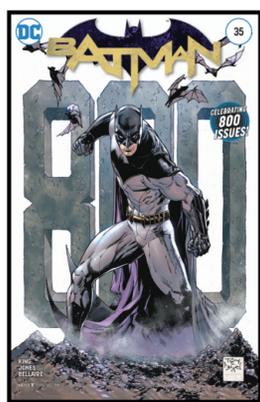
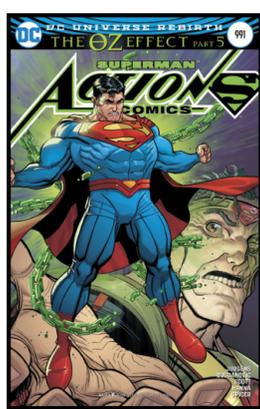
Justice League #33

In the “Bats Out of Hell Finale,” Cyborg’s Mother Box, the source of his powers, tells him it’s time to give in and let it take him over.

He gives it partial access, and is able to get free and let the Justice League out of their restraints, so they can team up against the evil Batmen.

They’ve finally made some progress, but it’s only “halftime,” according to Cyborg.

Their Batman is still losing in the Dark Multiverse. If the whole event hasn’t been a climax, than it is reaching its climax in this issue.



Nightwing: The New Order #4

In “Nightwing: The New Order #4,” The Flash, Beast Boy (or Beast Man now?), Raven, Cyborg, and Starfire, the mother of Jake, and Dick Grayson’s ex-wife, saved their long-lost friend Dick from being pummeled by the Green Lantern, Jon Stewart.

They’re all at odds with Dick for what he did to remove the powers from the planet, when they find out that Jake is being held because he might be the cure for people to get their powers back.

Kory, AKA Starfire, and Dick hashing out things as estranged lovers is quite relateable, and it’s cool to see that was written into this strange, alternate future.

Doomsday Clock #1

The world is ending. Much of the comic gives a mild back story for the Watchmen.

Previously a masked hero, Adrian Veidt, the self-proclaimed World’s Smartest Man, has been charged with the death of 3 million people.

Dr. Manhattan hasn’t been seen in years. The Comedian is thought to have been murdered by Veidt.

A new Rorschach has been sent to collect The Marionette to recruit her for something Veidt has cooked up.

A notion is made that Dr. Manhattan has fled to another universe, then we see Superman having a nightmare and the comic ends with a quote from Ozymandias that seems to reference Krypton.

Marvel Comics

Daredevil #595

Matt Murdock is a lawyer who was blinded by chemicals as a child and developed heightened senses. He is the Devil of Hell’s Kitchen, Daredevil.

In “Crushed by the Kingpin,” Matt returns from overseas to discover that Kingpin, Wilson Fisk, was elected mayor on a platform that all but mirrors Donald Trump’s.

Wanting to right this wrong, Matt sets out on a crusade against Fisk that is quickly shut down by a request from Fisk to build a case against the vigilantes in New York.

Displeased, Matt sets out in his tights to clear his head, when things take a bad turn.

The Incredible Hulk #710

In “Return to Planet Hulk Part II,” Amadeus Cho, now The Incredible Hulk, is on Sakaar, fighting in the Warlord’s trials called the Gauntlet.

As the champion of the Doka’abi tribe, Hulk makes it through the first trial, which was basically an alien monster truck rally where everyone was trying to kill Hulk.

Amadeus “takes back the wheel” from the Hulk persona, then gets angry upon discovering that he’s only made it through one of five trials, which I’m assuming will continue in the next several issues.

The Mighty Thor #701

Volstagg has been confronted by Mangog in “The Wrath of the Mangog.” A creature that is said to be “ferocity personified... born from the rage of an entire slaughtered people.”

Mangog is the ultimate judgement of all Gods, and he has found Volstagg’s tenure as the War Thor wanting.

Almost the entire issue focuses on the Mangog demolishing the War Thor.

At the end of the issue, Malekith, the forefront of the war on the Nine Realms, appears out of nowhere and tells Mangog where he can find more Gods to slaughter.

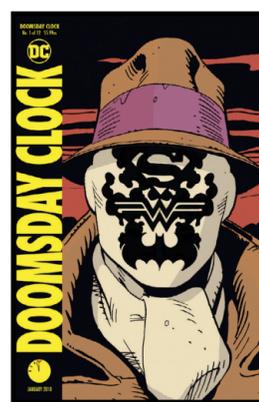
The Punisher #218

Frank Castle became the ruthless antihero The Punisher when his wife and children were murdered in a Central Park shootout and crooked cops kept their killers from receiving justice.

In “Punisher: War Machine Part 1,” ex-Director of S.H.I.E.L.D., Nick Fury, approaches Frank for a job that just so happens to intersect with the Punisher’s current personal vendetta.

To pull off Fury’s mission, though, he’s going to need to requisition something from the Air Force: Tony Stark’s designed War Machine armor.

He acquires the War Machine suit and sets off on Fury’s mission with pure excitement.



Back Talk: Greetings cause debate during holiday season

Seasonal greetings should include all holiday traditions

Different cultures create positive interactions through greetings



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

The war on Christmas is not real.

When winter arrives, it seems that the anger toward political correctness from Republicans reaches its peak.

Since the time that former president, Gerald Ford was in office, anti-Semites have been alerting the public of the “assault on Christmas.” This was started when Jews began entering the United States. This meant that Jewish students began attending schools filled with Christians.

Because ignorance is a strong thing, these people either did not realize that Jews do not celebrate Christmas or they just did not care, and their ego led to hatred toward Jewish people when motions were passed to exclude mentions of Christmas in schools.

For those who may not have noticed, the United States has become home to an ever-growing diverse group of citizens who may not celebrate Christmas.

Today’s “war on Christmas” focuses on the words “Happy Holidays” being used in department stores instead of “Merry Christmas.”

Using “Merry Christmas” to wish everyone happy times during the holiday season is not inclusive of other cultures.

When schools celebrate Christmas specifically, it is not inclusive of pupils from other cultures, which can cause a young student to feel segregated and insecure. You wouldn’t walk up to a Jewish person and shout “Merry Christmas” knowing well that they celebrate Hanukkah. So we shouldn’t address diverse groups of people as if they all celebrate Christmas.

Many religious people will argue that saying “Happy Holidays” instead of “Merry Christmas” “takes Christ out of Christmas.” But to be quite honest, Christ has nothing to do with

Christmas. People aimlessly follow tradition and customs without really looking into their origins, because they seem to come naturally and it’s what they’ve always known to be true.

The Holy Bible explains in the book of Luke that Christ was born at a time when shepherds were “abiding in the field,

watching over their flock by night.” In the book of the Song of Solomon, the scripture states that winter was a season in which shepherds could not stay out in the cold watching over their sheep in the fields at night.

The Catholic Encyclopedia confirms that Christ was born during the fall, and not in the winter.

Another thing people fail to realize is that Jesus was a Jewish person who celebrated Hanukkah.

According to the Associates for Biblical Research, Christ participated in the celebration of Hanukkah around the year AD 29 during the winter. The scripture gives the implication in the Book of John, chapter 20, and verse 22.

So why is there so much fuss about being inclusive? Wouldn’t you want to include the image of Christ in your festivities?

All of this doesn’t make you wrong for celebrating Christmas in remembrance of the birth of Christ. The main reason it is even celebrated on December 25 is because there really is no known exact date of birth. But you must be inclusive.

Celebrate Christmas, but don’t be stubborn about sharing this festive holiday season with those who don’t celebrate Christmas so that we may, indeed, experience happy holidays.

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by **TYLER YORK**
Online Editor

If your birthday is in June, it would be strange for people to acknowledge that cheerful day of by wishing you a “happy summer.”

It would still be a pleasant interaction, sure. But the response to a specific life event feels like people care about you. It’s almost always a welcome communication between friends, family, and even sometimes people you barely know.

I don’t see why it can’t be the exact same way with Christmas.

When people wish each other a “Merry Christmas,” they’re taking a moment to connect with each other, and to have a positive interaction that brings both parties a brief instance of joy. Most of the time, this comes in the middle of a regular daily routine and provides a little break in the monotony that can make one’s day if positioned properly.

I’ve grown up celebrating Christmas. I have

never celebrated Hanukkah in my life. But last year, when I was wished a “Happy Hanukkah” by someone in passing, it nearly made my day. The thought that someone would want to share their personal happiness about their time of cultural celebration absolutely thrilled me. I felt more connected to both my community and, at the risk of sounding cheesy, humanity as a whole.

There seems to be a trend toward oversen-

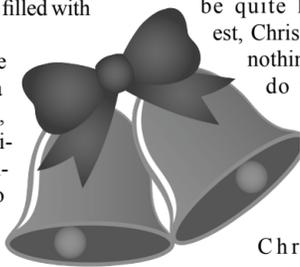
United States, it doesn’t have to mean anything Christmas-adjacent is automatically offensive to everyone in the minority.

Furthermore, the act of giving well wishes of happiness in a time of celebration doesn’t invalidate the individual beliefs or practices of another culture. On the contrary—I think sharing messages of appreciation and social pleasantries does a great deal to unite cultures. In a country with so much diversity of practices and celebrations, and with a media that tends to focus on negative interactions and evidence of a divided nation, the more we can do to share our happiness with each other, the better.

I recognize that it’s a bit different with Christmas, specifically, and it could be argued that there’s a different dynamic of majority power in play. I would probably agree—if people were running around screaming that Christmas is the only thing that is allowed to be celebrated, or if there were violent riots where Christmas supremacists were killing innocent people in the name of the one true Santa. But that isn’t reality.

People just want to tell other people “Merry Christmas.” And that is hardly the end of the world.

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WORD ON THE STREET

What is your favorite holiday tradition?



“I’m Mexican, so my family makes tamales and stuff for the holidays.”

Antonio Ortiz
General Studies
Freshman
Spur



“My favorite holiday tradition is taking off from work. It’s a good tradition that we don’t have to go to work on the holidays.”

Dolf Guardiola
Instructor in Sound
Technology
Whiteface



“Getting together with family on Christmas eve and opening one present. I think that’s my favorite part, being with my family that night for that one present.”

Emily Hinojosa
Veterinary Medicine
Freshman
Plainview



“I don’t really have a holiday tradition, but I enjoy going back home to see my family.”

Isiah Maurice
Family Studies
Sophomore
Durham, North Carolina



“My family bakes cookies together.”

Shane Leary
Heating and Air
Conditioning
Freshman
Spur

Compiled by Randi Jines and Rebecca Ruiz

Animal agriculture increasing global warming issue



by **TOVI OYERVIDEZ**
Photo Editor

Animal agriculture is the leading cause of global warming, deforestation, species extinction, water replenishing, and ocean dead zones.

The consumption of meat is to blame for all the reasons this is happening.

Globally, cows produce 150 billion gallons of methane per day. Methane has a global

warming potential 86 times more than carbon dioxide has in a 20-year frame. All the methane in the air is causing the green house effect. It's warming up our planet, and for the past three years, each year keeps getting hotter.

Animal farms produce more

than 1 million pounds of manure every minute. Humans annually produce 7 million tons, while farm animals produce 335 million tons of manure per year.

If you wonder what happens to that waste, it usually ends up somewhere such as our rivers, lakes, air, and aquifers. Slaughterhouses have polluted more than 35,000 miles of our rivers, threatening and endangering fish, amphibians and birds.

Fresh water on this planet is key to life. Nearly 50 percent of water used in the United States goes toward raising animals for food. Also, 50 percent of the world's grains are fed to

livestock. Yet close to 1 billion people go hungry every day. It's scary to

a year now, and taking animal products out of my lifestyle has cut my

people think about me or my lifestyle. I'm trying to save this world and the

animal's body, instead of just getting it straight from a plant source with a



higher quality of nutrients and protein. In general, I think people should be eating more fruits and vegetables, even if you are someone who

think that 80 percent of our antibiotics are sold for livestock.

I've been a vegan for

carbon footprint in half. I know I live in the heart of the steak state, but I don't really care what

lives of innocent animals.

Choosing a plant-based diet helps not only the environment but your well being. It can help lower the risk of bad cholesterol, blood pressure and Type two diabetes. A recent study found that nearly half of Americans have high blood pressure. The only place you get cholesterol is in animal products, meat, eggs, dairy and cheese. For anyone who says, where do you get your protein? I want to say, where do they get their nutrients and fiber? Plants are the original source of protein, and animals eat the plants, which gives them protein.

People get their protein by filtering their nutrients through the

doesn't plan on cutting out meat.

I'm not trying to persuade people to go vegan, because I know not everyone has the will power. I just want people to know that their eating habits are really affecting Earth. Everyone could just cut back, even if it's to participate in meatless Monday. People should think twice about where their food comes from and what effects it could have on the environment.

Everyone could really make a huge impact globally and save millions of innocent lives while saving the planet for future generations to come.

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Trailers, marketing spoiling films for viewers



by **RILEY GOLDEN**
Entertainment Editor

Trailers and marketing have been spoiling movies for a long time.

The first movie I really remember experiencing this with was 2005's "Hitch," starring Will Smith.

I watched that movie expecting it to be hilarious, only to realize that every single laugh in the film had been used in the trailers.

The next experience I remember having is with 2015's "Jurassic World," starring Chris Pratt.

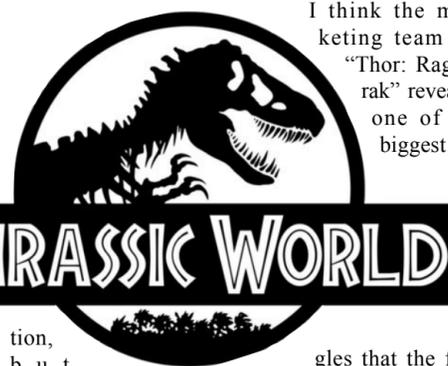
I was so psyched for that movie that I watched all of the trailers, and my anticipation for the movie grew with each one.

Then, when it came time to watch the movie, I was disappointed. I had seen glimpses of almost every single scene in the film. Since 2015, I've watched the movie a couple times and I have enjoyed it more because I had forgotten much of what I'd seen in the trailers and then in the theatre.

After that movie, I made a semi-conscious decision to watch fewer trailers. Now, I will typically just watch one trailer before the movie comes out, no matter the movie.

I remember watching only one trailer for "Spider-Man: Homecoming," and I still felt like I had seen all of the good scenes from the movie.

I understand that con-



I think the marketing team for "Thor: Ragnarak" revealed one of the biggest an-

gles that the film

tion, but not so much that the movie is ruined. But Marvel has released so many films in the past 10 years that you would

hinted at Hulk being a large part of the film, but the reveal would have been great in the movie, instead of months before the movie came out. I felt like there would have been so much more mystery. If I was watching the movie and Thor just out of nowhere landed on Sakaar (Planet Hulk in the comics), I would have been freaking out.

Woman" most definitely was. I think they're trying to show people that "Justice League" is going to be better than "BvS," but they're jumping the gun by constantly releasing different clips from the movie.

I was at a Lubbock comic book store a few days before "Justice League" came out and one of the employees told me that people are loving Ezra Miller's Flash. My reaction was just to face palm. It really annoyed me that people already had a solid opinion of one of the characters that hasn't been in any of the previous movies.

After watching the movie I was glad that I hadn't watched any of the clips because almost every scene surprised me.

Hollywood needs to take a new approach to marketing films. Instead of asking "what can we show the consumers to make them want to see this movie?" They should be asking "what can we not show the consumers to peek their interest in the film?"

Film marketing needs to be less blatant than it is, and maybe make consumers think or speculate a little more.

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sumers are hard to get a grip on. They need to be shown enough to start building up the anticipa-

think they understood this concept. But it seems that they're handling them worse and worse.

had, and that was making Hulk a part of the marketing. They could've



Public relations student reflects on time spent as journalist



by MATT MOLINAR
Editor-in-Chief

My major isn't in journalism, but the Newsroom has definitely changed my life in many ways.

The five semesters that I have spent as an editor of the Plainsman Press have produced some of the most valuable memories and experiences that I've lived through.

On the first day of class, as a freshman starting at SPC, Charlie Ehrenfeld gave an introductory talk where he explained that the Newsroom could change our lives if we let it.

Because SPC lacks a program for public relations, I decided to stay in the class previously known as Publications, now known as News Reporting, and joined the editorial staff. I wanted to be able to say that I was participating in a school activity and get the writing experience all PR specialists need.

Throughout these past five semesters, I have been able to make connections with some of the coolest people that walk the planet, including politicians, scientists, prostitutes, and other people who have significant outlooks on life. I can even say that after this semester, I have a mutual friend with Barack Obama.

During the first semester, I started by writing a news story about the newly added gender-neutral bathroom in the Student Services Building. After being told by many professors that they had no idea there was a gender-neutral bathroom on campus, I finally found the person who proposed the bathroom and would be able to tell me all about it.

After the article was published, I had a few professors tell me that they loved my story and were glad to find out from my article that we now had a gender-neutral restroom. I felt great knowing that I had informed the school body

about the new bathroom. So I was inspired to write more and contribute to our series for that semester, "Identity Crisis."

From that point, I just kept writing and improving my skills in writing and editing. I remained as the opinion editor from freshman year all the way until the semester that I had planned as my last. But things don't always turn out the way you wish they would.

During that fourth semester, I went solo on a series I wrote titled "Risqué Business," getting to speak to victims of child prostitution, human trafficking case workers, escorts and prostitutes about their experiences in the sex industry.

After finishing my series, I was appointed by Charlie to take the position of Editor-in-Chief, even though I'm still a public relations major. But I was excited to work my magic on the Plainsman Press, starting with a redesign of the front page, and some tweaks to the inside pages that would make it easier and more appealing to read. The Newsroom became my second home.

I'm happy to have left my own impact on this

contact with her, and I'm happy to say that we will be studying public relations in the same building next semester at Texas Tech University. Pamela is one of the smartest people I know, not only when it comes to political sciences, but also when it comes to life in general. During that first semester, she helped me get through a rough time.



I'm happy that we can reunite this next year.

Dariela left us in the Spring to enroll at TTU, and I was very jealous. Dariela is an angel. And I'm not just saying that because she's a nice, humble person. Dariela has the qualities of something supernatural and holy. She's beautiful from the inside, out.

Thankfully, Brandi has been with me since the very first day. During the course of these past five semesters, Brandi and I have walked the same academic path. Public relations is my passion and dream. To have someone like Brandi to take along the way is special.

We learn together and build off of each other's ideas and knowledge. And the best part is we don't get on each other's nerves.

Brandi and I have made the decision to find a home together while attending TTU. Because we get along so well and have helped each other through many problems, I know that we will be pleasant roommates. I honestly can't wait to spend the next chapter of my life struggling and thriving with the help of a best friend. We're going to take good care of each other and make sure we're staying on top of things.

After losing Dariela, we convinced Riley Golden to start working on the editorial staff. When Riley joined the editorial staff, things were never the same. The room seemed to have a new energy. Riley can walk into a room and flip the whole mood just by saying something funny or starting up a

conversation. I've always known Riley as someone who is heavily influenced



by culture. In fact, I call him a culture mutt. That's something that I really like about Riley. He is someone who can embrace the ambiguity and differences in another person. A quality like this one makes him such an amazing person.

During the past few semesters, as we've become the best of friends, I've witnessed Riley grow quite a bit. I'm happy that I have been able to play a role in Riley's life where I have been a positive influence. I'm so proud of the steps Riley has taken in his life recently,

and I'm happy that Riley will also be transferring to TTU with us. These people have been like family to me. Me and Riley have improved and matured together as writers. I'm so proud to see Riley taking initiative and accomplishing his goals. Riley has taught me that even if the going gets tough, there is really no obstacle that you can't get through if you're determined.

Chesanie Brantley and Nicole Lopez also had a great influence in who I am, not only as a writer, but as a leader. I went into this Editor-in-Chief gig with no leadership experience. Chesanie and Nicole were the Editors-in-Chief my freshman year.

Nicole left with Chesanie, but came back after a year. After starting as Editor-in-Chief, I was worried because we started with a small staff, and it has only gotten smaller. Nicole has helped me in ways that nobody has before. I really would not have been able to make it out of this semester alive if it were not for Nicole's helping hands.

When I found out that she was returning to staff as our sports editor, I was absolutely elated. Nicole's prior knowledge of the Editor-in-Chief position helped me out so much, and I don't think that words can express just how thankful I am to have Nicole on staff this semester. I know that she is moving far from us, but I know that wherever she goes, we have these memories to hold on to that define our early college careers.

Tovi Oyervidez became my friend when

she returned to editorial staff as our photo editor. Tovi has an amazing eye for photo composition. Most of the memories I share with Tovi involve us laughing to the point where we can't breathe. Tovi has a special place in my heart. She has been a great influence in my life when it comes to making life choices. Tovi competed



with me this year at TIPA in the "Two-Man Photo Essay" contest. We didn't win, but roaming the streets of Dallas in search of a photo topic was an amazing bonding

experience when I learned that Tovi and I work hard and well together. I remember being lost in the desert with Tovi trying to photograph a salt lake for my "Hidden History" spotlight story. We created some amazing things together.

Another person I'm going to miss is Dom Puente. We didn't talk in high school, but this year, we have become close friends. I'm glad we got the chance to get to know

because it's just that welcoming. I worked with Jordan at the Plainsman Press, as well as the job I had at the mall, up until recently. I know that wherever Jordan goes, she's got what it takes to end up where she wants to be.

But the worst part of graduating from SPC is having to say goodbye to our friend, Charlie.

With the help of Charlie, I have been able to propel my life forward, and everybody else who has had him will say the

exact same thing. The skills I picked up under Charlie, whether related to PR or not, have prepared me for my future in great ways, and I truly cannot thank him enough.



Charlie became a father figure to us. We went through a lot this semester, but we pushed through and made some beautiful newspapers.

The experience that Charlie has in the journalism field and his ability to transfer that knowledge to his students is what makes this newspaper great. I've seen Charlie literally change a student's life by motivating them and encouraging them.

I can say that the motivation that Charlie has planted in each and every one of us is going to produce beautiful results in our lifetimes. As freshmen, we weren't too sure

about the directions we were taking in our lives. But after being molded by Charlie over time, we all have the drive we need to accomplish our dreams.

It really hurts to say goodbye, but I know that without the Newsroom, we would be lost, and I wouldn't have met this amazing group of people. It's hard to move on, but I'm so thankful to have developed this much as a writer in this Newsroom.

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Print Journalism student makes friends, hones skills



by RILEY GOLDEN
Entertainment Editor

The moment I met Charlie Ehrenfeld, my life began changing for the better.

It was not a fast change by any means, and I truly have my older sister to thank for telling me to look into taking a class with Charlie.

You see, when I started college, I was a history major. That went OK when I was at South Plains College for my first semester. But toward the end of that semester, I had convinced my bestfriend, Kris, to transfer to Texas Tech University with me.

And I drowned. I didn't like my history classes at Tech, I rarely saw Kris or anyone else I knew, and I had a hard time attending class. I was down and out. History is what I had planned on majoring in through most of high school.

Well, one day I was talking to my older sister about my school dilemma, and in the same day, I was talking her ear off about the "Avengers: Age of

Ultron" movie I had just watched. I guess she had a light bulb go off, and she told me I should think about writing entertainment stories and taking a class with Charlie.

So my next semester, Fall 2015, I enrolled in Charlie's News Writing class, and when he had me introduce myself, I said that I was interested in writing video game and movie

reviews. He told me he had a place for me, and that he wanted to talk after class.

The place he had for me was the Plainsman Press Newsroom.

When I first joined, the bad attendance habits I had developed at Tech carried over. My first semester was definitely not my best, even though I produced some decent content for the paper.

Toward the end of that semester, I ended up being in the Newsroom for my first of many Family Dinners.

That night I made a semi-conscious decision that this was something that I really wanted to be a part of, and I decided

that I would start learning InDesign.

I just felt like I gravitated toward these people and that they gravitated toward me.

My first and second semesters on the Plainsman Press, Chesanie Brantley and Nicole Trugillo were my Editor-in-Chiefs and they put up with a lot from me. But I can totally credit them with showing me how a newsroom worked and teaching me

discipline with deadlines.

Someone I met during my first semester on the newspaper is Josh "Ua" Ramirez. We learned a lot from each other, and he really taught me how to work InDesign. Ua is a great sports writer, and not only did he mentor me here at SPC, but he is also someone I will always be able to look up to as we both grow as writers and

finally allowed for me to have a class with Billy Alonzo, and I learned a lot about film and cameras. I also had a lot of fun cutting up with him.

This semester, my younger sister, Annie, joined the paper. It's not really her forte, but she made some friends and it gave us something to bond over.

One of the friends who

made our names known. And Ua isn't the only

Annie made is someone who I would now con-

sider a certifiable homie, Autumn Bippert. Autumn has so much potential in the Newsroom and wherever she goes past this place. I'm happy to be leaving the paper with her as the next Editor-in-Chief.

Lastly, but definitely not least, is our current Editor-in-Chief, Matt Molinar, or Matty.

On what I think was my first official paper night as an Editorial Assistant, Matty and Mallory gave me their numbers and told me they'd like to hang out. Mallory isn't really around anymore, but Matty is the exact opposite.

3.0, and I think at this point I could be called Riley 4.0.

This semester, I've written at least one full-page review for every issue, on top of other news and feature stories that I

everyone I mentioned has done for me, and that's entertaining my nerd talk.

Matty doesn't really care for the nerd stuff, but he'll always listen to me and let me show him my new comics of the week anyway.

I could always talk to Dom and Ua about video games and comic book movies, and they would always give me the sports updates when I wanted them.

But more often than not, I was the only guy around. And as much as that could get old, the ladies would always indulge in my nerd talk.

Brandi would probably indulge me the most with my comics because she knows and likes the characters. She's always down to hear

about what they're up to now. And don't even get us started on the "Justice League" movie.

Not far behind is Nicole. Nicole and I could always talk about video games and anything "Star

Wars." I still think we should do a "Star Wars" podcast.

Autumn's dad likes comics and she likes going to comic movies, so I could always talk to her about that stuff too.

Tyler York was always my go to for nerd-talk, but his music career kind of took off and I got a lot less time with him than I would've liked. I hope we can stay in touch, no matter what direction we go.

I also feel like I have left Charlie with comic book and video game knowledge that he will carry with him forever.

I couldn't have done any of this without my dad's financial support and the emotional support I got from my mom.

I think I'm really going somewhere in the entertainment news industry, and I could not have made it to where I am today without any of the people who I have encountered in this Newsroom.

Charlie, thank you for everything. You're never getting rid of me, no matter what.

There's something, other than friendship, that

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Print Journalism major goes after dreams despite life changes



by NICOLE LOPEZ Sports Editor

'Hey guys, it's Paper Night,' is one of the many phrases I will miss saying in the Newsroom.

I didn't think I would ever come back to South Plains College when I left in the spring of 2016, especially the Newsroom. I got married, moved to California without graduating, and I figured I would finish when the time was right. Well, I was wrong. I put my college education on the back burner, but not because I was lazy. It was because I was enjoying married life, and I figured I would have time later in life to finish my education. I was wrong again. I became upset with myself because I didn't finish. My husband knows this better than anyone, because he heard me complain about it for about a year. I'm glad I

was presented with the opportunity to finish. My husband, who is a United States Marine, got deployed to Kuwait, and he supported my decision to return to West Texas. I couldn't thank him enough for supporting my career and being involved with all the articles I have written and the people who I've met and spoken to. Thank you so much Ralph for being there for me. I love you.

My mom, dad, and brother encouraged me to go back to school and receive my diploma. I'm very blessed to have the support system, because it meant a lot to me knowing that my family supported and encouraged my decision.

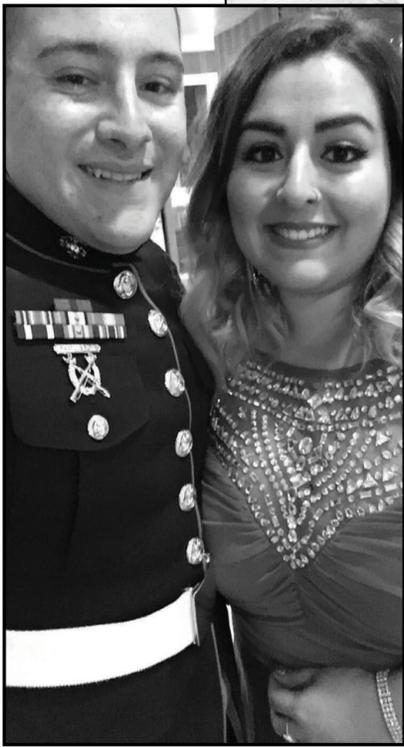
I'm glad I'm graduating from SPC, because it has shown me that you don't have to stop pursuing your education when life throws you curveballs. Getting married and starting a new chapter in my life didn't stop

have wanted to spend my last semester at SPC with any other group.

Autumn, Tina, Randi, Bekka, Annie, Adán are new to the staff. They have given this staff so much to offer, and I'm glad they signed up. I'm really glad they didn't decide to quit after the first paper week. The Plainsman Press is lucky to have each and every one of you.

your articles are great too. Hopefully, I was a great Sports Editor, and hopefully I was great to work with.

outspoken, and I love that because I'm the same way. She has great stories to tell and knowledge to share to the world. I will



Now to the group who I've seen grown since the beginning of their semester at SPC.

Riley, the guy who is an expert at comics and video games, deserves to work where his talents can be shown to the world. You have brought great ideas to the Plainsman Press, such as your Comic Corner page. Thank you for

always remember the time when she cried whenever I showed her my wedding dress, and I didn't know you for that long! You're too sweet, and I will miss you. Texas Tech is lucky to have you.

know for a fact you will do great things at Texas Tech, and I'm really going to miss you.

I finally had the chance to take Introduction to

mentoring me again. I really thought whenever I left the Newsroom before, I thought I would be leaving it for good. I didn't mean to come back



Tyler, my birthday twin, even though I haven't spent much time with you this semester, you're a great writer and I can't wait to see more

understanding the love I have for the Ninja Turtles and "Star Wars." You have grown to being a great entertainment writer.

Brandi and Tovi are

I didn't think I would meet anyone who cared about animals as much as I did. But that was before I got to know Tovi. She is a great photographer, and her Spotlight page designs have been great and beyond amazing. She's hilarious, just like Brandi, and I love whenever we get together and make jokes all the time. I have encouraged her to write an article or two because I believe she can be great at writing, just like how great she is at taking photos. I'm happy that I became closer to you Tovi, and I'm definitely going to miss you.

Matty has made me proud. From one Editor-in-Chief to another, you did great your first and last semester as Editor-in-Chief of the Plainsman Press. Whenever I left, I wanted the paper to be in good hands, and I know you were and still are capable of doing so. I love the ideas you brought to the table, and I'm glad we worked closely together this semester. I'm going to miss your classical music playing in the Newsroom and just coming together and solving problems that have to deal with the paper. You have made me proud, Matty, and I'm really glad you're moving forward in your career. I

Mass Communications with Billy, and I want to say that I enjoyed my time through the years with him. Every time Billy comes into the Newsroom, he always has something hilarious to say. He has given me great advice on certain things, and he always teases me about being pregnant, which I'm not! I'm going to miss you Billy and your contagious laugh.

This has always been the hard part of writing

and start this goodbye process all over again. You have taught me so much, and I think this time I am ready to leave and take the knowledge you have taught me and turn it into something great. I'm always worried about making you proud, and I think I have. You encouraged me to come back to school because you care, and I'm glad you do. There are no words to describe how much I'm going to miss the

atmosphere you bestow in the Newsroom. Thank you, Charlie, for all the years of putting up with my late stories and sass. Thank you for believing in me and encouraging me to be a better writer. Present and future students are lucky to have you as a professor and a mentor. I'm going to miss you, Charlie, and your great imitation of me. Thank you for the great years,



articles from you in the future.

Thank you, Dom for

probably the greatest people to hang around with. I get along well



me from going after my dreams.

My last semester at SPC has been a great experience, and I wouldn't

writing most of the sports articles. You're the real MVP. I'm glad I got to know you more this semester. You're also a great photographer, and

with these girls well, and they're hilarious! Brandi has always been open about everything in her life, and she stands for what she believes in. She's

farewells, because whenever I mention his name my eyes do this weird thing where water starts to come out of them. Charlie, I never thought you would be

Charlie. Now I can officially say... "Learning has definitely taken place."

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Public Relations major finds lifelong friends in Newsroom



by **BRANDI ORTIZ**
News Editor

I have been thinking about writing this since the first day of class, not because I want to leave, but because I need to remember.

The memories I have made while in the Newsroom will forever be something I will cherish.

The Newsroom, or

Ehrenfeld. Charles, or how I like to call him, Charlito, is the chairman for the Communications Department and the advisor for the SPC Plainsman Press. When I first met Charles, I wasn't so sure how I felt about him. He was sitting at the table in the back of the room playing "Uno" with a bunch of other students, and I honestly thought I was lost and in the wrong classroom. What professor plays a card game with their students? (It was a pretty suspenseful game, by the way.) Turns out, a quick game of "Uno" before or after class was not out of the norm. I don't quite remember how the game ended, but I'm pretty sure he lost. Charlie

Billy. Billy, aka Bills, aka Balonzo, is an associate professor for Radio, Television and Film and the advisor for Texan Radio and SPC TV. He is the zoo keeper for the TV kids -- students who major in broadcasting and who obviously wish they could be just as cool as us printies. Though he does use most of his time trying to control his TV kids, Billy loves to come into the Newsroom to give Charlie a hard time, and I love it. Billy is someone who can just make me laugh

and help me remember to take my daily cruises

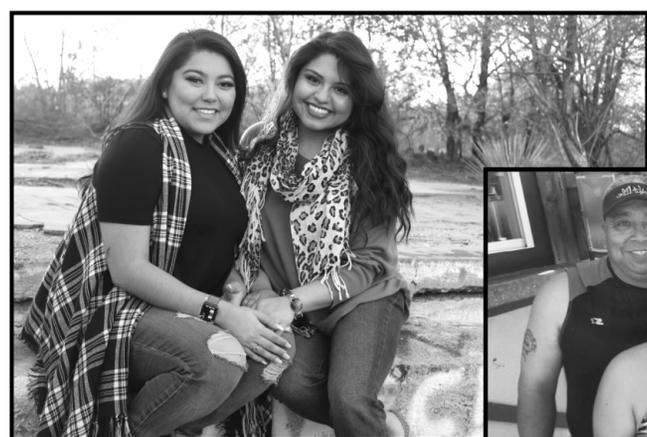
such a wonderful young woman in my life. When Dar moved in with me, she changed my life. She helped me begin to understand who I was and who I wanted to become. She

of my best friends. We have gone through so much together. From crazy drama to getting lost in a different city, Matty and I have been through it all. Matty has turned

into one of my closest friends, and I can't even think of a way to thank him for everything he has done for me. He has become like a sibling to me at my home away from home. Matty brings out my creative side, and every

time we are together it's a trip. He has become a part of my family and will forever have a place in my heart. Matty, I can never express how glad I am that we have each other and are about to embark on this journey at Texas Tech University together. I love you.

Another sweet soul who has touched my life is Tovi Oyervidez. Tovi is my best friend and an amazing photographer. When I first met her, our sports editor at the time, Joshua Ramirez, told me not to talk to Tovi because she is rude. But man, was he wrong. Tovi is the sweetest, most loving person someone could meet. She is the proud mother to an English Bulldog named Sophie, which I love so dearly. Tovi's family has accepted me as one of their own, and I am so grateful for them. Tovi, thank you for bringing me along on your journey and inviting me into your family. You have become like a sister to me, and I hope we are life-long friends.



me laugh and help me remember to take my daily cruises



CM130, is where you will find a group of news junkies crowded around a family-style table, speaking of the gossip of the day, and writers at work at their unassigned assigned computer desks.

Located inside the Communications Building on the Level-land campus, the Newsroom is our home. Home to the photographers, home to the writers, home to the award-winning Plainsman Press.

It is where we spend our days, nights and, sometimes, sunrises.

It is the battleground of the most intense "Uno" matches, and where "Rotten Apples" or "Cards Against Humanity" brings out the best and worst of us.

The Newsroom is where we laugh the loudest and cry the hardest. It is a place where, even though I am far from home, I know I can always find my newspaper family.

Now, of course, this is where I get pretty emotional about the people who have turned into family during my time on the Plainsman Press.

First and foremost, there is Mr. Charles L.

never really stood a chance against Ches or Nicole when it comes to their conniving tricks, but we will get to them in a moment.

Charles can be considered the "back bone" of the Plainsman Press. He edits our stories and makes them as perfect as they can be, though sometimes that can be tough. He always gives the best advice he can offer, even if it isn't what we want to hear. Charlie is a sympathizer and demanding. He will understand and listen if you are having a difficult time, but he is also going to push you to do your best. I cannot thank him enough for all the times he has given me a

if I ever get too stressed. He has become like an uncle to me, and I love him for it. Thank you, Bills.

No farewell can be written if I don't say thank you to the people who truly helped me and pushed me along the way, my friends at the Plainsman Press.

When I first joined the Plainsman Press, a group of friends and I quickly began to be known as "The Squad."

"The Squad" consisted of six freshmen: Pamela Gandy, Jonathan Brookshire, Dariella Hernandez, Matt Molinar, Malory Carver, and me.

Pamela was my first "official" friend and roommate. I believe that Pamela is, respectively, the creator of RBF, but she sure does wear it flawlessly. Pamela and her full 6 feet in height turned out to be a loving teddy bear who is also not afraid to tell you how it is. She was the first person to know about my mental issues and

how overwhelming it can all be. But she stood by me and understood what I needed. Pamela kept me grounded. Often, when I would have a panic attack or was in the dumps, she always found a way to calm me down and get me through the day. Thank you, Pam, for everything.

Dariella, Dar, was/

pushed me to try my hardest in all aspects of life and reminded me to enjoy the



time I have here. She was my right hand and front-seat passenger. She helped me see when I couldn't, literally. She gave me confidence when I knew I looked like I just rolled out of bed. She gave me inspiration, and I love her for that.

Thank you, Dar. I love you so much and can't wait to see what is in store for each of us.

Spring semester of 2016 is when "The Squad" dissolved. Four of the six members have

time we are together it's a trip. He has become a part of my family and will forever have a place in my heart. Matty, I can never express how glad I am that we have each other and are about to embark on this journey at Texas Tech University together. I love you.

Another sweet soul who has touched my life is Tovi Oyervidez. Tovi is my best friend and an amazing photographer. When I first met her, our sports editor at the time, Joshua Ramirez, told me not to talk to Tovi because she is rude. But man, was he wrong. Tovi is the sweetest, most loving person someone could meet. She is the proud mother to an English Bulldog named Sophie, which I love so dearly. Tovi's family has accepted me as one of their own, and I am so grateful for them. Tovi, thank you for bringing me along on your journey and inviting me into your family. You have become like a sister to me, and I hope we are life-long friends.

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Editor-in-Chiefs when I began on the paper, and she decided to come back to the staff this past semester. She is a Marine's wife, and they are the cutest couple. I love her and Ralph so much, and I'm so glad they let me celebrate with them. Thank you, Nicole for always being a helping hand when I needed it, and for giving me hope on true love. I love you, girly.

Most of the time, the Newsroom is filled with women, but our Entertainment Editor, Riley Golden, helped even out the hormones. Riley is the person I go to when I feel like geeking out on some superhero news. He always keeps me in the loop about all the comics he's reading, and I love it. He is a hard worker when it comes to things he loves, and I am proud of him for it. Thank you Riley for letting my nerd side show and becoming someone I can relate to when I am having a bad day.

While on the Plainsman Press staff, I have met a lot of people, most I will not be able to mention. But each one of them mean so much to me, and I know I will never forget my time here as an editor and the people who shaped me.

Among those people are Chesanie Brantley, Joshua Ramirez, Dominick Puente, Alex Perez, Steven Gehegan, Autumn Bippert, Annie Golden, Randi Jines, Adán Rubio, Tina Gonzalez, and Rebecca Ruiz.

At the beginning of each semester, Charles tells the incoming staff, "This classroom can change your life, if you let it." I encourage each and every student who walks through the doors of CM130 to allow it to change your life. Take on the new opportunities, write or take photos of any and everything. Working for the Plainsman Press is an honor and privilege. It will give you all the skills and opportunities any other publication could, if not more.

I had a love-hate relationship with the Newsroom, but I know I will never forget it. Let it change your life. It can only be for the better.

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Servers not treated fairly in food industry



by **TOVI OYERVIDEZ**
Photo Editor

Looking through the lens of a camera is how I've lived my life for the past seven years.

I started my journey with photography during my sophomore year in high school. Since then, it has been growing. Coming to South Plains College has opened many doors for me and has given me the opportunity to grow as a person.

I've learned things about myself that I never knew I could do. I've challenged myself in many ways to become a better student and photographer. However, classroom CM 130 has impacted my life in such a remarkable way no other classroom has ever done for me. I was told that the room would change my life, and it did.

My first semester in college was a little stressful for me trying to figure this whole college life. I started on the Plainsman Press staff as a photographer, and I was very shy and timid. I would rarely talk to anyone. My shyness began to diminish as semesters went by as I became more confident in my work and in myself.

I began to take on much bigger tasks of becoming the photo editor for the Plainsman Press. Becoming part of the editorial staff has really given me the chance to spread my wings and learn about things I never knew how to do. For instances, Indesign was never my thing. Laying out a page was not my specialty. Since fall of 2016, I've been able to lay out every Spotlight page and been able to learn from previous mistakes. Looking at my Spotlight layouts has really

amazed me with how far I've come, from not knowing anything, to the basics, to laying out pretty awesome Spotlights.

I was given many opportunities to grow as a photojournalist, getting to shoot the Globetrotters, a Black Lives Matter protest, a Women's March, and covering Texas Tech football games.

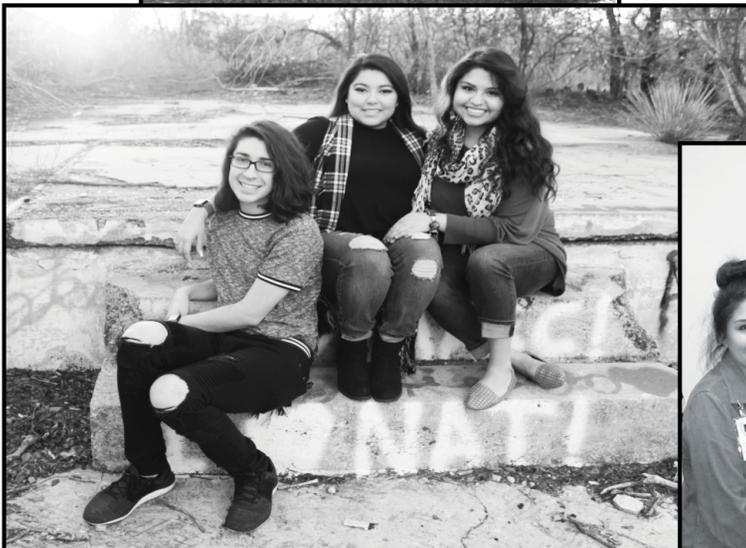
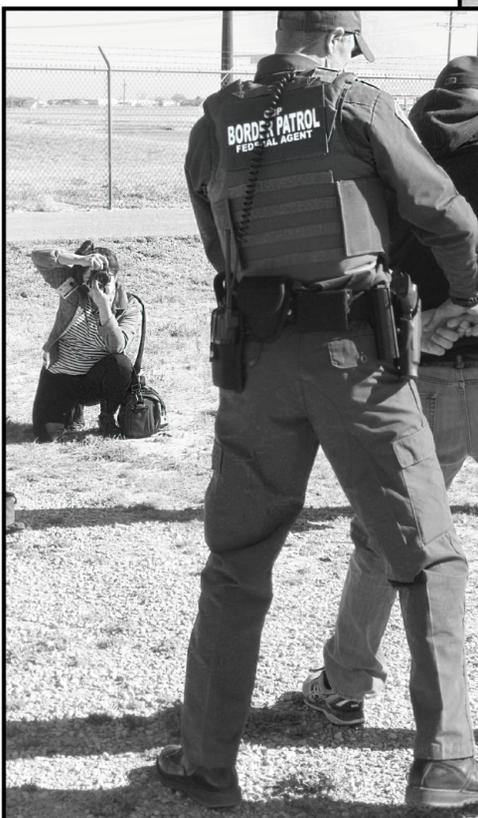
One of my most memorable assignments was being able to see the lives of trainees at the Border Patrol Academy in Artesia,

has been with me from the beginning. He's helped guide me through college and has given the best advice when times were hard for me. Charlie has always been my number one fan, who has always encouraged and pushed me. Whether it be with life, photography or math class, he was there. Being Charlie's assistant this semester has really made our bond stronger, and nothing

Dom, you have grown so much with your photography, and I couldn't be any more proud of you. I want you to keep

mester of school! I've known you the longest, and I'm glad we got to connect more this semester. We grew so close,

Tuesdays and Thursdays. I couldn't be any more proud of you and the work you have accomplished with the paper. You truly



pushing yourself to get better, because you have so much potential with sports writing/photography and I want you to thrive in life. I'm going to miss all our funny conversations, making jokes and laughing at people. You really could brighten my day with your jokes. I wish my friend nothing but the best.

Riley, I've seen you grow into an amazing writer, and you're hands down the best comic reviewer. You have accomplished so much with the paper! You've won awards for your amazing work, and I couldn't be more proud of you. This is only the beginning of or your learning, and you will get better. I

and I know I can always tell you something and always talk to you without ever feeling judged. I'm deeply going to miss you when you move to South Carolina, but I know it's best for you and for Ralph. I just wish y'all the very best and want y'all to live a happy, long marriage.

Matty, gosh, hasn't it been a crazy semester!? First of all, I just want to say I'm glad Charlie chose you as Editor-in-Chief. I've seen many editors come and go through this room, but none like you. I've seen all the hard work you've put in to make this paper award-winning. I'm really going to miss our times we shared, from doing Spotlight stories together and driving all the way out of town, to getting family breakfast with

are an amazing writer, even though you doubt your work sometimes. You have really been a great News Editor, and we have been able to cover exciting things together.

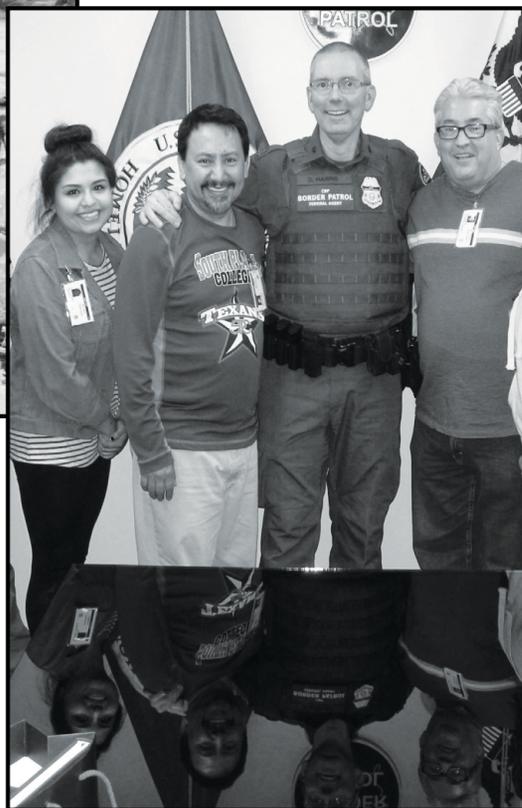
You have conquered many obstacles in your life that have made you grow into a strong, independent, smart, and beautiful woman. We learn from each other, and our friendship will continue to grow us closer. I want you to excel at TTU and study public relations, because I know it's something you always wanted to do ever since you were a child.

Tyler, Autumn, Adán, Annie, Tina, Randi and Bekka, you guys are going to do awesome next semester. We are leaving the paper in very good hands, and I know the paper is going to do well. I care about each and every one of you and want nothing but the absolute best for my friends. Y'all are great human beings, and you should keep sharing positivity to other students and help them grow too.

I've had a good run for six semesters. I've been on staff ever since I started college. This room has made me change and grow in astonishing ways. I've won awards here that I couldn't be more proud of. I learned more things I never knew. The only thing I do regret not doing more of was writing. I feel

that my writing could have really changed and improved here, but I'm learning slowly.

I've met and made friends with many different people, too many to name. I'll remember each and every one of my friends I ever made at the paper. I want my photography to open the eyes and hearts of people. I want my photos to change the world. I will forever remember my amazing time here. Peace, love and go vegan!



New Mexico. I will never forget the life opportunity which helped me learn so much about myself. Ever since I was a sophomore in high school, I always knew being a photojournalist was something I could imagine pursuing.

Many people have impacted my life through tremendous ways. The person I bring most honor to is Professor Charlie Ehrenfeld. Charlie

ing hurts me more than leaving Charlie. He's been the best professor, mentor, advisor and boss anyone could ever wish for. I only wish students around could have a teacher like Charlie. You can't come across professors like him anymore.

Not only have I met a wonderful professor through this journey, but I have also made many friendships.

hope people see the creativity and potential you have to help you flourish in life.

Nicole, can I just say I love you so much, and I'm glad you came back to finish your last se-

Charlie on Fridays. You have become a long-time friend for me, and I'm so blessed to have you in my life. You're an amazing co-worker and writer, and I can only imagine how much you are going to thrive at Texas Tech University studying public relations.

Brandi, my other half, sister, best friend, I don't know what I would do without you. Our friendship has grown into long lasting. We have had so many unforgettable, hilarious and wild times.

I'll never forget our late paper night sleepovers, and how much fun we had

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Newsroom becomes second home with great people



by **DOM PUENTE**
Staff Writer

Being a part of the Plainsman Press has been a blessing because of the friends I have made along the way and the memories that have been created with wonderful people.

Coming into my first semester in the Newsroom, I didn't know anyone. Even in my other classes and journalism classes, I was not interested in talking a whole lot. My mentality going into college was to go to class,

start being more friendly and volunteering for more things in the Newsroom. I knew that if this was something I wanted to do, it would be best to get a feel for the different types of writing and photography.

Writing sports features was a great way to break out of my shell. I am usually quiet when it comes to talking to people. I am not comfortable around strangers. Doing interviews with other students and teachers really helped me, and I owe a lot of that to being a part of the class.

As for sports, I owe a lot of what I know to Nick. He helped me become a better sports writer and always helped me out when I had questions or needed advice about different things. I would say he became a friend right out the gate. We shared a lot of interests,

in Lubbock at the United Spirit Arena was a great opportunity for me, as well as enjoying the overall experience and the show.

Toward the end of that fall semester, I had become more vocal and outgoing with what had become my second family in the Newsroom.

During the first semester as a freshman being a part of the Plainsman Press, I had the mentality of this just being another class I needed. The goal was to coast through without any problems and go on about my business.

That whole thought changed when I became closer to those people in that classroom. Spending two years in that classroom may have been frustrating at times. It could be overwhelming, or I just wasn't having any of it sometimes. But I am glad I got to spend it with an awesome professor and great people who became my friends and family.

When the spring came around and a new semester started, I decided to kick the stress up a notch and become an editorial assistant. Those long nights might not have been too fun around 2 a.m. or 3 a.m., but there were always fun times in the Newsroom.

The nights seemed long, but I got to spend it with great people, no matter how cranky or mad some got. It was a part of the process, and I found some enjoyment in those stressful nights.

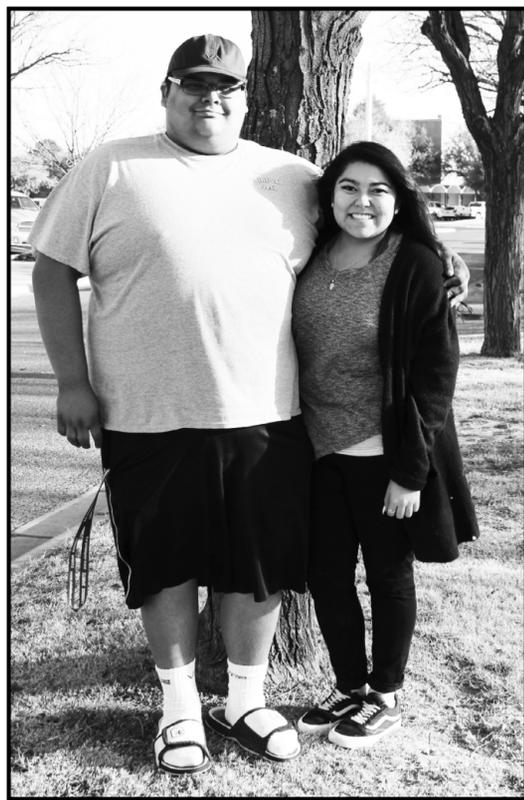
I really enjoyed our group dinners and getting to know everyone a little more. I feel that by doing our dinners and always asking a question after for everyone to answer was fun and gave us insight

of the group anymore, especially not being able to see the friends I have

best. The semester hasn't flowed smoothly the entire time, but I feel that

discussions with about things going on.

As for the new kids



leave and live my life outside of college.

I continued to be that way when I started that spring semester in the Newsroom. I was only able to write opinions, because the other sports guys were already covering the campus sports and I was working at the Hockley County News-Press at the time.

While that semester flew by, I stayed in my shell the entire time

especially in sports and other things around that topic that not many people in the Newsroom had, which made Nick an instant friend.

Writing sports and taking photos for the Plainsman Press has been an opportunity that I have enjoyed more than anything while being at South Plains College. Seeing our sports programs win regional titles and write about them

made throughout the semesters like usual.

I think what made the stressing and arguing among us tolerable was the group of people put in that room. Riley, Matt, Brandi, and Tovi are friends that I am glad to have made throughout all of this. All four of them have amazing hearts and are funny as can be. I could never have a bad day when I get to hang out with them in the Newsroom. If they ever need anything in the future, I won't hesitate to help family. They've all been great to me, and I couldn't have asked for better people to work and chill with.

Riley is probably the most relaxed guy I have met. It's funny to me how he can be so chill and relaxed, but get all his work finished and it will be awesome. Spending three semesters with him on staff has probably made him my closest friend, by far. I admire how hard he works to write about entertainment pieces such as video games and comic books. Our conversations usually consist of us talking about games, movies and comic books, which helps me stay informed on what to buy, so I appreciate that. Overall, it feels like we've been friends forever. We always joke about things and usually never run out of

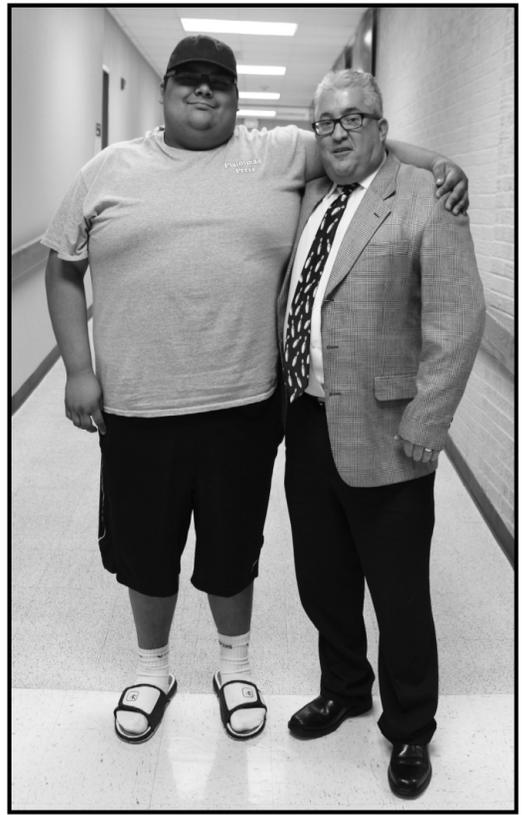
he's proven to handle it well without a doubt. Matt always keeps a positive vibe and is nothing short of a great friend to talk to at any time.

Brandi is probably the most outspoken of the group. She won't be afraid to let you know her thoughts on any subject, and I wish I was more like that. It's fun having conversations with her and honestly talk about anything and everything.

on staff, they are great as well. I know they will make the paper great.

Charlie Ehrenfeld, my advisor, favorite professor, and great person has taught me more than I could ever thank him for. Since the first day I stepped into his News Writing class, I knew I was never going to have second thoughts about quitting and changing majors.

Instead of picking a



mostly. I conversed with a few of the guys who wrote about the sports, Nick and Joshua, when I needed to.

When the fall came around, I was excited to

competing at the national level is a great experience.

Being able to take photos at the 2016 Kellogg's Tour of Gymnastics Champions

into what we thought or felt about that question.

Coming into my last semester in the Newsroom, it's hard to think I won't be a part

stuff to talk about because we share a lot of interests.

Matt is great to be around. I think out of all the editor-and-chiefs I've had, he has been the

Even though she can be mean to me sometimes, I always forgive her for calling me names.

Tovi is the funniest out of everyone, especially her laugh that can be heard for miles. She always has jokes and comments for things, and I don't know how many conversations we have had that have gotten us in trouble. She is fun to be around and hangout with. It never gets boring in the Newsroom with her.

After this semester, I hope to keep in touch with this group and be able to hangout every once in a while.

Among the other awesome people in the class is Nicole, who has been nothing but nice to me and is fun to talk to and be around. It's even more fun making fun of the fact she is a Packers fan. Tyler is another great guy who joined the staff last year. He is super smart and fun to talk to and have

major and just running with it, Charlie showed me how fun and great being a sports writer and photographer could be if I fully believe in it. I cannot thank Charlie enough for helping every step of the way when it came to the newspaper and college. His teaching helped me earn an award at the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association conference in sports opinion writing, and I could not have it without what he has taught me.

At the beginning of it all, Charlie explained that the Newsroom can change your life if you let, and it did. It has made me a better person and given me a second family with amazing people. I will never forget the times I spent in that room, and the fun and great opportunities I had.

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Dorris takes unexpected path to play basketball at SPC

by **NICOLE LOPEZ**
Sports Editor

Maddie Dorris never thought her basketball career would land her in West Texas.

Having attended a 6A high school in Weatherford for four years, Dorris never thought she would be a member of the South Plains College women's basketball team.

Before attending SPC in the fall of 2016, Dorris thought she would be going to a university instead of a two-year college.

"My junior year of high school," says Dorris, "there were some people who talked to me about going to play basketball.

According to Dorris, when being recruited, your junior summer when you play basketball is when many colleges start talking to you and recruiting you.

"As senior year came around," explains Dorris, "I wasn't getting the calls anymore, or the texts, or letters. I was thinking, 'Man, if I'm not getting

the attention anymore, then basketball might be over for me if nobody is offering it to me.' Junior college never crossed my mind, and we even have a junior college back home. So, it's not like I didn't know about them. It was just something I didn't want to do."

According to Dorris, her senior year was when she spoke to Cayla Petree, head women's basketball coach at SPC.

"She was asking me to come up for a visit," says Dorris. "I thought, 'Maybe I didn't want to go JUCO. That wasn't going to be for me.' But I came up here, met coach and she had faith in me that I was going to be a good player. Seeing how dedicated Coach Brock Kimball was and everyone being so nice, the decision was easy after that. I ended up loving it here. I said this to everyone, but the people in West Texas are the nicest people you'll ever meet."

Dorris has been around sports most of her life.

When she was growing up with her two older siblings, her parents tried to keep them out of the house.

"I grew up playing all the sports," says Dorris. "I played soccer, volleyball, swim team, anything with a ball. But basketball just had this thing for me. It's always been a thing for me. I think it's because of the physicality of it. I think it got my aggression out. You know when your brother or sister annoys you? I played three years of varsity volleyball, track, but basketball has always had my attention."

Dorris always played the post position when playing basketball, and she plays the same position for the Lady Texans.

"It's like you always get into a little fight whenever you're playing the position," says Dorris.

Dorris is the only sophomore playing this season on the women's basketball team. She explains that it's different from last year coming in as a freshman.

"Coming into this year

as a sophomore," says Dorris, "I didn't know how it was going to be.

There is a lot of youthful energy in the locker room. Everyone is excited to be there. I tried to take a leadership role and show them the ropes, because I know being a freshman is really taxing. We have to get up and have 6 a.m. practices every morning. It's exhausting. I try to be there not only on the court, but off the court to just say it's going to be OK. I've stepped up and hopefully been the person I need to be for them."

Dorris is majoring in kinesiology, which is the

study of the human body. She plans to become an occupational therapist.

skills," explains Dorris. "So, if someone had a stroke, you would re-

teach them how to use that side of their body, or kids with special needs and you help them with fine motor skills. And my mom was a special ed teacher. So, I've been around kids. I've always enjoyed kids. I want to help people. I think that's something I will really enjoy."

Dorris plans to graduate in the spring of 2018, though she doesn't have any other plans for her future yet.

"We're going to see how this season goes to see where I'm going after that," explains Dorris. "Let's see if I get any offers."



Lady Texan Maddie Dorris looks to take more of a leadership role for her teammates as she is the only returning sophomore.
AUTUMN BIPPERT/PLAINSMAN PRESS

"It's like physical therapy, but you teach life

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Dominant Lady Texans prepare for strong conference play

by **DOM PUENTE**
Staff Writer

After dominating the beginning of the season, the South Plains College women's basketball team is entering competitive conference play.

With a team consisting of mainly freshmen, the No. 16 Lady Texans powerhouse had strung together a 10-game winning streak.

The Lady Texans were defeated by Midland College 58-55 on Nov. 29 in Midland at the Al G. Langford Chaparral Center in their Western Junior College Athletic Association opener.

The Lady Texans struggled to find offensive production through the first half, scoring one point in the first quarter and only 15 points in the second.

Throughout the second half, SPC started to string together points, scoring 21 in the third quarter and finishing the fourth with 18 points.

Although the Lady Texans gained momentum going down to the wire, Midland College was able hold the lead while trading baskets before the final buzzer.

Freshman guard Gabbie Green led the Lady Texan offense with 15 points, five rebounds and one assist.

Freshman guard Chelsea Hunter chipped in 12 points, six rebounds and four assists.

The Lady Texans topped Colorado Northwestern Community College 78-46 on Nov. 21 in Rangely, Colorado.

SPC opened the game with 21 points in the first quarter.

The Spartans were held to 13 points in the first quarter and only managed to put up 11 points offensively in the second quarter.

Scoring 26 points in the second quarter, the Lady Texans went into halftime with momentum on their side and a comfortable 47-24 lead.

The Lady Texans didn't slow down, scoring 18 points in the third quarter and 13 in the fourth quarter.

The SPC defense ensured their victory in the third quarter by holding the Spartans to only five points. With the lack of offensive production in the fourth quarter from Colo-

rado Western, SPC held on to a comfortable lead.

Green led the Lady Texans with 17 points, one rebound and three assists, while freshman guard La'Praisjah Johnson put up 15 points, five rebounds and one assist.

Freshman Mikayla Kuehne finished the game with 10 points, two rebounds and six steals.

The Lady Texans defeated the West Texan Drive 64-59 on Nov. 19 at the Texan Dome.

After overcoming a double-digit deficit in the second half, the Lady Texans took over the offensive side of the court. Freshman forward Christina Baker and freshman guard Mikayla Kuehne each made a pair of threes to tie the game at 57 points with 2:36 left in regulation play.

With a few minutes left in the game, Kuehne put up a three-pointer to put SPC up 60-57. Freshman guard Chelsea Hunter came through for the Lady Texans, making two free-throws to keep the lead, while Kuehne iced the game with a game-ending two-point shot.

Baker led the Lady

Texans with 12 points and 10 rebounds, while freshman guard Gabbie Green finished the game with 10 points and four rebounds.

The Lady Texans gained their eighth victory against Phoenix College, 86-53, on Nov. 18 at the Texan Dome.

The Lady Texans controlled the floor, scoring at least 18 points a quarter and holding the Lady Bears under 15 points a quarter.

Kuehne led SPC with a career-high 28 points, along with three assists and five rebounds.

Freshman guard Alexis Popham finished the night with 12 points and four rebounds. Baker also put up 12 points and seven rebounds.

SPC imposed their defensive skill against the Lady Bears, forcing 29 turnovers.

The Lady Texans hit the 100-point mark for the second time this season with a 104-31 victory over Chandler-Gilbert Community College on Nov. 17 at the Texan Dome.

Kuehne led the SPC offense with 25 points, adding four assists and three rebounds.

Freshman guard Chantel Govan put up 17 points against the Lady Coyotes. Baker also scored 15 points and had two rebounds. Johnson chipped in 14 points and also had three rebounds and two assists.

The SPC defense allowed nine points or less in all four quarters, ensuring a dominant victory.

SPC forced 25 turnovers, while shooting 57 percent from the field and 66 percent beyond the three-point line.

The Lady Texans kept their undefeated streak at home as they defeated SWCID, 122-36, on Nov. 16.

Johnson and Baker finished the game with 19 points each, leading the Lady Texans on offense.

Kuehne scored 14 points and finished the

game with six defensive rebounds. Baker also managed 14 points and seven rebounds.

Freshman guard Haileigh Hill put up 12 points, four rebounds and four assists for SPC.

Freshman forward McKenzie Taylor scored 10 points and grabbed seven rebounds.

On the defensive side of the ball, SPC held the SWCID offense to single-digit quarters, while getting 56 rebounds.

While breaking the century mark for points, the Lady Texans shot 60 percent from the field and 61.5 percent from the three-point line.

SPC gained another victory on the road against Seminole State College, 59-44, on Nov. 11.

The Lady Texans allowed only three points in the first quarter, taking a 13-3 lead going into the second quarter.

The next three quarters, however, would become a shootout, as both teams began exchanging buckets throughout the game.

Green led SPC offensively with 15 points, while pulling down five rebounds and earning two assists.

Hunter finished the game with 13 points, two rebounds, and two assists for the Lady Texans.

SPC gained another victory against SWCID 77-39 on Nov. 10 in Clarendon.

SPC finished all four quarters with 17 points or better, gaining a comfortable lead as the game progressed.

SWCID was held to 11 points or less due to the Lady Texans defense limiting their shot selection.

Popham put up 15 points against SWCID while finishing the game with four rebounds. Kuehne contributed 15 points, six rebounds and two assists.

Hill scored 10 points and also had three rebounds for the Lady Texans.

The Lady Texans de-



Mikayla Kuehne helped lead the Lady Texans to a victory against Coastal Bend College on Nov. 8 at the Texan Dome.
DOM PUENTE/PLAINSMAN PRESS

fended their home court at the Texan Dome with a 70-60 victory against Coastal Bend College on Nov. 8.

The Lady Texans struggled with missed shots and turnovers, but managed to come out on top at the end of the first quarter, 19-15.

As the game developed through the second half, the Lady Texans found their rhythm and created a 10-point lead.

Green led the Lady Texans with 13 points and two rebounds, while Hunter chipped in 11 points, eight rebounds and four assists.

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Plainsman Press

Texans looking toward conference play after slow start

by **DOM PUENTE**
Staff Writer

The South Plains College men's basketball team looks to dominate conference play after a somewhat shaky start to the season.

Going into Western Junior College Athletic Conference play, the Texans gained a 70-60 victory against Midland College on Nov. 29 at the Al G. Langford Chaparral Center in Midland.

Struggling to get their offensive production going in the first half, the Texans were held to 29 points and trailed the Chaps 34-29.

SPC found success through their veteran players flipping the momentum in their favor and outscored Midland College late in the second half to take the victory.

The Texans finished the second half with 41 points and held the Chaps to 26 points.

Sophomore forward Isaiah Maurice led the Texans with 25 points and six rebounds.

Freshman forward Deshawn Corprew put up 17 points, one rebound and five assists, while sophomore guard Jordan Brangers chipped in 13 points, seven rebounds, and one assist.

The Texans earned their second victory against Murray State, 75-57, on Nov. 25 at the Collin County Thanksgiving Classic in Plano.

SPC began the game exchanging points with Murray State, finishing

the first half with a 28-26 lead.

The Texans managed to limit Murray State to 31 points in the second half, while the Texans took charge offensively with 47 points.

Sophomore shooting

on Nov. 24 at Cougar Hall in Plano.

In the first half, the Texans worked quickly to take an early lead but could not limit the offensive production by the Trojans. SPC finished the first half with 43 points

Christopher Orlina put up 10 points, four rebounds and two assists.

The Texans ended the SPC Classic with a dominant 100-79 victory against Collin County Community College on Nov. 18 at the Texan Dome.

The No. 3-ranked Texans worked quick offensively to gain the lead in the early minutes of the first half. With an effective inside game, SPC managed to get their perimeter shooters open, which made the difference in the first half.

The Texans held Collin County to 37 points of offense, while scoring 52 points to keep the momentum in their favor.

Collin County found offensive production as the second half progressed, scoring 42 points, but failed to find answers for the Texans' offense.

Brangers, a sophomore All-American and returning guard, led the Texans offensively with 38 points, shooting 13 for 19 from the field and 7 for 11 from the three-point line. Brangers also added two rebounds and two assists.

Maurice finished the game with 22 points and two rebounds for SPC.

The Texans shot 55 percent from the field, while pulling down a total of 43 rebounds and earning 20 assists in the victory against Collin County.

In the opening round of the SPC Classic, the Texans earned another victory against North Lake College, 79-59, on Nov. 17 at the Texan Dome.

With offense becoming the focal point of the game, both teams traded baskets through the first half. But the Texans eventually made key defensive

stops and continued finding open looks to take a 39-28 lead going into the second half.

Consistency in the offensive and defensive game allowed SPC to take a comfortable lead as the last minutes of the game ticked away.

The SPC defense held North Lake to 31 points and continued to get the ball to the basket, scoring 40 points in the second half to take the victory.

Maurice led the SPC offense with 15 points and three rebounds.

Perez chipped in 11 points while getting six rebounds and one assist.

Sophomore shooting guard Marcel Thompson finished the game with 11 points as well, adding two rebounds and one assist.

SPC split game in the Texan Classic, earning a 104-78 victory against Coastal Bend College on Nov. 11 at the Texan Dome.

The Texans began the game with an 8-0 run in the opening minutes.

The Texans went into halftime with a 56-40 lead and continued to overwhelm the Coastal Bend defense in the second half, scoring 48 points.

The Cougars put up 38 points, but could not find the momentum to cut down the Texans' lead.

Brangers led the Texans offensively, tying his career-high of 38 points. The All-American also tied his school single-game three-point record with 10.

Sophomore guard Jamir Coleman finished the night with 16 points, pulling down 12 rebounds and one assist for the Texans. Sophomore guard Greg Shead produced 14 points along with five rebounds and eight assists.

Perez finished the game with 13 points, five rebounds and five assists, while Thompson also scored 13 points.

SPC suffered their second loss of the season to No. 22-ranked Arizona Western College, 90-88, on Nov. 10 at the Texan Dome.

Missed shots from the Texans in the first half helped Arizona Western take an early-lead, 47-37.

The Texans trailed the majority of the first half, getting open shots but failing to get any to fall. Defense became key for SPC, as they forced multiple stops to keep them within fighting distance of Arizona Western.

As the second half progressed, the Texans began to find offensive production through Brangers and closed in on Arizona Western.

With eight minutes left in the game, SPC went on an 8-0 run and took a 77-74 lead. As the clock went down to six minutes, the Matadors flipped the lead to 78-77.

The Texans managed to gain the last possession with 25 seconds left on the clock. With time about to expire, Shead was able to get a shot off from inside the three-point line but fell short, allowing Arizona Western to take the 90-88 victory.

Brangers led the Texans with 35 points and three rebounds.

Corprew scored 14 points and also had 10 rebounds for SPC. Perez finished the night with 13 points, two rebounds and four assists.

Coleman and Thompson added 10 points apiece for the Texans.

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Deshawn Corprew looks for room against Arizona Western. **DOM PUENTE/PLAINSMAN PRESS**

guard Ben Perez led the Texans with 15 points, one rebound and three assists.

Sophomore forward Raymond Doby finished the game with 13 points and nine rebounds and Brangers added 13 points and one rebound for the Texans.

In the opening round of the Collin County Thanksgiving Classic, the Texans were defeated by Seminole State, 84-77,

going into halftime, but trailed Seminole State, 45-43.

The Texans continued their offensive pursuit in the second half, but struggled defensively.

Brangers led the Texans with 24 points, two rebounds and five assists.

Freshman point guard Keith McGee finished the game with 11 points, two rebounds and two assists, while freshman guard

Cross Country teams finish strong at NJCAA Championship meets

by **DOM PUENTE**
Staff Writer

The South Plains College men's and women's cross country teams both finished in the top 10 at the 2017 NJCAA Men's and Women's Half Marathon Championship.

The NJCAA Half Marathon Championships were held on Nov. 18 in Topeka, Kansas, at the Lake Shawnee and Bettis Family Sports Complex.

The Texans placed second overall with a team time of 3:34:07.8, finishing behind Iowa Central.

"Our men ran as well as they could going into the race," explained Erik Vance, head track and field coach at SPC. "They ran smart races, and Felix ran a great tactical race. But we just got beat by some great people who were better than us that day."

Sophomore All-American Felix Kosgei led the Texans and placed fourth overall out of 51 runners, posting a time of 1:09:54.4.

Freshman Andrew Bosquez placed seventh after putting up a time of 1:11:29.3, while freshman Filmon Beyene placed 10th after finishing with a time of 1:12:44.0.

Freshman Jesse Madrid

finished 22nd after posting a time of 1:15:22.9, and freshman Erik Arambula finished 34th with a time of 1:19:46.0.

The Lady Texans placed third overall with a team time of 4:22:06.6.

"Our girls competed well in the race," said Coach Vance. "We had multiple girls beat their personal best and show what they are capable of."

Sophomore Seselia Dala led the Lady Texans, placing fourth overall out of 47 runners with a time of 1:23:58.1. Sophomore Leslie Romero placed seventh after posting a time of 1:27:14.0.

Sophomore Poro Gahekave finished 16th with a time of 1:30:54.5, and sophomore Caitlyn Mercer finished 22nd after putting up a time of 1:33:58.6.

Both the men's and women's teams also earned a top-10 spot in the 2017 NJCAA Cross Country National Championships, which was held Nov. 11 at the Lakeside Golf Course in Fort Dodge, Iowa.

The Texans placed third overall in the men's 8k race with a total of 147 points and a team average of 25:27. Central Arizona placed second, and Iowa Central placed first.

"Overall, the men ran hard and competed well," explained Vance. "I feel that we weren't close enough, one through five, as a team. Iowa Central really showed the template for winning it all, and I believe we have to start strong in the top-25 and finish strong in the top-25."

Vance also explained that he was proud of the team for their effort, as SPC has placed third at the National Championships for three consecutive years.

Kosgei led the Texans and placed fifth overall after posting a time of 25:06.5 out of a total of 320 runners.

Bosquez finished 13th for the Texans, putting up a time of 25:06.5. Madrid finished 26th after posting a time of 26:01.9, while Beyene finished the race 32nd with a time of 26:08.5.

Arambula finished the race 71st with a time

of 26:54.9, while freshman Benjamin Ronoh finished 127th with a time of 27:33.6 and sophomore Leobardo Michel finished 246th with a time of 28:08.6.

The Lady Texans competed in the women's 5k event, placing seventh overall with a score of 288 and an average team time of 19:21.

The Lady Texans were led by Romero, who placed fourth overall, with a time of 17:59.6 out of a total of 309 runners. Following Romero was Dala, who placed ninth after finishing with a time of 18:16.7.

Gahekave finished 22nd with a time of 18:54.1. Mercer finished 90th after

posting a time of 20:05.8, and sophomore Agnes Abrocquah finished 189th overall with a time of 21:28.6.

"Our women's team was fantastic competing," said Coach Vance, "as we went in ranked No. 10 and finished seventh even with a fourth runner who was not a cross country runner. But all of the girls did great."

The Texans ended their season with a third-place finish in the national championships and a NJCAA Regional Championship to boost confidence and build experience going into next year with a freshman-heavy team.

Kosgei finished his sophomore year at SPC winning every meet up until nationals, where he earned a top-10 spot.

"We are really being picky, as we are looking for only one or two guys to replace Felix as he leaves," explained Coach

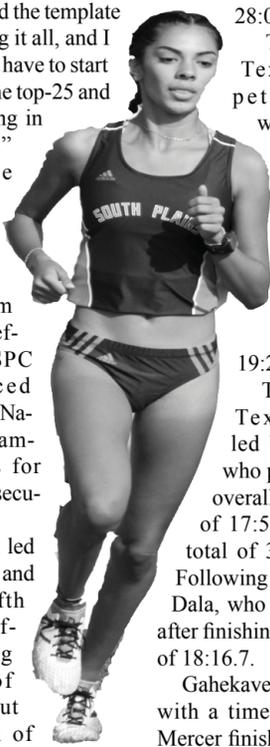
Vance. "With the amount of great freshmen we have, we are looking for a guy to be our number one or even two for depth."

The Lady Texans dominated throughout the season individually, as injuries caused them to be unable to score as a team in several meets. Going into nationals with a short-handed group, the Lady Texans still managed to clinch a top-10 spot.

The Lady Texans will be faced with the challenge of replacing a large portion of a sophomore team for 2018.

"We're probably a little nervous about replacing an amazing group of girls on our women's team," said Coach Vance. "We are going to miss that group, as they aren't easily replaceable. But we will continue to work on that."

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Football coaches being fired for not meeting expectations



by **DOM PUENTE**
Staff Writer

As football begins to head down the final stretch at all levels, coaching jobs begin to open. Coaches are being let go due to not

meeting expectations. With coaches such as Butch Jones, head football coach at Tennessee, and Jim McElwain, the head football coach at Florida being let go, the public has become upset with the schools for not allowing them to continue their tenure with their respective teams.

Coaches are not the only ones affected by being let go from their jobs, as families also have to pack up their lives and relocate. Some may very well do this multiple times through-

out their lives. This point has been brought up in discussions when coaches are being fired, but the public does not understand it is the coach's job to win and bring championships to their program.

The transition from job to job in coaching can be difficult at lower levels such as middle school, junior high, and high school, as both parents are working to support their families.

Not very many coaches in high school make enough money to

support their families by themselves, let alone being able to not worry about finding new employment as a coach in another place.

Being a collegiate coach is more flexible, and people should understand the difference between how hard transitions could be for high school coaching jobs to college, and even professional coaching opportunities.

The point of being paid hundreds of thousands of dollars, or even millions, yearly is to win. The main purpose is short and simple, win games. Create a great program and there will not be any problems.

Coaches receive a lot of sympathy and excuses, such as it may not be entirely their fault, or the players didn't help the coach, or the coach's own staff didn't help.

These points are controllable by the head coach. He has the power to control who is on his staff and who plays. There should not be as much sympathy as coaches are receiving in college-level ball and in pro leagues.

When hiring a new coach for a big-time program, they are kept on a short leash because they don't want programs they have

built to go downhill. That standard should be kept with coaches who have also been a part of programs long-term already. Signing

derstandably, it can be hard to leave when you are asked to, or even told to, but that is part of the coaching process.

This is the number one reason I hear coaches should be given extra chances to stay and prove themselves, because their livelihoods are in that town or city.

A lot though it is true a part of me feels that coaches could use another chance, winning is the main goal. Programs do not hire coaches to come in and start losing. It is the same in any other job. You get paid to do your job and gain successful results.

This also goes for any sport, not just for football. Every sport in any program wants to be held to the highest standard and be known as a great and dominant program.

With coaches moving on and trying to find new programs to be a part of, people need to understand this is like any other job. If it is not executed, the school or university will find someone else to get better results.

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Enjoyment of NFL gameplay minimized by excessive penalties



by **NICOLE LOPEZ**
Sports Editor

There was a time in the NFL when there was more gameplay and less penalties.

When I was beginning to watch football at a young age, I remember that the game was focused on the game play and spent less time on penalties. But, the game has definitely changed since then.

The conversation about penalties hasn't come up in sports news. I've been thinking and talking about this for years with fellow football fans. I think the NFL flags players and

the viewers from getting into tempo with the gameplay. Once upon a time, the defensive end with could hit the quarterback with no questions asked. Now, whenever a defensive player tries to get to the quarterback, questions are always asked if a flag should be thrown. It shouldn't be like that.

The quarterback should be protected. All players should be protected. But, you can still protect the players without calling penalties on every single touch or hit made.

Every year, there are more penalties called, and every year the NFL makes up rules that often involve physical gameplay. Most of the time, when I watch a game, I can't get into it because every two minutes there are flags being thrown, or plays being reviewed.

Penalties make it difficult to sit back and en-

joy games. Every time the ball is snapped, I expect a penalty. That's sad to say. Why can't the NFL let players play? Isn't that what football is all about? We see players get hurt, but are they really hurt? Years ago, football players had less padding and weren't as prone to getting hurt. Brett Favre is a perfect example of this. He was hurt multiple times and did

not once miss a game. Many other players have the same mindset when it comes to this. I understand that the NFL wants to protect players, but there is such a thing as too much protection. Besides, penalties can't prevent injuries. I think everyone can agree on that. So, why are there so many penalties being called? Football games are slow enough due to reviews of plays, and a big part of slow games comes from penalties. I know baseball is a slow tempo sport, but football is definitely right behind it. Mike Pereira, rules expert for Fox, said he didn't think penalties were ruining football games. Instead, he believes it makes it harder to watch. He's right, and he's also wrong. He's right because penalties do make it harder to watch. He's wrong because it does ruin the game. It ruins



makes tic-tac calls too often. I'm not talking about false starts or too many players on the field. I'm talking about physical penalties, penalties that are called on another player because they barely lay a finger on the quarterback. There are penalties called because the defensive line is 'holding.' The penalties called during football games are distracting

the enjoyment of the game for fans.

Football is a contact sport, and it's slowly (no pun intended) becoming a non-contact sport. I doubt the NFL will change rules and regulations of these penalties. But if they don't, football may surpass baseball as the slowest sport in America.

Football is a contact sport, and it's slowly (no pun intended) becoming a non-contact sport. I doubt the NFL will change rules and regulations of these penalties. But if they don't, football may surpass baseball as the slowest sport in America.

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Native History



Navajo tribe continues traditions, culture for future generations

by NICOLE LOPEZ
Sports-Editor

GALLUP, N.M. — Traditions and culture run deep through the veins of the Navajo tribe.

The Navajo tribe can be traced back through thousands of years, with traditions and beliefs passed down from generation to generation. Although the Navajo tribe has been through hard times, they still keep their culture alive.

The Navajo reservation is almost the size of West Virginia and located in four states, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah.

Larry and Anita Benally have been living on the Navajo reservation for many years, and they've been keeping the Navajo culture and traditions alive in their families.

"It's best to spend two weeks to a month to travel all of the reservation and see all the sights," says Larry Benally. "It's an open reservation. The only time the natives are strict is when there are certain ceremonies going on. You can observe, but you can't record or take photos."

The Navajos have certain chants, songs, and prayers. They do these things because they believe in being one with harmony and balance with nature.

"If you fall sick to a certain disease," says Larry Benally, "you are not balanced with nature and harmony. You do the chants, songs and prayers to get back with harmony and nature. That's our traditional ceremonies."

With the Navajos' homes, their doors always face toward the east, because they believe it brings good fortune. The houses never face west.

"The east is considered a blessing, because each day the sun rises and it gives you a new day to look forward to a new journey," says Larry Benally. "The north is considered no good, because all the bad things and evil things are casted that way. West is considered bad also because the people who passed on, their

head faces west. South is kind of neutral."

Although the Navajo is one tribe, there are many clans within the reservation.

"We go by clans," explains Anita Benally, who is the chapter president of her community. "And if our clans are the same, or within the same category, we can't marry, or be together. So, whenever you meet someone for the first time, you ask what their clan is. You can't be from the same clan, because if you're related, whenever you get married and have babies, there will be birth defects."

Benally explains that the Navajo tribe migrated from Mongolia and even-

summertime stories and wintertime stories.

There is another story that has to deal with the daytime and nighttime," explains Benally. "The night creatures and day creatures argued if it should be night or day all the time. They came up with a game called Navajo shoe game, which would determine if it should be light or dark all the time. Nobody won, which is why it's equal night and day."

The Navajo government conducts business and political issues in Window Rock,

it. The only specific words we have in Navajo are for nature and the animals."

Although the Navajos

"We were hit with what we called the 'board of education,'" explains Larry Benally. "It was a two by

explains Anita Benally. "We have our native side and Anglo side. It's hard. It's still hard. They even



told us we had to cut our hair because nobody could braid our hair for us. I remember someone came down with lice, and when I went to school we were

forced to cut our hair, and I remember crying."

There are different varieties of Navajo food that can be found on the reservation. The most common is corn stew, which is similar to pozole, a Mexican dish, but without the chili.

"We have a bread that we call 'fried bread,'" says Larry Benally. "It's the same as sopapillas, and it's a common Navajo meal. They also butcher a sheep or goat and they get the meat and cook in different ways like lamb stew. They cut the throat, save the blood and they make what they call blood sausage, and it's almost like bratwurst. They add ingredients to the blood and boil it. They cook the insides, and it's kind of like chitlins. We make



tually made their way to the south of the United States.

"They say that us Navajos come from four worlds," explains Benally. "The fourth world, which we live at right now, it's called glitter world. This is supposedly the last world. If

Arizona, similar to the United States' government process.

"The Navajo Nation capital is where our government is situated," explains Larry Benally. "Back in the 1860s, a lot of these Navajos would gather at Fort Defiance, and they were forced to march to Fort Wingate. Then, they were forced to march to Bosque Redondo. They were prisoners of war for four years. The U.S government wanted to send them to Oklahoma or Florida, but our leaders pleaded to the U.S government. Eventually, they were told to go back to the reservation. Ever since then, government provided infrastructure to our native people."

The Navajos are known for their language, since during World War II, they helped the United States Marine defeat the Japanese army. They were known as the Navajo Code Talkers.

"The Marines used our people to communicate in our own language so the Japanese army couldn't break the language," explains Larry Benally. "At the time, nobody understood our language, because it was hard to decipher."

During the 1500s and the 1600s, the Mexicans and the Navajos used to live in harmony, according to Larry Benally. The Navajos have words that are similar to Spanish words, but there are some words in English that can't be described in Navajo.

"Like helicopter," says Larry Benally. "We say, 'flying metal with a propeller on top.' So, we have to describe what the objects is if we don't have a Navajo word for

have their own language, each clan has their own way of saying the same words differently.

"Words are also different in each clan," adds Anita Benally. "So, some words aren't the same within each clan. That's why whenever you speak to someone from a different clan,

they correct you because they say the word differently."

According to Larry Benally, those who live in isolated areas speak more Navajo than those who live around the city.

"It's sad to say, but we are losing our native

four... shaped like an oar for rowing. They punished us for having our own religion. We were put into a school where we had to choose a religion. It was either Protestant, Saints, Christian, or Catholic. We had to attend religious education every Thursday and Sunday. If you did not do these things, you were also punished."

Anita Benally says she thinks the reason why they are losing their native tongue is because they were forced to speak English.

"They even forbid us from wearing our native clothes," says Anita Benally. "They took all that away. We really suffered a lot in school. They abused us, humiliated us. It was kind of like a military-style school. They were



you travel at night away from the city, you see all the lights and it's kind of like glitter. The Navajos have already foreseen this."

There are many stories told within the Navajo tribe, but they are only allowed to be told during the particular seasons.

There are a few stories that are passed on, their



tongue," says Larry Benally, "because after the people were released we were required to attend boarding schools, we were forbidden to speak our own language."

This happened during the 1930s, lasting until the 1980s. If the Navajos were caught speaking their own language, they were punished by scrubbing floors. Their hands and backs would be hit by a wooden board.

very strict with us."

The Navajos believe all your thinking goes into your hair. So, if you cut off your hair, you cut off your thinking. This is why the native people have long hair, and it is forbidden to wear hair loose.

We are in two worlds,"

tortillas too, but ours are a little thicker."

Larry and Anita Benally have seen their Navajo traditions slowly dying away from their tribe. It saddens them to see that many natives aren't practicing, or teaching the future generations about their heritage and where they come from.

"We don't want them to lose our language and say they don't know who we are," explains Anita Benally. "With us being there for them and saying, 'Hey, this is your clan. This is who you are and where you belong.' That's our job. So later on, they're going to know where they come from, and I'm going

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