

INSIDE:

- Why students should shop Nac first, **Page 2**
- Student reviews Starbucks fall drinks, **Page 3**
- Editorial discusses moving BOTPW to campus, **Page 5**
- Basketball coach battles cancer, **Page 6**

## SHSU football player shoves LMB director

By Jocelyn Bradford  
Contributing Writer

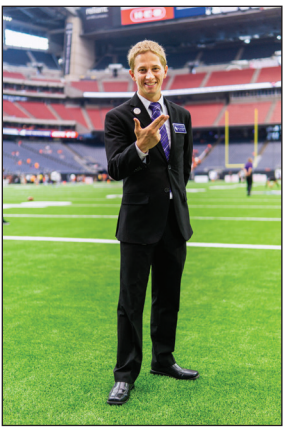
A brief altercation between a Sam Houston football player and an SFA band staff member occurred toward the end of the LMB halftime performance at this year's Battle of the Piney Woods game, increasing the rivalry and tension between the two opposing fan bases.

The student, player No. 43, was identified as Connor Crow, one of two kickers for the Bearkats. With approximately four minutes left of the LMB halftime performance, Crow was seen on the field practicing field goals before the start of the third quarter.

To avoid another incident in which a student could be harmed, Chris Kaatz, associate director of the LMB, advised the SHSU staff to ask the player to get off the field. After being asked by staff members, Crow continued to practice on the field. Kaatz felt compelled to run on the field and take up the tee Crow had been using, seeing that the color guard members were performing close to where Crow was standing. Crow proceeded to take the tee back from Kaatz, shoving him off the field in the process.

K a a t z declined an interview with The Pine Log.

F o r m e r LMB member and recent SFA graduate Gabriella Ruiz, who now lives in Houston, attended the game and caught the altercation on video, taking it to Twitter where the video went viral.



Courtesy photo

Ruiz said that this was the fifth BOTPW game she had attended, and this was not the

See INCIDENT on Page 3

## Wildfire app encourages student safety through communication

By Cameron Keplinger  
Contributing Writer

Wildfire is an app for IOS and Android phones that acts as a place for students to talk to one another and to share alerts. The types of alerts include safety, protests and class cancellations, but they even include celebrity sightings. The app also includes a discussion board for students to talk about things that don't require an alert.

According to the Wildfire website, "Wildfire is a mobile app that keeps you informed of important events happening nearby and makes it easy to spread the word quickly when something significant happens."

Students can ask each other questions or talk about life on campus. This app shares similarities with the "Jackalert" system used on campus. The difference is that alerts on Wildfire are made by the students, not UPD.

Many students found out about Wildfire through an email on their SFA Outlook accounts.

"I found out about the app through an email I received," Dominique Hanes, graduate student and mass communication major from Dallas said. "But, I actually started using it today because of my best friend and roommate who looked at the app and saw the notifications that we could use for safety and thought it was interesting."

Hanes says the app reminds her of other anonymous posting apps, such as Yik Yak and Twitter.

"It can allow people to communicate with one another but can also provide constant updates on safety," Hanes said.

Hanes also said she likes the app and can see herself using it often.

Temi Odunga, sophomore mechanical engineering major from Lufkin, thought the app was intriguing after he got the email about it and downloaded it.

"It seems like a good idea as long as spam is regulated," Odunga said when asked if he thought the app could improve the safety of the campus.

A feature of the Wildfire app is to be able to post anonymously. This allows for anyone to post under any name.

"I don't see how anonymity would be harmful," Odunga said, "I think as long as

See WILDFIRE on Page 3

## University Baptist Church establishes University Coffee



Photo illustrations by Andrew Delph / The Pine Log

By Raquel Torres  
Editor-in-Chief

Nacogdoches has become home to a new coffee shop: University Coffee. Wedged between Grease Monkey and Whataburger, University Coffee offers plenty of space to study, fresh brewed coffee and pastries.

University Coffee is owned by the University Baptist Church which is located on North Street just a few steps away from the coffee shop.

The new business opened its doors for the first time on Oct. 4 for a soft opening. Open from Monday to Friday, the hours were 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Jaxon Hart, operations manager for University Coffee and associate pastor of youth and college for University Baptist Church, said the church got a new pastor last year and that he wanted to open a coffee house to "bring the love of Christ to the community, to the campus, in that way," Hart said.

Hart and his wife moved from Georgia to Nacogdoches to take the position at the coffeehouse and the church.

"It was funny because my background is in coffee, and my background is in youth ministry. The church needed a youth pastor, and the church needed a coffeehouse manager. I never saw those colliding, but

they did. Through God working, I was able to find the job... it just fit like a glove," he said.

Before Hart could use his Starbucks and managerial experience, extensive renovations had to be made to the building before it was open for business.

"This place is completely transformed. It was borderline unlivable, unoccupiable before we bought it and started renovating it, completely redoing the plumbing, completely redoing electrical. There was no central A/C in here; the floors were refinished. A lot of walls were knocked down to make it open," Hart said.

From his experience at Starbucks, Hart said planners pushed for fast and efficient service. "We want this to be a place where people can gather, a place where people can hang out, relax, study and they feel like they belong here. That would be the difference. Rather than getting people in and out, we want

them to come grab a seat and hang out for as long as they want to," he said.

Going from a dance studio, a screen-printing shop and now a coffee shop, Hart said that the building had good bones and that the shiplap and flooring are original.

"We tried to bring back the beauty that was already there but kind of hidden," he said.

The two-story coffeehouse is only offering the first floor to customers now, but Hart said they hope to open the second floor soon

See COFFEE on Page 3



## Student Activities Association hosts inaugural drag race on campus

By Aaliyah Overshown  
Contributing Writer

SAA hosted the University's first drag race in the BPSC movie theater Oct. 9. Within moments, the theater reached its full capacity, with nearly 400 students there to witness the occasion.

The drag race began with the SAA Drag Race event planner Ariel Perez Jarvis, senior

psychology major from Irving, who provided audience members with a brief history of drag culture. She mentioned and gave recognition to pioneers and major influencers in the drag community like Julian Eltinge, Flawless Sabrina and Ru Paul.

Jarvis said her inspiration for the show came from her proud LGBTQ+ family and her motivation to bring awareness and knowledge about the drag community to SFA.

"I wanted to represent a community that doesn't get a lot of recognition," Jarvis said.

Jarvis said she rounded up participants for the race by reaching out to SFA students through social media platforms, flyers and word of mouth.

Along with SFA student participants, SAA also showcased two professional drag queens, Autumn Elise Taylor and Stakka Ca\$h. Jarvis said she discovered the performers through her own personal interest in attending drag shows and her local connections here in Nacogdoches.

The SAA Drag Race was an all-inclusive event and welcomed both drag queens and kings to the stage for the chance to win a \$150 cash prize.

The winner of the SAA Drag Race was Elle Woodie, a graduate student at SFA in the field of clinical and mental health from Beaumont. Woodie captivated the crowd dancing to the song, "I Don't Want It All" by Kim Petras, while styling a pink high-low romper with pink accented makeup to match.

"I tried to base my routine and look off the movie, 'Legally Blonde,'" Woodie said. "The main character's name is Elle Woods, which is how I came up with the name Elle Woodie. I came to the show confident tonight. I knew that everyone was deserving, and I just put my heart and soul into [it]. My favorite part about the overall experience was the opportunity to network with others that are apart of the drag community at SFA and in Nacogdoches."

See DRAG RACE on Page 3



Photo by Christy Murray / The Pine Log

Taylor Mills, one of the drag queens who performed at Wednesday's drag race, stands on stage with two students, along with Ariel Perez Jarvis, senior psychology major from Irving. There were more than 400 students in attendance.



■ **SEE PAGE 6**  
Football comes back  
from bye week, prepares  
to take on ACU



# NEWS

Page 2

The Pine Log

@thepinelog

## Crime Log:

10/5/19

An officer was contacted by dispatch in reference to a sexual assault. The officer made contact with the complainant by public service and was notified that her friend told her she had been sexually assaulted by three male subjects at Lumberjack Landing. The officer made contact with the victim of this crime, but she did not want to speak to the officer. There are three persons of interest.

An officer observed the strong odor of marijuana coming from a residence at Lumberjack Village. The officer located the resident in possession of marijuana. The subject was arrested for possession of marijuana in a drug free zone and transported to the Nacogdoches County Jail. There is one suspect.

10/6/19

An officer was dispatched to Griffith Hall in reference to a drug complaint. Upon arrival, the officer located two subjects in possession of drug paraphernalia. Both subjects were issued a citation for possession of drug paraphernalia. There are two suspects.

An officer was dispatched to Lumberjack Lodge in reference to sexual assault. The officer then made contact with the victim at Lumberjack Village. The victim stated on Oct. 6 she was sexually assaulted by a known person at Lumberjack Lodge. The victim stated she did not want to pursue charges at this time. There is one suspect.

An officer made a stop for a traffic violation. The driver was found to be in possession of a fictitious driver's license. There is one suspect.

10/8/19

An officer was dispatched to Lot 46 in reference to criminal mischief. A witness advised that she observed a person damage a vehicle in Lot 46. The owner of the vehicle was contacted and verified that damage had occurred. There is one suspect.

10/9/19

An officer made contact with a suspicious vehicle in Lot 43. The officer located a subject in possession of marijuana in a drug free zone. The subject was arrested and transported to the Nacogdoches County Jail. Another subject was issued a citation for possession of drug paraphernalia. There are two suspects.

An officer was dispatched to the lobby of UPD in reference to a hit and run. Upon arrival, the officer was advised by the complainant that her unattended vehicle was damaged on Vista Drive. There are no suspects.

10/13/19

An officer was dispatched to Mays Hall in reference to an intoxicated person. Upon arrival, the officer located the subject and determined him to be intoxicated and a danger to himself and others. The subject was arrested for public intoxication and transported to the Nacogdoches County Jail. There is one suspect.

## Fraternity fasts to raise awareness about hunger, poverty, breaks previously set donation record

By **Amanda Hope**  
*Contributing Writer*

Members of Phi Kappa Psi gathered for their annual fall event, Phi Phast, from Oct. 9 to Oct. 11. They camped outside the student center, collected canned goods and fasted for 48 hours to raise awareness for world hunger and poverty. All of the donations they received were donated to Nacogdoches HOPE, a local food pantry.

Phi Kappa Psi raised \$375, which broke their record of monetary donations of \$280, and collected 95 food items. When they were done fasting, the fraternity members said they really understood the message they were trying to convey.

"For us going 48 hours without food, it really brings across the message that it can happen to just about anyone, and that it is a very serious issue," senior Connor Gilbertson, Phi Kappa Psi member, said. "After we get done with those two days, it's kind of to the point where we are like 'Yeah, this is tough,' but it is a really humbling experience. I'm so happy that my fraternity is able to be a part of it."

In previous years, Phi Kappa Psi partnered with Hunger Jacks to help SFA students in need. But, this year, they expanded their horizons. Nacogdoches HOPE caters to about



Photo by Charis Phelps / **The Pine Log**  
**Two members of Phi Kappa Psi** work to collect donations for the local food pantry, Nacogdoches HOPE. The Psi Phast is an annual fundraiser held outside of the BPSC.

640 families in need in Nacogdoches County. According to Nacogdoches HOPE's website, in East Texas, one in every four children and one in every five adults is food insecure.

"This year is the first year we decided to switch it up and do it on a bigger scale," Gilbertson said.

"So, we're not only helping SFA, but the city of Nacogdoches by going to Nacogdoches HOPE, the local food shelter, and basically boosting the event to a lot bigger means than what it was before."

Phi Kappa Psi hopes students saw a lot more than fraternity brothers

camping outside the student center. The fraternity hopes students learned that hunger and poverty are happening all across the world, even here in Nacogdoches.

"We have to explain to people that we are not just [not] eating for 48 hours," Gilbertson said. "We want to go out of our way to educate them on the whole point of why we're doing it, not just a couple of guys sitting around a tent and not eating for a couple of days."

This is Gilbertson's fourth year participating in this event. He said it means a lot to him personally because he has witnessed the effects of hunger and poverty.

"I have seen countless people go through that kind of life crisis," Gilbertson said.

"They either go through a natural weather [disaster] that comes through, wipes them out and they have to try to find food. [There are also] people who go through a long period of unemployment and aren't being able to provide for themselves or their families. There is also a really big aspect of veterans who aren't able to get the stuff they need."

If students would like to learn more about hunger and poverty in Nacogdoches and how they can help, they can visit Nacogdoches HOPE's website at [nacogdocheshope.com](http://nacogdocheshope.com).

## East Texas Bombers roller derby team provides competitive skating, welcomes new members

By **Grayson Porter**  
*Staff Writer*

The East Texas Bombers is a roller derby team stationed in Lufkin that focuses on supporting and bringing awareness to military and veteran issues by advocating on behalf of veterans, ensuring they are respected for their service.

They provide outreach by participating at the Piney Woods Fair at the KTRE booth to collect cans for the canned food drive. They also work with Salvation Animal Rescue and Bags of Love. The team works to help raise awareness for the popular sport and encourages confidence in women by creating a safe space for them.

"The first time I went to SFA, I showed up with like fire truck red hair and a bunch of piercings and had a really hard time fitting in because it was a lot more conservative than I expected," Samantha Brazil, Slaygar Targaryen, a human development and family studies major from Lufkin, said. "Here I can be myself – piercings, tattoos, whatever. We're really accepting of everybody. If you feel like you haven't found your home at SFA, but you love the college – roller derby might be a good fit."

Besides community service, the group works within itself to promote

good sportsmanship and women's empowerment. Because the team is made up of women from all different backgrounds, they each hold a strong dedication to women's empowerment through roller derby. By using trust and demonstrating mutual respect toward each other, they hope to provide a positive influence on their team and their community.

"We are a sisterhood, so it's like if I need somebody, I know I can depend on these girls," Melinda Thompson, Gingersnap, a nursing alumna from Lufkin, said.

"It is a lot of fun. It is one of those few sports where you can go, you can knock people down and, then, afterward we all just go out and hang out. We're just best friends."

All of the women advocate for using roller derby as a way of self-expression and stress relief. The ETB accepts any promising member who has a desire to learn how to play the fast-paced sport. The point of roller derby is to keep one of the players from the other team from passing your team and scoring points, making it a high contact sport.

"It's not like the old-timey WWE style crashing them into the ground," Jessica Renfro, Psyblocke, from Lufkin said. "We don't do bank track

– we do flat track derby. We can tape off a floor anywhere, as long as it's flat."

Skaters and non-skaters alike come from the Lufkin area and Nacogdoches to participate in the popular female sport. The ETB value new members and welcome them to come to any practice they can.

The group loans out extra gear for up to four free practices and will teach those who can't skate. All you have to bring is a mouthguard.

They practice from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays and



Photo by Andrew Delph / **The Pine Log**  
**The roller derby team practices** for upcoming events at the VFW Hall in Lufkin. Along with being a skate team, the ETB advocates for veterans.

from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Sunday at the Veterans of Foreign Wars building in Lufkin.

## City of Nac encourages community to support local businesses

By **Danica Sauter**  
*Contributing Writer*

When it comes to buying holiday gifts or finding the perfect Halloween costume, a lot of people are accustomed to searching the internet or elsewhere to find what they are looking for. This is the case for Nacogdoches. When walking down Main Street, one can see Shop Nac First stickers plastered on store fronts and in the stores themselves.

Amy Mehaffey, the Main Street and communications director of Nacogdoches, has helped many businesses come to Nacogdoches, specifically at the heart of it all on Main Street.

"What makes [Nacogdoches] so cool is the eclectic people that make up the city," Mehaffey said.

Because of the diverse community and variety of age ranges, each person brings his or her own unique take to this town. However, one of the biggest issues local businesses are facing is trying to get the community to start shopping locally.

Larger businesses like Amazon and Walmart cut down the smaller, locally owned businesses. Instead of looking toward local businesses to find what they need, most people look to these bigger businesses and elsewhere.

"We live in a day and age where shopping online is a good thing," Mehaffey said. "When people spend their money in [Nacogdoches], the money stays in [Nacogdoches]. We have to continue to support the infrastructure of smaller businesses for the city."

Main Street, and the streets surrounding it, holds a lot of boutiques, antique stores and other local

businesses. Because of this touristy location, many of the small businesses have been able to thrive. Some of the businesses have been open for close to 30 years, such as House of Traditions and the gift shop Heart of Texas.

For the owners of House of Traditions and Brick Street

*"When people spend their money in [Nacogdoches], the money stays in [Nacogdoches]. We have to continue to support the infrastructure of smaller businesses for the city."*  
- Amy Mehaffey

Antiques and Collectables, Nacogdoches is the only place they call home. They both started their businesses in Nacogdoches.

"We've been in business 33 years," Karen Harris, House of Traditions owner, said. Whereas Tania Watson, owner of Brick Street Antiques

and Collectables, has had her business open for 20 years.

"What we strive to do, Tania and I both, is to give an experience when people come in," Harris said. "You're not going to get the experience of coming in and shopping [when you buy] online."

Because of the location of Nacogdoches and her love for this town, Rebecca Gall, owner of Twigs and Tin and Gall's Café, came back after 24 years of being away to start up her business here in Nacogdoches.

"We really love being part of the downtown community here," Gall said. "It really is like a family,"

For Gall, the Shop Nac First campaign reminds her to look in Nacogdoches first. She believes that shopping Nacogdoches first is a great way to improve the local economy.

"It is really important because it keeps money here in [Nacogdoches], which goes for things like fire trucks and road improvements," Gall said.

Many of the business

owners say that SFA students and their families are major contributors to the Shop Nac First campaign.

"Students are a huge part of what makes [Nacogdoches] so special," Mehaffey said.

Not only do the students and their families help improve the economy but some students also take their knowledge and insight actually improve the retail and small business experience.

"Over the 25 years I've been down here, we've had various groups of students do various types of studies on downtown," Gerry Larabee, owner of Heart of Texas, said.

Nacogdoches is a town and a city many people feel a great sense of pride for. Whether they have lived in Nacogdoches all their life or came back to start a business and home, the Shop Nac First campaign helps people remember to support and give love to their town.

"Everything that the students do here, it contributes and supports the overall economy," Gall said. "If we didn't have SFA or the students, it would be a huge hit to our economy."

To contact UPD  
in an emergency,  
call 9-1-1.  
For non-  
emergencies, call  
(936) 468-2608.



## COFFEE: Blueberry pancake latte and plenty study space

From Page 1

to possibly offer study rooms, not just study space.

If in demand, University Coffee plans to partner with UberEats or Waitr.

“Being on North street helps a lot... Our goal is not being to make stacks of money. What I’m passionate about is serving great coffee, and I’m passionate about seeing people’s lives change from the gospel,” Hart said. “I don’t think that it comes just from playing Christian music or having Bible verses on the wall, but it’s through something that’s relational.”

The ultimate vision for University Coffee is to bridge the gap between campus and the church.

“There is a lot of competition. I think the amount of space that we have helps us, and I think that the option of the drive thru helps us. We also make sure that our prices are 30 to 50 cents lower than Starbucks,” Hart said.

Noah Short, junior communication major from Kingwood, is a barista and a member of University Baptist Church.

“I really enjoy it. It can get kind of hectic, but it’s fun to have to run around the kitchen and try to make different drinks,” Short said.

Short said business is starting to pick up now that people are beginning to realize they’re open.

“The blueberry pancake latte is really big, so they like that, and a lot of people are talking about it,” he said.

Another popular drink is the waffle latte, which can be served hot, iced or blended.

As a member of UBC, Short recalls a quote from a pastor.

“How can you tell a Christian shoemaker? Does he put tiny crosses on the soles of the feet? No, he does the best shoe making in town.’ That’s the motto here. How can we tell a Christian

coffee shop? We’re just going to make the best coffee in town.”

Susan Groce, Hispanic studies grad student from Lufkin, visited the coffeehouse for the first time on Friday.

“I like it a lot. I like how many windows there are. I like the atmosphere better because it lets in a lot of light, even on rainy days like this. I work better whenever there’s real light,” Groce said.

Groce also said she liked the coffee she was served.

“I also bought a blueberry muffin. It was good. There’s a lot of space here. In some coffee shops, there’s not enough space to spread out all of my stuff when I’m studying,” she said.

University Coffee will be launching a loyalty program Oct. 21 at the hard launch. New business hours will be from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

## FOOTBALL: SFA to play ACU

From Page 6

Storm Ruiz was able to make a career-long 51-yard field goal against SHSU making it his 14 made field goal this season out of 16 attempted.

The Abilene Christian Wildcats come off a 45-20 win against Houston Baptist University. They have a 3-4 overall record, a 2-3 conference record, a .400 winning percentage and are eighth in the conference. The Jacks will be their Homecoming opponent this season.

“I think every game is winnable,” Carthel said. “And, as coaches, that’s what we’re going to work for. This will be a tough coaching job for us, but you’ve got to earn your paycheck. So, we’re going to find out who wants to play this game for the right reasons, get out there, practice and continue to put our best foot forward [to] get better each and every day.”

In their win against HBU, ACU had 280 passing yards and 303 rushing yards, 31 first downs and one out of two fourth down conversions. Junior quarterback Luke Anthony had 30 complete passes for 280 yards and three touchdowns.

The Wildcats average 33.9 points per game, 197.4 rushing yards per game and 262.7 passing yards per game. They have completed 171 passes out of 273 attempted with three interceptions this season.

Senior running back Tracy James leads the Wildcats with 586 rushing yards, averaging 81.6 yards per game. Right behind him is sophomore quarterback Sema’J Davis who averages 50.4 yards per game. Davis has played seven games and started one game having 22 completed passes out of 35 for 182 yards and two touchdowns.

Anthony has been ACU’s main quarterback with 148 completed passes out of 234 attempted with three interceptions for 1,645 yards. Anthony also has made 12 touchdowns, leading the team in touchdowns.

Senior wide receiver Josh Fink leads the team on the receiving end with a total of 540 receiving yards—the longest catch being 64 yards—averaging 14.6 yards per game and a total four touchdowns this season. Sophomore Blair Zepeda is the team’s placekicker, making nine out of 14 attempts with a season high of 51 yards against the University of Central Arkansas.

“They do a tremendous job on offense,” said Carthel. “They through the ball really well and run it. They just hired a new defensive coordinator and he does a really nice job and has got them playing at a really high level.”

The Lumberjacks will then play McNeese State at 3 p.m. on Oct. 26 in Homer Bryce Stadium for the Homecoming game.

## INCIDENT: Athletic director gives statement

From Page 1

first time something like this had happened.

“My freshman year, one of the SHSU football players actually picked up one of the piccolo players to move her out of [his] way as he practiced kicking field goals,” Ruiz said. “We have had this problem almost every year.”

With almost 100 years of rivalry between the two opposing teams, disrespect and discrimination are increasingly more common and accepted at BOTPW games.

“Rivalry games definitely affect the behavior of the students,” Ruiz said. “There is so much tension at the games, and I feel like the students feed off of that energy. I care about the lack of respect that happens at almost every football game.”

Halftime performance conference rules state that unless there are three

minutes or less left on the clock, no player of either team should be on the field. The incident occurred while the LMB was still performing with approximately four minutes left on the clock, causing Crow to be in violation of this rule.

Current students of the LMB also spoke up about the incident, stating that more than anything this is a learning experience for all members, not just the ones directly involved.

“I was extremely angry. The LMB deserves respect just like the football teams do,” Cheyenne Cooper, sophomore music education major and LMB member from Quinlan, Texas, said. “But, we all make mistakes. This is a learning experience, not just for [Kaatz] but for us as an ensemble.”

Director of Athletics Ryan Ivey reached out to SHSU Athletic Director

Bobby Williams to discuss the role that rivalry plays in college football and how both teams can avoid the negative effects that can come from it moving forward.

“Derogatory comments, hatefulness, those [things] have no place in the rivalry,” Ivey said.

“What’s so great [and] so bad about college athletics is the emotion that’s involved. [The student] made a bad choice, but that doesn’t make him a bad person. Education is key from all parties involved.

“There are a lot of things that didn’t happen that probably could have prevented it, so we’ve got to do better from an event management standpoint to make sure that things like that don’t happen again.”

## WILDFIRE: App enhances safety

From Page 6

the alerts aren’t abused, then it can be helpful to students.”

While the alerts are not curated by UPD, it allows the students to share their firsthand accounts of something happening. Last week for example, a student alerted others about a group of people yelling obscenities at students near the campus main entrance.

However, this alert system, which alerts every SFA student using Wildfire, can be misused easily. Moderating content is not done by an administrator or any central person. For example, the most recent alert is not a safety concern or news happening on campus, it is a student advertising a discount online store.

According to the Wildfire website, “We empower users to moderate the community. From the app, you can report a post or comment if you believe it is inappropriate and does not belong on Wildfire.”

However, alerts are supposed to be monitored by the Wildfire moderation team before being sent out.

Although Wildfire says it is not meant to replace 911, it can still be useful by providing a place where students can talk to each other and, most importantly, alert each other to problems on campus.

As Wildfire continues to grow at SFA, so will its usefulness to help students find a friend or to be aware of a situation.

## FIGHTING: Mason sees the light at the end of the tunnel

From Page 6

his players is give him their best when they are on the court, and that’ll make him feel better. Mason’s message to his players is to focus on the upcoming season, which tips off against LeTourneau University at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 6 in William R. Johnson Coliseum.

Mason said he has talked to almost every coach in the country, his friends and past teammates. He has received an outpouring of love and support from

others, but he doesn’t want this to be about him.

“Don’t make it about me,” he said. “I’m not the first person to have cancer. Am I a spokesperson or an inspiration for it? Yeah—I don’t mind being that, but don’t make it about me. Let’s make it about the disease. Let’s do what we can do to find a cure for it.”

Keller has faith Mason will beat cancer. Although it is difficult for the

team to see him go through this, Keller believes it is important for the players to learn about adversity because it’s what college is about.

“I think it’s great for our guys to see somebody as mentally tough as he is,” Keller said. “That’s who he’s been his whole life from the time I knew him as a teenager. Just a tough, hard rocking dude.”



### You Don’t Have To Do It Alone!

Free, confidential consultation for options you can live with including:

- Parenting Classes
- Prenatal Referrals
- Limited Obstetrical Ultrasounds
- Adoption Referrals



**936-569-6288**  
621 Russell Blvd  
Nacogdoches, TX 75965  
Fax 936-560-3864  
M-TH: 9:00am-5pm  
F: 9:00am-12pm

[www.heartbeat-of-nacogdoches.org](http://www.heartbeat-of-nacogdoches.org)

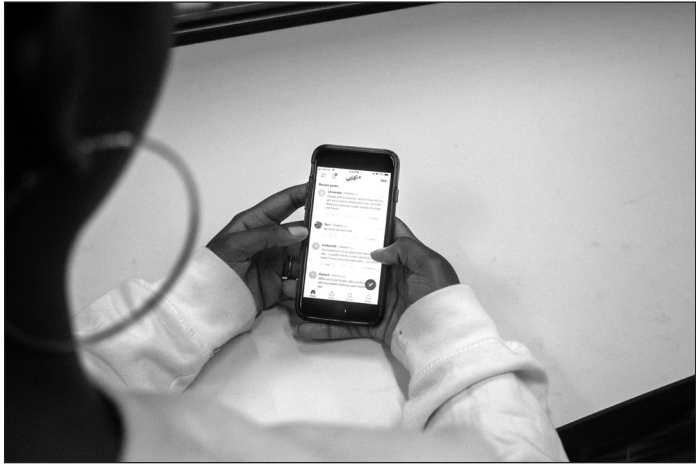


Photo illustration by Cameron Keplinger / The Pine Log

### BANITA CREEK MANAGEMENT


(936) 560-4768 ~ 327 W. College St Nacogdoches, Texas 75965



*Banita Creek*  
327 West College St.



*Ponderosa Pines*  
528 Tangleberry Drive



House of Photography

Now scheduling SFA grad sessions  
Invitations • Digitals • Retouching • Hair & Makeup  
You'll love the way you look! We guarantee it!  
936-569-7116 houseofphotography.biz/sfa

## DRAG RACE

From Page 1

The audience members of the SAA Drag Race witnessed drag race competitors who not only performed on the stage but took to the crowds and danced throughout the BPSC movie theater, which resulted in cheers and standing ovations from the crowd.

Many of the drag kings and queens performed unique high-energy dance routines. One of the student drag queens decided to take a different approach to wooing the audience by gathering peers onto the stage for a roast that added a humorous element to the show as well.

“The show was mesmerizing,” Bellodgia Roberston, electrical engineering major from Pearland, said. “I loved it, and it opened up new horizons here on campus.”

“SAA has some events that happen every year on campus,” Jarvis said. “I would love to be able to host this event again. Hopefully, SAA Drag Race could become an event that is a tradition here on campus.”

Jarvis also explained how monetary donations or tipping is commonly a part of the drag culture as a way to show gratitude to give a performer props. All SAA events are free to SFA students. To maintain authentic atmosphere of the drag race with no expense to student audience members, the crowd was given fake money to throw at drag queens and kings who they thought were really livening up the show.



## Review: ‘These Shining Lives’ shines a light through theatre

By Alyssa Coker  
Copy Editor

“These Shining Lives” by Melanie Marnich, a show based on the Radium Crisis in the 1930s, was performed by the SFA Cast directed by Jessica Griffin. This was the second downstage production of the semester. It was held on Oct. 11 at 7:30 p.m. and on Oct. 12 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. I was especially excited for this performance, as I had performed in this play myself in the past. This rendition of the play certainly did not disappoint.

They set the scene of the play with a green lit clock in the background, linking the theme of time in every act. At the beginning of the show, the characters defined themselves very well. Catherine, the main character played by Scurry freshman Courtney Pratt, is a traditional wife and mother you would see from the time period. Tom, played by freshman Anthony Johnson from Frisco, is a hardworking man and Catherine’s husband. Charlotte, brought to life by Plano freshman Marissa Mondragon, is a more outspoken and promiscuous woman, new to the time period. Frances, played by Houston sophomore Alexis Hargy, and Pearl, played by sophomore Erinn St. Clair from Bastrop, are supportive friends, each bringing a little brightness to every subject with a sense of morality or a sense of humor. They all meet each other when Catherine decides to earn some extra money and work at the Radium Dial Company. All of the girls work together in this setting throughout the play. The ensemble created by the cast here was spectacular. I waited for a scene when they were all together and became

excited with each one. The play started gaining momentum when Catherine experienced an intense pain in her foot. The other women also had their own specific ailments that they are confronting on their own, assuming it was just from hard work. Their relationship progressed, still an amazing ensemble, and so did their conditions. It got to where they had to see the doctor. This was when the company’s foul play came to fruition. The company doctor, played by Drake St. Pierre, waved their issues off by just prescribing aspirin. The women demanded a real diagnosis. Eventually, they went to a doctor who didn’t work for the company, Dr. Dalitsch, also played by Drake St. Pierre. He told them that their conditions are all due to fatal and irreversible radium poisoning. They all attained radium poisoning by working for the Radium Dial Company. However, none of the risks was addressed to the employees by the company. The management conspired to keep it hidden for the sake of business.

At this point, the girls are confronted with the choice of taking this quietly and not sharing it with the public or making a little noise. Inevitably, they decided to not go down without a fight. The characterization here took a remarkable turn. Each actress sought to fight this battle differently. I especially appreciated Mondragon’s performance as Charlotte. Her attitude was spot on in the way she wanted to prove she wasn’t going to take this from anyone, especially the company. Another character I really enjoyed was Pearl. Her soft-spoken, stay-in-line attitude gradually faded



Anthony Johnson (left) holds Courtney Pratt’s hand during a scene of “These Shining Lives.” The show by Melanie Marnich is based on the Radium Crisis in the 1930s and was performed by the SFA Cast and directed by Jessica Griffin.

throughout the production very naturally to address the unfair matter at hand. As the ensemble worked up the courage, they went to Grossman, a lawyer portrayed by Jeremiad Hewitt. He presented their case to the court, eventually winning after the seventh appeal to the Supreme Court.

As the play drew to a close, the progression of Catherine’s life began to close as well. She was diagnosed with bone cancer, necrosis of the jaw, and extreme radium poisoning, with only a few months left to live. Her husband Tom’s monologue after the final trial was one of the most powerful scenes

to me. I would like to thank Johnson for bringing it to life and giving it justice. After Tom’s final word, the play drew to a close in memoriam to the women who perished in the Radium Crisis. The cast did a great job with this, moving many people in the audience to tears.

The SFA Cast and Crew did

a phenomenal job with their rendition of this play. It’s one of my favorite plays, and it holds a special place in my heart.

After watching this performance, it made it even better. There is no doubt in my mind that every human being should watch this. Go see it.

## Review: Starbucks’ fall lineup highlights tastes of season

By Kayley Frazee  
Contributing Writer

I love fall. I love the cold weather, scarves, boots, sweaters, leaves, Halloween and all things pumpkin. While it seems that everyone everywhere is putting out some version of various pumpkin delicacies, the most famous of them all is, of course, coffee. It seems that every place that sells coffee: Einstein’s Bro’s Bagels, Dunkin Donuts, even 7-Eleven, has attempted a pumpkin flavored coffee. No one does it better than the OG, Starbucks.

That means when Starbucks announced it was bringing the Pumpkin Spice Latte back on Aug. 27, the earliest it’s ever been brought back, I was ecstatic. Along with the PSL and the salted caramel mocha, they introduced a new drink: the pumpkin cream cold brew.

The pumpkin cream cold brew is a cold brew, mixed with vanilla syrup. Then, it’s topped with pumpkin cream foam and pumpkin spice. My first thought when drinking it was, “Holy crap. This is literally just super strong coffee. Where’s the pumpkin?” So, a word to the wise: If you’re someone who doesn’t like just the taste of black coffee, I would recommend stirring it up extremely well for the pumpkin cream to disperse. Or you could just drink the pumpkin cream foam, because it by itself was quite delicious, like a yummy, delicate pumpkin spice whipped cream.

If you’re like me and still want the great taste of pumpkin without being attacked by the bitterness, I would go with the classic and my personal favorite of the three: the pumpkin spice latte. I know that it gets

mocked for being basic, but sometimes popular things are popular for a reason. The PSL is a coffee drink made with pumpkin, cinnamon, nutmeg, clove, steamed

if you don’t like pumpkin or coffee but still want to join in on the fall fun. My first reaction was honestly, “Oh my gosh this is salty!” But, after stirring it a bit, the caramel



Photo by Kayleigh East / The Pine Log  
Seasonal drinks headline Starbucks’ fall beverage lineup.

milk, espresso, sugar and pumpkin puree. It is then topped with whipped cream and pumpkin pie spice. It just...tastes like fall. It’s the perfect amount of pumpkin spice and coffee without being too overpowering on either side. The warm version is perfect to sip while you’re walking to class watching all the leaves turn yellow, brown and red. If you prefer cold drinks, the pumpkin spice Frappuccino offers the same amazing flavors for when you still want a taste of fall, but it’s 89 degrees outside. Also, the whipped cream doesn’t melt as fast as it does in the hot version, so that’s a bonus.

The salted caramel mocha Frappuccino is a good drink

was more noticeable than the salt, which is kind of what I was hoping for from the get go. I love salted caramel, but I do wish it learned more on the caramel and less on the salt. So, I guess I’ll just stick to my pumpkin spice lattes and leave the salted caramel for someone else.

Along with these drinks, Starbucks also released two pastries this year: a pumpkin scone and a pumpkin cream cheese muffin. While both are tasty, the cream cheese in the middle of the muffin gives it a better texture and makes it more creamy.

Overall, everything from the line tastes pretty good. Starbucks, you may keep your fall crown.

## Review: Brick Street Blues Band brings fun and energy

By Webb Smith  
Life & Arts Editor

I have been a fan of all sorts of music in my life, and I have been lucky enough to have worked in multiple positions now where I am able to listen to music being performed live in front of an audience. I’ve experienced almost all types of music: punk, blues, jazz, rockabilly, funk, country and heavy metal. I’ve heard many different bands and gotten to work around their shows, hearing them and experiencing the show that they put on.

There has to be a sort of spark that helps to drive a band to get a crowd to move. It can be hard to find that, with even the most technical players needing that bit to push them further beyond and to fully make them stand out as someone who is truly doing well in their craft.

Nacogdoches’ Brick Street Blues Band is one of those bands that has that spark, making people want to get up and move. They have been performing since 2015 and are well known for their covers of blues, funk and soul

music.

The band has a distinct style, which makes it stand out from others in Nacogdoches. The group tends to take on more classy attire from the usual sort of jeans and T-shirt that most musicians would wear on stage. Instead, sometimes, they opt for occasional color matched outfits that help them to sell the crowd on them when they pay to see them perform.

Getting a start in the now closed Liberty Bell, the band would meet each other through the jam sessions. They would participate in there with a recurring cast of people coming through and just enjoying playing together. It wasn’t until they were asked by one of the patrons there to perform for their wedding anniversary that they actually became a legitimate band, choosing the name Brick Street Blues as a credit to the brick roads of downtown outside of the restaurant where they all played.

Seeing them perform is a completely different experience than listening to music over a speaker. They

put a considerable amount of energy into all of the work that they do, and it leads them to create a completely interesting and unique sort of atmosphere. The music almost feels like it wants to lift you off of your feet, or, at the very least tap, your foot to the rhythm of the drums or the beat of the bass. It’s pure and simple fun from people that know how to get a crowd moving to the beat and enjoying the energy that their music brings.

The group was voted by Nacogdoches as one of the best local bands of 2019, and I can see why. It consists of people from all different places and even has a good number of alumni as a part of their band.

The group has an upcoming show on Oct. 19 at Makelmore’s where they are going to be performing with artist Marshal Vance, another regular of the old jam sessions who is now a professional musician out of Orlando, Florida. You can also find them and their shows on their Facebook page under Brick Street Blues Band.



Photo courtesy of Brick Street Blues Band  
(From left) Randy McDonald, Alex Leyva, Xan Leyva, Mark Scott and GinaMaree Langford.



# OPINIONS

## Universities should consider moving BOTPW back to home fields

The Battle of the Piney Woods is the second longest-running rivalry game according to the Football Championship Subdivision, or FCS. Starting on Nov. 17, 1923, the game has brought students and alumni together from both schools to root for their teams. It wasn't until 2009 that the game was moved from the home campuses to NRG Stadium in Houston, but only up to 2013.

However, in 2015, it was announced that NRG would be the permanent home for the rivalry game after the extension of the teams' contract with the stadium. It's been a very successful game and a tradition to look forward to each fall semester. But it might it be even more beneficial to bring the game back to the home campuses.

One benefit of having the games on home grounds is having a higher chance of attendance. Although it only takes about an hour and 30 minutes for people coming from Huntsville to get to Houston for the big game, it takes about two hours and 23 minutes for those coming from Nacogdoches. Because of the long drive, most students are discouraged from going to the game,

especially if they don't have rides. Yes, there is a shuttle bus offered, but tickets to ride have ranged between \$30 to \$50 per person. If the games were to be moved home, it would only take about an hour and 46 minutes both ways. With this, shuttle bus fares would most likely lower prices considering it would take less time to get to the game.

Under this week's poll on the Pine Log Twitter account, alumni replied with their experiences at games held on home ground.

"[It] would be great for the city of Nac and its small businesses to have a big home game," said Twitter user Matt Adkins.

Nacogdoches is always pushing for people to shop local first, so this would give all the local businesses more exposure as well as showing off SFA's campus. The same could go for Huntsville. Even with the rivalry, people need to eat and shop no matter where the game is located. Director of Athletics Ryan Ivey agreed that there are pros and cons to leaving NRG.

"You can weigh the variables that come with playing at a neutral site where approximately 40% of our alumni

reside, or on-campus sites that provide an opportunity to bring individuals (alumni, students and prospective students alike) to Nacogdoches in order for us to showcase our beautiful campus," said Ivey.

Yet for every pro, there is a con. NRG Stadium does offer more seats than both Homer Bryce and Elliott T. Bowers, with Homer Bryce holding 14,575 actual seats (25,000 capacity with hills), Elliott T. Bowers holding 12,593 seats and NRG holding 72,220. It's easier said than done to move away from playing at NRG. For one, the schools would have to end their contract with Lone Star Sports and Entertainment, which allowed them to continue playing in Houston.

"There are notices and contractual obligations we must adhere to in moving forward with playing or not playing at NRG," said Ivey.

Another issue is the game doesn't cost SFA anything, for LSSE and NRG cover the expenses of the game being held there. Even with both sides of the coin showing exactly how things would go if the school were to go back like how things were 10 years ago, it's still not a bad idea to take into consideration.

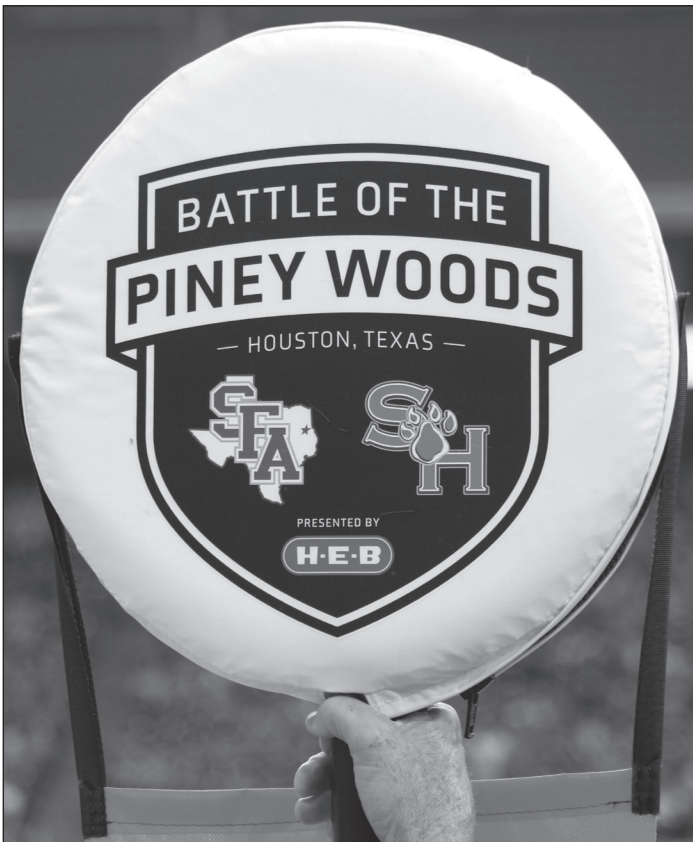


Photo by LaShauna Bell / The Pine Log

## Student inspired to start SFA Jewish Student Union



By Ryan Eubanks  
Contributing Writer

Hey there! My name is Ryan. I'm Jewish and I want to say a few things. Things about what it's like being a Jew at SFA.

I should start by saying I love SFA. My mom is an alumna, and it's close to home. My professors and classmates are all amazing people who I genuinely cherish. I would not change my decision to come to SFA for anything, but there is a significant lack of resources for and representation of Jewish students that I want to address.

Before this semester, if you went to the Jewish tab on the Office of Multicultural Affairs website, the page was completely blank. Jewish student organizations had existed in the past, but none have for several years. That meant that there was nothing unifying Jewish students or representing Jewish interest on campus, and I found that alarming and unacceptable.

At the beginning of the semester, if I wanted to connect to my Jewishness, I would do so on my own. I would drive alone to the Reform Synagogue in Tyler to attend services. Similarly, issues I had with my school and religious schedules fell on me alone to resolve. Last week I had a test scheduled on Yom Kippur, a day of fasting to conclude the High Holiday season, after I had returned from Kol Nidre services in Tyler very late the night prior.

Now, yes, there are solutions to these problems

that are not the responsibility of the University. SFA cannot control if there is a synagogue closer to Nacogdoches than Tyler, and students can request accommodations to be made for religious holidays. But, wouldn't it be nice if a Jewish organization existed on campus to make resources more accessible for students? Or, for the organization to request that the institution be mindful of the burden that schedules that don't consider our holidays places on our lives, both religious and academic?

I'd love to be a member of a Jewish organization that would make connecting to the Reform Synagogue in Tyler or creating meaningful Jewish experiences on campus more accessible. I'd love to be a member of a Jewish organization that could serve as a place for Jews on campus to find a unified voice, so we can be heard on issues like exam scheduling and holiday experiences on campus. Frankly, I don't think I should have to ask for my exam to be delayed. I don't want to have tests scheduled on my religious holidays in the first place, the same way that an exam wouldn't be scheduled on Christmas or Easter. Students get off an entire week for the secular holiday of Thanksgiving without having to ask. The least I'd expect is to not have to ask for my exam to be rescheduled on a single day during the holiest time of our year.

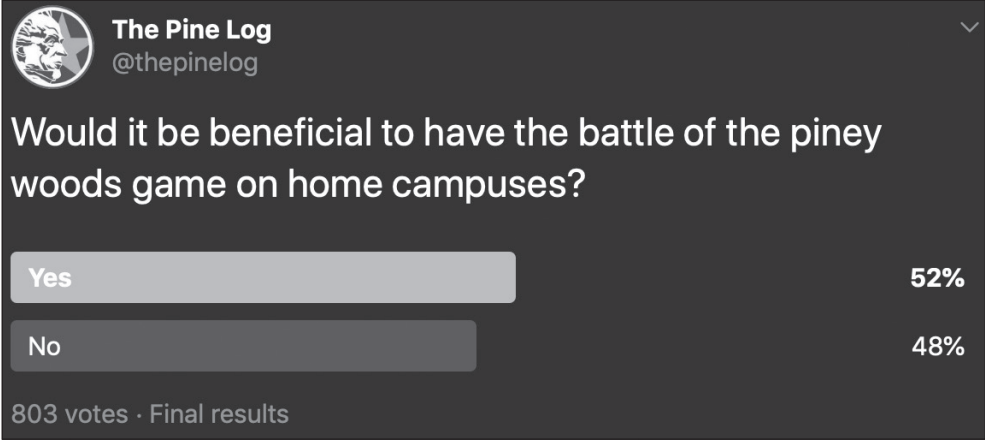
I think it's needless to say that I am proud of my Jewishness; I usually walk around wearing a Star of David around my neck. Being Jewish is a cornerstone of my culture, religion and identity next to other things. In my general experience, I have been met with good favor or completely ignored, which is fine. However, I have also been approached by people on campus seeking to challenge my religious views and who, willfully or not, disrespected my culture

and religious life, even going so far as to explicitly call it second best to theirs. That is the tip of the iceberg of what I'm afraid might exist at SFA, just like it does everywhere else: anti-Semitism. That is another reason I want a Jewish voice on campus.

My Jewish values call for the celebration of religious diversity and multiculturalism, a sentiment I'm afraid has not always been and will not always be extended to us in return. That is how I have ended up in conversations on campus where I left feeling obligated to be respectful of another person's religious beliefs regardless of their disregard for my own. I want Jews on campus to have a place to have a voice that can foster positive changes on campus that makes it a more inclusive and diverse campus for people of all religious backgrounds and cultures. That is why I and a group of other Jewish students created the Jewish Student Union.

The JSU is a Student Organization organized to create an enriching experience for students who may be disconnected from or curious about Jewish life and culture. We want the organization to be a place where Jewish students at SFA can find resources to connect to their Jewish life safely, with community and with a unified voice. That may mean tagging along to services in Tyler, having monthly Shabbat Dinners or just having a place to meet and gather with other Jewish students and faculty. We want the JSU to be an organization that attempts to fill the gaps that currently exist at SFA.

As president of the new JSU, I am glad and excited to be taking steps toward creating a Jewish community at SFA where one simply did not exist before. If you're interested in joining us or have questions, contact us on our Instagram page @SFAJSU, or email me at eubanksr@gmail.com.



## Letter to the Editor

As I approach the end of my time at SFA, I look back and admire all of the ups and downs I have endured since my arrival here in the fall of 2017. I grew up always knowing I wanted to go to college, but I never knew what I wanted to major in or how it would be financially possible for me to attend a university.

All throughout high school, I had to work every summer and most weekends with my dad as his HVAC business in Houston began to grow. My dad did his best to allow me to live my life as a teenager and reach my full potential as much as possible, but him raising a high schooler on his own was no easy task. This required me to spend a lot of time at home or at work with him because I had no one else to take care of me.

I missed out on a lot of opportunities high schoolers were able to do, such as go out with friends, join any school programs or even go to high school football games.

Even though I applied and got accepted to four universities during my senior year, I wasn't able to afford any of them or leave home to go to school from one semester to the next. I went to my local community college and stumbled my way along.

I was a nursing major for a year until I became a culinary art major. I finally became immersed in something I enjoyed. During community college, I always had full four-five class semesters while working at a restaurant and working with my dad in my time off.

It was horrible. But after two and a half extraordinarily busy years, I graduated and was ready to move on.

I made the decision to

transfer to SFA and work toward my bachelor's degree in hospitality administration. I had only been to Nacogdoches once before and did not know much about the school or many people here. I took a risk and told my dad what I wanted to do. I applied for financial aid, but it wasn't much help at all. I knew it was going to be a very hard the first few semesters, but I still went for it.

My very first semester here my car broke down, and I had to walk and ride my bike everywhere for a few months. I was taking five classes and working at Barnes and Noble on campus. I was also working whatever odd jobs I could find around town and working with my dad every time I went back to Houston. It was difficult, lonely and stressful.

I was dealing with an enormous amount of anxiety, to the point where I lost 35 pounds in a few short weeks. I felt so sick and empty. Many times, I wanted to drop everything and give up.

I had to live in a whole new city, in a dorm with a complete stranger. I was also having to balance work, school and my attempt at a social life. Sometimes, I only had \$25 in my bank account. Other times, I had nothing to eat at all besides old pizza and water.

As time went by, I kept pushing forward and never gave up my beliefs or motivation, even while being away from home.

After my first year at SFA, I was able to move off campus into an apartment with a former coworker. I had a stable job, had a fully functioning car and never again went hungry at all. In addition to the stress

of school and financial obligations, I had so many other things going on in my personal life that made it so difficult to want to still be in school.

Sometimes, it felt like nothing I did made any sense or had any point at all, but I never gave up.

There's so much pressure as a student, especially a first-generation student who comes from an immigrant family. Being the first in your family to attempt to accomplish a higher education is priceless.

Attending college and a university was not something easy, nor was it expected of me. It wasn't something that happened because of my privilege or background, but it is something that anyone can accomplish through hard work and perseverance.

I couldn't have done any of this without pushing myself to not give up and to face my fears and obstacles. I had immense support from my best friend; because of her, I learned to push myself and not overthink everything I did. I also had support from my friends and family back in Houston who always reminded me that they were thinking of me, even when I was far away.

It couldn't have been possible without taking risks, learning to grow up and being decisive in everything that I did. Perseverance will get you so far in life. Don't give up whenever you don't see the results you want right away. Find something that you love, and excel in every area of it. Explore, meet new people and never stop trying.

**Walter Orocio is a senior hospitality major from Houston.**



*Occasionally, The Pine Log's Opinions Page features an advice column. The staff will be answering questions about anything from relationships to general life issues, and everything in between. To submit your questions, email The Pine Log at sfasupinelog@gmail.com.*



### Fall 2019 Editorial Board

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
Raquel Torres

**COPY EDITOR**  
Alyssa Coker

**NEWS EDITOR**  
Meredith Janning

**OPINIONS EDITOR**  
Isabell Tenorio

**SPORTS EDITOR**  
Deanna Swindell

**SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR**  
Kyesha Jackson

**LIFE & ARTS EDITOR**  
Webb Smith

**WEB EDITOR**  
Jodi Evans

**PHOTO EDITOR**  
LaShauna Bell

**VIDEO EDITOR**  
Ana Conejo

**ADVERTISING MANAGER**  
Megan Jenkins

**CIRCULATION MANAGER**  
Andres Jaimes

### Opinion and feedback policy

Opinions expressed in columns on this page are those of the individual writer. Unsigned editorials, as well as editorial cartoons, are the opinion of The Pine Log editors and do not necessarily reflect those of the University, its administrative officers or its Board of Regents.

Letters to the editor should be typed and should include the student's

hometown, classification, campus ID number and phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit letters for space, spelling, grammar and potentially libelous material.. for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit letters for space, spelling, grammar and potentially libelous material.



VOLLEYBALL

■ The Ladyjacks will reach the halfway mark of their conference season this week after playing Nicholls State University at 6:30 p.m. Thursday and Southeastern Louisiana at 1 p.m. Saturday in Shelton Gym.

BOWLING

■ The reigning national champion Ladyjacks kick off their season at the Allstate Sugar Bowl Invitational Friday-Sunday in New Orleans, Louisiana. The tournament will be live streamed from the Tulane University Athletics website.

GOLF

■ The women's team finished 16th out of 17 teams at the New Mexico State Aggie Invitational last week while the men's team placed sixth out of nine teams competing in the Bentwater Intercollegiate Tournament.

SOCCER

■ The Ladyjacks will play Nicholls State University at 7 p.m. Friday and Southeastern Louisiana University at 1 p.m. Sunday at the SFA Soccer Field. Friday's game will be broadcast on ESPN3, and Sunday's will be on ESPN+.

Fighting cancer for his family

Assistant coach continues to inspire his team while in the midst of adversity

By Alec Reyes  
Staff Writer

As the SFA men's basketball team held its first practice of the year, fourth-year assistant coach Wade Mason roamed the court wearing a blue T-shirt. It read, "One goal, cancer" with the word

cancer marked out in red. It was a subtle nod to what Mason had endured the week prior. That week, he was undergoing chemotherapy for liver cancer. Mason, who aids the coaching staff in player development, recruiting and scouting, was initially diagnosed with

prostate cancer in June after it was thought that he had a bleeding ulcer. The doctors called head coach Kyle Keller and told him what they found. "They found two gnarly cysts of prostate cancer," Keller said. "As Coach Mason was waking up out of surgery, we had to tell him that it wasn't a bleeding ulcer. It was

a difficult thing to watch as the doctor told him what they found and what his options would be."

A decision had to be made on whether to operate on Mason either in Nacogdoches or in Houston. The operation took place Nacogdoches two days later, and the cysts were removed. Mason was in the hospital for five days and during that time went through multiple screenings and other treatments. At the end of July, the doctors found cysts in his liver and groin area through PET scans.

When Mason discovered he had cancer, he was consumed by the thought of death along with thoughts of his children.

"That's what you think of when you hear cancer," Mason said. "Death was the first thing, and outside of death was my kids. Have I done enough to prepare them for this world? If I was to leave today or tomorrow, could they hold their own in this world?"

Wade said the cancer comes with mental anguish that he doesn't want anyone to go through. His son told him he was sad. As a parent,

that was the last thing he wanted to hear. But, despite the initial doubts he faced, Mason refocused and switched his mindset. He mentioned his daughter has sickle-cell and that is hard, and compared to that, the cancer will be easy.

"Let's fight," Mason said. "What do I have to do to beat this? The doctors told me mine was curable instead of terminal. I don't know if I could've handled that. They

*"...don't make it about me. Let's make it about the disease. Let's do what we can do to find a cure for it."* - Assistant coach Wade Mason

said curable, and that was it for me."

The news of Mason's cancer not only affected his family but also the players on the SFA basketball team. It had a bigger effect on the veteran players who knew Mason when he was healthy and watched him lose weight.

"We were all shocked," said senior guard John Comeaux. "That was something none of us expected and for sure didn't want. Just knowing that it was one of our coaches,

one of our family members, that hits hard."

Senior guard/forward Kevon Harris said the players pray for Mason before and after practice. When he's not there, they know he's with them in spirit. Mason describes the team and the University as his family. He did not want to miss practice, but Keller had to help him put his life into perspective that he had to beat cancer. His fellow coaches along with his players noticed his mentality regarding the adversity he is facing.

"Coach Wade taught us how to take basketball and put it into real life," Comeaux said. "Like the adversity we face in basketball, you can take that and make sure that whatever you go through in life as well that you take it the same way—straight head on."

The team was taken on a retreat where Mason told them his story and what he has been going through in the last months while finishing chemo, CT scans and surgeries. The goal Mason continues to remind

See FIGHTING on Page 3



Photo by Garrett Uhl / The Pine Log

Assistant coach Wade Mason poses inside of William R. Johnson Coliseum where the Lumberjacks basketball team will play its home opener against LeTourneau University at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 6. Mason has been battling cancer for the past couple of months, undergoing surgery to remove cysts from his prostate and later having more cysts found in his liver and groin area.

Lumberjacks reach halfway in SLC season to play Wildcats

Coach Carthel uses bye week to prepare for second half of season in hopes for wins

By Deanna Swindell  
Sports Editor

The Jacks had a bye week last week and continue their Southland Conference season against Abilene Christian University at 3 p.m. Saturday in Wildcat Stadium in Abilene.

The Jacks had an extra week of preparation after their 31-20 loss against Sam Houston at the 94<sup>th</sup> Battle of the Piney Woods. They now hold a 1-5 overall record, 1-2 conference record, a .333 winning percentage and are ninth in the conference.

"We've got to get better this week," head coach Colby Carthel said. "It'll give us a little time to rest and recharge. This is a halfway point in the season—six-game stretch, we've got six remaining, and I think

they're all six games we have a chance."

In the BOTPW, senior wide receiver Tamrick Pace, who was named 2019 Preseason All-SLC Second Team Offense, saw his first minutes this season with 63 receiving

yards. Freshman wide receiver Xavier Gipson led with 97 receiving yards, and junior running back Da'Leon Ward led with 99 rushing yards. The Lumberjacks had a total of 139 rushing yards compared to 135 from the Bearkats.

Senior kicker See PREVIEW on Page 3



Photo by LaShauna Bell / The Pine Log

Offensive coordinator Matt Storm talks to a player during the 94th Battle of the Piney Woods. The SFA football team holds the ninth seed in the SLC with a 1-2 conference record.

*Find Your Focus*

**Nacogdoches' only full-service eye clinic, surgery center and optical boutique staffed by board-certified, fellowship-trained Ophthalmologists, Optometrists and Opticians.**

- LASIK Procedures Starting at \$100 a Month with Qualifying Credit  
*A free consultation and vision screening is required for exact pricing*
- Treatment of General Eye Disorders, Comprehensive Exams
- The latest in Eye Wear Lens Technology, Designer Frames and Contacts
- Leading-Edge Management and Surgery for Glaucoma, Retina and Cornea Conditions, As Well As State-Of-The-Art Laser Cataract Procedures, Using the Latest In Advanced Multi-Focal Intraocular Lenses

**Cataract, Glaucoma, Cornea & Retina**

CONSULTANTS OF EAST TEXAS

Medical Arts Surgery Center | Benchmark Optical

**Shannon L. Smith, M.D., F.A.C.S.**

Fellowship Trained In Glaucoma and Ocular Pathology

**Orry C. Birdsong, M.D.**

Fellowship Trained In Cornea

936.564.3600 | 877.810.3937 | EyesofTexas.us | facebook.com/cgrcetx  
3302 N.E. Stallings Drive . Nacogdoches . Texas . 75965