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Visually impaired student's diagnosis doesn't stop him

By Alyssa Coker
Copy Editor

He wakes up, eager to start his day. During the week, he gets ready to go to class, all of which go by slowly due to the increasing anticipation for an event later in the day. Finally, classes are over. He grabs a quick lunch, his saxophone and his cane, ready to go to practice.

SFA Junior Tanner Blakely is a computer science major from Forney. He has played saxophone in the LMB for the past two years, even after he was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa, a condition that restricts vision to only vague shapes and inverted colors, potentially causing blindness.

However, his love for band and music surpasses this hardship as he has learned to accommodate for it.

"Apparently, I've always had vision problems since I was young," Blakely said. "But my parents wanted me to be tested to make sure. So, before middle school, they had me tested and gave me a bunch of eye tests and everything and that's around when I was diagnosed."

Even at the very start of his diagnosis, he never let his love of music be affected in any way and began resolving the problems associated with RP on his own.

"It started getting a little tricky to read sheet music," Blakely said. "So, I just started out playing by ear."

"I've just always been in

band," Blakely said. "I started in middle school. Now, it's just something I've always done."

While the core of his love for music started in middle school band, he also has a general love for music that is evident in his demeanor and throughout his life.

"All through my childhood, I've loved music," Blakely said. "I've gone to concerts a lot. My childhood is all basically just rock concerts."

While Blakely began to grow, his passion did as well. He came to SFA last year, joined the LMB and began to cultivate his art.

"Really, I never got to march in high school," Blakely said. "So, this is only my fourth year actually marching. I like that part. I think the marching part has helped me with a lot over the past couple of years."

Along with Tanner's overall enjoyment of band, Lumberjack Band Director Dr. Tamey Angley has a fondness for the work Blakely does in the marching band as well.

"Literally, he just does his job," Angley said. "And when you're in a sea of about 330 marching band members, I think it's awesome that I would never even know that he was visually impaired. That's really impressive."

Conjoining Blakely's resilience and independence, the band department has made accommodations for his condition. They offer him several ways to make his experience as involved and enjoyable as possible.

"The biggest accommodation



Tanner Blakely, junior computer science major from Forney, plays saxophone for the Lumberjack Marching Band. He is diagnosed to retinitis pigmentosa, or RP. Blakely has been part of the LMB for two years now.

we make for him is we invert his music essentially," Angley said. "So, instead of white paper and black ink, we do black paper and white ink. Another thing we make accommodations for is we assign a student to lead him because he can't take his cane on the marching field. There's always someone there to lead him."

All of these considerations,

along with his own positive and upbeat attitude, has led Blakely to make progress in band and become an inspiration to many.

"He has absolutely inspired me," Sophomore Josh Pearson, saxophone section leader, said. "I don't know many people who can do what he does. If I was in his situation, I don't think I could do it. I don't think I'd be willing to try. Seeing

him, someone who is visually impaired, to be able to do this and to do it well. That's very inspiring."

Together with Pearson's inspiration from Blakely, Angley also believes Tanner further proves the fact that "anyone can be a musician."

"What he's doing is phenomenal," Pearson said. "I want to be a band director.

I'll probably use Tanner as an example all the time. If kids are ever like, 'I don't think I can do it. I don't think I can handle this,' I can say I marched with someone who almost couldn't see anything, and he did a phenomenal job. I think he's very inspirational to anyone for anything. To be able to overcome that obstacle and do it so well is very inspiring."

Photo by Katie Harris/ The Pine Log

Children in the workplace policy approved by Board of Regents



Photo by Meaghan Morton / The Pine Log

Dr. Joyce Johnston holds up a photo of her two children as she shares her opinions at a Family Forum held last year. The French professor was one of the 24 people who spoke about the policy.

By Raquel Torres
Editor-in-Chief

The SFA Board of Regents has approved the Children in the Workplace policy that was introduced in the summer of last year. It has since been edited and reviewed, and was ultimately approved before the Fall 2019 semester began.

According to the policy, the purpose is to "Support the university's commitment to fostering a healthy balance between workplace obligations and family."

The policy was introduced because SFA previously did not have a policy to regulate on employees bringing children to work during working hours.

Dr. Judy Abbott, Dean of the College of Education, was one of the first to talk to HR and legal counsel on the matter.

"I inquired... about policy

related to children in the workplace and used examples of incidents that had occurred and were occurring within PCOE (Perkins College of Education). Because there was no policy, discussions with HR and Legal Counsel included reviewing similar policies at other institutions and considering the development of a policy here at SFA," Abbott said.

Abbott explained that in the summer of 2017, employees frequently had young children at their desks for several hours each day.

"As an educator, I know that young children deserve attention from parents, guardians or caregivers," Abbott said. "When the young children of these employees needed attention, this distracted the employee from completing his/her

work. This kind of frequent distraction from the duties of the employee's position is not productive or acceptable."

However, the university did not have a policy to place limits on children in the workplace.

"Supervisors found it challenging to place limits on employee behavior/actions and when some supervisors did place limits on employee behaviors/actions related to having young children at his/her desk, some employees pushed back, requesting a reference to policy," Abbott said.

Lorretta Doty, director of university human resources, said that after receiving complaints from multiple levels of different departments, managers and staff, she agreed a policy was necessary. Doty

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Students take to Twitter to express campus parking concerns, questions

Q & A with university officials gives students answers

By Raquel Torres
Editor-in-Chief

Parking on campus has consistently been an issue that students speak out about each semester.

Students have taken to Twitter to express concerns about commuter parking that the university has had to offer. One student even made a claim on Twitter that said that the university was selling more commuter parking passes than there are commuter parking spots.

Cynthia Haile, director of parking services on campus, said, "It is a parking industry standard for universities to have a greater number of students than parking spaces because of the turnover ratios for commuters compared to other parkers. There currently are about 2,500 commuter spaces on campus. Commuters parking on campus are typically here for short periods of time compared to other types of parkers. Commuters may come to campus for a maximum of five hours during the day and usually the turnover is quick for parking spaces. In contrast, a resident is parked 24-hours, 7-days-a-week, using parking spaces for a longer period of time."

To address more student concerns, I made an announcement on Twitter asking students to comment their questions about parking. To answer the questions, I contacted Director of Parking, the Interim Vice President for University Affairs, and the Student Body Vice President.

Q: "If I've paid \$ for a permit & still gotta take a bus, why's there not more buses & why can they not expand the routes to cover more buildings? What's with this "the buses can only

make right turns so it can't get to that part of campus" ... excuse?"

A: "Those busses are incredibly expensive and we have three of them and they run all morning. I spent the morning on Monday riding the shuttle bus. I found that in general, you never wait more than five minutes and you can get from the hall 20 parking lot to the STEM building in eight minutes. For me, it was really important that we make the shuttle bus as efficient as possible, so that if students are parking in the commuter parking lot or they are parking in the hall 20 lot, we can get them to the heart of campus as soon as possible," said Adam Peck, Interim Vice President for University Affairs.

"People only have two complaints about the shuttle bus. It takes too long, and it doesn't stop at every building on campus. And you cannot solve those two problems simultaneously. The one we chose to really put an emphasis into solving was, how can we get them to the heart of campus as quickly as possible. The evening shuttle, which we start at 4 p.m., makes stops all over campus, so you still get the convenience of that. But during the peak times, when students need to get to campus, that shuttle bus just runs a very short and efficient route."

Q: "Why isn't there any parking specifically for commuters? It's always all permit which housing and faculty use too. If they have designated spots then we should too besides the commuter lot, correct?"

A: "What gets difficult is that, you've got a mix of a bunch of different people on campus. The reason why residential students have designated parking spots is because

we need to have a certain number of spots available for a certain number of residential locations. The commuter parking lot, adjacent to the William R. Johnson Coliseum, it is just a limitless amount of parking. It is never full. Essentially, if you want very convenient parking, living on campus is a good way to get that. If you want the convenience of living off campus, then part of the cost of that is that parking isn't as close to campus," said Peck.

Q: "Why is all-permit parking being consistently reduced without any additional parking being added?"

A: "There are two new lots under construction on the south side of campus that will add approximately 100 new spaces. The cost of Student Center Garage parking permits has been reduced. The Board of Regents approved changing the annual price of the Student Center Garage permit to \$200 per semester, or \$435 for 12 months," said Haile.

The director of parking services recognizes all of the suggestions from students. Specifically those suggesting to merge commuter and faculty parking lots together. Students say they should be merged because they both commute to campus.

"We appreciate suggestions from students and give the input we receive full consideration. We constantly monitor the use of parking lots and are willing to study any viable options for lot assignments that will best utilize our parking resources and meet the needs of SFA students in any feasible

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Lumberjacks prepare for Tarleton for home opener.



NEWS

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The Pine Log

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Crime Log:

8/23/19

An officer was dispatched to UPD to meet with a complainant in reference to a Hit and Run. The complainant advised between 8-12-2019 and 8-14-2019 her unattended vehicle was damaged in Lot 15 or Lot 46. There are no suspects.

An officer made contact with two subjects in Lot 53. One of the subjects was found to be in possession of alcohol by a minor. The subject issued citation for Minor in Possession of Alcohol. There is one suspect.

An officer was dispatched to Lumberjack Lodge to meet with a complainant in reference to Criminal Mischief. The complainant advised on 8-23-2019 an exit sign was damaged at Lumberjack Lodge. There are no suspects.

8/24/19

An officer was dispatched to Hall 16 in reference to a drug complaint. The Officer made contact with two subjects who were found to be in possession of a controlled substance. This incident is currently under investigation. There are two suspects.

8/26/19

An officer was dispatched to the lobby of Kerr Hall in reference to Theft. Upon arrival the Officer made contact with the complainant, who advised between 8-202-19 and 8-21-2019 her secure bicycle was stolen from the bike rack at Kerr Hall. There are no suspects.

8/29/19

An officer was dispatched to the East College Cafeteria to meet with a complainant in reference to a Theft. The complainant advised on 8-28-2019 money was removed from her unattended purse without her consent. There are no suspects.

9/2/19

An officer was dispatched to Steen Hall in reference to a drug complaint. The Officer made contact with a subject who was found to be in possession of marihuana. The subject was arrested for Possession of Marihuana in a Drug Free Zone and transported to the Nacogdoches County Jail without incident. There is one suspect.

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

New policy keeps residence halls locked, requires student ID to gain entrance

By Deana Jones
Staff Writer

SFA's Residence Life Department is enforcing a new policy to keep the residence halls locked from the outside 24/7.

Only Lumberjack Landing will be unlocked from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. to allow access to the Ed and Gwen Cole Student Success Center.

While most residence halls, such as Wisely Hall and Lumberjack Village, have already followed this policy for semesters prior, SFA is now pushing for changes that may heighten student safety and comfort campus-wide.

Shea Roll, assistant director for SFA's Residence Life Department, said that student and staff suggestion is what brought on the change.

"This [change] was in response to our students," Roll said. "Every Spring, we have an as-

essment to see how we can improve our halls to make our Lumberjacks feel most at home. Safety is one of the topics covered in that assessment."

According to a Residence Hall 2018-2019 survey provided by Roll, 50% of students voted that they "strongly agree" to feeling safer in their residence hall. 46% of students just "agreed" to the statement, while only 4% "disagreed."

After the initial student assessment, Residence Life went on to survey 5,000 other schools about their safety measures, and found that most small and large universities already enforce this



A student uses her ID to enter her residence hall. All halls will require access through card swipes, except for Landing, which is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

policy. The results then had to be carefully considered before making a plan.

"We discussed our results with the University Police Department and the Dean of Students," Roll said. "Together, we all decided this was in the best interest of our institution."

Roll adds that residents so far have expressed feeling safer, and that if a student does lose his or her campus ID card, there will be a number posted outside of the residence halls to call for immediate assistance.

D'nese Haddox, associate director of resi-

dence life, said that she feels the change will be an asset to the campus.

"I feel that any steps the university can take to enhance security will have a positive impact on our students," Haddox said.

Community Assistants in the residence halls seemed to find value in the new policy,

as well. Maya Carter, community assistant in Kerr Hall, said that the change makes things easier for her and the other community assistants.

"I think [the residence halls being locked] is a good idea," Carter said. "Honestly, I feel like it's safer. It makes it so that all students have to have their IDs checked. Now, we

know for sure who's coming in. And, at least over here, we haven't had any issues with students trying to sneak in, or anything like that."

There have been a few issues to work out along the way, but none that have caused the community assistants much trouble at all.

"We're kind of working through a few things," Carter said. "So, sometimes, IDs aren't working, and things like that. However, those issues are being worked out now."

Students, however, seem to have mixed feelings. Kaitlin Jowers, sophomore psychology major from Floresville, said that getting through the locked doors could be a hassle at times.

"It's sort of frustrating [for the doors to be locked], but it's for safety, so I understand," Jowers said. "It's kind of annoying to have to pull my ID out all the time, but it's not too bad."

Nac PD designates secure area for exchanges

By Jacob Hinton
Staff Writer

The Nacogdoches Police Department introduced a designated area in front of the Police Station on August 6 to be used for secure exchanges, allowing for people to safely buy and sell items.

According to Sgt. Brett Ayres, Public Information Officer, the exchange zone has cameras sending a live feed to a central location, and officers are frequently entering and exiting the police department.

"We're always looking for ways to better serve the community" Ayres said.

Ayres said the set-up process was rather simple. First, the department found the best location with the most surveillance coverage and put up signs. Then, they just needed to inform the public. After set-up, with better service in mind, the po-

lice station has also not experienced any issues with parking capacity due to the designation of the exchange zone.

"Before the Exchange Zone, people were coming up to the police station to do their exchanges, so we thought we'd designate some spots and make it official," Sgt. Ayres said.

Chief of Police Jim Sevey also assisted in the process of designating this zone, as he and the NPD believe that this could make a very positive impact on the community. However, setting an exchange zone on campus is still up in the air.

"Lots of students don't have vehicles and the police station isn't that far from campus," Communications Director Amy Mehaffey said. "However, I would never say less safety is a bad thing. We frequently try to expand our duties as a police department and try to be a positive influence

on the community. A lot of cities do this. This is a good thing."

With the advent of the internet, coordinating exchanges of goods has become more and more popular, justifying the designation of an exchange zone. Mehaffey added that the police station has been used as an impromptu exchange zone for a while, outlining the security of the new exchange zone. The reason it hasn't been enforced goes back to the people of Nacogdoches.

"It ultimately boils down to need," Mehaffey said.

According to Ayres as well as the Facebook post featuring the NPD's release of the exchange zone, a lot of community members, like Kerri Kelly, have intentions to make use of the exchange zone.

"I stopped selling locally because there were too many 'shady' incidents for me to be comfortable meeting

strangers anymore. This will help so much," Kelly said.

According to Kelly, she would meet buyers in the Gamestop parking lot right next to Walmart.

"My husband would go with me if it was a guy that was supposed to be meeting me. The person meeting me would just not show or answer my calls or texts after I would show up with my husband. In my mind, it was possible that once they saw my husband with me, they took off. I sell only items that I ship out of town now," Kelly said.

Events like the ones Kelly encountered are the primary reason the exchange zone was put into place. Since its implementation, many are giving local selling a chance.

"I would feel more secure selling locally if I were meeting in the police department's parking lot," Kelly said. "There should be less



The exchange zones, located outside of the Nacogdoches Police Station, allow community members to safely meet for things like buying and selling or custody exchanges. These spaces are monitored 24 hours a day, every day, according to NPD.

of a possibility of running into trouble that way. Personally, I probably will still feel better just selling online and

shipping, like on eBay. For bigger items that I don't want to ship, the exchange zone is a very good option, though."

SFA, Board of Regents unveil additions to campus master plan

By Gracie Porter
Staff Writer

SFA is undergoing construction and revision in many areas of the school.

During an address to faculty and staff, Interim President Dr. Steve Westbrook released information about the addition of about 100 new parking spots for students. Westbrook also mentioned the university's plan of constructing new residence halls, including creating a new first year residence hall that will be located east of Lumberjack Landing.

Phase one is to break ground on construction, which is scheduled to start in January and projected to end in the summer of 2021. Phase two will be to tear down Hall 16 and create a new dining hall to replace

it. After the new dining hall is completed, the East College Dining Hall will be torn down to provide parking and green space. The estimated cost for the new residence hall and dining facility is \$39.5 million.

"As we've had reunion groups come on campus over the past year, I've told them, 'If you've lived in Hall 16 or ate in the East College Cafeteria...go by and get your picture made with it because it won't be with us much longer,'" Westbrook said.

Construction has already started on the William R. Johnson Coliseum, where a new basketball performance center is underway. It is expected to take 18 months to finish. A new SFA Welcome Center and One Stop Shop will also be moving to the southeast zone of campus. An official

location has not been finalized. The estimated cost is \$13 million.

University plans also include the expansion of the Griffith Fine Arts building. The Baker Pattillo Student Center will also get an additional banquet hall and retail dining space.

When asked about how this construction may affect students' day-to-day life, Bruce Lanham, manager of construction services said, "It is inevitable that there will be some disruptions for pedestrians and vehicular traffic during the construction phase, but we will place primary importance on keeping the campus community safe. We will provide information regarding alternate pedestrian routes and will work diligently to keep any disruptions to a minimum."

According to the Campus Master Plan, the Miller Science building will also be renovated to have classrooms, laboratories, seminar and teaming spaces to support instructional needs to meet STEM initiative and science teaching goals.

There will be an opportunity to relocate offices from the College of Fine Arts to Wisely Hall. The preexisting offices will be converted into classrooms and laboratory space.

Renovations to the former U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison House will be done to turn the historic building into a new home for the Culinary Café. The Hutchison house project is estimated to cost about \$1.5 million and will include commercial kitchens and prep areas.

The master plan also

includes renovations of the Steen Library, which will include adding new entrances that the plan states will improve cross-campus wayfinding.

The Sustainable Building Opportunities, as stated in the Campus Master Plan Update 2020, suggests that renovating buildings will help the school optimize space, as well as maximize the conservation of forestry, save money on construction materials and reduce energy use that is produced by the school. There will be similar renovations to the residence halls including Mays, North and South Hall and Hall 10 to meet sophomore and upperclassman residential goals.

The Implementation Goals for the Campus Master Plan Update 2020 introduces these phase procedures as,

"Each phase is intended to further the goals and objectives of the Campus Master Plan. Highest and best use of university resources, academics, student life, community connectivity, sustainability, circulation, open space, image, identity, and a sense of completion at the end of each project, should all be optimized —whether the project is small or large in scale."

Dr. Danny Gallant, vice president for finance and administration, explained the funding for these renovations by saying, "The Culinary Café renovation will be funded with the Higher Education Fund. The fine arts expansion and Welcome Center are being funded with bond proceeds. The debt service on the bonds is funded with the Higher Education Fund."

Weeks of Welcome

Return of students to campus ignites weeks of celebration and involvement



From top to bottom, left to right: Students smile for a group photo in front a ring light at the OMA and Greek Life Yard Party on Wednesday. (Photo by Cameron Sweet/ **The Pine Log**); SGAhosted their annual watermelon bash at the student center plaza on Wednesday. (Photo by Cameron Sweet/ **The Pine Log**); Students meet and talk about activities Outdoor Pursuits has to offer on campus at Rec-Palooza. (Photo by Katie Harris/ **The Pine Log**); A student climbs up a rope at the SFA challenge course during the Lumberjack Open Climb event held for Weeks of Welcome. (Photo by Cameron Keplinger/ **The Pine Log**)

PREVIEW: Ladyjacks head to Evanston to continue attempt to continue season streak

From page 6

who was the reserve setter last season. In her 10 games played, Kirby had a total of 63 assists and 24 digs.

In the second match of the tournament, SFA will face the Austin Peay Governors at 5 p.m. on Friday, Sep. 6. The Governors were chosen to finish second in the Ohio Valley Conference.

Last season, the Governors finished first in the season but lost in the finals of their conference tournament against Murray State 3-0. Throughout the season, they had an overall record of 27-5, a 14-2 conference record and a .844 winning percentage.

Austin Peay, voted to finish second in the conference, has 10 returning players and five new players on its roster. Junior Jenna Panning is one of the returning players. Panning is an outside hitter who led the team with 247 kills, 59 digs and four blocks. In a game against

Rice University last season, she had a high of 14 kills.

The Governors also had two players, Brooke Moore and Ginny Gerig, named into the Preseason All-Ohio Valley Conference Teams. Moore ended the season with 370 kills, 358 digs and 12 blocks. Gerig is the Governors' libero and last season she ended with 470 digs and 75 assists.

In the last game of the tournament, SFA will face the Northwestern University Wildcats at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sep.7. NU had a 16-16 overall record last season, a 6-14 conference record and a .500 winning percentage.

Returning for the Wildcats, sophomore libero Michelle Lee played all 113 matches last season with NU and had a total of 379 digs and 85 assists. Junior middle hitter Alana Walker is another player who played all 113 matches last season. She had a team high of 229 kills and 19 blocks.

POLICY: Childcare expenses worry faculty

From page 1

Doty emphasized that SFA is not banning children on campus, but that the policy will serve as a management tool.

While drafting the policy, Doty researched children in the workplace policies at other universities. Common trends she saw included children being exempt from university activities that were designed for kids and circumstances related to safety.

“As stated in the policy, our intent is not to manage from HR, but to provide management with the tools they need to manage their employees,” Doty said.

Doty said that managers can use discretion when it comes to children in the workplace.

According to the policy, “The presence of the minor child cannot disrupt the workplace.” The policy however, does not define a disruption. Doty said the reason for this is because one disruption may not be a disruption in another department.

Doty explained that if a university employee brings their child to campus during working hours, the employee’s manager can use their discretion to decide if the child is a distraction or disruption to the employee or to the work environment. Non-disruptive children may stay with the guardian. If the child is a disruption, the manager can ask the employee to remove the child from the workplace and will be supported

by the university with the new policy.

Once the policy was introduced and ultimately approved, employees on campus were upset and claimed that the university wasn’t being sensitive to childcare expenses.

“The institution understands that childcare can be a significant expense and is an ongoing need. But childcare is the responsibility of the parent or guardian; it is not the responsibility of SFA to provide childcare for its employees,” said Abbott.

“SFA does provide employees flexibility with their sick/personal leave (a federal/state benefit) to request leave to meet family needs. SFA does provide supervisors the authority to allow for flexible work-hours based on the needs of employees and the demands of the specific job/work. SFA does provide employees the opportunity to request that childcare costs be withdrawn pre-tax on their monthly paycheck. But SFA does not provide childcare to all employees; this is NOT a benefit at this institution. Parents of young children who are employed at SFA are responsible for finding childcare outside of their work environment,” Abbott said.

In response to the complaints about childcare expenses, Doty said she has had a similar experience many years ago.

“I would like to say that people have put forth there is an affordability issue that they need to bring their children to work because they don’t have childcare,” Doty said.

PARKING: Administrators doing everything they can to address students’ concerns

From page 1

manner,” said Haile.

It can be hard to see from the student perspective, but Peck explains what’s going on and how the university is approaching this situation.

“Everything has a cost. We have to often make difficult decisions. There are more than 13,000 students, so there are 13,000 ideas of what the university ought to be. But the people who are making decisions for the university, we’re doing it in consultation with the students, and we want their experience to be amazing but often times, priorities shift. Right now, we’re building a number of different facilities; A new residence hall, a new dining facility, a new welcome center and one-stop shop, we’re investing in improving people’s experiences, but unfortunately, that means making choices and making priorities,” he said.

Student body vice president, Cathleen Young, weighs in on the situation from both a student perspective and administration.

“As someone who has gotten to hear both sides it is a tough situation to figure out. On one hand I understand that the university is changing and trying to ultimately make it more walker/bike ride friendly. The new construction ultimately will get all of the small parking lots out of the middle of campus but the university is trying to promote the buses more for students that don’t want to walk/can’t walk from the commuter lot . On the other hand as a student it can be frustrating.

“However I really am trying to push people riding the buses! Maybe finding more sufficient routes or a set schedule could help. The University is trying to better itself and upgrade to an even more sufficient and prettier version of SFA,” Young said.

New contender enters ring

Knuckle Sandwich knocks out taste buds

By Webb Smith
Life & Arts Editor

A good deli makes for a good community in my eyes; and, finally, there is one that has opened for the SFA Family.

Knuckle Sandwich is in a familiar place for a good deal of us, nestled in the same building where the Bike Shop once stood, putting it front and center of a large portion of the traffic that comes through the university itself. With the bright red brick of the outside along with the mural of some famous boxers, the restaurant aims to be a place for the community to gather, while still looking at the classic macho elements that make up boxing.

Most delis have similar elements, focusing on presenting themselves in an

old-school manner. Knuckle Sandwich does something a bit different; however, it's incredibly modern looking while still having old-school boxing memorabilia across its walls. There's a feeling of "Wow, this is cool!" While the feeling is short, it's actually

interesting to come into, like a punch of history.

I can't compare it to a lot of sandwich places as it is so different in how they do their menu. There are no size options, which, believe me, is not a concern. There are simple categories to help you tailor your experience to be exactly what you want. I have spent a fair deal of time there

now. I can proudly say: yes, they have good sandwiches.

I, personally, had the meatball marinara and the Reuben sandwich; but, normally, I am not a fan of the latter. That changed when biting into the sandwich from the shop. The options that they offer are considerably different. There I am able to get a meatball sandwich on jalapeno sourdough, and even choose my own cheese to go on it. If their sandwiches are made into fine-tuned boxers of taste that beat your taste buds into joyful submission, then Knuckle Sandwich is the coach outside the ring screaming to hit 'em harder.

The Reuben is where it gets interesting for me. Normally, I'm not a fan of them. In the past, I've had them and the texture just didn't match up well for me. I ended up getting a Reuben there because, well,

"If there's anyone who could get me to change my ways to something more in line with what you would want to see from a classic place, it's a place that proudly stands by the art of boxing."



Photos by Kayleigh East / The Pine Log

A patron of Knuckle Sandwich walks to the counter to get his order taken by owner and SFA alumnus.

The sandwiches, while not boasting the length in inches that places like Jimmy John's or Subway, have a one size kind of thing instead. It keeps it simple with the focus on the menu being the items themselves. All the sandwiches are extremely filling, with one being more than enough for most people. Couple that with a good variety of chips to choose from and a drink and you are doing pretty good, honestly.

Knuckle Sandwich also offers a delivery service that makes it a good option for hungry college students and faculty alike. If it isn't clear by this point, I really like this place. It's something new that has a spin on a very old school idea which makes it really cool and fun place to go and grab a bite to eat.

REVIEW: Long live 'Lover,' Swift's new album

By Gracie Porter
Staff Writer

Taylor Swift opens her seventh album, "Lover," giving a sweet ending to her "Reputation" persona with the tune: "I Forgot That You Existed". While the "Reputation" Taylor was born (and died) in 2017, this newest persona of Taylor from her new album is a lover, not a fighter. The song opens up this pop-throwback album beautifully by letting the listener get familiar with the Taylor Swift that wrote 1989. Besides her break into the 'Reputation' era, Swift is most known for her switch from country to pop music; and, this opening track reminds people that Swift's last album was an act. This is the real Taylor.

"Cruel Summer" kicks off this time of love and evolution in Taylor's life, from a secret love to being scared to love someone. The electro-pop beats are reminiscent to Lorde's "Melodramatic" album, which the co-creator of "Lover," Jack Antonoff, also had a hand in creating. Antonoff helps Swift really reach her full pop potential. Without him, this album would be drastically different. "Cruel Summer" is followed quickly by the title track, "Lover," which can make even the loneliest of souls feel some love. The song sounds like a ballroom dance in all the right ways, also bringing out some intricate string plucking that gives the song a raw finish.

Swift breaks up the love by discussing her struggles as a female musician in "The Man." To put it in the words of Taylor herself, "I always wonder how fast I would get there if I was a man." So, the meaning behind the song is clear as day; however, it is another poppy song- very similar to "Cruel Summer," "I Forgot that You Existed" and, the sixth track, "I Think He Knows." Are they good songs? Yes. Are the lyrics to "The Man" powerful and a quick reality check to men who doubt a woman's spot in the workplace? Yes. However, it still follows the same formula as the other songs on the album.

Despite this, there are a few break out hits from

these formulaic songs. "Soon You'll Get Better" (feat. Dixie Chicks) is a heartbreaking song about a loved one becoming ill. In the soft song, a mournful Taylor says that the person will get better, "Because they have to." The Dixie Chicks provide strong backing vocals to Swift's chorus and bring their classic plucky string fiddle to break up the rest of the synth-pop beats in the album. The group of talented singers basically plead together for the ill patient to get better. It is hauntingly beautiful and reminds me of some of her earlier acoustic versions.

"Miss Americana & The Heartbreak Prince" also stands out in the 18 tracks, not for its sound – but for its metaphorical approach. While at first glance it seems like another one of Swift's high school stories,

it is actually a metaphor for Swift's inspiration to become politically vocal in the current political climate. From growing up as one of 'America's Sweethearts' to being seen as a 'bad, bad girl,' Swift uses this song to explain how she decided to take the leap into vocal activism instead of remaining silent as she did for so long. This is one of the most lyrically deep songs on the album and makes the most impact to listeners who have been with Swift through her escapades of stardom.

"Paper Rings" is also a stand-out. Not for any truly artistic reason; but, because it is impossible to listen to the track without at least swaying a bit. The song is fun without being too strict, as it was made without any "modern" sounds. This makes for a fun song that is a remnant of an early 70's bop, including

the steady drum beat and the bass punctuating Swift's declarations of love. If you ever need a song to dramatically sing while bouncing around on your bed and working those facials, "Paper Rings" is the one go-to.


The whole album is lyrically impressive and has so much potential. Sadly, it sticks to one sound the whole album. There is no variety in the type of songs on the album. There is either synth-pop beats or rugged acoustics. Personally, I wish that Swift had tried and made her songs sound a little bit more diverse, which would have given the album a bit more life. There is no doubt that Taylor Swift is a talented singer/songwriter as she would not have gotten as far as she has if she wasn't. And, while "Lover" is a light and easy listen without




having complicated lyrics/tunes (excused from Miss Americana & The Heartbreak Prince), it is far from Swift's best album. I predict, and expect, that Swift has a lot more talent to show the world before she hangs up the guitar strap.

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High-performing sports teams deserve equally bright spotlight

Over the summer, SFA announced that \$26 million would go toward a new basketball facility. This will include a men and a women's basketball court, offices for coaches, separate locker rooms, lounge rooms and nutrition areas for the basketball team members. The facility is expected to be finished around August 2020. The hope for this construction is to bring in more students as well as donors to the university. However, some students think this is unfair. It seems like basketball and football are the only sports that the school pays attention and puts money into. Not that they don't deserve it, since they do bring in a lot of sponsors and money for the university and there is no denying that.

However, we as a community as well as the school, should give more, if not equal, attention to the other sports that the university hosts. So, should university funding be focused on mainstream sports rather than sports with good performance?

Just this past semester in April, the SFA bowling team won the 2019 NCAA Women's Bowling Championship. They also placed in 22nd place for having the best grade point average for the 2018-19 school year. Last season, volleyball won 32 games out of a total of 35 games. Women's golf placed fourth and Men's golf placed T-second in their respective tournaments. Baseball won 25 games out of 58, and softball won 36 out of 49 games. And this is just scratching the surface of what all the other sports here at SFA are doing- having good performance. But there is little hype for these sports, or if there is any hype we don't see it as much and not as many people show their appreciation for when these sports are in season.

You definitely know when it's football season on campus, with Holler at Homer for the first home game of the season and the Purple Out Fridays that students are reminded of with yard signs throughout the campus. Even looking on the athletic traditions page on SFA's website, all that's listed is what happens

when football wins or what is done to throw off the opposing team during the basketball games. Purple Haze does in fact advertise that they do show support for all sports teams and make it an effort to go to all of the games, however they are only known for what they do during football and basketball season, which is not their fault but those two sports are the common examples used to get students to try and join or to show how much spirit current students have.

Again, not saying that football and basketball don't deserve the attention; They do. It's students considering attending SFA, parents of both current and future students, alumni, people who want to give money to the team/school and even the local community, coming together to celebrate long running traditions.

But the other teams deserve the spotlight too, or at least more recognition. For the students in those sports, seeing everyone make a bigger deal for the two popular sports gives them a feeling that no matter how well they do people will push it aside since it's not football or basketball. There are some people that do get excited for softball, soccer, volleyball, etc. But they are overshadowed by the over the top super fans of football and basketball. Most students, when it was released that bowling won their championship, met back that news with confusion over the fact that the school even had a bowling team. It just seems fair to give as much attention and show our support for those teams.

This new basketball facility will help the teams and they deserve the help. It just would be nice for the other sport teams to get the same treatment. Just because they aren't as popular/ bring in the most money, that doesn't mean that they don't deserve good practice facilities or the attention from the public. We as a community should try and hype up those teams and let them know that they aren't hidden and that their hard work is also appreciated as well as acknowledged.



Illustration by Audrey Diakun / The Pine Log

Black hair should not affect opportunities



By LaShauna Bell
Photo Editor

On July 3, California became the first state to pass a law that will ban discrimination against natural hair, particularly black people's natural hair.

It is saddening that this law had to be passed to begin with. It is distressing to know that some employers see natural hair as a distraction or a hindrance, especially since I am a black person that wears my natural hair who is about to graduate college and find a job. The way someone wears their hair does not determine a person's level of productivity in the workplace.

The bill was signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom of California. This new law not only protects citizens in the workplace, but also students who wear natural hairstyles in grades K-12. These

hairstyles include braids, twists, cornrows, dreadlocks and afros.

In the summer of 2018, a 6-year-old boy from Florida was denied access into his school because of his dreadlocks. To me, it seems very heartless to deny a child his or her education just because his or her hair supposedly goes against violation. I will never understand how one's hair can defy an establishment's rules. Hair does not define how a student will gain his or her education. You can't just look at a child and assume that they will lack in gaining his or her education just by looking at the appearance of his or her hair.

The signing of this bill does give me hope, though. It proves that there are some people in this world, not of my color, that understands or is trying to understand the importance of prohibiting discrimination.

Some people wear these natural hairstyles as a representation of their culture and their lifestyle, even some as a symbol of religion. Telling people to do away with their hair is like telling people to throw their beliefs and lifestyle away. People should not be presented with the option of living or giving up their

symbolism.

In 2018, a high school wrestler in New Jersey was told to either forfeit from a match or cut his dreadlocks if he wanted to stay in the competition. People should not have to be presented with the option of either giving up a symbol of their lifestyle or giving up what they enjoy doing, in this instance, wrestling.

The bill that was signed is also known as the CROWN (Creating a Respectful and Open Workplace for Natural Hair) Act. It is said that New York and New Jersey are the next states to consider signing this act into law. I only hope that it doesn't stop there. I want this bill to spread throughout the whole country so that black people everywhere will get the correct freedom of expressing their beliefs and culture through their hair.

I am delighted that this anti-discrimination act was passed, but at the same time, this signing of the bill opens my eyes even more to how America is lacking apprehension and moral discernment. It breaks my heart that this bill had to come into existence because black people were being negatively distinguished just by the appearance of their hair.

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.

Should University funding be focused on mainstream sports rather than sports with good performance?

Yes

18%

No

82%

90 votes • Final results

Independence is not so scary after all



By Deanna Swindell
Sports Editor

Being on your own is great. It is scary to have that kind of independence and responsibility, but once you figure it out life can be whatever you make of it.

My whole life I was always dependent on someone. I grew up with my twin sister next to me or always with my parents. Sometimes my sister and I would be in different classes when we were in elementary school, but that didn't help me because I was the shy one and I struggled to make friends. In middle school, I became friends with her friends.

My mom is Salvadorian, so she is strict. This meant that my sister and I didn't hang out with our friends

much outside of school, so we always spent time with each other. It became a lot harder for me to be social. I graduated high school a year early and went to community college. My first day there was terrifying. I was in a new place by myself and I didn't know how it would go.

I think back to that first day of community college and I laugh because of how nervous and anxious I was. I've grown up so much since then and have been able to live my life. At SFA, I wasn't as nervous, but it was difficult for me to make friends. The first couple of weeks were difficult but then I learned that to make friends, you can't keep yourself locked up in your dorm room.

The way that I made the wonderful group of friends I have today are from the Chi Alpha Christian Organization. Joining a school organization is a great and easy way to make friends when you first go to university.

Even though I was still very shy around these people when I went to an event they had, they were all welcoming. When I first meet new people, I don't usually tell them right

away that I have a twin sister. The main reason I do this is that everyone that knows us always sees us together. They either know us as Genesis—my twin sister's name—and Deanna or as Genesis and her twin sister.

The friends that I have at SFA know me as Deanna. They're my real friends, people who don't just put up with me because I was their friend's twin sister. Maybe that's not how people saw me but that's what it felt like.

Having moved away from home, I've become happier. When I went back home for the summer after the spring semester my family noticed how much happier and confident I had become. It was because I was studying and doing something that I loved, which is journalism, and I had such an amazing group of people around me.

It's not always easy to be in a new place you don't know and away from your parents, it's scary. But when you find your way around, it becomes an experience you never want to leave behind. Cherish every moment of your four years in college and don't ever take it for granted.



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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.

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The Pine Log

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■ The men's and women's teams will be competing in the Golfweek Program Challenge in Pawleys Island, South Carolina, Sept. 8-10.

■ The men's and women's cross-country teams finished first at the home opener. Their next meet is the Rice Invitational Sept. 13 in Houston.

■ The season begins Sept. 13-14 at the Northwestern State Fall Invitational in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

■ The Ladyjacks won their home opener 6-0 against Southern University. They will play the University of Texas at 7 p.m. Friday for their second of eight consecutive home games.

Carthel faces familiar opponent from his tenure at Commerce with new team, staff

By Alec Reyes
Staff Writer

SFA football returns to Homer Bryce Stadium for the first time this season as the team prepares for a non-conference clash with NCAA Division II opponent Tarleton State at 6 p.m. on Saturday.

This will be the first home opener for Colby Carthel after he was named the Jacks' 20th head coach in December and will also be the first game of the season for the Texans. Following a 56-17 setback in the season opener to Big 12 foe Baylor, the Lumberjacks have a chance to redeem themselves Saturday in search of their first win in the Carthel era.

"We are super excited to be here at home," Carthel said. "It was a neat experience in Waco, but there is no place like home."

This will be the 13th meeting between the Lumberjacks and the Texans and the first meeting between the two since 2007. Tarleton narrowly defeated SFA in overtime 27-24 in a non-conference bout in Nacogdoches. The teams were scheduled to face off in last season's home opener, but the game was canceled due to inclement weather.

The Lumberjacks hold a 9-3 advantage in the series against the Texans.

Although Tarleton State has not played SFA in 12 seasons, the Texans are no strangers to the Lumberjacks' head coach. After six seasons as head coach for Texas A&M-Commerce, Carthel and his teams went 5-2 against their Lone Star Conference rivals as both teams competed annually for the President's Cup. In the Texans' latest meeting against Carthel, they defeated his Lions 34-28 in the regional semifinal round of the NCAA Division II playoffs.

The Jacks face a tough task as the Texans were voted to repeat as conference champions in the 2019 LSC preseason poll. Additionally, they received 19 first place votes out of 25 ballots.

Tarleton State is coming off a successful 2018 campaign in which they went 12-1 overall and 8-0 in conference play en route to an appearance in the NCAA Division II Regional Final.

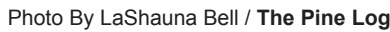
Led by head coach Todd Whitten, a former SFA quarterback and 1987 graduate, the Texans shattered numerous school

records, including total yards in a season (6,709) and most wins (12) in a single season. After a successful run last season, the Texans are reloaded with talent on both sides of the ball.

After being granted another year of eligibility, the Texans will be led offensively by senior quarterback Ben Holmes. The signal caller completed 165 passes out of 283 pass attempts and threw for 2,659 yards with 28 touchdowns and six interceptions in 2018. Holmes totted the rock 89 times for 501 yards and added two scores. Last season, the Orchard Park, New York, native was tabbed as a second team All-Lone Star Conference selection at quarterback and was voted on by his teammates as Team MVP.

Additionally, Holmes led Tarleton to being ranked the No. 5 offense in the country. Holmes will receive help from his playmakers including senior tailback Daniel McCants, a second team LSC selection; tight end Brant Bailey, a first team LSC selection and wide receiver Zimari Manning, a first team LSC selection.

Prince Robinson, a



The Lumberjack offense and defense get set to run a play during practice. Several newcomers were added to the roster during the offseason after Colby Carthel took the position as head coach.

senior defensive back and a first team LSC selection at cornerback, was recently named to the Reese's Senior Bowl watch list. The list includes the top seniors from every division of college football. Robinson was only one of three Division II football players who made the

475-player list. The Houston product led the Texan defense in interceptions and pass breakups last season by tallying five and 15 respectively. He also recorded 61 total tackles and forced two fumbles.

Robinson returns along with teammates Jai Edwards,

a first team LSC selection at safety and leader in solo tackles (62); Devin Hafford, a first team LSC selection at cornerback and Ronell Wilson, a second team LSC selection at linebacker.

The game will be televised on ESPN3 and heard on the radio on Q107.7.

Ladyjacks coming off SMU invitational win

By Deanna Swindell
Sports Editor

It's the start of the new season for the Ladyjack volleyball team, which is expected to continue its streak by going for a third consecutive Southland Conference Championship and a second Southland Conference Tournament win. The Ladyjacks will continue their regular season with the Northwestern Under Armour Tournament with their first match at 1 p.m. on Friday in Evanston, Illinois, at Welsh-Ryan Arena.

The tournament will consist of three games. SFA will play against Texas Tech University, Austin Peay State University and Northwestern University.

Before the start of the fall semester, three Ladyjacks were named into the 2019 Preseason All-Southland Conference Volleyball Teams. Senior Danae Daron and senior Ann Hollas, both being major contributors to last years' season win and tournament championship, were named into the Preseason All-SLC First Team. Maddie Miller, a transfer from the University of Incarnate Word, was named into the Preseason All-SLC Second Team.

The program was also selected to place first by the SLC 2019 Preseason Volleyball Poll with 19 out of 26 votes. The University of Central Arkansas placed second with two votes and Sam Houston State placed third with one vote.

The Ladyjacks added on to their streak at the SMU Doubletree Invitational due to having one of the nation's longest winning streaks and the program's longest winning streak. SFA won against the University of Texas in San Antonio 3-1, Bradley University 3-0 and a tough battle against SMU 3-2 making it their 29th



Ann Hollas (right) sets up a kill for Danae Daron. Both Hollas and Daron return to the Ladyjacks and were named to last weeks All-Tournament team.

consecutive regular season win.

Ann Hollas recorded her first triple-double of her senior year with 13 kills, 24 assists and

10 digs as well as being named into the All-Tournament team with her teammates, Danae Daron and Taya Mitchell.

SFA's first match of the tournament will be against the Texas Tech Red Raiders. Last season, the Red Raiders had a 17-13 overall record, 6-10 conference record and a .567 winning percentage. Two players for Texas Tech, Emily Hill and Brooke Kanas,

earned spots on the 2019 All-Big 12 Volleyball Preseason Team.

Hill, an outside hitter for the Red Raiders, was a starter for all 30 games in the 2018 season. She was admitted to the 2018 All-Big 12 Second Team. Throughout the season, Hill led the team in kills with a total of 351, 35 assists, 288 digs and four blocks.

The Red Raiders have seven returning players and seven new players for the upcoming season. Sophomore Alex Kirby will be their new setter

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