

INSIDE

Celebrate Valentine's Day with a love languages quiz and card, **see pages 3 and 6**

Editorial: Spend Valentine's Day your way, **see page 7**

Associate AD brings NFL media experience to UTA, **see page 8**

ELECTION 2024

What to know before you vote

Early voting for the March primary begins Feb. 20. Here's everything to know about polling locations and what a primary is.

BY PEDRO MALKOMES
The Shorthorn associate news editor

With early voting for the March 5 primary elections opening Feb. 20, it's crucial to understand what they are and how Texas handles the polls.

Political parties hold primary elections to select candidates who will be in the general election. Winning candidates from each party will run against each other come November.

In Texas, primary elections are open, allowing any registered voter in the state to vote for their candidate of choice, without registering to a specific political party. At the polls, participants will choose to vote in the Republican or Democratic primary, with separate ballots required for each.

For the upcoming primary election, Tarrant County citizens will cast their votes for the president, a U.S. senator, six U.S. representatives, three Texas Supreme Court justices and several other state and local positions. Voters can access their county's ballots with the candidate order on the Texas Secretary of State website.

Tarrant County will have 49 early voting locations for registered voters. Additionally, citizens can use the Tarrant County Voter Lookup website to find polls close to them.

@PMALKOMES
news-editor:shorthorn@uta.edu

POLLING STATIONS

Maverick Activities Center, UTA

Bob Duncan Center,
South Center Street

Elzie Odom Athletic Center, Green
Oaks Boulevard

City of Arlington South Service
Center, Green Oaks Boulevard

Ron Wright Lake Arlington Branch
Library, Green Oaks Boulevard

Tarrant County Sub-Courthouse in
Arlington, Abram Street

Tarrant County College Southeast
Campus ESCT in the HUB, 1st floor,
Southeast Parkway

DATES AND HOURS

Feb. 20 to 23: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Feb. 24: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Feb. 25: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Feb. 26 to 29: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
March 1: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

ARLINGTON

Follow firefighters' footsteps

Fire Station No. 1 reopened, ready to serve the community



9:26 a.m. - Lt. Salvador Mosqueda watches as firefighter Max Duncan, left, takes a hose off of firefighter Anthony Trujillo's, center, shoulder as they prepare to climb stairs at the Liv+ Apartments. The crew went to the apartments to practice pulling hoses and finding the best access points for the building in case of an emergency.

PHOTOS AND STORY BY CHRISTINE VO
The Shorthorn managing editor

When a man went into cardiac arrest while working at his family's restaurant a few years ago, Fire Station No. 1 responded, resuscitating him on scene.

The next day he walked out of the hospital, an uncommon sight for these patients. Soon after, he was back working at his restaurant, said apparatus operator Caleb Hodges.

With the restaurant being in the station's district, Hodges and his crew were able to return to the restaurant and catch up with the man and his wife.

Situations don't always go well — when they do, the firefighters don't always get the follow-ups. Being able to experience the positive outcome of a situation was a memorable moment for Hodges.

He worked at Fire Station No. 9 before being promoted to his current role in 2017, and transferred to No. 1 shortly afterward.

Fire Station No. 1 is located in the heart of Arlington on Main Street, making every day different. It covers different demographics like UTA, large stadiums and buildings of all ages.

FIRE STATION continues on pages 4 and 5



4:02 p.m. - Apparatus operator Caleb Hodges, left, and firefighter Max Duncan return to Engine 1 after responding to an EMS call at a retirement home. A fire station apparatus will respond to every EMS call to aid in anyway way they can.

STADIUMS

World Cup to connect Arlington to globe

AT&T Stadium will host nine games in the 2026 FIFA World Cup, the most of any host city. City officials say the matches will boost the economy.

BY ISAAC APPELT
The Shorthorn sports editor

When the 2026 FIFA World Cup kicks off in 28 months, it will be one of the biggest soccer tournaments the world has ever seen. The tournament increased its size from 32 teams in 2022 to 48, and 104 matches will be played across 16 host cities in North America.

Arlington's AT&T Stadium will host nine games, more than any

other host city and three more than the Cotton Bowl hosted the last time the World Cup came to the U.S. in 1994.

The tournament will be split into 12 groups of four teams. Each group will play against each other in the group stage before the top 32 teams advance to a single-elimination tournament. Arlington will host five group stage games and four elimination games, including a semifinal match.

Arlington mayor Jim Ross said these games put Arlington on the

global stage to showcase soccer, the most popular sport in the world.

"Anytime we get an opportunity to show off what we have as a community, we'll count us in," Ross said. "I think this is what we're born and raised to do."

Beyond the economic impact, this tournament will give Arlington a chance to show off its inclusivity.

Arlington is the fifth-most diverse city in the U.S., according to a 2023 WalletHub study.

With the World Cup bringing 48 nations to North America,

Ross said this type of tournament is what Arlington was made for.

"We're very proud of that diversity," he said. "We're looking forward to sharing what we have to offer with people from all over the world."

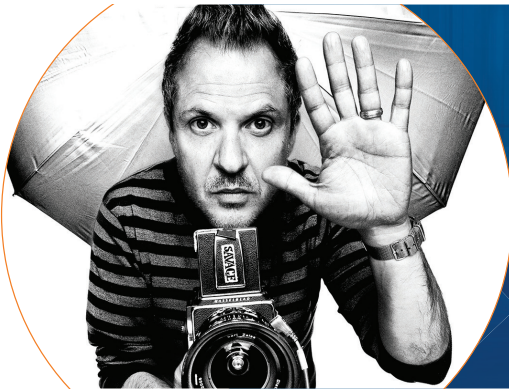
When the schedules were announced Feb. 4, AT&T Stadium hosted a press conference with local mayors, celebrities and people who'd worked on the bid process with FIFA. Monica Paul, Dallas Sports Commission executive director, led the pitch for World Cup games to be held in the Metroplex.

WORLD CUP continues on page 2



MAVERICK
SPEAKERS
SERIES

uta.edu/maverickspeakers



PLATON

World-Renowned
Photographer

FREE for students, faculty, and staff!

MARCH 5, 2024 | 7:30 P.M.

World Cup

continued from page 1

City and local officials had been hoping for the final, but Paul said at the press conference that the nine games highlighted the

blood, sweat and tears officials put into the bid process. She sees the announcement as the border of a puzzle and the bid's partners will spend the next two years preparing to put on the best World Cup possible.

“Of course I’d love to be stand-

ing up here saying we’re hosting the final but honestly, I think in all of our projections, we never had nine matches,” Paul said.

Ross said nine games was nothing to cry about, and the community will feel the impact of the games far beyond the one-month tournament.

“It is going to go well beyond the World Cup with the additional work done on infrastructure, with the improvement on transportation,” he said. “With everything else happening, we’re gonna feel the benefits of it for a very long time.”

Arlington’s public transportation has been a point of contention for years and Ross said the city has been working with the Regional Transportation Council and the North Texas Council of Governments to smooth out the transportation issues Arlington faces.

Ahead of the World Cup, Ross said he’s sure there will be buses and rideshare programs to help people get around the city. These

solutions are being explored by the transportation council.

“Our traffic management people are second to none and if you’ve ever experienced coming in and out of here, we get people in and out as good, if not better, than any other city in the country,” he said at the press conference Feb. 4. “So we do have a public transportation system. We’re just not assigned to a transit authority.”

With thousands expected to flood into Arlington for the tournament, it provides economic growth opportunities. FC Dallas president Dan Hunt said at the press conference that the economic impact of these games will be comparable to nine Super Bowls.

Having this many games means more national teams may choose to pick the Metroplex as their training facilities, and it will be an opportunity to inspire young people in the U.S. to become the next wave of global

soccer superstars, Hunt said.

“My biggest hope is that coming on the heels of the 2026 World Cup, we influence young men and young women to be the next Lionel Messi, the next Pelé, the next Mia Hamm and the next Abby Wambach,” he said.

Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said he will treat every game like the final. He wants to show the world what the area is about and why the stadium was built.

AT&T Stadium will be renamed Dallas Stadium for the tournament to comply with FIFA’s rules against sponsored arenas hosting their games. The new name will be in place for the nine games, drawing anger from Arlington residents on internet forums.

Ross said every mayor wants their city’s name highlighted everywhere, and he’s no different, but he also understands Dallas has the more recognizable brand. Regardless of the name on the stadium, people will be using Arlington’s hotels, restaurants and bars.

“Let me just say this, you can call this thing the ‘Turtleneck County World Cup’ as far as I’m concerned because all the money is going to be coming here to Arlington,” Ross said.

@ISAACAPPELT
sports-editor.shorthorn@uta.edu

2026 WORLD CUP GAMES IN ARLINGTON

Group Stage Matches:

June 14
June 17
June 22
June 25
June 27

Round of 32 Matches:

June 30
July 3

Round of 16 Match:

July 6

Semifinal match:

July 14



File photo / Ronaldo Bolaños

Arlington’s AT&T Stadium will host nine games in the 2026 FIFA World Cup more than any other stadium across the country like MetLife Stadium, which is hosting the final.

CORRECTIONS/ CLARIFICATIONS

Bring factual errors to *The Shorthorn’s* attention via email to editor.shorthorn@uta.edu or call 817-272-3188. A correction or clarification will be printed in this space.

THE SHORTHORN STAFF

Front Desk.....817-272-3188
Newsroom after 5 p.m......817-272-3205
Fax.....817-272-5009
UC Lower Level, B100, Box 19038, Arlington, TX 76019

Editor-in-Chief.....Mandy Huynh
editor.shorthorn@uta.edu

Managing Editor.....Christine Vo
managing-editor.shorthorn@uta.edu

ENGAGEMENT

Engagement Editor.....Ella Scott
engagement-editor.shorthorn@uta.edu

Engagement Producers.....Troy Broome, Francisca Gomez, Sainam Marupudi, Madison Sikes

NEWS

News Editor.....Hannah Garcia

news-editor.shorthorn@uta.edu

Associate News Editor.....Pedro Malkomes
news.shorthorn@uta.edu

News Reporters.....Amanda Aldridge, Satwika Gundawar, Rabbia Molai, Alexia Muñoz, Marie Renea, Matthew Tibebe, James Ward

SPORTS

Sports Editor.....Isaac Appelt
sports-editor.shorthorn@uta.edu

Sports Reporters.....James Blanchetta, Jakob Gorton, Orlando Torres, Nicklaus Utsey

OPINION

Opinion Editor.....Chris Huddleston
opinion-editor.shorthorn@uta.edu

MULTIMEDIA

Multimedia Editor.....Ronaldo Bolaños

photo-editor.shorthorn@uta.edu

Multimedia Journalists.....Shelby Carter, Mary Abby Goss, Natanuel Mazanigo, Joel Solis

COPY

Copy Desk Chief.....Deekota Diaz
copydesk-editor.shorthorn@uta.edu

Copy Editors.....Ashley Guerrero, Rachel Kanealey, Leslie Orozco, Jinelle Sanchez

DESIGN

Design Editor.....Abbas Ghor
design-editor.shorthorn@uta.edu

Illustrators.....Lita Cruz, Kennedie Hakes, Haley Walton

Graphic Designer.....Sooa Pyo

MARKETING

Marketing Manager.....Dominique Colbert

Marketing Assistants.....Candice Liburd, Alejandro Oliveras, Fatima Qadir
marketing@shorthorn.uta.edu

ADVERTISING

Advertising Manager.....admanager@shorthorn.uta.edu

Ad Account Executives.....Morgan Davis, Hailey Do, Hridhima Karmakar

Ad Artist.....Adamaris Lopez, Julie Pham

Production Manager.....ads@shorthorn.uta.edu

Office Assistants.....Ashlee Chavez, Sydini Coleman, Victoria Ford

First copy free

Additional copies 25 cents

The University of Texas at Arlington
105th Year, © **The Shorthorn** 2023
All rights reserved. All content is the property of The Shorthorn and may not be reproduced, published or retransmitted in any form without written permission from UTA Student Publications. The Shorthorn is the student newspaper of the University of Texas at Arlington and is published by the UT Arlington Office of Student Publications. Opinions expressed in The Shorthorn are not necessarily those of the university administration.

  **PRINTED WITH SOY INK**

COMICS



A weekly continuing comic series
by *The Shorthorn* design desk

“Color”

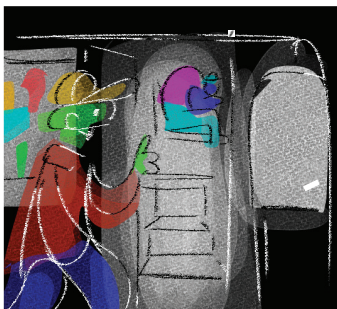


Illustration by Haley Walton

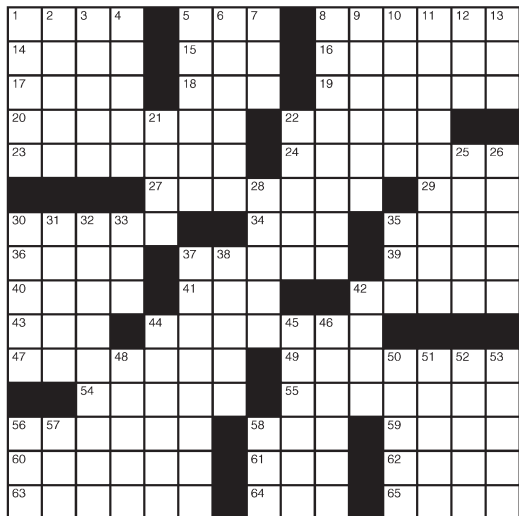
Crossword

ACROSS

1 Decorate anew
5 Made a lap
8 Torn apart
14 First garden
15 Blockhead
16 Away from the coast
17 Chap
18 Chill
19 Red wine of Bordeaux
20 Friendly
22 Singsong mode of speaking
23 Broad satire
24 Joining together
27 Commanded
29 Lower digit
30 Muscular strength
34 Fleur-de-
35 Quote as an authority
36 Sacred service
37 Kilmer poem
39 Weeding implements
40 Tennis great
41 Operated
42 Feel
43 Hair-styling cream
44 Fortress
47 Lobbed missile
48 Tokyo to Kyoto, e.g.
54 Records
55 Person of great influence
56 Singing fiddler
58 Ewe’s mate
59 In a short time
60 Make a formal retraction
61 Gone by
62 Split apart
63 Supermarket passageways
64 For each
65 Ann and Ang

DOWN

1 Imperial
2 Swelling
3 Jeans material
4 At hand



© 2007 Tribune Media Services, Inc.
All rights reserved.

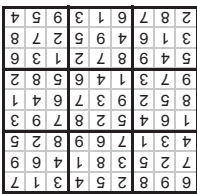
5 Mariner
6 Move upward
7 Half an African fly?
8 Sumptuous quality
9 Like mosaic pieces
10 Factory
11 Divide into sections
12 Wind dir.
13 Taboo spray’s letters
21 Benefit
22 Radioactivity unit
25 Musical units
26 V-formation fliers
28 “Maria”
30 North Carolina fort
31 Stair piece
32 Sports activities
33 Very small
35 Revolutionist
37 Three-pronged weapons
38 Hotel charges
42 Smelter’s waste
44 Gangster AI
45 Cause injury to
46 Inspire to love
48 Twangy
50 Tree knot
51 Rajah’s wife
52 Make amends
53 Patches
56 Coach
57 Parseghian
58 Waikiki garland
58 Seance sound

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

Instructions:

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 grid contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means that no number is repeated in any row, column or box.



Solution

Solutions, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

6	9		2					1
				8				
4		1	7	6				5
	6							3
8	5			3			4	1
9							8	
5				7	2	1		6
				9				
	8				3		5	4

HOLIDAY

What's your Love language?

Everyone has a different way of giving and receiving love — find out yours with this test

BY MADISON SIKES
The Shorthorn staff

Everyone has a preferred method of expressing and accepting love. Whether you would rather receive a small gift from your partner or have a fun night out, your preferences are the key to understanding your love language.

Over 30 years ago, the concept of love languages was created by Gary Chapman, a Southern Baptist pastor with a doctorate in adult education, according to *The New York Times*. Chapman configured five different love languages based on anecdotal evidence he found during his 20 years as a marriage counselor.

In his book, *The 5 Love Languages: The*

Secret to Love That Lasts, Chapman said to make a partner feel loved, you must speak to them in their love language.

While understanding your partner's love language is important, knowing yours is crucial to a successful relationship. Take *The Shorthorn's* love language quiz and discover the way you prefer to receive love from a partner, friends, family and even yourself.

Select your answer from A to E, and tally how many of each letter you choose. At the end, see which love language correlates with the letter you answered the most to learn more about it.

@MADISONSIKES
editor.shorthorn@uta.edu

1 What would your ideal Valentine's Day gift be?

- A. A romantic weekend getaway
- B. A scrapbook filled with memories of things your partner loves most about you
- C. A piece of jewelry you have been eyeing
- D. Your partner bringing you breakfast in bed
- E. A spa day with a massage from your partner

2 Your friends threw you a surprise birthday party. Which element is most special to you?

- A. Getting to see long-distance friends who flew in
- B. The toast your friend made in your honor
- C. The present they all chipped in to buy
- D. The thoughtfulness of them throwing the party
- E. The hello and goodbye hugs

5 What is the biggest "red flag" to you?

- A. Making excuses to not spend time with you
- B. Not acknowledging your achievements
- C. Not getting you a birthday present
- D. Never helping around the house
- E. Avoiding public displays of affection

6 You have a day off. What are you doing to fill time?

- A. Calling a friend to hang out
- B. Catching up on some journaling
- C. Browsing your favorite boutiques
- D. Helping a friend catch up on a project
- E. Convincing a friend to spend the day on the couch together

3 What is your "toxic trait?"

- A. You never want to spend time away from friends
- B. You struggle to accept criticism
- C. You focus too much on money
- D. You never ask for help when you need it
- E. You don't verbalize your feelings

4 What would you want your partner to do to help you during stressful times?

- A. Take you out to clear your mind
- B. Tell you they believe in you and support you
- C. Bring you flowers
- D. Clean the house
- E. Give you a long hug

7 It's date night. What is your ideal scenario?

- A. Having a picnic at a local park
- B. Visiting a bookstore and picking out books for each other
- C. Enjoying a shopping day
- D. Your partner cooking a meal for a cozy night in
- E. Booking a couples massage

If you answered B the most, your love language is:

Words of Affirmation

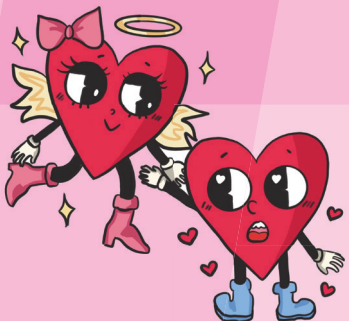
Words of affirmation revolve around the verbal expression of love, appreciation and encouragement. Spoken or written words of affirmation can act as validation for your feelings, creating a sense of security, self-worth and connection within your relationships. Receiving compliments, acknowledgments and positive affirmations from loved ones can play a crucial role in strengthening your bonds with others.



If you answered A the most, your love language is:

Quality Time

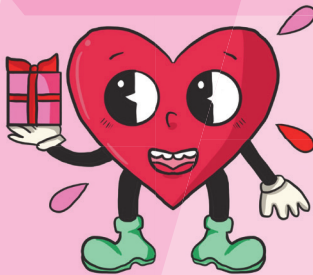
People who prefer quality time value the connection of focused and undivided attention from their partner. Quality time as a love language involves finding dedicated moments to spend with loved ones and engaging in activities that foster an emotional connection. If you fall under the quality time category, having your partner plan consistent date nights, set aside time to spend with you or simply enjoying your company can strengthen your bonds with them.



If you answered C the most, your love language is:

Receiving Gifts

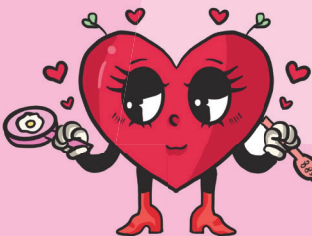
Receiving gifts involves the expression of love and thoughtfulness through tangible items. If you prefer this love language, you find meaning in the thoughtful selection of gifts, viewing them as symbols of love and consideration. If this is your love language, you enjoy it when loved ones take note of the things that catch your eye in stores or leave you small gifts that remind them of you.



If you answered D the most, your love language is:

Acts of Service

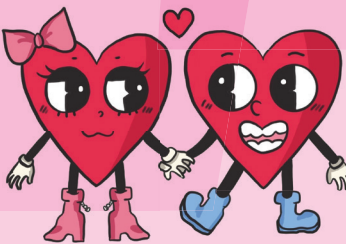
If you prefer acts of service, expressing love through thoughtful and selfless actions is what you appreciate most. Loved ones contributing to your well-being, happiness and tasks you want to complete creates a strong foundation for your relationships. Someone doing actions such as helping with chores, providing assistance or performing acts that alleviate your burdens are seen as meaningful demonstrations of love and appreciation to you.



If you answered E the most, your love language is:

Physical Touch

Physical touch involves expressing affection and love through physical contact. The power of touch serves as a powerful communicator of love and care, fostering a sense of closeness and emotional security between you and loved ones. If you prefer this love language, gestures like hugs, playing with your hair, kisses, cuddling and other forms of physical affection are essential for you to feel connected and valued.



Fire station

continued from page 1

Following a two-year renovation, Fire Station No. 1 reopened in December. After a \$9.5 million remodeling was approved by the 2014 Bond Program, construction began to restore the almost 70-year-old station from the ground up. The 17,667-square-foot remodel is designed to provide better work and living spaces for the firefighters.

The new design is complete with two stories, five larger drive-thru apparatus bays, office spaces, living and K9 Unit accommodations, community spaces, a small AFD history museum and permanent quarters for the 1953 American La-France parade engine.

Fire Station No. 1 is one of five task forces in Arlington housing an engine, truck and squad, three rigs prepared with different equipment to be utilized for each call. When a dispatcher calls in they determine which and how many apparatuses need to respond.

A logo of “Looney Tunes” character Yosemite Sam quickly identifies Fire Station No. 1, decorating their engines and apparatuses’. Deputy Chief Todd Gittings said there is pride in having a sub-logo alongside their Arlington Fire Department patch.

“Within the last five to seven years, I’d say you really started to see each station embracing their own logo,” Hodges said. “They all come from various aspects or something that’s kind of significant or unique to that district in that station.”

With four apparatuses, there is always a minimum of 10 people per 24-hour shift, each with an assigned role for the day. For every call, they’re with two to three other members, each having different responsibilities.

While Fire Station No. 1 was under construction, Engine 1 was kept farther down Main Street at a Reserve Apparatus Facility, a garage where backup rigs are housed to be used when needed. They also retrofitted the building with living quarters for the firefighters to temporarily stay during the renovation.

“It’s located right in the heart of downtown,” Gittings said. “There’s a lot of new and exciting things coming to downtown or the



Left: 8:31 a.m. - Lt. Salvador Mosqueda walks to accompany the police officers at a wreck. Engines will respond to provide a shield of protection for the individuals involved, officers and wrecked vehicles when needed.

Bottom: 12:27 p.m. - Shift C gather around the table for lunch made by firefighter Anthony Trujillo. Each day, the crew puts in \$15 for lunch and dinner made by one of the members.



entertainment area. So it plays a vital part, not only the safety but also just being a part of the community itself.”

There is a night and day difference when comparing the old building to the new station, Hodges said. Each has its own personality, but now, despite the same district and calls, the “new, fancy, giant building” is a completely different setting.

“The old station we all loved, it had its deficiencies just because it was so old and had been around for a while, but it was kind of our own,” Hodges said. “We’ve embraced it for all its faults, and we enjoyed it.”

Response time is a big deal to the department, Gittings said. Within three to five minutes, they want



Above: 2:14 p.m. - Shift C plays two games of basketball at the Maverick Activities Center. The crew uses the workout as their cardio for the day, while also acting as a team bonding exercise.

Left: 12:52 p.m. - Firefighter Anthony Trujillo climbs into Engine 1 on his way to a call. The station tries to respond to each call within three to five minutes.

mainly the north, central and western sections of the city.

While Gittings has been a part of crews that didn’t quite get along, though few, the fire service is team-oriented. Building relationships with younger members and watching them start the profession and get promoted within their careers is exciting for him.

While seeing two fire engines lined outside of the Maverick Activities Center might raise some questions for students seeking their daily exercise, playing basketball at the facility hits all the marks for the crew.

While it acts as a form of physical training for them, it’s also a way to de-stress and relieve built-up frustration, Hodges said. It’s a good way to get out and not think about anything other than team bonding.

Playing basketball as part of their daily workout was recently approved for the station. Through a little trash talk and a competitive

nature, he said, the team is able to continue building relationships and trust.

The 24-hour routines start at 7 a.m. each day at the station. The crew is broken up into three shifts — A, B and C. Despite a set schedule, a blaring, red alarm can illuminate the station to announce the next call at any moment.

Laptops are left open and snacks just retrieved from the pantry start to stale on the table as the station is quickly silenced and emptied. Members put on their gear as they jump into the engine or truck, making their way to the scene.

“It’s imperative that we operate well together as a crew because everybody has to do their own function,” Hodges said. “And if we’re not on the same page, and we don’t know each other well, and we don’t operate together well, then things don’t go well on calls.”

Much of what each shift does is team-oriented, he

said. They rely on each role and many things hinge on their ability to operate together as a crew.

“Getting to know guys, the camaraderie, the relationships you build, you get to know how each other thinks and how you operate,” Hodges said. “You can’t replace that sort of rapport when you get into situations that can be a little dicey.”

Firefighter Max Duncan has been immersed in the craft his whole life, being raised by his father who worked in a volunteer department for 35 years in Illinois, and his brother who works in Memphis, Tennessee.

“We’d be out doing something and he’d get a call, and I’d get to go with [my father],” Duncan said. “And

I just sit in his truck and watch him, very fascinated.”

Originally, Duncan worked in strength and conditioning with athletes. After five years, he was

able to pursue his lifelong interest in becoming a firefighter.

In the last three months of his probationary period, Duncan worked at Fire Station No. 10, which only, had an officer, driver and firefighter for a shift. When two firefighters are scheduled at once, the other would “swing” to another station when needed.

Duncan took a lot of the swings and many happened to be at Fire Station No. 1. The environment began to stand out to him, from the camaraderie when the crew worked out

together to the seasoned firefighters he could learn from in the busy station.

Toward the end of his period, he spoke to the lieutenant about his positive experience, extending his hopes to work at the station. Weeks later, he ended up being moved to Fire Station No. 1.

“That was really exciting to have the opportunity to come and work at a task force because there’s only five trucks in the city,” Duncan said. “Having the opportunity to come to a station that has a truck was a lot because I knew I was going to learn a lot that I would take with me for the rest of my career.”

Not many jobs are as fun and enjoyable as firefighting, Hodges said. The camaraderie between members is palpable when they’re engaged, learning, training and building relationships.

“It’s a very rewarding job, obviously, you get to see and do a lot of things.

You’re obviously there to help people,” he said. “So that aspect of it’s very rewarding, I enjoy being able to make a difference when you can.”

But each day there is a risk, and while everybody knows that, it’s something Hodges chooses not to dwell on. He can’t dictate how a situation will play out, but he does his best to prevent dangerous situations by being confident in his abilities and knowing the options to mitigate any danger in a scene.

They’ve all had close calls that may have scared or made them second-guess what could’ve gone wrong, but Hodges said being sure of their abilities keeps them from letting their fear take over and impact their work.

“Having a job that you truly love, you never really have a bad day,” Gittings said.

@TRAINHVCCHRISTINE
news editor:shorthorn@uta.edu

THE SHORTHORN Classifieds

Student Publications
E&H Herd University Center, SW Corner

PLACING A CLASSIFIED

Online: theshorthorn.com/classifieds

Phone: (817) 272-3188

Fax: (817) 272-5009

In Person: Lower Level UC Room B100

Hours: Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

CLASSIFIED AD POLICIES

- The deadline to submit classified ads is midnight two business days prior to publication.
- NO REFUNDS are given on classified advertising.
- Adjustment claims must be made within 7 days after publication. The publisher is responsible for only one incorrect insertion.
- The publisher reserves the right to classify, edit or reject any classified ad.
- Published ads are neither investigated nor endorsed by Student Publications or the university. Respondents may need to reply with caution.
- Free 20-word student classified ads are for currently-enrolled UT Arlington students for personal, non-commercial purposes.

CLASSIFIED AD RATES

Classified ad cost is calculated per word/per week, with a 12-word minimum.

• 1-week: _____ \$1.30 per word
• 2-3 weeks: _____ \$1.20 per word
• 4+ weeks: _____ \$1.10 per word

Bold text: \$1/week • Border: \$1/week
Xtra Bold Text: \$2/week • Picture/logo: \$5/week

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FREE CLASSIFIED AD for current UTA students!

- Sell your books!
- Find a new roommate!
- Shout-out to a friend!

Place your ad online at TheShorthorn.com/classifieds

THE SHORTHORN Dining Guide
TheShorthorn.com/dining

Discover your new favorite restaurants and hangouts!

- American
- Asian
- Bars & pubs
- Italian
- Tex-Mex

Learn about student discounts
Specials • Maps • Photos

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIND YOUR NEXT COLLEGE HOME!

THE SHORTHORN.COM/HOUSING

Your best source for UTA-area housing options

- View 30+ locations
- On- and off-campus
- Floor Plans
- Features
- Pricing
- Maps
- Renter tips & information

@HornHousing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FREE CLASSIFIED AD for current UTA students!

- Sell your books!
- Find a new roommate!
- Shout-out to a friend!

Place your ad online at TheShorthorn.com/classifieds

THE SHORTHORN Dining Guide
TheShorthorn.com/dining

Discover your new favorite restaurants and hangouts!

- American
- Asian
- Bars & pubs
- Italian
- Tex-Mex

Learn about student discounts
Specials • Maps • Photos

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIND YOUR NEXT COLLEGE HOME!

THE SHORTHORN.COM/HOUSING

Your best source for UTA-area housing options

- View 30+ locations
- On- and off-campus
- Floor Plans
- Features
- Pricing
- Maps
- Renter tips & information

@HornHousing

EMPLOYMENT

CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC is seeking a dependable, motivated Assistant. Hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday. If interested, please call or text at 817-891-4049.

THE SHORTHORN is accepting applications for:

- Writing and editing
- Photo and design
- Ad sales and marketing
- Web development
- Support staff

Apply online & view job descriptions at: thesouthhorn.com/jobs

Current UTA students enrolled in at least six credit hours during the semester of employment and in good academic standing are eligible to apply for these paid positions. Some qualify for internship credit.

EMPLOYMENT

CryobankAmerica

CRYOBANK America in Arlington, TX is looking for new Sperm Donors.

Benefits:

- Earn up to \$1000/mo
- Be your own boss
- Free Health Screenings
- Discrete and Comfortable Atmosphere
- Help families in need

Apply today at www.cryobankamerica.com

FREE CLASSIFIED ADS FOR UT ARLINGTON STUDENTS

Rip Us Off!

That’s right – rip us off! Get something for nothing. Say hello to a friend. Find a roommate. Send a shout out. Get a job. Sell your car. Find a home for a litter of kittens...

UTA STUDENTS:
Place your free ad (print and online) with your @mavs student email address!

Just go to
thesouthhorn.com/classifieds
to create a free account and place your ad!

SHORTHORN HOUSING

Work up a sweat on your own time!

Check out 15 communities with resident fitness centers

@hornhousing
thesouthhorn.com/housing

UTA
Student Publications
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

YOUR BEST SOURCE FOR UTA-AREA HOUSING OPTIONS

WE GIVE YOU THE SKILLS. YOU DECIDE WHERE THEY TAKE YOU.

Make the most of your potential with training, tools, and mentorship. Develop your skill set while pushing your abilities to the next level.

DECIDE TO LEAD.

For more info about UT-Arlington Army ROTC, contact us at 817-272-5652. email ArmyROTC@uta.edu, or visit our website at www.uta.edu/military-science.

★ ARMY OFFICER

©2023 U.S. ARMY. PAID FOR BY THE U.S. ARMY.

HOLIDAY

A paper Valentine for your partner

No need to go to the store, cut this one out for a loved one instead



Illustration by Lita Cruz, Kennedie Hakes, Sooa Pyo and Haley Walton

Apartment RENEWALS

Renew your lease and secure your place in your community!

APPLY TODAY!

February 13 - 16
Arbor Oaks, Meadow Run & University Village

UTA
University Housing

A photograph of a modern apartment living room. The room features a black leather sofa with patterned cushions, a wooden coffee table with a bowl of snacks, and a metal bookshelf with books and a plant. The room has large windows with blinds and a patterned rug.

EDITORIAL

Celebrate Valentine's Day your way

There's no wrong way to celebrate the holiday, regardless of relationship status

Valentine's Day can be a day of chocolate-covered bliss for some, but for others, it can be a stress-fueled holiday reminding them of how single they are.

The holiday can bring mixed feelings. Excitement, dread, anxiety, cynicism and more can be seen on faces in the red and pink-stained aisles that flood stores in February. Ever since we were little, many of us have felt the pressure to make the most of the day.

In elementary school, Valentine's Day is maybe a bit overdone. Ornate mailboxes, handwritten cards with candy and debates over who got the most gifts overflow schools.

This can be overwhelming for many, having to make cards for every classmate and making sure everyone is included. However, the transition into middle school can change the experience from overwhelming to isolating.

In these halls, students are starting to pair up, as many can feel the pressure to have a special someone to be their Valentine. While some experience joy at having a partner to celebrate with, others feel the sting of not having someone be their Valentine's Day date.

In high school, as students start to form more substantial romantic relationships, they can start to fall for the more consumerist aspect of the holiday. They start to go out to nicer restaurants and buy nicer gifts like engraved jewelry. They also may start to worry about whether they're giving a good enough gift to their partner.

Although the holiday is associated with many positive emotions, we are all aware of the negative feelings it can bring. Being single and scrolling through Instagram on the day can make some of us fantasize about



Illustration by Kennedie Hakes

throwing rocks at happy couples.

While many stores and advertisements make it seem like a momentous occasion, Valentine's Day can be whatever you make of it. The pressure to give gestures of love to partners, friends or family can make some anxious and the pressure to have a partner to shower with flowers and chocolates can make others depressed.

These core ideas — that everyone needs to have a Valentine and everyone needs to give elaborate gifts — can induce depression and anxiety in people, but it doesn't have to be this way.

Some people make a big deal about St. Patrick's Day, getting decked out in green and drinking beer while others couldn't care less about it. Why should Valentine's day be any different?

People should decide what they want their Valentine's Day to be about. It can be about showing love for all the important people in your life or it can be about all the cute trinkets they find at Target.

Valentine's Day can be an expensive date you'll tell your grandchildren about, a night out with friends with gossip and laughter over tacos, a night to

yourself covered in a facemask and munching on chocolate-covered strawberries or just another day.

These are all great ways to celebrate, and no one should feel bad about how they choose to spend the day.

The Shorthorn Editorial Board is made up of opinion editor Chris Huddleston, editor-in-chief Mandy Huynh, copy desk chief Deekota Diaz, news editor Hannah García, sports editor Isaac Appelt, news reporter Marie Renea, sports reporter Orlando Torres and copy editor Jinelle Sanchez.

opinion-editor.shorthorn@uta.edu

THE ISSUE:

The stress and anxiety around Valentine's Day can make it difficult to celebrate.

WE THINK:

There's no wrong way to celebrate the holiday whether it's with a lover, friend or just alone.

TAKE ACTION:

People should celebrate Valentine's Day the way they want to without judgment.

COLUMN

Spend your time, not your money

Feb. 14 marks one of the biggest spending seasons, but love shouldn't break the bank

Over 1,500 years ago, Feb. 14 first marked the day that would be celebrated by lovers, friends and families from across the world. On this day, a Roman priest by the name of St. Valentine was honored for his dedication to helping lovers emotionally connect. Known as the patron saint of love, the day served as a way to commemorate and pray to him, asking for the blessing of long-lasting love.

What started as a day to celebrate the

beauty of love and meaningful connections has turned into a capitalistic cash grab that pressures individuals to indulge in performative overconsumption. For a day that should be dedicated to celebrating love, spending time with loved ones should be more valuable than monetary compensation.

When asked about Valentine's Day, people often associate the holiday with flowers, chocolates and a shower of pink and red gifts. In 2023

alone, the National Retail Federation estimated that Americans would spend nearly \$26 billion for Valentine's Day — a \$2 billion increase from the previous year.

While not all spending is on romantic gestures, the federation tracked the "total expected spending amount on gifts specifically for significant others" over the last 10 years. In 2019, the total was barely over \$10 billion. In 2024, that number is expected to jump up to \$14.2 billion.

The federation also tracked

JINELLE SANCHEZ



Sanchez is a English sophomore and Shorthorn copy editor.

Join the discussion by commenting online at theshorthorn.com.

the "historical total spending on record gift categories." For 2024, consumers are expected to spend \$6.4 billion on jewelry, \$4.9 billion on a night out, \$3 billion on clothes and \$2.6 billion on flowers. Within 14 years, the total has grown — the approximate average sitting at \$4.2 billion every year, a large increase from the almost \$2.4 billion average of 2010 on those same items.

There's no shame in wanting to celebrate love, whether it be romantic, platonic or self-love, but it's possible to enjoy the holiday without contributing to America's consumerism problem. With consumption per capita having risen 65% from 1990 to 2015, Americans are guilty of buying more goods than other countries.

Valentine's Day doesn't need to contribute to that statistic.

Many people feel the need to spend money on lavish gifts and oversized bouquets to prove to their partner and those around them that their love is genuine. However, I believe this mindset has begun to corrupt the holiday, and the date is often no longer about sharing your love and affection, but rather displaying your ability to spoil them for a single day.

For many, it's gotten to the point where gifts between loved ones are expected more than spending the day together.

With the materialism of the holiday being so prevalent, it's up to individuals to reflect on why they are purchasing an item and feeding into the commercial expectations of Valentine's Day. Love of all kinds is a beautiful emotion to celebrate, but it doesn't have to break the bank.

This Valentine's Day, consider taking the time to make personalized handmade gifts, spend intentional quality time with loved ones or even kick up a movie marathon and treat yourself to the comfort of uninterrupted alone time.

While money may be spendable, time is a valuable commodity that cannot be returned.

@JINELLE_SAN03

opinion-editor.shorthorn@uta.edu



Illustration by Haley Walton

ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

Associate athletics director brings NFL mentality to department

Duane Lewis previously worked with the St. Louis Rams before joining UTA



The Shorthorn: Ronaldo Bolaños

Duane Lewis, senior associate athletics director for external relations, began his tenure at UTA last fall. Lewis looked to transition away from sports information after several stints with other colleges.

BY ORLANDO TORRES
The Shorthorn staff

After stints with multiple colleges and media experience in the NFL with the St. Louis Rams, Duane Lewis wanted to transition away from sports information and lean more toward the business side of athletics. UTA presented that opportunity to him.

Lewis, the new senior associate athletics director for external relations, returned to Texas last fall to begin his UTA journey. Lewis said he credited the potential and opportunity the Metroplex market presents, but it was President Jennifer Cowley and Athletics director Jon Fagg who made the job appealing.

Prior to joining UTA, Lewis talked with Fagg and said his vision of winning was appealing. Fagg's background from working with Power Five institutions and Lewis' background with the NFL boosted their chemistry.

"I was really interested in Duane the first time I ever met him," Fagg said.

Lewis possesses a winning mentality and he understands what it's like to start at the bottom and win at the highest level, Fagg said.

UTA has a mix of new people and returning staffers. Those veterans know the institutional history and why certain things are done. But sometimes, programs need somebody who knows nothing about the institution, because they have no preconceived notions.

"[Lewis] having wide experiences, and no real ties to UTA or North Texas is actually really valuable because he doesn't come with bias," Fagg said.

Lewis' recent tenure was spent at Jackson State University in Mississippi. He worked in public relations where he got the opportunity to work with Deion Sanders, former Jackson State head coach. Jackson State's football program went undefeated in conference play in its 2021 and 2022 seasons.

"He really put Jackson on the national map," Lewis said. "And for me, it felt like being back in the NFL."

Lewis' first NFL experience came after college where he joined the Dallas Cowboys as a training camp intern in Austin, Texas. The



Courtesy of Duane Lewis

following summer, he moved on to a full-time public relations internship for the St. Louis Rams in 1997.

"I didn't know there was a career field for that," Lewis said.

It wasn't until his mentor and friend Tony Wyllie, who also spent time with the Cowboys and Rams, mentioned the Rams opportunity.

The two met at a Texas Southern University basketball game, Wyllie said. Somebody introduced the two and 30 years later, they've been inseparable.

Wyllie interned with the Cowboys and recalled his boss asking if Wyllie could find his replacement before leaving for his new role with the Rams. A year later, there was an opening with the Rams and Wyllie went straight to Lewis with the new offer.

Like how Wyllie helped Lewis get into the NFL, it was Yolanda Beville, vice president for marketing, messaging and engagement, who helped pave the way into UTA, Fagg said. Beville and Lewis crossed paths during their time at Prairie View A&M University.

Wyllie said he's always looking out for other people when opportunities arise. At first, Lewis was iffy about joining the Rams because he didn't want to postpone graduate school, but he accepted the job after talking to Wyllie.

"You got to take advantage of this

opportunity now," Wyllie remembers telling Lewis at the time. "This doesn't happen every day."

Lewis ended up withdrawing from graduate school at Southern University and A&M College in 1997, but he promised his mom that he would eventually go back to acquire his master's degree. In 2020, he fulfilled that promise, earning a master's in education at Northcentral University.

Starting in 1990, the Rams went nine consecutive seasons with losing records before the team eventually put it together to win Super Bowl XXXIV.

"I always reminisce on it during Super Bowl week," Lewis said. "Phenomenal memories about that team, about how the city came together around us and certainly a year that anyone associated with that team just won't forget."

The thought of winning is motivating by itself, Lewis said. The challenge of implementing the vision Fagg has for UTA to win 15 conference championships, one for each sport, is a daunting task, but it's attainable.

"What I focus on here is trying to make sure we raise the profile of our teams every day," Lewis said.

Improving relations between student-athletes and its administration starts with showing up to games and showing support regularly, Lewis said. It's the same mentality with coaches. They're all humans off the court but everybody is driven by success.

Leaning back on previous experiences, Lewis' plan for the department is to elevate its awareness and brand value. He wants to put coaches and student-athletes in the best possible light in connecting them with the media and students, Lewis said.

Fagg said one great idea Lewis had was holding the UTA Athletics coaches show at the University Center instead of at Walk-On's Sports Bistreaux, as they'd done in previous years. The show, which highlights coaches' perspectives, is a great way to connect to students and keeps the department fresh and meaningful.

One of Lewis' biggest descriptions is raising awareness and higher turnout for sporting events, Fagg said. The department has held events throughout campus, like giving out popcorn and mini volleyballs, and it has worked.

In the past, the focus was on presenting a great experience for people attending games hoping they'll return, Fagg said. Now, athletics is diving deeper into the community with attendance being up around 30%.

"He's a great person to work with," Fagg said of Lewis. "He's really collaborative."

Lewis said family is his motivation. Growing up, Lewis helped his

great-grandfather with yard work while they bonded over Houston Astros baseball and Monday night football games.

"My mom is that rock," Lewis said. "My dad has been that strength and my great grandfather who passed away some years ago, was that work ethic."

Lewis has a big heart and Wyllie said he sees him like a little brother. The two grew so close that Lewis participated in Wyllie's wedding party. Wyllie said Lewis took advantage of opportunities, he's passionate and the hard work paid off.

"He's never forgotten where he's come from," Wyllie said. "He's proud of his Louisiana roots and I just think that knowing where he's come from, and all these accomplishments that he's made is something that's very inspiring."

With Wyllie situated in Washington D.C. and working for The Collective Engine, a marketing firm that secures name image and likeness deals for high school and college athletes, the two friends still find time to meet up once or twice a year.

"Even though we don't talk to each other for months, when we do reach out to each other, we catch up and it's just like we never lost each other," Wyllie said. "That's the type of bond we have."

Watching Lewis' journey from the beginning, Wyllie is extremely proud of him. Lewis lives the values that his family taught him and Wyllie said he knows Lewis' great-grandfather is looking down from heaven, extremely proud.

Seeing students succeed in competition and the classroom is exciting, Lewis said. Education is a great equalizer because at some point that athletic career is going to end. That degree helps student-athletes enhance what they've accomplished.

"I want to see every student-athlete here graduate," Lewis said. "I want to see them with a degree in one hand and at least one championship in the other."