

WELCOME BACK



FOOTBALL

Bobcats kickoff Spavital era at Kyle Field

By Sean Anchondo
Sports Reporter

After months of uncertainty, Texas State football announced last year's occasional starter Tyler Vitt as their starting quarterback for their opening game against Texas A&M University for the Thursday night game at Kyle Field.

The news comes less than a week before the Jake Spavital era kicks off under the bright lights of the fourth biggest college stadium in the nation. The Bobcats are starting their schedule as a 34.5-point underdog in what will likely be their toughest competition of the season.

The decision comes as a surprise to some Bobcat fans, as Vitt was in stiff competition with junior transfer Gresch Jensen since the spring football game. Jensen has a history with offensive coordinator Bob Stitt, who coached Jensen in his time at Montana as a Hero Sports First-team FCS Freshman All-American.

Vitt started in five games in 2018, completing 116 of 191 passes for 1,159 yards and making seven touchdowns in his eleven game appearances.

Spavital will be making his return to Kyle Field after being the offensive coordinator for Texas A&M back in 2013. Spavital and the Aggies mutually split up in 2016.

While coaches and players may see this game as just another game, other players, like redshirt freshman tight end Blake Aragon, have said that this game is personal to Spavital.

"There are definitely some personal reasons," Aragon said. "He has definitely mentioned it a couple of times, (but) I can't really say too much."

Entering the 2019-2020 season, the



Freshman quarterback Tyler Vitt evades a UTSA defender Sept. 22, 2018
PHOTO BY KATE CONNORS

Bobcats and Spavital are looking to rebuild a once-proud football program that has stumbled for the past several seasons. The Bobcats had a combined record of 7-28 with previous head coach Everett Withers.

Needless to say, the Bobcats were a bit of a fixer-upper going into this season, and many tweaks became necessary for the team to become competitive within the Sun Belt once again.

To keep their past issues from resurfacing in the 2019 season, Spavital said he has spent the offseason assembling a coaching staff, recruiting and getting to know the San Marcos community. Spavital has been sighted at basketball and baseball games as well as local eateries throughout the past several months.

Spavital's openness to the public and

his track record as a successful offensive coach mentoring the likes of Johnny Manziel has caused a stir of excitement once again among Bobcat fans and the community.

Amidst the anticipation, Texas State is at an obvious disadvantage in the first game of the season. According to ESPN's Football Power Index, the team is set at 2.4% odds at taking the win from the Aggies, whose formidable offense could be a big challenge.

The Aggies finished last year with a 9-4 record, and a 3rd place finish in the SEC West. Sophomore quarterback Junior Kellen Mond is one of the best quarterbacks in the conference, finishing with 3,107yards, 24 touchdowns and nine interceptions last season.

A&M's defense, however, has some deficiencies. Although the team is littered

with four and five-star players, the team was not great last year on the defensive side of the ball, ending the 2018 season with one of the worst pass defenses in the SEC. The Aggies have also lost a bulk of their front seven coming into the season.

Despite the odds, Texas State has strength on the defensive side of the ball. The linebacking core was a strength on the team last season.

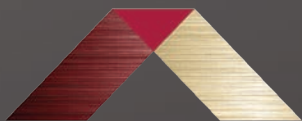
Standout linebacker Bryan London II is returning for his senior year just a little over 100 tackles away (341) from breaking Greg Pitt's tackle record (447). The Bobcats are bringing back almost every player but one from last year's defense (A.J. Krawczyk). London said the group has clicked and is prepared for a defensive battle.

"People are playing with more confidence and speed (this year)," London said. "No one has seemed to have missed a step so far."

Texas State has one other thing on their side, and that is the element of surprise. With a limited amount of game tape on what Jake Spavital will put on the field, it will be hard to know what to expect from this team. This game may be a lot closer than what most people expect. Offensive Coordinator Bob Stitt said he has confidence in his experienced players on the defensive side of the ball.

"They are going to be tough, (so) we have to be perfect," Stitt said. "They're good but they don't have as many things going on as our defense. They are hard and they will prepare us for everything."

After they take on the Aggies, the team will return to San Marcos to play Wyoming on Sept. 7 at Bobcat Stadium, a game that is projected to be much closer in competition.



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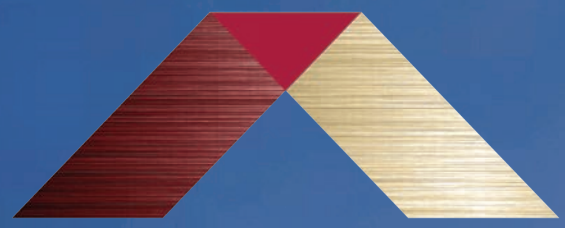
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History:
The University Star is the student newspaper of Texas State University and is published every Tuesday of the spring and fall and once a month in the summer semesters. It is distributed on campus and throughout San Marcos at 8 a.m. on publication days with a distribution of 5,000. Printing and distribution is by the New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung.

Copyright:
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Deadlines:
Letters to the Editor or any contributed articles are due on Monday the week prior to publication.

Corrections:
Any errors that are in the pages of *The University Star* and are brought to our attention will be corrected as soon as possible.

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ENERGY

Renewable energy implementation for San Marcos by 2021

By Mia Estrada
News Reporter

The City of San Marcos consistently strides toward living environmentally friendly. By 2021, San Marcos will raise the amount of renewable energy that powers the city to 10% with help from its electric provider, Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA). The San Marcos City Council approved plans to use 10% combined wind and solar renewable energies and improve financial opportunities for the city’s electric utilities. Beginning July 1, 2021, solar power usage during the day and wind during the night will provide renewable energy for the city. Under this contract, LCRA will purchase renewable energy from a solar plant in Borden County. This plant will add 141 megawatts of energy to its new portfolio in 2021, which includes San Marcos.

Tyler Hjorth, assistant director of public services at San Marcos Electricity Utility, looks forward to utilizing renewable powers to slowly introduce the city to more energy alternatives for the future. With hydroelectric power already providing San Marcos with 3.5% renewable energy, the additional 3.6% will bring the grand total of renewable energy in the city to 10% across the board. Not only are these renewable energies practicing conservation and creating progress toward an eco-friendly environment, but are saving the city money overall. According to Hjorth, by purchasing renewable energies in small increments, the city implements economic-based decisions while investing wisely in a drastically changing technology. “Places not too far from here invest heavily in renewables and there are



A solar panel sits Aug. 26 along Sessom Drive.
PHOTO BY JADEN EDISON

communities out there that we’re close to becoming completely green and now are almost completely red due to debt and exceeding their budget,” Hjorth said. The main goal of the energy plan is to execute small changes in the community in order to eventually adjust to bigger results. Hjorth said this is only the beginning of environmentally friendly changes, with the city slowly pursuing solid and economically priced plans. In order for the renewable energy plan to create change in the environment, other areas across Texas like Austin, Culberson County and McKinney Roughs Nature Park have teamed up with LCRA to attempt to produce a lasting impact. Even before the proposal has been activated, the project has inspired members of the community to take matters into their own hands in helping to conserve the environment.

H-E-B has joined the EPA GreenChill Partnership to reduce the carbon footprint by investing in sustainable refrigeration for its products. Taylor Chevalier, exercise and sports science junior and environmental activist, said change starts with relatively insignificant action in the grand scheme of things, but over time, small changes add up to a huge difference. “It’s amazing to see San Marcos stepping up and taking the initiative to move toward a more sustainable path,” Chevalier said. “Even better, the city is taking into account what its citizens can and cannot afford.” For more information about the project progression and the small ways citizens can help conserve the environment, visit the Conserve the Current page on the San Marcos official website.

COMMON EXPERIENCE



Lonnie Rashid Lynn, better known as his stage name “Common.”
PHOTO COURTESY OF GTN, A UNITED TALENT AGENCY COMPANY.

Texas State set to embark on a truly “Common” Experience

By Jakob Rodriguez
Editor-In-Chief

University Provost Dr. Gene Bourgeois announced Lonnie Rashid Lynn, better known by his stage name “Common” as an LBJ Distinguished Lecture Series speaker for the 2019-2020 academic school year. The event is set to take place at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 15 at Strahan Arena. The Grammy and Academy award-winning artist and activist joins a cohort of event speakers which include former U.S. President Gerald Ford, poet Maya Angelou and film director Robert Rodriguez. According to Twister Marquiss, director of the Common Experience,

series speakers are chosen to reflect the academic school year’s Common Experience theme. This year’s theme is “Truth.” Marquiss said Common’s centralized message in many of his songs and books of “speaking the truth” reflected the vision of the leadership team of the Common Experience. “Common has spoken often about how speaking the truth was important to his growth as a young man in Chicago,” Marquiss said. “And his backstage interview after winning the Academy Award for best song (“Glory”) in 2015 spoke directly to our theme of Truth.” The lecture series started as a promise made at Texas State by its most distinguished alumnus, President

Lyndon Baines Johnson, in 1973. Since its start, the series brings President Johnson’s dream of inviting “the finest minds in the country to speak on campus.” According to the university, on his last visit to San Marcos in 1973, President Johnson brought his former economic advisor, Walter Heller, as the first lecturer of many he wanted to bring to his alma mater. However, President Johnson’s death came less than a week later, before any plans could be implemented. The event is free and open to the public. However, advance tickets are required. Tickets will be available via the new LBJ Distinguished Lecture Series website in mid-September.

UPDATES BY STAFF

Bobcat Shuttle route changes for fall 2019

Texas State’s Transportation Services has made several changes to the Bobcat Shuttle routes for the 2019 fall semester. Here is a list of routes in alphabetical order with the individual route numbers and corresponding changes.

Aquarena Springs (20) - There are no current changes to this route.

Blanco River (21) - This route will no longer include Castle Rock. Additionally, there will be no evening, night or weekend service at Castle Rock.

Bobcat Stadium (10) - This route has added Thorpe Lane at Springtown.

Bobcat Village (12) - This route will no longer include the Matthews bus stop due to construction. Additionally, the University Events Center bus stop may experience temporary closure during the first few weeks of school.

Campus Loop (14) - There are no current changes to this route.

Craddock (24) - This route will no longer be combined with Holland.

Holland (28) - This route will no longer be combined with Craddock. The Holland bus stop will be located at Hillside Ranch during the evening, night and weekend service.

Mill Street (22) - Due to construction, this route will continue to pick up on the opposite side of the street and will not pick up at Old Mill.

Post Road (23) - There are no current changes to this route.

Ranch Road (25) - There are no current changes to this route. The Highcrest bus stop will pick up at The Retreat during the evening, night and weekend service.

Wonder World (26) - There are no current changes to this route.

For any questions or concerns regarding shuttle routes, Bobcats are encouraged to contact the Bobcat Shuttle customer service by telephone at 512-245-5555 or via e-mail at shuttle@txstate.edu.

Parking Services implements virtual parking permits

Parking Services is going digital with brand new virtual parking permits. This is the first semester no physical sticker will be required. Instead, the new system relies on the license plate registration students are required to fill out when buying a permit. A parking ticket will be issued if a vehicle scans without registration by Parking Services. Additionally, Student Government has helped implement the change of allowing any permit color to park in the green, residential hall zones after noon as opposed to after 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday.

Reach out to Parking Services for any questions at 512-245-2887.

San Marcos residents face road closures

Utility work, road construction and expansion projects set to alter San Marcos travel for coming year.

Construction work across San Marcos and Texas State will result in a number of road closures and traffic modifications for drivers and pedestrians to contend with over the next year.

According to the San Marcos “Road Closures” website, part of Student Center Drive will remain closed through early 2020 as the LBJ Student Center is expanded.

Concho Street between LBJ and Guadalupe will be affected through summer 2020. Hopkins Street will be closed starting in November for a project slated to finish for fall 2020.

Road construction on CM Allen—just around the bend from Sewell Park—will render a section of the road closed until October 2019.

Just off The Square, East San Antonio Street will be partially shut down for the Farmers’ Market every Saturday morning from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information and a complete list of upcoming road closures, visit <https://www.sanmarcostx.gov/324/Road-Closures>.

ELECTION Hays County to receive first new voting machines since 2004

By Daniel Weeks
News Reporter

The Hays County Commissioners Court authorized a deal to acquire 400 new voting machines come election season.

The need for new and improved voting equipment has been a discussion for years; the current machines were implemented in 2004. The new machines are a combination of electronic and paper ballot techniques. A physical copy will be provided to voters upon use.

These hybrid machines were approved by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton.

“A county must, among other requirements, use direct-recording electronic voting machines,” Paxton said. “Producing a marked paper ballot and including multiple pieces

of equipment that operate together to effectuate direct voting does not disqualify the machine from use in a countywide polling place program.”

Hays County citizens have called for an update on voting machines since 2017 when over 1,500 votes were lost during November of that year. This erasure of votes may relate to the current setup turning inherently electronic.

Such mistrusts over wired voting technology getting “hacked” was addressed by Elections Administrator Jennifer Anderson.

“These machines are never connected to the internet, never networked,” Anderson said. “So any upgrades would have to go through the certification process again and be implemented that way.”

The hybrid nature of the new machines allows for the ability to

reliably recount votes in times of error or challenge. Approximately \$2 million were utilized in bringing in new machines; the Hays County courthouse is adamant on regaining the trust of voters questioning the current system.

Hays County Judge Ruben Becerra said he hopes for increased accuracy in the county’s election processes.

“We hope this purchase helps to restore confidence in the elections process and is the genesis to enriched unity of citizens in Hays County,” Becerra said. “We are working to ensure all votes are counted.”

The voting equipment is expected to be available for use November 2019. Any questions can be addressed to the Elections Office at elections@co.hays.tx.us.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT Student Government eager to make impact for 2019-2020 school year

By Sierra Martin
News Reporter

Student Government has worked over the summer to initiate legislation, task forces, service events and fundraisers to start the fall 2019 semester prepared to make a sustainable impact. The current administration is focused on improving mental health, parking services, Greek life, equitable representation and transparency within the faculty and student body.

The Texas State Student Government administration for the 2019-2020 school year includes Student Body President Corey Benbow, public administration graduate student, and Vice President Tucker Thompson, international studies graduate student.



Student Body President Corey Benbow and Vice President Tucker Thompson welcoming Bobcats back to campus
PHOTO BY SIERRA MARTIN

Benbow said he wants students to see Student Government as a support system available to help express ideas to make Texas State a better university.

“We look at advocacy, democracy and service and see how we can reflect those things to the student body,” Benbow said. “How can we best advocate for students? How can we best serve and how can we provide good leadership? To me, Student Government looks like a student organization but also a resource and partnership with the student body.”

In response to student arrests during an on-campus protest May 2019, President Benbow issued an executive order to establish a Student Government Campus Safety Task Force. The group was created to address the increased concern for safety on campus and will meet weekly to discuss better safety measures that can be recommended to the faculty senate.

The task force is charged with examining several vital areas including a closer relationship with the University Police Department and students, increasing lighting and cameras on campus and creating marketing and information campaigns for safety resources like the Guardian app.

Student Government will work toward initiating yearly safety walks with UPD and the University Vice President of Finance to determine what the university can invest to improve campus safety.

Additionally, Benbow issued an executive order assigning the Student Advancement Commission with creating a Campus Climate Task Force that will operate until November 2019. The task force will conduct a survey on campus climate regarding the student body and Greek life.

The Benbow-Thompson administration will create a separate task force—comprised of Student Government members, students and faculty—to compile and address issues discovered on the reports of campus climate.

Trevor Newman, public administration junior, is a senator at large and active on the Performing Arts and Student Services Committee. Newman is excited for the start of the 2019-2020 school year and the positive impact Student Government is set to bring to Texas State students.

“I think this session of Student

Government is going to be extremely exciting due to the amount of new senators we have coming in and the new administration,” Newman said. “It’s certain to be an interesting and productive session and I can’t wait to get to work. I’ve been drafting legislation to start an awareness campaign for the Student Health Center so students to learn about the great and inexpensive healthcare resources it has. I’m hoping I will be able to pass legislation regarding UPD reform in response to their handling of students during the white nationalist counter protests.”

The current Benbow-Thompson administration is looking to increase student engagement with organizations and educate students on the resources provided on campus. Both leaders hope to encourage open dialogue between students in various organizations and Student Government by hosting a river clean-up on the last Sunday of every month.

The Free Menstrual Hygiene pilot program is expected to be implemented on campus within the first month of fall 2019 to allow free and accessible pads and tampons to female and unisex bathrooms.

Menstrual hygiene dispensers will be installed in buildings on campus including Jowers, Haris Dining Hall, Commons Dining Hall and McCoy. Additionally, some buildings are providing products to students independently like Lampases Honors College. The full year of the pilot program will cost about \$5,000 and a student organization will be established to focus specifically on the initiative.

Student Government is enacting awareness through the Peer Mentor program to support the 40% of first-generation students who occasionally come from immigrant families. Student Government has initiated the effort to have peer mentor’s trained to accommodate immigrant and international students.

Additionally, Student Government is introducing Diversity Week: Living in our Truth to Texas State’s campus from Oct. 25 to Nov. 2. The events

will include keynote speakers, panels and performances that encourage the university to unify and appreciate diversity on campus.

To allow students to be unaffected by food insecurity, Vice President Thompson has received a pledge from the LBJ Student Center to donate four to six lockers stocked with non-perishable food items. The lockers will allow students in need to access the goods donated from Bobcat Bounty and Chartwells.

A Textbook Lending Program has been established by Student Government to make the educational experience for students more affordable.

According to the Student Government Advisory Board Report, the cost of textbooks has increased four times as much as the rate of inflation over the past ten years. To combat the expense of required reading material, donations of textbooks will be accepted at Alkek, where students can check out needed books.

Thompson hopes to work on increasing transparency between the student body and Student Government to inform students of the resources and improvements the administration makes.

“A lot of things Student Government and the administration has done over the years has been great, but there have been poor jobs of marketing that to students and making students aware of what kind of resources have been available to them,” Thompson said. “That’s why transparency was one of our campaign goals because we are going to be working on that and we want students to be aware we are advocating for them.”

To view executive orders produced by the Benbow-Thompson administration and learn more about their efforts, visit the President’s page on the Texas State Student Government website, or attend weekly meetings held at 7 p.m. every Monday in the LBJ Teaching Theater.

ARTISTS

New website builds community around pursuing passion

By Kyle Chitwood
Life & Arts Contributor

New website Wezmer features local artists specializing in all mediums and was founded on the idea of developing a supportive community around the aspirations of each artist featured on the website.

Mass communication senior Christina Castro and Adrian Perez co-founded and launched Wezmer June 2019. What started out as a band titled “Wezmer” that hosted block parties to showcase other local bands and artists eventually became a database where artists display their work online.

The website—which features painters, writers, filmmakers and musicians—provides a platform for artists to showcase their work and for fans to discover new, local talent.

“It’s a safe space to just be creative and be yourself,” Perez said.

The ultimate goal of Wezmer is to become a nonprofit organization supporting a living community of people working toward their dreams, whether it is art, trade or entrepreneurial effort.

“Right now, we are in that first basis of thought and are working toward that end goal,” Castro said. “That’s what drives us with this website.”

Castro and Perez shared the idea that having a community that assists each other will lead to greater success overall, rather than acting alone.

“Why not build a community that helps empower each other?” Castro said.

Perez and Castro expressed their frustration in having to worry about basic living expenses while simultaneously chasing dreams and goals; developing a community centered on self-expression is their way of giving back to those who have experienced similar situations in



Perez (left) and Castro (right) began Wezmer to build a community of artists in support of each other's work.
PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTINA CASTRO

trying to perform this balancing act.

“You love yourself, you love your life and you love what’s happening to you, so why wouldn’t you want to spread that even more and give the opportunity to people to do that for themselves?” Castro said.

After his experience in the band Wezmer, Perez said it is important for anyone striving toward their goals to

maintain a strong support system.

“Without community, you can’t do anything,” Perez said.

The website continually develops, and Castro and Perez look to expand the site to feature artists from all across Texas. Currently, the founders’ main goal is to share the brand, showcase a variety of talent and begin nonprofit efforts.

“This is just the beginning of a really large project that involves pretty much

a safe haven where artists can go and collaborate,” Perez said.

Michael Imo, electronic media senior, performs as a pop musician under the name “Maikeru,” and is featured on the site. Imo joined the coalition after being asked by Perez shortly after the website’s launch.

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CAFFEINE FIX



Ramos (right) and Russell (left) get excited about their first official business day on campus.

PHOTO BY LAURA FIGI

Student-run company offers coffee accessibility

By Laura Figi
Life & Arts Editor

The expanse of Texas State’s hilly campus often tests students physically. While coffee is a hard-won loyalty, it may be pitted against the trek. There are several places to acquire coffee on campus but most are often too far away for students who wish to make it to class on time.

BrewBike is a company created by students, for students, and specializes in providing easily accessible coffee.

BrewBike is a portable cold-brew coffee company started in 2015 by Lucas Philips while he was in school at Northwestern University. In the past four years, the company has expanded to The University of Texas at Austin, Miami University and officially launched on Texas State’s campus on the first day of school.

Seth Davis, campus CEO, said cold-brew coffee is beneficial for numerous reasons, including the additional caffeine and smoother taste. Students can personalize their coffee options with soy milk, oat milk and simple syrup.

“I get so tired of drinking water all the time,” Davis said. “It’s nice to have something that isn’t water but tastier than soda.”

BrewBike will set up shop every day 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and 2:30 p.m. on Fridays, in front of the Boko the Bobcat statue near The Quad bus loop. Additionally, the BrewBike held a soft launch Aug. 17 and 18 for Texas State move-in.

The bike offers two different types of cold-brew coffee: original and cinnamon brown sugar, each brewed over a period of 16 hours and served iced. The portable company serves oolong tea as well, which, like the coffee, is steeped over a 16-hour period. All coffee is made by fellow students.

Leo Ramos, campus chief people officer, said he is excited to see how BrewBike will change the student business landscape.

“The thing I’m most excited for is to see a student-run business on campus, orientated by students, run by students,” Ramos said. “It doesn’t have to be a big innovative idea or something like that—just get out there and do something.”

Davis said even though the coffee is served cold, he expects BrewBike to still have solid footing following the winter months as a testament to the quality. He added because the organization is student-run, it provides potential for small industry.

“I think this (kind of business) could show students that thinking outside the box a little bit could lead to some pretty awesome opportunities,” Davis said. “I think it will provide a lot of leadership experiences.”

BrewBike employee and acting major Payton Russell said because the setup is small, the company is able to be environmentally conscious.

“I think it will inspire students to be more conscious about the environment and conscious about what the are putting into their bodies,” Russell said.

BrewBike is partnered with Chartwells, the company in charge of dining on campus. However, hiring is done independently through the company and students are welcome to apply.

Payment is accepted through Square—a card processing company—and BrewBike offers a loyalty program through the app.

For more information, the company can be found by @brewbiketxst on Instagram, where individuals can track the bike’s location and stay up-to-date on promotions. For hiring information, students can reach out to Ramos at leo@brewbikecoffee.com.

TRADITIONS

Five Texas State traditions to anticipate



Brooke Adams jumping into the San Marcos River with her sister Courtney Adams and their father Doug Adams after the May 2019 commencement ceremony.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BROOKE ADAMS

By Brianna Benitez
Life & Arts Reporter

At Texas State, traditions provide students a sense of belonging within the community and encourage individuals to become involved on campus while demonstrating school pride. As the academic year ramps up, here are some annual events worth awaiting.

BOBCAT BUILD

Each spring semester, student volunteers unite for one day to complete various service projects throughout San Marcos and surrounding communities. Projects vary from landscaping and painting to neighborhood clean-ups.

Bobcat Build began 18 years ago as a way to thank the San Marcos community. The event started with 700 volunteers and 50 job sites. There are now over 300 job sites and nearly 4,500 student volunteers, making Bobcat Build the second-largest service project in Texas.

HOMECOMING

One of the earliest Texas State traditions is homecoming. Several events occur during homecoming week, including Soap Box Derby, the Homecoming Step Show and the Galliardian Awards Presentations.

The Galliardian Award was introduced in 1925 by the editors of Texas State's yearbook, The Pedagog. During halftime of the homecoming football game, 12 influential students receive the award.

Cody Huffman, Texas State alumnus, was awarded 2017 Homecoming Gallardian his junior year and was crowned 2018 Homecoming King his senior year. Huffman said receiving both awards was equally memorable and important.

"Receiving the Gallardian Award showed me I was doing something meaningful across Texas State, and winning Homecoming King was the cherry on top of all four years," Huffman said.

Huffman said the recognition made him realize how thankful he is for the opportunities Texas State has offered and the amazing people he has met along the way.

RING CELEBRATION

Each semester, proud Bobcats, family and friends come together to celebrate the achievement of receiving the official Texas State ring. On the day of the ceremony, students wear maroon and gold to represent their Bobcat pride.

It is a tradition for ring recipients to plunge their ring into a fountain

of water from the San Marcos River during the ceremony.

The top of the Texas State ring features the Texas lone star set on top of an oak and laurel wreath. The words "Texas State University" and the founding year, 1899, circle the crown of the ring.

Old Main, Texas State's original building, is featured on the left side of the ring along with tubes floating on the San Marcos River. The Bobcat athletic logo is placed on the right side of the ring. Engraved on the inside is the school flower, the gaillardia.

Students are to wear their rings with the words "Texas State University" facing them to serve as a reminder of their graduation goal. During the commencement ceremony, students are asked to turn their rings outward to declare their achievement and display their Bobcat pride.

CAT CAMP

Cat Camp began in 2009 as an optional extended orientation program for transfer and freshmen students. At Cat Camp, incoming students learn about Texas State's history and traditions.

Campers can expect to engage with fellow students and participate in activities like the Maroon and Gold Olympics and a mock ring ceremony. Camp counselors perform skits to teach campers about Texas State's history and traditions such as the alma mater, fight song, hand signs and more.

RIVER JUMP

One of Texas State's most popular traditions is jumping in the San Marcos River after graduation. Students can be seen making the jump in their cap and gowns as a way to celebrate their time as a Bobcat.

Julissa Perry, Texas State alumna, graduated in May 2019 with a degree in electronic media. Perry said jumping in the river after graduation was a bittersweet moment.

"I know a lot of us spend time at the river, but jumping in right after you graduate feels different," Perry said. "You feel completely done and it's great."

Perry said participating in traditions like the river jump allowed her to connect with fellow students and the campus.

Brooke Adams, Texas State alumna, graduated in May 2019 with a marketing degree. Adams said jumping in the river was a special experience because she took the plunge with her dad and sister, who are Southwest Texas and Texas State alumni.

"Being able to jump in the river is super unique and something you can

only do at Texas State," Adams said.

Adams' father, Doug Adams, graduated from Southwest Texas in 1986 and her sister, Courtney Adams, graduated from Texas State in 2016.

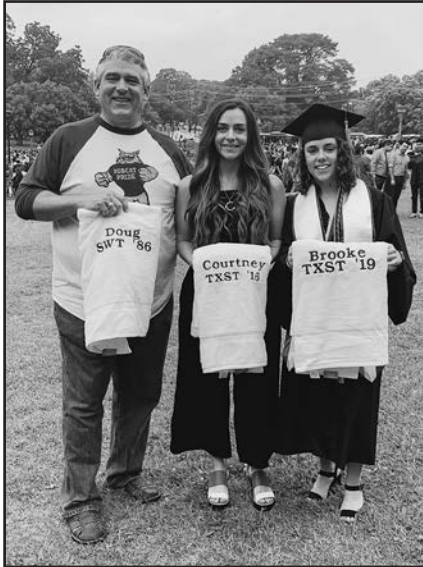
Campus traditions serve as a reminder for what Texas State represents, and participating in traditions is a way for students to be in tune with the university's history.

For more information on Texas State's legacy and pride, visit Texas State's history and traditions website.



Cody Huffman being awarded 2018 Homecoming King at Texas State's Homecoming game.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CODY HUFFMAN



Brooke Adams with her sister Courtney Adams and their father Doug Adams after the May 2019 commencement ceremony.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BROOKE ADAMS

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BOBCAT PRIDE



Omega Phi Alpha volunteering at Bobcat Build 2019.
PHOTO COURTESY OF MELISSA STEVCO

How to become a proud Bobcat

By Brianna Benitez
Life & Arts Reporter

Owning and showcasing Bobcat pride can positively impact students' college experience. Here are a few steps to take in helping to make the most out of time spent at Texas State.

GEAR UP

When it comes to school spirit, representation is everything. Individuals can proudly show off Texas State by stocking up on the finest maroon and gold trends. Check out the latest Bobcat styles at the University Bookstore and at local shops like Barefoot Campus Outfitter.

STRIVE FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS

The Princeton Review recently named Texas State as one of the top colleges in America in its 2020 edition of "The Best 385 Colleges" guide. Additionally, Texas State was ranked 183 in Forbes top public colleges and 206 in Forbes top research universities.

Olivia Miller, biology freshman, said it is important for students to select a college that acts as a representation of themselves. She said attending Texas State has provided her with an encouraging support system.

"Texas State is more of a community compared to other universities," Miller said. "I feel like everything is geared toward the students and in a way that helps us."

To ensure students achieve academic

success, Texas State offers a variety of academic services such as the Student Learning Assistance Center (SLAC) and the Writing Center.

SLAC provides tutoring services centered around subjects including biology, math, accounting and more. Students preparing for admission tests for graduate, law and business colleges are welcome to utilize SLAC.

In addition, the SLAC staff provides tips on note-taking, time management and test anxiety.

For more information, visit Texas State Academic Services and The Writing Center online.

GET INVOLVED

Texas State offers over 300 student organizations on campus, varying from multicultural and religious to professional and Greek life. Check out the full list at [Texas State's organization page](#).

Amanda Ray, sociology senior, is an early alumna of Texas State's Delta Gamma sorority. Ray said being a member of Greek life has been a highlight of her college experience.

"I have made some of the best friends and I would not trade them or my experience for anything in the world," Ray said.

Ray said students should take pride in their time at Texas State by getting involved on campus.

"Our time at university is short so it's important we live out our college experience to the fullest," Ray said.

Being a part of an organization can

help students find their place in a large community and may ultimately lead to life-long friendships.

Madeline Dase, dance education sophomore, is a member of Gamma Phi Beta, Kappa Delta Pi and a Texas State Strutter. Dase said being active within these organizations granted her the opportunity to connect with a diverse group of individuals.

Dase transferred to Texas State fall 2018 after attending Kilgore College in Kilgore, Texas, for one year. She said the Strutters dance program sparked her interest in attending Texas State.

"Being able to finally practice with the Strutters at Bobcat Stadium and getting ready for football season has been one of the greatest experiences I have had," Dase said.

GIVE BACK

Volunteerism plays a major role in how the City of San Marcos interacts with the Texas State community. Taking the initiative to serve the local San Marcos community can be beneficial in strengthening the bond between locals and students.

Melissa Stevko, communication studies senior, is a member of the service sorority Omega Phi Alpha. Stevko said she loves volunteering and is privileged to give back to her community.

"Finding a like-minded group of women who share similar values as I do has really made a positive impact on my time at Texas State," Stevko said.

Omega Phi Alpha members carry out a minimum of six service projects

per semester. Stevko said the sorority regularly cleans up Dunbar Park and annually participates in Bobcat Build, the university's one-day community service project.

Stevko said being a member of Omega Phi Alpha has provided her an opportunity to give back and express her appreciation for the San Marcos community.

Volunteer opportunities can be found year-round on the San Marcos Park and Recreation website.

BE A LEADER

Students setting an example of what it means to be a Bobcat greatly and positively impacts Texas State's legacy.

Kaleigh Alverts is a counselor for Texas State's Cat Camp, a pride and traditions camp for transfer and freshman students. Alverts said being a Cat Camp counselor has significantly influenced her time at Texas State and provided her a chance to show off her school spirit.

"Being a counselor gives me the opportunity to help students out and start them off on a successful school year," Alverts said.

Alverts said the best way for students to showcase school spirit is by checking out organizations and attending sporting events.

To stay up-to-date about on-campus events and activities, follow Texas State on social media @txst on Twitter and Instagram.

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The logo for Habitat for Humanity ReStore. It features the Habitat for Humanity logo on the left, which consists of a stylized house with three human figures inside, followed by the text "Habitat for Humanity®". To the right of this is a vertical line, and then the word "ReStore" in a large, bold, sans-serif font. The letter "o" in "ReStore" is replaced by a house icon.

DEMOCRACY



By Laura Figi
Life & Arts Editor

On top of catering to wealthy students, such complexes neglect

Housing is incredibly important and in demand, but it does not have to grow in such an ugly way. There are responsible ways to meet demand for housing while keeping the residents happy and the city beautiful.

By Thomas Dunlap
Opinions Contributor

The reality is students' schedules are too booked for the burden following dogs, and typical cramped living arrangements are often inappropriate for a large animal's needs. These issues are widespread among college-aged dog owners and can unfortunately create an inhumane and unhealthy lifestyle for supposedly "beloved" pets. Due to this persisting prevalence, student living apartments should no longer allow residents dog ownership on the property.

The only outside experiences some dogs may have are brief bathroom excursions to a depressing patches of grass near the apartment complex. These “bark parks” are overflowing

**SEE LIVING
PAGE 12**

By Lloyd Doggett
U.S. Representative

Welcome to campus, Bobcats, both new and returning! Whether you are learning your way around campus or embracing your last year, we need thoughtful leaders like you. I implore you to get involved. As a member of Congress representing much of San Marcos, I am working to serve you and enjoy welcoming new Bobcats at convocation. From federal issues like healthcare and net neutrality to the urgent need to act on climate change, I welcome your advice and advocacy.

Call or email your U.S. Representatives and Senators. You can reach my Austin office at 512-916-5921 or send me an email at Lloyd.Doggett@mail.house.gov. If you are interested in an internship in my Austin or Washington office, please email your cover letter, three professional references and resume to my District Director Erin Gurak at Erin.Gurak@mail.house.gov. For updates on our daily efforts, follow @RepLloydDoggett on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

The reauthorization of the Higher Education Act Congress presents an exciting opportunity to make college more affordable and the process of applying for financial aid less complicated. I am leading two efforts to simplify the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, and help students apply for the aid they need. I authored provisions in the American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC), allowing a tax cut of up to \$10,000 on education expenses such as tuition, textbooks and fees.

There is no excuse for President Trump and Senate Republicans trying to end Dreamers' protections and stonewalling our attempts to pass a pathway to citizenship. Our Democratic House of Representatives has passed H.R. 6, the Dream and Promise Act—which I sponsored—that would provide a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers and TPS recipients. It is long past time to recognize Dreamers as the full-fledged Americans they certainly are.

Change starts here, with you, by standing up for the safety and equality of all our neighbors. As you take on this school year, I hope you will dedicate time to create change. And I will be hard at work, ensuring your priorities are my priorities. I look forward to hearing from you on issues you care about.

Eat 'em Up, Cats!

*-Lloyd Doggett represents Texas' 35th
Congressional District*

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- 1) Take Exit 205
- 2) Immediately & Safely Get in Right Lane on IH35 access road
- 3) We are located at **910 N.IH35**

Buildings

400	400 West Hopkins D6	BUTL	Butler Hall G4	EB	Elliott Hall B E4	JOW	Jowers Ctr I4	PPA	Physical Plant Administration G2 G3	SMH	San Marcos Hall C4	UAC	Undergraduate Academic Ctr F4
1345	1345 Thorpe Lane M3	BV	Bobcat Village Apts M1 M2	ED	Education, College of G4	JOWX	Jowers Annex I4	PRS	President's House C4 D4	SMIT	Smith House C5	UEC	University Events Center I4
1401	1401 Thorpe Lane N3	CADA	Castro Undergraduate	EGSG	Edward Gary Street Garage G5	LAMP	Lampasas Hall G3	PSG	Pleasant Street Garage F3	SRC	Student Recreation Ctr C4	WSF	West Sports Fields B3
614	614 Lindsey Street D5	CDC	Child Development Ctr C4	ELA	Evans Liberal Arts F4	LAU	Laurel Hall F4	PWP	Power Plant G3	SSG	Speck Street Garage B3	WSG	Woods Street Garage E4
AA	Arnold Hall A E3	CENT	Centennial Hall F3 G3	ENC	Encino Hall D3, D4	LBJ	LBJ Student Ctr E3 E4	RECY	Recycling Ctr C5	STAD	Stadium L3		
AAD	Arnold Hall Admin E3	CHAU	Chautauqua Hall D3	EZON	End Zone Complex L3	LBJG	LBJ Garage D3 E3	RESG	Research Greenhouse D5	STRH	Strahan House C5		
AB	Arnold Hall B E3	CHEM	Chemistry G3	FAB	Freeman Aquatic Biology H3	LNA	Lantana Hall G4	RET	Retama Hall F4	STY	Sterry Hall F5 G5		
AC	Arnold Hall C E3	CI	College Inn D3	FCS	Family & Consumer Sciences C4	MCOY	Emmett and Miriam McCoy Hall E4	RFM	Roy F Mitte Hall F4	SUPP	Jerome and Catherine Supple Science D4		
ADAM	William & Elizabeth Adamson ROTC C4	CMAL	Comal F3	FIH	Flowers Hall F4	MCS	Math Computer Science E3 F3	RIVR	River House H5	TC	Tennis Ctr H3		
AG	Agriculture G3	COM	Commons Dining Hall F4	FIRE	Fire Station Studio F6	MED	Medina F3 G3	SABN	Sabinal G3	TG	Tower Garage F4		
AGGH	Agriculture Greenhouse D5	CP	Central Plant E3	FSHC	Falls Sayers Housing Complex B4 B5	MOEL	Moeller House D5	SCIG	Science Greenhouse D4	THEA	Theatre Ctr G4		
ALK	Albert B. Alkek Library E3 E4	CRM	Ctr for Retention Management F5	GAIL	Gaillardia Hall D3	MOOR	Ivey-Moore House B3	SFD	Softball Field J4	THOR	Thornton International House D4		
ALKG	Alkek Garage E4	CUAC	Richard A. Castro	HDH	Harris Dining Hall B4	MSG	Matthews Street Garage E3	SGSH	Salt Grass Steakhouse H3	TMH	Taylor-Murphy History F3		
ASBN	Academic Services Bldg North G4	DBC	Undergraduate Admissions Ctr F5	HILL	Hill House G3	MUS	Music F3	SHC	Student Health Ctr D3	TOWR	The Tower E4		
ASBS	Academic Services Bldg South G4	DERR	Darren B Casey Athletic Admin I3	HINE	Hines Academic Ctr G3	NUEC	Nueces F4	SHCT	Student Health Ctr Thope Lane M3	TRAC	Track & Field Facility M3		
ASC	Aqua Sports Ctr G3	EA	Derrick Hall F3	HPB	See ENC	OM	Old Main G3	SJH	San Jacinto Hall E4	TRIN	Trinity F3 G3		
ASG	Academy Street Garage D5	EAD	Elliott Hall Admin E4	IGRM	Bruce and Gloria Ingram Hall E4	OUTC	Outdoor Ctr (Sewell Park) I4	SLH	Spring Lake Hall J1				
ASGH	Angelina San Gabriel Housing Complex B3			JAK	Jackson Hall E3	PAV	Paul and Pat Gowens Family Pavilion (K3)	SLTK	Spring Lake Ticket Kiosk J1				
BAND	Band Storage Facility I3			JCK	J.C. Kellam Administration G3 G4	PECO	Pecos F3	SM1	Smith Hall 1 E3				
BER	Beretta Hall F4			JCM	Joann Cole Mitte D3	PED	Pedernales F3	SM2	Smith Hall 2 E3				
BEX	Bexar Hall D5			JON	Jones Dining Complex E4	PERF	Performing Arts Ctr G5	SM3	Smith Hall 3 E3				
BFD	Baseball Field K4												
BHG	Blanco Hall Garage B4												
BLN	Blanco Hall B4												
BRAZ	Brazos G4												
BRG	Brogdon Hall F4												

Parking Lots

Campus Residents

- 105 Admissions E5
- 106 Tower Garage F4
- 108 Woods Garage F4
- 112 San Jacinto Hall E4
- 113 Matthews Garage E3
- 114 Woods ST D4 E4
- 115 Lindsey ST E5
- 202 College Inn D3
- 203 Hornsby F3
- 204 Jackson E3
- 301 Llano Drive C5
- 303 Blanco Garage B4
- 304 Academy ST Garage D5
- 305 Moore ST B4
- 306 Speck Garage B3
- BV Bobcat Village M3

Commuter

- C12 James ST Lot C4
- C13 Speck Garage B3

Perimeter

- P5 Sessom Lot G3 H3
- P8 UEC Perimeter I4
- P9 Aquarena Springs Lot J3
- P10 Bobcat Stadium
- P11 Lots K3 L3
- P12 Mill Street M1 M2
- P14 Sewell North I3
- P15 Meadows Center J2

Restricted

- R2 Sessom Lot G2 G3
- R4 Alkek Garage E4
- R5 Pleasant Garage F3
- R6 Physical Plant G3
- R7 Ag / Sessom G3
- R9 JCK / Moon G4
- R10 JCK / Sessom H3
- R11 Freeman H3
- R12 Music F3
- R13 UEC Reserve I4
- R14 Jowers I4
- R15 State ST G3
- R16 Aqua Sports G3

Car Pool

- CP5 Sessom H2 H3
- CP12 James ST D4
- CP113 Matthews Garage E3

Permit Parking

- P Perimeter
- C Perimeter - Commuter Only
- R Residence Hall
- M Mill Street Residence Hall
- RE Restricted
- B Bobcat Village
- CP Car Pool

Effective August 1, 2016, concealed carry of a handgun by license holders is allowed on Texas public university campuses subject to the restrictions imposed by statutes and by the University President. Concealed carry is prohibited in some buildings on Texas State University Campuses, please see <http://txstate.edu/campuscarry>.

MOVIE REVIEW

By Caleb Watkins
Life and Arts Reporter

best film, it was incredible nonetheless. This movie was loaded with stars like Leonardo DiCaprio, Brad Pitt, Margot Robbie, Al Pacino and Kurt Russel. The acting was top-notch due to the talent featured in the movie.

Tarantino is known for his unique style of writing and directing. It is his trademark to grab multiple storylines with plenty of flashbacks to explain character's backstories and have each of them meet back at the end for an epic finale, much like in the movies previously mentioned.

Most importantly, Tarantino makes movies he would want to view, meaning his movies are insanely fun and most of the time, violent. "Once Upon A Time In Hollywood" was no different.

However, the film came across more like a comedy than a typical Tarantino action movie. DiCaprio and Pitt did an extraordinary job playing two friends trying to become successful in Hollywood but for the majority of the movie,

the characters seem to just hang out.

Often times, viewers are used to blockbuster superhero movies or films where that require constant attention to catch every little detail because it will become relevant later on. "Once Upon A Time In Hollywood" breaks from this trend and presents a more relaxed vibe.

This is a two-hour and 40-minute long movie, and it definitely dragged on at times. Some scenes were slower than others, which held the movie back. Characters like Sharon Tate, played by Margot Robbie, did not factor into the plot or contribute heavily, although the actress performed well throughout the movie.

As previously mentioned, Tarantino had an array of stars to work with and DiCaprio, Pitt and Robbie should be nominated for Oscars given their performances. However, ultimately, Pitt steals the show and runs with it. His character

comes off as cool and interesting, making audiences care about what happens to him.

The only reason the movie drags is due to the “Tarantino effect” and how everyone understands he masters suspense and action. When viewers watch what seems like a “hangout” movie, it feels much different from his other movies and at times can appear slow.

The payoff at the end of the film has to be one of Tarantino’s best scenes in any of his nine movies. The ending is completely unexpected and will make any viewer’s jaw drop and definitely remind them that yes, they are watching a Tarantino movie.

“Once Upon A Time In Hollywood” will be one of the best movies of 2019. It blends creativity and humor, while still featuring the signature Tarantino action throughout. I would suggest going to a movie theater where that offers food because it is a long ride that will leave audiences talking about it for days. “Once Upon A Time In Hollywood” gets a 9/10.

FROM PAGE 9

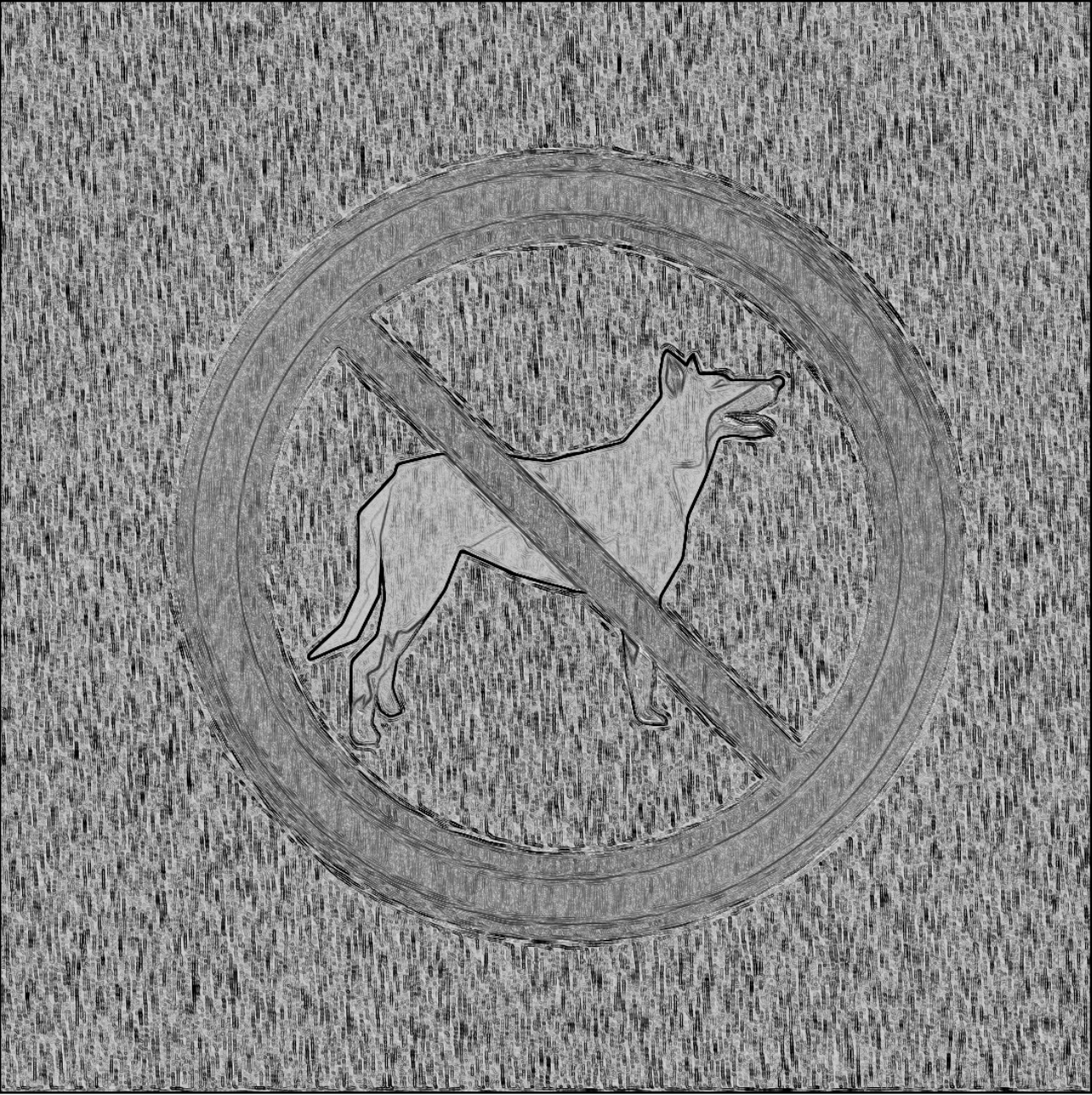


ILLUSTRATION BY JADEN EDISON

with poorly disposed dog excrement. While clearly identified waste baskets are provided—which are reserved for this sole purpose and are commonplace throughout apartments in San Marcos—majority of dog owners refuse to use them or ignore their presence altogether.

Irresponsible behavior reflects poorly on the owner, leading to an uncomfortable and unhealthy lifestyle for any dog. The daily college student schedule can create a neglectful environment insufficient for the health of any animal, especially larger dogs requiring more attention, exercise and space.

Even complex property managers are wary of allowing students to have dogs.

Shaylene Scarlett, The Timbers housing property manager, said how she does not think life in student housing is very fair for most dogs, as they typically do not get the proper attention or activity needed on a day-to-day basis.

Scarlett explained her position on the subject wavered depending on dog size and weight as well. She said undergraduates are rarely capable of providing an adequate living arrangement for a dog. Such students are moving off campus for the first time and learning how to take care of themselves, so providing attention for another creature can be difficult and unmanageable.

While there is nothing inherently wrong with a college student owning and living with an animal, the unfortunate truth is most college students are either too irresponsible or too ill-prepared to provide a dog with an adequate and healthy living situation. This is why—for the well being of all larger scale animals—apartment complexes should no longer allow students to keep an animal on the property.

Thomas Dunlap is journalism junior

AFFORDABILITY

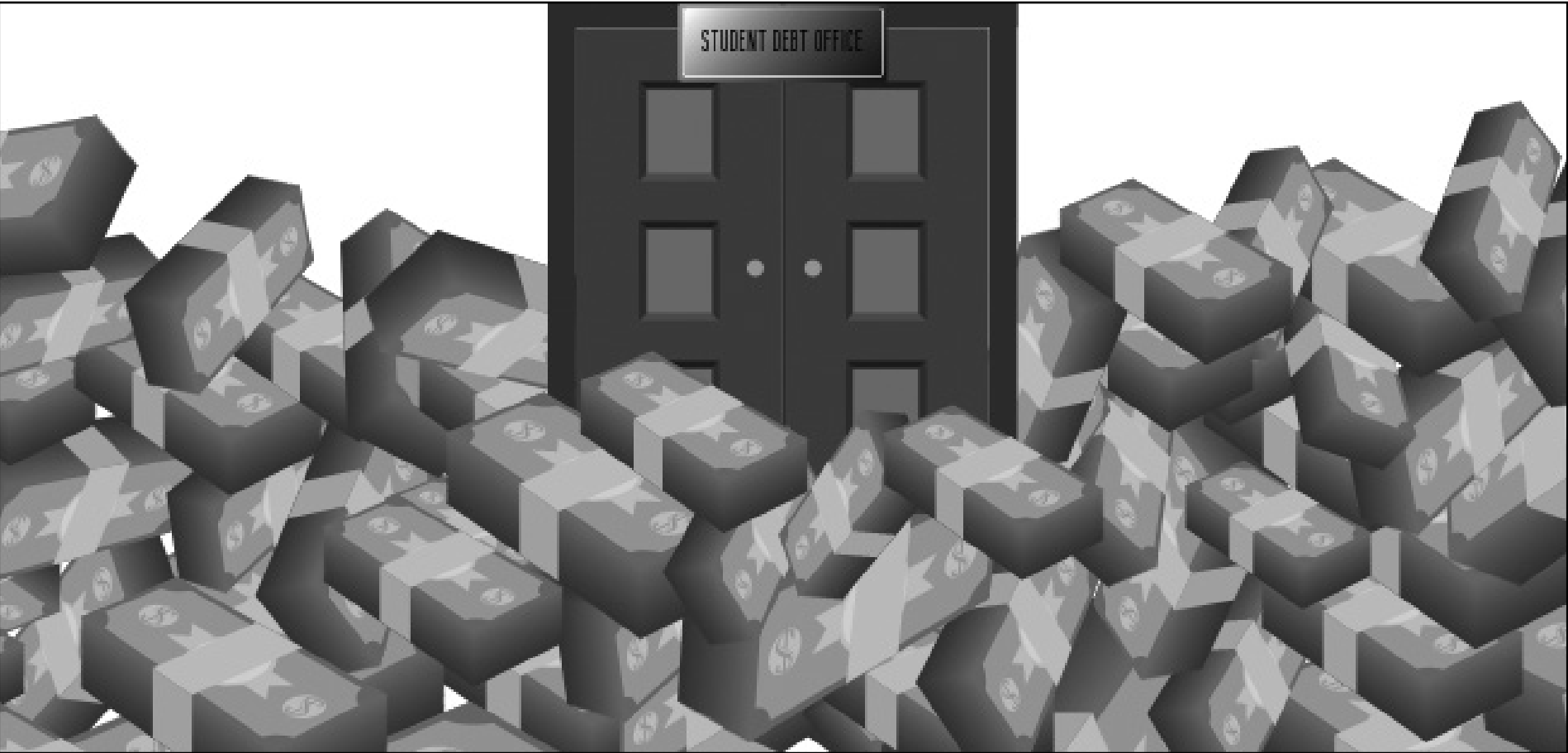


ILLUSTRATION BY JADEN EDISON

Rising costs lead some degrees to not be worth it

By Jordan Drake
Opinions Editor

Nearly everyone is told, starting in primary school, that college is necessary for a better life and will open doors to great opportunities. The problem is this is seldom the case. The reality ends up reflecting student loan debt, underwhelming entry-level jobs with even lower pay and a frustrating, ever-changing world where bachelors degree are rarely—if ever—utilized.

Degrees like computer science or engineering have higher chances of positive outlooks, but if a degree is not immediately lucrative, it can push students behind from day one, making it difficult to pay off student loans and get a decent return on investment. This is not to disparage liberal arts degrees or any major or career path in particular but the fact is, the prices and societal pressure to get any kind of degree is so out of control it seems ridiculous to continue pursuing certain career paths not worth it for students in the long run.

The problem with these "less valuable" majors is rooted in skyrocketing tuition.

For the incoming 2020 freshman class at Texas State, students are projected to pay approximately \$45,000 in tuition as in-state residents and nearly \$100,000 for out of state. This causes students to end up paying tuition with student loans, creating a massive weight to carry before entering the workforce.

Individuals who major in education start their careers earning, on average, \$38,000, with majors like social work and psychology even less. Even a degree in communications—a more generalized field—has relatively low starting salaries that come with the hefty financial burden of high tuition.

Additionally, it is important to take into account the number of graduates that never fully utilize their degrees. Nearly half of Americans work a job where their degree is unrelated. Worse, over 40% are underemployed, meaning employees are performing work they did not need their degree for or are perhaps overqualified to do.

Combine underemployment with record low unemployment levels and it becomes a heightened fear that a degree costing thousands might not payout, or

by the time it does, debt has snowballed.

The unfortunate thing is these overall low-paying fields are still needed. Social workers, teachers and psychologists are crucial in our society. Our culture should still want people to social work, English and even the much-maligned art history.

While few could argue such degrees are oversaturated, an advanced society should be able to study all facets of culture, both now and from the past. No degree is truly worthless, yet the crippling cost of college and student loan debt has placed these degrees in a negative light. Earning about \$40,000 a year may be perfectly fine for someone who is happy with their degree and job field, but not when a huge price tag follows suit.

Large universities like Texas State should work to resolve degree costs. There should not be one-size-fits-all tuition plans and class schedules designed to bleed as much money out of federally guaranteed student loans.

People cannot truly believe an engineering major and communications major both have four years' worth of classes to attend. Most students could probably point to a semester or even a

years' worth of redundant and pointless courses, for their chosen degrees. Being able to reduce time in college would decrease the cost and ultimately the burden placed on people entering the workforce, fresh out of school.

The reality is not that degrees such as psychology, education, history and English are not worth it, but the university system has skewed them this way. If people have to live under the weight of student debt, their choices change and interests that yield pleasure give way to practicality, leading to a higher financial incentive and thus, unhappiness.

This degree and money situation, or lack thereof, is coming to a head and universities have sat on the sidelines milking the financial reward for too long. Either society wants everyone to choose a career and path solely based on monetary gain or college is once again made affordable so all studies can be "worth it."

VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball and soccer projected to win it all after sweeping preseason awards

By Dedrick Johnson
Sports Reporter

Texas State’s volleyball and soccer programs have already clinched their spot at the top of conference projections, receiving every single Sun Belt specialty preseason award and being voted to win the conference in a preseason poll.

In the poll executed by Sun Belt head coaches, Bobcat volleyball received unanimous votes as number one in the Sun Belt conference, while the soccer program racked up six of the 12 available votes to be named season favorites.

Despite their early-season accomplishments, the volleyball team won’t let the awards keep them from putting in the work necessary to defend their conference title, head coach Karen Chisum said.

“After we patted each other on the back, we tore them up and threw them in the trash can,” Chisum said. “It puts a bigger target on our back, but we have accepted the challenge.”

According to head soccer coach Kat Conner, the team welcomes the added intensity that comes with being the conference’s number one pick.

“Pressure is a privilege,” Conner said. “We are thankful that we are thought of so highly and I am glad that this pressure is on us.”

Texas State volleyball and soccer absolutely swept the Sun Belt conference’s specialty awards.

On the volleyball team, senior Micah Dinwiddie received Preseason Defensive Player of the Year for the second time in her four years as a Bobcat libero.

“She is on a mission,” Chisum said. “She is a small feisty player with her goals set for this season.”

Senior and outside hitter Cheyenne Huskey has already set precedent this season after being chosen as the first Preseason Offensive Player of the Year in Bobcat volleyball history.

“She can do almost anything,” Chisum said. “She’s very focused and she is coming in with a different mindset.”

Sophomore Emily DeWalt received Preseason Setter of the Year and sophomore Janell Fitzgerald was listed on the All-Sun Belt team.

Bobcat soccer also took on preseason awards with 5 All-Sun Belt preseason selections including Kaylee Davis, Jordan Kondikoff, Heather Martin,



Senior transfer Rylie Fuentes serves to her teammates at the preseason Meet the Cats event Aug. 23 at Strahan Coliseum.

PHOTO BY JADEN EDISON

Genesis Turman and Sarah Everett. All but Everett were repeat selections from the previous conference-winning year, and the team was selected as the No. 1 Sun Belt projection for the first time since 2010.

Texas State soccer swept the specialty awards, taking both Preseason Offensive and Defensive Player of the Year.

Senior forward Kaylee Davis was selected as the Offensive Player of the Year after her impressive 18- goal 2018 season, a feat which tied for the most goals in a Texas State season and ranked her goalscoring at third in the nation. After her record-breaking season, Davis received the Sun Belt Player of the Year award and most recently was nominated on the MAC Hermann Trophy watch list in early August.

“Davis has an unbelievable first-step

explosion,” Conner said. “Once she gets turned, it’s quicker than people think.”

Senior goalkeeper Heather Martin was selected as the Preseason Defensive Player of the Year after coming off of a record-breaking season of her own. Martin smashed Bobcat season records with a 0.45 GAA and nearly 92 percent save percentage, giving her national rankings and helping her nomination as the 2018 Defensive Player of the Year.

“(Martin) has natural God-given talent,” Conner said. “It’s that explosiveness that makes her special.”

Both teams have high expectations after dominating the conference in the 2018 season.

Bobcat volleyball were easy champions of the Sun Belt last year, going 15-1 in conference play and making history as the first Texas State volleyball team

to advance to the second round of the NCAA tournament. Their season record ended at 27-7 in 2018 after the second-round loss against Interstate competitors the University of Texas.

Chisum believes that the team will be able to not only maintain their high level of play, but even improve in the upcoming season. In her Coach Chisum’s 41 years coaching here at Texas State, she is particularly impressed with this team’s determination.

“I don’t know if I’ve ever had a group be this focused,” Chisum said. “We have to continue to get one percent better every time we step foot in the gym.”

In addition to work ethic and focus, Chisum believes that the team’s passion will get them far in the 2019 season.

“This is a great group of young ladies that really love to be Bobcats,” Chisum said. “They are very proud of what they’ve done in the past and they really want to continue their legacy.”

Revenge and redemption are more on the minds of the soccer team, whose season ended in a heartbreaker loss in the Sun Belt Championship Final against Little Rock. The regular season champions fell short in penalty kicks, missing the NCAA tournament despite being undefeated in conference play.

Conner believes her team can repeat and win the conference again, but this time go a step further and advance to the NCAA tournament. To get to that next step, she says her team must pay attention to the small details, play to their strengths and minimize their weaknesses.

Conner also believes that this year’s team is exceptional, citing their work ethic and perseverance as their key to success.

“This group has grit,” Conner said. “They come out and work and they are always ready to achieve more. The second you think you have them done, they just keep battling.”

Both coaches would like to have as many fans as possible at their upcoming home games. Bobcat volleyball will host Liberty at noon and University of Southern California in a double header on Friday, while the soccer team will gear up for its next home match on September 1st at 7 p.m. against Houston Baptist.

GOLF

Student juggles life, machetes and golf

By Andrew Zimmer
Sports Reporter

When you think about golfers, you normally would not think about knife juggling, weight training, pageants or advanced mathematics. Meet Calvin Ross, the senior men’s golfer for the Texas State Bobcats and potentially the next great golfer in the Sun Belt Conference.

Ross was the second current Bobcat to compete in the US Amateur Championship in Pinehurst, North Carolina August 12-18.

A lot of people weren’t introduced to him for his accomplishments as a golfer but for being named “Mr. Bobcat” last fall for his machete juggling routine. Ross represented the golf team in the Delta Zeta-run competition.

“We all made a fool of ourselves up on a stage doing some dancing and stuff like that,” Ross said. “I went on to win it and I juggled in my act. It was like a comedy juggling act. I started by juggling balls, and then I finished it with juggling machetes.”

Ross went on to say machetes weren’t even the most dangerous thing that he’s juggled. Back in his home town in New Brunswick, Canada, Ross has been known to juggle his fair share of torches.

“I’ve juggled torches in the dark,” Ross said. “You can’t see the handle. You can only see the fire, so you have to know where the handle is going to be. Thing is, with the torches, you can see the fire the whole time so you



Calvin Ross swings into the sun at the US Amateur Championship.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MACKENZIE CLARK.

know if you’re going to grab it or not.” Like Calvin’s juggling talent, his dad had a lot to do with his golf game in an unexpected way. Being from Canada, hockey was always supposed to be his first sport.

“I picked up the golf club maybe

before I started playing hockey, but golf was just something to do with my dad,” Ross said. “When I was younger, he worked on a golf course and we’d watch it on TV, so my parents got me plastic clubs, and I just hit around the house. Hockey was supposed to be

SOCCER

Soccer breaks three records on opening weekend

By Claire Partain
Sports Editor

When Genesis Turman put away the Bobcat’s lone goal in the shutout game against Prairie View A&M University in San Marcos on Sunday, she probably didn’t know that the goal would help break three records.

Texas State shattered their program record in the blazing Sunday heat with 15 consecutive wins or draws. The shutout was also the 13th over PVAMU consecutively, marking the longest active streak in the nation over a single opponent as well as the longest active undefeated streak countrywide.

The goal came off a ninth-minute corner kick from senior Renny Moore and pinballed between Aggie defense and Bobcat attacks before Turman sank the ball and led the Bobcats to 1-0.

“Ricochet, ricochet, ricochet,” Turman said. “It was really just about being in the right place at the right time.”

The Bobcats kept the defense airtight for the second time this season, keeping Prairieview’s shots at three and their shots on goal at two. Goalkeeper Kathryn Budde took over the position from Heather Martin in the second half to make the only save of the game.

“I think the back line is really syncing up together,” head coach Kat Conner said. “That’s hard when you’re not getting a lot of shots and they

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FROM PAGE 13



suddenly get a quick counter on you, so to keep your mental focus on such a hot game like this, I think they’re doing an awesome job back there.”

Senior Kaylee Davis, who has already earned recognition this season as the Sun Belt’s Preseason Offensive Player of the Year, led the fight up front with five shots on goal but was unable to see them through. Despite dominating 15-3 in shots and 7-2 in shots on goal, Bobcat offense was unable to finish their numerous drives to the net.

"I thought Prairie View came out very organized and played difficult for us and put together some things that really tested us," Conner said. "We’ve got to start quicker and faster on putting on some offensive attacks and get in behind quicker so we can get better chances."

The team’s offense has struggled to follow through in both games this season. In their opening win against Incarnate Word at home on Friday, they also had a lone goal despite attempting 13 shots and four shots on goal.

Freshman Bailey Peschel claimed the win with her first collegiate goal, capitalizing off of a cross from fellow freshman Karlee Torisk and sinking the ball in the bottom right corner.

Texas State defense once again shut out their opponent’s efforts, with senior goalkeeper Martin making a save in the first half in her 26th career win and Budde stopping two advances to the net.

The Bobcats are defending regular season champions but were finessed out of the NCAA tournament in a heartbreaker loss by penalty kicks to Little Rock in the Sun Belt Championship Tournament last fall. Needless to say, revenge and redemption are on the mind of every player as they move past their winning opening weekend.

"We are going hard everyday, we have the intensity, the want to be excellent is really what we’re doing," Turman said. "‘Strive for gold’ is what we say, and that’s what we’re going for every day, no matter what it is. Whether it’s warming up, whether its stretching, whether its practicing or playing, (we want) excellence all the time."

In addition to their postseason goals, the team already has mounting pressure to maintain their conference title. In a preseason poll by Sun Belt head coaches, Texas State won 6 out of 12 votes as the projected conference champions. The Bobcats also swept the preseason specialty awards.

With a 2-0 record, the Bobcats are already on the right track to make this a winning season. However, some offensive and team improvements will have to be made before their next matchup and conference, according to Conner.

"I think it’s a little bit of composure," Conners said. "I think we’ve just got work on them going with composure, so I think that’s what we’ve got to work on this week."

The next test for Texas State is I-45 rivals UTSA in San Antonio this Friday. "I know it’s going to be high intensity," Conner said. "I know they’re going to come out after us. I know we snuck one out on them last year, so I know it’s going to be a battle, and I know we’ve got to finish our chances better, because you’re not going to get many against them."

The Bobcats will play their toughest opponent yet at 7 p.m. on Friday at UTSA before coming back home for the teal match against Houston Baptist at 7 p.m. Sunday.

ATHLETICS

Athletics announces new Tailgate Central

By Colton McWilliams
Sports Reporter

Texas State Athletics announced a major shakeup to the tailgating scene as the season draws near. The new plan includes a change in tailgating setup by creating a more cohesive, central area aptly named Tailgate Central.

"The concept of this area is to bring all Bobcat fans together into a great tailgating atmosphere," Texas State's athletic department said in a video. "Each game will have musical entertainment and bands on our main stage for all fans to enjoy."

Tailgate Central will be located on the east parking lot of Bobcat Stadium and will feature all types of fans including student organizations, vendors, Bobcat Club, an RV Park, the "T" Association Athletic Alumni Tailgate, the Alumni Association Katze Beer Garden and its most important community, the public.

The main feature of Tailgate Central has been dubbed Bobcat Boulevard, in which sponsors of the athletic department including Coca-Cola, H-E-B and Brown Distributing host games and giveaways. In addition, live music featuring local artists will be a part of every game.

Bobcat Boulevard will also be the location of the Cat Walk and Bobcat Charge. Bobcat Charge, which consists of a parade for the Texas State Strutters, cheerleaders and marching band, has been an unofficial Bobcat tradition that will hopefully soon be recognized as official.

Cat Walk is a relatively new tradition that will allow fans to see Texas State football walk live down Bobcat Boulevard two-and-a-half hours before kickoff, while Bobcat Charge will serve as a signal for Bobcats to fill the stadium an hour before the game.

Additional tailgating spots will be

located on the grass lots in front of Strahan Coliseum and a portion of the Spring Lake Field. No vehicles will be allowed here, but fans will be allowed to set up tents, tables and chairs. It is encouraged that fans don't pollute the area with leftover trash and tailgate paraphernalia.

New parking spots will also be available. Along with parking on Mill Street and Thorpe Lane, Bobcat fans can now park in Lot 5 and the University Events Center parking lot.

Fan reaction has been mostly positive, but one issue among tailgaters has been creating problems.

The creation of a six-hour time limit on tailgating has created a rift among Texas State tailgaters. A petition, created by username "Fire This" at Change.org, has been put in place to stop the time limit.


"Overbearing rules and regulations including a 6 hour before kick off-limit have effectively killed the game-day experience for fans," the petition says. "Limiting the time allotted for tailgate forces alumni and fans, especially those traveling long distances (Dallas and Houston). In the past, fans have decided to forgo their own set up due to these restrictions which limits fan experience, engagement, and attendance at games."

Though the six-hour time limit has some Bobcat fans miffed, the new tailgate setup hopes to settle previous problems without creating too many restrictions.

For those interested in participating in Tailgate Central, the athletic department can provide anyone with tents and others in Tent Village on the west side of the stadium starting at \$600.

The new tailgate will kick into action as the Bobcats battle Wyoming in Bobcat Stadium on Saturday, September 7.

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TEXAS STATE
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

FROM PAGE 16 GOLF

my main sport and I played really competitive hockey growing up, but my golf continued to get better and better.”

Eventually, Ross had to make the difficult choice between the two sports.

“By my sophomore year of high school, I had to make a decision (on) which one I wanted to pursue because if I’m only doing one for half a year, I get rusty the rest the next half of the year,” Ross said. “I played for six or seven months a year playing hockey, then I’d take five or six months off. Well, when everybody I competed against trained at that time, I was on the golf course.”

The training paid off. In August, Calvin was only the second Bobcat ever to qualify for the US Amateur Championship, the premier tournament for young golfers that has had past champions that include Tiger Woods and Jack Nicklaus. Ross qualified for the tournament after he was the medalist at the Ledges Golf Club in York, Maine on July 15. After finishing on top, he and his friend who also doubles as his caddy made the flight from Maine to North Carolina to play in the tournament.

At Pinchurst, Ross didn’t have his best showing. After nine holes, Ross was sitting at +7 and staring at a back nine that would make coming back tricky. Between a weather delay after the ninth hole Ross said he got a text from his swing coach.

“He told me to stay positive and that I was still in in it,” Ross said. “All I needed to do was go two

under par in my next nine holes to get to +5 and that was where the playoff (to advance) was at.”

After giving himself a look for birdie on both holes coming back and going par on holes 12 and 13, he was just hanging on before becoming aggressive down the stretch.

“So, we are standing at the 18th tee, eight over par. I basically needed to make a one to advance,” Ross said. “Then the horn goes. The play was suspended because of darkness, so I had to come up the next day to play the 18th hole and at that point I knew there was no chance. It was 450 yards out, uphill and into the wind. I’m not going to make a one.”

Even though Ross missed the cut, the applied math major who graduates this coming May wasn’t downtrodden and came away from the tournament knowing that he could compete with some of the best young golfers in the world.

“I have the game to compete against these guys,” Ross said. “It wasn’t there that day, it could have been there, and if it was there, I would’ve been a top 64 for sure. And then like I said, anything could happen. Just to realize that days like that happen, but I had the ability to be competing against those guys up the top of the leaderboard.”

As the golf season begins for Texas State in the next few weeks, Ross has a chance this season to not only finish as one of the Bobcats best male golfers but also work towards his goal of playing on the pro golf circuit.

PICK 'EM BY STAFF

Editor's note: The University Stars sports and editorial staff, as well as a guest picker each week, predict the outcomes for the coming week of the college football schedule. This week:

Texas State V Texas A&M University- 7:30 p.m. Thursday Aug. 29 at Kyle Field College Station, Tx.

Texas V LA Tech- 8:00 p.m. Saturday Aug. 31 at Darrel K. Royal- Texas Memorial stadium Austin, Tx.

FIU V Tulane- 8:00 p.m. Thursday Aug. 29 at Yulman stadium New Orleans, LA.

Jakob R. Rodriguez

Editor-In-Chief:

Texas A&M

Texas

FIU

Claire Partain

Sports Editor:

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Texas

Tulane

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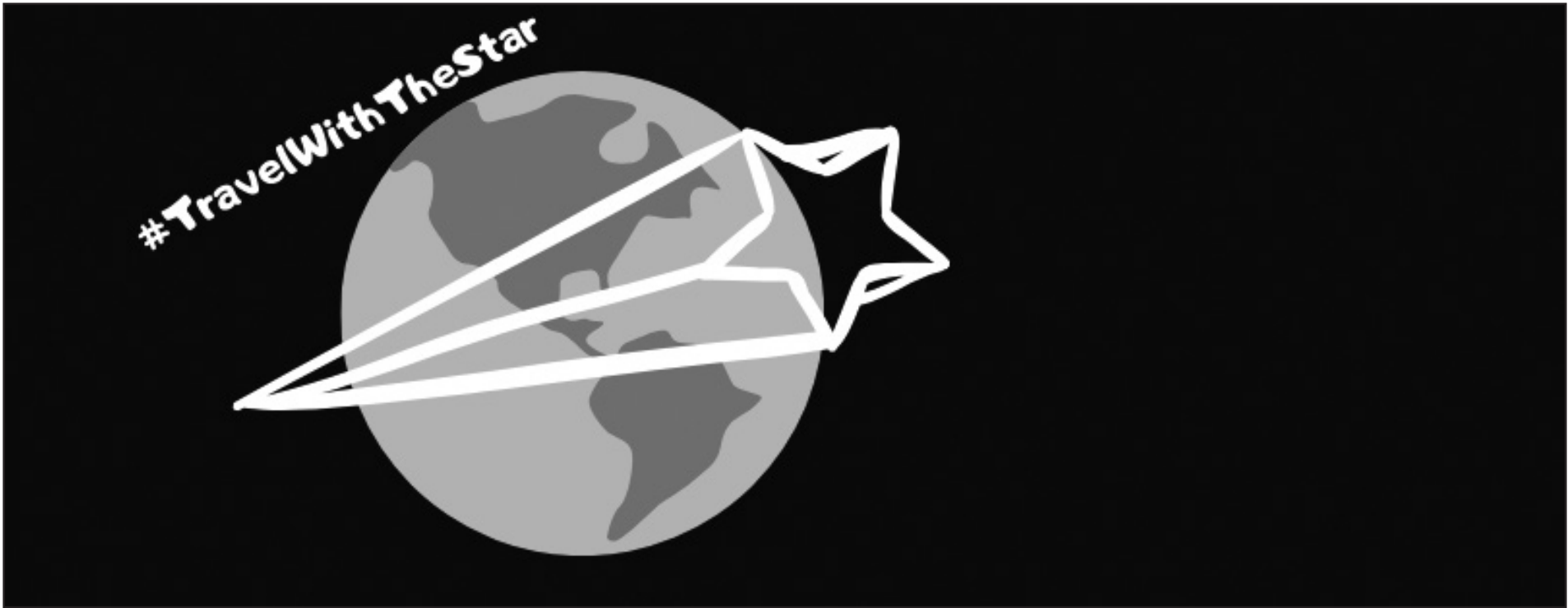
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The famous 'Home Alone' house, where actor Macaulay Culkin portrayed Kevin McCalister, sits on July 6 in Winnetka, IL.

PHOTO BY JADEN EDISON



Visitors and tourists spend time on a carousel on July 3 at Navy Pier in Chicago, IL.

PHOTO BY JADEN EDISON



News Editor Sonia Garcia visited Dublin, Ireland in June on her Mass Communications study abroad program.

PHOTO BY SONIA GARCIA



A monkey at Iwatayama Monkey Park is a commercial located in Arashiyama in Kyoto, Japan.

PHOTO BY JAKOB RODRIGUEZ



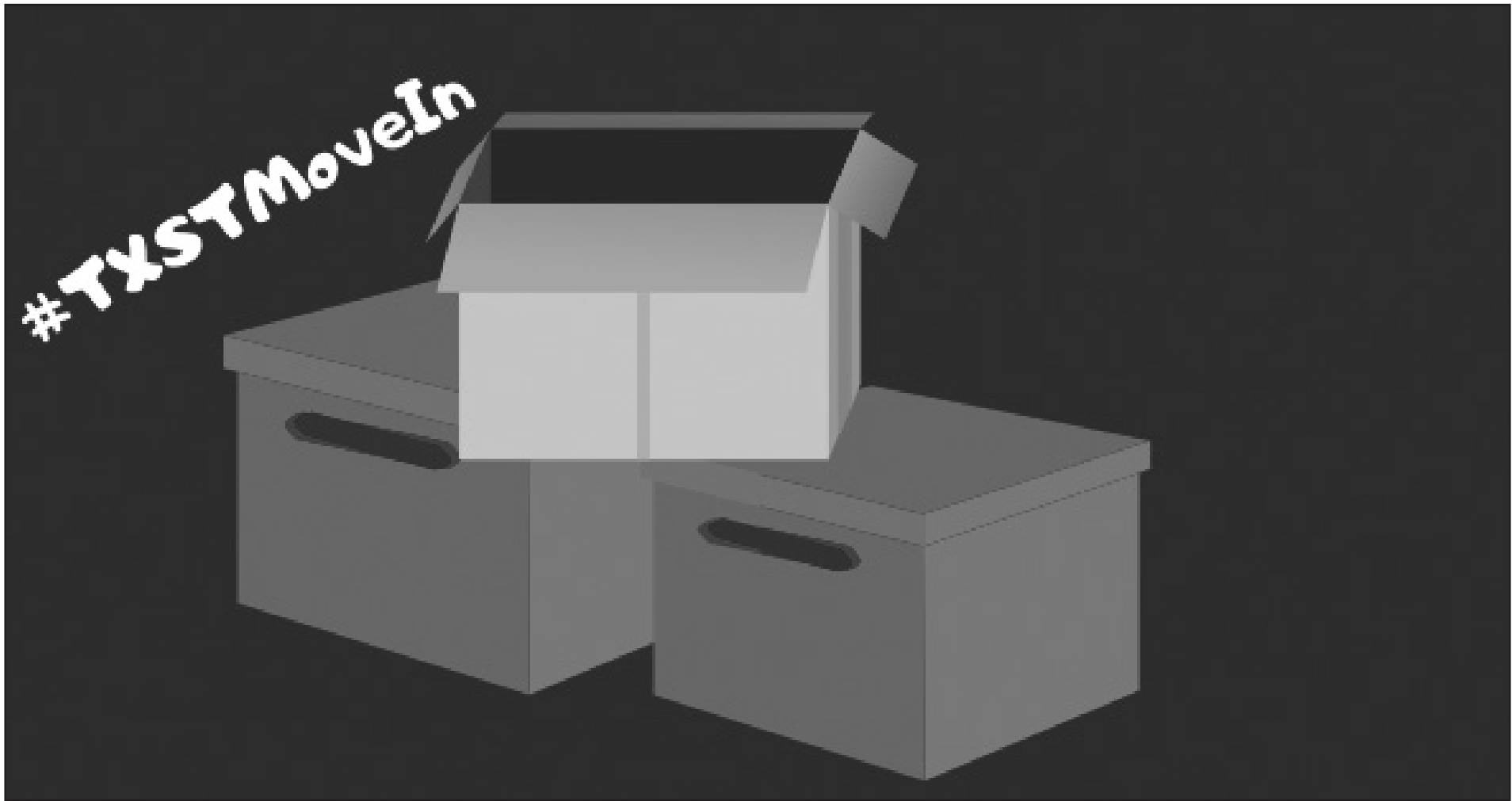
A cross walk in Akihabara, a buzzing shopping hub famed for its electronics retailers, ranging from tiny stalls to vast department stores.

PHOTO BY JAKOB RODRIGUEZ



Study abroad students walk the streets of London in June.

PHOTO BY SONIA GARCIA



Chase Toupal (left) and Hunter Conway walk their belongings into Gaillardia and Chautauqua Hall on Aug. 17.
PHOTO BY JADEN EDISON



Incoming freshman Adam Dewind leads his family and belongings into Gaillardia and Chautauqua Hall on Aug. 17 on Student Center Drive.
PHOTO BY JADEN EDISON



Incoming freshman Abby Cooper rolls her belongings on a cart into Gaillardia and Chautauqua Hall on Aug. 17 on Student Center Drive..
PHOTO BY JADEN EDISON



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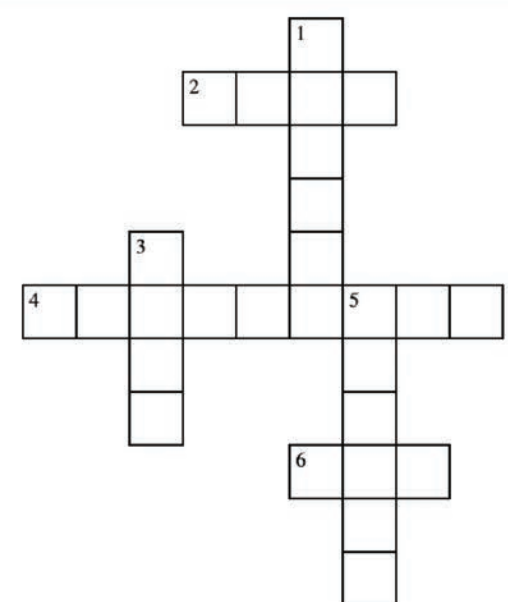




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BACK TO SCHOOL BROADCAST 8.17 + 8.18	LUNCHBOX 9.5	LUNCHBOX 10.3	LUNCHBOX 11.7
MEET THE STAFF 8.24 - 8.31	QUAD DAY 9.17 + 9.19	COLLEGE RADIO DAY 10.4	QUAD DAY 11.19 + 11.21
WELCOME BACK BLOWOUT 8.27	THIRD THURSDAY 9.19	QUAD DAY 10.15 + 10.17	THIRD THURSDAY 11.21
	SATURDAZE 9.21	THIRD THURSDAY 10.17	SATURDAZE 11.23
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