Lubbock City Council to discuss ban on synthetic drugs

By CATHERINE MCKEE STAFF WRITER

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The Lubbock City Council will discuss the sale and use of legal synthetic marijuana in Lubbock at its meeting 6:15 p.m. Thursday at City Hall.

The Council will discuss a resolution directing the City of Lubbock Board of Health to examine the sale, use and hazards of synthetic marijuana as well as bath salts.

Gina Johnson, a freshman secondary education major at Lubbock Christian University,

marijuana being sold in Lubbock smoke shops when her 18-year-old son became a user.

to the Council's attention Thursday during its meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem and Councilwoman for District 5 Karen Gibson said she was unaware of the substance's legal sales until Johnson appeared before the Council.

Synthetic marijuana, Johnson said, is sold in about 30 smoke shops in Lubbock and although a person must be at least 18 years

first learned of the legal synthetic old to enter a smoke shop, the she said. "People that don't know substance is available to people of all ages.

The side effects of the sub-Johnson brought the substance stance, she said, include hallucinations, vomiting, chills, sweating, paranoia and the possibility of high blood pressure.

> Johnson said she knows this first-hand because her son has experienced most of the side effects. She said she discovered her

juana in May. "I'm still fighting with him on a daily basis, but I want to stop

son was a user of synthetic mari-

tent and addictive than normal marijuana. this before it gets any further,"

The substance comes in small

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that this is out there are still try-

ing it, and they're still having

these massive effects. People that

do know that it's out there don't

know what these effects can be.

They don't know how severe it is."

scooby snax, SpongeBud and

juana, Johnson said synthetic

marijuana is 10 times more po-

Aside from simulating mari-

packages and may contain different chemicals and ingredients on a daily basis. This, she said, is why so many people have had harmful effects after using once or hundreds of times. Although the City of Lubbock

Synthetic marijuana, she said, cannot take any official action vet, Gibson said she urges the is often called legal, K2, spice, Council to take the substance seriously.

> The first step, however, is to study the health issues related to the use of the substance, she said.

Whereas a first step may be necessary, Gibson said she does not think it will be enough.

Gibson said she suggests an emergency 90-day ban on synthetic marijuana in the City of Lubbock until its effects can be further examined and more action can be taken.

The problem with placing an overall ban on the substance, she said, is that manufacturers can tweak the chemicals within the substance.

This makes the ban ineffective because it only can be placed on specific ingredients within the substance, Gibson said.

DRUGS continued on Page 2

Texas Tech police captain gives tips for holiday travels

By NICOLE MOLTER STAFF WRITER

After final exams end, many students are tested on the highways going home for Christmas

Interstate 27, Highway 114 and Interstate 20 are busy highways during holidays, said Steve Hinkle, administrative captain at the Texas Tech Police Department. Holiday traffic and distractions can cause problems on the road.

Hinkle said he advises carpooling or traveling in a group of cars headed to the same destination.

"Just having other people," he said. "No. 1, that would be for people that are driving at night, so they don't get tired. If you have any car problems, of course you have somebody to help you out."

Being tired is a dangerous distraction on the road, especially for drivers making a trip alone, Hinkle said. He said if a driver gets tired, he advises them to pull off the road, take a nap if needed or get out and walk around.

Paying attention to speeds, road construction and construction workers also is important, he said. Many areas have increased speed limits to 75 mph.

"(Department of Public Safety) highway patrol is always out, especially during the holidays," Hinkle said, "because there's a lot of travelers on the road. Watch for road construction. There's been a lot of construction between here and the Fort Worth area on (Highway) 84, I-20 and Highway 114.'

Limiting distractions inside the vehicle is important, he said. Small distractions, such as texting, can cause accidents, especially while traveling at high speeds.

"It's not a violation of the law to text and drive in the state of Texas," Hinkle said, "but that's not something that I would recommend. Answering a phone

call, I don't really see a problem with. Definitely trying to drive and dial a number, those are dangerous things especially going at a high rate of speed." When taking an overnight

trip or a trip across the country, planning out stops, such as stops. at gas stations, restaurants and hotels, are important, Hinkle

Blake Silverthorn, a freshman electronic media and communications major from Plano, said he will be making a five-hour drive home.

"I make sure I get a good night sleep the night before," he said. "I only stop one time, so that I'm focused on driving, not stopping. I go potty before I leave. I make sure that I'm hydrated and awake. If I need an energy drink, I drink one so I'm not dosing off. That's never good. If I'm driving with someone, maybe I'll switch off."

When dealing with crazy drivers, pass them if possible or just let them pass you, Silverthorn "It's dangerous and that's

something you can't control," he said. "You can control putting your phone down or whatever."

According to the Texas Department of Transportation, there were 23 fatalities from car crashes in Texas between Dec. 23 and Dec. 26 of last year. Accidents can be caused by many different things.

"Speeding would be probably your top one - people not being able to control their vehicle when they're speeding," he said. "Cellphone use is another and that could be texting or talking on the phone. A lot of people try to dial numbers and don't pay attention to the road because they're staring at their phone."

The accident could be caused by a distracted driver or by someone else trying to swerve and miss another car, he said.

"I'd say just stay safe in general," Hinkle said. "Keep your wits about you when you're driving." >>> nmolter@dailytoreador.com

Public Persuasion



PHOTO BY EMILY MCCARTHY/The Daily Toreador

THE WINNER OF the eight final contestants of the "Speak Up! Competition," Emily Little, a freshman honors, arts and letters major from Cyprus, gives her persuasive speech on voting Tuesday in the Allen Theatre in the Student Union Building.

Tech students compete in public speaking competition, Josh Abbott performs

By ASHLYN TUBBS STAFF WRITER

While performing in the Allen Theatre on Tuesday, Texas Tech alumnus and Texas country band singer Josh Abbott paused to make one

"We're in a theater," he said, "so I can't sing fast beer drinking songs and I can't cuss."

Abbott joined eight business and communications speakers onstage as part of the final round of SpeakUp!, a public speaking competition.

that began with 1,300 students from various sections of public speaking and business and professional communications classes. Only 52 advanced to the preliminary rounds, which was narrowed to 24, then eight. The finalists chosen for the final round competed to win cash prizes, runners-up receiving \$25 each, third place \$50, second place \$75 and a grand prize of \$100.

"The contest allows students to showcase their communication skills," said Joy Anderson, course director of business and professional communication. "Contestants are judged on

These contestants were selected by a process their ability to assess their audience, craft a logical, well-researched message and their ability to deliver that message.'

Contestants in the event included Tayler Green, Victoria Holloway, Abby Prause, Amelia Nasser, Matt Randolph, Dolly Oseni, Emily Little and Matt Watson. Public speaking students could select any topic to speak about, but business and professional communication students were required to deliver a marketing pitch about a product or service.

SPEAKERS continued on Page 3

HSC organizations host HIV/AIDS awareness week events

By EFRAIN DUARTE STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech Health Sciences Center hosted a viewing of the film "A Closer Walk" at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, which, Nicole Mitchell, a second-year medical student from Lubbock and president of the Student National Medical Association, said profiles

individuals affected by the HIV.

The movie is an effort by four organizations in the TTUHSC to raise awareness about the human immunodeficiency virus or HIV. The organizations include the International Medicine Club, the Student National Medical Association, the American Medical Student Association and the Office of International Affairs at the TTUHSC.

On Monday the organizations had a luncheon with an HIV disease specialist who, Breanna Goodwin, a second-year medical student from Bonham and International Medicine Club president said, practiced medicine when the HIV epidemic began in America.

HSC continued on Page 2

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WEATHER

Partly Cloudy



Partly Cloudy

Gleinser: Lessons learned in college valuable in life OPINIONS, Pg. 4





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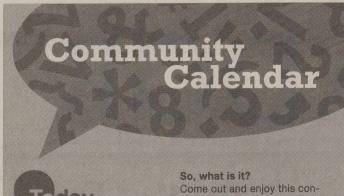
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So, what is it?

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Ginger Ninjas at Texas Café

Where: The Texas Café and Bar

Come o"ut and enjoy some mu-

sic from Ginger Ninjas featuring

Dusty Cook and Zach Newberry.

and Bar "The Spoon"

Time: 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Uliursday

Ir€dav

clarinet students.

Clarinet Studio Recital Time: 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Where: Hemmle Recital Hall So, what is it? Come out and enjoy a performance from David Shea's

Scrabble Club Time: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Where: Market Street So, what is it? Come meet with the local Scrabble Club. All levels of

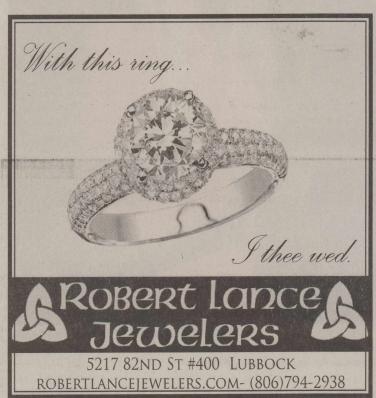
Josh Abbott and Pat Green Acoustic Time: 10 p.m.

competition are welcome

To make a calendar submission email dailytoreador@ttu.edu.

Events will be published either the day or the day before they take place. Submissions must be sent in by 4 p.m. on the preceding publication date.

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Today's

	9		7	6			
		1	5				4
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6				4	7		
	1		8	4		4	

In Sudoku, all the numbers 1 to 9 must be in every row, column and 3 x 3 box. Use logic to define the answers.



"Life is a gift, and it offers us the privilege, opportunity, and responsibility to give something back by becoming more."

~Anthony Robbins

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Drugs← **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

"These people can do whatever they

want to," she said. "It is sickening." She also said the City Attorney, Sam Medina, is checking into what legal action can be taken, including placing an age requirement for buyers.

Making people aware of the side effects of synthetic marijuana is the key to combat its usage, Gibson said.

"Our best bet is just going to be to educate people," she said, "until we can figure out how to take care of it."

Johnson said she has been urging smoke shops to discontinue the sale

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A flower wall will be constructed in

the Free Speech Area of the Student

Union Building on Wednesday, and

Greg Hannabas, a second-year medical

student from Plainview and president

of the American Medical Student As-

sociation, said the wall will raise money

for local HIV detection and awareness

Thursday, the final day of the aware-

A bracelet-making station, Goodwin

ness events, Project CHAMPS, a local

group for those with an HIV positive

said, also will be available for people

status, will come to the TTUHSC.

HSC←

who come to make bracelets for those affected by HIV.

of synthetic marijuana, but the money

"People are making a fortune off this

stuff, and they're marketing it to kids.

ating a website to educate people not

only of the Lubbock community but

also across the nation about the effects

list which businesses have not banned

the sale of the substance on a "wall of

On the website, she said she would

Johnson said she is working on cre-

for many shops to pass up.

without clientele either.

of synthetic marijuana.

It's just crazy.'

shame.

Goodwin said the Center for Disease Control released a report stating the group with the highest rate of infection.

"The CDC released a report this year stating the greatest rate of infection is among youth and those youth are not aware of their HIV status," she said.

Mitchell said the age range of those with the highest rate of infection is 13 to 24 years old and minorities also are affected.

"HIV disease affects low socioeconomic people and many of the minorities," she said.

Currently in Lubbock, Mitchell said there are 400 to 500 people who are

generated from the substance is too good it's legal, it's safe and it's not," Johnson said. "It's not safe at all. And it's not that Smoke shops, Gibson said, are not it's legal. It's that we can't keep up with these manufacturers to keep it banned." "This is a huge industry," she said.

"A lot of (people) think that because

Johnson said she hopes a nationwide ban will be placed on all substances which simulate marijuana.

J.B. Felipe, a junior electronic media and communications major from Fort Worth, said he questions the safety of the substance, but is neutral in the argument against it.

"People are interested in trying new things, I guess, and it's legal, and if they want to try it and they want to go for it, I'll support it, but I wouldn't do it,"

Globally, Goodwin said, AIDSrelated diseases have killed more than 30 million people. There are 34 million people in the world living with an HIV

Thinking that touching or shaking someone's hand can transmit HIV is a common misconception of HIV.

"(HIV) is sexually transmitted, but you can also get it from blood transfusions," she said.

While people cannot get rid of the virus, Michelle Ensminger, manager of the Office of International Affairs of the TTUHSC, said the virus can be

"Once you have HIV you can manage it and live a long, healthy and

However, Felipe said he sees the regulation of the substance in Lubbock as positive.

"I think the ban would be sort of a good thing," he said. "It's all about experiences, I guess, in college. People want to try synthetic marijuana and see what it does. There's good and bad in it. It's their choice.

Johnson said she will attend every City Council meeting until legal action has been taken against synthetic

She said if people know someone who is having a reaction to the substance, they should first call 911 and Poison Control second.

>>> cmckee@dailytoreador.com

productive life," she said.

Ex-NBA player Magic Johnson has lived with HIV since 1991 and has had a healthy life after becoming HIV positive,

Ensminger said. The uncertainty of knowing one's HIV status, Hannabas said, is a risk.

"When you do not know you have (HIV), or do not know you are at risk, you run the risk of spreading it," he said.

Some recent advancement in the eradication of the virus, Mitchell said, is the creation of a vaccine.

"The key is to catch it early," she said. One of the first steps of educating people, Hannabas said, is to spread awareness on how they can get tested.

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Makings of fiscal deal behind the hot rhetoric

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bluster and hot rhetoric aside, the White House and House Republicans have identified areas of significant overlap that could form the basis for a final agreement after "fiscal cliff" posturing gives way to hard bargaining.

Both sides now concede that tax revenue and reductions in entitlement spending are essential elements of any deal. If the talks succeed, it probably will be because House Speaker John Boehner yields on raising tax rates for top earners and the White House bends on how to reduce spending on Medicare and accepts some changes in Social Security.

The White House and Boehner kept up the ridicule of each other's negotiating stances on Tuesday. But beneath the tough words were the possible makings of a deal that could borrow heavily from a near-bargain last year during debt-limit negotiations.

Then, President Barack Obama was willing to reduce cost-of-living increases for Social Security beneficiaries and increase the eligibility age for Medicare, as Boehner and other top Republicans have demanded. On Tuesday, Obama did not shut the door on Republican ideas on such entitlement programs.

"I'm prepared to make some tough decisions on some of these issues," Obama said, "but I can't ask folks who are, you know, middle class seniors who are on Medicare, young people who are trying to get student loans to go to college, I can't ask them to sacrifice and not ask anything of higher income folks."

"I'm happy to entertain other ideas that the Republicans may present," he added in an interview with Bloomberg At the core, the negotiations center

on three key points: whether tax rates for upper income taxpayers should go up, how deeply to cut spending on entitlements such as Medicare and how to deal with raising the government's borrowing limit early next year.

White House spokesman Jay Carney dismissed Boehner's proposals as "magic beans and fairy dust.

Boehner countered: "If the president really wants to avoid sending the economy over the fiscal cliff, he has done nothing to demonstrate it."

Tax rates have emerged as one of the most intractable issues, with Obama insisting the rates on the top 2 percent of earners must go up and Boehner standing steadfast that they must not.

Boehner, instead, has proposed raising \$800 billion through unspecified loophole closings and limits on tax

On Tuesday, the president said he would consider lowering rates for the top 2 percent of earners — next year, not now — as part of a broader tax overhaul effort that would close loopholes, limit deductions and find other sources of government revenue. "It's possible that we may be able to lower rates by broadening the base at that point," Obama said.

Suspect being questioned in deadly NYC subway push

NEW YORK (AP) — Police ques- vendors near Rockefeller Center, New Tuesday, but he hasn't yet been charged. of a New Yorker who was pushed onto the tracks and photographed just before a train hit him — an image that drew virulent criticism after it appeared on the front page of the New York Post.

Investigators recovered security video showing a man fitting the description of the assailant working with street

tioned a suspect Tuesday in the death York Police Department spokesman Paul

Witnesses told investigators they saw the suspect talking to himself Monday afternoon before he approached Ki-Suck Han at the Times Square station, got into an altercation with him and pushed him into the train's path.

Police took the man into custody

VILLAGES.

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after being struck. Police said he tried to climb a few feet to safety but got trapped between the train and the platform's edge.

The Post published a photo on its front page Tuesday of Han desperately looking at the train, his arms reaching up but unable to climb off the tracks in time. It was shot by freelance photographer R. Umar Abbasi, who was waiting to catch a train as the situation unfolded.

Abbasi said in a video interview on the Post's website that he used the flash on his camera to try to warn the train driver that someone was on the tracks. He said he wasn't strong enough to lift Han.

"I wanted to help the man, but I couldn't figure out how to help," Abbasi said. "It all happened so fast."

Emotional questions arose Tuesday Han, 58, of Queens, died shortly over the published photograph of the helpless man standing before the oncoming train accompanied by the headline that read in part: "This man is about

The moral issue among professional photojournalists in such situations is "to document or to assist," said Kenny Irby, an expert in the ethics of visual journalism at the Poynter Institute, a Florida-based nonprofit journalism school.

Other media outlets chimed in on the controversy, many questioning why the photograph had been taken and published.

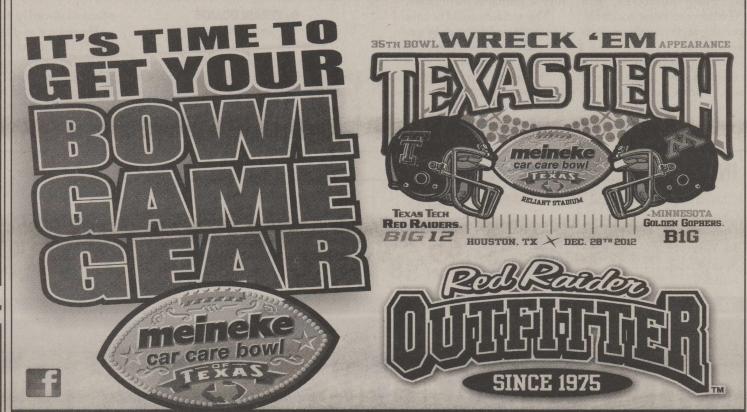
"I'm sorry. Somebody's on the tracks. That's not going to help," said Al Roker on NBC's "Today" show as the photo was displayed.

Funeral services in place for Tech student

Funeral services for junior civil engineering major Philip Wampler, a Lubbock native who died Sunday from unknown causes, will be held 1 p.m. Wednesday at LakeRidge United Methodist Church.

The church is located at 4701 82nd St. in Lubbock. Reverend Bill Couch will officiate. Burial will follow the service at Becton Cemetery.

>>> cmckee@dailytoreador.com



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PAGE 3 WEDNESDAY, DEC. 5, 2012

Take a break before finals at R&R Night

By LIANA SOLIS STAFF WRITER

Giving students a chance to have some time to relax before the week of finals starts is something Texas Tech

The Tech Activities Board and the Residence Hall Association are hosting the semi-annul Rest and Relaxation Night today in the Student Union Building Courtyard.

Farha Habeeb, a graduate assistant for TAB, said TAB has been doing this for quite some time now.

"It's something that the board has always done because we know how much the students like it," Habeeb said. "That's why we keep bringing it back."

The event is hosted every year on the day before dead day, Habeeb said.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

body president Alex Alston, Colleen

Evans of the Lubbock Chamber of

Commerce and Abbott. Concluding

the competition, they chose Tayler

Green as third place winner with her

speech about reducing farm subsidies,

Matt Watson as second place with

his speech about how to be a more informed voter, and Emily Little

as best persuasive speaker with her

speech about the importance of being

Little, a freshman honors, arts

"I am very honored that I made it

and letters major from Cypress, said

competing in the competition was

this far," she said. "I am completely

shocked because I did not expect that

dents attending competition, some

there for extra credit for a class, others

to hear Abbott sing.1

The theatre was filled with stu-

at all, but God does great things."

nerve wracking, but awesome.

an informed voter.

Judges included Tech student

Speakers -

"We wanted to give the students that if they keep studying non-stop, it somewhere to go where they could take a break and slow their stress down." Habeeb down.

The event will have free food, massage stations, video games and more, Habeeb said.

Kasey Taylor, a sophomore English major from Flower Mound, is attending the event for her second time because she liked it so much the first time.

"Last semester when I went, I was so stressed out before," Taylor said. "Going to R&R night really helped me take a break so I wouldn't drive myself crazy.'

Though it's good for students to study a lot for finals, studying without taking breaks can be unhealthy, Taylor said.

"I think a lot of students think

will help (them) process the information better," Taylor said. "They don't understand that they need to slow down and relax every once in awhile."

The event will run from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. and all students are welcome, Habeeb said.

"The fact is, students love study breaks," Habeeb said. "This gives a good initiative for students to take one at no cost to them."

TAB partnered up with RHA to have a second location for R&R night in the Wall/Gates Residence Hall lobby so more students can attend, Habeeb said.

"I really liked that Tech gave the students something to do where they can slow down and actually breathe for a little," Taylor said.

>>> Isolis@dailytoreador.com

Kevin Krahl, a sophomore electrical engineering major from Houston, joined the audience for both reasons.

"I thought Josh Abbott playing at the event was a pretty good incentive to receive extra credit for my speech class," he said. "I enjoyed the speeches, and the songs Josh Abbott sang about Texas Tech were very good."

Lauren Hoyle, a senior communication and economics major from Plano, said she also attended the event for extra credit, but said she really enjoyed listening to the speeches.

"I thought they were very informative and beneficial to teach me a lot of things I didn't know about a lot of topics," she said. "The speech over taking breaks from technology was my favorite because she really grabbed my attention by using hu-

Anderson said it was an honor to have Abbott join the judge's panel and entertain the audience while the results were being determined.

"Josh Abbott is one of our own," she said. "Josh earned his bachelor's in communication studies in 2004. He began our master's program in 2006 and will graduate in December with his master's in communication

Abbott said it was difficult choosing a winner for the competition, but feels the judges made the right

"It was a lot of pressure," he said. "Every single speaker was good."

Abbott told the audience he met his wife as a teacher's assistant at Tech and encouraged students who have crushes on their TA's and to not give up hope because it is possible. He sang his song he wrote for her, "She's Like Texas," along with "Oh, Tonight" and his most recent song he wrote specifically for Tech, "Victory Bells."

"It felt really cool to be on campus again to play these songs for all the students," he said. "I got goose bumps, since this is the first time I've played 'Victory Bells' in an intimate setting. I've played it at some live shows and at JAB fest, but this was a little different. I loved it."

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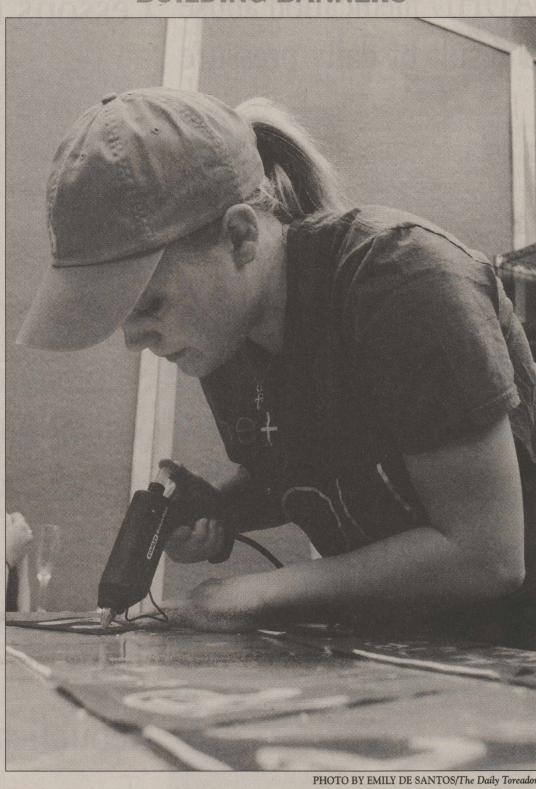


PHOTO BY EMILY DE SANTOS/The Daily Toreador

SHELBY STEVENS, A junior early childhood education major from New Braunfels, makes a Christmas banner during a Rethinking Art Education class Tuesday in the Art building. The banner will serve as Steven's final project.



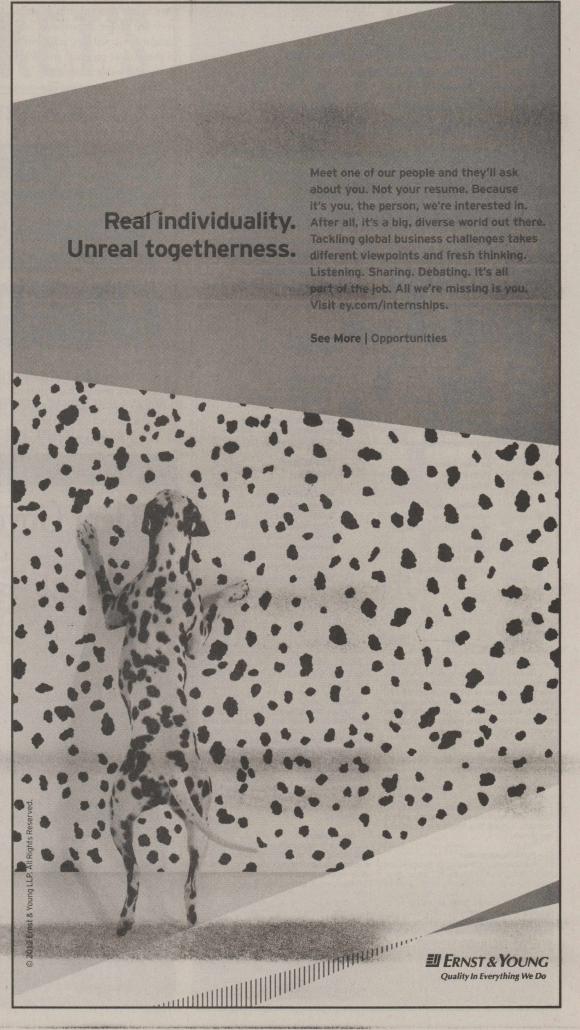
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OPINIONS

a result of daily pressure

I have this friend who needed a little help studying and decided he'd use a little stimulant. His hands were shaky. He felt like his heart was beating really fast. It was pretty much the same reaction he had after chugging a Monster energy drink. But these side effects of the Concerta pill he popped to study for finals were just a small price to pay.

He also felt focused, driven and determined, and got way more studying and homework done than he does normally. Like many college students, when he attempts to study or pull an all-nighter, the typical enemies of progress attack: Twitter, Facebook, Netflix and Pandora.

"I'll copy these notes while I watch this episode of One Tree Hill on Netflix," and, "I'll check Twitter after I finish this chapter," are often heard in these instances. He cannot possibly be the only one to be guilty of this. With so many distractions, it is nearly impossible to be focused on your schoolwork

Sometimes we need a boost (or so we believe). ADHD medication like Adderall and Concerta are what I like to call "cognitive steroids." And yes, I admit to having a friend who has fallen victim to the pressure of doing well while in college and taken a pill once or twice before. I'm not completely sure he should feel guilty about it, though.

I hadn't heard of taking ADHD medication for studying until I got to college. Apparently, it was quite the norm. But after researching it online, I noticed many high school students take them, too. When I think about it, it makes perfect sense. The demand and pressure for high school students is ridiculous.

I pretty much coasted through high school, even taking AP classes. Somehow I managed to graduate with a 3.7 GPA anyway. Obviously, I got a rude awakening once I finally made it to college. But not all high school students have it that easy. The competition is suffocating sometimes.

My senioritis was in overdrive, so I didn't care a great deal, much to my mother's dismay. With that 3.7, I still didn't make it into the top 10 percent of my class; I was only in the top quarter. In school districts like mine, you nearly have to take all AP classes and get As in them to get into the top 10 percent and thereby get automatic admission into the Texas college of your choice.

Like I said, I didn't care too much about the automatic admission. Every high school student isn't afflicted with the chronic indifference I was blessed with, and many take to different mea-

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Berea Orange



sures to answer the pressure of their parents and peers. Some high school students use Adderall, too. It just gets worse in college.

A study done in a CNN article in September 2011 said Adderall is abused more than marijuana, and it's also easier to get. One in five college students use Adderall without having ADHD. We should all know the possible side effects of Adderall drug abuse before finals week hits us. They include nervousness, restlessness, uncontrollable shaking of part of the body, headache, and difficulty sleeping, among other things.

But the most important fact to me is that when taken irregularly in small doses, Adderall is most likely harmless. Realistically, it just does not seem like a big deal to me when taken responsibly (if you can say illegally using medication not prescribed to you is responsible). Marijuana has already been legalized for recreational use in a few states. I think Adderall is the

A little cognitive enhancement with some regulations should be accepted. Before our parents and teachers get all "disappointed" in us for wanting a little "help," they should consider the pressure they put on us. Average students have no place in graduate school or college. In today's society, you have to be involved in school activities, do community service, make As and maybe a couple of Bs in your classes and, if you are a true rock star, have a job, too.

Older people like to tell us about their "struggle" growing up. While it was a legitimate struggle, it was no more a struggle than ours. Our struggle is bending over backwards to meet the demands of today. As an excelling high school student turned mediocre college student who works full time, is part of an organization, and still manages to write for this paper, I feel that struggle every day.

So what I'd say to those who are "disappointed" by the use of our cognitive steroids is this: Alleviate some of the pressure and maybe we wouldn't have to resort to such measures.

Orange is a senior human development and family studies major from Arlington.

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ADHD medication abuse Lessons learned in college valuable in life

On the cusp of graduation, I sit here today and reflect on my time at Texas Tech. I just attended my last Carol of Lights, just went through my last football season and am preparing for my last set of final exams as an undergrad. It's certainly bittersweet.

Even though I'm excited to see what this new chapter in my life will bring, part of me really doesn't want this to end. I've enjoyed my time here, and it went by way too fast. It seems only a few months ago I had just moved into Bledsoe Hall and was using a map to get around campus.

I've loved my time working for The Daily Toreador, especially these last few months as opinions editor. I've made some great friends and even ruffled a few feathers along the way, which is something I've never been afraid to do. My attitude as a columnist has always been if you're not writing opinions someone would disagree with, you're not doing your job right. Maybe that's oversimplifying things, but I don't think I've ever been accused of being complicated.

I've heard on a number of occasions that college is about finding yourself, about figuring out who you are and what you want to do. I never really noticed any of that happening, but now that I look back, I realize how true it is.

Since I've been in college, I've gone from wanting to be

an engineer to a wanting to be a teacher, then a professor. Now I've been accepted to the Texas Tech University School of Law. I just hope I don't change my mind again, because after paying for law school, I probably won't be able to afford to make a switch.

When I was a freshman, I had my political beliefs, though I really wasn't sure about them. There was no conviction behind them whatsoever, and I really would not have done well making an argument. Now, I know what I believe and why I believe it, though I'm still learning, as I hope always to be.

While I'm on the subject of politics, I should point to something else I've learned. Even though people may completely disagree on something, it doesn't mean one of them is evil, stupid, racist, a reincarnation of Hitler or anything else along those lines. Chances are they're perfectly fine people who happen to have different

A very local case in point is arguably the defining event of my time at Tech: The Mike Leach firing. To this day, people are still divided on the issue, which to me unified we once were, and we've still yet to completely heal.

Some of my previous columns were not quite so diplomatic, though. To say the least, I wasn't particularly fond of the Tech administration for its actions during the Leach episode. But earlier this fall, I had a chance to personally meet with Chancellor Kent Hance to discuss his 1978 congressional race against George W. Bush.

While I admit I was a little nervous, I found Hance to be very nice and down-to-earth, and he generously answered all my questions. It made me realize that even though I'll always believe the situation wasn't handled as well as it could have been, no one in this conflict is evil, and the administration simply did what it felt was in the best interests of the university.

In other words, it's important to respect those with whom you disagree. It's one of the greatest lessons I've learned in college, and one that is often forgotten by so many people today. Perhaps if some of our esteemed Washington politicians would do a better job in that regard, we could have more beneficial compromise and less partisan rhetoric.

If there is one complaint I have about my time at Tech, it would be that some of the instructors I've had simply are not qualified to teach. I've had teachers whose English was barely understandable, which makes learning a lot tougher

is heartbreaking. I remember how when you're trying to decipher what the instructor is saying. I've struggled in these situations and have seen others struggle as well, and it's tough to deal with when I look at the price of tuition these

> Likewise, I've had professors who are simply not very good at teaching or only do it because they have to. I'm sure these people are all brilliant researchers, but some of them simply shouldn't be teaching. I know this problem is not confined to Tech, as it is the case at most universities, and tight budgets don't allow for the hiring of better instructors, but I still feel it's an area that could be improved.

> At the same time, I've had some really great teachers, both here at Tech and throughout my life, and they have all proven that while teaching is sometimes a thankless profession, there really is no substitute for great teachers.

All things considered, if I could go back to high school and do everything over again, I wouldn't change a thing. Though I didn't grow up wanting to come to Tech, it's now a part of who I am, and I consider Lubbock my second home. For everything I've learned, and for everything I've yet to learn, I'll always be proud to be a Red Raider.

Gleinser is The DT's opinions editor and a senior political science and history major from Kingwood.

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Republicans impeding fiscal cliff negotiations

I he most recent installment in the epic story of the battle of the fiscal cliff was written Monday. President Obama, who seems to have finally decided to stop giving in to the House Republicans' shenanigans, rejected their counteroffer to the budget proposal the White House previously submitted.

It's a good thing too. The teroffer written by Republican House leaders, in true GOP fashion, is low on specific solutions to the United States' debt problem and high on rhetoric. In the proposal letter, House Speaker John Boehner claims the GOP's budget resolution will cut \$2.2 trillion from the federal deficit over the next decade.

The proposal's "key reforms" claim to "address the true drivers of our debt" through cuts to Medicare and Medicaid, closing loopholes and lowering deductions on the top tax brackets, and cuts to federal employee compensation and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

How exactly the GOP plans to achieve their goal is a mystery, since they don't actually present anything close to a detailed plan in the letter.



by lowering tax deductions for the top tax brackets, which is impossible to do without severely reducing deductions on charitable donations and thereby having to raise taxes on the middle class, according to nonpartisan analysts.

Moreover, the proposal submitted by House GOP leaders promises to keep taxes at "historically normal levels," by which they mean to exwealthy. When coupled with the mystery entitlement "reforms," it's clear the GOP means to protect the wealthiest Americans that pay for their campaigns and stick the middle and lower classes with the bill.

The White House's budget proposal for fiscal year 2013 is a detailed plan that reduces the federal deficit by \$4.6 trillion. This plan includes \$1 trillion in savings from the end of wars in Afghanistan and Iraq,

and also includes mandatory and discretionary cuts to outdated and unnecessary agency programs that will save another \$1 trillion by 2022, which should've appeased the scissorhappy Republicans. I . silivitation Moreover, the Obama proposal

through raising taxes and closing loopholes on the highest tax brackets, at which the GOP in Congress laughed. The House GOP's "counteroffer" is nothing more than an example of

included \$1.6 trillion in new revenue

how truly unserious they are about cooperating with the House Democrats to avoid the fiscal cliff and sending this country into another There are two reasons I can think

tend the Bush-era tax cuts for the of for the inability or refusal of Republicans in Congress to present a specific list of programs. One possibility — which isn't totally dismissible — is they aren't taking this situation seriously and are using this proposal as a way to say they weren't unresponsive when the president asked them what exactly they wanted.

The second, and most probable, is they know that without conceding their sacred tax cuts for the wealthy, the only way to make a serious impact on the federal deficit is through cuts to either their precious military budget (which they won't do) or admitting to the American people that they want cuts to domestic programs that not only benefit their constituents, but are popular with them as well.

That's not to say the GOP hasn't already proven they're more than willing to sacrifice those programs for political power. They've been doing that for the past four years.

However, it does mean they now have a decision to make. Will they put together a specific plan and come out and admit they want to take away spending for the majority of Americans? Will they bite the bullet and give up their ridiculous fight for the wealthy few? Or will they continue to complain and moan until the \$500 billion in immediate tax hikes, wanted by neither party, go into effect in January?

The answer will probably come well after this column is printed. Until then, have a good break, Red

Reynolds is a junior music major from Lubbock.

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Student Government Association updates for students

By JENABETH GUNTER

Legislation

A resolution was passed to support Governor Rick Perry's tuition freeze initiative. This legislation will allow students to lock in a tuition rate for the four years of their degree programs in an effort to more accurately forecast the cost of attending college. Among other resolutions passed were the impeachments of three senators, a resolution concerning the formal requirements for graduate student office hours, and the creation of a subcommittee for Graduate Student Organization Funding within the Committee on Budget and Finance. The objective to create an online ride board at Texas Tech was also discussed.

Upcoming Events

Do you want to be a senator or executive officer? Run for a Student Government Association position in the spring. Information on how to apply and the process to run will be posted next semester. This is a great opportunity to make an impact

on Texas Tech University, and also show your leadership skills. Contact sga@ttu.edu for more information.

Get into the holiday spirit by donating your Tech basketball tickets for underprivileged kids to attend men's and women's basketball games over Christmas break. Student attendance declines over Christmas break as students head home for the holidays. To donate tickets, login to your RaiderLink account at https:// www.raiderlink.ttu.edu, click on the MyTech tab, and select "Red and Black Give Back"

Tech Day in Austin is going to be February 19-21st. Texas Tech students will travel to Austin to lobby for higher education initiatives. The students will meet with Texas representatives and senators to discuss issues to be considered in the upcoming legislative session. If you applied, keep posted on our Facebook page to see which students

In the Office

The Student Organization Representative Council (SORC) met at the Student Union Building for

their second meeting in November. The meeting was a success with over 300 representatives from registered student organizations at Texas Tech. Representatives were able to collaborate feedback and communication on behalf of their organizations. Improvement ideas for Texas Tech were also recorded to take into future consideration. Freshman Council members

now have mobile offices in various dorm complexes. Students can voice their concerns to these members without having to travel to the SGA office. This is to continue for next semester. Freshman Leadership Association successfully hosted the first annual Freshman Tailgate. With over 250 attendees, the Freshman Tailgate was one of SGA's biggest events of the semester. Students were able to receive free food and a chance to win a new Samsung phone.

Four representatives from the Texas Tech Student Government Association attended the annual Big 12 Student Government Conference at the University of Oklahoma

in early November. The delegates were President Alex Alston, Chief of Staff Jake Bray, Graduate Vice President Terrance Rodriques and Honors College Senator Erika Allen. Student government delegates from each of the Big 12 schools gathered at this conference to build relationships as well as gain ideas for initiatives and programs that can be replicated on their own campuses. SGA All-Stars

Congratulations to Zachary Haber, former Supreme Court Justice, as the newly appointed SGA Public Relations Director. Layne Rollow was appointed the new Chief Justice for the Supreme Court. Freshman Leadership Association held executive officer elections. Mark Khan was elected President, Adriana Lopez as Vice President and Lauren Preiss as Secretary. Freshman Council also elected their executive officers. Congratulations to Charlie Mitchell as President, Parker Mc-Collum as Vice President, Harrison Shipp as Parliamentarian, Riley Johnson as Secretary and Brooke Milican as Treasurer.

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Publishing information Periodical Postage paid by The Daily Toreador, Student Media building, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, 79409. Publication number: 766480. The DT is a student

through May; Tuesdays and Fridays June through August, except during university examination and vacation periods. The DT is funded primarily through advertising revenues generated by the student sales staff with free campus distribution resulting from student service fees.

Subscription Rates: \$150 annually; single issues:

Postmaster: send address changes to The Daily

Toreador, Box 43081 Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409.

The Daily Toreador welcomes letters from readers. Letters must be no longer than 300 words and must include the author's name, signature, phone number, Social Security number and a description of university affiliation. Students should include year in school, major and hometown. We reserve the right to edit letters. Anonymous letters will not be accepted for publication. All letters will be verified before they are published. Letters can be emailed to dailytoreador@ttu.edu or brought to 180 Média and Communication, Letters should be sent in before 3 p.m. to ensure the editors have enough time to verify and edit the submission.

The Daily Toreador accepts submissions of unsolicited guest columns. While we cannot acknowledge receipt of all columns, the authors of those selected for publication will be notified. Guest columns should be no longer than 650 words in length and on a topic of relevance to the university community. Guest columns are also edited and follow the same guidelines for letters as far as identification

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MOZART MUSIC



PHOTO BY EMILY DE SANTOS/The Daily Toreador

KARIN KUPAS, A graduate violin performance major from Brazil, practices Mozart's "Violin Concerto No. 4" on Tuesday in the Music building.

US reacts with joy to the former Kate Middleton's pregnancy

— An heir to the British throne is on the way — and Americans may be as enthralled as the Brits.

This former colony has been riveted by the royal news that the former Kate Middleton is pregnant — perhaps as much as Britain, where such regal developments are taken

We don't really have a princess here," said Kathy Gitlin, an elementary school teacher in Connecticut who was thrilled to hear that Kate is with child. "I'm an Anglophile, I love England, and I think it's wonderful that two people in love wanted to get married and start a family. It's great."

There are several reasons for the American public's pleasure in Kate's news, manifested not only by the good wishes sent by President Obama but also by the breathless news coverage and the general good will toward the

WESTPORT, Connecticut (AP) actually not-so-young young couple, who have both now reached 30.

> First, and least complicated, is the fact that Kate seems a likeable and sensible young woman who married one of the world's most eligible bachelors without letting the power, prestige and A-plus jewelry go to her

> Then there are the long ties between the two countries, so alike and so maddeningly different.

When Americans proudly declared their independence, they swore off sovereign kings and queens forever, yet several centuries later they find themselves drawn to the royals' pomp and pageantry, embracing the more colorful aspects of a system whose substance they had eagerly overthrown.

Finally, hardest to quantify, is the fading, almost ghostly, image of Princess Diana, who died so young. Americans want Diana's sons to flourish, and Kate seems to have made William very, very happy.

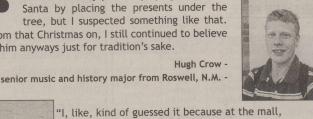
"I remember when Diana died, it was such a shock," said Gitlin, 52. "No one can ever take her place, but it's nice to have another person, someone this generation can look up to, and someone who William can love."

There's no doubt that many Britons are thrilled as well, and the country's embattled tabloid press certainly views a royal pregnancy (at Christmastime no less!) as a surefire circulation booster and a welcome diversion from a series of press scandals.

But some on Monday expressed a rather blasé attitude to the prospect of a new generation of Windsors seemingly bound for the throne. In the chill of early evening in north London's Camden market, young couples strolling among the stalls received the news of Kate's pregnancy with a shrug.

WORD ON THE STREE

I discovered my parents playing the roll of Santa by placing the presents under the tree, but I suspected something like that. From that Christmas on, I still continued to believe in him anyways just for tradition's sake.



we would always see Santa, but he would look different. He would be bigger or smaller - never the same person. My mom said he could change shape or whatever, and I told her that's not true.

- junior electrical engineering major from Dallas

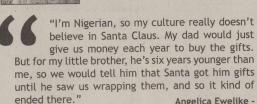
"My parents told me Santa wasn't real all along. They didn't want me to get my hopes up.'

Karina Garcia junior biology major from El Paso -



"I grew up with my parents putting fake Santa footprints on the ground and walking in the backyard with a red flashlight telling us it was Rudolph, and to this day they've never really sat us down and had the conversation with us that Santa isn't real."

- junior English major from Nashville, Tenn.



Angelica Ewelike senior biology major from Mansfield -



"I was maybe around 8 or 9 when I found out. When I was growing up, these little kids would go around telling everyone he wasn't real. I wasn't that mad or devastated, though."

Eduardo Rincon

junior psychology major from Graham

Compiled by Ashlyn Tubbs/The Daily Toreador

Hugh Hefner, fiancee obtain marriage license

Hefner and Crystal Harris are again ing her as Mrs. Hefner. taking steps toward the altar, more than a year after the centerfold reported the couple's license. It canceled their previous engagement and was branded a "runaway bride" in Playboy.

The couple obtained a marriage license Tuesday at a courthouse in

previous engagement in June 2011, prompting Playboy to affix "runaway

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hugh bride" stickers to an issue introduc-

Celebrity website TMZ first says they reunited earlier this year and plan to wed on New Year's Eve.

LA County Recorder Public Information Officer Elizabeth Knox says the license is valid for 90 days.

The Playboy founder has been Harris called off the couple's married twice before. His spokeswoman Teri Thomerson didn't immediately return a message Tuesday.





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NJ students sickened by Marley drink at school HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP, N.J. promoted to reduce stress.

(AP) — Officials have removed a drink named after reggae icon Bob Marley after several New Jersey students were sickened.

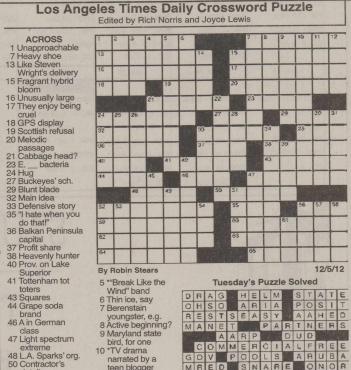
valerian root and chamomile and is could buy it on campus.

The drink's nutrition facts say it may cause drowsiness and isn't intended for children.

However, students at Satz Middle Marley's Mellow Mood contains School and Holmdel High School







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"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts." ~Winston Churchill

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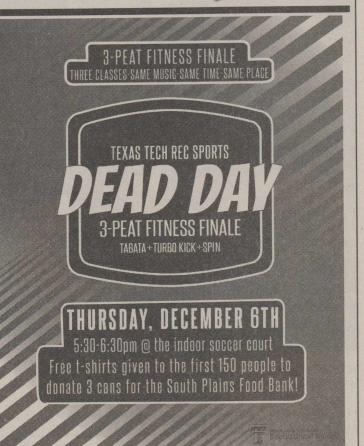


Outdoor Pursuits Center

DID YOU KNOW TECH HAS A SKI SHOP? Full ski and snowboard packages will be available when the shop officially opens after Thanksgiving. Ski rentals will be available for the semester break too!. Please check with the OPC in person or at 742-2949 for more information on semester break specials!

	Weekend	YYEEK
Snowboard Package	\$35.00	\$80.00
Ski Package	\$30.00	\$65.00
Ski Only	\$20.00	\$40.00
Boots Only	\$15.00	\$30.00
Ski Poles	\$6.00	\$12.00
Snowboard Only	\$25.00	\$50.00
Snow Shoes	\$10.00	\$20.00
Helmet	\$5.00	\$10.00

SPRING TRIPS NOW AVAILABLE ON THE WEB! Information for all Outdoor Pursuits Trips for the Spring Semester is now available online! Go Ice Climbing, Canoeing, Mountain Biking, or more! Check out http://bit.ly/opctrips for full information.



Recreational Sports Winter Interim

RaiderX Fitness Classes December 6th - January 13th

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	Dece	ember 6, 2	2012 - Ja	nuary 16	, 2013		*Schedule is subject to change. Class Descriptions may be found online at www.recsports.ttu.edu							
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WINTER HOURS The hours for Winter Interim and Holidays are now available online at recsports.ttu.edu!

OR ...

Keep this calendar through the holidays!

SPORTS CLUBS MEN'S RUGBY The following players won All-Conference recognition for the Fall Semester in Rugby, Men's 7s!

VARSITY Wes Mitchell Jared Baird Abdul Sule Reid Curry

JUNIOR VARSITY Nolan Dimmitt

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EVENT CALENDAR DECEMBER 5 - 11



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TODAY

WEDNESDAY TAB FREE MOVIE: NATIONAL LAMPOON'S **CHRISTMAS VACATION SUB Escondido Theatre** 11am 1pm 3pm 5pm 7pm

MAKE YOUR OWN ORNAMENT **SUB West Basement** 11am-3pm

R&R NIGHT w/ TAB & RHA SUB Courtyard & Wall/Gates 5pm-9pm

DEC. 6 to DEC. 11

THURSDAY to TUESDAY STUDY NIGHTS @ THE UNION Open til midnight

FREE scantrons & blue books from the West Info Center after 5pm each day!

FREE coffee from 8pm-12am every night (except Saturday) courtesy of **Hospitality Services**

All available rooms will be open for study nights - first come first served!

Good luck on finals & have a great holiday break!

WINTER RAIDER WELCOME

JAN. 16, WEDNESDAY ARCHERY BATTLE

SUB Ballroom 5pm-9pm

JAN. 17, THURSDAY FIRE & ICE and STUDENT ORG. FAIR SUB Courtyard/Ballroom 12pm-1:30pm

COMEDY NIGHT Alternative Fuels opens for Sheng Wang & Adam Ray SUB Allen Theatre

7pm

JANUARY 2013 SNEAK PEEK

JAN. 22 - 25 POSTER SALE **SUB Ballroom** 9am-6pm

JAN. 23, WEDNESDAY TAB FREE MOVIE: PITCH PERFECT **SUB Allen Theatre** 7pm

TAB RECRUITMENT SESSION **SUB Red Raider Lounge** 6pm-7pm

JAN. 24, THURSDAY TAB FREE MOVIE MATINEE: PITCH PERFECT **SUB Allen Theatre** 4pm

NIGHT AT THE ROLLER RINK Southwest Sportsplex 7116 82nd Street 6pm-9pm

The Student Union Building will be closed from Friday, Dec. 21, 2012 at 5:00pm and will reopen on Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2013 at 7:00am.

SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 5, 2012

29 years after crash, Rivera enters College Hall

NEW YORK (AP) — Gabe said Tuesday. Rivera was maybe the greatest defensive lineman to play at Texas Tech.

They called him Senor Sack. He was an All-American in 1982 and was drafted by the Steelers in tan. the first round in 1983.

He has trouble remembering his playing days now. A car accident during his rookie season left him in a wheelchair and robbed him of some of his memory.

The congratulations that came after he was elected to the College Hall of Fame helped bring back some of those faded memories.

"When people started congratulating me, they'd say 'I remember when you did this and did that.' It feels good that they remember those things," Rivera

He was part of a class of 14 players and three coaches to be inducted into the Hall Tuesday night at the national Football Foundation banquet in Manhat-

Heisman Trophy winner Ty Detmer and former Miami coach Jimmy Johnson also were among the inductees.

"At this point in your life, you've been removed from football long enough now that you really appreciate those times you had and you kind of take a step back and reflect on all that and all the friends and teammates and coaches you were able to play with," said Detmer, who won the Heisman for BYU in 1990.

Hall of Fame class are LSU tailback Charles Alexander, Purdue halfback Otis Armstrong, California quarterback Steve Bartkowski, Southern California split end Hal Bedsole, Notre Dame tight end Dave Casper, Rice quarterback Tommy Kramer, Syracuse receiver Art Monk, Colorado State defensive back Greg Myers, UCLA offensive tackle Jonathan Ogden, Kansas State linebacker Mark Simoneau, Air Force safety Scott Thomas, and Colorado guard

John Wooten. The other coaches are Phillip Fulmer, who won the first BCS title in 1998 with Tennessee, and R.C. Slocum, who coached Texas A&M from 1989-2002.

Rivera grew up in San Antonio The other players in the latest and went to west to play college

football in Lubbock for the Red of hard sometimes." Raiders as a linebacker and a tight end. He went from about 230 pounds to 280 and turned into one of the best defensive linemen in the country.

During his senior season, he had five sacks and 62 solo tackles, including 10 tackles for loss.

He was the 21st overall draft pick in 1983 by Pittsburgh, but in October of that year he got into an automobile accident that left him a paraplegic. He sustained head injuries that caused some lingering memory issues.

He said he tries not to think about could have been.

"You try not to but your mind tells you these things and it's like, I probably could have done that," he said. "It's kind

The 51-year-old Rivera said for several years after his accident, he struggled physically and mentally. It was hard for him to not be bitter.

"From the accident in '83, it took maybe 5, 6, 8 years to get control (of my life)," he said. "At one time I just changed my life and started going forward.

He added: "I was mad at the world, mad at God and stuff."

He tries now to focus on the good things that have happened to him since the accident such as meeting his second wife, Nancy. He met her when he hit her with his wheelchair at the San Antonio zoo.

"I still run into her but now she gets mad," he said, smiling.

Still, life is not easy.

"It's a struggle for us every day," he said.

Rivera said he is susceptible to infections and we went through a stretch five years ago where his health was not good.

"I'm in a good part now," he said. "We control everything. My wife helps tremendously."

He said when he found out earlier in the year that he had been elected to the Hall of Fame, he was shocked and overjoyed. It also helped him recall the days when he was Senor Sack.

"Nowadays people come up to me, 'I remember you running this guy over and doing these things.' Some of the time they say it, and, oh, now I remember. It comes back to me.'

Texans first, Falcons, Pats tied for second in AP Pro32

NFL version of No. 1 vs. No. 2 is set for Monday night when the Houston Texans visit the New England Patriots.

The Texans remained first in the AP Pro32 power rankings Tuesday, while the Patriots inched up two spots into a second-place tie with the Atlanta Falcons.

Houston received eight firstplace votes and 376 points in balloting by The Associated Press' panel of 12 media members who regularly cover the league. The Texans (11-1) are first for the fourth straight week.

New England (9-3) and Atlanta (11-1) each had 364 points; the votes, the Falcons one.

"We will find out all we need Louis Rams. to know about this team when they visit New England on Monday," said the Chicago Tribune's Dan Pompei, who had the Texans first and the Patriots third on his ballot.

"Had impressive win in Chicago. Can they get one in New England?" asked Clifton Brown of Sporting News, who had the Texans fifth and the Patriots first.

The Texans clinched a playoff that rank in the top 10 in both

NEW YORK (AP) — An spot with last week's win over offense and defense." Tennessee, while the Falcons clinched the NFC South and the Patriots the AFC East over the weekend.

New England has made a steady climb up the rankings thanks to a six-game winning

"Hard to keep out of the top. spot when all you do is win," ESPN's Chris Berman said.

"Still don't trust the defense," noted Rich Gannon of CBS Sports/SiriusXM NFL Radio, "but they do have Brady and the No. 1 offense that's averaging 36 ppg."

Denver is up a spot to fourth after clinching the AFC West with its seventh straight win. San Patriots received three first-place Francisco slips three spots to fifth after an overtime loss to the St.

> "They can run. They can play defense. They have Peyton Manning. And they can't lose," said Clark Judge of CBSSports.com. "Yeah, I'd say the Broncos are

Rick Gosselin of the Dallas Morning News noted the Texans and Broncos are the most balanced teams in the league because they are the "only teams

The New York Giants dropped a spot to eighth after a 17-16 loss to Robert Griffin III and Washington on Monday night, with the Redskins up two places to 14th. The Giants are the highestranked 7-5 team and are ahead of two 8-4 teams — Chicago (ninth) and Indianapolis (10th).

The defending Super Bowl champion Giants have a onegame lead over Dallas and Washington in the suddenly tight NFC Fast race

"The Giants have been very inconsistent and to me it starts up front on both sides of the ball," said John Lynch of Fox Sports. "This D-line that has been so feared and integral to their success and championships in recent years needs to start dominating!"

Pittsburgh, in a playoff fight with Baltimore and Cincinnati, improved three spots to 11th with a win over the Ravens.

"They likely salvaged their season in an unlikely venue -Baltimore," noted Ira Kaufman of the Tampa Tribune.

Kansas City, with an emotional win over Carolina, moved up two places from last to 30th. Jacksonville fell to 32nd.

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Kansas City Chiefs Jovan Belcher told cops he was waiting for 'girlfriend'

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) she's not home," Snapp said. — Kansas City Chiefs linebacker Iovan Belcher told officers who found him sleeping in his car outside an apartment complex hours before he committed a murder-suicide that he was there to visit a woman he described as his "girlfriend," but that she wasn't home.

The apartment complex is about 10 miles from the Kansas may have come home, and he City home Belcher shared with 22-year-old Kasandra Perkins, the mother of their 3-monthold daughter Zoey. Belcher shot Perkins at their home Saturday morning before driving to Arrowhead Stadium, where he committed suicide in the practice facility's parking lot, police

Police responded to a report about 2:50 a.m. Saturday of a man sleeping in his car outside an apartment building, police spokesman Darin Snapp said Tuesday. When police approached the car, Belcher got out of the vehicle and was cooperative, Snapp said.

"We ask him 'Why are you sleeping here?', and he says he's there to visit his girlfriend, but

When police determined Belcher didn't have any outstanding warrants, Snapp said Belcher, 25, made a phone call and a short time later, a woman let Belcher into her building. Police did not question the woman and don't know who she is, he said.

"When he was sleeping she didn't realize," Snapp said. "He was very cooperative and thanked the officers.'

Snapp said that was the last contact police had with Belcher "until his name came up" with the shooting at his home.

Witnesses have since told police that Belcher stayed at that apartment until 6:30 a.m.,

At about 7:50 a.m., police were called to Belcher's home after he had shot and killed Perkins, whose body was found on the floor of the master bathroom with multiple gunshot wounds, according to a police incident

Belcher then drove about five miles to Arrowhead Stadium, where he was met by general

manager Scott Pioli and coach over a woman, documents said. Romeo Crennel, who Belcher thanked for all they had done for him. When police arrived, Belcher moved behind a vehicle, out of clear view of officers, Snapp said. He said Belcher then knelt down and shot himself once in the head.

Snapp said Belcher also used two separate, legally registered handguns in the shootings.

Friends have said the relationship between Belcher and Perkins was strained. The couple briefly lived apart recently before getting back together by Thanksgiving, friend Brianne York told The Associated Press.

Kansas City Chiefs spokesman Ted Crews said Tuesday he wasn't aware of what counseling efforts the team may have made for Belcher and Perkins.

Belcher played college football at the University of Maine, where he repeatedly was the subject of university police reports. A University of Maine spokeswoman provided the reports to

In April 2006, Belcher punched his fist through a dorm

And in February 2007, a noise complaint was lodged after "a discussion outside of his room" between Belcher and a woman. The report says "both stated that she was to contact him by 23:00 hours and did not. He became worried and when she did show up he told her that he did not want to see her until the morning."

Also Tuesday, police posted a brief audio recording of some of Saturday morning's dispatch traffic. In the 1-minute, 41-second audio compilation, a dispatcher is relaying information about the shooting at Belcher's home.

In one segment, the dispatcher says a 22-year-old woman had been shot at the Belcher address. "possibly by her son."

In another segment, the dispatcher says someone is at Arrowhead with an unknown weapon and later that an "unknown party at the (Chiefs) practice field confronted the staff and they don't know what he's armed with."

Snapp said that was the only audio police planned to release window after becoming upset regarding the shootings.

Cowboys WR Dez Bryant heeding advice, rolling along

coach Jason Garrett implores Dez Bryant to run "north and south" with the ball. The Cowboys receiver is listening and his career sure seems headed a lot more north than south these days.

Bryant's first catch Sunday at Cincinnati (7-5) could get the Dallas receiver to 1,000 yards for the first time as a pro. The past four games, he scored in each one and had the same career high in yards twice.

On the go-ahead touchdown last weekend against Philadelphia, Garrett called for Bryant to get the ball on a screen pass 6 yards from the end zone. The only way in was "north and south," and Bryant ran through a defender at the goal line, just inside the pylon.

"Dez is growing before our eyes," Garrett said after the 38-33 victory.

That score was actually the second time Bryant heeded his coach's words against the Eagles. The first wasn't planned, though. Tony Romo scrambled to his right and turned back to see Bryant wide open across the field. Bryant did a little weaving on that 23-yard score, but mostly headed in the direction Garrett prefers and beat two defenders to the goal line.

"Tony, he believes in me and I want that to increase more," said Bryant, who has 978 yards and eight touchdowns and a career-high 145 yards in interception.

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Dallas consecutive games against Cleveland and Washington. "It's all about focus and not losing composure. If he calls a play and I do what I'm supposed to do, it makes a difference."

One other play might have been more important than Bryant's two touchdowns.

Dallas trailed Philadelphia 27-24 midway through the fourth quarter and was facing third-and-2, which usually dictates Romo throwing a short pass to trusty tight end Jason Witten. Instead, Romo went deep down the sideline to Bryant, who outran Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie on the 35-yard catch. The screen pass for the score came four plays later.

"It's dictated off of me looking at the corner seeing where the leverage is," Romo said. "It's also dictated off of whether or not you feel comfortable with the guy who's over there ...'

Hold it right there, even though Romo did some more explaining.

Trust has been perceived as an issue for Romo with Bryant since character issues dropped the former Oklahoma State star low in the first round in the 2010 draft. There's been evidence, too — as recently as the fourth game this year against Chicago, when Bryant ran the wrong route and the Bears kick-started a blowout with an easy touchdown on the resulting

Kansas State's Bill Snyder voted AP Big 12 coach of the year

(AP) — Bill Snyder said he returned to Kansas State four years ago to "calm the waters."

Instead, he stirred up college football.

The 73-year-old coach, refreshed and rejuvenated after a brief retirement, has once again raised a downtrodden program to national prominence. The seventh-ranked Wildcats won only their second Big 12 title and the third conference championship in their 117-year history, and will play Oregon in the Fiesta Bowl next month.

Klein, is among three Heisman Trophy finalists, and several other players on a team whose only loss came at Baylor late in the season have futures in the NFL.

It's no surprise that Snyder was the unanimous choice as AP's Big 12 coach of the year.

'There's a lot of people who invest a lot of emotion, a lot of spirit, and probably who as much as anything genuinely care," Snyder said. "Certainly that embraces all of our players and all our staff and

His star quarterback, Collin all the support people that we have in our program.'

Snyder joined Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops as the only three-time winners of the award on Tuesday. He also won it last season, when he guided the Wildcats to the Cotton Bowl, and in 1998, when Kansas State came up just short of playing for a national championship.

The award was voted on by 18 reporters who regularly cover the conference. The players of the year and All-Big 12 teams will be announced Wednesday.

predicted to finish this season in the middle of the Big 12, a league that suddenly featured three returning conference champions in Oklahoma, West Virginia and TCU.

Things started slowly, too, with the Wildcats struggling early in a win over Missouri State.

Then they began to pick up

They ran roughshod over Miami, a team that tied for its division title over North Texas, Kansas State beat

Kansas State (11-1, 8-1) was then-No. 6 Oklahoma on the road.

The Wildcats' next big showdown came on the road against the Mountaineers, at the time one of the top teams in the country. Kansas State grounded Geno Smith and Co. in a 55-14 blowout.

Remarkably consistent all season, the Wildcats finally cracked on a Saturday night in Waco, Texas. They had climbed to No. 1 in the BCS standings for the first time in school history after Alabama's stunin the ACC. And after an easy win ning loss to Texas A&M, but were done in by turnovers and blown

assignments in a 52-24 loss to the Bears that dashed the Wildcats' national championship dreams.

Never more was Snyder's even keel more valuable.

After a week off, the Wildcats returned to the field for their season finale Saturday night against Texas. They needed a victory to wrap up their first Big 12 title since 2003, and scored 35 second-half points in a 42-24 victory on senior night.

Snyder even allowed a little smile to slip in the postgame cel-



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