

The Bat



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NJCAA Region XIV Champions

The Bat

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NJCAA Region XIV Champions. Clockwise from left: Jovan Austin, Qua Doster, Henoc Bienne, Brandon Scott, Keith Shivers, Andrew Arredondo, Trevon Seymore, Nouhoum Bocoum, Manager Maurice Heade, Xavier Dupree, Coach Chuck Taylor, Coach Bilal Batley, Coach Eric Floyd, Delvin Dickerson, Ronnie White, Andre Barnes, Darin Minniefield, Tyler Murphy, and Joe Haynes

Basketball receives tournament honors

AMBER CAMPBELL
STAFF WRITER

The buzzer went off. The crowd wearing green and gold cheered. The players looked at the scoreboard. PJC Dragons won by nine points and advanced to the NJCAA national tournament.

After six years of not advancing to the national tournament, the men's basketball team earned the right to advance by defeating Blinn College, Lamar State-Port Arthur and Trinity Valley in the Region XIV tournament championship March 4-8 in Tyler.

The men's team was the first Region XIV men's basketball team since 2000 to win both the regular-season conference championship and the tournament championship.

The men were all prepared. They left March 16 and traveled to Hutchinson, Kansas to get ready to play that following Tuesday, March 18.

"[We were] all really focused and in a really good place mentally," said sophomore point guard Jovan Austin. "[We were] just ready to go up there and prove people wrong just like we have been doing all season."

Mentally equipped and ready to play, the men suited up and took the court. As fans watched from the stands and on television in the PJC ballroom the men went against their first opponent, South Plains College.

"Anytime you're in a tournament, of course the championship game is a big game, but getting through that first game is always an



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PJC Dragons after winning the Region XIV tournament championship. Standing from left: Joe Haynes, Andrew Arredondo, Keith Shivers, Coach Chuck Taylor, Nouhoum Bocoum, President Dr. Pamela Anglin, Xavier Dupree, Qua Doster, Manager Maurice Heade, Coach Eric Floyd, Andre Barnes, Coach Bilal Batley, and Ronnie White. Sitting from left: Trevon Seymore, Tyler Murphy, Jovan Austin, Delvin Dickerson, Brandon Scott, Henoc Bienne and an unidentified fan.

obstacle," said PJC head coach Chuck Taylor.

The Dragons fell short ten points in the first game of the national tournament.

The team was recognized at the March Board of Regents meeting.

Addressing the team at that meeting, Taylor said, "Ya'll got the opportunity to experience something that not a lot of people get to experience. I can't tell ya'll how proud I am of ya'll."

The team will be honored, along with other sports teams, at the annual sports banquet April 27 at 1p.m.

Overall, the men's team had an average of 76 points per game.

Taylor was named NJCAA Region XIV Coach of the Year and sophomore Trevon Seymore of Waterbury, Conn., was named the All Tournament Team's Most Valuable Player. Freshman Joe Haynes of Detroit Mich., and sophomore Dickerson of Houston, Texas were named to the All Region Team also.

Even though the Lady Dragons lost in the first round of the Region XIV tournament championship, two players, Chy Cunningham and Damya Toney received recognition from the National Junior College Athletic Association. Cunningham made the All-Region and All-Tournament teams and Toney received an honorable mention.

Could campus carry come to Texas?

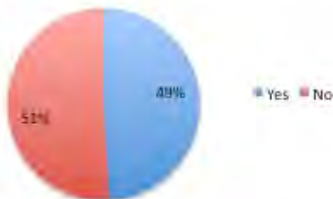
TAYLOR MCCLOURE
STAFF WRITER

Safety is always a concern on Paris Junior College campuses, as it is on all college campuses. Earlier in the semester, there was a threat of a shooting at Oklahoma State University, but it turned out to be a false alarm. This event, as do any such scares on college campuses, caused worry among the staff and students at PJC.

In 2013, the Texas legislature discussed a bill that would allow concealed handguns to be carried on college campuses as long as a person had a Concealed Handgun License (CHL). The House passed the bill, but the bill died in the Senate.

The topic of concealed handguns being carried on college campuses has been a topic discussed in the legislature before. It's actually been presented in the last several legislatures, but hasn't passed in both the House and the Senate. Even if the bill passes eventually, colleges would be able to choose if concealed handguns would be allowed on that particular campus.

Are you in favor of a state law allowing teachers and students to carry concealed handguns on college campuses?



According to an informal online "Bat" survey of 67 students and instructors from all Paris Junior College campuses surveyed, 33 said that they are in favor of a state law allowing teachers and students to carry concealed handguns on college campuses and 34 said that they are not in favor of it.

Of the same group, 32 said they would "feel safer knowing teachers and students were allowed to carry concealed handguns on campus" and 35 said they "would not feel safer." Also, 30 of these people said they would carry a concealed handgun on a college campus if they could, but 37 said that they would not.

"I think the jury is still out on what will eventually be decided in this matter as it continues to be discussed during each legislative session. It would appear that the survey conducted suggests people in our college community are almost evenly split between being for and against concealed carry on campus," said Shane Boatwright, chief of campus police.

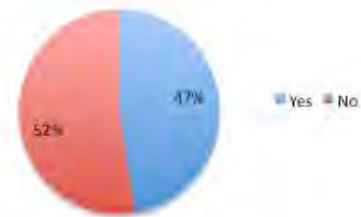
"I was a police officer when concealed carry was first signed into law in Texas. I remember at the time, law enforcement was concerned that we would be dealing with more armed citizens and would face more problems because of the law. Oddly enough, I rarely had any negative dealings with a person who

was a (CHL) holder. I personally saw no evidence that our crime rate increased because of it," Boatwright said.

There are pros and cons for allowing concealed handguns on campus according to Boatwright.

"Obviously, an armed person who is trained and proficient with firearms may be able to stop or deter a person who is intent on harming others," Boatwright said about the pros of the situation.

Would you feel safer knowing teachers and students were allowed to carry concealed handguns on campus?

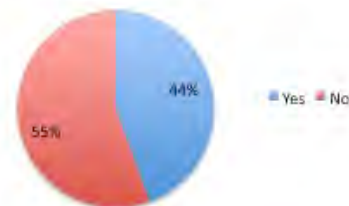


A con would be "persons creating unneeded tension or panic on campus by failing to adequately conceal their firearm. Remember, everyone is not in favor of concealed carry on campus and with recent events, most people are pretty sensitive to such things," Boatwright said.

No one can foresee the outcome of this bill, but it is probable that it will be a topic discussed and presented in future bills in future legislature.

In the latest legislative session, Senate Bill 1907 took effect in September. This bill "says universities may not prohibit concealed handgun license holders from storing or transporting a firearm in a locked, privately owned car in a college campus parking garage or other parking area," according to the March 19 edition of the Texas Tribune, an online Texas newspaper.

If you could legally carry a concealed handgun on a college campus, would you?



There are many safety measures set in place at Paris Junior College.

"Drills are conducted periodically during our staff development training for faculty and staff that focus in large part on what they can do if an active shooter situation were to occur on campus. I would also point out that the Paris Junior College Emergency Response plan may be found under the Campus Police tab on our website <http://www.parisjc.edu/index.php/pjc2/main/pjc-dps>," says Boatwright.

‘Just roll with it’

Single parent continues her dream of an education while adapting to her new lifestyle

JACK BRYANT
STAFF WRITER

Inspiration. Everyone looks for it in one form or another. Then there are those who illustrate the very definition every day.

April Horton, 21, of Paris, wakes up each morning around seven and begins her day by getting herself and her two-year-old daughter, Addyson, bathed, dressed, and fed. Then she drops Addyson off at daycare.

After a full day at PJC, Horton picks her daughter up to spend time with her until bedtime. Horton goes to sleep about midnight or 2 a.m. after doing homework and wakes up at 7 a.m. to start over again.

Many students may know the battle of pursuing education while raising a child, but for Horton things are slightly more challenging.

In early 2012, April was a medical student, a medical intern, and a pharmacy technician who was earning a bachelor's degree.

But on May 17, 2012 she had a catastrophic car accident. A vehicle “T-boned” her car, throwing her out of the vehicle and the other driver's car struck her again. She is now a paraplegic in a wheelchair.

When strangers see Horton wheeling across campus, they may see handicap and feel pity, or feel an urge to help. But her friends and family know that Horton has all but adapted to

this new way of life.

“Just roll with it, is what I always say,” Horton explains.

One of the most surprising things Horton has learned to do since her accident is to drive again.

She owns a specialized van equipped with an extending

ramp. Once inside, she locks the wheelchair wheels so she can slide into the electric-powered driver seat.

From there, the brakes and gas are controlled from the steering wheel.

“It may have taken me a long time, but there is noth-

ing that I could do before the wreck that I can't do now except walk,” says Horton. “If you cannot stand up, then stand out.”

It does not take long for others to see that she is well adjusted to her surroundings.

She is comfortable in her own skin, and with others as well.

She says the first year of her recovery was difficult and having a young infant that depended on her is what has kept her fighting.

April believes because Addyson is so young, she doesn't really know any different and seeing her mother fight so hard will make Addyson much stronger.

“I believe that she will be able to look back and know that anything is possible as long as you don't give up,” Horton says. “I can only hope that I can at least give her that sense of perseverance.”

“[Horton's] story is touching and makes us all aware that environment matters and life can change in a second,” says Kelli Ebel, Spanish instructor and advisor to The Blend Club. “Her energy is positive and refreshing, and she helps others view life with a greater lens. She brings great initiative and new ideas to The Blend, serving as the secretary. She naturally connects with others and is a joy to be around. Her sense of humor, I believe, helps others be more comfortable with her physical limits. She certainly has no limits in



April Horton

April Horton, 21, after suffering a disastrous car accident that left her paralyzed from the waist down, shares a moment with her 2 year-old daughter, Addyson. Horton is now a single parent returning to her education in the medical field where she aspires to one day become a neuropsychiatric surgeon.

Phi Theta Kappa sponsors 'C4'

BO PRUITT
EDITOR

Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) and Paris Junior College during the week of March 17, committed to help push students to achieve their educational goals by sponsoring an event known as "C4," the Community College Completion Challenge, which encourages students to finish what they start.

"I accept the responsibility for my commitment to complete a college credential; I understand its importance to my future success; and I pledge to help one other student make and honor the same commitment," were the terms signed by 32 faculty and staff members in support and 107 students.

PJC President, Dr. Pam Anglin, signed the "Call to Action" March 7 for Phi Theta Kappa to begin the week long event.

As students moved between classes in the Frank Grimes Center, Math and Science Building, and through the foyer of the library, members of PTK asked faculty, staff, and students to sign commitments to help students achieve their



Bo Pruitt/The Bat

Phi Theta Kappa members Destiny Mullens, Paula Vaughn, and Kaytlyn Sims encourage students to commit to their education, during the week of March 17.

goals as well as their potentials.

PJC and PTK are committed to actively encouraging completion of college credentials, among community college students.

Paula Vaughn, PTK/public relations said, "Phi Theta Kappa opened doors for me I never knew of. It's not just the opportunities for awesome scholarships but the individualized instruction through competitive edge and social skills."

To qualify for an initial Phi Theta Kappa membership, a student must maintain a GPA of 3.5 or higher, and pay a

one-time international membership fee, currently \$75. A GPA of 3.5 or higher is required to remain a member in good standing with PTK.

As of March 2014, PTK added 40 plus members this semester, and students are still enrolling; students who are eligible are encouraged to join.

"Every two years PTK members are tasked with researching an important, socially-relevant topic, then finding a way to address issues brought up by that topic and developing an action plan to address those issues within the community. The topic is broken into nine broad themes such as nature, human

expression, the environment, etc," said Beta Chapter Adviser, Ty Welborn, in a recent interview.

Sophomore, Latisha Perez said, "I feel honored to be recognized as a PTK member during graduation, because it makes me feel successful and it also makes me want to further my education."

There are more than \$37 million in scholarships provided exclusively for Phi Theta Kappa members with automatic nominations to the National Dean's List, including job postings, according to membership materials.

Vaughn coordinates and conducts the PTK meetings held on Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. in room 113 Frank Grimes Center.

The PTK spring semester ceremonies will induct new members in the Student Center Ballroom at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 27, and also celebrate 80 years here at PJC.

If you would like more information about Phi Theta Kappa, contact Welborn at twelborn@parisjc.edu.

One man's trash is....



Jack Bryant/The Bat



Jack Bryant/ The Bat

The PJC Art League conducted an exhibition of newly painted trash cans on March 18 before they are donated to Trail de Paris. From left: Candra Wyatt, Amanda Lair-Barnett, Chelsea de la Rosa, Montel Thomas, Susan Moore, Riley Hodnett, Baron Capers, Jeanavev Lester, Stephanie Hutchinson, and Anita O'Neal.

PJC preserves trees



Bo Pruitt/The Bat

BO PRUITT
EDITOR

"I speak for the trees. I speak for the trees, for the trees have no tongues."

Dr. Seuss, The Lorax.

According to Paris Junior College "The First 75 Years," Trees were the most talked about subject among students as they began the 1940-41 school year on the new campus. They were moving from a downtown campus that was nothing but concrete.

Mother Nature has taken her toll on the PJC campus during this Spring 2014 semester after an ice storm swept through Paris on December 6, 2013 during Christmas break, trees and branches fell to the ground from the weight of the ice.

Now, nearing four months after the epic ice-storm, cleanup has finally come to an end.

With trees losing branches,

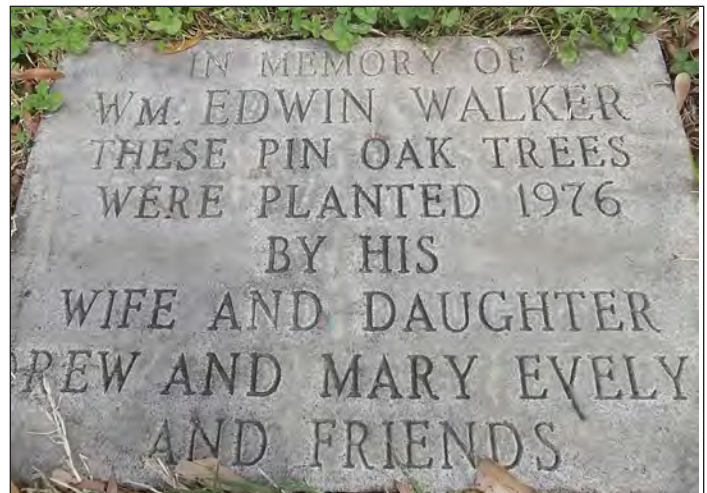
and being uprooted, the cleanup has kept the PJC maintenance staff occupied to assure campus safety.

No incidents have been reported of any students, staff, faculty, or visitors being injured by falling debris, according to Shane Boatwright, Chief of campus police.

Director of Plant Operations, Randall Cox said, "Our maintenance department worked extra hard to make sure PJC was safe to start Spring 2014 semester."

Tree service companies have played a major role within the city limits, but with PJC owning its own property, PJC tackled the disaster by removing the downed branches and uprooting the Bradford pear trees on the eastside of the campus.

PJC Vice president for Business Services, Teri Zamora said the cleanup, including overtime for PJC maintenance personnel and contracting a



Bo Pruitt/The Bat

Located at the north entrance of PJC, a memorial plaque for William Edwin Walker is placed at the side of the eastern sidewalk. The Pin Oak trees at the Administration Building entrance were donated and planted by his wife and daughter in 1976.

local tree service totaled about \$29,000.

"To preserve our trees, they must be pruned to assure the trees' health," she said.

PJC went an extra mile by hiring Arbournault Tree Care and with bucket trucks

extended in to the air, as well as chainsaws, owner Jack Chennault and his three man crew spent six weeks pruning 120 limbs from damaged trees.

"It's important to prune damaged trees, because they can decay and die," said Chennault.

Golf hits it to win it

KYLEIGH FINGER
STAFF WRITER

PJC's golf team swings into season and with conference play coming up quickly, the men have high standards and expect great scores. So far, the



Office of Public Information
Zac Oliver

golf team has played in four tournaments this spring and eight tournaments through the 2013-2014 school year.

The men ended 2013 with a third place finish in the District II NJCAA championship in Dennis. Zac Oliver finished as an All-Region team member by placing fourth.

Although PJC's Dragons fell short of nationals last season, they have high hopes that they will compete in the tournament this year.

"It's been progress throughout the year, and it's been fun!" said Collin Thompson, "We've been working hard at getting four scores together and we're getting close to putting some good rounds together. We just have to stay positive and believe"

Being in the middle near the end of the season, the team is overall pleased with how they have played thus far.

"I'm excited for national qualifier because I feel like we

will play to our full potential and put up a good fight there," said Thompson.

As the team gets ready for conference play and to say goodbye to three graduating sophomores Jeremy Salas, Zach McEwin and Zac Oliver, they buckle down and focus on the upcoming obstacle of the tournament at the Tanglewood Country Club in Pottsville on April 6 through April 8.

They will play this course then play at the Sugar Tree Country Club in Dennis on April 20 through April 22.

They will combine the scores to determine if they move on to the national tournament.

"I'm excited about playing in the last couple tournaments of my college career and hope to make it all the way to nationals to end it on a high note. That'd be the perfect ending to my experience here," said Salas.



Office of Public Information

Top, from left: Oliver Stephens, Bryce Shaw, Zach McEwin, Tyler Dunbar, Collin Thompson, Bottom, from left: Ryan Shumaker, Zac Oliver, Jeremy Salas, Logan Dent. Not pictured: Lukas Lampe

DRAGON



PUFFS

Registration for classes

Registration for summer semesters is now open. Check online for more new classes that are not included on the schedule.

Blend Club Webinar

The Blend Club hosts a webinar April 3 at 2:30-3:30 p.m. in MS 112 in Paris, room 217 in Greenville and the conference room in Sulphur Springs.

Talent Show

The PJC Talent Show is happening on April 3 at 7 p.m. in the Ballroom.

March Madness Finals party

March Madness Finals party is being held in the Student rec center on April 7 at 7:30 p.m.

Ice Cream Social

On April 9 at 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., there will be an ice cream social in the courtyard on the Paris campus.

Skate Night

Family Fun Center in Paris is hosting a Skate Night on April 15 from 9 to 11 p.m.

President's Q&A

President's Q&A on Sulphur Springs campus is being held on April 16 at 12 to 1 p.m.

Bowling Night

Greenville campus is having a Bowling Night on April 17 from 10 to midnight at Shenanigans.



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Record-breaking achievement is the new standard for the Climbing Society at A&M-Commerce. As a student organization, the group puts effective collaboration and healthy competition into practice on the climbing wall at the university. But through dedication and preparation, these students took rock climbing and bouldering from the level of campus club distinction to world recognition. As the proud holders of two Guinness World Records, our Climbing Society has proven that you can take your hobby from extracurricular to extraordinary at A&M-Commerce.

