

# The Bat



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11-11-11

# Veterans Day

## The Bat

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### Cover Photo

**A red, white and blue wreath brought by Dean Dwight Chaney from Flanders Field stands by the PJC Veterans Memorial.**  
Photo by Christina Gunlock

# 11-11-11 honors vets

**CHRISTINA GUNLOCK**  
STAFF WRITER

**A**t 11 a.m., Friday, Nov. 11, in the DeShong Chapel, PJC will pay tribute to the veterans of wars past and present.

Nov. 11, 1918 at 11 a.m. the Armistice was signed ending World War I. Twenty years later, Nov. 11 was declared Armistice Day, a day dedicated to the cause of world peace and to honor World War I veterans. In 1954, the name was changed to Veterans Day to honor American veterans of all wars.

Since that day, each Nov. 11, Americans pay tribute to the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces. This year's date – 11-11-11 – is a once-in-a-century occurrence.

Allen Williams, PJC history instructor, spearheads the planning of the ceremony. He says he inherited the duty from Robert Thornburrow, a PJC Social Science division chair, who retired several years ago.

"Each year we make a part of our ceremony to help remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice," Williams says.

"I guess remembrance would be more appropriate for Memorial Day, but Veterans Day gives us the opportunity to reflect on those losses and honor our [living] veterans."

PJC has held a Veteran's Day ceremony for several decades.

The memorial in front of PJC's Administration Building was built to honor the PJC



Christina Gunlock/The Bat

**The American eagle rests atop the Veterans Memorial located across the street from the Administration Building. It was dedicated to WWII Veterans in 1952.**

students who died in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

Veterans have always been part of PJC's student body, according to Williams.

Although it is hard to determine exactly how many veterans are enrolled this semester at PJC, there are 176

who are receiving VA benefits, according to Jennifer Smith, PJC's new veteran's specialist.

In recent years, they have also played a part in PJC's Veterans Day ceremony, carrying flags during the procession and speaking.

# From the battlefield to the classroom

**CHRISTINA GUNLOCK**  
CO-EDITOR

*Veterans Day is next week. Three veterans, now PJC students, share some of their experiences in the military and their lives as students afterwards.*

J.D. Marrs served in the U.S. Navy for 24 years, all active duty. He chose the Navy because of the excellent technical schools.

"I was interested in electronics and thought, in the mid-80's, there would be a future in that field after I got out," says Marrs.

Originally from Chicota, Marrs traveled all over the world with the Navy.

His first duty station, aboard the USS Belknap, was Gaeta, Italy.

"I loved Italy because the ship I was on travelled from port to port in the Mediterranean and I got to see about 20 countries in Europe while there and I mean we partied like rock stars, too," says Marrs.

Marrs comes from a military heritage; his grandfathers served in WW I, WW II, and Vietnam.

"I am as proud of them as I am any other person that raises their hand to take the oath to support and defend our great country," says Marrs.

Marrs keeps in contact with many friends still in the military and past employees still call and ask for advice.

"It is a brotherhood that can't be explained without actually living it," he says.

"One of my best friends is a retired Navy SEAL that I mentored while we were stationed together; he is now a senior executive with Micro-



Courtesy photo

## J.D. Marrs

soft and my mentor, as I strive for my degree in the same field (BAAS-Technologies Management). We talk weekly," says Marrs.

"When I decided to go back to college full time, this seemed like the best place, as we have a support structure of family here and I knew PJC, followed by A&M-Commerce, would give me the education I was looking for. PJC has far surpassed my expectations and has given me the extra motivation to do my best in school," says Marrs.

Joseph Henley, raised in Lamar County, enlisted in the summer of 1987.

Henley credits Ronald Reagan's presidency and Clint Eastwood's *Heartbreak Ridge*, with his joining the U.S. Marines.

*Heartbreak Ridge*, a 1986 war movie, is about a Marine (Eastwood) taking a bunch of Marine misfits and turning them into a brave recon team.

A veteran of Desert Storm and Somalia, Henley served on

active duty for eight of the 13 years he was in the military.

Henley left the military in February 2001 with the rank of staff sergeant.

"My hearing loss from active duty prevented my subsequent re-enlistment," he says.

The transition to civilian life was challenging after Henley's military service.

"I have spent the last ten years of my life working as a waiter and a professional musician for the most part," he says. "I was the bassist for the band *Miles From Nowhere* and we had a recording and management contract with Shiner/Palo Duro Records, and I went on to play with *Whiskey Roadshow* and Ryan Booth."

He continues, "Music was my 'day job' and it paid the bills for a while. The economy has gotten so bad that I had to make a transition to the 'real world' and start back to work and get an education. I have a new son that's three weeks old and he is the inspiration for going to school."

Henley is a new PJC student, majoring in social sciences and criminal justice.

He says attending college is not very different from the military, although a lot less dangerous.

"Going to class is just like following a military training

schedule. Marines get graded on their jobs and conduct just like college GPA's," he says.

"However, in most specialized military

schools, making a grade of 70% or lower on any exam will get you an 'F', no matter what your grade average is. You might get lucky to get 'recy-

clad' and get to take the entire course over again. Failure in the classroom can lead to death on the battlefield."

David Helfferich was a staff sergeant in the U.S. Marines. A veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, part of the War on Terror, Helfferich has been out of the service for eight years.

Helfferich joined the Marines because he wanted to challenge himself.

During his 10 years active duty, Helfferich was stationed in various places, including Okinawa, Japan. Helfferich's favorite station was Camp Lejeune, NC. North Carolina is a beautiful state with a lot to offer the outdoors person, says Helfferich.

He has a brother and a sister currently in the U.S. Army.

"It's a great feeling having siblings in the armed forces," says Helfferich.

"It was time for a change and to re-evaluate my purpose in life," says Helfferich about his leaving the military.

Helfferich chose PJC to obtain his associate's degree in radiology because PJC was close to where he lives and it came highly recommended.

On several topics, all three veterans agree. Veterans Day means paying respect to all veterans and if asked to serve their country again, the three men would immediately reenlist. They agree, one of the most misunderstood aspects of the military is the belief the military brainwashes you. The military trains people for specific jobs, like any civilian employer. They all believe the U.S. is pulling troops out too soon, even though Marrs will be glad his friends will be out of harm's way.

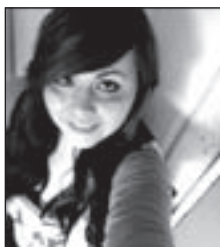
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**"Music was my 'day job,'"**  
Joseph Henley

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## College

## Culture



DEVON CHILDERS  
Co-EDITOR

School spirit isn't something you can quite put a finger on. If you ask any student, grade school to university, the answer will vary every time. One thing most would agree on, however, is that even though you can't define it entirely, you know it when you see it, hear it, and feel it.

The one time of the year you can find the excitement and pride in the air affiliated with school spirit most is in the tradition of Homecoming. Just the time of the year gives some people the urge to paint their faces, wear outrageous wigs, and do a wave in the stands, all suited in their school colors.

"I went to Chisum and went all out for homecoming by dressing up everyday and decking out from head to toe in our school colors," first year PJC student Kacey Johnson said. "I loved homecoming. I got 'Most Spirited' in the yearbook my senior year."

But when the transition from high school to college comes around, does that same school spirit follow, or does it stay in the halls it knew so well? With the 2011 PJC Homecoming quickly approaching, I thought I would find out just how much school spirit students like Johnson would bring to the table.

"I haven't really had school spirit here at PJC yet, because I don't live on campus and don't hear a lot about things," Johnson said. "If the school advertises and I hear about any activities for Homecoming, I would love to participate."

Even though there are many ways to show school spirit, such as participating in activities in clubs, sports, and even some classes, these activities are not always well-known around campus. This may be because of the larger campus than in high school, or simply because students don't spend as much time on campus as they did in their earlier school days. For instance, first year PJC student Micah Halbert graduated from the small high school of Roxton this year, and is about to experience his first college homecoming.

"We only had a class of 10 and we all grew up together," Halbert said. "Everyone knew everyone, so everyone knew everything. It's different here."

So how do students in the first year of transition bring the same school spirit from high school on to a different campus? The answer: by simply bringing your own traditions from high school, but leaving room for change.

"You just have to put aside the fact that you aren't supporting the same team or mascot. Get involved in your college," Halbert said. "Join clubs. Play sports. Participate in student activities and

## School Spirit



Courtesy Photo

**Micah Halbert sitting alongside his fellow cheerleaders before a pep rally his senior year at Roxton High.**



Courtesy Photo

**First year PJC student Kacey Johnson shows her school spirit her senior year at Chisum High School.**

your classes. After all, your college years are supposed to be the best years of your life. If you have to go, you might as well enjoy it."

School spirit is the feeling you get when you enter a school, attend a game, or watch a pep rally. It is the invisible electricity that seems to exude from everywhere. It's pride. It's camaraderie. It's involvement. Yell, shout, and show your pride for your team and school. Both the men's and women's basketball teams have just started the new season, and the PJC Homecoming games will be held in the Hunt Center on Nov. 12. Now is your time to make your own definition of school spirit.

# MY TOWN

**KAITLYN SKIDMORE**  
**STAFF WRITER**

*Edgar Soto was born and raised in Comonfort, Guanajuato Mexico. In December 2000 when he was just a young boy, he and his family left Mexico and moved to Texas.*

### **Why did you move to Texas?**

My Dad's job made him relocate.

### **What's your major at PJC?**

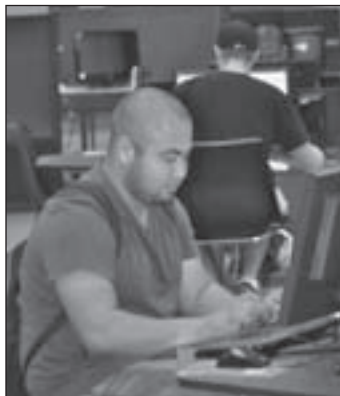
Geology, the study of the earth.

### **Once you graduate, do you plan on returning to Mexico?**

Yes, I will work there.

### **What do you like about Texas?**

The food; there are all kinds



Kaitlyn Skidmore/The Bat

### **Edgar Soto studying in the library.**

from Japanese, to Chinese, to even Mexican.

### **What are the major differences in Guanajuato and Texas?**

The people are more social in Texas, and there are all different types of cultures here.

### **What do you miss about Mexico?**

My family and the mountains. In Guanajuato, mountains are everywhere; here there are not any.

### **How is the weather different?**

In Mexico the seasons fall in the right order; Texas the weather is crazy. It will snow one day then be 100 degrees the next.

### **What's your favorite thing about Texas?**

The cowboys, cowgirls, and the accents.

### **Do you return home for holidays?**

Only Christmas, in Mexico, we celebrate Christmas more than here. We go to houses, get food, pray, basically like Halloween with Jesus involved.

### **What's there to do there?**

Basically anything, we go outside more and play more than you do here.

# Dragon



# Puffs

### Movie Night

At 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 15 there will be a movie showing on the lawn (depending on the weather- if it is too cold, it will be in the ballroom).

### Skate Night

Skate Night will take place at 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 29 at the Paris Family Fun Center. PJC identification required.

### Spring Registration

Spring registration begins on Monday, Nov. 7 in the Admissions Office and on-line.

### Library Gaming Night

Thursday, Nov. 10 at 10 p.m., the library will be open for gaming night; games included will be Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3, Super Mario Bros. Wii, Battlefield 3 and Wii Sports. Teams of 4 can sign up in the library early, and warm up time begins at 9:30 p.m. Winners of the tournament get a copy of Modern Warfare 3.

### AASU meeting

AASU meets on Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m., in room 219 at the student center.

### Joint Meeting

Joint meeting for all clubs on campus in room 205 in the Student Center at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 8.

### Open Mic Night

Open mic night at 8 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 8.

### Baptist Student Ministries

Serves free lunches on Mondays, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### Methodist Student Union

Serves free lunches on Tuesdays through Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## PJC November basketball schedule

### Men's Schedule

11/5-SWOSU Tourney Vs. Seminole-Weatherford, Ok. 6 p.m.

11/6-SWOSU Journey Vs Western OK-Weatherford, Ok. 4 p.m.

11/12-Carl Albert (Homecoming)-Paris, 6 p.m.  
11/15-Murray State-Tishomingo, Ok. TBA.

11/17-Navarro Tourny Vs. Temple-Corsicana, 4 p.m.

11/18-Navarro Tourney Vs. Ranger-Corsicana. 4 p.m.

11/21-Eastfield College-Paris 6 p.m.

11/30-Panola College-Paris, 7:30 p.m.

### Women's Schedule

11/4-Arkansas Baptist-Paris. 6 p.m.

11/8-Ranger College-Paris. 5:30 p.m.

11/12-Carl Albert (Homecoming)-Paris. 4

p.m.  
11/15-Murray State-Tishomingo, Ok. TBA

11/18-Lon Morris Clasic-Jacksonville. TBA  
11/19-Lon Morris Clas-

sic-Jacksonville. TBA

11/26-Eastern Oklahoma-Paris. 4 p.m.

11/28-Murray State-ParisTx.

11/30-Panola. 5:30 p.m.

# MEET BLAKE

Class of 2013



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**B**lake, a pre-med student, chose to attend Texas A&M University-Commerce because of its affordability and its close proximity to his home and family.

“What I like about Texas A&M University-Commerce is that it’s large enough to have a half-million dollar microscope, yet small enough that you can go down the walking mall, see someone you know.”

Blake values his university experience, and sees it as a great tool that will prepare him for a future medical career. Thanks to the tight-knit campus life and small, personal classroom experiences, Blake has had the privilege of building relationships with professors and fellow students alike.

Professors like Dr. John Paul Stovak have provided Blake with inspiration in the classroom to pursue his dream of becoming a pediatrician, providing him with valuable guidance and information. Classes like animal biology have also complemented Blake’s academic aspirations by challenging him to think critically and perform simple procedures.

Grateful for the foundation A&M-Commerce has provided, Blake is confident that the groundwork he has started here will help him achieve great things in the future.

“I’ve gotten so much more than just an education here,” Blake said. “I love this university.”



A Member of The Texas A&M University System

# Homecoming happenings

**ALEXANDER THOMAS**  
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

will be a pep rally immediately following the parade in the Hunt's Center at 5 p.m.

## Thursday, Nov. 10

The PJC Homecoming Parade will be on Thursday, Nov 10, at 4 p.m. it will leave Collegiate Drive, heading west on Clarksville Street. It will circle the plaza downtown and return to campus.

All the campus organizations and departments are encouraged and invited to have floats in the parade, sign-up for the parade will be in Glenna Preston's office in the Student Life Office.

There will be a \$100 prize for the top three floats. There

## Friday, Nov. 11

The President's Reception will be on Friday, Nov 11, at 5:30 p.m. in the Mclemore Student Center and at 7 p.m.

The drama department will be showing the '25th Anniversary Putnam County Spelling Bee' in the Ray Karrer Theater.

## Saturday, Nov. 12

The PJC Alumni and Friends Association Annual Business Meeting and Continental Breakfast, will be held in the McLemore Student Center

Cafeteria on Saturday, Nov 12.

The Chamber Trolley tour will begin at 10 a.m., leaving from the south side of the Student Center. At 11 a.m. the Alumni Memorial Service will be held in DeShong Chapel, west of the Administration building.

The Distinguished Alumni Award Luncheon, honoring Joan Mathis, is at noon, at the Love Civic Center.

At 2:30 p.m. the Academic Hall of Honors Ceremony will start in the Student Center Ballroom.

The Lady Dragons will take on the Carl Albert College Vikings in the Hunt Center.

At 6 p.m. the Men's basket-

ball team will also play Carl Albert College in the Hunt Center, the naming of the 2011 PJC Homecoming King and Queen will be announced at Halftime.

At 7 p.m. the drama department will perform the "25th Anniversary Putnam County Spelling Bee" in the Ray Karrer Theater.

There will be a Homecoming Dance at 11 p.m. in the PJC Ballroom for students only, a PJC i.d. will be required to get in.

## Sunday, Nov. 13

The drama department is presenting the "25th Anniversary Putnam County Spelling Bee" on Sunday, Nov 13.

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# Volleyball Ladies ready for victory

**BARBARA TORRES**  
STAFF WRITER

The volleyball team is on a roll, placing 16 in the nation (Division I, District L, Region 14). The Lady Dragons play tonight in Brenham versus Blinn College, who is ranked number one in the nation.

According to coach Justin Maness, the members have really enjoyed themselves throughout the season.

"They've been a really fun bunch. They've enjoyed the success we've been having and hope to keep it rolling," says Maness.

The Lady Dragons need to win two games in a row at the conference tournament. If they win, the season won't end until Nov. 17.

They have played twice in the past week, winning both games. They played Lon Morris College on Oct. 24 in Jacksonville with scores 25-21, 25-14,

and 25-21, winning the match 3-0. On Oct. 28, they won the game with Ranger College at Ranger.

They won all three games 25-15, 25-20, and 25-18, winning the match 3-0. The volleyball team has won 28 in 8 overall and 6 in 6 in conference.

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# Fall season over for PJC golfers

**BARBARA TORRES**  
STAFF WRITER

The golf team has finished with their fall season and according to coach David Johnson, the golf team has done pretty well this fall. Fall is considered the off-season for the golf team.

"It's a chance to know the freshmen, their swings, and a little bit about them," says Johnson. "We have worked hard this fall and I'm proud of them." He says they have all played well and have improved.

According to Johnson, the men are enjoying themselves.

They all get along with each other, which makes the team better and stronger.

The best finish they had this fall season was placing second at two different tournaments, the one in Paris and the one at Mary Hardin Baylor University. Golf season will last through

May.

Nationals are midway through the spring season, but they are not taking a break; they are still practicing a lot, preparing for spring. Feb. 19 through the 21 will be the first tournament in the spring.



Christina Gunlock/ The Bat

Amy Spann, Office Information Specialist, Educational Opportunity Center, wore her mother's PJC cheerleader uniform from the '60s to campus for Halloween. Spann's father played baseball during the '60s for PJC.



Kaitlyn Skidmore/ The Bat

PJC students enjoy a night at the Zombie Prom Monday, Oct. 31, in the PJC Student Center ballroom. Students dressed as zombies or in other costumes and danced from 9 to midnight.



David Dannheim/ The Bat

Nursing student Isabel Torres (right), a former student of John Rutherford's sociology class, painted the for him that he is holding. The inscription on the back of the painting is a message Isabel left for Rutherford, stating Isabel's appreciation for his perseverance as an instructor at PJC, as well as her appreciation for his showing her what a teacher is "really supposed to be like."



Courtesy Photo

(Left) Drama students hone their talents for the musical "25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." The first performances will be on Friday, Nov. 11 and Saturday, Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. with a matinee on Sunday, Nov. 13 at 2 p.m. in the Ray E. Karrer Theatre.