Soccer comes to PJC

College fields men’s and women’s teams
The popularity of soccer worldwide was evident at this summer’s Olympics and when the USA women’s team took the gold medal, that popularity soared.

This year PJC has added soccer as an intercollegiate sport. The men’s and women’s teams played their first games August 31; both teams led by coach Lance Noble. There are five home games left for the men this year and four home games left for the women. All home games are at Noyes Stadium. (See schedule page 4.)

The teams are not only being taught how to become better players every day, but coach Noble also lets them know that they are here to get a degree first. He encourages the players to have at least 2.5 GPA and get their associate’s degree in two years.

“It’s a work ethic, this is a business, and when you’ve come to training and stepped on the white line, you came to work,” said Noble.

The women lost their first game with a score of 7-0, but won their second and seventh game 7-0 and 4-1, leaving them with five losses and two wins so far. The women have to work harder because they have no substitutes, and though they only have 13 players this year, Noble said the women help each other very well. He said it amazes him how well the women players do with the players who have not played before.

The men have lost three out of seven games, winning games with scores of 2-1, 2-0, 2-1 and 2-1. There are 21 men on the team this year. According to Noble, they are not nearly as aggressive as the majority of men in other college soccer teams. They are a very good team and they work at a high rate of speed, he said.

“Both teams are very close, they travel well together,” says Noble.

In the game against Eastfield College, Tayla Tongson, midfielder number 10, goes head-to-head, moving the ball towards a waiting Kayce Bullock, forward number 12, at Noyes Stadium for a victory of 7-0 Monday, Sept. 3.

See page 4
PJC gets soccer: PJC now has men’s and women’s teams

PJC freshman defender Jimmy Lara, left in the lighter jersey, takes control of the ball on Thursday, Sept. 6, at Noyes Stadium. The PJC Dragon men’s team took on Ranger College for a win of 2-1.

Ilmi Mehmeti PJC sophomore midfielder, in the lighter jersey, holds his own against a determined number 21 in Thursday’s game against Ranger College.

Lady Dragons Cerah Collard, 5, and Sydney Cunningham, 18, team up to capture the ball on Monday, Sept. 3, at Noyes Stadium. PJC won against Eastfield with a final score of 7-0.
continued from page 2

He said he feels very blessed to have the players he has now.

However the men’s and women’s teams are very different.

“The women’s team is a bit slower, more organized, and disciplined, the passes are also shorter; but it’s fantastic when they are aggressive,” said Noble.

“The men are faster, much more ‘run-and-gun’, not as methodical and as organized as the girls,” he said.

Noble said, “Our goal is not just to make the playoffs. Our goal is not just to be competitive.”

The staff has already started to recruit for next year. He would like to recruit 12 to 15 women players for next year and 10 to 13 men. He would really like to have 20 to 24 women for next year’s team.

Though Lance Noble is head coach for both the women’s and men’s teams, there is also an assistant coach.

Coach Aaron Brueckner is the men’s assistant coach. Brueckner graduated from the University of the Ozarks in 2010 and played semi-professional soccer.

Noble has coached college soccer for 17 years. He has coached at the University of Dallas, Texas A&M International University, Northwood University, Stephen F. Austin, and St. Mary’s University.

Drama Department presents:
Arthur Miller’s ‘The Crucible’

PJC Drama Department will perform Arthur Miller’s “The Crucible” at Deshong Chapel Thursday through Saturday, Sept. 27-29 at 7:30 p.m.

“The Crucible” will also have daily matinees at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Admission is $5; students are admitted free with student identification.

Limited seating is available, so reserve tickets as soon as possible by calling 903-782-0488.

An additional Halloween performance will be held next month at the stroke of midnight, Oct. 31.

PJC volleyball team goes pink

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the Lady Dragons volleyball team will celebrate the month at their home game against Tyler Junior College, Wednesday, Oct. 3 at 6 p.m. in the Hunt Center.

Everyone is urged to wear pink to the game and support the Lady Dragons.
Banned Books Week begins

AYLA WAQAR
STAFF WRITER

Thousands of institutions across the United States will honor the freedom to read during Banned Books Week, and PJC will celebrate Banned Books Week, Thursday, Sept. 27, in the Learning Resource Center.

There will be displays in the Administration Building and Learning Resource Center on September 27. From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the foyer of the library, students and teachers will read excerpts and passages from their favorite banned books.

This marks the 30th anniversary of Banned Books Week, raising awareness about challenged controversial books, and bringing attention to the dangers of censorship of books that violates the First Amendment rights for all Americans.

Banned Books Week is recognized by librarians, booksellers, publishers, journalists, teachers, and readers all over the United States, and is sponsored by the American Library Association annually the last week of September.

Its goal, according to the ALA, is “to teach the importance of our First Amendment rights and the power of literature, and to draw attention to the danger that exists when restraints are imposed on the availability of information in a free society.”

For example, Joe Jackson, PJC Technical Services Librarian, noted how during Hitler’s era the Nazis burned books that went against their religious views and scientific studies.

Banned Books on the list are usually challenged by parents, over concerns about violence, language, and sexuality.

PJC student Tamra Holmes, above, looks at the Banned Books Week display in the English wing of the Administration building. One of the quotes displayed, said by Ray Bradbury, reads “You don’t have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them.”
Students from the Greenville Campus biology classes of Cheryl Anderson and Dr. Dan Reinboldt volunteered at water stations for cyclists this past weekend at Greenville’s annual Cotton Patch Classic bike race. More than 800 cyclists participated including Paris campus employees Susan Moore, art instructor; Alan Williams, history instructor; Shane Boatwright, campus security; Vicki Humphrey, math/science secretary and Tim Shelton, print shop coordinator. The students not only distributed water but also picked up the used bottles to recycle.
The staff writers of The Bat receive many questions about PJC’s student publication; the most frequent of these questions, however, is “Why is it called The Bat?”

Since the campus mascot is the dragon, the question is a valid one. (The story of the Dragon is a tale for another issue.)

From time to time, the staff of The Bat runs the following abbreviated account, excerpted from the first edition of The Bat on October 17, 1925.

“Did you ever hear the story of the man who made lemon-ade out of lemons which his mockers showered upon him?

If you don’t know the sweet little story, perhaps you have heard some other nice tale that will illustrate what mankind can do in the way of making capital out of a handicap.

That is the idea we have in mind in naming our paper, ‘The Bat.’

Back in the misty past when our institution was young and was being housed in a dark, out-of-the-way, backdoor part of the high school building, some smart, holier-than-thou person derisively called us the ‘Junior College Bats.’

At first that rankled, because we knew it was meant scornfully. Sober reflection led some of us to ask of others, ‘Well, what’s in a name?’

We decided to find out and we did. It’s all in favor of bats, too!’

The 1925 story, taken from The Bat archives, housed at the A.M. Aiken Regional Archives in the campus library, goes into great detail about bats, with information taken from the encyclopedia. Boiled down, the following is what the first staff found out:

“They fly like birds, they are furred like the four-footed animals, and in the structure they resemble the monkey.

They are harmless and regarded with scorn by only the timid. They destroy pests and unpleasant nocturnal insects.

They are social by nature and dwell together in peace, harmony, and good will. No bat harms or destroys one of its own.

They are extremely versatile—they fly, walk, slide, stand on their feet or hang by their claws.

Last of all, they know how to enjoy life—stay out all night and sleep all day.

And so why shouldn’t we call our paper ‘The Bat?’”

David Dannheim
Staff Writer

Government instructor Ruth Ann Alsobrook organized a celebration Monday, September 17 to commemorate the ratification of the U.S. Constitution. Government students dressed up in patriotic period wear, waved flags, passed out bookmarks, and played drums all the way from the WTC building to the cafeteria. When they arrived, they recited an abridged version of the U.S. Constitution. Afterwards, members of the drama department sang the School House Rock version of the Preamble.

David Dannheim
Staff Writer

Government instructor organizes celebration

From left: Derick Waugh, David Dannheim, Willie Williams, Shelbie Rose and Vina Malicoat.
For Ashley, a senior biology student from Kempner, Texas, it was the opportunity to work closely with her professors and the Honors College that convinced her to attend A&M-Commerce.

“I enjoyed the look and feel of the university, and how the small campus allows for closer relationships with professors,” she said. “I also won a full ride scholarship through acceptance into the Honors College.”

While Ashley came to Commerce with only a general goal of studying biology, opportunities to pursue undergraduate research projects sparked a career interest in cancer research.

“When I came to A&M-Commerce, I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life other than get a degree in biology,” Ashley said. “Working in a research lab here made me realize that I really want to do something that has meaning and gives back. Being here has helped shape my decision to go to grad school and become a cancer biologist.”

When Ashley’s not studying for her GRE, finishing her honors thesis and preparing for graduate school, she’s enjoying the myriad of activities available on campus like watching chainsaw jugglers, attending events like the Eli Young Band concert or participating in her favorite event so far, Relay for Life.