



ILLUSTRATION BY DEVON CREW AND SARAH MANNING

The story of the San Marcos serial killer

By Marisa Nuñez
Editor in Chief

Trigger warning: This story contains mentions of suicide and murder.

On the second floor of the Old Hays County Jail, serial killer Anna Hauptreif was found hanging from the bars of her jail cell by a waistband of her under-clothing, on Oct. 31, 1924; just five months before

going to trial for the murder of her first husband and four step kids and the attempted murder of her second husband.

Oct. 31 will mark the 100th anniversary of her death.

Her story

When Anna was 27 she married Kurt Schroeder, a German immigrant, in June 1921. In September

1921, Schroeder died. At the time it was believed to be due to anesthetics during an appendectomy.

At his funeral, Anna cried and wailed hysterically over his coffin. Several community members and friends of Anna attended the funeral, including the Hauptreif family.

SEE HISTORY PAGE 3

Community members display spooky sides through oddity collections

By Marisa Nuñez
Editor in Chief

At an oddities and curiosities event in Austin, Andrea Hernandez, owner of Triple Six Coffee Social, bought her first oddity, a baby pig with a real heart on it. Now for over a decade, Hernandez has collected about 20 oddities.

"I collect a lot of mummified remains of animals, and it took me a while because, coming from a Hispanic background you grow up kind of being like, no stay away from it," Hernandez said. "And then, about 15 years ago, I told myself, 'I love this, stop holding back.' So I just got extra creepy... I just embraced it."

Oddities consist of things like strange antiques, bones, taxidermy or preserved animal remains and creative work. Hernandez's favorite type of oddity to collect is mummified remains of animals.

Hernandez started collecting oddities because she believes there is beauty in death. She was always fascinated with the history of old post-mortem photos and the way autopsies used to be conducted leading to her interest in collecting oddities.

"This might sound morbid, but I think there's a beauty to death," Reyes said. "I went to school to be a nurse, and I started off as a patient tech... so after a patient died... I would go in there and wash them. That was like, what they still do in hospitals [is] what they used to do[for] post-mortem photos, but it's just the whole beauty to death and respecting the body and realizing that that was a life at one point."

Sydney Reyes, founder of Para-chicks Paranormal, began collecting oddities three years ago after her friend, who is a paranormal investigator, acquired some haunted dolls while working on a case.

"He gave me a call, and he was like, 'Hey, do you want a doll?' I was like, 'Sure.' He was like, 'It's a haunted doll' and I was like, 'Wait, what?' So we met up... and I originally was only going to get Sarah... and right next to her was Esme, so I told him I [needed] both," Reyes said.



PHOTO BY MARISA NUÑEZ

Victoria sits in the haunted museum, Monday, Oct. 28, 2024, at Triple Six Coffee Social.

SEE COMMUNITY PAGE 2

TXST program identifies deceased migrants

By Ryan Claycamp
Senior News Reporter

As immigration across the United States-Mexico border has risen in recent years, there has been a rising issue in border communities: unidentified migrant deaths.

According to the Texas Department of Health Services, border communities are more likely to be impoverished, leaving them lacking the proper resources to investigate and identify deceased migrants.. That's where programs such as Operation Identification (OpID), a program run through the Texas State Anthropology Department, come in to help identify and repatriate unidentified bodies found along the border.

"I believe the number of remains we receive increases each year," Victoria Soto, an anthropology PhD student at Texas State that works with OpID, said.

SEE BORDER PAGE 5



FROM FRONT COMMUNITY



PHOTO BY MARISA NUÑEZ

One of Andrea Hernandez's oddities sits on a counter, Monday, Oct. 28, 2024, at Triple Six Social.

Reyes' oddities consist of haunted dolls, a haunted mirror and haunted toys. She has a total of six haunted dolls. Four of the dolls live inside her home and the other two are displayed in the haunted museum at Triple Six Coffee Social. Esme is her favorite doll.

"Esme is my favorite because I've come into contact with so many skeptics that are like, 'oh, there's no such thing as a haunted doll, there's no such thing as a haunted object,' Reyes said. "There's been three instances where I've proven those skeptics wrong."

Louis Sypher, owner of The Black Throne oddities and gothic decor, collected oddities for 15 years. Belton, the town he grew up in, influenced his interest in them.

"When I was in my teens, I was growing up around an old country town where all we had were antique stores and stuff like that," Sypher said. "So, I'd find scythes and cool little medical oddities in there."

Although most of his collecting began in his teens, growing up in the country fostered his interest in oddities as a child.

"When I was a kid I grew up in the country and I would always come across little cow skulls, goat skulls, deer bones and what not," Sypher said. "So, I guess that's where I first started out doing it all and it just grew from there."

The art of collecting comes naturally to Sypher. His favorite type of oddities to collect are antiques from funeral tools, including caskets, embalming tools and headstones.

"I have collected a few full size and child size caskets, all vintage and antique, and those have been some of my favorites," Sypher said.

Sypher said the amount of oddities he's collected would be too much to count.

"It's a big number, I couldn't tell you exactly," Sypher said. "The collection has overcome my life."

Bobcats get animated with costumes for Halloween

By Chloe Rawlinson
Life and Arts Contributor

With Halloween approaching, many Texas State students searched for ideas for their Halloween costumes. For some, a common thread connects their costumes: animated characters. Four students, found through *The University Star's* Instagram, explain how they plan to turn their costume plans into reality.

For Julia Penna, health science junior, inspiration struck from a picture of a celebrity unrelated to her costume.

"I'm going to be Dr. Doofenshmirtz from Phineas and Ferb in the episode where he has the 'Hi Hater, Bye Hater' shirt," Penna said. "I found a picture of Brad Pitt [wearing a shirt] that said 'Need Money for Porsche,' and for some reason, that specific image of Dr. Doofenshmirtz came into my head."

Penna looks forward to the costume because of its comedic and nostalgic origins and wearability.

"[The costume] is actually super cheap, and I can make the t-shirt myself, so it will be really easy to wear and super comfortable," Penna said. "I think [the costume] is very original, and it's the best thing I've thought of."

Some students choose to tackle their costume ideas as a team. Gianna Nolan, electronic media freshman, is a part of a group costume from Adventure Time.

"I am going to be Princess Bubblegum," Nolan

said. "One of my friends already had a Marceline costume, so she recommended it. Everyone in the group really liked the idea, and we all collectively agreed and decided that we could all do the Adventure Time theme."

Nolan and her friends shopped for pieces for their costume on the internet to best suit their styles and budgets.

"I am looking at shorter pink dresses and Princess Bubblegum-inspired crowns on Amazon to make a costume, since Halloween costumes from stores such as Spirit Halloween can be super expensive," Nolan said.

The group plans on walking around the Square and entering their residence hall's costume contest with their idea.

Missy Seriki, mass communications sophomore, leads another group costume idea.

"This year, I'm doing a group Monster High costume with my roommates, and I will be going as Cleo De Nile," Seriki said. "[My roommates and I] have wanted to do a group costume for a while, and Monster High is something we all love, so I'm very excited."

Seriki wants to get creative and plans to craft pieces of her costume herself.

"The costume consists of a blue tube top under a gold scarf, and I am going to make myself a skirt with gold accents and accessories," Seriki said. "We are wearing the costumes to go trick-or-treating with my roommates' little siblings on Halloween



ILLUSTRATION BY AUTUMN POTTER

and maybe another party on the 26th," Seriki said.

Angel Morales, public relations senior, shares an interesting feature with his character of choice: his last name.

"I am dressing up as Miles Morales for Halloween because my last name is also Morales, and he is my favorite superhero," Morales said. "It's also a part of a couples costume my girlfriend and I are doing. She will be Ghost Spider-Man."

Just like Spider-Man, duty calls for Morales, as he will work on Halloween this year.

"I will be going to work in my costume at North Street Curry Shop, followed with a party that one of my coworkers is throwing," Morales said.

Pets Get Spooky



ROCKY



BENTO



SCAR



PEANUT

GRAPHIC BY DEVON CREW

THE UNIVERSITY STAR

DEFENDING THE FIRST AMENDMENT SINCE 1911

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FROM FRONT HISTORY

The Hauptreif family consisted of 11 children. In 1916, William Hauptreif's wife died during childbirth and a week later so did William's 12th child. William's property was valued at about \$12,000.

Anna had gone to school with the Hauptreif family while growing up and was close to the family. Because they had known each other so well, William and Anna got married in 1922 and Anna immediately fell pregnant.

"Finding a new spouse is a little slim and they didn't have a whole lot of pickings," Peggy Jones, writer of "Mourning Murderess," said. "They were neighbors. He had known her forever. She was friends with his kids, and he had four young children at home that needed a mother. And guess what? She needed support. A marriage made in heaven, right?"

Between April and May of 1923, three of the four Hauptreif kids still living at home mysteriously died. 10-year-old Lydia Hauptreif was the first to succumb to the unknown illness on April 7, 1923. Four days later 14-year-old Walter Hauptreif died.

After weeks of severe pain, vomiting and diarrhea, the youngest Hubert Hauptreif died at eight years old on May 4, 1923.

Similar to her actions at her late husband's funeral, Anna mourned the death of her stepchildren and wailed at their funerals. The youngest daughter, Annie Hauptreif, was sent to live with her grandparents at this time.

While Annie was away, Anna and William welcomed their first child on June 21, 1923. After returning from her grandparent's house, Annie died of the same illness as her siblings on November 11, 1923.

Due to suspicions of the Hauptreif family illness, an autopsy was conducted on Annie, and her body was laden with arsenic.

"People suspected maybe William did it," Jones said. "William suspected maybe a discerned family member did it because of the fact that his estate might go to Anna, his second wife... nothing came of it."

In summer 1924, William experienced the same vomiting and convulsions as his late children while working out in the field. He was taken to the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Memorial Hospital.

On the way to the hospital, William vomited. The vomit was collected and tested. It was confirmed to

have traces of arsenic. Anna was arrested and taken to the Old Hays County Jail with her one-year-old daughter Lenora. Soon after, Lenora came into the care of her uncle.

After searching their family home, a bag of arsenic was found under the house as well as a jar of arsenic in water in the pie pantry.

Anna confessed to the attempted murder of William and the murder of her four stepchildren and her brother was released from jail.

"I don't know why I have done it," Anna said, "The children wouldn't mind me. I put arsenic in coffee I had left on the stove for them."

She gave no reason for attempting to kill William but emphasized in her confession he had offered to will her his 180 acres of land. William later changed his mind and wanted to split the property and Anna called to change the testament just before William left for the hospital.

A few days after her first confession, Anna confessed to killing her first husband as well.

The trial of Anna was extended two times. First because of the disappearance of her attorney and secondly because of the discovery of her second pregnancy with William.

The trial was to continue in February but on Oct. 31, 1924, Anna hung herself and her unborn baby on the second floor of the Old Hays County Jail.

Anna is buried in Umland next to her family members.

Many people believe the Old Hays County Jail is haunted by Anna.

As the anniversary of her death draws closer, Frank Gonzales, head investigator of the San Marcos Paranormal Society, anticipates her energy to be strong. Gonzales visited the Old Hays County Jail, located on Fredericksburg Street, on Oct. 27. He believes the Old Hays County Jail is one of the more haunted places in San Marcos.



PHOTO BY MANDALYN LEWALLEN
The Old Hays County Jail sits on the corner of Fredericksburg Street, Sunday, Oct. 27, 2024, near downtown San Marcos.

"A lot of people don't know the history," Hernandez said. "They know the building, but they don't know the history behind it. So that's part of our thing is we try to educate people on, you know, history is a big part of paranormal investigating."

The San Marcos Paranormal Society visits the Old Hays County Jail periodically. They were first invited to investigate the jail in its natural state before renovations began in 2018. According to Gonzales, renovations were never completed due to the difficulty of keeping a construction company.

"Periodically we go in every few months and just document the progression of it," Hernandez said. "After a while, they would get one construction company. They would last maybe a week or two before they would quit because of the paranormal activity... It would take them a few months before they could get another construction company... So the building never did get finished...It's now been six years and it still hasn't been worked on."

According to Linda Coker, San Marcos Historical Commission Chair, Anna mostly messes with men and will touch them if they are upstairs where she died.

The University Star gathered information through Peggy Jones and Linda Coker.

BOOO! Halloween Safety Guide

ALCOHOL POISONING

Alcohol poisoning is the result of drinking too much in a short period of time. When the alcohol enters your bloodstream, parts of the brain that control vital body functions shut off.

SIX AMERICANS DIE FROM ALCOHOL POISONING A DAY.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNS

Any of the following symptoms may indicate alcohol poisoning:

- Trouble staying awake
- Vomiting
- Blue or pale skin
- Confusion
- Low body temperature
- Slow breathing

SEEKING MEDICAL ATTENTION

Do the following if you suspect someone is experiencing alcohol poisoning:

- Call 911 right away. Never assume that someone could sleep off alcohol poisoning.
- Never leave the person alone. Stay with them, and keep them awake.
- Prevent choking by turing the person on their side allowing them to vomit.
- Prepare to give medics any information you can about the person.

HOW TO: Drink Responsibly

Stick to the buddy system when going out, going to the bathroom and going home.

Use a designated driver or a transportation sevice. Never drink and drive!

Space out your drinks to 1 or less per hour, drinking water in between.

Be cautious of accepting drinks from strangers, and never leave your drink uncovered.

BE CAREFUL

WHAT YOU PUT IN YOUR CAULDRON!

Beer 12oz

Wine 5oz

Shots 1.5oz

These drinks are all the same! (IN TERMS OF ALCOHOL PERCENTAGE...)

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

INFOGRAPHIC BY CARSON RODGERS



Storytellers shine at sixth annual Star Stories



(From Left to Right) Star Stories Speakers Jessica Ary, Mason Murphy, Sergio Carvajal-Leoni, Erika Nielson, Regina Nelson, Sean O'Connor, Monica Charles and Felicia Ramos gather on stage for a group photo, Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2024, at the Performing Arts Center. Star Stories is an event where speakers share inspiring stories.

By Megan Weise
Life and Arts Reporter

Content warning: This article contains discussion of rape and substance abuse.

Members of the Texas State community gathered in on Oct. 23 in the Performing Arts Center to hear the inspiring and powerful stories of eight community members for The University Star's sixth annual Star Stories sponsored by the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Jessica Ary — Navy veteran and non-traditional education student

Jessica Ary hid behind a superficial mask to hide her true emotions from a young age. Her eldest son of four children battles addiction and nearly lost his life in a road rage accident. Now 38, Ary is unemployed, a college student at Texas State and is going through a second divorce.

Despite the adversity in her life, Ary found her passion in creative writing and support through Texas State's counseling department.

"I came here today to implore you to wear your story on your sleeve," Ary said. "Let people see you, the real you... forage your own path, find your own connections, because when you fail brilliantly, and you will, I hope that you find a foundation to support you so that you'll fly again once more."

Monica Charles — social work senior

Monica Charles was born to an absent teenage mother, forcing her to guide her way through life at a very early age. Charles, now 51, lives with substance abuse disorder and is over 2,000 days sober. Through the support she receives in her 12-step program and her faith, Charles helps others in similar situations.

A first-generation college student, Phi Alpha Honor Society member for social work and Dean's List student, Charles is now committed to helping marginalized groups through social work.

"I realized that I need to be an advocate and a voice for those who don't have a voice," Charles said. "Too

often, people are reduced to these labels, but I'm living proof that labels don't define us, they don't capture our resilience, our potential or our ability to change and grow."

Felicia Ramos — English freshman

From the age of 11, Felicia Ramos experienced countless hospital visits in her journey of living with Addison's disease, which affects her hormone regulation. Despite growing up differently from others, Ramos found her strength in her passions and the beautiful moments of life she experienced.

Now 18, Ramos is an English major with a minor in pre-med to help research and advocate for children who face similar struggles.

"By taking a chance on myself, I've come so far from that once sick, dying girl," Ramos said. "Of course, there are days where Addison's disease makes me feel like I can't get up... but I always get up stronger than the girl I was before. Adversity gives life that necessary perspective that I think we all need."

Regina Nelson — Marine Corps veteran and creator of "Fatigues Clothesline"

Regina Nelson was threatened into silence and forced to isolate within her trauma after two Marines raped her during her time in the Marine Corps. Years later, she stumbled across an online platform for women veterans to share their experiences in the military, and Nelson re-lived the trauma she experienced as a young teenager in the Marine Corps.

Through community support first found through Hays Caldwell Women's Shelter, Nelson began her journey of healing from her trauma. In 2011, she created "Fatigues Clothesline" to help herself and other military sexual trauma survivors share their stories.

"When I first created Fatigues Clothesline and it hit social media, I received over 3,000 emails from fellow rape survivors in less than a month," Nelson said. "Despite all the chaos that was trapped in our bodies, we gave each other a gift of releasing that chaos through art."

Erika Nielson — associate professor of instruction

During her time at Texas A&M, Erika Nielson found she had a talent and passion for cycling after spending time with the university's cycling team. In the summer before her junior year, she got T-boned by a truck while on her bicycle.

If Nielson had not worn a helmet, she may not have survived the accident. She was left with broken bones, fractures, a detached scalp and a traumatic brain injury (TBI). From then on, Nielson had to learn how to live with the effects of her TBI.

"Even when we experienced something that is traumatic or something that we feel is limiting to us... how can it become our superpower so that we can grow as an individual and also create better experiences for what we might do?" Nielson said. "As for me, it's teaching. For you, it might be anything. How can you make your conditions or labels, your diagnosis, your neurodivergencies your superpower?"

Sean O'Connor — social work graduate student

At 11 years old, Sean O'Connor's life was uprooted when his family moved from the New York suburbs to Kansas City, where he was later diagnosed with depression. When O'Connor began high school, he fell into a dangerous cycle of substance abuse that he battled throughout his young adulthood.

Between losing friends to addiction, repeated trips to the hospital for alcohol poisoning and legal ramifications, O'Connor decided to turn his life around and return to college as a graduate student in social work at Texas State.

"I eventually decided to come to Texas State to share my story [and] see how I can help people," O'Connor said. "I also need to tell people that that's not all that I am. That's a part of me, but I have other interests now. Drug use can be a part of identity, but it shouldn't be the identity that one models itself after."

Mason Murphy — career counselor

Mason Murphy was born four months prematurely, leaving him with

a permanent visual impairment and a severely low birth weight. Throughout his education, teachers did not know how to help a student with visual impairments. Some of Murphy's college professors even claimed that when he brought up his visual impairment, it made him look lazy.

Despite the school system's lack of assistance and understanding, Murphy graduated with a bachelor's degree in journalism and went on to a master's program in California. Now, Murphy is a career counselor at Texas State and also works with students with disabilities.

"I teach them about how to advocate for themselves, how to seek out accommodations [and] how to disclose their disability," Murphy said. "I teach them that when they do these things that they can not only be a success right now academically, but they can also be a success in their career down the road and in the future."

Sergio Carvajal-Leoni — doctoral student in APCE program, adjunct faculty in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication

Sergio Carvajal-Leoni is from Venezuela, where he experienced the dark side of diversity. According to Carvajal-Leoni, the diverse cultures failed to understand each other and conflict began, leading to the country's downfall.

"As a student, [I] had fascinating experiences sharing classes with peers who come from many backgrounds," Carvajal-Leoni said. "As a faculty member, I've also seen that it can be hard at times to have a voice in a system that may not always value different perspectives... In this time of big challenges, how we treat each other and how we take into account each other's ideas will be crucial to make sure what happened in Venezuela never happens here."

Now, Carvajal-Leoni is a doctoral student of education and a professor at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, allowing him to experience two cultures of people: students and faculty.



INFOGRAPHIC BY MADELINE CARPENTER



FROM FRONT BORDER

Texas has only 13 medical examiners, and among border counties, only El Paso and Webb have one. This means some affected communities do not have the resources to properly identify dead migrants.

Project Identification has worked on over 1,000 cases. They have successfully identified 194 individuals as of Oct. 16.

GRAPHIC BY NATALIE RIGHTMER

“When any individual dies and the circumstances surrounding death are unknown, the Texas Code of Criminal Procedures requires a forensic examination, collection of DNA samples and submission of paperwork to an unidentified and missing persons database,” OpID’s website stated.

Soto said an increase in resources and better collaboration with medical examiners on the border would help them identify remains quicker and easier.

For OpID, the difficulty of identifying remains can vary from case to case. Some remains are brought in with an ID or are able to be identified by fingerprints or even tattoos. Other times they only have skeletal remains to work with.

“Whenever [the remains] are more fresh, or if they just were recently deceased, that gives us more avenues, such as, like I said, the tattoos, the fingerprints, personal effects as well. It just provides more avenues of identification, rather than if it was just skeletal,” Soto said.

OpID partners with other organiza-

tions, including law enforcement for their work. Law enforcement officers, such as sheriff deputies and border patrol all work to find the remains that make their way to OpID.

Brooks County Search and Recovery Deputy Don H. White works in the border region. White’s work mostly focuses on finding individuals left behind by groups crossing the border, but more often he finds their remains.

“I’ll only find four or five, maybe six, that are still alive. Everything else I find is deceased or even skeletal from several years,” White said.

According to White, migrants cross the border in groups but can get left behind due to illness, injury, dehydration or other reasons. He said the number of recently deceased individuals increases in the summer due to the heat.

“The rest of the year, mostly, what I’ll find is skeletal [remains],” White said.

According to White, crossings in his area are down, but they are increasing in other areas of the state and country.

“A lot of the traffic, apparently, has been pushed up farther west, up the coast or up the river to Del Rio, Eagle Pass, El Paso and even California. El Paso has had a dramatic increase in deaths, so has Eagle Pass,” White said.

According to Soto, the locations where migrants are crossing the border and where they are coming from have changed in recent years. She said variation adds an extra layer of difficulty to OpID’s work, as they can no longer safely assume remains they work with are from Latin American countries.

“It kind of shifts focus,” Soto said. “There’s a Syrian national and another



PHOTO BY KOBE ARRIAGA

Boxes containing the remains of unidentified individuals stored in the Operation Identification forensics room, Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024, at the Freeman Center research facility. Every unidentified body is attached to their OpID, a number to help with identifying and organized storing of their remains; the forensics room houses over 300 boxes of remains and is quickly running out of storage space.

[person] from the Ivory Coast, so it’s more just trying to have a broader view of the individuals we see as migrants.”

Once OpID identifies a migrant, they attempt to send their remains back to their families in their country of origin. According to Soto, this can be a difficult task as it requires contacting relatives in foreign countries and foreign governments do not always cooperate.

Soto said the repatriation process can also be difficult because it is expensive and families often can’t afford to have their loved one’s body sent home.

“A lot of times, family members will opt for cremation because it is cheaper. I know that to send a full body, if they are in that condition, to Mexico was like \$6,000 which is a lot of money,” Soto said.

Soto said while the work can be sad, she gets a sense of fulfillment from being able to help families. White echoed the same sentiment.

“I take comfort in the fact that there are many families that don’t know who I am, will never know who I am, will never meet me, that I’ve helped,” White said.

Residents sue Hays County over handling of road bond

By Ryan Claycamp, Lucciana Choueiry

Four Hays County residents are suing Hays County over an alleged Texas Open Meetings Act (TOMA) violation when approving a road bond election.

The Hays County Commissioner’s court approved placing a \$439 million road bond election on the Nov. 5 ballot on Aug. 13. The lawsuit seeks to stop the county from taking any further action to implement the road bond, even if it is approved by the voters.

“Commissioners failed to include the public in shaping the bond package, unlike previous bond proposals that were shaped by citizen bond advisory committees,” press release emailed to *The Star* stated.

According to lead plaintiff Les Carnes, the county put early mentions of the road bonds in the ‘miscellaneous’ section of the agendas, instead of the ‘roads’ section. Carnes believes that was done in an attempt to hide the bond from the public.

On the July 2, Aug. 6 and Aug. 13 commissioners court agendas, the road bond was listed on the ‘miscellaneous’ section.

“You know, you’re supposed to be doing government in the daylight, but this looks like it’s a backroom deal,” Carnes said. “Nobody knew about this stuff, because the way they did it, the way they put it on the agendas, was miscellaneous.”

In the Aug. 20 commissioners court meeting, the court did not choose to create a citizens advisory panel. The panel would have had one citizen from each county precinct to give input on the planning of the road bond project.

“I am a little confused on the purpose of [a citizens advisory panel],” Commissioner Michelle Cohen said in the Aug. 20 Commissioners Court meeting. “I think each of us have our own plans and we know our constituents and we know our projects and we’re the most informed [people] about our proj-

ects. I don’t see how the community would help.”

Carnes said the lack of public transparency in the meetings, lack of a citizens advisory panel and limiting the time to discuss issues with the road bond to just three minutes, violated TOMA.

“[The road bond] had 31 projects, and you’re given three minutes to speak on 31 projects,” Carnes said. “Well how the [expletive] can you do that?”

Jim Camp, longtime Hays County resident and another plaintiff in the suit, said he hopes the lawsuit serves as a message to commissioners that they need to be more upfront about the decisions they make going forward.

“This may not have any impact on the election itself but even if we lose, the commissioners court is on notice that they can’t do the backroom deals without the public being involved, I mean we’re talking about \$439 million,” Camp said.

A major cause of concern for the plaintiffs is that the current road bond plans include construction over the recharge zone for the Edwards Aquifer.

“The bond package includes projects over and upstream of the Edwards Aquifer recharge zone – the source of most of Hays County’s water supplies and of San Marcos Springs,” the plaintiffs press release said.

According to the lawsuit, the plaintiffs are seeking no monetary gain, but wish to put a permanent pause on work related to the road bond and void the order for a road bond election on Nov. 5.

“Plaintiffs’ goal is to force the County Commissioners to appoint a bond advisory committee to shape a county bond package, as was done with previous bond packages, and to bring back a better bond proposal supported by public input for a vote in May or November of 2025,” The press release stated.

The Star reached out to all commissioners and lead attorney for comment, but received no responses.

NAVIGATE TXST

HAVE A QUESTION?

RAISE YOUR HAND!

Use the **NavigateTXST app** or login online and select **Hand Raise** to get answers!

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Download on the App Store

Search for: **Navigate360**



Buc-ee's ground breaking sparks pros, cons debate

By **Jamie Moore**
News Reporter

Construction on the new Buc-ee's Travel Center on the south side of Yarrington Road and I-35 began Oct. 1.

According to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR), the project is estimated to cost \$47 million and will span 74,707 square feet. San Marcos' store will be 886 square feet away from surpassing the Buc-ee's in Luling, which holds the record as the largest convenience store in the world, and will be only 14 miles away from the nearby Buc-ee's in New Braunfels.

San Marcos City Council gave initial approval for the project in February, with final approval in March. Christian Smith, the city's economic and business development manager, said Buc-ee's will create 175 full-time jobs with an average annual wage of \$43,855.

"Throughout the process, the Buc-ee's team has shown they share the city of San Marcos' values and commitment to sustainability," Richard Reynosa, San Marcos assistant director of engineering said.

Reynosa also said Buc-ee's will install its first-ever rainwater harvesting system at the new location, along with stormwater runoff systems and exterior lighting that will be mounted as low as possible, potentially minimizing light pollution.

The University Star spoke to students, residents and local businesses about their opinion on the incoming Buc-ee's Travel Center.

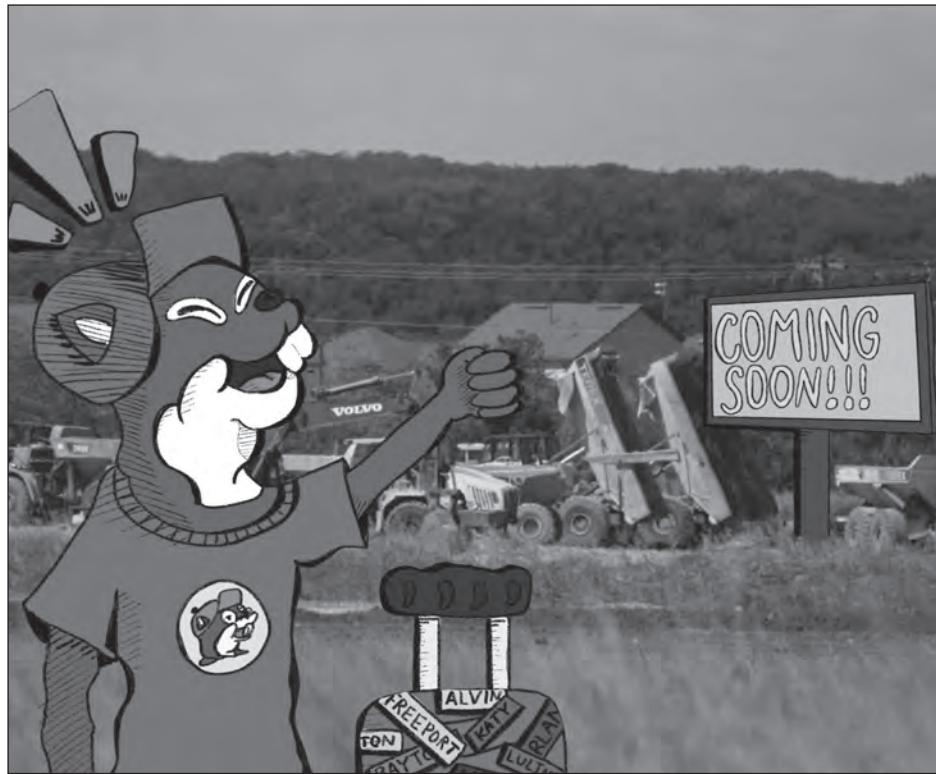


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY NATHALIE YANEZ AND JARELL CARR

Some students like Lillian Montalvo, theater education freshman, are excited about the addition of the new Buc-ee's. Montalvo said the competition could be good for the community.

"I think [Buc-ee's] is something really cool that's part of the Texas culture," Montalvo said. "I think it would bring a lot of job opportunities... they have a higher pay rate as well."

According to Indeed, the average hourly salary for a cashier job at Buc-ee's is around \$18 compared to \$12 at other gas stations like 7-Eleven.

Manager of Cafe on the Square Esther Henk said the new store could help retain Texas State graduates in the area through job availability,

meaning more business for the local spots too.

"I think it's great to have more opportunity for employment in the area, so that way we'll keep people graduating more local instead of them moving to Houston or Dallas," Henk said.

Executive Director of the Price Center Clay DeStefano sees the new Buc-ee's, along with Texas State's record enrollment of 40,678 students, as a sign the city is focused on development over community engagement.

"This kind of development, it's bound to happen and it's okay, but where it happens and how it happens matters as much as it happening," DeStefano said. "Regrettably, students are not citizens of this community - they're part-time residents."

Grins, a restaurant established in San Marcos in 1975, has struggled to recover after the pandemic. Grins' owner Paul Sutphen said they plan to "fight like hell" to stay connected to the community as larger chains come in.

Locals have also complained about the increased commercialization in San Marcos' historic areas through housing projects, including the approval of the McLain Project.

"I don't think much of the future of this place," Andrew Shinn, a San Marcos local, wrote in a written interview with *The Star*. "Like many others, I'll likely leave soon or be pushed out by subsidized housing and move to a city where the residents are prioritized and the leadership of the city isn't looking to make a quick buck in my expense."

Shinn, who lives on Yarrington Road, grew up in San Marcos, went to school in San Marcos and has worked exclusively in the Kyle/San Marcos area.

Yarrington Road, the future site of Buc-ee's, is also part of the Proposition A road bond on the November General Election ballot. If approved, this bond will fund construction and maintenance for multiple roads in the area, potentially bringing more construction to Yarrington Road.

"Buc-ee's is part of a larger mixed-use area that is installing infrastructure for all the future uses in the area between Yarrington and the Blanco River, Post Road and I-35," Smith said.

According to TDLR, the Buc-ee's estimated completion date is Dec. 15, 2025.

TxDOT, SMTX talk pedestrian safety before Halloween

By **Candace Taggart**
News Reporter

October is the deadliest month for pedestrians in Texas according to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

"October is when we start seeing shorter days and less light in the mornings and evenings and that can make it more challenging for drivers to see pedestrians," TxDOT PIO Antonio Lujan wrote in a written interview with *The Star*.

TxDOT announced Texas has experienced a 22% increase in pedestrian traffic fatalities over the past five years. San Marcos had five confirmed pedestrian fatalities in 2023, and there have been 17 traffic crashes involving pedestrians with five resulting in serious injury as of January 2024 in San Marcos, according to TxDOT.

Cesar Caballero, communications specialist for the city of San Marcos, wrote in a written interview with *The Star* San Marcos created a regional Safety Action Plan, in partnership with Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization to focus on equal investment in underserved communities.

"[This plan] aims to reduce fatal and serious-injury crashes while improving transportation systems for all users including pedestrians, cyclists, public transportation users and drivers," Caballero said.

For pedestrian safety during Halloween week, the San Marcos Police Department encourages people to use flashlights, glow sticks, wear reflective

clothing and stay on the sidewalks or crosswalks.

Timothy Mo, computer information systems senior, has lived in a house between Sessom Drive and North LBJ for about a year and has to walk up and down the bike lane along Sessom to get to class. Mo said the bike lane is unprotected but it's his only option.

"Adding the bike lane was good, but it's unprotected," Mo said. "With the traffic that's ripping up and down that hill, it's terrifying. Since there's no crosswalk, you have to look both ways and bolt across, hoping that you don't get run over by a car or bus."

Madeline Azachio, communication studies freshman, said pedestrian or bike lanes near the campus do not prioritize pedestrian safety. Azachio rides a scooter down Guadalupe Street and West Woods Street using the pedestrian or bike lane often and almost got into an accident.

"A car was traveling north on Guadalupe and turned right into West Concho while I was on a scooter in the pedestrian lane," Azachio said. "I realized he wasn't going to stop, so I jumped off my scooter and the driver ended up hitting the scooter. It was very scary."

Azachio said San Marcos and Texas State should increase the pedestrian signs for drivers and there should be more pedestrian hybrid beacons and crosswalks around Guadalupe Street, West Woods Street and Comanche Street.

TxDOT is conducting its "Be Safe. Drive Smart." campaign in October as part of National Pedestrian Safety Month to call on pedestrians and drivers to ensure safety. In addition, Lujan wrote TxDOT observes intersections for factors that might need increased safety efforts.

"We monitor intersections to ensure pavement markings are visible and add signs, crosswalks and pedestrian signals where there is a higher percentage of foot traffic, as well as safety lighting," Lujan wrote.

The city of San Marcos also received a \$897,000 grant to improve



PHOTO BY CARLENE OTTAH

Animal science junior Jackee Corrigan (Left) and piano performance junior Arabella Abrera (Right) cross Aquarena Springs Drive to get to their bus stop, Monday, Oct. 28, 2024, near the Riverside Ranch bus stop.

the intersection of Thorpe Lane and Springtown Way from the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), which was initially for pedestrian safety improvements along Thorpe Lane. While this recommendation changed to signalization, these improvements also include crosswalks and pedestrian push buttons to make it more accessible.

According to Caballero, many Capital Improvement Projects include making improvements for pedestrian safety and connectivity, including Sessom Drive and Hopkins Street.

Rohit Vij, San Marcos senior project engineer, said safety improvements are an ongoing process and there will always be a few intersections in San Marcos where safety is a concern.

"We look into what major intersections require any safety improvements, and we either apply for the grants, or if it's a serious issue, we try to implement ourselves in a timely manner," Vij said.

Mo said the attempts for pedestrian safety in San Marcos have seemed low effort.

"I enjoy living in San Marcos because I don't have to drive everywhere, and I feel like that should be more accessible to people that don't live next to the university," Mo said. "I think the city can allocate more of the budget to pedestrian safety like adding sidewalks, crosswalks and creating a protected bike lane or pedestrian walkway."



GRAPH BY MADELINE CARPENTER

Students face ADHD medication delays, shortage

By **Lesdy Hernandez**
News Reporter

Texas State students trying to access attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) medication are continuing to experience disruptions due to an ongoing ADHD medication shortage.

It's been two years since the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) first announced a shortage of ADHD medication due to manufacturing delays and insufficient supplies.

According to the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, there are 277 active drug shortages with 95 new drug shortages identified in 2024. However, the FDA stated some stimulant ADHD medications could be available as soon as the end of October, with others expected in 2025.

Ty Schepis, psychology professor, said ADHD is composed of three core sets of symptoms and people with ADHD experience problems with attention, impulse control and hyperactivity.

"I think it's pretty easy to see how having these symptoms would negatively impact somebody in an academic setting, especially if someone has problems with attention, that's probably the easiest one to talk about," Schepis said.

Rae Savage, psychology junior, said they've experienced issues accessing their ADHD medication since the COVID-19 pandemic and have gone through extended periods of time without any medication.

"I had to finish out my semester with no medication, and I was going around between different pharmacies everywhere from San Marcos to Austin, trying to just find a pharmacy that number one took my insurance and number two actually had the medication," Savage said.

Stimulant and non-stimulant medications are the two main types of medication treatment for people with ADHD. Stimulant medications are composed of amphetamine medica-

tions, such as Adderall and Vyvanse, and methylphenidate medications, such as Ritalin and Concerta.

Schepis said stimulant medications, like Adderall, are the most effective type of medications when treating mental health conditions and helping with ADHD symptoms. However, stimulant medications have a higher potential of becoming addictive.

"[Stimulant medications] are seen as effective, but they do have the downside that they can be misused," Schepis said. "Half or more of college students who have ADHD, and a stimulant prescription are approached to give away their medication,"

Breezy Bishop, special education freshman who is on a non-stimulant type of medication, said she has not faced any issues accessing her prescriptions.

"All I have to do is call CVS and ask for my medicine, and then it's usually there for me, but one of my friends is on Adderall and I think she's a month or two where she just can't get it," Bishop said.

Savage said they have yet to receive answers from pharmacists on when the shortage might end, raising concerns about when they'll be able to fill their next prescription.

"Everyone just seems to have the same answer: 'I don't know,'" Savage said. "The pharmacists were all telling me they did not know when they would get [ADHD medication] again, so I was better off trying to find somewhere else than waiting."

Matthew Neely, photography sophomore, said he experienced several instances where pharmacies lost his prescriptions which caused him to go without medication for days.

"I've had to go sometimes two days without my medication and stuff down my ADHD and try to focus and mask myself without the help of my medication," Neely said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a Health Alert Network (HAN) in June about a potential disruption to



INFOGRAPHIC BY KAYLEE MARSH

access prescription stimulant medications due to the U.S. Department of Justice announcing a federal health-care fraud involving the distribution of Adderall for "no legitimate health-care purpose."

"A disruption involving this large telehealth company could impact as many as 30,000 to 50,000 patients ages 18 years and older across all 50 U.S. states," the HAN stated.

Neely emphasized the importance of understanding the struggles that people with ADHD face, especially with October being ADHD Awareness Month.

"It's not really an invisible disorder, but [people with ADHD] make it invisible," Neely said. "There are real struggles because it's not just laziness, it's a dopamine deficiency in my

brain that's causing me to not be able to work."

Schepis said it is important for students who continue to have issues with accessing their medications to utilize the available accommodations and services on campus. However, students can no longer pick up any prescriptions at the Student Health Center as it shut down its pharmacy in May 2023.

"I think communication with [students with ADHD] physicians is really important because their physician may be able to try a different medication that seems to be in stock," Schepis said. "While that option has downsides, that's probably better than no treatment whatsoever or just stopping the medication."

Rabid bat found in SMTX residential neighborhood

By **Ryan Claycamp**
Senior News Reporter

According to an email from the city of San Marcos, a bat tested positive for rabies after it flew into a person's hair on Oct. 14 in a residential neighborhood on Gibraltar Drive.

"The individual exposed to the bat was notified of the positive result and is seeking post-exposure treatment to prevent rabies," the email stated.

The Department of State Health Services confirmed the bat was infected with the rabies virus on Oct. 15. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the rabies virus is

a treatable, but potentially fatal, virus transmitted to humans and pets through bites or scratches from infected animals.

"Most cases of rabies in Texas and in the U.S. really are primarily animal-born. Any warm blooded mammal can transmit rabies, and that includes bats," Rodney E. Rohde, a college of health professions professor and the chair for Texas State's medical laboratory science program, said. "Over the past 30-40 years, most human deaths from rabies have been from bat exposures."

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one of the best ways to prevent the spread of rabies is

who it belongs to, you should really take care not to interact with those animals," Rohde said.

According to Rohde, someone who is bitten or scratched by a mammal should immediately seek medical treatment. He said once symptoms of rabies present themselves, the disease is nearly 100% fatal.

According to the CDC, rabies treatment in humans consists of washing the wound, a human rabies immune globulin (HRIG) injection into the wound and a series of four vaccines.

"One of the things we often say in our field is [rabies is] 100% preventable, it's also 100% fatal if symptoms show up," Rohde said. "You need to be talking to someone to consider if you need [the rabies] vaccine or not."

Symptoms typically start 14 days to a month after infection, Rohde said. Symptoms of rabies include: Fatigue, flu-like symptoms, migraines, jaw pain, confusion, hydrophobia or the fear of water, catatonic states and ultimately organ failure.

While an infected bat was found in San Marcos, Rohde said it is unlikely the entire colony of bats is infected, but many in the colony could be infected.

"Any contact with a bat should be immediately reported to Animal Protection at 512-805-2655 so that the bat can be tested for rabies and medical treatment can be rendered as soon as possible, if necessary" a city of San Marcos press release stated. "Any bats that are found on the ground or in a dwelling should also be reported."

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Bobcat training staff works alongside players

By Kendall Berry
Sports Contributor

Being a trainer is no simple task due to the constant grind of always being with the team. Texas State Head Football Athletic Trainer Allison Mitchell is in her second year with Texas State and has a full plate this year.

“[Players] are always injured, all people outside of [training staffs] don’t know what is going on behind the scenes and all the injuries we take care of,” Mitchell said. “We do preventative things to try to keep people feeling 100%. Those are things that are constant.”

Maintaining the health of players is not the only task this training staff must do at a week’s end. An average week for a member of the training staff comprises of consistent checks of the players and coaches.

“My injury report that I talk to coaches about is vastly different from what other people know,” Mitchell said. “I make an extensive injury report so that my communication with coaches can be thorough and that they know exactly what is going on with all of the players... that open communication is really important.”

When it comes to the relationship between coaches and trainers, transparency is the ideal goal, according to Mitchell.

Although the public may not know what is going on behind the scenes, it is important for teams to keep that information private from fans due to the nature of the heavy contact sport. Players are constantly dealing with injury problems even if it isn’t a major one. It is the trainer’s job to alleviate those issues to the point where the public does not know if a player is injured or not.

Although the average home game week for the training staff brings its own challenge, away games bring a different measure of organizational skills. The staff for away games have to prepare a lot earlier than home games and be more organized, adding more stress to an already time-consuming job.

“[Away games are different] mainly because of the travel. Our packing that we pack with all our stuff changes drastically when we have to put it in a trunk versus just using it [at home games], so



PHOTO BY MEG BOLES

Texas State junior running back Lincoln Pare (7) runs toward the end zone to score a touchdown against UTSA, Saturday, Sept. 7, 2024, at UFCU Stadium.

we have to do a bit more preparation for an away game,” Mitchell said. “We load our 18-wheeler truck a couple days before the game, so we have to coordinate with equipment and all the other support staff to make sure that’s done appropriately and on time.”

Texas State football has not suffered any major injuries so far this season. Despite season-ending injuries last year from important roles, the comeback from one notable Texas State running back established trust and confidence for the staff going forward.

Texas State redshirt junior running back Lincoln Pare tore his ACL last season during a practice in the 2023 preseason, forcing him to take a medical redshirt. His first year back after the torn ACL has been a journey, but his confidence remains high as his trust in the training staff continues to get stronger, he said.

“The journey was full of ups and downs. There were definitely some days where it was hard for me not knowing if [my] knee will be the same again,”

Pare said. “There are some days where [my] knee feels really good, specifically around that three to four-month range, then the five to six-month range was really the downfall; but I just trusted the process that Miss Allison and Kristy [trainer] had for me.”

An ACL tear is a challenging injury to come back from. Careers have been altered or ended after ACL tears, but Pare’s optimism within himself is what keeps him going, he said.

“They were everything [training staff] they are definitely the reason I’m back... on top of the training staff being everything, the strength staff was a massive part,” Pare said. “The training staff are always being positive and always having good plans for me to come in, I’m just very thankful for everybody in that facility.”



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Opinions in The University Star are not necessarily those of our entire publication, Texas State University's administration, Board of Regents, School of Journalism and Mass Communication or Student Publications Board.

Letter to the Editor: Why I am voting against Hays County Road Bond (Proposition A)

By **Jim Camp**

The vote for Proposition A by the Hays County Commissioners Court this past August lacked any transparency and citizen involvement. On meeting agendas before the Aug. 13 Commissioners Court meeting, the issue for county roads was hidden under "miscellaneous" and not under "roads." Citizen speakers at the meeting were allowed to speak for only three minutes on the entire package, not individual proposals, a clear violation of the Texas Open Meetings law. Despite zero public participation, the Court proceeded to approve this major bond, raising

doubts and confusion about the public process and the bond itself.

At the Aug. 13 meeting, many speakers agreed that county road improvements are needed for increased safety and access, especially east of IH-35. They also acknowledged the potential threat of proposed roads and development to sensitive parts of western Hays County, the places that recharge our drinking water supplies, springs, creeks and rivers. This discourse over a monumental decision affecting our fast-growing county warrants a proper public input process. Instead, the Commissioners Court opted for a quick, closed-door process with special

interests over an open, transparent process with their constituents.

I have been a Hays County citizen for over 40 years, and I've served the Hays County Commissioners Court and its constituents on the Parks & Open Space Advisory Committees in 2001, 2007 and 2020. We facilitated public participation in our decisions to conserve natural areas and create parkland throughout Hays County. In 2007 and 2008, I worked alongside citizen-led transportation and bond advisory committees that helped guide previous Commissioners Courts on road issues. Why doesn't this Court seek and value public input like its predecessors when making major

decisions concerning our taxes, roads and water resources?

The moneyed interests including developers and speculators, foreign investors, road contractors and consultants have compromised public trust in our elected officials serving on the Court. I urge my fellow Hays County residents to vote against Proposition A on Nov. 5. In 2025, we the people can ensure that our elected officials represent us and hold an open process, rooted in the rich history of Hays citizens' participation, and not one dominated by today's wealthiest donors

- Jim Camp, Texas State Class of 1979

Student debt puts first-gen students in survival mode

By **Aubrey Haynes**
Opinions Contributor

At Texas State, student debt for first-generation students has become a crisis, resulting in negative impacts on mental health and finances.

There are financial literacy workshops offered at Texas State, but that's the bare minimum. It is not enough to only have resources available at a club fair on campus. First-generation students should be required to enroll in financial literacy programs to have the proper tools to maintain financial security.

First-generation students are not handed anything; they must navigate complicated financial aid processes and work to pay tuition, often without the privilege of having parents with the means to take on debt. These barriers can manifest into obstacles that lower their likelihood of academic success, as stated in the Journal of Multicultural Counseling and Development.

While Texas State offers some financial aid resources and budgeting workshops, these programs are often underutilized because students are unaware they exist.

Higher education was never designed to cater to the needs of minority or first-generation students because of long-standing economic and racial disparities, as stated by the Brookings Institution.

Jae Franklin, vice president of the Texas State chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), said disparities further complicate financial aid for students from cultural backgrounds that are already historically oppressed.

"Students in such circumstances may have never had the guidance to navigate the process," Franklin

said. "Further, personal barriers and fears of failure or not wanting to disappoint the family that had to sacrifice stand in the way. Additional stressors of adjustment to a diverse university environment can take further tolls on mental and physical health."

Many first-generation college students start college without proper knowledge of financial aid, student loans or the necessary vocabulary to make a life-altering investment.

According to The Institute for College Access & Success, "many low-income students must still borrow large sums to pay for college, even with financial aid." This means loans are issued without a true understanding of the burden of debt.

The league for Innovation in the Community College states words like "subsidized" and "unsubsidized" can be misleading and lead to poor choices among students, which may hurt long-term stability when it comes to buying homes or cars in the future.

The stress of managing tight budgets, rising living expenses and growing debt can push students into "survival mode."

Leah Longoria, health science junior, said as a first-generation student managing finances has added heightened stress on their college experience.

"The financial stress on campus is as important as any other mental health issues," Longoria said. "Many times, I feel like if my parents went to college or if I came from generational wealth, then I wouldn't be in survival mode. I could enjoy the college experience that Texas State promotes, like sororities and clubs that bring along lifetime friendships, instead of dealing with reality of what it's really like for people who look like me."

While some resources exist on campus, students

do not take full advantage of them, nor do they have the tools to advocate for themselves. Without improved support, student debt will continue to burden first-generation students who strive for a better future.

- Aubrey Haynes is a public relations freshman

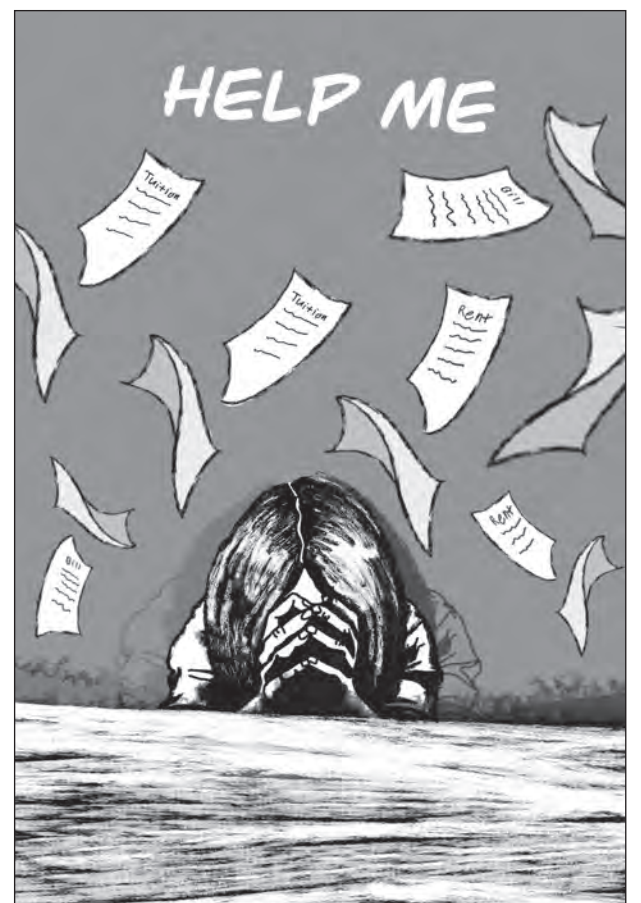
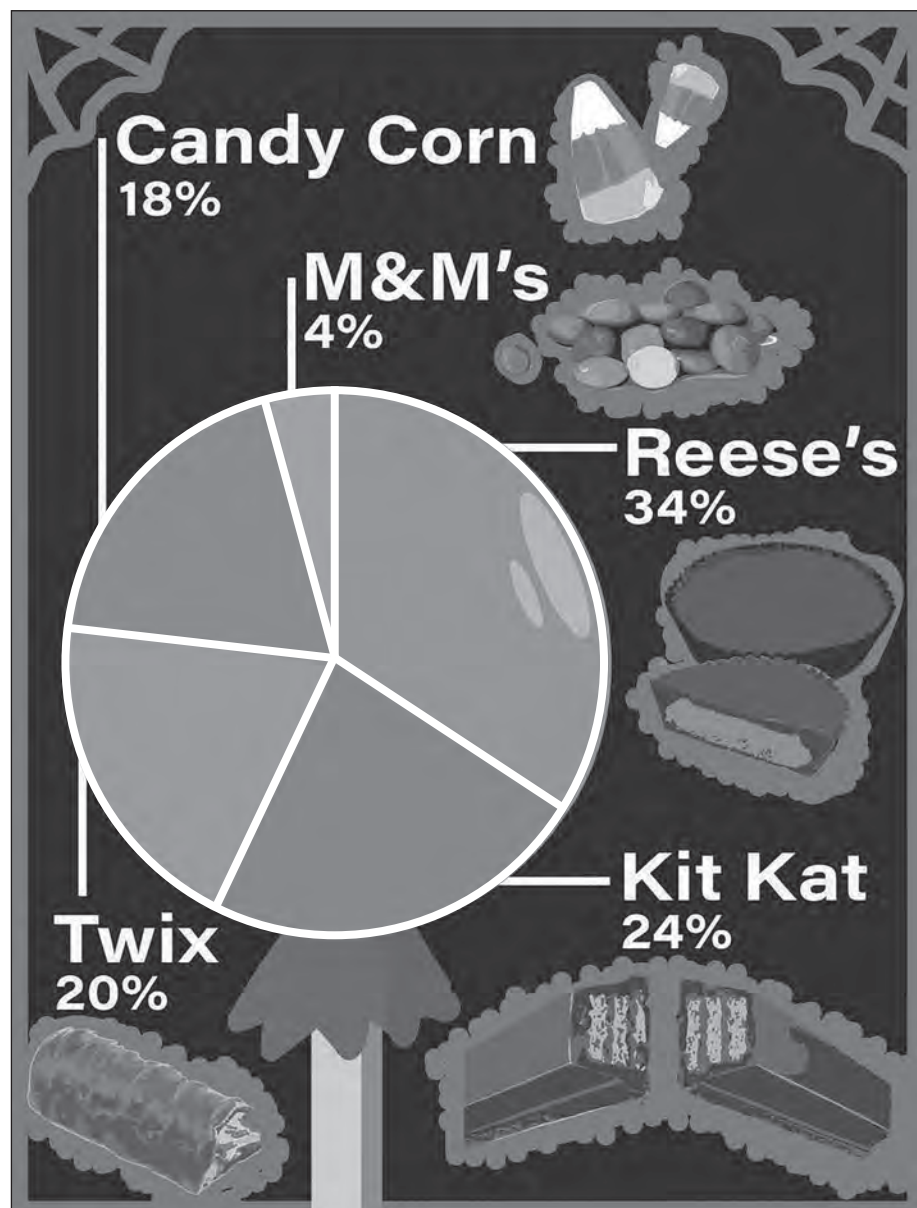


ILLUSTRATION BY DJ ROSS



SURVEY GRAPHIC BY KAYLEE MARSH



The University Star welcomes Letters to the Editor from its readers. All submissions are reviewed and considered by the Editor in Chief and Opinions Editor for publication. Not all letters are guaranteed for publication.



GHOULISH GAMES

CROSSWORD

Halloween

DOWN:

- A witch's laugh.
- Dracula's favorite meal.
- The 2004 horror movie that features a vengful puppet named Jigsaw.

ACROSS:

- "Halloween" the 1978 movie's main character.
- A certain skeleton who wants to take over a jolly holiday.
- An 8 legged arachnid.

WORD SCRAMBLE

Halloween

- 1) PVE, 2) VORPOV, 3) BAIOT, 4) IREBACH, 5) IBOGEMO, 6) DDMRECEVY

Crossword:

- 1) ELETICAL, 2) IZCOGNIAE, 3) DOWELL, 4) SIAE, 5) AKAOSAI

Scoring: 1) 100, 2) 100, 3) 100, 4) 100, 5) 100

WORD SCRAMBLE

Halloween

1. TBA _____
2. NOEB _____
3. LLKSU _____
4. VRGAE _____
5. PNIOT _____
6. HLGUO _____

SUDOKU

Game by sudoku-solutions.com

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WHERE'S NOVA

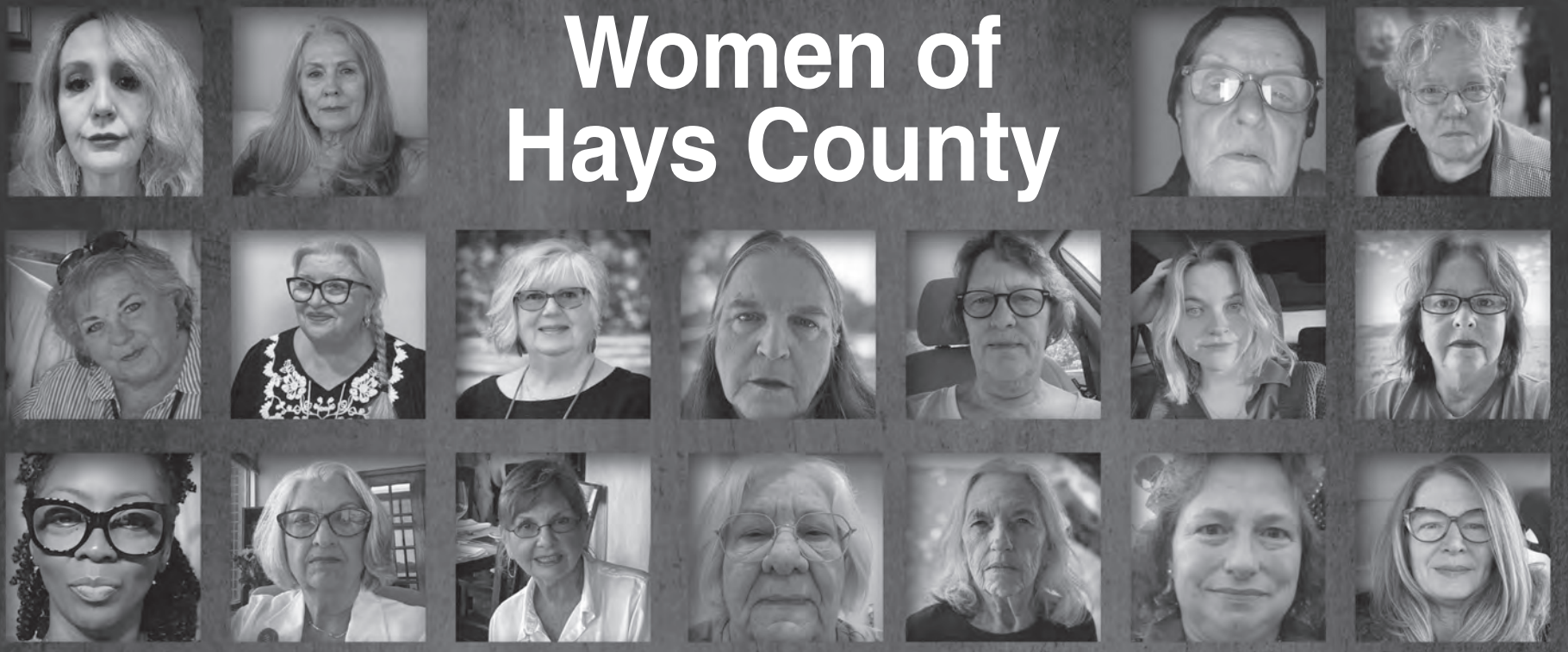


ILLUSTRATION BY QUINN FANTA



TEXAS STATE STUDENTS

Women of Hays County



"No woman can call herself free if she can't even control her own body!"

"I can't believe my daughter will have fewer rights than I had"

"WE CANNOT GO BACK TO BACK ALLEYS AGAIN"

"Vote like your daughter's life depends on it"

"Hand Maids Tale coming to real life"

"A \$10,000 BOUNTY ON TEXAS WOMEN WHO GET AN ABORTION AFTER 6 WEEKS"

"Freedom to control my own body."

"I stopped sharing my menstrual cycles with my doctor"

"The emphasis must be not on the right to abortion but on the right to healthcare, privacy and reproductive control."

We are NOT going back.

- Kamala Harris



"Women are dying because doctors are afraid to provide care—they don't want to go to jail"

"Keep your hands off my body."

"Women are only fertile roughly 24 days per year, while men are fertile 365 days a year. Why aren't men's bodily functions being regulated!"

"WE MAY ENCOUNTER MANY DEFEATS BUT WE MUST NOT BE DEFEATED."

"Only punishment for the woman, nothing happens to the man"

"As a woman, I hope I can have as many rights as my gun."

"We cannot ALL succeed when half of us are held back."



From President to Hays County Commissioner, if a candidate does not support a Woman's Right to Choose or to control her own body, they don't deserve your vote.....NOT NOW.....NOT EVER.



Halloween in San Marcos



A family competes in Farmer Fred's Harvest Fall Carnival best group costume contest as characters from Monsters Inc., Friday, Oct. 25, 2024, at San Marcos City Park.

PHOTO BY MEG BOLES



San Marcos Drag Queen Smokey Zbornak poses for a photo during the Halloween contest and market, Sunday, Oct. 27, 2024, at Railyard Bar and Grill.

PHOTO BY KATHERINE REA



Tia Pair (Left) and Tonya Rhodes (Right) laugh at the revelry of a murder mystery party, Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024, at Wineaux.

PHOTO BY ALLISON DRINNON



The Campbell family competes in Farmer Fred's Harvest Fall Carnival best group costume contest as Pokemon, Friday, Oct. 25, 2024, at San Marcos City Park.

PHOTO BY MEG BOLES



Elora is held by her mother after competing in Farmer Fred's Harvest Fall Carnival cutest costume contest, Friday, Oct. 25, 2024, at San Marcos City Park.

PHOTO BY MEG BOLES

Scan the QR code to view the gallery online.



ILLUSTRATION BY KATLIN MARTINEZ