



Texan News Service

INDEPENDENT STUDENT JOURNALISM FOR TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY



**Purple Poo
seniors
unmask and
say 'goodbye'**
PG. 2

APRIL 2024

texannews.net

VOL. 13, NO. 6

CAMPUS

Senior Purple Poo members unmask

BY ASHTYN HANSARD

Multimedia Journalist

With the spring semester at Tarleton State University reaching its end, seniors are participating in the end-of-the-year events. One of these events, the Purple Poo Reveal, was held March 22 in Heritage Park.

University President Dr. James Hurley gathered with the spirit organization, the Purple Poo, to reveal the identities of the senior members. The Purple Poo is a spirit organization that has been a part of Tarleton for over 100 years, embracing tradition and adding spirit to students on campus.

During the unmasking event, 11 senior Purple Poo revealed their identity, signaling the end of their spirit career. Students and alumni were able to gather at the Hunewell Bandstand to watch as these students celebrated their time as Purple Poo.

Dr. Hurley opened the ceremony with a speech describing how proud he was of these 11 seniors.

“I want to share a number with you. 1,800 active hours that they participated in events. That doesn’t include all the time they were trying to duck and dodge, get out of the way, hide from you guys,” Hurley said. “It’s just incredible what they [Purple Poo] do for this institution. I am so, so, so incredibly proud of these 11 [seniors] and what they’ve done. Not only for the Poo and for the history and legacy of our beloved Poo, but for what they’ve done for this institution.”

Hurley went on to thank everyone that kept the Purple Poo’s identities secret, protecting the legacy of this spirit group.

“No one does it like Tarleton State University. The legacy of the Poo makes us unique by design, and we will always be Tarleton State, unique by design, and that’s why we’re the hottest college in America right now.” Hurley said.

Dr. Hurley finished his speech with a quick show of admiration for the Purple Poo.

“Thank you for being a part of this great institution, thank you for loving these 11 Poo,” Hurley said. “This is their day, and every time they unmask, I want these other colleges to hear us and to hear the pride and tradition and how much we love them. Guys and gals, we love you so much.”

With the finish of his speech, Dr. Hurley started the unveiling ceremony. Each poo took turns hugging the others before walking up the front of the bandstand where Dr. Kristy O’Keefe, the Purple Poo advisor, announced each senior member as they revealed their identity.

The first Purple Poo to be announced was Ozrick Henry, also known as Brother Bombshell. He has been a member of the Purple Poo since the spring semester of 2022 and is an accounting major from Fort Worth, Texas.

The second Purple Poo announced was Payge Scoggins, also known as Sister Speedy. She has been a member since the fall semester of 2021 and is a communications major from Fort Worth, Texas.

Brother Uno was the next Poo up to be revealed. Brother Uno is student Cado Collins and has been a member since the spring semester of 2023. He is a construction science major from Waco, Texas.

Sister Bunny, later revealed to be Brooklyn Martin, has been a member of the Purple Poo since the spring semester of 2023. She is a communications major from Leander, Texas.

The next Poo to be revealed was Brother Baby, later shown to be Aidan Straub. He has been a member of the Purple Poo since the spring semester of 2022. He has served as the Ten Tarleton Peppers (TTP) President since the fall



PHOTO BY: ASHTYN HANSARD

Purple Poo member uses a “scream” sign to get the audience loud and energetic before the revealing begins.

semester of 2023 and is a business management major from Bonham, Texas.

Sister Wipeout was revealed to be Kayla Rogers. She has been a part of the Purple Poo since the fall semester of 2022. She has served as the Ten Tarleton Sisters (TTS) President since the fall semester of 2023 and is a business management major from Holland, Texas.

The next senior revealed was John Lockhart, also known as Brother Sippy. He has been a part of the Purple Poo since the spring semester of 2022 and is an international business major from Fort Worth, Texas.

Sister Salad was the next Purple Poo up to be revealed. Sister Salad is student Kamryn Cole and has been a member since the spring semester of 2023. She is an animal science major from Salado, Texas.

Brother Equation, later revealed to be Ace Brooks, has been a member of the Purple Poo since the spring semester of 2022. He is an agricultural services and development major from

Lampasas, Texas.

Sister Dory was revealed to be Erin Necessary. She has been a part of the Purple Poo since the spring semester of 2022. She has served as the TTS President for the spring semester of 2023 and is a human resource management major from Gatesville, Texas.

The last Purple Poo to be revealed was Brother Tarzan, later shown to be Jason Stewart. He has been a member of the Purple Poo since the spring semester of 2022. He has served as the TTP President since the spring semester of 2023 and is a criminal justice major from Katy, Texas.

As the revealing ceremony reached to a close, all the Purple Poo huddled together for one last picture together. While these 11 Poo have been unmasked, there are still nine Purple Poo that remain unmasked. These remaining Poo will carry these seniors’ pride and the legacy of the Purple Poo organization.

ENTERTAINMENT

'Dune: Part 2' takes theaters by storms

The trilogy of Dune continues

BY ASHTYN HANSARD
Multimedia Journalist

Dune: Part 2 hit the theaters March 1, causing a wave of people to see the second movie in the trilogy. As a film lover myself, I was curious about Dune: Part 2 and how it would compare to the first movie.

To give a recap, in Dune: Part 1, the audience learns about Paul Atreides (Timothée Chalamet) and what it means to be the future Duke of House Atreides after his father, Leto Atreides (Oscar Isaac), is given control over House Arrakis. Paul begins to have visions of a Fremen girl.

Wondering what these visions could mean, Paul's mother, Lady Jessica Atreides (Rebecca Ferguson), decides to help him by having him meet with Reverend Mother Mohiam (Charlotte Rampling). Lady Jessica Atreides discovers that Paul is considered "the one" and is seen as a "messiah" among the Fremen due to their religion. House Atreides and Arrakis are attacked by Baron Vladimir Harkonnen (Stellan Skarsgård), the leader of the rival house that wants to take over the planet.

Harkonnen kills Leto, leaving Paul to be Duke of House Atreides. However, Paul and Lady Jessica are kidnapped by Harkonnen and dropped into the desert, left to fend for themselves when they come across the Fremen. After Paul defeats Jamis (Babs Olusanmokin), a Fremen soldier, in a challenge, he and his mother are accepted into the Fremen tribe, signaling the end of the first movie.

In Dune: Part 2 the audience is able to see much more action and battles between the houses plus watch Paul's powers grow stronger as he gets closer to becoming the Kwisatz Haderach, or the "chosen one."

Paul's character development in Dune: Part 2 could be compared to Anakin Skywalker in the "Star Wars" series or even to Coriolanus Snow in "Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes." As Paul's powers grow stronger, his actions become less ethical, making some Fremen, like Chani (Zendaya), start to lose their trust in him. His actions are more careless and demanding as he becomes a major religious figure amongst the people.

In Dune: Part 2, the audience is introduced to new characters. We are able to see the emperor (Christopher Walken) and his daughter, Princess Irulan (Florence Pugh). We're also able to meet Harkonnen's nephew and Glossu Rabban's (Dave Bautista) cousin, Feyd-Rautha Harkonnen (Austin Butler).

Each of these characters play an important part in keeping the movie going, giving new points of view and understanding in the world of Dune. Through Feyd-Rautha, the audience is able to see more of the Harkonnen family dynamic and how much honor means to them.

Through Princess Irulan, the audience is able to learn more about how unstable the emperor is and how the Bene Gesserit, a group of



women with mind control powers, are important. The Bene Gesserit preserve certain bloodlines to ensure there will be an heir to each house.

Dune: Part 2, although set in the future, creates tensions within the government and houses that can be correlated to many events in history today. It exposes problems within its government while also showing how

complicated fixing these matters can be.

In my opinion, Dune: Part 2 is well worth your time and lives up to the previous movie, if not outdoing it. Dune: Part 2 is playing in all regional theaters.

CAMPUS

Tarleton Theatre in ‘School House Rock Live!’

BY PAYTON MARKS

Multimedia Journalist

Tarleton Theatre performed the production of “School House Rock Live!” from Feb. 22-24 with a total of four performances.

I attended the opening night of the musical and thoroughly enjoyed the performance. The show starts with a nervous Tom walking out onto the stage and rehearsing what he is going to say to his new students.

The lights pan down on the ideas, or otherwise known as George, Dori, Joe, Dina and Schulie as they narrate part of Tom’s inner monologue. To help ease his mind, Tom decides to put on the TV and that is when the show starts to pick up and turns into a musical.

The musical was directed by Daniel Stone and John Greer and featured a live band for the music. The band was composed of students including Zachary Moore on the keyboard bass, Abbye Nash on drums and Alyssa Church on percussion.

“School House Rock Live!” had six roles and an understudy. The cast of the musical was Clay Luton as Tom, the main character who is a school teacher about to start his first day at his new job. Then there are the “ideas” also known as George, Dori, Schulie, Joe and Dina.

The ideas were played by Gabriel Ramos as George, Anna Lee Williams as Dori, Olivia Ray as Schulie, Madison Freeman as Joe and Hope Fambrough as Dina, and Caroline Bachofer as the understudy. The night that I saw the show, Bachofer filled in for Williams.

Tom is startled by the presence of the ideas at first and even in denial when they attempt to explain that they are the different ideas inside of his head. This scene of dialogue helps the actors to transition into the first song of the show, “A Noun Is A Person, Place Or Thing.” The noun song as I kept referring to it in my head is a fun little song about, you guessed it, nouns.

My favorite part of the song was the use of lights throughout the house, where the audience is, as well as on stage. “A Noun Is A Person, Place Or Thing” was the first of many catchy songs and the cast did a really good job at keeping the audience entertained with it.

The next song they sang is called “Three Is



PHOTO BY: PAYTON MARKS

The set of “School House Rock Live!”

A Magic Number.” In this song, George is the lead and Ramos does a very good job of not only playing George, but also being the lead singer in a song such as this one.

Ramos has a type of charisma on stage that is nice to see in performers, especially those in roles such as George. Normally hearing someone sing a song about counting by threes may not be the most entertaining thing in the world, but the music and the cast make it work.

The third song was “Mother Necessity,” which was one of my favorite numbers. They talked about different inventions and acted out famous scenes throughout history.

Then in following the trend of history Dori, Schulie and Dina perform a song about women’s suffrage called “Sufferin’ Till Suffrage.” Bachofer, Ray and Fambrough all put on an excellent performance of this song. Although a bit slower, the song ties in very well with the story and is an excellent addition.

They also performed the song “I’m Just A Bill,” which as someone who heard that song while studying government in elementary

school, it was so fun to dance around in my seat to a much more familiar song as well.

After the famous “I’m Just A Bill” song they sang a song about adjectives and used cue cards and a backpack crop to put on the Unpack Your Adjectives songs and it was enjoyable to watch. Ray was the lead for this song, and she nailed it.

After the adjective song, the ideas and Tom played hide and seek, and they hid behind blocks and in the audience. It made for a very good laugh. While they are being “active,” Tom sings a song about circulation in your heart and asks for the audience’s help.

This number is cute because Tom and the ideas all hold hands and spin around the stage with each other.

They sang one more song before intermission. This song was about adverbs and using safari props such as a rhino, kangaroo, armadillo and a school bus, which major props to the prop team for creating such good props, no pun intended.

Then after a brief 10 minute intermission, the show picks back up with the song “Figure Eight,” which is about multiplying by eights.

The song was sung as a solo by Ray, who has a beautiful voice and a captivating stage presence.

Following that song is another song I learned in elementary school, “Conjunction Junction,” which is even more fun with dancing and costumes and a stage.

Then they talk about how the U.S. is made up of people from different ethnicities and different countries and sing “The Great American Melting Pot.” They used props such as a giant pot and characters that were decorated to represent other countries that people have immigrated from.

To close it all out Tom sings what he calls a “new schoolhouse rock song” called “The Tale Of Mr. Morton,” while the ideas sit and listen. Then comes a curtain call.

I thoroughly enjoyed the show. I think the costuming was done well, the music was fun and the casting was excellent. The light and sound crew also did a great job and of course the show would not have been complete without them.

CAMPUS

Kinesiology department participates in Service Learning Day with a 5K

BY SARA FARMER

Contributing Student Writer

The Tarleton State University Kinesiology department hosted the Mind and Body 5K on March 21.

The 5K was held on Service Learning Day for the students of Tarleton, allowing for more students to have the opportunity to participate. The race is held to honor #frankiestrong and to raise awareness for patients with leukemia.

The race began at 8 a.m. at the Bosque River Trail in Stephenville. Both students of Tarleton and citizens of Erath County participated in the Mind and Body 5K. Participants were required to meet at the beginning of the trail, located by the Stephenville softball fields at the Stephenville City Park by 7:30 a.m.

Tarleton students Braelyn Campbell and Alayna Wallace enjoy running and were excited to run in this 5K.

“I ran track all throughout high school and I’ve ran some color runs,” Campbell said. “I just run for fun here and there.”

Campbell appreciates Tarleton for orchestrating these events for her to participate in.

“Since I don’t run track anymore, it still gives me an opportunity to go out and run when I normally wouldn’t on my own,” Campbell said.

Kinesiology students are taking advantage of the opportunities this race provides. Students have the chance to

earn professional development points, capstone hours and more to help them advance their experience.

“There is a lot of incentive to be out here,” Wallace said, referring to her friend, Braelyn Campbell earning Kinesiology points for participating in the race.

Volunteer Cammile Bohlin’s experience studying kinesiology helps prepare her to help orchestrate the race with her classmates.

“If you understand the body, you understand when fatigue starts and when to push harder or when to let up a little bit,” Bohlin said. “And you know that when you start to feel an ache or pain, then you need to stop.”

While Bohlin is required to orchestrate the 5K, she expresses her excitement to be out in the Stephenville City Park and enjoys the energy this 5K gives her.

“I do have to volunteer because of the class that I am in, but I would have done it either way,” Bohlin said. “I think that this is such a good opportunity for everyone to come together and meet new people and have a really energized day.”

Runners and volunteers were encouraged to wear funny socks to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day.

All participants had the opportunity to earn a free t-shirt, supplied by the Center for Educational Excellence while supplies lasted.



PHOTO BY: SARA FARMER

Volunteers (from left) Carlie Tibbetts, Avery Lesley, Laurel Nies, Camille Bohlin, Haylee Nocktonick and Brooklyn Martin working at the 5K. They were responsible for checking in all of the runners and making sure the 5K ran smoothly.



TNS STAFF

Jolee Skinner
Editor-in-Chief

Copeland Welch
Managing Editor

Michael Dennis
Executive Producer

Reese Keeling
Art Director

Haeley Carpenter
Digital Media Director

Jaxon Hansard
Sports Editor

Payton Marks
Multimedia Journalist

Thomas Engelbert
Multimedia Journalist

Kiley Morgan
Multimedia Journalist

Ashtyn Hansard
Multimedia Journalist

Austin Lewter
Faculty Coordinator

Contact Us

Mail: Box T-0230,
Stephenville, TX 76402

(254) 968-0519
editor@texannews.net



Opinions expressed in Texan News are not necessarily those of Tarleton State University or the student body.

OPINION

TNS takes on NYC

Texan News Service travels to New York for College Media Convention



**REESE
KEELING**

*Art
Director*

Over spring break Texan News Service staff members, Jolee Skinner, Copeland Welch, Kiley Morgan and I took a trip to New York City (NYC) for the College Media Association Convention (CMA) held March 13-16.

We left on March 13 and landed in NYC around 5 p.m. We were taken to our hotel right on Times Square where we checked in and headed to Bond 45 Italian Kitchen and Bar.

“Bond 54 Italian Kitchen and Bar was a great, classic Italian restaurant that encapsulated the authentic New York atmosphere,” Skinner said. “The food was very good, I ordered their famous spaghetti dish and it definitely lived up to its praise.”

We spent the rest of the night on Wednesday, exploring Times Square, getting donuts from Krispy Kreme and getting ready for our first day of sessions at CMA.

“The Krispy Kreme in Times Square is like none other,” Morgan said. “Of course, the line was out the door, but the atmosphere was great. We tried to get there in time to get the fresh ones, but that was nearly impossible.”

Our first morning we woke up super early to check in and get our badges for the conference. We all split up and went to different sessions throughout the morning.

“The sessions were informative, yet engaging,” Welch said. “I walked away from the session feeling inspired, motivated and eager to bring what I learned at the conference home to our newsroom.”

That night we explored Brooklyn and walked across the Brooklyn Bridge. The view was like nothing I’ve ever seen before, I even got a glimpse of the Statue of Liberty. We ended the night eating dinner at Gatsby’s Landing and getting dessert at



Carlo’s Bakery on Times Square.

Our second and last day of sessions began the next morning at 8 a.m and we all split up again. I went to a few sports sessions about bettering our newspaper’s sports page. I also caught a session where I learned how to start a freelance journey.

After our class, our adviser, Austin Lewter, set up a tour for us at The New York Times.

“The tour of the New York Times was nothing short of amazing,” Welch said. “It was really awesome to see how a newsroom operates on a large scale and understand everything that goes on behind the scenes of a powerhouse operation like the Times.”

We spent our last day eating pizza, riding bikes in Central Park and having dinner at the Pink Taco in Times Square.

The opportunity to go to New York was such an amazing experience and I learned so many different things not only from the CMA sessions but also from NYC itself. I would definitely visit again.

FOLLOW US!

 @texannewstsu

 @texannewstsu

 /texannews

RODEO

Tarleton Rodeo brings home titles from Ranger College Rodeo

BY KILEY MORGAN
Multimedia Journalist

Reserve Champion and Reserve Champion All Around Titles, as well as several placings were brought home by Tarleton Rodeo athletes after competing at the Ranger College Rodeo in Sweetwater, Texas, March 21-23.

Danielle Bussey was named Reserve Champion All-Around Cowgirl of the Ranger College Rodeo. Bussey competed in two events, goat tying and barrel racing, which put her in the position to win this title.

In the rough stock events, two Tarleton athletes placed in the bareback riding and four placed in the saddle bronc riding.

Placing sixth in the Bareback Riding, Roedy Farrell had a good first out, scoring an 83 on his ride in the long-go. He came back to the short-go March 23 to score a 69-point ride. Devon Moore had a 78-point ride in the long-go that secured him a spot in the short-go, but unfortunately did not have any luck. This put him in tenth place in the bareback riding.

In the saddle bronc riding, Gus Gaillard took home the title of Reserve Champion, behind Western Texas College's Carson Bingham. Gaillard had two solid 78-point rides. His teammate, Ira Dickenson, was 6.5 points behind him in the average. Dickenson ended up splitting fifth and sixth with Joe Macqueen of Clarendon College. Bailey Small, a Tarleton cowboy, scored a 72 on his first out in the long-go but came back with a higher scoring ride of 75.5 in the short-go. Small was seventh in the average, right in front of another Tarleton athlete, Travis Handley. Handley, who came in eighth, had a better long-go than some of his fellow teammates. Unfortunately he scored a 70 in the short-go, which put him behind in the average.

Two Tarleton athletes placed in the Team Roping. Mason Bice and his partner, Cayden

Harmon of Weatherford College, placed seventh. In the long-go, Bice and Harmon tied with three other teams with a 6.2 second run. Unfortunately, the team got a no time in the short-go. Wyatt Crandall and his heeler, Nathan Clawson of South Plains College, placed tenth in the Team Roping. Crandall and his partner had a solid 6.5 second run in the long-go. Coming back to the short-go, Crandall had the same luck as his fellow teammate, Bice and he and Clawson came out with no time.

In the Steer Wrestling, two Tarleton athletes placed consecutively in fourth and fifth. Clay Guthrie tied with Cisco's Dylan Hancock in the long-go with a 4.1 second run. He came back Saturday night and threw his steer in 5.4 seconds, putting him in fourth place in the short-go. His fellow teammate, Landris White, was 9.8 seconds on two head. White bulldogged in 4.9 seconds in both the long and short-go, putting him fifth in the average.

Grant Lindsley was the only Tarleton cowboy to place in the Tie-Down Roping. He placed sixth in the average and was 20.9 seconds in the average. Lindsley roped and tied his calf in 9.9 seconds in the long-go but had a slower go Saturday night with an 11 second run.

A couple of girls in purple vests placed in the Goat Tying, one of which was Reserve Champion Goat Tyer. Keni Labrum was the girl to bring home the Reserve Champion title, after making an impressive 6.7 second run in the long-go, only to come back to the short-go and make an even faster run of 6.6 seconds. Labrum was 13.3 seconds on two. The competition was tough with Shacie Marr of Eastern New Mexico University making two runs in 13.2 seconds, just a tenth of a second faster than Labrum. Danielle Bussey, the Reserve All-Around Cowgirl was fourth in the Goat Tying, having an average of 14.6 seconds on two. Shyanne Bauerle was a little over a second behind Bussey, finishing fifth with an



PHOTO COURTESY: THE FLASH TODAY

Tarleton rodeo team competes in Ranger College Rodeo.

average of 15.5 seconds on two.

Jordan Driver was Reserve Champion Breakaway Roper, right behind Shaylee Warner of Clarendon College. Driver had a pair of 2.1 second runs, putting her at 4.2 seconds in the average.

Two Tarleton girls placed fourth and fifth in the barrel racing in the short-go. Lindsey-Kay Reichert came in fourth. Reichert had a 14.98 second run in the long-go and came back Saturday night to make an even faster run of 14.83 seconds. Her teammate, Danielle Bussey, came in right behind her in fifth place. Bussey made a fast run in the long-go, running the barrels in 14.93 seconds, but made a 15.05 second run in the short-go.

Mason Spain was the only Texan to ride a bull in the short-go. He made a 78 point ride in the long-go to bring him back to Saturday nights performance. Saturday night, Spain was one of three to ride the full eight seconds. He scored 65 points on his short-go ride.

The Tarleton men's and women's teams continue to dominate the Southwest Region standings one rodeo after another, and that did not change at the Ranger College Rodeo. The Texan's men's team holds a lead in first, a solid 765 points ahead of Clarendon College, who comes in second in the Southwest Region standings. The women's team is 545 points ahead of Cisco College.

CAMPUS

The Stock Horse Team, an opportunity to develop horsemanship skills

BY COPELAND WELCH
Managing Editor

Kaylee Berry, a member of the Tarleton State University Stock Horse Team, has been an avid lover of horses since she was seven.

Berry got her start in the rodeo industry when was 12, but quickly began looking for more excitement and came across the stock horse industry about six years ago.

Berry began her college career at Stephen F. Austin (SFA) and transferred to Tarleton her junior year.

Her horse, Smart Boonatic Doc (Boon), is six years old and she has had him for the past four years. She got Boon while still attending SFA, but finding the help she needed at the university was difficult.

Berry has found a trainer, Lavert Avent with LA Performance Horses at Tee Cross Ranches – Horse Division, that has helped her develop her skills and work better with her young horse.

“Trying to find help and somebody who was educated enough to help me with a young horse was hard, it set me back and right now we should be a lot further than we are,” Berry said. “Transferring here has helped me a lot and I finally found a good trainer that has been helping me a lot and Bobby of course has helped me drastically.”

The Stock Horse Team is more of an individual sport that is competed in as a team. The goal is to show the versatility of the horse.

There are four different divisions riders can compete in on the collegiate level, novice, intermediate, limited non-pro and non-pro. Additionally,

there are various patterns, including Ranch Reining, Working Cow Horse, Ranch Trail and Ranch Pleasure.

The Stock Horse Team has 15 riders that show are on the team for the spring semester.

Berry values the friendships and support system she has created through the Stock Horse Team.

“We’re all very supportive of each other,” Berry said. “We go and we watch everybody, and we help out like if someone needs help or anything like that everyone is pretty willing to help out and we take what they give, and we apply it. It’s a very supportive group and we’re all pretty good friends.”

Berry described The Stock Horse Team Coach, Bobby Walton, as an uplifting leader.

“Bobby is very supportive,” Berry said. “She is very sweet, she’s very encouraging and she’s a pretty good leader. We had a meeting yesterday and she let us kind of handle the meeting and sometimes she’ll say ‘Hey y’all you didn’t think of this, this could be a problem.’”

The Stock Horse Team has sponsors that help the team with funding things like hotel stays, entry fees and stalls.

These sponsors include Cery Performance Horses, Cooper’s Country Store, Erath County Farm Bureau, Gin Ranch Construction, Hayden Real Estate, Higgin’s Horse Ranch, Lone Star Hardware Sales and Service, Melody Mountain Ranch, Rocking 2K ranch, Royal Threads, Stephenville Pipe, Taylor Feed, The Hay and Feed Ranch, The Good Contractor List, Vicar’s Cattle and 7V Ranch.



PHOTO CREDIT: KAYLEE BERRY

Kaylee Berry and her horse Smart Boonatic Doc (Boon.)

For students interested in joining the Stock Horse Team a mock show is held to serve as team tryouts at the start of each semester.

Berry hopes to continue competing in stock horse competitions after she graduates from Tarleton.

OPINION

Enoki versus Poseidon

Enoki finally has some competition for sushi in Stephenville

BY HAELEY CARPENTER
Digital Media Director

Enoki Sushi and Poseidon Sushi and Hibachi are the only two restaurants in Stephenville that heavily focus on Asian cuisine. Enoki was established in 2018 and has dominated the Japanese and sushi food customers until Poseidon came to town in 2023.

I went to both restaurants to see which one had better sushi rolls.

Spoiler alert, Poseidon was the clear winner.

I tried the California roll, shrimp tempura roll, dragon roll and soft-shell crab roll.

The California Roll is a classic roll and at both restaurants, it was sweet and fresh. At Enoki, it tasted very fishy and not in a way that crab should taste. At Poseidon, there were a little too many sesame seeds on top for my taste.

Despite the sesame seeds, Poseidon's was better.

Shrimp tempura rolls are one of my favorites and they are usually pretty good wherever you go. At Enoki, the roll was a little bit soggy and part of it was warm and part of it was cold.

At Poseidon, this is one of my favorite rolls because it never disappoints. The crunch in the tempura is good and the avocado and cucumber adds freshness and flavors that make me want to do a happy dance.

So again, Poseidon wins.

Enoki features the dragon roll and Poseidon has a similar version with all the same ingredients, which they call the green dragon roll. At Enoki, it was good, it just wasn't anything special.

At Poseidon, this was my favorite roll that I had this time around. The flavors just worked better together. The baked eel brought a flavor



PHOTO BY: HAELEY CARPENTER

Three sushi rolls at Poseidon Sushi and Hibachi.

that most people aren't used to and I'm surprised that I liked it so much more at Poseidon than at Enoki.

Poseidon wins the dragon roll.

Soft-shell crab rolls are weird if you've never tried soft-shell crab. It's simply called the soft-shell crab roll at Poseidon, but at Enoki, it's called the spider roll. It wasn't bad, but it was nothing to write home about. Part of the roll

was warm and part of it was cold. It was still good, but out of the four I tried, it was last on the list.

Other things to consider are the prices. Poseidon has a happy hour from 2:30-5:30 p.m. where you can get select appetizers and classic rolls for a couple of dollars cheaper.

At Enoki, the rolls I chose added up to \$38.50 and at Poseidon the rolls were \$42.95.

Overall, Poseidon has been more consistent throughout the week than Enoki, you can almost tell when they get shipments because there is more freshness on certain days.

Enoki has also been the same quality since I have lived in Stephenville (four years) and Poseidon has increased in quality since they opened a little over a year ago.

Tarleton hosts eclipse viewing at Memorial Stadium

BY JOLEE SKINNER

Editor-in-Chief

Tarleton State University hosted an eclipse viewing party at Memorial Stadium on April 8, 2024.

The doors to Memorial Stadium opened to the public for the total solar eclipse viewing at 11 a.m. Tarleton was kind enough to provide students and the public with the proper glasses to be used to look at the eclipse.

The total solar eclipse started at about 12:23 p.m. for Stephenville, full totality was seen at 1:39 p.m. and lasted a little over a minute. The eclipse finally concluded at 3:02 p.m.

Tarleton also had a live telescope feed on the big screen before the eclipse went into full totality. The live feed was being recorded right outside of the Texan Hall Parking garage.

Stephenville also partnered with Tarleton to create custom eclipse t-shirts for everyone. The t-shirts featured Oscar P and read “Dark Side of the Sun” on them, a parody of Pink Floyd’s “Dark Side of the Moon” studio album. The college of Science and Mathematics also had demonstrations set up that showed how a total solar eclipse happens.

The President of Tarleton, Dr. Hurley and First Lady Kindall Hurley also joined the crowd at Memorial Stadium with their two daughters to watch the



PHOTO BY: KORA ROWLAND

The Solar Eclipse in full totality seen at Memorial Stadium.

celestial event.

Families from all over Erath County came to the stadium, as well as most of the entire student body of Tarleton.

Adeline Alcala is a student at Tarleton and said the eclipse was an amazing experience.

“I couldn’t stop looking at it,” Alcala said. “It was way cooler than what

people said it would be.”

The Tarleton Planetarium, located at the Lamar Johanson building, was showing a film called “Totality over Texas.” The film shows how the total solar eclipse happens and how Texas is the nexus for the 2024 eclipse.

Avery Brown is a student at Tarleton and Brown works at The Car Wash at

Bruner’s. Brown decided to watch the eclipse from her place of employment.

“It was very unique and interesting to watch the whole process with my own two eyes,” Brown said. “It was such a beautiful experience.”

CAMPUS

President and Vice President of Texan E-sports talk growth

The backbone behind the success of the E-sports club

BY HAELEY CARPENTER
Digital Media Director

The Tarleton State University E-Sports club is led by President, Patrick Lacey and Vice President, Bryson Reagan. These men have poured their hearts and time into making the club a successful and welcoming place for students.

Lacey met with Jayce Thedford, a student government official and the president of the E-sports club at the time, Johnathan Thompson, to start doing bigger and better things for the club.

“I got on campus spring of 2022 and at the time the club had maybe 20 members total. We have surpassed 70 now,” Lacey said. “We are one of the larger clubs in the region.”

The club has grown tremendously since they started and they now have a \$111,000 E-sports lounge on the bottom level of the Barry B. Thompson Student Center. They celebrated their grand opening of the lounge in September of 2023.

“It’s allowed that social element,” Lacey said. “We’ve seen a lot of people come out of their shells, people who wouldn’t typically get involved in student organizations find their place here.”

The lounge is open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday for all Tarleton students.

Other accomplishments under Lacey and Reagan are their recent sponsorship by Redbull and the scholarships they started for gamers.

Reagan joined the E-sports Club in spring 2022 and became vice president in spring of 2023, working alongside Lacey who became president the same semester.

“It’s definitely my favorite thing I’ve done or been a part of,” Reagan said.

Reagan and Lacey both started gaming when they were in elementary school and Lacey got sponsored after high school and competed nationally for a few years. Lacey’s experience helps him teach and lead gamers.

Lacey and Reagan are proud of each gamer and do what they can to help them succeed.

“We can tell a distinct difference in people from when they first join and then after a semester,” Reagan said. “A lot of them have become leaders.”

The energy and vibe in the lounge is very chill and you can tell that everyone there is in their element.

“We’re really good about not taking it too seriously,” Reagan said. “It always stinks whenever we lose but people don’t get super upset or tilted, they know that it is just a game we can just go onto the next one. It’s the right amount of healthy competition.”

Players are put into teams based on past performance and a tryout system. Each team sticks to one game and plays that game throughout the whole season. The teams are Valorant, League of Legends, Rocket League, Overwatch2 and Rainbow Six Siege.

Valorant, League of Legends,



PHOTO COURTESY: E-SPORTS

University President, Dr. James Hurley, and E-Sports Club President, Patrick Lacey, cutting the ribbon at the grand opening of the E-Sports lounge.

Rainbow Six Siege and Overwatch2 teams made it to the playoffs, which kicked off on March 18.

The Overwatch2 team, made up of Parker Curtis, Stephen Moffitt, Nicholas Crawford, Bradley Thomas and Bryson Reagan, won their semi-finals match during playoffs, pushing them to their conference finals. Their next match is April 11.

Texan E-Sports have big plans for

the future.

“This is just the beginning, we are just getting started,” Lacey said. “It’s only a matter of time before E-Sports in general gets picked up by the NCAA.”

To keep up with Texan E-Sports you can follow them on Instagram @texanesports and watch games live on YouTube with the same handle.

Texas schools gather for annual Band Festival on Tarleton campus

BY THOMAS ENGELBERT
Multimedia Journalist

Tarleton State University hosted its 13th annual Concert Band Festival, a two-day event held on Feb. 26 and Feb. 27.

The festival attracted participants from middle schools, junior highs and high schools across Texas. Serving as a platform for showcasing the musical talents of both students and educators.

Throughout the festival, the Fine Arts Center was bustling with activity. Parents were eagerly waiting to see their children perform and students anticipating their moment in the spotlight. The music collection ranged from traditional marches to intricate compositions, highlighting the depth and complexity of musical expression demonstrated by the participants.

Each day of the festival featured a concert showcase. On Feb. 26, the Tarleton Symphonic Band and the University Band took to the stage, led by Dr. Gary Westbrook and Dr. David Robinson. Their performances showcased the dedication and skill of the university's music programs.

On Feb. 27, the Tarleton Wind Ensemble was the centerpiece of the evening's performances, once again under the direction of Dr. Robinson. The ensemble's performance featured guest soloists, Dr. Benjamin Charles, Dr. Caleb Pickering and Dr. Ben Tomlinson.

The 13th annual Concert Band Festival at Tarleton provided a platform for young musicians to showcase their talents and it fostered a sense of community, plus appreciation for music among participants and audiences alike. The festival's diverse collection of music and exceptional performances highlighted the importance of music education and its impact on shaping students' lives.



PHOTO BY: THOMAS ENGELBERT

The Tarleton Wind Ensemble with the brochure given before the performance on Feb. 27.

Tarleton's commitment to supporting and promoting musical excellence is shown through events like the Concert Band Festival.

By continuing to engage with schools and educators across Texas, the university aims to nurture the next generation of musicians.

Alpha Phi Alpha seeks chartering on campus

BY MICHAELA DENNIS
Executive Producer

As a member of a National Panhellenic Council (NPHC) Sorority, I am excited that the men of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated are in the process of chartering on the Tarleton State University campus.

The NPHC is composed of nine historically black fraternities and sororities. These organizations have elite members, such as United States Vice President Kamala Harris, who was a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

Joining one of these nine organizations comes with high honor due to the organization's rich history. Their membership selection is invitation only, meaning you're sought out for membership if the chapter's members are interested in you.

Alpha Phi Alpha was the first historically black fraternity to be established in the United States. It was founded on the Cornell University campus on Dec. 4, 1906.

Personally, Alpha Phi Alpha is one of my favorite organizations within the NPHC. I like them for the way they stroll. Strolling is a unique aspect of the NPHC. It is a form of dance to express our organization.

For instance, the Alpha's signature move is beating on their chest and walking on their knuckles. They sure look good doing it and makes them as a fraternity stand out.

As an African American woman, I was excited to know that my campus, a predominantly white institution, had organizations that catered to my culture, accepted me and were founded for people like me.

I hope the men on campus are able to feel that same pride I felt when I joined my organization. Once you gain your letters within your NPHC, you will never be the same.

Everyone's journey is different, but I truly believe that joining one of these organizations will bring you leadership experiences,

networking opportunities and memories that you could not get from joining any other council.

"Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. develops leaders, promotes brotherhood and academic excellence, while providing service and advocacy for our communities," according to Alpha Phi Alpha's website.

If African American men are looking to excel and give back to their community, I highly recommend they check out the fraternities within the NPHC.

The Alphas are hosting an informational this semester for undergraduates at Tarleton State University to join the fraternity.

An informational is where you learn basic information about the fraternity and their membership requirements.



PHOTO COURTESY: ALPHA PHI ALPHA
Alpha Phi Alphas crest The Great Sphinx of Giza.

Everything you need to know about intramural sports

BY SARA FARMER
Contributing Student Writer

Intramural sports are a great way to have fun playing sports without major commitments at Tarleton State University.

Conducted through the recreational facility, various sports are offered throughout the year, such as volleyball, flag football, kickball and dodgeball are offered in the fall. Basketball, soccer, softball, pickleball, table tennis, spikeball, cornhole and sand volleyball are offered in the spring.

E-sports also make an appearance in intramurals; Madden, MLB The Show and NBA 2K are all played in the fall.

These intramural sports are either played bracket style, taking up one day, or played in a season, taking up to two months to complete.

Students enjoy the fun, noncompetitive side of intramurals. Junior Ashley Turk, a former multi-sport high school athlete, appreciates this.

"I really like intramural sports because they are not a huge time commitment," Turk said. "I'm pretty packed, being a co-president of my church organization and with all of my classes, so playing club sports just is not realistic with my schedule."

Intramural sports are also a good way to bond with current friends and create new friendships.

"I have always found sports to be an easy way to socialize with people," Turk said.

Turk made her highschool friends through sports, playing volleyball, basketball, softball and running track for her school.

Most teams are made through residential halls or Greek life. Teams are also made through church groups, clubs or any other organization on campus.

To be eligible to participate in intramural sports, participants need to either be a student or faculty member at Tarleton. No prior experience is needed.

Sports that are conducted in a bracket style manner, like soccer, do not require a payment fee per team. However, sports that have intramural seasons, like basketball, do require a payment. These payments are normally \$40 per team.

You are also required to provide your own gear, but only if necessary. For example, if you are playing intramural volleyball, you do not need to bring your own volleyball. However, if you are playing intramural softball, you will need to provide your own glove and bat.

Intramural sports are not just enjoyable for the players. Several people gather to watch the games take place and cheer on their friends.

Freshman Jayden Lofton enjoys watching her sorority play in the intramural sports.

"It is fun to come out and support our friends," Lofton said.

Junior, Brooke Stermer, who is also the chairman for the Delta Zeta intramural sports enjoys watching.

"It's really entertaining," Stermer said.

Recreation Center Manager, Courtney McLean, also enjoys participating in intramural sports.

"I have been working at the Rec for three years," McLean said. "It's really good to bond with people, just by participating and interacting with the staff as well. They have a good friendship."

Signing up for intramurals is done through IMLeagues. To set up your own team, go to the sport you want, click "create team," and invite members. You can invite members to join your team by entering their name or student email and sending them a request.

For more information on intramural sports, contact The Recreation Center on campus, located at 610 N Rome Ave.

SPORTS

Playoffs? Tarleton Football can finally start talking about it

BY GAVIN PATRICK

Contributing Student Writer

It's a new era for the Tarleton State University football team.

The 2024 season will mark the program's first season being postseason eligible as an NCAA Division I school.

Last season marked the final year of the program's four-year transition period following the university's jump from Division II to Division I in 2020. During that time, the team was not eligible for the Football Official Bracket Playoffs, had to recruit against teams that were and didn't have a conference for the first year.

Despite these challenges, Head Football Coach Todd Whitten is proud of how the program stayed together.

"There's a lot of things that we're thankful for and that we feel like as a program we did a good job with," Whitten said. "And so surviving the transition not only in terms of wins and losses, but also in keeping our program together and not having a mass exodus with our players through the transfer portal."

Whitten helped lead one of the most successful reclassification periods in recent memory. The Texans have 25 wins so far in the Division I era and haven't had a losing season.

This includes managing a 5-3 record in the unexpected spring season of 2021 when their schedule was pushed back due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Then, after a shortened offseason, they were back on the field just five months later to play the regular fall season.

"We were really pleased as a program that we were able to have winning seasons through all of that," Whitten said. "Most people do not."

Besides Tarleton, the most recent Texas schools to jump from Division II to Division I were Texas A&M University-Commerce, Abilene Christian University (ACU) and University of the Incarnate Word (UIW).

Texas A&M University-Commerce will enter their three year transition this fall. So far, they have won just six games as a Division I school. ACU and UIW have been in Division I for over a decade now.

They won 17 games each over their four-year transition, combining for four losing seasons.

In fact, since 2018, the Texans are tied with



PHOTO BY: REESE KEELING

Tarleton football prepares for the 2024 season being the first year eligible for playoffs.

Southern Methodist University for the second most wins of any Texas scholarship football program with 48, behind only the University of Texas Longhorns' 50 wins.

"I think it was a really nice accomplishment for us and sort of moves us into now being eligible for the playoffs in a good spot," Whitten said.

Heading into the 2024 season, the Texans will return all 11 starters on offense, but they'll lose five starters on defense.

Whitten said replacing those defensive positions, linebacker, nose guard, corner and safety, was the main focus of recruiting this year.

"In terms of fixing immediate needs, it's junior college and the transfer portal and high school guys planning for the future – kind of a base if you will," Whitten said. "We don't really place any more importance on one thing or the other. We think you've gotta work really hard in all three of those areas."

In total, the program has added 19 players this offseason. Ten from high school and nine

transfers.

Among those new players is hometown hero Tate Maruska, one of Stephenville High School's most accomplished players. He holds the school's single-season record for rushing 2,098 yards and rushing 311 yards in a game. He also helped the Yellow Jackets get a state title and an undefeated season in 2021.

"I think he's gonna be a really good running back for us," Whitten said. "We have some depth at that position, so hopefully we'll be able to spend a couple of years developing him."

On defense, Whitten highlighted outside linebacker and safety Branson Tita-Niwa, a transfer from Fullerton Junior College, as being an immediate impact player.

"He's one of the better players I've seen in a while," Whitten said for Tarleton Athletics. "He was the defensive player of the year in that junior college conference that Fullerton is in. Maybe the best junior college defensive player that I feel like I've evaluated this year."

The first time Texan fans can see these recruits in action will be at the Spring Football Game.

The game will be held at 2 p.m. on April 20 at Memorial Stadium with traditional game day festivities preceding the kickoff.

"We will utilize a lot of young guys and a lot of guys who haven't quite made a name for themselves, yet," Whitten said, addressing the game. "It's our last chance to get a really good evaluation of these guys going into summer workouts, so it means a lot to guys who are fighting for a spot."

With the spring game fast approaching, Whitten said he is looking forward to fans renewing their interest and spirit in Tarleton football. It will be the first of many events in a year full of new beginnings and optimism.

"We have great fans and a great game day atmosphere, and it's fun for our community, our student body, and to get to do that in the springtime is fun for everybody," Whitten said. "It's been really, really popular. I think this is just a really fun day for everyone involved. And I don't have to worry about who wins."

The Tarleton Texans open the 2024 season in Waco against Baylor University on Aug. 31.

SPORTS

Tarleton's tournament success in Las Vegas

BY JAXON HANSARD
Sports Editor

Tarleton State University men's and women's basketball teams qualified for the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) Tournament held in Las Vegas, Nevada, March 13-16.

The women's season became very competitive as they won three out of their final four games, clinching a final spot in the WAC Vegas tournament as the seventh seed, where they were going to face their foe from up the road Abilene Christian University (ACU) who held the sixth seed.

Tarleton had a 1-1 record against ACU in the regular season.

The Texans stayed consistent with their end-of-the-season play and upset the ACU Wildcats 54-41 to advance to Thursday's second-round play. Tarleton won their first conference tournament game since joining NCAA Division I. Strong and relentless performances came from the starting backcourt of Miannah Little and Jakoria Long who both played 40 minutes along with 38 minutes from starting forward Elise Turrubiates.

Little shot 4-16 from the field with two three-pointers for 13 points while also helping her teammates with six assists.

Long led the team in scoring all season, especially in their biggest game yet, where she produced an efficient 7-9 field goal to tally 20 points for her night.

All-WAC Freshman, Faith Acker, had a dominant night against the Wildcats, bringing down 12 rebounds and eight points for the Texans while



COURTESY PHOTO: TARLETON ATHLETICS

Jakoria Long and All-WAC Freshman, Faith Acker, in a post-game Conference after upsetting sixth seed Abilene Christian for first Tournament win in division one era.

blocking four shots right back to ACU.

Both teams were tied after the first quarter to 16 a piece, ACU had a run of their own to pull away and lead 29-23 at the half. The second half of the game is where Tarleton threw their biggest punch, scoring 32 points in the final two quarters while keeping Abilene from scoring for the first 3:34 of the third quarter.

Head Coach Bill Brock is grateful for the experience the conference tournament provides the athletes.

"Our team rebounding, shot selection, and free throw shooting were outstanding in the second half. I'm so happy our players are getting to experience this conference tournament atmosphere," Brock said.

The women's basketball team's next opponent was another Texas school that is considered a rival for the Texans,

Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA). This three seeded team, the Lady Jacks, were the women's next obstacle.

The Lady Jacks chopped Tarleton's tournament play over in a sloppy finish to the season, where turnovers determined the Texan's fate. SFA overcame Tarleton in a 70-58 game.

On a stat sheet, both teams were similar and Tarleton even had the upper hand in the rebounding department, but they were buried under 24 turnovers that SFA was able to capitalize on and score 22 points off turnovers to go along with their 42 points in the paint.

"They kept us off-balance offensively the entire game with their length and athleticism on defense," Brock said. "We competed hard but just had too many live ball turnovers that resulted in easy baskets."

This game featured a larger rotation from coach Brock but with lesser performances as the starting backcourt of Little and Long combined for seven points in less playing time. Tyler Jackson carried Tarleton in scoring with 19 points and six rebounds.

Turrubiates backup Jackson with six of her own rebounds and 12 points to keep the Texans moving. Acker recorded a double-double of 10 points and 10 rebounds with the force she plays within the paint.

"Their perseverance was rewarded and allowed us to finish strong in conference play winning three of our last four games and winning a game in the conference tournament," Brock said. "We have a solid core group returning next year and I anticipate a lot of growth from each player during the offseason and summer."

CONTROL THE WAVES...

BECOME A DJ ON 100.7 THE PLANET

**Host Your Own Show
Gain Real World Experience
Use Top of the Line Equipment**



 [theplanet100.7](https://www.instagram.com/theplanet100.7)

 [theplanet100.7](https://twitter.com/theplanet100.7)

 [Tarleton Radio](https://www.youtube.com/TarletonRadio)

..... **Listen Live at KXTR.com**

Rock & Hip Hop Hits