



# The TC News

*The official voice of the student body*

Volume 84, No. 13

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Est. 1927



## McDonald's, TC join forces

By Katrina Williams  
TC News Reporter

Texarkana College has partnered with area McDonald's stores to create a new "Pay for Grades" program.

TC students who are seeking employment or those already employed with the McDonald's restaurants in the greater Texarkana area will be eligible for the new program if they meet the guidelines.

According to the flyer released by McDonald's, the program is for any

McDonald's employee who has been with the company for a minimum of 45 days.

Students employed by an area McDonald's store for at least that long will receive \$25 per credit hour for each passing grade of a C or better, citing an example of a full-time student's ability to earn \$300 or more per semester.

"Any course that Texarkana College offers will be honored," said George Redix, Sr., McDonald's Human Resources Manager. "This includes online and developmental courses, providing

the grades are C or better."

The flyer also says additional benefits of employment are flexible hours, benefits eligibility and opportunities for rapid advancement.

McDonald's representatives were present and passing out literature on the program at Spring Fling on April 24 at TC.

"There is a plan in place to help students balance their work and class schedules," Redix said. "We obviously want to see them be successful in both areas."

The flyer also says employees in the program are required to work a minimum of two shifts a week, so part-time employees are eligible also.

The program has the potential to be beneficial to both McDonald's and Texarkana College.

Torrance Robins, who is currently enrolled in classes at TC and also employed at McDonald's said, "I think this will motivate other McDonald's employees to better themselves."

Traci Pitman, who is in charge of design and creative services at TC,

said, "They want to train leadership candidates, they [McDonald's] want really strong leadership in their stores. So they thought, what better way than to get college students who are already committed to coming to class every day? They come on time; they make good grades and have made this commitment in their life."

Students who are interested in learning more about the program should contact Human Resources Manager George Redix, Sr. at 903-826-3761 ext. 305.

## Wilder to speak at college graduation

By Anthony Hamilton  
TC News Reporter

Spring is an exciting time of year at Texarkana College as students prepare for final exams and begin registration for summer and fall semesters.

Many though will celebrate a milestone in their lives, participating in graduation this May 20, during TC's spring commencement ceremony.

Longtime TC professor and administrator Charles Vernon Wilder is set to be the featured speaker at the ceremony.

Wilder retires in August after 42 years as an educator. Currently, Wilder is the Dean of Academics at TC.

As for being chosen as the featured speaker for commencement, Wilder said it began as what he thought was a joke.

"I was at a meeting of the President's Leadership Team," Wilder remembered. "They were talking about picking a speaker, and one of the members said Vernon will do it."

In response Wilder recalled saying, "You must not have heard me speak."

Ronda Dozier, Dean of Workforce and Continuing Education, said she believes Wilder is the first retiring faculty member to speak at graduation.

Dozier, who attended the same meeting with Wilder, said there is no one better suited to motivate graduating students than Wilder.

"He has been instrumental in moving TC forward in many ways," Dozier said. "During the financial strains the college endured, Mr. Wilder had a vision of what was to come, and worked with faculty, staff and students to bring us where we are today. There is not another person on campus who loves Texarkana College or students more, and he certainly gives his all to make a difference."

Wilder said being chosen is an honor, as he prepares to take his leave from the very college that served as a foundation for his own education.

"I admire our students for being able to achieve the way they do," Wilder said. "Most have families, children and full-time jobs, and they still achieve at a very high level."

"I don't think I could've done it if I had children when I was going to school," he added. "Fortunately, it was just my wife and I."

Wilder said he has had a great time here at TC and at the time this article was written, was still working on his commencement address, but he does have a few key points he will include.

"There are three things I do plan to say to the graduates," he said. "Never give up, you've come a long way, and where will you be 40 years from now?"

Wilder began his career as an educator teaching in public schools. He taught a variety of subjects including English, history and math at Texarkana Independent School District's Pine Street, and Westlawn Junior High campuses.

Wilder was also Chair of the Social Science Department at Pleasant Grove Independent School District. Before that though, Wilder got his start at Texas High School, graduating in 1968. He then attended TC as a student the following year.

See WILDER, Page 6

### MORE SPRING FLING STORIES, PAGES 2-6

## Festival Fun



Photo by Jennifer Maynard

Students dance to the "Cupid Shuffle" at Spring Fling on April 24 at Texarkana College. Several clubs and organizations set up booths at the festival to provide students with information.

## 'Felt like a real college student'

By Jennifer Maynard  
TC News Reporter

Texarkana College celebrated its annual Spring Fling extravaganza from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 24.

Students gathered on the college's front lawn and participated in a number of events, including the Student Government Association's 2014 elections.

Students received a form and were required to gather nine signatures. The signatures could be gathered by walking around and visiting booths or by participating in some of the games. Students could return the forms, completed, in exchange for a meal ticket for from Golden Chic.

There were many chances available for students to gain signatures for their sheet including, soft ball toss, hula hoop, a game of horseshoes, bean bags, and even a chance to put on a pair of distortion goggles to drive a go-cart to promote awareness of the dangers of drunk driving.

The college's clubs and organizations hosted many of the booths peddling goodies and providing entertainment. The Chemistry Club's nitrogen ice cream provided unique refreshment, while other clubs gave away assorted candy and other goodies.

Local businesses also participated in the event, McDonalds brought freshly baked cookies, Sam's Club, gave students a chance to sign up for memberships, and Wells Fargo offered games and prizes.

Music provided diversion during the spring-time celebration, and students and teachers



Photo by Jennifer Maynard

Texarkana College President James Henry Russell throws a softball into a trash can at Spring Fling on April 24 at Texarkana College.

participated in the "Cupid Shuffle."

Business major, Robert Mosley, attended the day's events.

"I enjoyed winning the games, and eating homemade nitrogen ice cream," Mosley said.

Black Student Association member Keyanah Woodberry helped run the BSA booth.

"My favorite thing about Spring Fling was seeing people having so much fun," Woodberry said.

Gentrysha Finley is another student who enjoyed herself during Thursday's events.

"I felt like I was a real college student, and I felt like I was a part of something, something that brought a sense of enjoyment to my college life," Finley said.

Finley also said she wouldn't mind if TC had more activities for students to enjoy.



Spring Fling: Earth Club

# Earth Day celebration held April 22

## Participants treated to guest speaker

By Keitha Son  
TC News Reporter

Earth Day was held at Texarkana College in the campus wetlands on April 22.

Music was performed by the Simple Truth band. Green slime punch and mud cakes were served. The event was sponsored by Earth Club.

Earth Club sponsor Delores McCright commented on the importance of Earth Day and its history.

“Earth Day has been around since 1970,” McCright said. “That is 44 years we have been celebrating Earth Day, and now the Earth Day celebration is worldwide. It’s a time of focus on the environment so that we will be more conscious of taking care of our surroundings.”

The guest speaker for the event was Texarkana Administrative Services Manager David Orr.

Cecilia Alvarado, Earth Club president, was first to take center stage and thanked everyone for coming.

Orr spoke on Texarkana’s Sustainability Plan and facts on the city’s recycling.

He stood at the podium with a calm and friendly demeanor.

“Many times when we think about Earth Day we think about environmental awareness, envi-



People participate in the Earth Day celebration on April 22.

ronmental stewardship and recycling,” Orr said. “But to me I want to draw your attention today to partnerships.”

His speech went on to include the things that Earth Club, as well as Texarkana citizens, were doing to help the environment.

He spoke of curbside recycling, which according to his speech rose to 70 percent just last year in both Texarkana, Arkansas and Texas.

He also spoke of green limb recycling (the recycling of limbs, leafs and other lawn trimmings),

which the city of Texarkana offers.

He also mentioned the partnership of Texarkana College Earth Club in response to the electronic recycling program.

With the help of TC Earth Club, the city has recycled

12,000 pounds of electronic waste, including 62 computer monitors and 54 TVs, according to an audit which was performed with the help of the Earth Club.

Orr ended his speech addressing the Earth Club.

“So in conclusion, I just want

to thank you again for support of Texarkana College Earth Club and all that you do to make a partnership with the environmental stewardship and sustainability a success in the city of Texarkana, Texas.”

McCright then took the stage to address the tire recycling media campaign.

“I wanted to mention that the Environmental Biology class had a special project,” McCright said. “We were asked by the city of Texarkana Texas to give ideas to the city on what the city can do for recycling tires in the region because we have a problem with people dumping tires out everywhere.”

Twenty-one of her Environmental Biology students wrote papers on recycling tires, decorating posters, launching a media campaign, and presenting a presentation to City Hall that is now on TV.

With the use of social media such as Facebook and Twitter, they have been using their pictures to encourage people to recycle. After that announcement, she thanked the guest, supporters, and members of the club for coming. The assembly was wrapped up with closing remarks by Earth Club co-sponsor Connie Brian and a concluding song from Simple Truth.

Submitted photos



Refreshments were offered for all those who showed up for the Earth Club Earth Day.



David Orr, guest at the Earth Day celebration, speaks to participants on April 22.



Participants look on as they serve refreshments on Earth Day event.



Earth Club students were ready for those to sign up for Earth day.



A students supports the Earth Club at Spring Fling.



Spring Fling: Miss Black Student Association Pageant

Ware crowned Miss BSA

By Hope Hawley  
TC News Reporter

Beautiful, bold women is what the 22nd annual Miss BSA Scholarship Pageant displayed on April 24 at Texarkana College in the Great Room of the Truman Arnold Student Center.

The Black Student Association holds a pageant every year to award one contestant the honor of being a representative and spokesperson for the BSA program, and let’s not forget the scholarship.

The four contestants for this year’s pageant were Jasmine Dowden, Enecia Larkins-Matlock, Keyanah Woodberry, and Kimberly Ware.

Ware, a 19-year-old graduate of Texas High and sophomore here at TC, was crowned the 2014 Miss BSA.

“I had a very tough competition, so I’m honored to be the new Miss BSA,” Ware said.

Woodberry was named the 2014 Miss Personality and the second runner up. Dowden was named the 2014 Miss Congeniality and third runner up. Larkins-Matlock was first runner-up.

Dean of Students Robert Jones had said the pageant was open to any TC student.

“The top winners will receive scholarships,” said Jones in the February issue of *The TC News*. “The scholarship amounts will be based on how much money participants raise by selling ads and tickets.”

Participants competed for points in the closed-interview, casual wear competition, active wear competition, talent competition, evening gown competition and a projection question. Judges decided points for each participant based on their performance in the categories.

The night started off with an opening number from the four contestants doing a dance routine to pop artist Rihanna’s “Only girl,” which was also the theme for this year’s pageant.

Then, the competition took off with the little queen and king’s competition.

The kid’s competition brought some very young and sophisticated children to the pageant. The little queens and kings of the night had two categories: kids casual wear and formal wear. Each child participant received trophies and a gift from the BSA club.

Besides the spunky young children, the pageant also brought out some highly respected judges, ranging from former Miss BSA queens to the current 2014 Miss Texarkana.

The judges were Stephanie Lucky, who was a past student here at TC and also a former editor of *The TC News*; Venture Watson is the current 2014 Miss Texarkana and the head women’s basketball coach at Arkansas High; Terri Rousseau-Camp, who won the Miss BSA title in 1991; Kathy Malone, who attended Texarkana College and is a former Miss BSA contestant; Tanda Jolly, who has numerous pageant qualifications; and Ruby Hildreth, who is a graduate of TC and also a current employee.

Dowden is an 18-year-old graduate from Liberty-Eylau



Kimberly Ware, a psychology major at Texarkana College, was crowned the 2014 Miss BSA at the club’s scholarship pageant on April 14. The event was held at Texarkana College in the Great Room of the Truman Arnold Student Center. Four contestants vied for the title of Miss BSA. Ware is a graduate of Texas High School.

and a freshman at TC. She is a criminal justice major who enjoys playing volleyball, singing, and dancing. Her escort was Dalvin Dunn.

Larkins-Matlock is a 19-year-old graduate of Texas High and freshman at TC. She is a criminal justice major and active member of BSA. Her escort was Nathaniel Duncan.

Woodberry is an 18-year-old freshman here at Texarkana College. She is majoring in general studies and enjoys singing, eating, and writing poems. She was escorted by Adam Williams.

Ware is majoring in psychology. In her free time, she loves praise dancing and singing. She was escorted by Jordan Fanero.

When asked how it feels to be the new face of the Texarkana College BSA Club, Ware said, “Good. I know the young adults will have a good role model.”



While the pageant contestants were getting ready to grace the stage, there was a kids segment that allowed children to participate in the kids casual wear and formal wear. (Left photo) Children take a final pose during the kids casual wear. Each child participant received trophies and a gift from the BSA club.



Contestants pose in the casual wear competition at the 2014 Miss BSA Scholarship Pageant.



The 2014 Miss BSA Scholarship Pageant wraps up with (left to right) Kimberly Ware, Keyanah Woodberry, Enecia Larkins-Matlock, and Jasmine Dowden. Woodberry was named the 2014 Miss Personality and the second runner up. Larkins-Matlock was first runner-up. Dowden was named the 2014 Miss Congeniality and third runner up.

Contestants



Name: Enecia Larkins-Matlock  
Major: Criminal Justice



Name: Keyanah Woodberry  
Major: General Studies



Name: Jasmine Dowden  
Major: Criminal Justice



Spring Fling: Art Show

Creative expression



Photos by Jesse Darby-Tillis II  
The annual art show was held in the Stilwell Humanities Building on April 21-24. Students provided the pieces as onlookers admired their work.

Color, splendor

By Sarrah McGee  
TC News Reporter

Creativity flowed through the halls of the Texarkana College Humanities building April 21-24. Students displayed their artwork as the community admired their hard work. The art show turned out to be a huge success. There were a few pieces, however, that had no choice but to stand out from the rest.

The three murals painted recently by students seemed to catch the eyes of the people walking by. These canvases consume a huge portion of the wall, and with a canvas of that magnitude, how could it not? These murals were filled with color and splendor. One of the pieces, “Magic Cup” painted by Clare Wylie and Brisa Aguirre, seemed to envelope that splendor. The purples, blues, and pink hues seemed to flow so gracefully from an elegant little teacup. Setting immediately by is these beautiful little coffee beans that seem like you can just reach out and grab them. This painting took about seven months to complete, and their hard work certainly shows. “It was fun, and then challenging, but it was worth it because it was my first painting,” Clare Wylie stated. She goes on to say, “I love it. I’m proud of it. I was a perfectionist, but it pushed me to just do it.” Their source of inspiration was, like many other people, Pinterest. This piece turned out to be an absolutely breathtaking work of art, and all the time and dedication put into it can be seen through every brush stroke.

Another piece, and certainly the most colorful would be, “Cultural Stain glass,” which was a collaborative painting of several people: Cecilia Alvarado, Neshoba Atkins, Alex Chavez, Elizabeth Elliott, Karla Enriquez, Sierra Collins, and McKayla Cox. This is an interesting piece full of color and full of personality.

There are several pieces within this work, and each has its own style and uniqueness, much like the people that created this painting.

Each section has a different story, and was painted by a different story. When all these different painting styles come together, they helped create one magnificent piece of art. Although they are all so different, each part seems to flow to the next and collaborated so well with each other. That’s the beauty of this piece, in which everyone had to work together, and it turned into one of the most colorful murals on display. This painting took over a semester to complete, and the end result was

a feast for the eyes. Your eyes just want to dart everywhere to take in the entire painting at once. Cecilia Alvarado explains the inspiration of the piece. “We wanted to something different, abstract, and modern.” Alvarado goes on to say, “It made me learn a lot and it was good bonding with my teammates. I really liked the end result and that several people got to paint it. The common theme was blue; I really liked the diversity of it.” Overall they worked together like a puzzle, much like their painting, and the end result was a beautiful masterpiece.

The final, truly passionate mural in the series is “Raven” by Neshoba Atkins.

This is certainly the darkest of the three, but not any less beautiful. The darkness eliminated by the light and in the background gracefully flows throughout the entire piece. It has a mysterious feel to it and encapsulates elegance. The raven is beautifully done, perched upon an excerpt from the poem “The Raven” by Edgar Allen Poe, and the quote is full of power: “And the Raven, never flitting, still is sitting, still is sitting on the pallid bust of Pallas just above my chamber door; And his eyes have all the seeming of a demon’s that is dreaming, And the lamp-light o’er him streaming throws his shadow on the floor; And my soul from out that shadow that lies floating on the floor shall be lifted—nevermore!” The mystical beauty of this piece is overwhelming as you admire it; you just can’t help but to be enveloped in it, as if the beams of light you could feel for yourself. This piece is brilliantly done, and you just can’t help but to be entangled with the mystical sense of this mural.

These pieces of art had a lot of work put into them. These students spent many hours on these murals and disciplined themselves to do so. They are beautiful created and put together. Not only did they actually paint these murals, but they built their own canvases as well. These students worked together as a team to get these done in time for the art show. Not only were they on display there among the beautiful artwork of the other students, but they will be permanently on display in the downstairs lobby of the Texarkana College Humanities Building. The art department encourages you to just take a moment to enjoy the pieces that these students worked so hard to do. You certainly won’t be disappointed, and it may inspire you to create one of your own someday.





## Spring Fling: TC Debate League and SGA Election



Texarkana College Debate League members TJ Young (far left) and Kyle Elliott debate the topic civil disobedience on April 23 in Levi Hall at Texarkana College.

Photos by Jesse Darby -Tillis II

# Civil disobedience debated

By Sarrah McGee  
TC News Reporter

Civil disobedience is defined as the “refusal to obey governmental demands or commands especially as a nonviolent and usually collective means of forcing concessions from the government,” according to Merriam-Webster.

What that boils down to basically is using nonviolent protests to receive justice from the government. It’s a tactic that has been used for years, and over that course of time has proven to be very effective. For the most part, these protests are harmless, but that’s not always the case.

Civil disobedience can be a difficult subject to talk about, considering many people do get hurt or killed, even when it’s supposed to be nonviolent. Oftentimes, violence is a part of it.

This was the topic of debate for the Texarkana College Debate League on April 23. On one side, Kyle Elliot debated against his opponent, TJ Young on whether the government harms or helps in this situation.

Young argued that the government is here to help us and protect us.

According to Young, “Governments are put in place to protect us, to tell us what’s going to harm us, they’re our second line of defense the first one would be our morals, our religion, our belief systems, but when we decide to live our lives the way we want to, ignoring our morals, ignoring our religion, our beliefs, our personal values the government is supposed to step in and say ‘hey, that’s wrong’.”

Young goes on to say, “Civil disobedience, while we can get our way with it, it’s not the right way. The end result of civil disobedience when taken to the extreme is civil war, is strife, it’s families killing each other because they disagree. Civil disobedience is death, famine, destruction, loss of life, loss of property,



Photo by Sarrah McGee

Students listen to presenters of the Texarkana College Debate League discuss the topic of civil disobedience on April 23 in Levi Hall at Texarkana College.

loss of freedoms, loss of liberties. It’s a crime and the end result is death, not to the person that committed it but to the innocents that are nearby.”

TJ Young argued that the government is put in place to help us, to keep order, and to go against that order is a crime.

He had a strong argument in the fact that civil disobedience can hurt you or your loved ones and that the government is set in place to protect you.

After all, many people do get hurt during protests but those people believe that it’s worth the fight. Many people boycotted buses in Montgomery, Alabama after Rosa Parks refused to give

up her seat to a white man, and many people were killed or hurt in the process. Had they not fought back, however, and just listened to the government and had Rosa Parks just obeyed the governmental laws to move then they would not have won their victory. This is where Kyle Elliott’s argument comes into play. His stance is the fact that the government actually harms us.

According to Elliot, “The problem comes when you keep going, and when you have this infernal order of civil law. Whenever the government decides what is right and what’s wrong, well, let’s look and see what happens whenever

that takes place. Another word for this is positivism. Positivism is a blanket term. It’s basically the government deciding what’s right and what’s wrong.”

Elliot further states, “ If this is true then you can have segregation, just because it’s legal... if they’re the ones that decide what’s right, to rise up against it makes you immoral because you’re going against that which defies morality.”

His argument states that listening to the government isn’t always the right thing to do. Oftentimes, it can be harmful to do so.

He said that if the government decided segregation was legal, then it would

be, even though it’s clearly immoral.

If Rosa Parks had backed down and had moved from her seat because “it was illegal” for her to sit there, if she had listened to the government then life would probably be different today. If Martin Luther King, Jr. had kept silent because “it was illegal” for him to go against what the government told him to do, things would be different. It would be immoral as a human race to have such discrimination taking place still today. If they had not taken that stand against what was “legal” then things would have never changed.

## Students elect new SGA president, vice president

By Jesse Darby-Tillis II  
TC News Reporter

Texarkana College students elected the new president and vice president of the Student Government Association for the academic school year 2014-2015.

The election was held April 24 at the college’s annual Spring Fling Festival.

Current Vice President Kyle Elliott won president and current SGA secretary Elizabeth Elliott won vice president.

Elizabeth Elliot said she was very

excited to take on this position.

“I remember my first semester at TC. A faculty member gave me an SGA application and said ‘You’d be really good at this.’ That got me interested,” she said.

Elizabeth Elliott said she hopes “we, as a group, can accomplish a whole lot. Fall Fest is one of our major projects, as well as the Region Three Spring Meeting.”

Kyle Elliott, the newly elected president, said he plans to make communication his first order of business.

“The Student Government Association

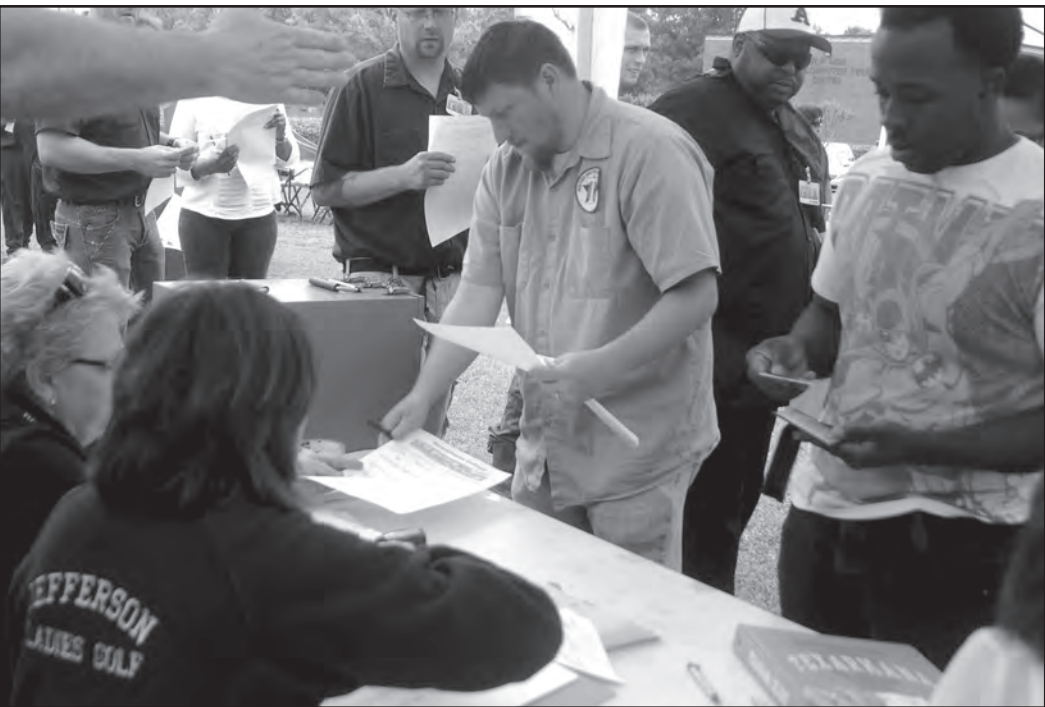
is quite isolated from the clubs and students; this must be corrected before we may positively affect the college,” Kyle Elliott said. “Then, we hope to implement a few changes designed to make the SGA more efficient without taking authority from the other organizations.”

“I feel great about being elected president of the Student Government Association,” he added.

Kyle and Elizabeth Elliott are married and members of several clubs on campus and founding members of the TCDL (Texarkana College Debate League).



(Above) Kyle Elliott and Cecilia Alvarado pose during Spring Fling on April 24 at Texarkana College. Kyle Elliott was elected the Student Government Association president. (Left) Students cast their votes for the SGA election. (Far right, third right) Elizabeth Elliott, the new SGA vice president, is pictured with other members of the Texarkana College Debate League.





Texarkana College celebrated its annual Spring Fling extravaganza from on April 24. Students, clubs, organizations, and club sponsors gathered on the college's front lawn. Students participated in a number of events, including the Student Government Association's 2014 elections. Area businesses also set up booths to provide information to students.

Photos by Jesse Darby-Tillis II



# Spring Fling: Festival offers fun for everyone



## Wilder Continued from Page 1

Later he enrolled in East Texas State University in Commerce (now Texas A&M University-Commerce). At ETSU he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in History and Political Science, and a Master of Science degree in Broad field Social Science.

After receiving his Master's degree in 1975, he began teaching in the Social Science Division as an adjunct professor at TC. Later, he began teaching History and Government on a full-time basis in 1996. He has since served as Social Science Division Chair, Distance Education Coordinator, and Interim Chief Instructional Officer, before taking on his present po-

sition as Dean of Academics. Dozier said Wilder has made a difference on campus and brought a sense of unity to the TC family. "I personally cannot imagine a day without him being on campus, and it is with the utmost respect, and highest regard for him that we asked him to leave his legacy by speaking to the 2014 graduating class," Dozier

said. "He is a true success story on many different levels, and we hope the students will appreciate his story every bit as much as we do. There is not a more honorable man in my opinion, and I can assure you, the rest of TC's faculty and staff feel the same way about him." Upon retiring, Wilder plans on spending much more time with his grandkids, and doing plenty

of gardening. "My wife recently retired," Wilder said. "She believes I'm going to pester her and ruin what she has going," he joked. Meanwhile, Wilder said he has plans to work with TC's Distance Education program. "That's a hobby for me," he said. Wilder is married to Dixie Wilder, and they have a son Pat-

rick, and a daughter Rebekah. He and his wife have four grandchildren: Chloe, Graham, Joe and Swint. Wilder is an active member of Hampton Church of Christ. His hobbies include gardening and spending time with his grandchildren.



From the table to the battleground

# Live action role-play an outlet for good ole’ fun

By Samantha Morgan  
TC News Reporter

A live action role-play group has formed in Texarkana, and it includes a few Texarkana College students.

This nationwide activity has become a big hit with local kids and parents alike in the surrounding area., Especially here at TC, a few students who are enrolled have come together to create Dryad’s Den.

Dryad’s Den is to be considered as a petitioning park within Amtgard, which is a group for Larping in a Medieval/Fantasy layout.

Dryad’s Den formed in December 2013 after a Kingdom Coordination. This allowed the group to continue a quest into creating their own role-playing adventure, which actually started around the beginning of January 2014.

“Amtgard is a non-profit, non-sectarian organization that is dedicated to the recreation of the Sword and Sorcery genre as well as educational aspects of both Medieval and Ancient cultures,” quoted by their official website Amtgardinc.com.

This community mainly focuses on Medieval combat as well as the arts and sciences of the time in a safe and friendly atmosphere. The organization uses foam-padded replicas of weaponry for protection, which are usually handmade out of pool noodles by each individual player as well as their uniforms, displaying their rank in the game.

What exactly is role-playing, though? Typically, role-playing is a game in which players take on the roles of imaginary characters who engage in adventures, usually in a particular computerized fantasy setting overseen by a referee.

In this case, students found a way to have fun with their friends and continue to stay active in a non-judgmental environment.

“Most of us were bullied in high school because we’re different, because we’re nerdy and stuff like that. Well, this is where kids in high school can go and be like they’re other people like me. It’s a way to group together,” said Neshoba Atkins, who also goes by Lady Delane Forsaken of House Oreb within Dryad’s Den.

Rules also have been placed within their community and are constantly enforced for everyone’s safety.

Dryad’s Den has not just recruited students from Texarkana College, but players outside of campus.

“For me it gives me a good place to go because before that if I wasn’t at school or work I was simply at home. This gives me a reason to go out on the weekends and actually do something,” said Sam Volpendesta, who is also known as Lady Crysanthum Volpendesta of House Oreb within the game as well.

Dryad’s Den meets every Saturday and Sunday from 12pm-6pm at Spring Lake Park in Texarkana, TX. However, the social gathering is weather and holiday dependent.

To get in contact with a captain or ask any questions about the event, this information can be sought out on their official Facebook page, Dryad’s Den.

The event is for all ages above 14 to perform in combat with the other players. If anyone is interested in joining, the leaders of the group will provide a waiver and personal sheet for the individual to sign if one is over the age of 18.

However, anyone younger must get a parent or guardian to give permission to sign up. Once accepted, the personal sheet allows the player to create their own name and provides them to pick a class of their liking out of a wizard, archer, barbarian, or assassin, just to name a few.



Photos by Jennifer Maynard

Students participate in a live action role-play at Texarkana College on April 24. Several TC students have created a group called Dryad’s Den.

“Most of us were bullied in high school because we’re different, because we’re nerdy and stuff like that. Well, this is where kids in high school can go and be like they’re other people like me. It’s a way to group together.”

— Neshoba Atkins, a Texarkana College student





# Wetlands damaged on campus

**By Anthony L. Hamilton**  
*TC News Reporter*

According to Texarkana College Biology Professor Delores McCright, her student-volunteer Renee’ Stearns went to the wetlands to feed the birds and squirrels on March 24. When she got to the wetlands, she discovered that the wetlands had been damaged.

“We planted 20 trees out there,” McCright said. “They were all uprooted, along with their protector cages, and put in a circle by the bleachers. “They took some small oak trees behind the bleachers and bent them over each other in such a way that they couldn’t be straightened out correctly.”

In addition, McCright said, “All of the signs, bird houses, bird and squirrel feeders that weren’t cemented in the ground were uprooted and thrown in the pond.”

She also said, “Three tables were uprooted and out in a triangular shape, and the bleachers appear to have been jumped on, with one end deeper in the ground than the other, and the bleachers are bent on that end.

McCright said she hopes a fence would be placed around the wetlands soon.

Lt Barry Jewell of the TC Police Department responded to the call and served as the investigat-

ing officer.

“I thought there might have been criminal mischief with bird houses knocked down, and trash cans knocked over; however, the report will be hard without evidence,” Jewell said.

“There was a storm with straight-line winds the night before I investigated this, and this looks more like wind damage than criminal activity,” Jewell said.

He stated that they wouldn’t be able to prove anyone was out there.

“There were no footprints, and nobody saw anyone out there,” Jewell said. “We needed video or someone in welding to possibly have seen something, but right now there is not a lot that can be proven.

Chief of TC Police Jeffery Cottingham expressed similar sentiments to Lt. Jewell.

Cottingham said, “I’m not so sure it was vandalism. The night before the report was made, there was a storm with straight-line winds that also could have caused this damage.”

He also said, “It could have been local kids that knocked down the signs and bird houses, but there were no footprints.”

Cottingham reaffirmed the lack of evidence surrounding the case, and stated that the investigation is officially closed.



Submitted photo

## College library serves purpose

**By Keitha Son**  
*TC News Reporter*

What is the future of libraries? Texarkana College Library Director Tonja Mackey isn’t particularly worried about the end of libraries.

“Libraries have always been community buildings, and they have always evolved in the ways that their communities of users have needed them to,” Mackey said. “Libraries used to be repositories of books. When computers and the Internet became available to the public, libraries began providing access. Now they’re providing hand-held devices, such as tablets, and eReaders.

“I believe that our library has become what our students need it to be. We provide quiet reading areas for those who prefer to study alone, we provide group study areas for collaboration, and we provide both print and electronic resources so that students have choices.”

National Library Week was held April 13-19. The future of libraries has been a discussion since the presence of technology.

With the rise in eBooks and the notion that people don’t read anymore, many people think that libraries will become extinct in the following years.

According to a YouTube video entitled “Stuff From the Future – What is the future of libraries”, the reason people think libraries will die out is that they think of them to traditionally.

A library contains not only books but town records you can find on the internet and also serves as a community center. It can also convert written properties, such as rare poems or rare addition books into eBooks and maintain the rights to it.

Mackey said that the TC library does not partake in selling eBooks or converting their books into eBooks, yet they have started to convert yearbooks.

Mackey later goes on to add, “I don’t see a whole lot of difference in whether students visit the library on campus or access it through the library website. Either way, the library is providing what the students need. Of course, we love it when students come into the library, though. We’re always ready to help.”

With this in mind, it seems libraries will evolve and survive.

# Edible Book Festival held

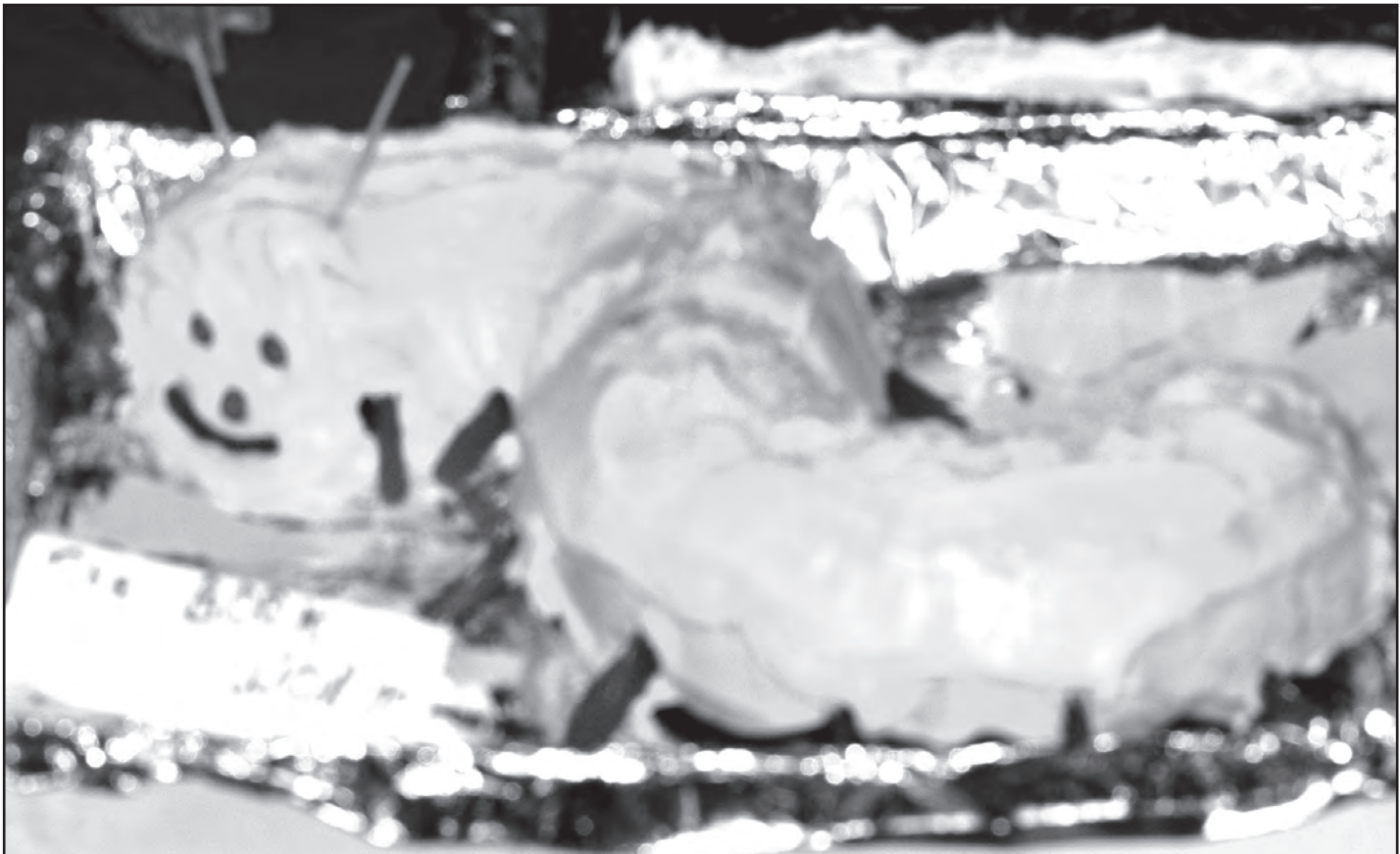


Photo by Jennifer Maynard

The Edible Book Festival showcased several creative designs by participants on April 14 in the Palmer Memorial Library.



**By Kim Cressman**  
*TC News Reporter*

The Palmer Memorial Library held its annual Edible Book Festival, a festival in which participants create edible entries that are book-related, on April 14 at Texarkana College.

“This is our third year to participate at Texarkana College,” Director of TRIO and Library Services Tonja Mackey said. “We choose to hold our event during National Library Week to help us celebrate libraries, books, and food, of course.”

This festival dates back to 2000 when Judith A. Hoffberg was sitting at Thanksgiving dinner with book artists and got the idea. Béatrice Coron is also a contributor, for she created the Books2Eat website on which participants’ creations can be shared. The festival is usually held on April 1, the perfect date to “eat your words,” according to books2eat.com.

There are some rules to attend the festival. First, the event must be held on April 1 or close to that date. Secondly, all edible books must be “bookish” through the use of text, literary inspiration or form. Lastly, organizations or individual participants must send a link to their photo album or upload pictures on Facebook to share their entries with the world.

Winners of this festival include: Phi Theta Kappa as the People’s Choice for their entry of “Oh the Places You’ll Go,” Connie Brian with her entry of “One Potato, Two Potato” and Gayla Fowler with her entry of “The Help” as “Funniest/Punniest”, and TC Creative Writing Group as Best Collaborative Effort with their entry of “War and Peas.”

## Awareness event planned for fire academy

**By Katrina Williams**  
*TC News Reporter*

The Texarkana Texas Fire Department has invited the public to join the Texarkana College Board of Directors and the Texarkana Texas City Council at an open house and cookout to raise awareness about the fire-training academy program on May 30 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Fire Training Facility, located at 1101 W. 21st St.

The program is scheduled to begin in September 2014.

Lisa Porterfield Thompson, Public Information Officer for the City of Texarkana Texas said, “The local fire academy will provide a well-trained, qualified hiring pool for the City of Texarkana, Texas, and surrounding areas.”

The Texarkana College Board of Trustees approved the proposal on March 25.

A presentation given to the Texarkana College Board of Trustees indicates that the need for well-trained fire fighters will increase due to an estimated 206 fire-fighters in the area who are approaching

the age of retirement.

The presentation also states, “The large number approaching retirement age is a concern for local departments in the Texarkana area.”

Thompson said, “Currently, fire departments in our area send students to a fire academy in Sulphur Springs, Kilgore, or the metroplex. A local fire academy will not only save area fire departments money for training, but it will attract students from all over to Texarkana. They will live here for an extended period, frequent restaurants, shop and spend money here that could be spent elsewhere.”

On the topic of responsibilities in the partnership between the city and the college, Thompson said, “The City will provide use of our training facility to Texarkana College. The College will run, staff, recruit for, fund, and manage credentials of the program.”

Ronda Dozier, Dean of Workforce & Continuing Education, said, “The classroom instruction will be held in the Health Science building, labs will be conducted at the Texarkana Texas City

Firefighter Training Facility.”

Thompson said, “Our fire training facility is the only one in the region that was built specifically for training firefighters. The building is created to train for many various situations that fire personnel might encounter during a fire, including confined spaces, stairs, multi-stories and search and rescue. The materials used for construction and layout of the building are optimal for first-class fire training.”

The process of becoming a certified fire academy begins with an application and application fee. In a document, Harry Simms, Fire Academy Program Designer, shared, “The Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP) is the regulating agency for fire departments and firefighter training in Texas. A fire academy must comply with TCFP requirements and certify as a training site with them. Along with the application, we must submit documentation that we have the facilities, equipment, reference materials, fire apparatus, and instructors to conduct an academy.”

The documentation further states,

“Once all of these things are accomplished, the application is submitted to TCFP. Subsequent to that, a field inspector will come and inspect our facilities and equipment and, if we are found compliant, a certification will be issued.”

According to a news release issued by the college, “The Texarkana College Fire Training Academy will be a 14-week course and will cost \$1,950 for in-state residents. To qualify for the program, a student must be 18 years old by the end of the class date and complete Emergency Care Attendant or EMT Basic within one year of the class ending date.”

The presentation given to the Board of Trustees states that out-of-district tuition will be \$2950, all tuition will include equipment rental, and no more than 25 students will attend each 14-week semester.

Housing will be available to students for additional charges, but space is limited. Those interested in attending the academy should contact Harry Simms by email at Harry.Simms@texarkanacollege.edu.



# Spring awards is May 16

**By Katrina E. Williams**  
*TC News Reporter*

Texarkana College will be holding the Spring 2014 Luncheon & Awards Assembly on Friday, May 16.

The assembly will honor faculty and staff for their years of service here at TC. The event will take place at 12:00 p.m. in the Truman Arnold Center Great Room.

Five year service awards will go to faculty members Denise Collier, David Gafford, Pam Hesser and Lisa Quinnelly and staff members Clay Coburn and Johnathan Holliman.

For 10 years of service, faculty mem-

bers Kelli Jarman, Cynthia Montgomery and Kim Penny as well as staff members Jeff Cottingham and Christopher Townley will be honored.

Awards for 15 years of service will go to faculty members Tonja Mackey and Serena Metcalf and staff members Karen Cowan and Kenny Trissel.

Twenty year service award recipients are faculty members Alyce Bunting and Patricia Harman.

Those being honored for 25 years of service with Texarkana College are faculty members Michael Cooper, Robert Jones and Theresa McDonald.

For 40 years of service to TC, faculty member Bob Forward will be awarded.

TC also will be honoring this year's retirees, Shirley Lishman, Delores McCright, Kathryn Norment, Celia Richardson, Albert Riusech, and Vernon Wilder.

The service awards for faculty, staff and retirees will be given by Donna McDaniel.

While scholarship recipients are not named prior to the assembly, the names of those who will be presenting the scholarships have been released.

Mary Ellen Young will present the Humanities and Visual & Performing Arts Scholarships. The TC Faculty Association Scholarships & Dr. Carl M. Nelson Memorial Scholarship will be

presented by Jerry Hutchison. Health Occupations Scholarships will be given out by Cynthia Montgomery. Martin Hernandez will present the Jake & Bessie Eldridge Memorial Scholarship. The 2013-2014 Endowed Chair award will be given by Robert Jones. President James Henry Russell will award the Presidential Scholarships. The Texarkana College Distinguished Scholar Award will be presented by President Russell or Donna McDaniel.

Those who have received an invitation to the assembly should RSVP no later than May 9 and can do so by email at [mindy.preston@texarkanacollege.edu](mailto:mindy.preston@texarkanacollege.edu) or by phone at 903-823-3198.

## Sports writer seminar worth it

**By Anthony L. Hamilton**  
*TC News Reporter*

On April 4, more than 40 college journalism students attended the United States Basketball Writers Association and NCAA sponsored Texas Intercollegiate Press Association Sports Writers Seminar for journalism students who are interested in becoming sports journalists.

The day began with a panel discussion, which was titled appropriately Full Court Press. The discussion was moderated by past USBWA President and Hall of Fame writer Malcolm Moran of the National Sports Journalism Center at Indiana University.

Participants on the panel were USBWA President and Peoria Star Journal writer Kirk Wessler, 1st Vice-president Dana O'Neil of ESPN.com, 2nd Vice-president Pat Fourde of Yahoo sports, and past president and Hall OF Fame writer Jim O'Donnell of the Associated Press.

Each spoke on how they had taken different paths to arrive where they were now, but the common thread that all these professional journalists kept going back to was being persistent. Fourde also urged students to practice our craft as much as humanly possible.

Upon completion of the Full Court Press, we were dismissed to cover various events of our choices. My next endeavor was the press conference for the presentation of the Oscar Robertson trophy to player of the year Doug McDermott of Creighton University, who attended the trophy presentation along with his father and coach Greg McDermott. The press conference was also attended by NBA legend Oscar Robertson himself, and USBWA President Kirk Wessler who moderated the press conference.

McDermott spoke on the honor of being chosen Player of the Year. McDermott said "it feels like a dream." He also thanked his teammates for their support, and said he couldn't have accomplished it without them.

Next, was the press conference for eventual NCAA Champions the UCONN Huskies. Head Coach Kevin Ollie spoke on how the ban from the NCAA tournament last year affected his team, and ultimately drew them closer, and how he hoped their program would never go through that again. He also pointed out that the development of student athletes as men was far more important than winning championships.

After this was the Florida Gators press conference where Head Coach Billy Donovan expressed his mutual respect for Coach Ollie and how his team was way more versatile that people realized. Donovan also spoke on how hard it is to make deep runs in the NCAA tournament as well as how Gator fans have gotten spoiled since the back to back championships in 2006-2007.

It was on to the eventual National Runner-up, University of Kentucky's press conference with Head Coach John Calipari, who reiterated what Coach Ollie earlier said about developing his student athletes being his top priority. He also spoke about how coaching freshman is different than a group containing more upperclassmen.

I attended the open practices of Kentucky, followed by Wisconsin next. As each prepared for their match-up the following day, they held very spirited practices, and in hindsight, I know exactly why their game was a war, which came down to the last shot, and a victory for Kentucky.

This seminar was a great, possibly life-changing experience for me. While I had to be professional, I also got to be a fan as well. I met NBA players that I grew up idolizing, and I also met a lot of the guys who played in the NCAA Final Four this year.

I encourage every student at Texarkana College, if ever you receive an opportunity such as this one, take full advantage of it.

You can only better yourself, and grow from it, as I have.



Submitted photos

## PTK wins Hallmark Awards

**Submitted Report**

Daiyonna Smith - President, Amy Mills - Vice President of Scholarship, and Mary Ellen Young-Advisor attended the Phi Theta Kappa International Convention - NERD NATION Orlando 2014.

Zeta Sigma won Hallmark Awards in the following categories: Distinguished Chapter 2014 (awarded to the top 37 chapters out of 2,112 entries), Distinguished College Project 2014 (awarded to the top 25 chapters out of 2,112 entries), and Top 100 Chapters (recognition of the top 100 chapters out of 1275 chapters worldwide).

The Zeta Sigma Chapter was also recognized for being a Five Star Chapter.

Daiyonna Smith were recognized on stage and at a special reception for winning the Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Award \$1000 and

the Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Gold Scholar Award \$1500.

There are 1275 chapters of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society represented throughout the United States, U.S. Territories as well as Palau, Micronesia, Marshall Islands, United Arab Emirates, British-Virgin Islands, Germany, and Canada.

Enjoy your summer break. Hope to see you in the fall.

From the *TC News Staff*

## TC offers on-campus counseling to students

**By Katrina E. Williams**  
*TC News Reporter*

There are many benefits to being a student at TC, and now there is one more.

Texarkana College students now have access to on-campus counseling services. Dr. Joan N. Strutton, Ph. D., LPC-S has joined the list of TC faculty members.

According to a report issued by TC administration, Strutton began her education here at Texarkana.

a College, and graduated from East Texas State University – Texarkana with her Bachelor of Science degree in English and Special Education. She received her Master's Degree from ETSU-T in Business and Behavioral Sciences, and earned her Ph.D. from TAMU-Commerce in 2010. She is a certified school, special education and career counselor, as well as a licensed professional counselor and supervisor.

Strutton, also currently an Assistant Professor at Texas A&M University-

Central Texas in Killeen, will be offering a wide variety of counseling services here at TC to assist students as they work toward completing their education. Some of those services include career counseling, time management, academic concerns, anxiety and stress, grief, communication skills, parenting issues, couples counseling, premarital counseling, depression, divorce recovery, post-traumatic stress, anger management and crisis counseling.

"I have a multitude of skills and experience. I know the campus and I love working with students," Strutton said. "I feel a responsibility to help others make the most out of their lives."

Strutton's office is located in study room 209 on the second floor of the Palmer Memorial Library. Those seeking to utilize her services can find her there on Friday's between 8:30 AM and 2:30 PM. Appointments can be made as well by phone at 903-823-3210 or by email at [joan.strutton@texarkanacollege.edu](mailto:joan.strutton@texarkanacollege.edu).



## TC News Staff

**Editor**  
*Jesse Darby-Tillis II*

**Asst. Editor**  
*Katrina E. Williams*

**Reporters**  
*Kim Cressman, Anthony L. Hamilton, Hope Hawley, Sarrah McGee, Samantha Morgan, Jennifer Maynard, Jemesha Perry, Keitha Son, Katrina E. Williams*

**Photographers**  
*Jesse Darby-Tillis II, Hope Hawley, Jennifer Maynard*

**Page Designer**  
*Staff*

**Cartoonist**  
*Jantzen Bruce*

**Adviser**  
*Laronda Bailey*

# No room for racism in NBA

I was angered recently at racist comments supposedly made in the course of a conversation by Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling.

The comments were made in response to his girlfriend posting a picture of herself along with Los Angeles Lakers legend Magic Johnson.

In this conversation, Sterling is quoted as saying, “Do you have to advertise hanging around black people? And do you have to bring them to my games?”

Apparently, Sterling is in a warped time zone. As Shaquille O’Neal was saying at halftime of the Hawks-Pacers game Saturday, the NBA is a black league, with approximately 80 percent of the players being African-American. Charles Barkley chimed in to remind the viewing audience that Sterling was habitual, having settled another case in the past that also had racial undertones.

During the course of the NBA’s investigation, more racist comments that Sterling has made have surfaced with the owner basically referring to the Clipper’s players as field hands.

It’s hard to imagine even dressing to play a game, knowing what the owner thinks of you. I agree with what Jalen Rose said at halftime of the Bulls game recently.

My generation, which Rose is a part of, we believed in the boycott, and



**Anthony L. Hamilton**

there is no way I would have played in that game. I would have walked into the locker room, hugged all of my teammates, let them know it wasn’t personal, but I was no longer going to play for someone with those views.

Another reason I couldn’t do it, is because were they to win the NBA Championship, that would ultimately benefit Sterling, and I’m not trying to assist anyone that knowingly looks at me as a field hand.

The NBA has a new commissioner, Adam Silver. In less than a year on the job, he faces a defining moment. How he handles this situation will go a long way in deciding how much

respect the league gives him from this day forth. The general consensus is that the Commissioner should make Sterling disappear for a long time, and I agree with that. I personally would say indefinitely.

The Clippers did take a stand. By dumping their gear on the floor at center court, and wearing their warm-ups inside out, that was a statement that they didn’t represent the Clippers. The Clippers as well as Lakers, both have large African-American as well as Latino followings. Magic Johnson says that these communities haven’t had their say yet, but he is sure they will.

One has to wonder how long the NBA has turned a blind eye and a deaf ear to Sterling’s actions. From former players to an ex-NBA great in Elgin Baylor, there have been many reports of how Sterling’s playing field is not level. The fact that people such as Donald Trump would defend him...I can’t speak for anyone else, but it tells me all I need to know as Trump is also notorious for thinking minorities are beneath him.

So this was a very delicate situation. The other owners, as well as the players wanted action, and they wouldn’t have accepted a slap on the wrist for Sterling.

As it turned out, the NBA received the type of ruling that made all parties (except Sterling) happy. He was fined

a hefty \$2.5 million, and banned from any NBA related activities for the rest of his life. The commissioner also said that the NBA would try and force him to sell the team.

His fellow owners agree with the NBA.

Now the pressure shifts to the owners. The players still demand that the owners vote on the issue quickly, and not let it linger on. It is expected that all the other 29 owners will vote to force him to sell the Clippers.

So now the NBA world has a sense of satisfaction in knowing that Commissioner Silver will not tolerate racism in the NBA. Had Silver not handled this decisively, the players had decided that all Tuesday night playoff games would have been boycotted.

Knowledge that they were prepared to boycott makes me proud, because I feel that a lot of the people our young people look up to don’t realize how important it is to stand up, not only for self, but for those who may not have a voice. Money is great to have. It’s a necessity, but not at the sake of accepting racism quietly. Apparently, the NBA gets it.

This was a really good day and decision for the NBA all around. I guess the Commissioner agrees with me. There truly is no room for racism in the NBA.

# Farewell: 5 pieces of wisdom

**By Katrina E. Williams**  
*TC News Reporter*



**Katrina E. Williams**

Nearly two years ago when I walked into the advising office of Texarkana College, my plan was merely to take a writing course. In hindsight, that was one of those pivotal, life-changing moments that can only be seen in all of its magnitude in retrospect. Mr. Larry Andrews managed to talk me into (and walk me through the process of) registering for an entire semester’s worth of classes.

I can still remember the first day of class as if it happened yesterday. True to my OCD-tendency form, I arrived 30 minutes early and sat in my car wondering if I had made a huge mistake. Fortunately, I managed to get out of the car and I made it to class. Mrs. Owen’s Art Appreciation class was wonderful. Immediately I was put at ease. Every instructor I have had, and every staff member I have met at TC has been simply amazing.

In the nearly two years I have been here, I have achieved phenomenal academic success. I have been on the President’s list and the Dean’s list. I was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa, the National Honor Society for two-year colleges. I have also had the honor of being the Assistant Editor of *The TC News* and I would be remiss if I did not tell you that position has brought me countless opportunities.

Perhaps, more importantly, I have learned so many things that simply cannot be found in books. Opportunities, critical thinking skills, personal growth are all added bonuses that most TC students get during their tenure here.

My own time here at TC draws to a close as this semester ends. I cannot tell you the profound sense of sadness that comes over me as I realize this with each “one last time” milestone I pass. There is also a sense of peace and security in knowing that my time here has prepared me well for what is to come.

Obviously, I want to give something back. I want to leave my mark on a place that has forever left its mark on me. I wondered, “What can one

do to honor an institution that has changed my entire life?” I decided I would use the writing skills I have learned here.

I want to part ways by offering others who read this, my final column for *TC News*, five pieces of wisdom I have grown into during my student career here at TC.

■ **Be flexible.** Who we are and what we stand for requires constant reassessment. Not because we are wavering in our character, but because we remain surrounded by an ever-changing world and we must revise our maps in order to have a successful journey.

■ **Center Yourself.** Life can go from calm to chaotic in seconds, but there is no rule stating you have to do the same. If your life is so busy that taking ten minutes to center yourself seems too much, you are probably in the most desperate need of it.

■ **Trust your instincts.** There is a voice inside all of us. It speaks to us and guides us toward our destination. It speaks softly, but clearly.

■ **Live (thoughtfully) in the moment.** Every day is like a one-way street. There are no “U” turns allowed. Be respectful and courteous of others. Make sure you take in the view of today and do not speed for tomorrow because when you get there, you will wish you had gone a little slower the day before.

■ **Be Yourself.** Neither your past nor your upbringing give you reprieve from deciding who you are, and acting accordingly. Never let anyone else write your story.

# Don’t let stress win

**By Sarrah McGee**  
*TC News Reporter*

Final exams are fast approaching. This is a time where students are beginning to reach that “burn-out” stage of the semester. It can be a stressful time, after all even the word “finals” sounds terrifying. Many students find themselves overwhelmed during this time with not only studying but with all the extra projects and essays as well. However, it doesn’t have to be stressful; there are many ways to deal with the end of the semester.

Final exams are scheduled to start May 12 and run through May 15. That week can seem overwhelming, but we tend to create that anxiety in our own minds. It’s all a matter of getting all the extra essays and projects done along with studying for all those finals in a timely manner.

Many students don’t keep a steady schedule, but the key to studying for finals is staying on track. Keeping a day planner may seem like a lot of work, but it can be your saving grace in the long run. Scheduling time for each subject and project can help to keep your sanity. Many students study for hours on one subject but all they’re accomplishing is wearing their selves out. That’s when they cross the line from studying to cramming.

Studies have found that studying for 30 minutes at a time has proven to help absorb information learned. Some students have

a hard time studying for that short amount of time. Study for an hour if you’re more comfortable with that, but do not study until you have completely exhausted yourself. Schedule a stopping time and have a set time for breaks. Many people don’t think about it, but your brain is actually a muscle. Working out constantly without any breaks is going to wear out your endurance to keep going. Just like your brain, if you schedule breaks between your studying then you’ll actually be able to study for longer periods of time. One effective thing to do during your break is taking a nap, especially if you’re feeling tired. According to Huffington Post, “Even if you don’t fall completely asleep, a five or 10-minute power nap can still be beneficial if you’re feeling sleep-deprived. A 2002 study found that snoozing for just 10 minutes can result in greater feelings of alertness after a night of restricted sleep.”

One mistake that students make while studying is using caffeinated, sugary drinks and sweet snack foods to try and stay awake. That may work for a little while, but at the end of that sugar-high comes a hard crash. “Junk food gives you instant energy or a sugar high, but it affects your concentration and memory and will end in a food coma or sugar crash,” states Huffington Post. What it all boils down to is you’re actually sabotaging yourself in trying to do well. Instead, try eating a healthy snack like fruits and vegetables. Not only will

your waistline thank you, but they give you the energy your body needs without all the extra sugar.

Another way to deal with stress is simply by exercising. Many people think that exercise tires you out but by getting at least 30 minutes a day can help give you energy. According to MIT, “Research shows that sitting more than three hours a day can shorten your life by up to two years. At least every hour, stand up, stretch, do some yoga or jumping jacks, or take a walk, and breathe deeply.” This is all the more reason to get up and move. I began this semester by taking Yoga/Pilates with Melissa Keil, and I have not only noticed a change in the way I look but also in the way I feel. It’s not only a great form of exercise, but it’s very relaxing as well. It’s a great time to just have some “me” time, and to forget everything going on around you. I always feel more relaxed coming out than when I went in, and ready to take on with my assignments. I would highly recommend it to anyone that is experiencing anxiety in their daily life, because it’s certainly helped me as far as dealing with stress, and anyone can do it.

Simply staying scheduled, taking breaks, eating healthy, and exercise can help alleviate “finals” anxiety. Just with these few helpful tips, I have gone from making okay grades to the grades I actually want. If I can do it, so can you.

# Thin tips not always healthy

**By Keitha Son**  
*TC News Reporter*

What started out as a fitness inspiration has taken a dark turn. Once started by people who wanted to keep their health in check, Thinspiration (also called thinspo) has become a place where young men and women can go and starve themselves.

Taken over by tips to hide their lack of eating from loved ones; how to have the will to not eat, and exercises and crash diets that will make you lose weight rapidly and keep it off. It has become a place where people can go to starve themselves to death in the name of beauty. So when Tumblr.com and sights like Facebook, Pinterest,

Twitter, and Instagram decided to ban this part of their website you wouldn’t think many people would object to this. Yet, it seems many of its followers have banded together, claiming it is a violation of their free speech.

Do people have the right to starve themselves to death? Are Tumblr and the other sites violating free speech?

First of all, I would like to stress that these are private companies. Just like Walmart can decide what brands it wants to sell, and a religious business can decide not to open on Sundays. It is their right as a business and like any other business, if they don’t want to do something they don’t have to.

As for the other question, it is also brief.

Anorexia, as well as any eating disorder, is a mental illness.

According to [nationaleatingdisorders.org](http://nationaleatingdisorders.org), without treatment, this can end in death either by suicide or the body shutting down from lack of nutrition. The web site also states that this can affect dental health and bone development.

If a person is proven to be a threat to themselves or others, people can and should intervene. This doesn’t mean that Facebook should send people to your house because you post a skinny picture of yourself or comment that you’re getting fat. It does, however, mean that social media should be able to block tips on starving. In extreme cases, loved ones should be able to step in.

# It’s possible to land summer job

**By Kim Cressman**  
*TC News Reporter*

Finding a job can be especially challenging during the summer months. Students from out of town universities are coming home and looking for work, and high school kids are searching for a means of summer income. With so many competitors, finding work may seem impossible, but if you know where to look, you may just find a summer job that’s perfect for you.

You can’t be picky when looking for jobs. Let’s face it – in the grand scheme of

things Texarkana isn’t that big, so jobs may be limited at the places you want to work. For example, you may not want to work in food service, but they are more likely to hire than department stores.

I used to be picky when applying for work, but after putting in applications at the mall and getting denied for two years in a row, I decided to drive around town and fill out applications for every business I passed. This year, I put in 20-25 applications around town. Guess what? I just landed a job.

Looking in the newspaper for jobs can also be helpful. Also, if a job is advertised

in the newspaper, you know for sure that they are hiring, and you’re not just a shot in the dark. Use the resources you are given.

Remember not to limit yourself when looking for a job. You may want to take up dog-walking or babysitting to nab a few extra bucks this summer. People will always be willing to pay you for work they don’t want to do themselves.

In this tough economy, keep in mind that you may have to fill out quite a few applications to land a job. Don’t get discouraged if you don’t get a call back immediately! If you persevere, you will find a summer job and keep that money rolling in.



# WHO WILL WIN THE NBA PLAYOFFS?

# KING JAMES TO DOMINATE

By Hope Hawley  
TC News Reporter

An era is a long and distinct period of history with a particular feature or characteristic. The Nation Basketball Association (NBA) has had numerous historic eras throughout the years from the Michael Jordan era to the Los Angeles Lakers era, but with the 2014 NBA playoffs in full swing, who will this era be named after?

I believe it will be none other than the latest and greatest LeBron James.

Before I get into why this will be known as the King James era, let me break down my playoff predictions.

First, in the west we have a Texas shootout with the No. 1 seeded San Antonio Spurs taking on the No. 8 seeded Dallas Mavericks. I’m sorry to put a damper on all the Spurs loyal fans, but look for the young Monte Ellis to put the old trio of Duncan, Ginobili, and Parker into retirement, sending the Spurs back home in the first round.

Then, we have No. 4 seeded Houston Rockets up against the No. 5 seeded Portland Trailblazers.

Even though James Harden averaged 25.4 points in the regular season, I don’t think the Rockets will be able to hold Lamarqus Aldridge, who averaged 23.2 points and 11.1 rebounds in the regular season.

I think we should all expect a break out postseason for Aldridge and the Trailblazers. They will defeat Houston in first round play.

Next, in the west we have the big No. 2 seeded Oklahoma City Thunder going head-to-head with the hungry No. 7 seeded Memphis Grizzlies.

Although I think it will be one of the toughest and most entertaining series this season, look for the league scoring leader Kevin Durant and the Thunder to pull out the W and send the Grizzlies back home to Memphis.

Last, in the west we have the Cali showdown with the No. 3 seeded L.A. Clippers up against the No. 6 seeded Golden State Warriors.

With the unbelievable athletes both teams have, it’s hard to say who will prevail in this series, but I think the Clippers will pull it out. The Warriors have Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson, and Andre Iguodala, but the Clippers have Chris Paul, Blake Griffin, and J.J. Redick.

In the end, the numbers just look better for the Clippers.

Now over in the big East, we have some tough matchups as well as some surprising teams that made it into the playoffs.

First, we have the No. 1 seeded Indiana Pacers taking on the No. 8 seeded Atlanta Hawks.

The Hawks have Paul Millsap, Jeff Teague, and Kyle Kover as some of their top athletes.

If they play together, there is no way Indiana can stop them from advancing. Then, we have the No. 4 seeded Chicago Bulls facing off against the No. 5 seeded Washington Wizards.

At the end of this series, everybody do the “John Wall, John Wall.”

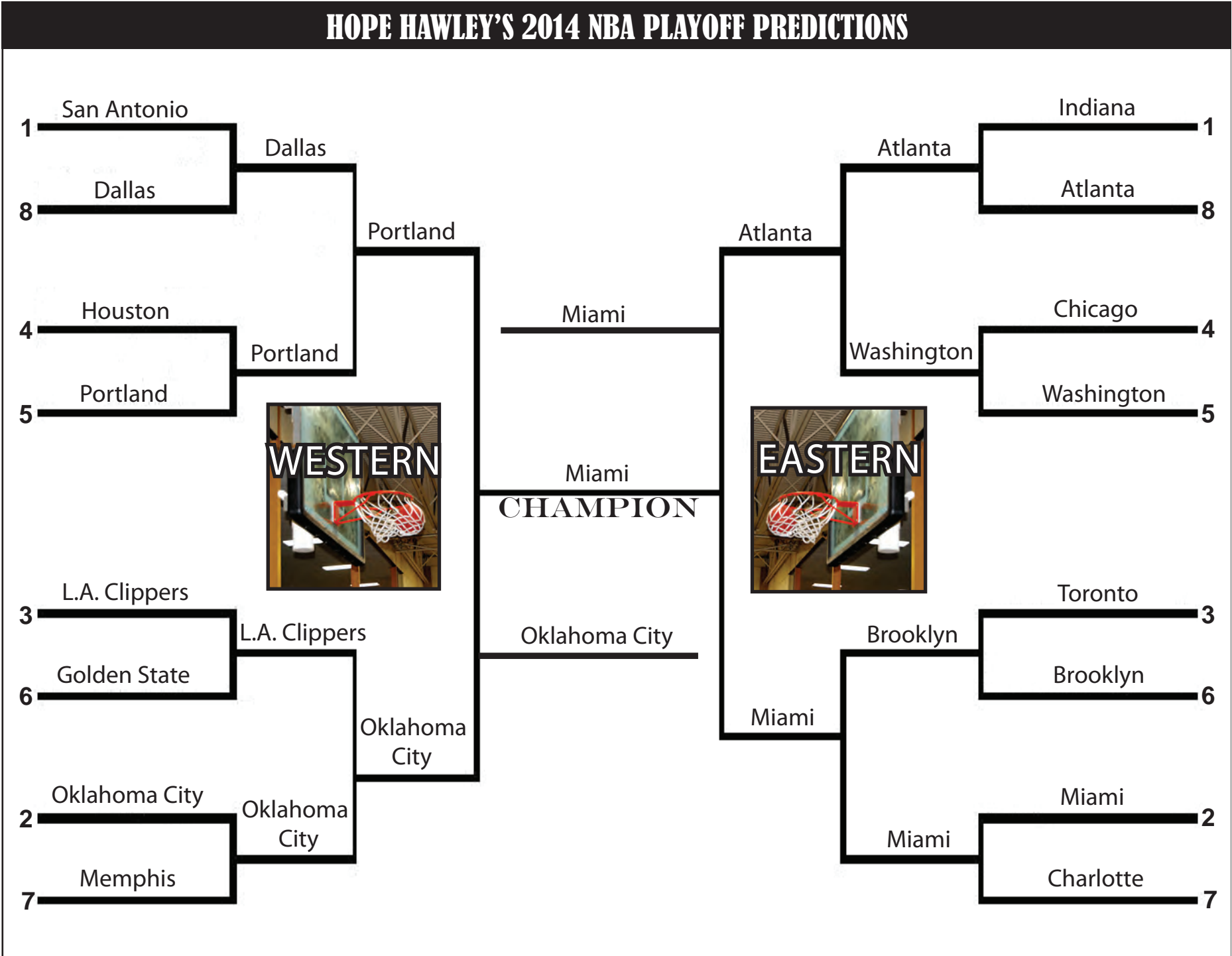
I think the Washington Wizards will surprise many and put the Bulls out of the postseason.

Now the team that shocked me the most making it in as the No. 7 seed is the Charlotte Bobcats, who will be taking on none other than the No. 2 seeded Miami Heat.

Congratulations on making it into the playoffs Charlotte, but there is no way the Heat will let you stop them from advancing to the next round.

Last, in the big East we have the No. 3 seeded Toronto Raptors facing the No. 6 seeded Brooklyn Nets.

I think it will also be a good



“Don’t get me wrong, Kevin Durant is good and will one day be in the NBA Hall of Fame, but this year is the year LeBron and the Miami Heat will make history. This is why this will be remembered as the King James era, because time after time he proves he can hang with the best and is worthy of being in the same category as some of the best of all time.”

series, but I think the Nets will prevail and move on to the next round.

That’s my entire first round predictions now let me tell you why I think this will be the King

James era.

In the final game, I think the Oklahoma Thunder and the Miami Heat will square off once again. This is where the Miami Heat will make history and be-

come only the fourth team in the NBA history to win titles back to back to back years.

If they can win a title this year (which I think they will) they will join the Boston Celtics, Chi-

cago Bulls, and L.A. Lakers as the only teams in NBA history to complete a three peat.

Lebron James is a 6’8, 250 lbs monster who is, in my opinion, one of the hungriest players since Michael Jordan.

He has speed, height, ability, and determination. He has already managed to be put in a category with a group of NBA legends such as Michael Jordan, Bill Russell, Wilt Chamberlin, and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar as the only players to ever win four or more NBA MVP awards.

Don’t get me wrong, Kevin Durant is good and will one day be in the NBA Hall of Fame, but this year is the year Lebron and the Miami Heat will make history.

This is why this will be remembered as the King James

era, because time after time he proves he can hang with the best and is worthy of being in the same category as some of the best of all time.

This year’s playoffs are bringing a lot of head-to-head matchups between players and good games between teams.

I predict that the Thunder and Heat square-off in the finals, and the Heat make history, but who knows, it’s basketball, which is ultimately the most unpredictable sport.

Whichever team shows up and shows out, every game will be the one that goes the distance in the playoffs.

I still think it will be the Heat, and the King James will dominate this era!



# Cinco de Mayo!



Cinco de Mayo was celebrated at Texarkana College on May 5. A presentation was given on the holiday's significance. The event was sponsored by TC's Cultural Awareness Student Association. Participants enjoyed food, music and fellowship.

Photos by Jesse Darby-Tillis II



## WANTED



Indian artifacts, old tools and old wooden handmade baskets. Contact Larry Clements at 903-278-2994 if interested in selling these items to him.

We make loans.

Yep, that's what we do, but we can also help you build credit.

Call 903-223-5626 or inquire online at [gotexar.com](http://gotexar.com)

TEXAR

Federal Credit Union

Mobile Deposit & Banking App

All loans are subject to approval. Mobile carrier charges may apply. Federally Insured by NCUA.