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## The Bison, February 23, 2018

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## This is our future

staff editorial

### BISON STAFF

This is The Bison's fourth article regarding a mass shooting this school year. As students, we have lived most of our lives in a country accustomed to mass shootings. We have become desensitized to hearing the death tolls of our peers, and we believe this has gone on long enough.

Our staff believes no students should ever experience the horror of a school shooting. We are saddened by the violence at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, and while our prayers are with those connected to the school, we also stand with the students of Parkland in demanding action be taken.

We believe systematic changes are necessary, whether they regard mental health policies, gun laws or intervention for broken families. We have the power to prevent school shootings. As students, parents, teachers and most importantly, Christians, it is our responsibility to advocate

for the value of human life, regardless of political leanings.

First, we should pray. As Christians, we understand and believe in the power of prayer. We also believe the words of James 2:17, that faith without works is dead. Pray not only for the survivors, but for the steps we take as a country to end gun violence.

Second, vote. According to the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, only half of eligible 18-29 year-olds participated in the 2016 general election. Vote for local, state and congressional representatives who support your views. More information can be found at [usa.gov](http://usa.gov).

Third, call your state representatives. Call (202) 224-3121 to reach the Capitol switchboard and ask to speak with your home state representative. Let your voice be heard.

We are debating lives of friends, family, educators, coworkers and church members. This is about more than guns. This is about people. This is our future.

## Local threats increase awareness after Marjory Stoneman Douglas Shooting

KATIE WEST  
student writer  
BISON STAFF

April Butler, an English teacher at Searcy High School, has a niece and nephew who live in Florida. When learning about the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, on Feb. 14, she was unsure if the shooting occurred at their school.

"When I found out it wasn't their school, I was still very upset," Butler said. "As a teacher, I can't imagine dealing with a tragedy like this firsthand. As a parent, I shouldn't have to worry about my child being put in harm's way at school."

Parkland surpassed Columbine as the deadliest high school shooting in America, with 17 people killed and more than a dozen wounded, according to Time Magazine. Butler said when she first began her teaching career, school shootings were rarely considered to be a possibility.

On Wednesday, Searcy High School received an online threat as part of a national threat to schools abbreviated SHS, according to a Facebook post by the White County 911/Dispatch Center. The school increased police presence on Thursday.

"Over the years, my job has changed due to the fact that we now have to think about events like school shootings happening in our school," Butler said. "There are so many aspects of the problem that are being debated, but the time has come for action, not debate."

While attending graduate school at Harding, Butler had a class with former adjunct professor Lynette Thetford. Thetford, who was wounded while trying to protect students in the Jonesboro school shooting in 1998, talked about her experience in the class.

"I had been a teacher for many years at that point, but listening to her talk about what happened at her school that day in 1998 made me realize that my job as a teacher would be different from that point on," Butler said.

According to The Miami Herald, the Parkland shooter repeatedly received disciplinary actions from Marjory Stoneman Douglas for disturbing behavior. The Herald reported that he had previously attended a school for children with emotional and behavioral disabilities before being readmitted to Marjory Stoneman Douglas. According to the FBI, the bureau received several warnings from

neighbors and "a person close" to the shooter, regarding the shooter's alarming statements and previous acts of violence.

Multiple threats of violence have been made in Arkansas schools since the shooting in Parkland occurred. According to KARK, at least 11 arrests have been made in connection with students threatening violence against their schools.

Teachers at Searcy Public Schools participate in extensive training every year to prepare for disasters. Butler said the Searcy Police Department and school resource officers prepare the teachers and students on what to do if a similar event ever happened on campus. According to Butler, lockdown drills, cameras and security policies help ensure school safety.

Butler said she thinks part of the problem is how easily accessible violence is to children.

"When children grow up thinking violence is the norm, how can we expect them not to act out?" Butler said. "We need to help children understand consequences for behavior and guide them in good decision making processes. This something we must all do. It definitely takes a village."

Director of Public Safety Craig Russell said Harding carefully studies tragedies, like that in Parkland, in order to prepare for the worst-case scenarios.

"While we hope and pray that we never experience the horrible acts we saw recently in South Florida, we never take the attitude that it could not happen here," Russell said.

According to Russell, Public Safety allows rifles, shotguns and archery equipment to be checked into their secure storage facility. They accept any weapon that is able to be legally stored and purchased in Arkansas.

"Our entire reason for providing this service is to encourage weapons to be legally stored in a secure location," Russell said. "We believe this practice makes campus safer — especially in a state and community where hunting and recreational shooting sports are so popular."

Russell said he believes the best thing we do at Harding is emphasize community, one that cares for each other and tries to follow the example of Christ.

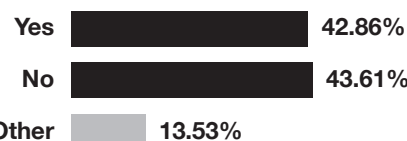
"If we can do a better job of noticing when someone is struggling or hurting or simply not thinking in a healthy way, and then we do a better job of helping or getting someone who is able to help — that will make us a safer community," Russell said. "It won't make us a perfect community, but it will make us a safer and better one."

## Harding Perspectives on the Parkland School Shooting

The Bison conducted a survey this week to poll student views on the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

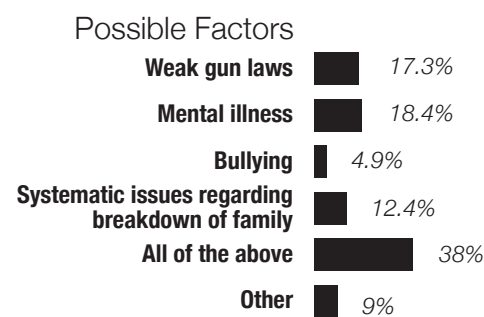
### Is change coming?

Parkland students have stated that change is coming. Do you believe that our generation, current high school and college students, will be the generation to end school shootings?

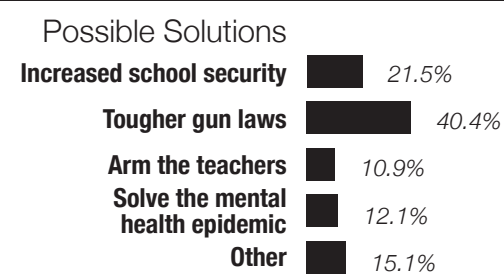


Among the "other" responses were students concerns that before a solution can be found, we need to come to a consensus on the source of the problem.

### What do you think most commonly contributes to school shootings?



### What do you think are plausible solutions to ending school shootings?



**34.72% of survey respondents own a gun.**

Results are based on the responses of 266 students.

Graphic by DARRIAN BAGLEY

In response to the Parkland shooting, criminal justice professor and former CIA agent Sam Jeffrey and his company Megiddo Operations are offering a course in Searcy titled "Getting Home: Active Shooter Response for Teenagers." Jeffrey said the goal of the course is provide students with the skills necessary to survive should they find themselves in a similar situation.

"My thought was, regardless of where people stand ... politically, what everybody wants is for their kids to make it home," Jeffrey said. "I have a background that can teach that. That's why we're doing what we're doing."

The course will be held on Monday, Mar. 12 at the Searcy Performing Arts Center from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The course is designed for junior high and high school students, but Jeffrey said anyone is welcome to attend. Tickets are \$20 and seating is limited. For more information, visit Megiddo Operations on Facebook.

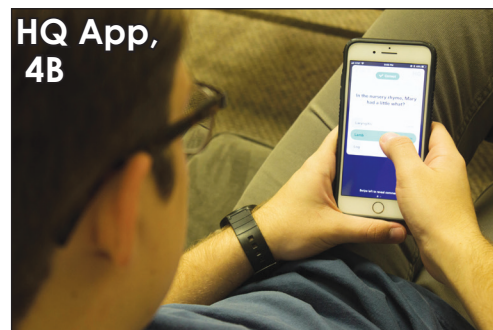
HU16, 2A



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# HU16's 'Live at 5' Wins for Television Newscast

## Student-run program places second in BEA's Festival of Media Arts Competition



RYANN HEIM | The Bison

Junior anchors Jack Allen and Allie Harbuck review stories during a commercial break. The student-run "Live at 5" airs every weekday at 5 p.m.

MATTHEW KING  
student writer

"Live at 5," HU16's nightly news program, placed second for Best Television Newscast for the Broadcast Education Association's Festival of Media Arts Competition this year.

"We beat a lot of state schools that have really nice studios and a lot more money," junior Grace Nickols, an HU16 news anchor said. "We've never won anything like this before."

Dr. Ginger Blackstone, HU16's news director, submitted their newscast from Nov. 8, 2017.

"We led the show with Eva Kor's story," Blackstone said. "Once you start your show with that, then you try not to get anything wrong."

Harding's American Studies Institute hosted Eva Kor as part of their Distinguished Lecture Series. Senior broadcast journalism major Katie Levenson reported the story.

"The rest of the show was strong, and then the feedback we got was that they didn't really have any criticism, which was great," Blackstone said.

The show is completely student run. However, Blackstone and Mark Prior, director of HU16 VideoWorks, assist with the show.

"Everyone is very professional about it," junior Emory Rockwell, HU16's weather reporter said. "I think that kind of brings it to another level."

HU16's "Live at 5" broadcast is never pre-recorded, meaning that mistakes cannot be edited out of the show.

"All I can do is open the door," Blackstone said. "They have to be the ones to walk in and put the content together."

During the summer of 2017, HU16's studio was remodeled and upgraded to high definition, requiring students working for the station to relearn the equipment from its entirety their previous experience.

"The switcher is different, the cameras are different, everything is different," Blackstone said. "It's not just a few new people coming in and training. We had to start all over again."

Blackstone said she believes the new equipment played a large factor in HU16's success.

"Now we can play with the big boys," Blackstone said. "With a visual medium, you notice the visuals first. If the visuals are bad, no one is going to pay any attention to the content."

Unlike larger news stations, the team only has a few hours to put everything together.

"We don't get all day to spend (like) in the real world," Blackstone said. "It takes a lot of planning and a lot of advanced work. If the students were not working so hard, it would not look like it does."

HU16's "Live at 5" newscast airs Monday through Friday at 5 p.m. Shows can be streamed online at [www.thelink.harding.edu/tv16](http://www.thelink.harding.edu/tv16).

# Member of Little Rock Nine to Present at ASU-Beebe

## Elizabeth Eckford to speak on desegregation at Little Rock Central High in 1950s

NORA JOHNSON  
news editor

It was 1957. The plan was for the nine students to enter the school together. When the plan changed, her family had no telephone, so 15-year-old Elizabeth Eckford attempted to walk up to the doors of Little Rock Central High School alone.

"Two, four, six, eight," the mob of proponents for segregation chanted. "We don't want to integrate."

On Tuesday, Feb. 27, Eckford will be speaking at Arkansas State University (ASU)-Beebe about her experiences during desegregation in the 1950s, detailed in her new book, "The Worst First Day: Bullied While Desegregating Central High." Eckford is one of the surviving members of the Little Rock Nine, the group of nine African-American students that enrolled in Little Rock Central High School after the Brown vs. Board of Education court case ruled that desegregation was unconstitutional.

According to Keith Moore, ASU-Beebe's executive director of marketing and public relations, the campus invited Eckford because of the important role she played in Arkansas history.

"We've never had anyone of that

significance from a true, live historic event at ASU-Beebe," Moore said.

Eckford will be part of ASU Beebe's spring concert and lecture series. Through the series, the school hopes to promote thought-provoking conversations within the community.

"We are a bit separated from the capital city and all the events of 1957 in Central High, but it is still an integral part of Arkansas history," Moore said.

As an alumnus of Central High School, sophomore Jamaerius Geter is a little less separated from the events of 1957.

"There were definitely times when you'd (think) ... 'Wow, I'm walking where they walked ... I'm sitting in classrooms they sat in,'" Geter said.

Geter said organizations at Central High School worked to preserve the legacy of the Little Rock Nine, which helped him to understand the significance of the group.

"It's always good to go back and look at where they were and where we are now," Geter said.

Angela Adams, a social studies teacher at Harding Academy and adjunct professor of history at Harding, plans to attend the lecture. According to Adams, who has met every living member of the Little Rock Nine, the story of Central High School's desegregation is one



Graphic by SAWYER HITE

of heartbreak and intense bullying. "The biggest number (of bullies) were the ... 'silent witnesses,'" Adams said. "They watched the horrible things happening to them and never did anything."

Adams said that she discusses Eckford and the story of the Little Rock Nine with her students and

sees valuable parallels within her own classroom. In Adams' classroom, though her students live in a different time with different issues, studying the Little Rock Nine creates conversations about what bullying looks like today.

"It's a civil rights event that they can really connect with," Adams said.

Eckford will present at 1 p.m. in the Owen Center Auditorium. The lecture is free to the community, but Moore advised students planning to attend to arrive early due to the anticipated interest in the event. To reserve a seat, register at [asub.ticketleap.com/elizabeth-eckford/](http://asub.ticketleap.com/elizabeth-eckford/) or call 501-882-8957 for more information.

# Polar Plunge Raises Funds for Special Olympics

CAYLEIGH THOMAS  
student writer

Teams and volunteers will gather at Searcy's annual Polar Bear Plunge at the Days Inn hotel in Searcy on Saturday, Feb. 24. Participants will jump into the cold water of the hotel pool to raise money and awareness for the Arkansas Special Olympics team.

According to Special Olympics Arkansas, the funds from the Polar Plunge will assist their program in "making a difference in the lives of Special Olympics Arkansas athletes and increase their level of social responsibility and community involvement."

Special education professor Lisa Bryant is Harding's coordinator for Polar Plunge. She said there are more teams involved in this year's event than ever before.

Bryant said Harding teams participating include several social clubs, Harding's Cannon-Clary College of Education with S.A.L.T. (Scholars Advancing Learning and Teaching) and the football team.

Senior special education major and co-president of S.A.L.T., Natalie Frederick, said S.A.L.T. formed a goal of \$500 from their bake sale to have Dr. Bruce McLarty jump into the Benson fountain. They raised over \$700 for their Polar Plunge team.

Frederick said when their team jumps at the Polar Plunge, they are called to jump together.

"When we're jumping, we think about how fun it is," Frederick said. "Then we think how cold the water is, then how we would do it again."

Junior special education major and co-president of S.A.L.T., Mills Bryant, said Special Olympics par-

ticipants attend the Polar Plunge to cheer for the teams.

"The event is about giving others the chance to be rewarded like we are every day," Mills Bryant said. "It's bigger than us."

Frederick said the Special Olympics allows people with special needs to be the "stars and MVPs" of the event.

"Most kids growing up play soccer, but they didn't get to do that," Frederick said. "It gives them a chance to do something we take advantage of."

Lisa Bryant said she has participated in the Polar Plunge so many times that it is part of her "core beliefs."

"This is about giving people with special needs the chance to not be left out," Lisa Bryant said. "If you've ever been (to the Special Olympics) and heard them cheering you on,



RYANN HEIM | The Bison

Dr. Bruce McLarty jumps into the Benson fountain to raise money for Arkansas Special Olympics. S.A.L.T. raised over \$700 for the team.

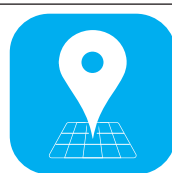
it makes it easy to jump."

The Polar Bear Plunge will accept participants up until the event. The

cost is \$50 and includes a T-shirt.

For more information, contact Lisa Bryant at [lbryant1@harding.edu](mailto:lbryant1@harding.edu).

**BEYOND**  
**THE BUBBLE**  
NEWS FROM A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE



### State | Ten Commandments Monument at Capitol

Arkansas lawmakers plan to install a monument of the Ten Commandments at the state Capitol in April. Last year, a similar monument was destroyed less than 24 hours after its reveal. According to NPR, several groups have vowed to challenge the constitutionality of the monument.

### National | Evangelist Billy Graham Dies at 99

According to Billy Graham's spokesperson, Graham died Wednesday in his North Carolina home. After graduating from Wheaton College in 1943, he gained popularity through radio and television. He served as a spiritual advisor to the White House and was known for evangelizing to a global audience.



### International | Norovirus Spreads in PyeongChang

Two Swiss athletes were confirmed to have been the first to contract the rapidly spreading norovirus at the Winter Olympics. According to the Olympic authorities, over 200 people in PyeongChang have been affected. Symptoms include severe vomiting and diarrhea and generally last two to three days.



## Different perspectives: Parkland shooting Your Facebook comments don't save lives



guest  
writer

wesley bryant

On Thursday, Feb. 15, I posted a status on Facebook regarding the Florida school shooting. I've read the shared articles and even the long, opinionated comment sections. Gun rights, and what we as Americans are should do about it, is a red-flag, ugly issue that we can't seem to solve. As much as it hurts to say this, it is true that, in our great country, school shootings are common. Regardless of how we got here, our children are dying. There is no debate on the fact that something has to change.

What are we doing about it? I've seen comments on Facebook explaining why "they're not going to touch our guns." Don't get me wrong, I love a good debate. But while we're typing our opinions and staring at a screen, some of our children are going to school and being shot.

We have not fixed the problem. We

haven't gotten anywhere near the finish line. In fact, we haven't gotten anywhere near saving lives or stopping the next school shooting from happening.

As of Feb. 20, President Trump is pushing for a ban on bump stocks. That's finally some action, and it makes me hopeful that we can stop screaming at each other and actually do something.

I believe prayers do save lives, and we need to pray. I also believe taking action can save lives, so I would love for America to begin working together to stop the next school shooting. I would love to be proud to be an American again.

I've seen opinions on the root of the issue: God is being taken out of schools, access to semi-automatic guns is too flimsy to stop this from happening again, and mental health is not emphasized enough. All of these things are true.

My mother, a registered nurse, is someone I look up to. She explained to me how hard it is to give someone help when it comes to mental health, because of many things such as insurance and the lack of obvious physically evident symptoms. It's not easy to get — or give — help. I think it's important to ask the questions, "What would Jesus do? Would he help those in need? Would he make it easier

to get help?"

I come from a conservative area where guns are very important for safety and recreation. I know we have background checks, but they're not working. Dangerous people are still able to buy dangerous guns, and we're not willing to make it harder to purchase and use them.

What would Jesus do? Would he make it harder? Would he even own a gun? Whatever the answer is, as Christians, we have to ask these questions. If it makes you uncomfortable to ask them, that cognitive dissonance is something to consider.

I urge each and every reader to find your answers. Construct your suggestion. A debate is a debate, but I want answers. Please, talk to your representatives. Keep praying, but start acting.

My prayer is that God gives us the ability to come up with solutions and the courage to take action. I pray that he pushes us to talk to those in power and save our schools.

**WESLEY BRYANT is a guest writer for The Bison. He may be contacted at [wbryant1@harding.edu](mailto:wbryant1@harding.edu).**



**BRAVER  
THAN YOU  
BELIEVE**

jaisa hogue

### To trust someone

My roommate Hollee and I were sitting in her room, trying to think of something to talk about. It wasn't the first time we'd talked long enough to run out of topics, and I had a strategy for times like these. I know it sounds weird, but I opened Safari and Googled "super deep questions." We've both expressed a distain for small talk.

I scrolled through lists upon lists calling out random ideas and questions. We ran through the easy topics too quickly, but then landed on a question that I found interesting.

"Is it harder for you to look someone in the eye while you tell them how you feel or when they're telling you how they feel?"

She and I both took a second to recognize how difficult it can be for us to speak openly and honestly about our feelings. I think most people can relate to that. Writing columns like this one is kind of my way of opening up a bit about myself without actually having to look anyone in the eye while I do it. But sometimes, I need a response. I don't want to need it, but I do.

At this point, Hollee probably knows me better than she ever actually wanted to. I've opened up to her little by little and been more honest with her than I have with many others in the past. I think my roommate from freshman year made it easier for me to do that.

Mariah McClellan was, without a doubt, the best freshman roommate I could've had. At a time of such unfamiliarity and change, I think we both needed someone new to rant and relate to.

We met in person for the first time a few days before that first semester started. It's rare for me to feel at ease around someone I've just met, but I remember already feeling comfortable while we sat at Slader's getting to know one another.

She was open and easy to talk to. I remember telling her tons of stories about my family and her telling me stories about her friends from back home. We compared music taste and political stances. We shared our memories and our secrets. Some nights we would stay up late just talking about all kinds of things, like religion or our past hardships.

Throughout the year, we talked to each other about all the things that bugged us and talked through difficult decisions together. She always gave great advice and knew how to put things in perspective. I learned a lot from her freshman year.

We've sort of fallen out of touch, but I still feel like she would be there for me if I needed her help. And I would definitely drop whatever I was doing at the moment if she needed mine.

There have been times in the past where I felt like there wasn't anyone I could honestly talk to, and it was too difficult to tell people how I felt. During those times, I remember feeling so lonely and isolated. After so long of bottling things up, it was easy to feel overwhelmed. I would often blow things out of proportion because I would spend too long thinking about them without saying them out loud.

It's important to have someone you can trust with your secrets and emotions. I know it can be really hard to initiate a friendship like that or to share that first secret, but those friends are so important for your sanity.

I'm so thankful for people like Mariah, people that listen and understand so easily. The people who don't ask for anything in return, but are always there to lend an ear and some advice. I'm thankful for people like her that make it easier to trust others.

I challenge you to be that kind of friend for others and to look around and recognize these friends in your life — tell them thank you.

**JAISA HOGUE is the opinions editor for The Bison. She may be contacted at [jhogue@harding.edu](mailto:jhogue@harding.edu).  
Twitter: [JaisaDanielle](https://twitter.com/JaisaDanielle)**

## THE SECOND AMENDMENT OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION READS:

*"A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."*



Graphic by **DARRIAN BAGLEY**

## Liberty's darkest days



guest  
writer

luke helms

Last week Nikolas Cruz shot and killed 17 people and wounded at least 14 more at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Armed with an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle that had been legally purchased, Cruz began shooting at teachers and students, appearing to target no specific group of individuals.

In the aftermath of this horrific event, numerous gun control advocacy groups and politicians have called for stricter legislation, requirements on magazine capacity, purchase waiting periods and gun ownership qualifications. According to The New York Times, the state of Florida is currently preparing to bulk up its legislative session with legislation that takes aim at gun violence with several provisions, including updated age restrictions on gun purchases, bump stock bans and gun violence restraining orders.

When facing a tragedy such as this, we mourn just a bit more, recognizing the possibility that it could have been prevented had more protections been in place to prevent Cruz from accessing a deadly weapon. Many are swift to condemn firearm possession

and neglect the possibility of infringing on the liberties of millions. However, it is important that we do not lose sight of the benefits of firearm possession.

Even the lowest estimates still provide evidence of tens of thousands annual cases in which firearms are used for self-defense. According to the National Crime Victimization Survey conducted by the Bureau of Justice, during a five-year span from 2007 to 2011, firearms were used 235,700 times for self-protection. Due to low reporting rates for victimization, this figure is likely dwarfed in comparison to the real statistic.

The Bureau of Justice also conducted a study in 2008 to evaluate police response time across the nation. According to the study, police response time ranged anywhere from six minutes to one hour in 63.8 percent of violent crimes and 68 percent of property crimes. This statistic should greatly concern those who wish to place harsh restrictions on firearms. Trust must be placed carefully and, in the case of the government, sparsely. We simply cannot always trust that help will come immediately in a life or death situation.

Centuries ago, a select few brave men collaborated to compose what many consider to be one of the greatest documents ever created. The now longest-living constitution was carefully drafted to ensure that the people of the fledgling U.S. would live free from oppression and despotism. In it, the founders detail an amendment that makes

clear that the rights of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. In its Preamble, the Constitution states that it shall "insure domestic tranquility" and "provide for the common defence."

I cannot imagine that the founders were unable to foresee a time in which weaponry would become more advanced. We are a country founded on the idea that we have been given a certain set of God-given, unalienable rights and that those rights are not to be forfeited, unless in the most dire of circumstances.

As I ponder the future, the thought of my children not returning home from school one afternoon terrifies me. Although I am young and have largely been free from loss in my life, I am convinced that there is no greater loss than that of a parent losing their child.

However, I delight in knowing that my children will be sent off to school with the same rights that I have, without fear of oppression from government. I am assured that even in liberty's darkest days, when the cost of freedom may include the loss of life, I possess a set of God-given rights, including the right to bear arms to defend myself, that "shall not be infringed."

**LUKE HELMS is a guest writer for The Bison. He may be contacted at [lhelms2@harding.edu](mailto:lhelms2@harding.edu).**

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KEEP IT SAVVY

savanna distefano

## 'Pierce My Ear'

Last weekend I decided to do something a little different.

I traveled with a group of friends to Beebe to receive new ear piercings, which was like eating candy to some, but for me, it may have been the craziest thing I've ever done.

I'm a play-it-safe, play-by-the-rules type of girl. I get anxious thinking about upsetting others, getting in trouble or disturbing those who might be around me. My mother was quite the opposite.

She was adventurous and was led by her curiosity. While she liked to explore abandoned buildings, I stood back, pleading her to leave. When she passed by a car accident on the highway, she parked and acted on her nurse instincts while I'd stay back and call the police. Looking back, maybe it was her lack of caution that made me hyperaware of danger, even unrealistically so.

Since my mother died in December, I've realized that I have a lot of living left, and I have not been making the most of every opportunity that lands in front of me. Along with the fact that I no longer have a mother to tell all my drama, to cry with or simply to listen to my insecurities and push me forward, the fact remains that my life will never be the same. This weekend, I felt like something else in my life needed to change, too.

I thought about dyeing my hair, trying to get fit or completely changing my wardrobe. But I liked my hair, working out is too hard and flipping a wardrobe is too expensive. So instead, I made an anxious trek to a tattoo shop to have a needle stuck through my cartilage.

Once we arrived, I remembered that I'm really not a fan of needles. I've never received a shot without my mother, and the thought of piercing pain (pun intended) unnerves me. Piercing my ears was never something I had the opportunity to think about. I was a baby when I was given my first set of earrings. For my second set, my mother saw an ear piercing sign on the jewelry counter at Walmart during a grocery run and suggested I let a random Walmart employee make a new hole in my ears. I thought she was kidding, but she wasn't.

We used to sing a song at church camp, "Pierce My Ear." It is based on a passage in Exodus that states that masters are to pierce the ears of their slaves after stating their commitment to them. The song is meant to represent our dedication as a servant to Christ, telling God that we are willing to be marked by him as forever disciples.

This idea of piercing one's ear also signifies a complete change of life. It follows a declaration of a promise. You could say my new sparkly stud physically signifies the same for me: that my life is no longer the same. Even if I picked the smallest, hopefully least painful earring possible.

So on Saturday night, I lay on the piercing bed and held my best friend's hand as Ms. Mave clamped down my ear and pushed a needle through my once untouched skin. I squinted my eyes and, for a second, squeezed my mother's hand as I proved to her that I am no longer the wimp I used to be.

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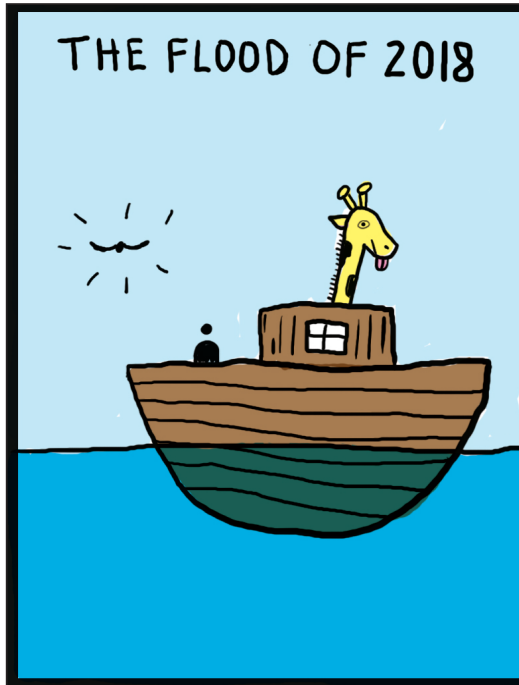


Illustration by RACHEL GIBSON

## One chicken biscuit to rule them all



guest writer

robert mcpherson

I want to bring up a controversial topic of debate. No, not gun control — something the media doesn't want to cover — but a topic so controversial that, if it were to be thrown into mainstream media, riots would break out. Pandemonium would ensue, maybe even civil war. OK, so while the topic might not be that extreme, it is a cause for heated debate: Which restaurant has the best chicken biscuit?

Let us take a look at the candidates. Behind curtain number one, the classic Chick-Fil-A chicken biscuit. Number two is the McDonald's southern-style chicken biscuit. And finally, behind curtain number three is the famous Whataburger honey butter chicken biscuit. Now I'm sure you think you might know of plenty of other great candidates, but you don't.

The Chick-Fil-A chicken biscuit is widely popular as it's the main source of chicken

biscuits on campus — with its moist biscuit coupled with its delicious chicken patty cooked in peanut oil. It's a great way to start off a morning when you have an 8 a.m. followed by 9 o'clock chapel. But due to its monopoly on campus, it loses serious points because capitalism is cool.

The McDonald's southern style chicken biscuit is something I generally get early in the morning when I have to go to my monthly Army Reserve drill. It wins points for its low price and good chicken, but it lacks in the biscuit department. The biscuit is so dry that I am forced to get a large sweet tea, at no extra cost, in order to combat the dehydrated bread they call a biscuit.

Lastly, the most famous biscuit of all. Before we explore the wonders of Whataburger's honey butter chicken biscuit, let us talk about the predisposition that's already brewing in your mind. If you don't know what I'm talking about, then you're definitely not a Texan. You have my condolences, but let's stay on topic. The honey butter chicken biscuit scores a perfect 10 in the chicken department, with its crunchy chicken tender that sits upon a heavenly bed of honey butter, wrapped in a

flaky biscuit, given to us from the hands of Sam Houston himself.

If you are still reading this, you either agree that the honey butter chicken biscuit is supreme, or you managed to make it through enough eye rolls to see my conclusion. Now you're probably assuming I'm biased because I'm a Texan, and some other non-Texan logic is leading you toward that conclusion. But I encourage you to trash that and view food in my perspective. Food is very important to me and my dad-bod, regardless of which chicken biscuit you think is the best.

At the end of the day, if you put a chicken biscuit in front of me, I will eat it. I don't anticipate this article will change your mind, but I hope it brings you a laugh in a time when we take things far too seriously. Just remember: chicken biscuits are good, but honey butter chicken biscuits are better.

ROBERT MCPHERSON is a guest writer for The Bison. He may be contacted at [rmcpherson1@harding.edu](mailto:rmcpherson1@harding.edu).

## What's Your Opinion?

Want to write an opinion for The Bison? Contact Jaisa Hogue at [jhogue@harding.edu](mailto:jhogue@harding.edu) to voice your opinion through The Bison newspaper.

Just the Clax

## My pal the principal

One image from the second grade lingers in my memory. It was the day our elementary school principal ate lunch with us in the cafeteria. On the surface, Mr. Weil was hardly "cool." He wore horn-rimmed glasses. He had on a tie with his short-sleeved shirt. He even ate his hot dog with a fork. But this kind man was still a big hit with the second graders, because he genuinely liked spending time with children, and it showed.

Fast forward to my second year at Conyers Middle School, when we were named a National School of Excellence. I personally take no credit for this, but our principal practically floated down the hall when the award was announced. Mr. O'Neal was a former football coach, and he loved winning. Everybody liked his energy and sunny optimism. No sooner had the trophy been installed behind glass, he was already thinking of how to top it.

Mr. O'Neal had a sly sense of humor. After the award ceremony, he called the school's exhausted head custodian into his office. Miss Juanice was one of those classic southern school janitors, complete with a tall hairdo and a raspy voice. She and her staff had worked themselves to the bone for that contest. Mr. O'Neal praised her and then said, "Now next year, we're going for the World School of Excellence, and I hear the judge really likes a clean building." Half the school heard Miss Juanice holler, "Lord, have mercy!" as she high-tailed it out of the office.

Just two years later, I was at Rockdale High School, and Mr. Gibbs was my principal. Years of serving in administration had turned his hair snow white, but they hadn't



michael claxton

dampened his joy for teaching or his love for young people. A generously encouraging man, he sent letters to students who made achievements of any kind. More than that, he was a model of integrity.

During my freshman year, Rockdale won the state championship in basketball. It was our first big win in program history. The whole town was elated, but nobody was happier than Mr. Gibbs, which makes what happened next all the more impressive.

Weeks later, an assistant coach was going over some academic records and made an unfortunate discovery. It turns out that in the final game of the tournament, we put a player on the court for the last 45 seconds who was not academically eligible to play. We had been 23 points ahead, and those 45 seconds didn't change the outcome. It was an honest mistake.

Still, the assistant coach took it to the head coach. The head coach took it to the principal. It broke Mr. Gibbs' heart, but he knew there was only one thing to do. He reported the violation to the state, and we had to forfeit the trophy. It was an agonizing day but also a proud one. Such a costly display of sportsmanship was so striking that both The New York Times and "20/20" sent reporters to cover the story.

Before I go, I have to tell you about our assistant principal, Mr. LaPier. More than

once while I was at Rockdale High, we had bomb threats. They were always just phone pranks intended to disrupt classes, but school protocol required that we take them seriously. During one of these threats, the entire student body was milling around outside the building.

Mr. LaPier was a tough, no-nonsense disciplinarian, and I heard him barking orders. He pointed at various staff members and said, "You ... go check the cafeteria." And "You ... go clear the vocational wing." I was a wise guy even back then, so I sprinted over to Mr. LaPier, performed a mock salute, and said, "What do you want me to do, sir?"

Without missing a beat, he said, "You ... go sit on the bomb."

Which I thought was funny. It was a clever rebuke to youthful insolence. But the fact that both of us could joke about bomb threats in those pre-9/11, pre-Columbine days is telling.

High school principals have a tougher job now. Every week seems to bring fresh evidence that the world is a deeply disturbed place. My heart goes out to Mr. Thompson, the principal of the Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, and to courageous school administrators everywhere. They face real danger day after day. But they also give us hope, by continuing to model that optimism, wit and love for young people that I cherished in my principals. We need these men and women to stay strong. I'm thankful for them all.

MICHAEL CLAXTON is a guest writer for The Bison. He can be contacted at [mclaxto1@harding.edu](mailto:mclaxto1@harding.edu).

At the Bison, it is our goal to serve the Harding University student body with integrity, truth and open ears. However, we believe that meeting that goal is a two-way street between our staff and the public it serves. We pledge to keep our eyes and ears open to what our community has to say and hope that, in return, that community will be an interactive audience, sharing its stories with us. We also pledge to do the basics: Report accurate and relevant information, check our facts, and share them in a professional, timely manner. If you have any story ideas, questions, comments or concerns for the Bison staff, please email Savanna DiStefano, the editor-in-chief, at [sdistefano@harding.edu](mailto:sdistefano@harding.edu). "The Bison (USPS 577-660) is published weekly (except vacations, exams and summer sessions), 20 issues per year, by Harding University. Periodicals postage paid at Searcy, Arkansas 72143. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Bison, Harding University 11192, SEARCY, AR 72149-0001." BYLINE POLICY: The Bison provides an opportunity for class writers to contribute work under the byline "guest writers." Due to this arrangement, staff writers may rewrite a portion of the guest writers' stories as they deem necessary, while still identifying the work as the guest writers' own.





THE GRAND SLAM  
emily faulkner

## International views on the Olympics

### Behind the rivalry

Rivalries are what make sports. If it weren't for fierce competition, they would not be fun to watch. That feeling of getting to play your rival, and the desire to beat them is even deeper than a regular opponent.

So why are Harding and Arkansas Tech University rivals? Every rivalry has a story.

Before the Great American Conference (GAC), Harding and Tech were both members in the Gulf South Conference starting in 2000. Even before all of this, Harding and Tech have had a rivalry of which is the "better" school in general. Tech was a member of this conference from 1995-2011. Even though they were both in the same conference as Ouachita Baptist University and Henderson State University, Tech was the school that became Harding's rival.

In 2011, both Tech and Harding switched to the Great American Conference.

Here is a little history of the rivalry through a few different sports:

**Volleyball:**

The volleyball rivalry between Tech and Harding is older than the GAC, but it has strengthened due to the closeness of games since the formation of the conference in 2011.

Tech swept the GAC regular season and postseason tournaments in 2011. The Lady Bisons duplicated that feat in 2012 and won the GAC regular season title in 2013. Tech then upset top-seeded Harding in the championship match of the 2013 GAC Volleyball Tournament to earn the league's automatic bid to the NCAA Division II Volleyball Tournament. Fast forward to 2017, and Tech's team is ranked No. 8 in the nation. They ended up defeating Harding in the GAC finals.

**Basketball:**

In 2005, the Bisons beat Tech 70-68 and this marked their sixth straight win in Russellville.

In 2011, Harding came short in a thriller against Tech. Harding, No. 14, overcame a 19-point deficit in the first half, but could not hold on in overtime and fell 72-71 to No. 9 Tech at the Rhodes Field House. It was a meeting of the top two teams in the Gulf South Conference West Division, and Tech clinched the division championship with the victory.

This ended up being one of Harding's best seasons, going 25-5. The Bisons also later defeated Tech 80-61 in the Gulf South Conference tournament.

The past four years, Harding has split victories against Tech. This year they defeated us 98-94 in one of the closest losses of the season for the Bisons. The second meeting this season we lost 63-70.

In 2005 and 2009, the Lady Bisons came within beating Tech by one point toward the end of both seasons. There have rarely been any blowout games between these teams throughout the years, but an exception was when Harding won in the GAC tournament 81-48 in 2014.

Last year in the Lady Bison's historic run to the final four, they met and defeated the Golden Suns four different times.

In their first meeting this year, Harding came up short, losing 64-77. They again came up short losing 54-56.

**Softball:**

Even though the softball team has not been around long, they have still managed to uphold their side of the rivalry. In 2014, the Lady Bisons came out on top 4-3 three different times over Tech. The next year, 2015, Tech wanted revenge and came out on top 2-10 in the conference tournament.

In 2016 Harding beat No. 8 ranked Tech once and then again in the conference tournament. Going 58-9 last season, one of their losses happened to be against Tech 0-1. Their next meeting will be on April 3, in Searcy.

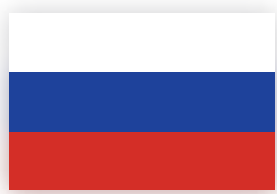
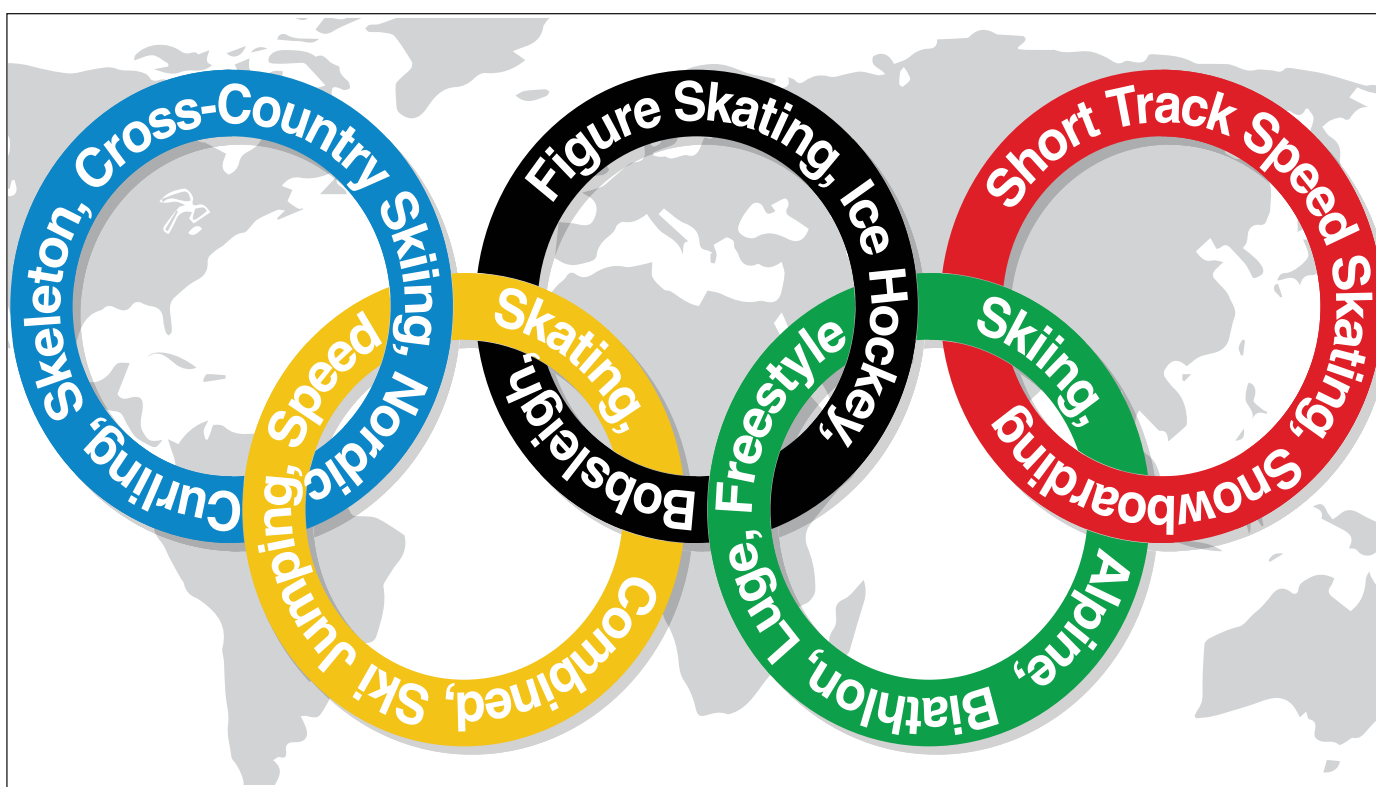
**Baseball:**

In 2007, Harding took a hit in their final game of the season, losing 4-14. Despite this loss, it was their most successful season since 2003. In 2011, Harding had 42 wins, two of which were against Tech. Despite defeating Tech twice in 2017, the Wonder Boys won out in the end and knocked Harding out of the GAC championship, beating them in a two out of three series.

I would say the biggest reasons we are rivals with Tech is because we've both had consistently strong athletics throughout the years. We are two of the closest teams in the conference and have been even since the Gulf South Conference.

So, here's to many more years of beating Tech.

**EMILY FAULKNER is the head sports editor for The Bison. She may be contacted at efaulkner@harding.edu.**



"If a Russian person wins something, it doesn't change just because we couldn't use our flag."  
- sophomore Sasha Regida



"There's not really that patriotic sense of nationalism that I'm hearing from my Korean friends that I'm definitely hearing from my American friends."  
- Charlie Mooney



"It's like they are competing not just for themselves, but also for our country."  
- senior Yijun Zhang

Graphic by DARRIAN BAGLEY

### Finding differences in celebrating sports

EMILY NICKS  
student writer

The 2018 Winter Olympic Games in PyeongChang, South Korea, have brought the world together in athletic competition once again. With Harding students representing 55 nations, there are many sentiments toward the Games on campus.

Senior Yijun Zhang from China said the Winter Olympics are always a big event. However, he said they are nothing in comparison to the Summer Olympics in China.

"For us, the Summer Olympics are very competitive," Zhang said. "The Chinese students here never talk about the Winter Olympics, but we do talk a lot about the Summer Olympics when we are in China."

Zhang also said there is a sense of national pride that comes with the Olympics in China, similar to that of the U.S.

"It's like they are competing not just for themselves, but also for our country," Zhang said.

While the summer games are more popular in China, sophomore Sasha Regida said the opposite is true in her home country of Russia.

"We're really excited and proud of each other," Regida said. "In Russia, mostly it's winter sports like hockey, ice skating and figure skating. We're really strong in that."

With athletes banned from competing under the Russian flag this year due to

allegations of doping, Regida said the feeling of the Olympics is a little different, but there is no loss of national pride.

"It's definitely sad, but it doesn't change anything," Regida said. "If a Russian person wins something, it doesn't change just because we couldn't use our flag."

Charlie Mooney, academic principal of International Christian Schools in Pyeongtaek, South Korea, is experiencing the Games as an American expatriate living in South Korea, just 75 miles from the Olympics. Mooney said there is a distinct difference in attitudes between Americans in South Korea and the Koreans.

"The Americans are excited, the Koreans are not," Mooney said. "There's not really that patriotic sense of nationalism that I'm hearing from my Korean friends that I'm definitely hearing from my American friends."

Mooney also said that the combination of the North and South Korean teams is not creating as much buzz in South Korea as people might think.

"Everything is a bigger deal to Americans than it is to Koreans," Mooney said. "No one talks about North Korea ever, unless an American brings it up. It's been this way for 60 years, and it's just another day. But when the American media starts flipping out, it makes the South Koreans nervous that it'll stir up North Korea."

Mooney also observed the skeleton races. He said one thing that stood out to him was the atmosphere of the fans was very congenial and fun once they

finally arrived.

"Everyone was rooting for their own countries and wearing their flags but it really was in good fun in a globally-minded sort of way," Mooney said. "I was sincerely impressed by that."

Different cultures have different attitudes toward the Olympics. With athletic records being broken and new political precedents being set, Regida said the Olympics can be very powerful.

"It unites people," Regida said. "It doesn't matter where you come from."

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STERLING MCMICHAEL | The Bison

Senior outfielder Chris Taylor connects on a pitch against the Williams Baptist Eagles on Feb. 13 at Jerry Moore Field. The Bisons won both games of the doubleheader and outscored the Eagles 33-6. The Bisons open a weekend series against the Southwestern Oklahoma State Bulldogs today in Weatherford, Oklahoma. The first pitch is scheduled for 2 p.m.

## Bisons continue conference play in weekend series

ZACH BISSELL  
student writer

The baseball team faces Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, Oklahoma in a three-game series. This is the second weekend in a row the Bisons will play in Oklahoma, after switching locations this past weekend due to weather.

“They’re going to be very fundamentally sound and play solid defense,” head coach Patrick McGaha said. “We’re going to have to go over there and find a way to get into their bullpen early in the series. Hopefully, we will get their starters off the mound and give ourselves a chance to put some runs up on the board.”

The city of Weatherford is known for its strong winds, which can make both pitching and batting very difficult for an opponent. Assistant coach Andy Schatzley knows it will be a tough series.

“Weatherford is always a tough place to go in and win,”

Schatzley said. “How we handle their starting pitching and what we’re able to do offensively early in the games will really be what decides that series.”

McGaha said he is optimistic about the team’s chances this season and has recognized key strengths early on.

“We’re hitting the ball well, and we’re aggressive on the base paths,” McGaha said. “I think we’re going to have a chance to score a lot of runs this year.”

The team is led by seven seniors and loaded with young talent. Schatzley knows that he is coaching a unique roster.

“This is the deepest roster that we’ve had in the last five or six years,” Schatzley said. “I don’t know that we’ve had better chemistry than we’ve got right now.”

Freshman infielder David Butterfield and freshman pitcher Braden Quesinberry said they already see the chemistry in the team.

“At Harding, we’re around the guys and coaches the most,” Butterfield said. “That time allows for relationships to be built. We like to play, and we like each other.”

Quesinberry said he began to feel personally connected on the team’s mission trip to Nicaragua during Christmas break. Teammates bonded by serving and playing baseball with the community.

“I feel a sense of camaraderie with this team,” Quesinberry said. “We all have different personalities, yet we have each other’s backs and come together as a family.”

McGaha has led the Bisons to five straight conference tournaments — the longest streak in Harding baseball history. With another season of accomplishments ahead, he believes there are bigger priorities to Harding baseball.

“Everything we do, we want to glorify God with what happens,” McGaha said. “We’re wanting to represent the university and our families in a positive manner.”

The first game of the series begins at 2 p.m. today. The weekend series will conclude with doubleheader on Saturday with games at noon and 3 p.m. To keep up with the games or view the team’s schedule, visit [www.hardingsports.com](http://www.hardingsports.com).

## Lady Bisons ready to begin postseason journey

YOVANI ARISMENDIZ  
student writer

The Lady Bisons softball team will play its first conference game on Sunday, Feb. 25, against Southwestern Oklahoma State University at home. Head coach Phil Berry said he is confident in his team after the results at the UAM softball challenge in Bentonville, Arkansas, where the Lady Bisons began their season.

The Lady Bisons won three out of the four games. Berry said he was pleased with the players’ performance and is especially proud of the newcomers. He said these victories set the tone for the conference season.

“It was nice for them to get the first game out of the way,” Berry said. “We are very encouraged about how our pitching staff responded to their opportunities. We did some good things offensively and played pretty tight defense.”

Sophomore outfielder Lindsey Duncan said she is ready to see what the team can do this season. Because of the newness of the team, she said unity among the players will be important in order to handle tough situations during the season.

“We are going to push each other to get better and reach our goals this year,” Duncan said. “If there is a mistake — like someone does not get the hit or the play — it is going to be OK because we are going to be picking each other up.”

Junior outfielder Peyton Mills said having a lot of new girls makes the team atmosphere different, and the team has tried to be there to help guide and motivate the new players.

“We were all excited for last year, and we want that feeling again,” Mills said. “Our focus at this point is to make the freshmen and new girls want it just as much and continue to push them and push ourselves to get to

that place again.”

Berry said there is no pressure coming into the conference season after the success obtained last year. The mindset of the team is to try to control what they can, playing one pitch at the time.

“We are not worried about outcomes or scoreboards — or next year — we are worried about today in practice,” Berry said. “We think if we take that approach, then results and outcomes will take care of themselves.”

Duncan said the support of the school is motivating to the players, and she wants students to come to games.

“I know at the beginning it is cold, but when it gets warmer, we would love having the fans out there,” Duncan said. “We love hearing them. We get hype in the dugout and we want the whole crowd to get hype too.”

The four-game series wraps up on Monday, Feb. 26 with a doubleheader starting at 11 a.m.

# LOCKER TALK

## HARDING ATHLETES' VIEWS ON

### POP CULTURE



**Will Francis**  
baseball

**Briley Feringa**  
softball

**Connor McVay**  
baseball

**Katie Carney**  
softball

**Logan Handy**  
golf

What is your dream job?	Coach and teach young people.	A professional softball player.	President of the United States.	A pediatric orthopaedic physician assistant.	My dream job would obviously be a professional golfer.
You get to plan your spring break with no limitations, what do you do?	Go watch the NCAA basketball tournament.	Go to Disneyland and the beach in California.	Go bass fishing all around the country.	Road trip through Yellowstone National Park.	I would take my family to Florida and play on different golf courses.
What was your favorite show to watch growing up and why?	“SportsCenter.” Nothing else intrigued me.	“The Powerpuff Girls” because they are awesome.	“Drake and Josh.”	“Spongebob.” It was me and my dad’s favorite show to watch together.	“Tom and Jerry.” Their back and forth banter was one of a kind.
When did you go on your first date and what did you do?	With Falan Miller in 2014 at the Bulldog. Sealed the deal.	In eighth grade, and we saw a musical.	Sophomore year of high school, and we went to the movies.	Spring of my freshman year, and it was dinner and a movie.	In seventh grade and we went techno bowling.



## Shining a light on a new campus organization



**SARAH BRISTER**  
student writer

Senior Ashley Hudson believes it is important to have a mentor. That is why her new campus organization, Shine Bright, seeks to connect younger and older generations of women to create a safe place to share struggles and encourage one another.

Hudson was inspired to begin the group after talking with her mentor, campus counselor Briana Cunningham. “She inspired me to create Shine Bright by encouraging me and uplifting me to believe that I have the ability to do something like this,” Hudson said. “She assured me that I should believe in myself, and that I should follow God’s instruction through the process and just trust in him.”

Now Shine Bright’s president, Hudson, said she created the group to connect younger and older women. After realizing the impact her mentor had on her, Hudson wanted to create opportunities for other women to connect through mentorship.

“I wanted a group that hits kind of every part of a woman’s life,” Hudson

said. “I felt like Harding needed a safe place for girls to come and to just relieve some stress that they might have over things that they’re going through.”

The organization currently has about 20 student members and three adult mentors.

Briana Byers, sponsor for the group and close friend of Hudson’s, said Shine Bright gives her a way to connect and be a listening ear for younger girls as they wade through challenges in life such as self-image, relationships, faith and finding their true purpose in a world full of messages about what beauty is.

“You tell them what they need to hear with love,” Byers said. “It’s going to take some time to build that trust up with the girls who are involved with Shine Bright.”

Lauren Lee, a junior and the public relations officer for Shine Bright, said she has been involved with the organization since December. According to Lee, this semester, the group’s focus is on helping women find their purpose in God, in his word and in their everyday lives.

“We wanted to create an environment

where you can come as you are,” Lee said. “To lift each other up in a way with not taking yourself down. So, seeing beauty in others and in yourself but not making it a comparison game.”

Shine Bright is designed to be a place for women to form connections that go deeper than the classroom and to be a safe place for people with different backgrounds to share their thoughts and opinions, Lee said.

On March 24, Shine Bright will host a workshop that is open to the public, Hudson said. The workshop features Cunningham and Hudson as speakers as well as activities themed around finding purpose as a woman.

Shine Bright is open to all Harding women and can be found on Facebook as “Shine Bright” or on Instagram as @\_shinebright17\_.

Byers said she is looking forward to being involved with the organization as it grows and develops out of its infant stage.

“It’s so much bigger than us; it’s so much bigger than Harding,” Byers said. “I just want it to grow and blossom and be a beacon of light to help other girls all over the world shine bright.”

**STERLING MCMICHAEL** | The Bison  
“You are beautiful” is one of the mottos of Shine Bright a new campus organization. They aim to connect college women with mentors as well as create a place of encouragement.

## Social clubs seek to serve the community

**CAITLIN DENTON**  
student writer

Throughout the year, social clubs on campus seek to serve the community. In the midst of club sports, Club Week, functions and meetings, service is a big part of being in a social club and each club has its own way of making a difference in the community.

“I believe it is important to keep social clubs involved in service projects, because I know it is what Jesus would want us to do,” junior Haley Carr, service director for women’s social club Ko Jo Kai, said. “If we are not involved in helping others and serving the community, then we are not giving him the praise he deserves.”

Ko Jo Kai will help during prom night for the Sunshine School on Feb. 23. They will help set up props, serve desserts, dance with the students and put smiles on their faces.

Carr said their goal for the night is to show the students the love of Christ.

“We want to take one night out of our week to be their cheerleaders,” Carr said. “Every year we do this, I go with the mindset to make their prom the best it can be for them, but at the end of the night, I leave with the biggest smile on my face. They bring me so much joy, and when I leave, my heart explodes with happiness.”

Feb. 17, men’s social club TNT and women’s social club Zeta Rho came together with the Pack Shack, a nonprofit to pack over 30,000 meals, within just an hour and a half. These meals will be given to those in need in White County.

According to Zeta Rho’s service director, sophomore Mackensie Cobb, the Pack Shack is an organization dedicated to providing nutritious meals for local communities.

“Their mission is to ‘be neighborly,’” Cobb said. “They do this through compassion and knowing the needs in their community. I love their mission and their heart and the way it connects the community.”

Cobb said she got the idea for the service project after previously being involved with a Pack Shack food packing event.

Mackensie Cobb, alongside her sister and fellow service director, sophomore Bethany Cobb, approached TNT chaplain, junior Daylan Moore, about hosting their own Pack Shack event.

Moore said he felt the project was something TNT needed to be involved in.

“Service gives purpose,” Moore said. “It is more than just going to school, classes and club games. It gives purpose that is more meaningful and sustainable.”

When Moore and the Cobb sisters spoke with the White County judge Michael Lincoln weeks before the event, they decided their goal was to have just one week with no hungry children, no starving families and no empty stomachs.

“Not only did we bring our club together, but we got to bring (Pack Shack’s) mission (to) the community,” Cobb said. “We were able to love our neighbors and have a positive effect on the hunger in our community.”

Another way clubs seek to serve the community is through song. Each year, men’s social club Chi Sigma Alpha sings at the Searcy



Photo courtesy of **MACKENSIE COBB**

**Juniors Jacob McAlister and Jake Shumate create meal packs on Feb. 17 to be distributed throughout the community. Women’s social club Zeta Rho and men’s social club TNT partnered with Pack Shack, a nonprofit to make 30,000 meal packets.**

Health and Rehab to bring joy and smiles to the residents. They sing from hymnals, pray and visit with residents.

“I believe it’s extremely important, both as a community and as individuals, to develop a mindset of service at this point of our lives because it will influence how we serve for the rest of our lives,” Chi Sigma Alpha service director, junior Daniel Norwood, said. “The convenience of clubs provides even greater opportunities, because you suddenly have access to these groups of students that, more

often than not, are willing and able to make a difference.”

This service project is open to anyone who wants to participate. On Feb. 7, they invited the members of women’s social club Chi Omega Pi to join them in singing at the nursing home. This is a weekly service project that occurs every Sunday at 3 p.m.

“It can sometimes be hard to motivate others to serve, but when they’re actually involved, their reactions are priceless,” Norwood said. “I love the small role I play in God’s kingdom.”

## BSA choir combines passion, music, culture

**BOWMAN JOHNSON**  
student writer

For a long time, Harding’s motto was “at Harding, we sing.” Although the motto has since been changed, the idea behind it remains true. Harding is home to six different singing groups, one of which is the Black Student Association (BSA) choir.

The BSA choir is a sub-organization of the BSA as a whole.

According to senior music major and BSA choir director Armani Jenkins, the BSA choir was created by Harding alumnus Jewels Edmerson in the spring of 2017.

Jenkins said that the BSA choir is unique because it is the first predominately African-American singing group on campus.

“I feel like the choir now is giving people a new passion and a newfound love (for music),” Jenkins said. “It is giving them a new insight on a talent and new friendships.”

Jenkins said that when she first took on the role of director, one of her biggest fears was that people would not take the choir seriously and members would spend the time making jokes. However, Jenkins said the response to the choir has been positive and, although members have fun, they do take



Photo courtesy of **NAMON POPE**

**The BSA choir poses together after their Mega King Fest concert in Little Rock on Jan. 15. The choir is the school’s first predominately African-American choir.**

their role seriously.

Freshman Namon Pope, a member of the BSA choir, said he wanted to be involved in music and the BSA, so for him, the BSA choir was a perfect match.

“The atmosphere is very relaxed with it being a student-led choir,” Pope said. “We know we’re there to praise God and enjoy time together. But just because we’re having fun, that by no means gets in the way of our productivity.”

Pope said the choir can learn a

song in just an hour. According to Jenkins, this is a huge improvement since the choir began.

“Being over a choir, I’ve had to truly understand that to some, music is just as familiar to them as it is to me, and for others it’s completely new. They’re not used to so many harmonies, parts and levels of difficulty,” Jenkins said. “But every one, including myself, has grown so much since the choir started a year ago. It used to take us up to three rehearsals to

fully learn a song, but now we’re learning and memorizing difficult songs in one rehearsal.”

BSA choir member, junior Patience Trowell said the choir shows how as African-Americans, they can work together to produce music. She said the purpose of the choir is to show unity and that they can work together to sing praises, while being uplifting and encouraging.

“I wanted to join the choir, because I wanted to be a part of

the BSA,” Trowell said. “I also like to sing and the choir helped to bring back my hobby for singing.”

Jenkins said there is also a level of their African-American culture that is brought into the choir.

“I’ve been in school choirs since the fourth grade, and the culture is so different than the culture of the BSA choir,” Jenkins said. “From the lingo to the way we openly express our compliments to each other while singing, to our random dance breaks in the middle of a song, to adding a beat-box or any beat to a hymn, our culture has naturally come out in everything.”

Sophomore Ally Davis, a member of Good News Singers, said she believes the BSA choir is set apart from the other singing groups on campus, due to this culture.

“I see the BSA choir as unique in that it is founded on more than just a common passion for singing,” Davis said. “It seems to be a group that has a passion for history, heritage and awareness, as well as music. Those additional commonalities cause the music they make to be even more powerful.”

Anyone is free to join the choir, Jenkins said; it’s not exclusive to African-American students. Auditions for the choir open in the fall, and all students are welcome to audition.





## Robbins Sanford to host fifth annual bridal fair

ANNA CARR  
student writer

Wedding season is on the way, and Robbins Sanford Grand Hall is preparing by hosting their fifth annual bridal fair tomorrow, Feb. 24. Local vendors will be present, including entertainment groups, florists, photographers, caterers and many more. Admission is free and the bridal fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Robbins Sanford Grand Hall in downtown Searcy.

This year, Crown Entertainment (CE) will have a booth set up. They have attended around 80–120 weddings every year for the past five or six years and offer a range of services, including lighting, DJs and glow events. Although they have been to many bridal fairs in the past, it will be their first year at the Robbins Sanford bridal fair, and CE owner, Jonathan Simmons, is excited to bring his equipment and meet the brides.

“We’ll have three or four DJs there talking to brides,” Simmons said. “We’ll have video displays showing what we do, and we also plan on bringing out some cool lighting enhancements that we use for our weddings. We just want to bring a small sample of anything that we would be able to do at Robbins Sanford.”

Savory Catering is another vendor that will be at the bridal fair tomorrow. They have been attending for the past five years. Belinda LaForce started Savory Catering in May of 2012 and last

catered 28 weddings year alone.

“We will be setting up three stations to showcase the variety of set-ups and types of food we offer,” LaForce said. “From charcuterie and crudite displays, heavy hors d’oeuvres, to buffet style, plated or served dinners — we offer a wide variety of items to create a custom menu for all of our clients.”

Many Robbins Sanford brides are Harding students or graduates. This bridal fair allows future brides to visit the different booths and see samples of what they have to offer. Junior Grayson Dunning said she is excited to be attending and is hoping it will help give her wedding planning a boost.

“I’m looking forward to talking with all of the different vendors for catering, floral arrangements and decorations while at the bridal fair,” Dunning said. “It will be refreshing to speak with vendors face-to-face after all of our wedding planning on the internet. It will also be nice to have different vendors for different services all in the same place. This will make it much easier to choose a vendor compared to going back-and-forth on websites.”

The show is good for future brides, or even those who are single or dating to be completely immersed in all things wedding planning and to see what different companies have to offer. To win \$1,000 off your venue booking or for more information, visit and register on the Robbins Sanford Facebook page.



Photo provided by EMILY FAULKNER

## Vine creators strike gold with new trivia game

ALYSE YATES  
student writer

The new trending app HQ Trivia is giving people a chance to win some extra cash. HQ is a live, daily trivia game show that is paired with a free app that encourages users to play and win money.

HQ Trivia airs at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Central time, and has a prize of \$2,500 for games on Monday through Saturday. Sunday’s games normally have a prize of \$15,000, and special events and holidays have been from \$18–\$20,000. The audience has 10 seconds from the start of the question to make a selection between three answers. If a player gets one question wrong, they are eliminated from the game. Players have to make it through 12 questions to win the prize, but the money is distributed evenly between winners.

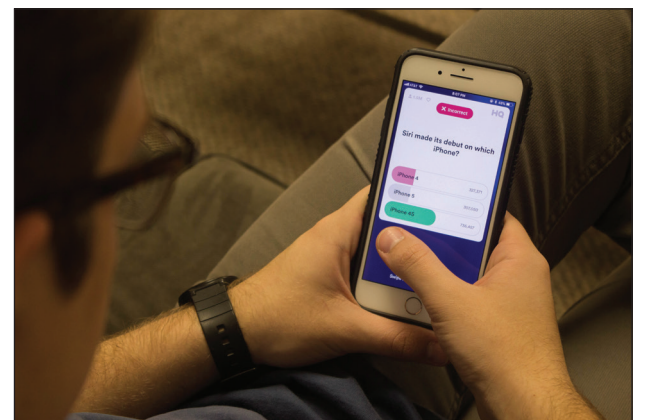
Senior Jonah Turner won his first game worth \$1.25, amongst 2,000 other players. Turner lost on question 10, but was able to use an extra life to re-enter the game and win. Turner did not use outside help, but said he probably knew half of the answers and guessed on the rest.

Now that he’s a winner, Turner said he wants to play again to keep winning, but said he’s not guaranteed to start winning every time.

“You might win money, but if not, it’s still a fun game,” Turner said. “I like that the trivia is all over the place and not just one category, so it makes it more fun. If you’re playing with a bunch of people in the same room, you’re all experiencing the same thing.”

HQ Trivia was first released in August 2017 by the creators of Vine. The show is broadcast live from New York city, hosted primarily by Scott Rogowsky. The app is a game show that targets North American and U.K. audiences with an average participant range from 6,000 to 1.6 million per broadcast. In the App Store, the game has moved to No. 7 on the chart for the top free downloaded games.

Harding University publications writer, Jennifer Hannigan, also enjoys playing the trendy trivia game. Hannigan first learned about the game during Christmas break from Carson Daly on “The Today Show.” Her son wanted to watch the show too, so he wanted to play with her and know more about it. The highest level Hannigan has ever reached is question seven, and said she mostly plays during the 8 p.m. game when she’s home from her classes. She likes to play more for the trivia than for the money.



RYANN HEIM | The Bison

Junior Kaleb Turner plays HQ Trivia, a high-grossing app paired with a trending TV broadcast. Turner played this week with the hopes of winning a prize. Prizes ranging from \$2,500 to \$20,000 are equally distributed to winners in both the U.S. and U.K.

“The nerdy side of me really likes game shows, and I’m not going to be on any other ones, so I like to participate in this game show,” Hannigan said.

Harding alumnus, Ty Webb, enjoys playing HQ Trivia every chance he gets. Webb is a family physician and makes time in the office to play the game.

“I love playing HQ (Trivia) because it strengthens my trivia knowledge, and I try to beat my daughter,” Webb said.

To play along, visit the Google Play Store or the App Store to download the HQ Trivia app.

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## BLACK PANTHER REVIEW

ZACH SHAPPLEY  
asst. multimedia editor

Hidden in the heart of Africa, underneath the holographic, vast canopy of the jungle, lies the technologically advanced utopia of Wakanda.

“Black Panther,” rated PG-13, boasts an all-star cast of the industry’s finest, featuring Chadwick Boseman, Michael B. Jordan, Lupita Nyong’o, Forest Whitaker, Daniel Kaluuya and many others. “Black Panther” marks director Ryan Coogler’s third feature film and continues his perfect track record with this non-stop thrill ride of a superhero flick.

The story picks up not long after the events of “Captain America: Civil War.” In the wake of the assassination of King T’Chaka, the throne and mantle of Black Panther is left to his son, T’Challa (Boseman). The audience is wistfully propelled through the exotic and cutting-edge world of Wakanda as we witness the coronation of Prince T’Challa.

The world, only for a moment, seems at peace, until Ulysses Klaue, played by Andy Serkis, steals a vibranium weapon from a museum in Wakanda. Helping him complete the daunting task is a mysterious figure, portrayed by Jordan, who seems to know too much.

Alerted about the theft, T’Challa, along with his head guard, Okoye (Danai Gurira) and former love, Nakia (Nyong’o), race to South Korea to apprehend Klaue and retrieve the weapon. Unbeknownst to our heroes, after this mission, Wakanda will never be the same.

“Black Panther” is a refresher of the blockbuster

superhero genres for a number of reasons. The primary reason and cause for a February release is it being the first Marvel Studios movie to feature a black superhero with a predominantly black cast. The movie is also a breath of fresh air, due to its contained and singular story within the Marvel Cinematic Universe, something audiences haven’t seen in a while.

This is arguably the best-looking film to come from Marvel Studios and the most culturally relevant. The movie’s music transitions from a traditional score, to flavors of hip-hop and R&B, without missing a beat or feeling out of place. The film’s companion album was curated by Top Dawg Entertainment and written by hip-hop sensation Kendrick Lamar. This well-placed marketing decision only heightened the excitement surrounding the blockbuster.

Wakanda’s juxtaposition of traditional African tribal culture within the most advanced society to exist on planet Earth is a sight to behold. The film’s visuals are transferred straight from the comic pages — creator Jack Kirby would be proud. The impeccable aesthetic of alluring tribal garb, paired with panther laser gauntlets, is an image that will never escape the mind.

The film’s opening weekend brought in an estimated \$241 million, which makes it the fifth largest opening weekend in history. Hopefully, the success of this well-crafted blockbuster will usher in a new wave of diversity in big budget films.

“Black Panther” is a triumph that introduced us to a world and story that we had yet to experience on the big screen.



Graphic by SAWYER HITE