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Happy Holidays



CELESTE MALONE | THE ALL STATE

The holiday season represents more than just Christmas; Hanukkah, Kwanzaa are often overlooked during time spent with family, friends, loved ones during this time of year

CHRISTMAS

Many Christians celebrate Christmas to honor the birth of Jesus Christ.

According to History.com, there is a long European history of late December holidays celebrating gods such as Saturn, Mithra, and Oden.

In early Christianity, Christmas was not celebrated until the fourth century A.D., when Pope Julius I chose December 25 to mark the birth of Christ and called it the Feast of Nativity.

It is not known when Christ's birthday truly is. Because this date was chosen, and there were no set Christmas rules, some common Christmas customs have been absorbed from the earlier pagan festivals that took place in December.

See CHRISTMAS on page 2

HANUKKUAH

Hanukkah or Chanukah, is an eight-day Jewish celebration of the rededication of the second temple of Jerusalem in the second century B.C.

During the Maccabean Revolt, Judah Maccabee led a Jewish rebellion against the Greeks and Syrians.

Hanukkah, the Hebrew word for dedication, begins on the 25th day of Kislev on the Hebrew calendar.

The festival is celebrated in November or December with special foods, games, gifts, and the lighting of the menorah. Hanukkah is also called the Festival of Lights.

The Hanukkah miracle occurred during the dedication of the temple. Though there was

See HANUKKUAH on page 2

KWANZAA

The Kwanzaa holiday was created by Maluana Karenga, a professor of Black studies at the University of California, in 1966.

To find a holiday to bring African-Americans together, Karenga researched different African harvest holidays, combining Ashanti and Zulu traditions to create Kwanzaa.

Kwanzaa's name comes from a Swahili phrase, "matunda ya kwanza", which means "first fruits." The seven-day holiday consists of various traditions, such as singing, dancing, poetry reading, storytelling, and a feast on December 31 called a Karamu.

On each of the seven days, a child lights a candle on the candle holder called a kinara,

See KWANZAA on page 2

SGA tackles Greek life within Housing and Residence life

STEVEN PRESCOTT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Sen. Chandler McKinney introduced Res. No. 9 to address APSU Housing and Residence Life penalties directed towards Greek affiliated students and staff.

The resolution argues that Housing is discriminating against Greek life and states that Resident Assistants and Resident Hall Directors are not able to wear Greek affiliated clothing during events, and students living in halls are not able to represent organizations they are a part of.

Tyler Tubbs is a senior criminal justice major and President of the The Interfraternity Council at APSU.

Tubbs said that he lives off campus now, but has been told by others who are Greek that it is a serious problem that SGA is handling.

"[Housing and Residence Life is] inhibiting the growth of our Greek life because we are not allowed to share it in our housing communities," Tubbs said.

Sen. McKinney hopes that SGA formalizing a statement of this magnitude will lead to policy changes within the department.

"Housing discriminates against Greek life members supporting and promoting Greek life on their own," McKinney said.

According to several current and former Resident Assistants in the department, the consequences range from a reprimand to termination for not enforcing the restrictions.

Stephen Dominy, Coordinator for the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs expressed concern regarding the student reports and pledged to look into the situation with Housing and Residence Life.

"Due to the nature of the resolution, Stephen and the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs has requested additional time to look into the concerns of students," is the department's statement to paper.

According to the department's website, "APSU's Greek chapters work closely with the Office of Student Affairs to create a responsible and safe environment for Greeks and their guests."

McKinney says he feels APSU supports Greek Life "tremendously," but Housing and Residence Life is an exception and is widespread that

Tax Bill passes in Senate, big boost for Trump, GOP

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans muscled the largest tax overhaul in 30 years through the Senate early Saturday, taking a big step toward giving President Donald Trump his first major legislative triumph after months of false starts and frustration on other fronts.

"Just what the country needs to get growing again," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said in an interview after a final burst of negotiation closed in on a nearly \$1.5 trillion package that impacts the breadth of American society.

See GOP on page 2




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SGA
LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION 5
A resolution to send a formal letter to Chartwell's to remove the three meal a day limit on student meal plans
PASSED

RESOLUTION 6
A resolution to send a formal letter to the Physical Plant remove a tree on Hand Court and West Avenue.
TABLED

RESOLUTION 7
A resolution to send a formal letter to the Physical Plant to place more lighting on the right hand sidewalk near Govs Lane.
TABLED

RESOLUTION 8
A resolution to send a formal letter to the Physical Plant to remove the parking spaces on the left and right side of Lot 83 and Marion Street.
TABLED

RESOLUTION 9
A resolution to send a formal letter to APSU Housing and Residence Life to promote Greek Life in residence halls.
TABLED

SGA

Continued from page 1

his Greek residents say they do not participate in Housing activities or programs at all.

McKinney will not be returning to his paid Housing position next semester.

This is not the first time SGA representatives have formalized their constituent’s concerns about inequalities between Housing and Greek affairs with a vote.

Senator Trenton Delane, a member of Kappa Alpha Order, introduced a resolution earlier this year to ask the Parking Committee to intervene and “allow equal opportunity for those living in [Greek] townhouses.”

Delane’s colleague, former Senator Jonathan Bunton said, “I agree that students living in Greek Village should be afforded the same rights as everyone else.”

APSU Housing and Residence Life officials did not respond for comment.

McKinney also introduced three resolutions to the Senate. Res. No. 9 suggests the Physical Plant place additional lighting alongside the road left of the Memorial Health Building and Honors Commons.

Res. No. 6 suggests consideration for a tree removal near Hand Village and Res. No. 7 suggests adjustment to the parking spaces.

SGA also unanimously passed Senator Jeanis’ Res. No. 8 suggesting Chartwell’s remove the three meal a day restriction on campus.

SGA meets at 5 p.m. every Wednesday in MUC Room 305 and are open to the public. More information about SGA can be found at www.apsu.edu/sga/

KWANZAA

Continued from page 1

each candle representing one of the Nguzo Saba (Seven Principles).

The seven principles are Umoja (Unity), Kugichagulia (Self-Determination), Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity) and Imani (Faith).

Each of the seven days corresponds to seven symbols. Mazao are the crops. The gathering of fruits, nuts and vegetables relates to the gathering of people during harvest celebrations. Mkeka is the place mat, made of straw, which represents historical and traditional foundation. Vibunzi, the ear of corn, is for fertility and life. Two vibunzi are called mkeka, and one ear

is placed on the mkeka for each child in the household. Mishumma Saba, are seven candles representing the seven principles. The black candle represents Umoja. This candle is lit first. The three green candles placed on the right of the Umoja candle represent Imani, Nia and Ujima. The three red candles placed on the left of Umoga represent Kugichagulia, Ujamaa and Kuumba. One candle is lit each day. The colors represent the African gods. Red is for the Koruba god of fire, lightning and thunder, Shango. Red also represents the struggles of African people. Green is for the earth, and black is for the people. The Kinara, the candleholder, represents ancestry. The Kikombe Cha Umoja, the Unity Cup, is used for pouring libations for the dead on the sixth day of Kwanzaa. Zawadi, gifts, are given on the seventh day, which represents Imani.

HANUKKAH

Continued from page 1

only enough oil to light the menorah for one night, the menorah burned for eight nights. The people declared a yearly eight-day celebration for the miracle.

Traditions include lighting a

hanukkiah, a nine-branched menorah. A candle is added every night for eight nights, lit by the ninth candle, the shamash (helper).

Blessings are recited during this time. Foods are fried in oil, including latkes (potato pancakes) and sufangiyot (donuts filled with jam). Playing with dreidels and giving gifts is also common.

CHRISTMAS

Continued from page 1

Not all Christians celebrate Christ on December 25. Some, such as the Greek and Russian Orthodox churches, choose to celebrate Three Kings’ Day, or the Feast of Epiphany on January 6. This day celebrates when the three wise men visited Christ.

Early Christmas looked different from

what it looks like today.

It started out as a party holiday marked with drunkenness, decadence, and mischief.

For a few centuries, some denominations rejected the holiday because of this. This changed during the early 1800s, partly because of Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol. Christmas was reimagined into a warm celebration with family and friends, and people began to accept it.

\$1.3 million federal grant awarded to APSU for veterans upward bound



APSU Housing and Residence Life place American Flags in the quad for Veteran's Day. CELESTE MALONE | THE ALL STATE

AALIYAH MITCHELL
MANAGING EDITOR

U.S. Department of Education has awarded a five-year, \$1.3 million U.S. Department of Education TRiO grant to APSU.

The grant has been awarded to open a Veteran’s Upward Bound on campus. This VUB office will serve 125 veterans from Fort Campbell and Houston, Montgomery, Robertson and Stewart counties.

“The purpose of Veteran’s Upward Bound is to assist veterans in reaching their academic goals. The program is designed so that they will be successful no matter where their higher education

pursuits lead them,” director of research and sponsored grants at APSU Brandi Clements said.

The VUB assists low-income and first generation veterans in applying for financial aid and higher education.

The grant APSU has won is one of 55 awarded to an applicant pool of 200 institutions.

“The program provides counselors and mentors to help get these individuals into school, help them with the financial aid process and with tutoring,” APSU grants specialist Kelly Pitts said.

They help them network with the campus community. It’s a connecting resource for everyone.”

GOP

Continued from page 1

He shrugged off polls finding scant public enthusiasm for the measure, saying the legislation would prove its worth. "Big bills are rarely popular," he said. "You remember how unpopular 'Obamacare' was when it passed?"

Trump on Saturday tweeted his thanks to Senate and House Republicans as they now begin trying to reconcile differences in legislation passed by both chambers, a behind-closed-doors process that is expected to move swiftly. Trump is aiming to sign the tax package into law before Christmas. "Biggest Tax Bill and Tax Cuts in history just passed in the Senate," he tweeted inaccurately. The overhaul is significant but far from the largest.

Presiding over the Senate, Vice President Mike Pence announced the 51-49 vote to applause from Republicans. Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., was the only lawmaker to cross party lines, joining the Democrats in opposition. The measure focuses its tax reductions on businesses and higher-earning individuals, gives more modest breaks to others and offers the boldest rewrite of the nation's tax system since 1986.

Republicans said the package would benefit people of all incomes and ignite the economy. Even an official projection of a \$1 trillion, 10-year flood of deeper budget deficits couldn't dissuade GOP senators from rallying behind the bill.

"Obviously I'm kind of a dinosaur on the fiscal issues," said Corker, who battled to keep the bill from worsening the government's accumulated \$20 trillion in IOUs.

The Republican-led House approved a similar bill last month in what has been a stunningly quick trip through Congress for complex legislation. Democrats derided the hastily written, scribbles-in -the-margin crafting of the bill in the final hours Friday night.

After spending the year's first nine months futilely trying to repeal President Barack Obama's health care law, GOP leaders were determined to move the measure rapidly before opposition Democrats and lobbying groups could blow it up. The party views passage as crucial to retaining its House and Senate majorities in next year's elections.

Democrats dismissed the bill as a gift to its wealthy and business backers at the expense of lower-earning people. They played up the fact that the bill would permanently reduce corporate tax rates, from 35 percent to 20 percent, while offering only temporary tax cuts to individuals, lasting until 2026.

Congress' nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation has said the bill's reductions for many families would be modest and by 2027, families earning under \$75,000 would on average face higher, not lower, taxes.

The bill is "removed from the reality of what the American people need," said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. He criticized Republicans for releasing a revised, 479-page bill that no one could absorb shortly before the final vote, saying, "The Senate is descending to a new low of chicanery."

"You really don't read this kind of legislation," Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., told home-state reporters, saying senators focus on the major provisions as opposed to the "mind numbing" comparisons to current law.

Democrats took to the Senate floor and social media to mock one page that included changes scrawled in barely legible handwriting. Later, they won enough GOP support to kill a provision by Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pa., that would have bestowed a tax break on conservative Hillsdale College in Michigan.



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The All State is published every Wednesday of the academic year, except during final exams and holidays. Letters to the Editor should include author’s full name, email and phone number, plus major and class, if applicable. Letters will be checked for authenticity and should be received no later than 4 p.m. on Friday to be considered for publication. Letters may be edited for clarity and content, and should not exceed 300 words. The mission of *The All State* is to empower and engage the campus community and to provide a public forum of knowledge, information and discourse in an accurate, interesting and timely manner. It serves as a voice for the students and is entirely managed and produced by APSU students. *The All State* is not an official publication of Austin Peay State University. The views herein do not necessarily reflect those of *The All State*, APSU or the Tennessee Board of Regents. © 2017.

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PERSPECTIVES

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”
— First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution



Do Not Tax Grads



CELESTE MALONE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
CMALONE13@MY.APSU.EDU

The GOP’s new tax bill has plans to make a college degree even further from reach for many students.

It will make higher education even more difficult to pay for within underrepresented and low-income communities, and even for an average student. That is not fair.

The House passed the bill that intends to turn tuition waivers, or “stipends” into taxable income, increasing what students will owe in taxes each year and decreasing the amount of money received to live on.

Graduate school is tough enough, and something like this happening will add a level of stress to students that should not be there.

The GOP expects students to make money to one day be able to fit into a tax bracket many will not even reach because there are not jobs for many degreed individuals.

Additionally, the bill has the potential to repeal student loan tax credits. Meaning it would remove a tax deduction of up to \$2,500 on student loan interest; another concern for graduate students.

This tax bill is a complete disregard to the idea of what a higher education degree is meant for. A masters or doctoral degree is to further education and create better suited individuals for the workplace, and this bill will see a decline in the quality in the work force.

Additionally, schools will definitely see changes within the administration. There will be budget cuts and an increase of tuition and fees to make up for taxed income.

With these issues, students will be forced to drop out and have their dreams of receiving a degree shattered. They will not be able to formally contribute to the economy as the GOP hopes they will.

Thankfully, the Senate passed the bill without the taxing of graduate students, but the final bill is still up in the air.

America cannot be made great again by making higher education even more difficult to obtain in the long run.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

LACY HUDSON
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH MAJOR

Dear Editor Malone,
There is a major problem across Austin Peay’s campus. As part of a class assignment, I found that most students at Austin Peay feel stressed, and academics, relationships and finances all contribute to the stress.

Long-term stress can negatively impact our immune system, heart and lead to depression (Kubicek, n.d.). The purpose of this letter is to bring awareness to students about stress and to give them resources.

Public health students held a health and wellness event where we educated about stress and shared ways to cope. My group reached out to many students in the University Center and promoted deep breathing techniques, but more importantly told students about free resources in the Ard building weekly.

Many of the students I talked to agreed to being stressed daily. Over a year ago I found myself battling with dark thoughts and had no meaningful relationships, as I was new to town and campus. There were no outlets for me, money was tight and insurance was expensive, so I had no help.

If I was not a public health student

I am positive I would not know about free yoga, meditation, art and the 12 free counseling sessions that are offered on campus. This information should be posted to the news section for students periodically and/or announced in APSU 1000 class. This information could be crucial to some students.

Austin Peay is already concerned with its students’ mental health by creating these free resources, but better promotion can have a major impact.

Knowing about these resources could make a student’s semester better and healthier, just as it did mine.

Thank you for reading. For more information please contact the professor of my class, Dr. Kadi Bliss, via email blissk@apsu.edu or phone (931)-221-6107.

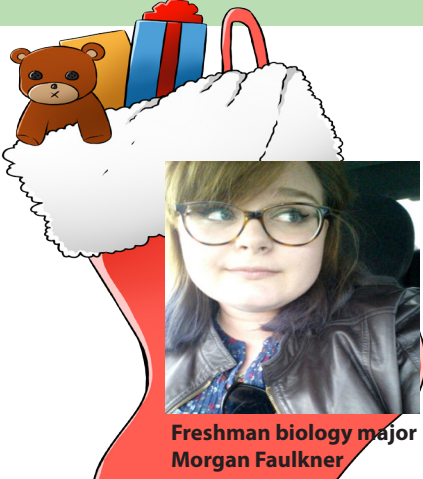
Sincerely,
Lacy Hudson



VIEW MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ONLINE

View Letters to the Editor at www.theallstate.org, under the Perspectives section header.

GOVS ON THE STREET: WHAT ARE YOUR HOLIDAY PLANS THIS YEAR?



Freshman biology major
Morgan Faulkner

“I am Jewish, so I do not celebrate [Christmas]. It is cool I guess. Every Hanukkah, I spend time with my mom in Virginia, and we celebrate the holiday together. It has not changed that much. I get one big present instead of eight intermediate ones. I enjoy making latkes every Hanukkah and going to synagogue with my mother.”



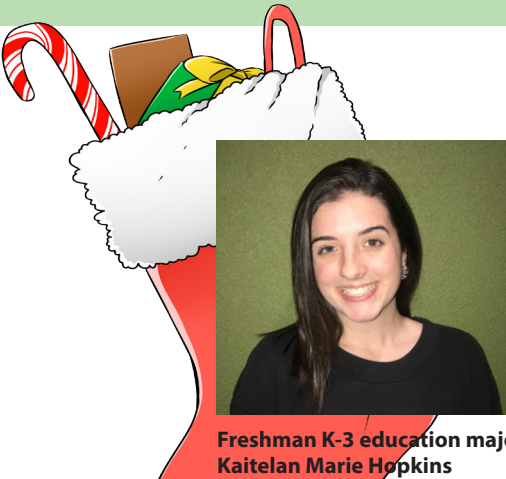
Senior criminal justice major
Bailey Nichole Jones

“I love Christmas time. My ideal Christmas would be spending time with friends and family, playing Secret Santa and eating lots of food. As I have gotten older Christmas is definitely less exciting in terms of presents, but now I look forward to getting socks, unlike when I was a kid. A tradition we do is watch Christmas movies on Christmas Eve and open our presents that night instead of Christmas Day.”



Freshman psychology major
Arnicia Jeane McWhorter

Christmas is my favorite time of year because of the joy that comes with it. As I have gotten older, Christmas no longer is about presents, but more about quality time with important people you care about. The best part about Christmas for me is setting down watching Christmas cartoons and drinking hot chocolate.



Freshman K-3 education major
Kaitelan Marie Hopkins

Christmas puts me in a really good mood because everyone is so happy. I will be spending Christmas in another state because my dad is getting stationed somewhere a week or two before Christmas. As I have gotten older I have realized I do not really need a lot of things and I have realized I enjoy the moment more than the opening of presents.

IMAGE FROM CONTRIBUTING ILLUSTRATORS SAVOIR FAIRE, A.A., AND A.H.

Not so long ago in a galaxy not so far away, a small squadron of philosophers resisted the growing power of the Administrati. When seasoned Jedi philosopher Alberto Rindell was laid low, the Administrati saw their chance to strike a fatal blow...

The Pull of the Dark Side

You summoned, General Tyranus?

Yes, Major Spiderica, it is time to harvest the philosophical energy for our own purposes.

But we benefit from the philosophical pursuit of wisdom.

Philosophy and Religion are passé.

The Administrati are beyond truth and goodness.

Like Nietzschean Supermen?!

Er... more like soulless bureaucrats.

Oh, well...

We must be guided by efficiency not what is good and right.

Interesting. But General, the philosophers have actually been performing as efficiently than our favored divisions.

Major, here's a secret of the Administrati. It is not really efficiency that matters but cultivating an image of efficiency.

Oh, I see, Master!

So it's for us, not the students?!

Yes, Master, yes!

And, when we harvest the life energy from philosophy we can use it for our purposes. Our power will be limitless.

Of course. Are you with me my Apprentice?

EXTRAS

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Use an old phone
- 5 Plastic user's accumulation
- 9 Yon bloke
- 12 Resting
- 13 Neighbor-hood
- 14 Expert
- 15 Shipwreck site
- 16 Ancient Briton
- 17 Say it's OK
- 18 It's right on the map
- 19 Shell game need
- 20 Took the bus
- 21 — canto
- 23 Mainlander's memento
- 25 Flower cluster
- 28 Heckle or Jeckle
- 32 Baking potato
- 33 Any of four that chase Pac-Man
- 34 Aberration
- 36 Last syllable of a word
- 37 Ultra-modernist
- 38 Meadow
- 39 Dressed
- 42 State of matter
- 44 Infamous lyre player

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51					52				53			
54					55				56			

- 48 Fond du —
- 49 Abrupt
- 50 Fed
- 51 Bonfire resi-due
- 52 Soft cheese
- 53 Dryer collec-tion
- 54 "How come?"
- 55 Celeb
- 56 Therefore
- DOWN
- 1 Tragic
- 2 Concept
- 3 Hearty quaffs
- 4 Forgotten, maybe
- 5 Spotted
- horse
- 6 Huron neigh-bor
- 7 Soothe
- 8 Body art, for short
- 9 Good ring?
- 10 On the rocks
- 11 Apportion (out)
- 20 90 degrees
- 22 Overact
- 24 American emblem
- 25 Carnival city
- 26 Throw in
- 27 Scoundrel
- 29 Luau bowlful
- 30 Doctrine
- 31 Greek H
- 35 Dairy-section item
- 36 Overcoat named for a region of Ireland
- 39 Talon
- 40 Whip
- 41 Sore
- 43 Bocelli show-stopper
- 45 Eastern bigwig
- 46 Pealed
- 47 Aware of
- 49 Letterman's employer

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Tre' Ivory takes the ball down the court. BENJAMIN LITTLE | THE ALL STATE

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bot-tom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	×		+		16
+		+		−	
	×		+		20
+		+		×	
	×		−		19
7		23		15	

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 2 4 4 5 6 7 8 9

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10:00am | Grace Worship Center
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
5:00pm | Grace Worship Center

For questions or more information, contact
JASON ALLISON | jason.allison@fbct.org
First Baptist Clarksville University Pastor

SUNDAYS @FBCT

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College Connect Groups	9:45am
Contemporary Worship	11:00am
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FEATURES

Christmas comes to campus



Concert hall hosts Christmas concert

DOMINIC GONZALEZ
STAFF WRITER

Christmas came early to APSU with While Shepherds Watched by David Steinquest & Friends. Spectacle, music, ambiance, humor and pure unadulterated talent characterized the program taking place in the George and Shannon Mabry Concert Hall. The show enticed APSU students, family and friends of past audience members with convenient access to the event through positive word of mouth.

The Christmas concert, which started in 2010 with the intention of bringing different schools together, later became a more intimate event where professor of percussion David Steinquest, conductor of the Percussion Ensemble and Jazz Combo, made collaborative music with loved ones and friends.

“I would do this alone because it is fun,” Steinquest said. “Now, performing with great people you love only makes it better.”

This year’s concert proved to be more difficult than in previous years, since the band and the percussion ensemble had not met and played together in a while due to “convoluted” scheduling. Instead, they met the day before, and practiced the day of the show.

“While Shepherds Watched” started at APSU in 2010, bringing friends and family together under the familiarity of Christmas songs. The performances bring many different schools together besides APSU. Many of the show’s songs originated on an album available for purchase. TAYLOR HARRELL | THE ALL STATE

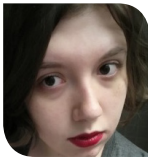
See CHRISTMAS on page 5

Christmas on a college budget: How?

<h3>GROUPON</h3> <p>Things are just too high priced? Check out Groupon and other coupons found searching online for codes. They have ranges from food to clothing stores and more.</p>	<h3>SHOP ONLINE</h3> <p>Online shopping is a great key strategy. Check out Amazon.com for low holiday prices.</p> <p>If you need funds for a Christmas party dinner, you and your family could get discounts on pizzas like Papa Johns. Copying and pasting codes from sites and checking promo codes is a good tactic.</p>	<h3>ART SUPPLIES</h3> <p>If it is crafts or art supplies you are looking for, Hobby Lobby has coupons available daily for 40 percent off one item in your purchases. It is available in stores if you show a cashier the coupon on a phone or print it out to be scanned.</p>	<h3>CHECK FOR DISCOUNTS ONLINE</h3> <p>Check out some of your favorite stores’ websites because most have great discounts not found in stores. It could range from coupons to huge blowout discounts. Christmas usually opens up a lot of deals.</p>
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Top 5: movies for the holidays

Enjoy the holidays with these five films, each with their ups and downs



JUNO VON PALKO

STAFF WRITER
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#5: Elf

Objectively, I would not say Elf is a great film, and had this been given to different writers, I would be more critical of it. Most of the characters are not that interesting, the supporting actors' performances are diminutive, and the film can be very cheesy and cliché at times. Not only that, but I am not the biggest fan of Will Ferrell's comedy. I always found it to be more obnoxious than endearing.

Interestingly enough, though, both Will Ferrell's character and performance save this film. It would have been easy to phone in a delivery that seems condescendingly sweet; but rather than act like an adult pretending to be amazed by the world around him, he exhibits the kind of innocence a child does. Yes, he is loud and annoying at times, but at the same time, his character does not know any better, and when he messes up, he does try to make up for it. I think what also makes his performance charming is that it allows the viewer to let go of their pretense and enjoy the childlike charm of Christmas. Again, had this been given to different writers or another lead actor, this would have probably been a horror film rather than a Christmas classic. However, if

you want to check this movie out, it is worth it for Will Ferrell's performance alone.

#4: National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation

Whereas Elf was an idealistic Christmas film, National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation is a cynical Christmas romp from start to finish. A lot of Christmas films thrive off of nostalgia and good will, but Christmas Vacation combines the novelty of the holiday with the stressful elements most people find relatable.

It captures small details most people relate to during the holidays (watching Christmas specials on TV, dreading the chaos that comes with family gatherings and others) with sardonic humor and honesty.

Similarly to Elf, Chevy Chase's performance helps make up for the film's biggest obstacle: making a character like Clark Griswold likable. At times during the film, it is tough to sympathize with him given how he treats his family and acquaintances. However, what makes him a relatable character is the source of his frustration. All he wants is to give his family a great Christmas, and he worries about letting them down. However, despite the insanity they all go through, what matters is they remain a family. National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation captured the frustrations of the holiday season, but never forgot to include a lot of heart.

#3: Miracle on 34th Street

Miracle on 34th Street exudes Christmas in every frame, and at its heart, the film relies on its portrayal of Santa Claus. Humanizing such an immortal figure of holidays can be relatively risky, as it risks jeopardizing the magic. However, both the writing and Edmund Gwenn's Academy Award-winning performance make it work. Kris Kringle is optimistic, but he is also sophisticated. He is extremely kind, but is pushed to a breaking point when needed. He can give up when things look bleak, but he can get back on his feet when needed. Edmund Gwenn, along with strong accompanying performances (mainly from a young Natalie Wood as a precocious girl charmed by Kris's ways), not only define a great film, but the face of Kris Kringle himself.

#2: A Christmas Story

A Christmas Story is similar to National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation in that it captures both the beauty and annoyance of the season. However, what makes this film especially nostalgic is how the narrative looks at the self-centered and materialistic side of our youth without losing sight of the innocence and joy felt during Christmastime. Ralphie is delightfully bratty at times, and his family is also very nutty in their own right. They are all immensely likable and funny, exhibiting many identifiable traits. The best scene is right before the credits. After the insanity this family has gone through, seeing the parents enjoying the Christmas tree and the children

clinging to their favorite gifts in their sleep perfectly sums up the holidays. A Christmas Story is a fun portal into an adult's childhood memories with timeless sentimentality.

#1: It's A Wonderful Life

Admittedly, I was not going to include this film on the list. I always viewed It's a Wonderful Life as a film about a man's life and the impact he makes on others' lives rather than a Christmas film. However, the more I thought about it, just because Christmas is not a significant background until the second act, the atmosphere and message of the film radiate a feeling that is synonymous with Christmas: the desire to celebrate all that is good in the world. A lot of people want to celebrate the holidays as early as possible, and while this is annoying, there is a hidden sadness, as well.

Throughout the year, so many of us feel beaten down by all that happens in the world, and it feels as though no matter what good we do, it never does anything.

However, this film shows us that our actions have a greater impact on others than we realize, and no matter what, we should not stop being good people just because things are currently bad. Rather than force the holiday spirit onto ourselves, we should embody the message of goodwill and hospitality all year round.

With a well-written story, unabashed sentiment, and a remarkable performance from James Stewart, It is a Wonderful Life is a Christmas classic that reminds us to cherish our life for years to come.



This year's concert provided an extra challenge: performers had difficulty meeting up for practices, so the members had to practice the day of the performance to prepare. TAYLOR HARRELL | THE ALL STATE

CHRISTMAS

Continued from page 5

The average audience member would not know this however, as the two forced blends in a succinct fashion.

"We inadvertently prepared the percussion ensemble full of students for the real world," Steinquest said. "When making music, not everyone is available all the time."

A lot of the music performed in the concert was exclusive because it came from the Christmas album titled "While Shepards Watched." All the music from the album was featured during the show, peppered with the Christmas classics we know and love.

"We featured all our songs because if you like what you hear, you know what you are buying" Steinquest said. "If you hate what you hear, you will not waste your money."

The song writing process for both David and Allison Steinquest comes naturally, with David being more proficient with percussion and Allison providing the vocals.

The duo remarked that their Christmas album promoted at the concert was not

meant to happen, but was birthed out of fortunate circumstances where one thing led to another.

"We live 45 minutes away from campus," Allison Steinquest said. "There is plenty of time to brainstorm and get inspired during the drive."

The Steinquests are not the only ones who sacrificed an ample amount of gas to come visit the show. Mike and Cynthia Newman drove from Memphis, Tennessee, to attend the concert.

The show was recommended two years ago by another family whose son was in the APSU percussion ensemble, and they have been coming since.

"Not only is this affordable for us, we just have a blast," Cynthia Newman said. "The energy in the room is worth the trip."

It is the positive word of mouth that has propelled the Christmas concert to being what it is today. Very few APSU students can be spotted alone in the audience. Instead, they come with friends and family who also bring their friends.

"[This show kicks] off Christmas for so many people," Allison Steinquest said. "To have such a following as we do today is worth the entire year it took to make the album."

Nashville musician focuses on songs

Chris Stapleton's bold but simple plan: to put music first in performances

KRISTIN HALL
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — These last few years, Chris Stapleton is often surprised by early-morning texts of congratulations from his friends. Take, for instance, last week, when the Grammy Award nominations were announced.

"That's how I usually find out. People go 'Congratulations' and I go 'What for?'" Stapleton said. He eventually discovered that he was nominated for three awards, including best country album, best country song and best country solo performance. "That's usually what happens to me because I usually don't know what's going on."

Since his sensational debut solo album, "Traveller," was released in 2015, he's won two Grammy Awards and scores of Country Music Association and Academy of Country Music Awards. The album continued to dominate the country album sales chart this year and has been certified double platinum.

He released two new albums this year — the Grammy-nominated "From A Room: Volume 1," which came out in May,

and "From A Room: Volume 2," which came out Dec. 1.

His success lies in his bold simplicity: His recordings are cut live in the studio with his band; his wife, Morgane, sings harmony; and his producer is Dave Cobb. Stapleton isn't verbose and neither are his lyrics, so it's no surprise that everyone from Adele to Luke Bryan has recorded his songs. "Either Way," which is nominated for best country solo performance, is literally his voice and a guitar.

"I think simple is harder to do than making overly complicated things," Stapleton said. "Much in the way that I think lyrically in songwriting less words can mean more, the same can be true of music. If you can, for lack of a better term, sell a song without putting in extraneous instrumentation ... then that's what serves the song the best."

His touring is an extension of the idea of putting the music first. On his arena tour this year, he plays on a stage shaped like a half-circle band shell with lights. "While it looks like some science fiction piece, it's a giant diffuser that controls

frequency and stage volume," Stapleton explains.

He doesn't use in-ear monitors, those ear buds that allow artists to hear the music, preferring monitors placed on the stage; the stage allows him to better project his music to the seats in the back of the arena.

"I am not trying to make the biggest, most elaborate, pyrotechnic show," Stapleton said. "I am trying to make the show that sounds the best, or best represents what we do onstage. It's all from a sound perspective for me and then the visual has to fall in line."

Singer-songwriter Kendall Marvel met Stapleton 15 years ago, back when the Kentucky-bred Stapleton was a clean-shaven new songwriter with a short, flattop haircut. They have written some 60 songs together, including songs cut by Blake Shelton, Lee Ann Womack and Josh Turner.

Marvel, who co-wrote "Either Way" as well as two other songs on Stapleton's "From A Room: Volume 2," said the husband-and-wife harmony is key to their music. Morgane Stapleton, who is also a songwriter, adds just the right touch of sweetness and softness to his volume and range.

"When you take her out of the equation, he would not be Chris Stapleton," Marvel said. "She is to him and his guitar playing

"I am not trying to make the biggest, most elaborate, pyrotechnic show. I am trying to make the show that sounds the best [...]."

CHRIS STAPLETON
GRAMMY AWARD WINNER

what harmonica player Mickey Raphael is to Willie Nelson."

Stapleton gives a lot of credit to his wife for knowing all the songs in his catalog and picking songs that fans can connect to, like "Broken Halos," another Grammy-nominated song.

That song, which talks about not always understanding why loss happens, has become a tender, comforting moment for many fans, especially after the mass shooting at a country music festival in Las Vegas earlier this year. Stapleton said he wants his fans to attach meaning to his songs that he didn't always intend when he wrote them.

"I want them to have ownership in it because they do," Stapleton said. "The songs don't really mean as much without them and without people listening to them and investing in them."

SPORTS

FAMILY AFFAIR

A look inside Kentel William’s personal pregame ritual

NOAH HOUCK
SPORTS EDITOR

Every athlete has their specific way to prepare for a game. Sometimes they might play a song that puts them in the zone, other times it is a quote or picture taped to the back of their locker that reminds them what they are working for.

For APSU’s Kentel Williams, he calls his mom.

Williams began playing football when he was four. Surrounded by sports since he was little, he always has had the outlet available that athletics provides. However, due to situations beyond their control, his family did not always get to experience it with him.

Williams’s mom spends her weekends working as an U.S. Cellular Call Center representative, making the 226-mile trek to Fortera Stadium a tough road to travel. Due to the pressure of providing for her two sons, the single mother rarely gets to see her youngest child play the sport he loves.

However, the Friday night lights battles and college football Saturdays almost did not happen for Williams.

“I missed a year around 8-years-old since I was not doing good in school,” Williams said. “I had to choose to change my surroundings and change my friends in order to get where I want to be.” As a young kid, Williams made big changes to follow his dream of being a professional athlete his mom was always in his corner.

Fast forward a few years, and Williams had become one the big players on the Knoxville Fulton football team. The Falcons are a six-time state championship team. During the APSU sophomore’s career at Fulton, the Falcons won three consecutive state championships with Williams playing in two of them.

“It is always been my dream to play in big games like that,” Williams said, “I try to give my all in those big games like that.”

In the wake of becoming the state champions a high school sophomore in Williams knew what exactly to do.

“I called my mom,” Williams said.

That celebration would become a mainstay focus regimen as the now collegiate running back made a transition to playing on Saturday afternoons away from home.

When Williams sits in his locker before a game he makes sure to always call his mom, and despite her busy work schedule, she is always ready to answer.

“When I talk to my mom before the game she is making sure I am focused,” Williams said with a laugh. “She tells me to go do what I can, help my team and keep a cool head.”

Williams is close with his mom. Growing up in Knoxville, Williams looked up to two people for guidance, his mom and his brother. His father was in and out of jail.

“I looked up to my older brother,” Williams said, “I was always around him, so he was a role model to me.”

For the young boy playing on Knoxville city streets, his mom has always represented one thing to him: strength.

“My mom had my brother when she was young, then she had me and we were not the wealthiest family,” Williams said. “I looked at my mom to find strength and to get past adversity.”

“My mom showed me how to keep composure and to keep going, even when facing the tough situations, we were in,” Williams said.

Williams’s mom barely gets the opportunity to see him play at APSU, but when he played basketball at Fulton she was in the stands at every opportunity she had available.

“If it was a close game she would be moving around yelling at the coaches, yelling at me and yelling at the other players,” Williams reflected.

On Saturday, Sept. 16, William’s mom got the opportunity to see her son play in red and white. Williams averaged over 25 yards a carry on eight carries as the Gobs snapped the longest active losing streak in the nation with a 69-13 win over Morehead State.

Following Williams’s record breaking performance, his mom told him how proud she was of how far he has come, and what he has accomplished.

“My mom has always been my motivation,” Williams said, “knowing my situation growing up and seeing how she worked hard, I have always used her as my motivation.”

For William’s life his mother had stood behind him and supported him. Even when money was tight and adversity seemed to great, she found ways to support her sons. For Williams that has meant the world, and he knows how he would want to thank her.

“I want to buy her a house,” Williams said. “We have been through so much I just want to buy her a house.”

Williams finished his sophomore season at APSU with 674 yards and two touchdowns. The soon-to-be-junior is still chasing his childhood playground dream. One, to be a professional athlete, and the other, to provide for his mom.



“I want to buy my mom a house. We have been through so much I want to buy her a house.”

KENTEL WILLIAMS
RUNNING BACK, 5

Women’s Basketball win streak hits 6



Bri Williams prepares to play defense during APSU’s 97-61 win over University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff on Wednesday Nov. 29. BRYAN SMITH | THE ALL STATE

RILEY GRUBBS
STAFF WRITER

Arkansas-Pine Bluff

APSU Women’s Basketball improved to 5-1 on the season Wednesday night knocking off the Arkansas Pine-Bluff Golden Lions by a score of 97-61. The Govs utilized a stifling press defense recording nine steals on the night which also lead to 21 Lion turnovers. APSU came out firing on all cylinders from the opening tip-off. The Govs jumped out to a 27-12 lead at the end of the first quarter. Freshman Brianah Ferby scored 11 in the first quarter to assist the Govs’ large lead. APSU used the first quarter momentum to help propel them the rest of the evening. Junior Keisha Gregory scored nine points in the second quarter. The home team found a way to score 15 points off of turnovers in the first half of the game. The turnover advantage

helped the Govs to a 50-24 halftime lead. The Ferby sisters came out hot to start the third quarter shooting 4-for-4 from 3-point range. The outside shooting helped to open up the interior offense. The Govs scored a season high 30 points in the third quarter. The Govs slowed down the pace a bit in the last quarter as subs were able to check into the game. APSU’s bench counted for 15 of the 17 points in the closing quarter. Brianah Ferby lead the Governors in scoring with 17 total points and three rebounds. Ferby was followed by Gregory who posted double-digits for the fourth straight game with 15 points. Gregory finished with five total rebounds leading the team. The win put APSU at 4-0 at home.

Evansville

The Govs earned their sixth straight victory on Saturday, Dec. 2, holding off the Evansville Purple Aces 82-73. This is the teams first six game winning streak in 13 seasons. The Govs remain undefeated at home with a perfect record of 4-0. The Govs shot 40 percent as a team, with Brianah Ferby leading the team with 17 points. Keisha Gregory followed with 12 points and Fallon Baker with 11. The first quarter saw a battle between the two teams. APSU came out with an aggressive mindset, while the Aces came out swinging with a long range barrage of shots. Brianne Alexander dominated the game under the basket in the first quarter shooting three for five. The Aces shot four for five from three-point range in the first. The Govs found themselves down 23-20 at the end of the first quarter. The Govs stiffened up on defense in the second quarter forcing six turnovers and holding the Aces to just 11 points. The

blistering press defense was too much for Evansville as their field goal percentage dropped from nearly 70 percent to 27. The Govs jumped out in front to a 35-34 lead at the half. The game truly started to open up for the Govs in the second half when they outscored the Aces 23-11. The Govs turned to the three ball shooting almost 50 percent from three in the second half. Ferby and Gregory combined for 13 points in the third quarter which lead the Govs to a 13 point lead at the end of three. Evansville tried to storm back in the fourth quarter, outscoring the Govs 28-24, but it was too little too late. The Govs relied heavily on Brianne Alexander to hold down the post in the fourth. The senior finished with five points in the fourth quarter. The Govs move to 6-1 on the season and look to continue the early season success on Tuesday, Dec. 5 when they travel to do battle with Northern Kentucky.

Basketball tops Alabama A&M

RILEY GRUBBS
STAFF WRITER

The Govs hosted the winless Alabama A&M Bulldogs on Dec. 2 where they came out victorious 67 to 47. The team hit the 0.500 mark at a 4-4 record while also gaining their best start at home since the 2014 season. The Govs’ defense was vicious allowing only 47 points and holding the opposition to 36 percent shooting. The Govs came away with nine steals and helped force 26 turnovers. Averyl Ugba and Steve Harris lead the charge on offense for the Govs with 15 points each. Terry Taylor finished the game with 13 rebounds helping edge APSU past the Bulldogs in that category by a way of 39-32. Taylor also contributed five points.

APSU fell down 12-9 early in the game but after that momentum swung for the rest of the game. APSU eventually struck out to a 12-1 run, not allowing a field goal for almost 12 minutes. The Govs punished the Bulldogs in the first half taking a 32-20 lead at halftime. The second half saw APSU’s defensive intensity increase when they held the Bulldogs to 10 points in the first 12 minutes of the second half. During that span APSU scored 36 to blow the game wide open. Steve Harris was a major part of the run, coming off the bench and aiding the barrage. Ugba was able to score 10 of his 15 during the run. The Govs will now try to jump above the 0.500 mark for the first time this season when they travel to Illinois to battle the Fighting Illini on Dec. 6.

Volleyball falls away at UCLA

ALLY WILLIAMS
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The Govs traveled to Los Angeles for the first round of the NCAA Division I Volleyball Championship. APSU found a three-set season ending loss against UCLA on Saturday, Dec. 3 (25-10, 25-13, 25-15). According to letsgopeay.com, the Govs, who have only appeared in the tournament once before, had difficulty with the UCLA offense, who opened the match with eight points. APSU tried to bounce back in the second set, but the Bruins used another 9-point run to once again pull away from the Govs. The Govs truly fought hard in the third set. APSU forced five ties and two lead changes early. APSU also took the lead twice; however, UCLA came back with three straight kills and five straight aces later in the set to steal the win from APSU. Although the Govs lost this match, Senior Ashley Slay closed out her time as Govs with multiple records. Slay has the most blocks in NCAA tournament play by any Gov, and Slay also pasted Kim Smith for career blocks with 349. Slay also became only the second blocker in APSU history to have two 100-block seasons back-to-back.



Govs Games

MEN’S BASKETBALL

at Illinois
Champaign, Illinois
Wednesday, Dec. 6, 7 p.m.
Watch on Big10 Network

at Evansville
Evansville, Indiana
Saturday, Dec. 16, 3 p.m.

vs. Troy
Clarksville, Tennessee
Tuesday, Dec. 19, 7 p.m.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

vs. Western Illinois
Clarksville, Tennessee
Saturday, Dec. 9, 2 p.m.

at Illinois
Champaign, Illinois
Saturday, Dec. 16, 2 p.m.



APSU YEAR in Review



SATURDAY, AUG. 26
Volleyball makes statement toping SEC opponent Mizzou 3-2.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 2
Volleyball’s 3-0 weekend wins them the UAB Invitational. Their first tournament win of the season.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 16
Volleyball wins Jax Classic following 3-0 weekend in Jacksonville, Florida .
&
Football shatters the nation’s longest active losing streak behind a 69-13 win over Morehead State.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 22
Volleyball wins first OVC game of the year with 3-2 victory over SIUE

SATURDAY, SEPT. 23
Football takes down rivals Murray for first win over MSU since 2014, and first round win since 2010.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 24
Soccer’s 2-0 win over EIU gives APSU first undefeated weekend since Sept. 2010.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 30
Football shutouts UTM 7-0 or first shutout since 2004, and first three game win streak since 1986.

SATURDAY, OCT. 21
Football wins on Homecoming, 38-31 vs. SEMO

FRIDAY, OCT. 27
Soccer season ends with 2-1 loss to SEMO in the OVC Tournament.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 8
Soccer Head Coach Kelley Guth announces resignation.

SATURDAY, NOV. 18
Volleyball beats rivals Murray State 3-2 to win the OVC Tournament Championship.
&
Football beats Eastern Illinois 28-13 to finish second in the OVC.