

VOLUME 85

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17, 2016

ISSUE 19



BY WILL FISHER

Staff Writer

President Alisa White unveiled a new vision for building and growth at APSU during a press conference held Wednesday, Feb. 10.

The university's new vision is to grow substantially outwards across College Street over the next two decades, adding buildings, stores and possibly a new stadium to APSU.

The first step to completing the new vision is APSU's recent purchase of the Jenkins and Wynne property located along both sides of College Street.

and Administration Mitch Robinson announced the Jenkins and Wynne property would be transformed into parking for students, faculty and staff soon after the lots are transferred to APSU. The school then plans to examine the property to find a suitable long-term use for the land.

The Jenkins and Wynne Dealership allowed APSU to have the right of first refusal for the 11-acre property and the university ultimately paid \$8.8 million for it according to Robinson. The lots house five buildings, which total about 90,000 square feet, and the majority of the property is used for car display. Robinson said he predicts the university will be

able to take control of the buildings as soon as April or early May 2016.

Don Jenkins, CEO of Jenkins and Wynne, stated his reasons for negotiating with APSU.

"I think APSU has always been a jewel for Clarksville," Jenkins said. "Part of having property in downtown is being a good steward of what you have, and the best use of the property would be for APSU to have it."

At the press conference, White discussed the future growth of APSU and explained the conceptual art depicting new buildings along College

SEE VISION PAGE NO. 2

"I think APSU has always been a jewel for Clarksville. Part of having property in downtown is being a good steward of what you have, and the best use of the property would be for APSU to have it."

-Don Jenkins, **CEO of Jenkins and Wynne**

of all trades

BY GLAVINE DAY **Sports Editor**

Alex Robles is not a typical baseball player. He is not only a

starting pitcher, but he has started a game in every infield position and has a career batting average of .339. He is the only two-way player in OVC history to earn a spot on the All-OVC team in two positions.

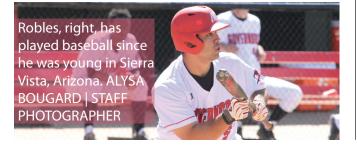
Robles was born in Mexico and moved to the U.S. around the age of 4. He originally moved to Sierra Vista, Arizona, but moved to Tuscon, Arizona, around the fifth

At an early age, baseball was already in the works. Robles and his family packed up and moved to Tuscon, Arizona, to move into a better school district for high school baseball.

Robles's father and both of his grandfathers played baseball, so taking it up was never a question.

"It kind of ran down with our family," Robles said. "Even my mom played softball, so I was always around it."

SEE ALEX ROBLES PAGE NO. 7



Robles is jack | Alvarez: 'That's not fair'

SGA to potentially recommend tuition equality

BY SEAN MCCULLY **News Editor**

The Student Government Association will potentially recommend the implementation of tuition equality for students who are undocumented Tennessee residents in accordance with Resolution No. 23.

Sen. Jay Alvarez authored Resolution No. 23 and presented it at the Wednesday, Feb. 10, SGA meeting. Alvarez said he formed this legislation after discussion with the political science department.

"There are students here who have lived [in Tennessee] for 15 or 16 years of their life who were not specifically born in the U.S. that have to pay out-of-state tuition in a state that they've lived most of

their life in," Alvarez said. Alvarez said this resolution is especially important because of the recent 250R plan APSU implemented which gives students within a 250 mile radius in-state tuition.

"It's so unfair to have a student who hasn't even lived here to be able to get in-state tuition and people who have lived here for pretty much their whole lives can't get it," Alvarez said. "That's not fair."

Alvarez said members of the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC) helped him with the idea for the bill.

TIRRC is "a coalition of immigrants, refugees and allies working to lift up fundamental American freedoms and human



Jay Alvarez, center, proposed Resolution No. 23 at the Wednesday, Feb. 10, SGA meeting. LEANN ENDSLEY SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

rights and build a strong, welcoming and inclusive Tennessee," according to their website.

Statewide Youth Organizer for TIRRC Cesar Bautista visited APSU on Nov. 2, 2015, to host a discussion on whether or not undocumented Tennessee residents should be eligible for instate tuition.

Bautista said one of the reasons why tuition equality is needed is because of how difficult it is to become a citizen in the U.S.

"Each country requires you to have certain requirements in order

SEE SGA PAGE NO. 2



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VISION

PAGE NO. 1

Street.

"[The photos] describe what our aspirational vision is," White said. "Now are we going to end up with something that looks like what exactly is on those pictures? No, because we have not gone through that master planning process yet," White said.

The main purpose for releasing the images is to inspire investors to put money towards the project.

Vice President for Advancement, Communication and Strategic Initiatives Derek Van Der Merwe and Executive Director of Giving and Advancement Kris Phillips will be in charge of the fundraising and investment efforts for the project.

The vision APSU revealed focuses on how different the university and

student life will be by the time of the project's completion. Students and the community would enjoy more integration with one another, blending the edges of the university with shopping, entertainment and food for the benefit of the community.

There is currently no defined longterm plan to direct the growth and the pictures presented at the conference are only placeholders.

APSU will need a year to update its

current Campus Facilities Master Plan in order to incorporate future possibilities for the acquired property.

One possible use for the land is to convert one of the dealership buildings into a gallery to house APSU's folk art collection. In a press release published by APSU, the collection is reported to "[include] 42 folk art carvings, paintings and drawings" in addition to "several sculptures by William Edmondson." TAS

SGA PAGE NO. 1

to apply," Bautista said. "The line is beyond 15 years to wait and that's not even a guarantee."

A bill similar to Alvarez's recently failed in the Tennessee General Assembly in April 2015 with a 49-47 vote. This bill would make undocumented U.S. residents eligible for in-state tuition at Tennessee Board of Regents and University of Tennessee schools.

Alvarez's resolution will be debated at the next SGA meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 17. SGA also confirmed new Sen. Lamarcus Day.

Day is one of four senators from the College of Behavioral and Health Science, alongside Sens. Glenna Beaty, Blaine Gundersen and Julia Matthews.

Sen. Jordan Kent also presented Act No. 9 which would fix an issue with the wording of the SGA Standing Rules.

Currently, the standing rules are ambiguous in the number of absences members of the Executive Council are allowed per semester.

Act No. 9 and Resolution No. 23 will both be debated at the next SGA meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 17, at 4 p.m. in the Morgan University Center room 307. 765



RESOLUTION NO. 23

Jay Alvarez

Send a letter to APSU President Alisa White recommending tuition equality

N/A

ACT NO. 9

Jordan Kent

Fix wording issue in SGA Standing Rules

N/A

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CAMPUS BRIEFS

BY MEGAN OLIVER Staff Writer

WNDAACC hires Maddox as interim director

The Wilbur N. Daniel African American Cultural Center (WNDAACC) has named Kenneth Maddox, an APSU alumni, as its interim director.

Maddox will be standing in for the previous Director of the WNDAACC Henderson Hill who left APSU for the University of Toledo in December 2015.

A Nashville native, Maddox has previously worked for APSU as assistant director of housing and residence life.

Maddox also served as interim director of the WNDAACC from 2001 to 2006.

Maddox then moved to the private sector from 2006 to 2010 serving as director of residential life and housing at Alabama A&M.

"To be able to come back home and help the students of my alma mater is a really fantastic opportunity," Maddox said. "I know how great a place APSU is, and I know that I was so glad that I chose this place as a student."

A national search for Hill's permanent replacement is currently underway.

Clarksville-Montgomery County School Counselors honored at APSU event

In honor of school counselors in the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System APSU'S department of psychological science and counseling's School Counseling Program sponsored an evening of dinner, awards and professional development earlier this month.

"Much of the success of our school counseling program is a result of the vital role CMCSS school counselors play in providing on-site training and supervision to our students during their practicum and internship experiences," the event coordinator Deborah Buchanan said.

Thirty-five school counselors and APSU school counseling students attended the event.

The 2016 School
Counselor of the Year was
Kim Cherry of Oakland
Elementary School.
Oakland Elementary

School Principal Cindy Adams said Cherry was "selfless" and a "model person."

"Kim Cherry is the model example of a person who thinks of others' needs while continuously, and selflessly giving back to her school's children and community," Adams said.

APSU names McCrary as director of disability services

APSU has named Jamie McCrary as the new director of disability services.

McCrary previously served as a master rehabilitation counselor at the Tennessee Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (Voc Rehab).

During his time at Voc Rehab, McCrary served approximately 130 clients with disabilities by assisting them in determining employment outcomes, according to the APSU website.

McCrary holds a Master of Science degree in professional counseling from the University of Houston-Clear Lake, and a Bachelor of Science from Florida State University (FSU).

He also served as a mentor coordinator for the America Reads Program at FSU and as a camp director at the North Florida Rotary Youth Camp for Special Needs, Inc.

APSU names Philips as director of University Advancement

APSU named Kristopher Philips, an APSU alumnus and nationally recognized advancement professional, as executive director of APSU's Office of University Advancement.

Phillips previously served APSU as an admissions counselor, an admissions manager, assistant director of development and director of alumni and annual giving.

Phillips succeeds Roy Gregory, who held the position until his retirement in June 2015.

"I am truly excited to be coming home; APSU has always had a special place in my heart," Philips said concerning his new position at APSU. "To be able to go out and raise support for a place that has meant so much to me and my family is a great privilege and humbling honor." TAS

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2/9/16 - 1:15 a.m. Closed

SIMPLE POSSESSION

Blount Hall 2/8/16 - 9:37 p.m. Report

SIMPLE POSSESSION

Blount Hall 2/8/16 - 9:11 p.m. Report

ASSAULT

Blount Hall

2/4/16 - 9:30 p.m.

Report

THE OSCAR GOES TO...A WHITE PERSON

Academy takes heat for only nominating white actors, but critics overlook other nominees

Academu

Oscars systemically racist, intentionally or not

BY SHELBY WATSON

Assistant Perspectives Editor

Viewers tuning in to The Academy Awards on Feb. 28 will not be seeing director Spike Lee or actress Jada Pinkett Smith in attendance. The African-American stars have taken to Twitter, stating they are boycotting the Oscars this year following the nomination announcements, citing the lack of color in all of the categories.

The hashtag #OscarsSoWhite emerged on Twitter following the Oscar nominations going live on Jan. 14.

For the second year in a row, all the actor nominees are white people.

"[H]ow is it possible for the second consecutive year all 20 contenders in the acting category are all white?" Lee asked on his Instagram. "As I see it, the Academy Awards is not where the 'real' battle is," Lee said. "It's in the executive office of the Hollywood studios and TV and cable networks. This is where the gate keepers decide what gets made and what gets jettisoned to 'turnaround' or [the]

scrap heap."

presented since Lee brings up a heavy topic in Hollywood: institutionalized racism. The all-white categories are not from a lack of African-American actors in film this year, but from a seemingly unfair bias

Movies such as "Straight Outta Compton," "Creed" and "Concussion" among others came out this year, celebrating a revolution of culture that has only been ignored by the Academy.

"For the two black movies that made over \$100 million at the box office, touched a nerve and are artistically fresh, only white people were nominated. How does that work?" asked producer and academy member Stephanie Allain about "Compton" and "Creed."

To date, only 44 African-Americans have been nominated for Oscars and only 32 have won out of the total 2,947 Oscars given out since 1953.

The Academy has failed to capture the image of Hollywood in 2015. Whether it was intended as a political message or not, the lack of black films and actors up for nomination cannot go ignored in the midst of the #BlackLivesMatter movement, which is on its way to becoming the most important social movement in recent history.

The Academy suggests that these movements don't matter and these movies aren't culturally significant.

These films are a slice of history and depict the way a generation has fought but are being dismissed in favor of book adaptations and remakes.

Lee finished his Instagram post with a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, "There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must take it because conscience tells him it's right." TAS

Black films simply not quality enough this year

BY COURTNEY GAITHER

Features Editor

The latest hashtag, #Oscarssowhite, has been blowing up social media since the Academy released its nominations for 2016. Though this statement is politically correct as far as the nominees go, the question to be asked is, why are the #Oscarssowhite?

On oscars.org's home page under the Oscars tab, a list of rules and eligibility for each film is presented. The very first rule on the page is, "Academy Awards of Merit shall be given annually to honor outstanding artistic

> and scientific achievements in theatrically released featurelength motion pictures, and to honor other achievements as provided for in these rules and approved by the Board of Governors."

Not only does this rule apply for all movies nominated, each Oscar nomination must contain a certain je na sais quoi, for lack of a better term, and as harsh as it sounds, the 2016 qualification period did not produce enough quality movies starring black actors, producers or directors to fit the bill.

Having seen all of the qualifying movies in the Best Picture category and "Straight out of Compton" and "Creed," I can say neither of them were better than the nominations. Each movie had great plot lines and overall well written scripts, but lacked the artistic aspect that the other qualifying movies had.

The audacity does not lie in the fact that no black actors, producers or directors were nominated for a majority of awards but that white people were nominated for primarily black casted movies.

"Straight out of Compton" placed in the Best Writing (original screenplay) category; however, Jonathan Herman, Andrea Berloff, S. Leigh Savidge and Alan Wenkus are all white.

The Oscars are more than just Best Actor/ Actress and Best Picture. Original Song and Academy Honorary Award are two categories that have nominated black people: The Weekend, Ahmad Balshe and Jason Daheala and Director Spike Lee, respectively.

There are several other non-white people nominated in different categories as well: Alejandro G. Iñárritu, Paco Delgado and Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, for example. These people seem to go overlooked because of all the hate centralized around racial discrimination, yet they worked just as hard as anyone else for a nomination.

The arts are a place for people to express themselves without looking at race. Cinema is a timeless form of art and each person involved should be proud of the art everyone produces regardless

of more white, black or Hispanic people took part in its creation. TAS

have been

awarded

to a person

LEWIS WEST | GRAPHIC DESIGNER





Lights, Camera, Drag

Anna Freeze performs one last time at APSU's Drag Idol



Matthew Combs performs at APSU's Gay Straight Alliance's Drag Idol as Anna Freeze on Friday Feb. 12. SHELBY WATSON | ASSISTANT PERSPECTIVES EDITOR

BY COURTNEY GAITHER

Features Editor

Behind the glitter and high heels, Matthew Combs aka Anna Freeze performed his last Drag Idol at APSU Friday, Feb. 12.

Every semester APSU's Gay Straight Alliance hosts the competition for seasoned and aspiring drag queens in

"I started doing drag when I was 21;

now I'm 33. I'm ready for a break," Combs

Combs has participated in the show as Anna Freeze for the four years that Drag Idol has been



MATTHEW COMBS

happening, but has been doing drag in various places for over 10 years.

"I first wanted to do drag because the art of transformation enticed me so much, as well as stepping into the spotlight to be an advocate for the community, lip-syncing and doing a show is only half of what drag queens do. We are the face."



I first wanted to do drag because the art of transformation enticed me so much, as well as stepping into the spotlight to be an advocate for the community, lip-syncing and doing a show is only half of what drag queens do. We are the face."

-Matt Combs, Drag Queen Anna Freeze

In addition to Combs' performance, several other seasoned performers including Dixie Normus and last semester's winner Noel Cummings participated in the event and judged the other contestants.



I love doing drag, not because I want to be a woman, I love being a man, but its always nice when you get to dress up and portray a different character. There are no limits."

-Matthew Combs , Drag Queen Anna Freeze

Combs as Anna Freeze MC'd the event as several aspiring drag queens competed to win this year's idol.

"If I could give advice to new queens I would say, watch out for stage fright," Combs said. "You're going to get nervous. I still get nervous, just make sure you look at the spotlight and the front row, because it will help you focus. YouTube tutorials also saved my life."

After three rounds and intense judging Kylie Sparks was named the 2016 spring

Though this is Combs' last performance for a while at both APSU and Fusion Bar and Grill located on Riverside Drive, he said he will miss the alternative glamorous lifestyle that drag can offer.

"I love doing drag, not because I want to be a woman," Combs said. "I love being a man, but Its always nice when you get to dress up and portray a different character. There are no limits."

Combs said he wants to take a break so he can spend time with his husband, Jonathan Willis. TAS



Noel Cummings and Kylie Sparks perform alongside Anna Freeze at APSU's Drag Idol Friday, Feb. 12. At the end of the event before Kylie Sparks was crowned queen, Noel Cummings, the previous year's queen gave thanks to Freeze for being a great mentor and role model. SHELBY WATSON | ASSISTANT PERSPECTIVES EDITOR





SGA President endorses Bush



BY COURTNEY GAITHER

Features Editor

As the president of SGA, does the organization care that you post your vote to social media?

A: I can tweet things from my personal account. SGA doesn't have any particular political stance.

O: Do you feel that being the president of SGA sways students' political opinion? Or that students care about who you're voting for?

A: I would say no from a direct standpoint. APSU students may not look into my vote as much as they would look into maybe something their local congressman said or something that was reported on the news. Some people may care more than others especially those who follow me on Twitter and follow me because of my political status at APSU; I still don't think it would affect their opinion in the long run.

: Why did you choose Jeb Bush?

: When he decided he was going to run for president I looked into him a lot and obviously he's a popular candidate because of his father and his brother. But all of his policies, to me, makes sense. They completely make sense compared to any other Republican candidate's especially a whole lot more than the mainstream Republican candidates. I am a Republican so there are different things that he plans to do and says that the Democratic side does either a different way or another way that I don't agree with and Jeb's policies make completely more sense. He's a very rational person and very straightforward and he isn't a typical politician that we see today on TV.

: Growing up in a Republican family, do you feel like this swayed your vote?

A: I don't think so on this voting period but I'll admit the first time I voted for president, last presidential election, that probably swayed it drastically.

When Joe Biden decided he wasn't running for president a few months ago I told my mom that, that really disappointed me because if Donald Trump had gotten the nomination for the Republican party and Biden had from the Democrat I'd have voted Democrat. Where I'm at now and how I've matured as a student and looked into different things has definitely affected my views. But my first presidential election it probably affected me a lot more than it has now.

e : Besides all of the different policies he advocates for, why do you think Jeb Bush will make a good president?

A: Compared to the Republican candidates Jeb is a moral leader. You never see him coming out making drab comments. On top of that he's the president that I feel has a moral duty to the country more so than anything else. There are more things presidents can do with their power and more than anything just being a leader is important. He did it in Florida, he even talks about his proven record he has. He has done a lot of really good things in Florida as a Republican candidate. Even on the Democratic side for Hillary Clinton she has been Secretary of State. Bernie Sanders however, the biggest things he's done is chaired committees in the Senate which is big but it's not an executive position. I think overall coming from an executive position like the governor of a state helps a president in the long run with experience I think he brings that experience to the table. On top of that he is a moral and ethical person whereas other people in the Republican Party running for the nomination aren't.

Some people think that if Jeb Bush wins presidency the White House has ultimately have been run by two power houses, Bush's and Clinton's. Do you agree with them?

: I don't see that. Bush Sr. served A none term four years before Bill Clinton was in office. And then President W. Bush was eight years ago. Jeb when he was governor of Florida has done completely different things then his brother did in Texas, and it's been so far apart and he has new policies now that he will put in place that his brother wouldn't have 16 years ago. I don't think it would be a continuation of the Bush legacy other than a Bush being the president. There are good things about that family; they're a very tightknit group with a strong value system that I admire about that family in general, so that did come into play a little bit when I started looking into Jeb. I've done research and read about that family for quite some time but he's really straightforward and his policies on immigration, to tax plans and all the reforms he's talked about and the improvements he wants to make just makes sense to me.

: You sent in an absentee vote, where are you registered to vote?

A: Blount County, which is in Maryville Tennessee. My hometown.

C: Does being the president of SGA make you care more about politics and the importance of voting, as opposed to before your involvement in SGA?

A: I've been plugged in to the political side of things just because I think it's a big deal and people should be educated about it.

Working with SGA especially the past two years and working with the Tennessee Secretary of State's office and our voter drives have made me more involved with it and made me aware of many people aren't registered to vote and how many people don't participate so that makes me want to be more educated on it so I can make a better decision in the long run. TAS



Proudly sent my absentee ballot today with @JebBush marked to be our nominee. He's a good man who makes sense and is a great public servant.

2/11/16, 5:28 PM



WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17

Govs Trail to Success 11:30 a.m. to Noon. MUC Plaza

ANTSC CoffeeBREAK 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. MUC Plaza

CS "Out for Work: LGBT Job Search Process" 3 to 4 p.m.

MUC 308

Lady Govs Basketball @ SIU Edwardsville

THURSDAY, FEB. 18

CSLCE TedXSeries 6 to 7:30 p.m. 322 Home Ave.

SATURDAY, FEB. 20

Lady Govs Basketball vs. Murray State 3 p.m.

Dunn Center

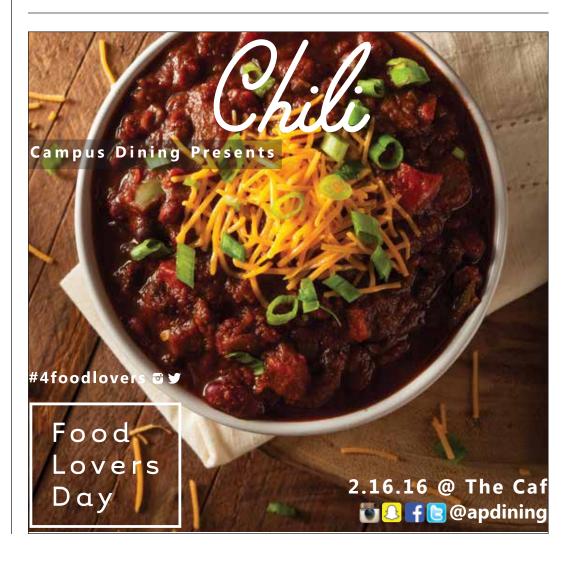
Govs Basketball vs. Murray State 6 p.m.

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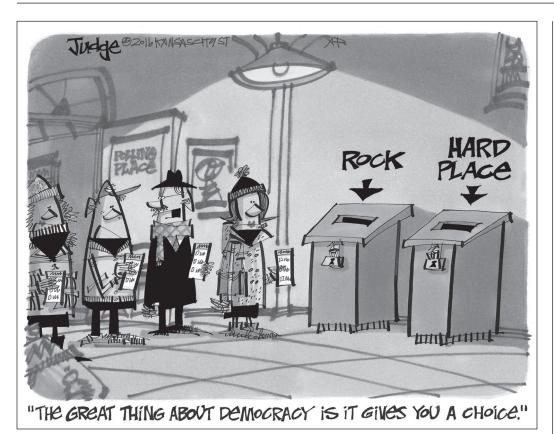
SUNDAY, FEB. 21

WNDAACC Gospel Explosion 6 to 9 p.m. CL 120

WNDAACC Gospel Explosion Reception 9 to 10:30 p.m. CL 120











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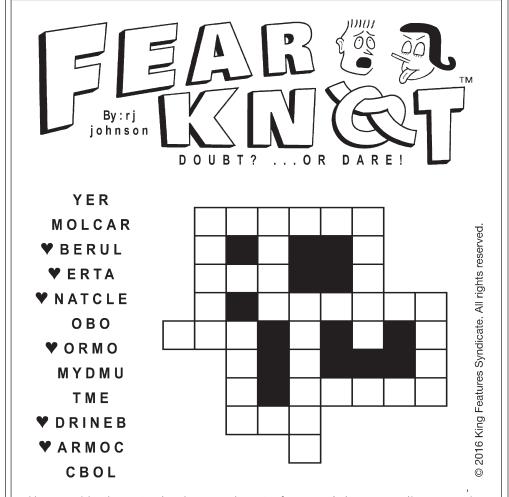
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Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. **HAGNEC** becomes **CHANGE**). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥ RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom 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.

+ 5 X X

DIFFICULTY: *

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult ★★★ GO FIGURE!

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THE ALL STATE

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Governors defeat Murray State in final second

BY HENRY KILPATRICK

Staff Writer

Despite suffering a tough loss to the University of Tennessee at Martin Skyhawks, Chris Horton made his way into the history books and the Governors pulled together in the fourth quarter against rival Murray State for a game that went down to the wire.

The Governors defense fell apart Feb. 4, 2016, against UTM which ultimately cost them the game 86-77.

Just five minutes into the game, the Governors were leading the Skyhawks 19-10 but by halftime the Skyhawks were one point behind with a score of 34-35.

In the second half, the Governors defense was not enough to reinforce their offensive efforts as the Skyhawks continued to build a lead.

The Skyhawks' Jacolby Mobley had a game-high 20 points and was perfect

from the field and behind the arc. At the line, he knocked down a 3-pointer to extend the lead to 4 points.

The Govs knocked down a seasonhigh 12 3-pointers – nine more than their previous record – but it was not enough to keep the Skyhawks from soaring away in the second half.

Horton finished the night setting a new milestone for his career with a total of 1500 points. He is the 13th player in NCAA Division I history to achieve this feat. Horton also has a total of 1000 rebounds and 300 blocks.

Along with this career milestone, Horton also achieved his 16th doubledouble of the season.

Freshman forward/guard Jared Savage scored a career-high 14 points, nine of which came from 3-pointers.

Coming off the loss, Governors

prepared themselves to take on their rivals, the Murray State Racers, who the Govs have struggled to beat since Jan. 8, 2011.

The Governors trailed by as many as 10 points in the second half but with less than three minutes remaining the Govs began to cut the deficit, defeating the Racers 76-73.

Horton scored on a layup to contribute to his game-high 29-point performance, and after a made free throw from a foul, the Govs were within reach.

With 30 seconds left, freshman point guard Zach Glotta nailed a 3-pointer to put the Govs just ahead of the Racers with a score of 73-72.

Horton came out of a Govs timeout and made a steal near midcourt while the Govs were in a full-court defensive press.

Josh Robinson was fouled during his shot attempt while driving the lane.
With less than six seconds remaining, he stepped to the line to sink both free throws and put the Govs up by 1 point.

With seconds remaining, sophomore guard Tre' Ivory stole the ball during a double team on the Racers' point guard Bryce Jones and knocked down both shots at the line after being fouled.

Robinson led the Governors with 21 points and was 11-12 from the line.

Glotta made it to double digits and picked up a season-high 11 points and six assists.

The Govs seek to take on Murray State at home on Saturday, Feb. 20 at 6:30 p.m. for the annual Coming Home game in the Dunn Center. **TAS**

2016 GOVERNORS FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

	SEP. 3	SEP. 10	SEP. 24	OCT. 1	OCT. 8	OCT. 15	OCT. 22	OCT. 29	NOV. 5	NOV. 12	NOV. 19
HOME		TENNESSEE TENNESSEE GOTTON FARTES		RACERS							
AWAY	THOY		EASTERN ILLINOIS			GAMEGGERS		RIDHAMS			

CONTRIBUTEDLOGOS



SCHOOL	POINTS				
Southeast Missouri	199				
Jacksonville State	151				
APSU	150				
Morehead State	145				
Belmont	134				
Tennessee Tech	126				
SIU Edwardsville	101				
Eastern Kentucky	74				
Murray State	59				
UT Martin	46				
Eastern Illinois	25				



BY CHARLIE PATTEN

Guest Writer

APSU Athletics has experienced many changes over the past year, including the dismissal of longtime coach Gary McClure from the baseball program in August.

Shortly thereafter, former Jacksonville State assistant Travis Janssen was charged with the task of returning the Govs to the heights they experienced a few seasons ago.

On the heels of a 25-26 (15-15 Ohio Valley Conference) campaign, pre-season Co-OVC Player of the Year Logan Gray returns to the lineup.

The junior third baseman hit .366 with 14 homeruns and 39 RBI before suffering a hand injury that sidelined him for the final weeks of last season.

Gray was also named to the pre-season All-American team by d1baseball.com.

a record of 5-5 and an ERA of 4.63.

Along with Gray, junior Alex Robles returns for the Govs. While on the mound last season, Robles went 6-3 with a 3.31 ERA and 65 strikeouts. He also batted

6-3 with a 3.31 ERA and 65 strikeouts. He also batted .328 with 39 RBIs.

Senior right-hander Jared Carkuff also returns, and he looks to build on a season that saw him finish with

Coach Travis Janssen's first season at the helm begins with a three game set at Raymond Hand Park against the Bradley University Braves on Friday, Feb. 19.

The Govs' home slate this season features games against OVC foes Eastern Illinois, Murray State, Southeastern Missouri, Eastern Kentucky and the University of Tennessee at Martin.

The non-conference portion of the home schedule will see Southern Illinois, Northern Illinois, Western Kentucky, Lipscomb, Middle Tennessee State University and Oklahoma University visiting Clarksville, Tennessee.

Additionally, the Governors Cup Challenge, which runs from Feb. 26 to Feb. 28, will host Alcorn State, University of Connecticut and Missouri State.

University of Connecticut and Missouri State.

OVCsports.com released their pre-season rankings

with APSU in third place with 150 votes.
Robles is also named to the pre-season All-OVC team as a starting pitcher and utility player.

Last season, Robles was the first player in OVC history to be selected to the All-OVC team in two separate positions.

The OVC Tournament runs from May 25 to May 29 in Jackson, Tennessee. **TAS**



Inside look of APSU's record breaking pitcher Alex Robles

ROBLES

ALEX ROBLES

Robles attended Tucson High Magnet School where he was a three-sport athlete playing football, basketball and baseball.

After his sophomore year, he stopped playing football and basketball because he said he knew baseball was his passion and his ticket to college.

"I wasn't going to go to college for any of those sports," Robles said. "So I just decided to play baseball more and take it more seriously."

At the start of senior year in any high school athlete's career, the recruiting excitement begins. Robles said he talked to bigger schools such as the University of Oregon and New Mexico, but APSU felt a lot more at home for him.

Joel Mangrum, an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator in 2013, was in charge of recruiting Robles.

"[Mangrum] just really showed interest in me more than any other school," Robles said. "He really wanted me and made me feel part of the family even thought I hadn't committed here yet."

During the heat of recruiting Robles, APSU was making some national noise. The Governors baseball team was one win shy from heading to the College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska. The Govs had won the Ohio Valley Conference for the fourth year in a row. Their overall record was 47-15 and 22-7 in the conference.

"I liked the winning tradition that was here," Robles said. "I wanted to be a part of this and fortunately everything worked

During Robles' first season i Governors uniiorm, the team had almost the opposite season. The Govs went 23-33 after losing most of their players.

On the mound, Robles went 6-2 with an ERA of 3.63 in 84.1 innings pitched. On the other side, he hit an average of .349 with one home run and 73 hits in 56 games.

In 2014, Robles received many honors on conference and national levels.

He earned Louisville Slugger Freshman All-American, National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association Freshman All-American, Baseball America 1st team Freshman All-American, Perfectgame.com 2nd team Freshman All-American, OVC Rookie of the Year, 2nd Team All-OVC for a starting pitcher, OVC All-Freshman team and Adidas OVC Player of the Week in April.

This was just the start of Robles' awards and honors.

In the 2015 season, Robles went 6-3 with an ERA lower than last season, 3.31 in 84.1 innings pitched. His hitting average went down to .328 with two home runs and 59 hits in 49 games.

His 2015 awards included the John Olerud Two-Way Player of the Year Top 10, 1st Team All-OVC as a starting pitcher, 1st Team All-OVC as a utility player and Louisville Slugger Preseason 2nd Team All-American.

This is the first time in OVC history one player has been named to the All-OVC team in two positions.

So far, Robles has been named to the 2016 Preseason All-OVC team as a starting pitcher and utility player.

In his time at APSU, Robles has worn the jersey

number five. He used to be number one because of his dad, and number two because of Derek Jeter.

"When I got to high school, I said whatever number I get I'm going to stick with it," Robles said. "I was a freshman and got moved up to varsity so they gave me number five because it was the smallest jersey they had. I stuck with it and luckily I got it here, too."

Robles said his sophomore year was his favorite year at APSU, not only because of baseball, but also because it felt like he was on his own and was more comfortable and experienced in school. Robles said he thinks this year will be his best yet.

Over the summer, Robles had the experience of traveling to Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

Cape Cod is one of the most respectable summer leagues in baseball. Several current MLB players got their start at Cape Cod Summer League.

Current senior pitcher Jared Carkuff traveled to Cape Cod with Robles. The two played in Cape Cod with All-Americans, CWS winners, other conference winners and some of the best players in college baseball.

During the summer, Robles roomed with two Vanderbilt baseball players and his host mom.

It was everything people talked about," Robles said. "I got to play with potentially future major leaguers and that was just awesome. I made a lot of friends and it was such a great experience to play with people from California to Florida to Massachusetts."

Robles said APSU was not an uncommon name. Because of their previous success in the climb to the CWS, schools such as the University of Florida had heard of APSU and its success.

"I even heard a few 'Let's Go Peay' chants while I was there," Robles said. "We've made our name for ourselves even for a small school."

Every athlete has a weakness in the grind. There is always a least favorite part of practice, and Robles's

"I really don't know how the track people do it," Robles said.

On a sunny day in April of Robles's freshman year, he pitched the game of his life. Robles faced Belmont at Old Timers Field at Shelby Park in Nashville, Tennessee, and earned a one-hitter.

His high school coach traveled from Tuscon, Arizona, and sat in the stands as he watched his former player toss nine innings with only one hit. "All the cards were dealt perfectly that day,"

Robles said. "Ever since that first pitch I just felt great and knew it was going to be a great day." The one hit came early in the game in the third inning

with a blooper over the second baseman's head. It never occured to Robles until about the eighth inning he was throwing a one-hitter.

This season, Robles said getting back to the OVC tournament is the first thing on the agenda for the team.

"We need to get back to when teams hated when we came into their place and they hated coming into our place," Robles said.

Robles said he does not want to think too far ahead when it comes to life after college, but he thinks anyone who plays college baseball and does not want to go to the next level is wasting their time.

"You shouldn't let it take over your mind, but you should keep it in your thought process and goals," Robles said.

Robles looks to take the mound this weekend at Raymond C. Hand Park in Clarksville, Tennessee, against Bradley University. 745

CONTRIBUTEDPHOTO





