



Sex trafficking allegations

Bob Henry Park incident still under investigation

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On August 5, a woman contacted the Siloam Springs Police Department following an incident with alleged sex traffickers at the Bob Henry Park in Siloam Springs.

According to an article release by 5 News, the S.S.P.D. requested the woman contact a detective in the criminal investigation division to further examine the issue.

Lt. Derek Spicer of the S.S.P.D. said the S.S.P.D. couldn't comment on the cases until further notice, as the case is still under investigation.

The woman, a non-resident of Siloam Springs who will be called Kathy, reported that the alleged sex traffickers spoke with her, filmed her with a phone, followed her about the park, and surrounded her car when she attempted to leave with her children.

The evening of August 6, Kathy wrote a detailed post on Facebook about her experience which she described as "horrible and traumatic".



Sex trafficking allegations in Bob Henry Park occurred August 6 when a mother and her children were approached at the park.

According to Kathy's Facebook post, she visited the park with her three sons around 5:30 in the afternoon. Other families were seen milling about with their children.

Kathy was sitting on a bench, holding her dog and watching her children play, when a man and a little girl approached her. She described the man as tall and Hispanic with dark hair in his early to mid-30s. The girl was around two or three years old.

"I figured she was wanting to see the puppy, so I wasn't thinking

much of it," Kathy wrote. "But they just kept standing there staring at me."

After exchanging a few words in Spanish, the man and the young girl moved to the swings, staring at Kathy all the while.

Feeling uneasy, she attended to her dog, preparing to give it a drink from her son's water bottle, but was startled when the man appeared from behind, took her dog, poured water in his hand and allowed it to drink from it.

"I was already feeling like something was off, and this made me feel worse," Kathy said.

She said he continued to stare at her, so she took back her dog, moved away from the man, and sat on the steps of the jungle gym to be closer to her children.

At this point Kathy reported that the suspect and the little girl moved to a new swing set which was facing her directly. The man placed a baby doll in the swing next to the little girl and proceeded to film it and the girl with his phone.

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The changing face of Siloam Springs

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A fall Saturday morning on John Brown University's campus is a special thing. For those who haven't experienced it, there's a light air that blows through campus as the heat breaks and leaves start changing from vivid greens to vibrant purples and reds. The students who aren't trapped by deadlines, essays, or tests see this as the perfect time to stroll down Siloam Spring's Broadway street for coffee, ice cream, or thrift shopping.

It has become a sort of tradition among college students to patronize local businesses, but the face of business in Siloam Springs's downtown area has changed dramatically in the past decades, from doctors' offices, dealerships, coffee shops, thrift



Downtown Siloam Springs opened many new businesses in the past few months, including Pure Joy Ice Cream and Chickadee's stores, and ice cream parlors to look different now, but just how different are they? has been recognized as a town for around 136 years, technically longer if one

considers Simon Sager's settlement to be Siloam's true beginning. If that's the case, then the town was first called Hico, and saw its first settler, Sager, in 1834, making Siloam Springs around 183 years old. Sager settled around a mile west of where Siloam is now, and Sager Creek is named after him.

Now, think back to 1834: pre-Civil War America. What brought a man to a random spot in Northwest Arkansas and invited him to set up shop? Sager's arrival triggered a domino effect, and after him came many more settlers. Between 1834 and 1881, people were drawn mainly to the 28 natural springs that were initially thought to have medicinal properties. Contrast that image with the cafés and ice cream shops of Siloam today.

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A Letter from the Editor-In-Chief

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Hurricane targets Texas homes

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When Category 4 tropical storm Harvey made landfall on August 25, 2017, no one expected history in the making. Residents of Rockport, Texas observed 130 mph vortex winds, and soon, a large swath of Texas braced for the first hurricane to strike it and the surrounding Gulf of Mexico since Wilma in 2005.

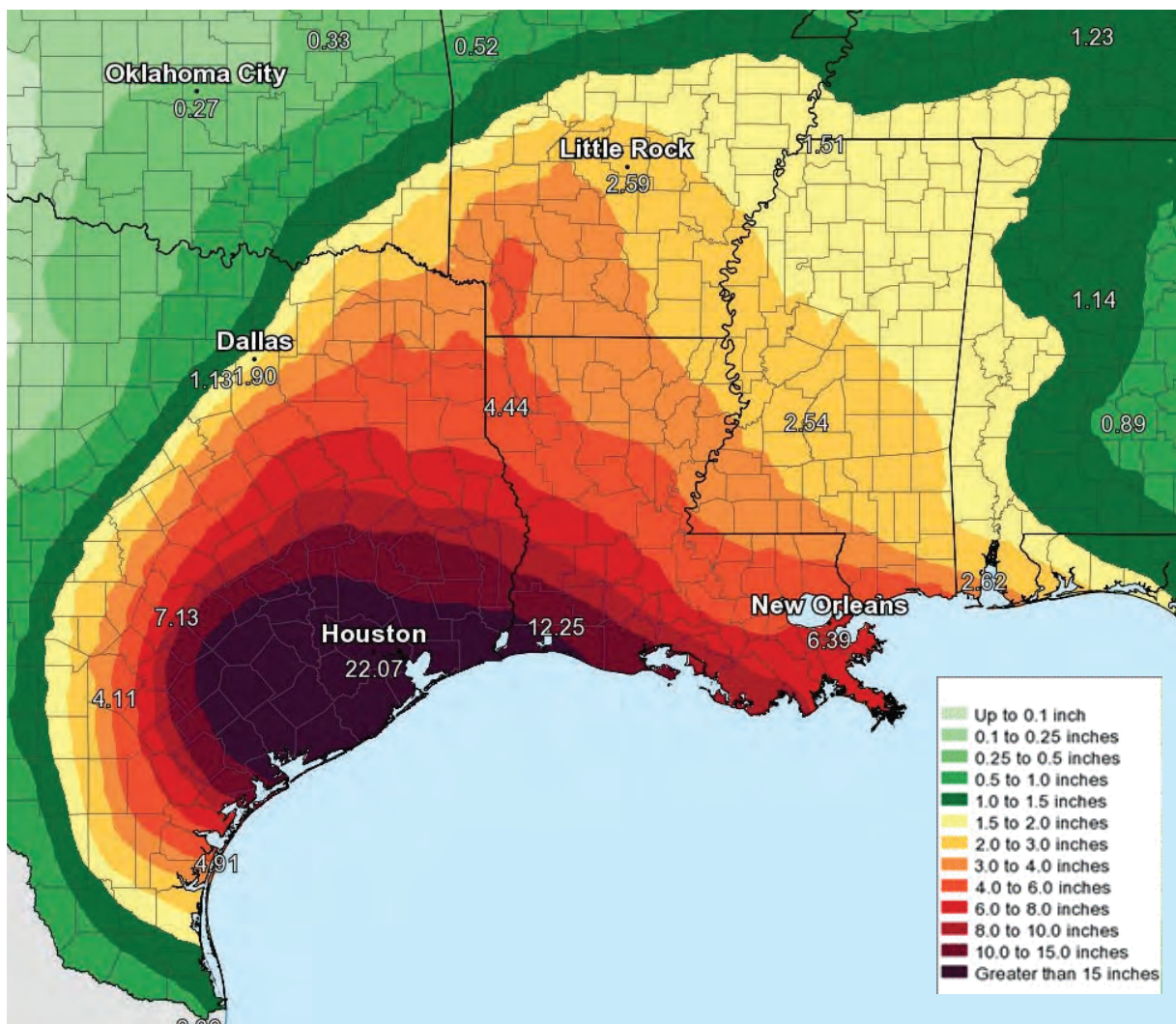
Since Harvey's dissipation over the arid plains of Central Texas, government environmental researchers and emergency responders are still calculating the depth of the hurricane's damage. Loss has been estimated up to 75 billion dollars, according to catastrophe modeling firm AIR Worldwide, making this the costliest natural disaster in US history.

Jonathan Smiddy, resident of the Wedgewood suburb of Houston, witnessed the devastation firsthand.

Smiddy said the water was two inches from entering his home and the houses on his lot. He said that there are around 1150 homes in the neighborhood, and about a third of those are filled with four feet of water. He further commented on the flood damage that rendered his children's middle school inaccessible.

Todd Bower, another Texas resident from nearby Fulshear, lives adjacent to the Brazos river.

"At one point, we were getting five or six inches of rain per hour," Bower said. "As more rain filled the Brazos, the river crested, bringing



the water up four feet."

Bower and his family moved all their furniture up to the second floor and hoped the water would subside.

Both local and governmental support for Houston and the surrounding area during and after the disaster have received mixed responses.

"People with boats started pulling residents out of our neighborhood," Smiddy said. "The government provided air support, but if not for

those average people, a lot of flood victims would've been hurt in a big way."

Smiddy described the complex flood insurance situation many affected by the rising waters now face. "My neighborhood isn't on the 500-year floodplain, so none of us have flood insurance. We're at the mercy of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. There's a \$33,000 cap, and the government is notoriously bad about

EMILY CHERRY /TheThreefoldAdvocate

providing it," Smiddy said.

Concerns about the ability of authorities and local groups to provide for the overwhelming need for food, water, and shelter have mounted, especially since it comes on the heels of last year's hundred-year flood, an event that flooded portions of Texas with nearly 20 inches of rain.

"My parish is a designated center for the Galveston Food Bank. If someone loses their house or their car, these kinds

of places provide monetary support. Parishioners are opening up their homes to two or three families per house. That's the Texas way. Texas has taken this disaster in stride," Smiddy said. Smiddy described several Texas residents outside the doors of his church one morning after Mass. "There are just so many people to keep track of, we just can't post it."

Many have used Harvey as an excuse to blame certain individuals for their lack of willingness to help in the effort, casting aspersions on religious figures like Joel Osteen or political figures like Houston mayor Sylvester Turner. "The mayor has gotten grief for not forcing evacuations for everyone. But everyone getting out on the highway can be just as dangerous. I don't fault the authorities," Bower said.

Rather than casting blame, humanitarian groups like the American Red Cross have raised support through various means, including a Donate feature on Facebook's front page. Smiddy also has other suggestions. "Donate directly to GoFundMe pages for people who've lost their homes, vehicles, or other property. Another interesting solution is to donate sheet rock and dry wall," Smiddy said.

Hurricane Harvey is the first of perhaps several record-breaking natural disasters to strike America during in 2017. Predictions about upcoming Tropical Storms Irma and Juan, as well as fires throughout the Midwest and a recent earthquake in Mexico, leave many with concerns about the future. "Continue to pray for recovery," Bower said.

Opioid use fuels further addiction

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Opioid addiction in the United States has claimed thousands of lives. According to American Society of Prescription Medicine, in 2015, there were over 52,000 recorded deaths from opioid overdose. Four out of five current heroin addictions started with prescription painkillers. Opioids have proven themselves to be a huge problem across the United States, with concern growing as more and more lives are claimed by this epidemic.

The term "opioid," when used in a clinical context, refers to a family of painkillers derived from the seeds of the poppy plant. In this family are the drugs oxycotin, hydrocodone, and morphine. Opioids are typically prescribed to treat chronic pain, or pain that last over an extended period of time. Chronic pain can range from arthritis to impacted teeth to broken bones. Opioids are considered some of the most effective treatments for these types of pain, as they have the greatest immediate effect in combating the patients' suffering.

Unfortunately, opioids also suppress the function of the body's nervous system. Overexposure to opioids can cause the heart or lungs to stop, leading to death. The prescription of opioids, then, can be a dangerous act. One may ask if it's even worth it to prescribe opioids at all, given the dangerous nature of the drugs. It's a valid question with a complicated answer.

Dr. Stephen Barnes, a veteran pharmacist of over 20 years, commented on the

2012
259,000,000
prescriptions were
written for opioids

4 out of 5
heroin users started
by using prescription
painkillers

1999-2010
death by painkiller overdose increased
by 237% for 
and 400% for 



nature of opioid overdose: "If somebody has chronic pain, they've been dealing with that pain over a longer period of time. Existing with that pain over time, they want to find ways to alleviate that. Basically, typically, if they don't get rid of it, they're going to want more and more to handle that pain."

Taking opioids, however, creates a vicious cycle. As stated, opioids tend to suppress

the central nervous system, making simple actions difficult for the body to perform. "You're causing respiratory depression. It's kind of like a depressant where you're affecting the pain nerves, but then you're causing drowsiness and the heart rate to go down. Over time, you do that too much, it can cause your heart to quit beating," Barnes said.

Rhonda Hostler, a registered nurse of 19 years, has seen

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different faces of opioid addiction over the years. Hostler noted in particular the transition from opioid dependence to heroin addiction. "Back in the early nineties, the use of medicine to treat pain was pretty restrictive, then it came out that if a patient's not in pain, they're going to recover much faster."

"To make sure that patients are not in pain, either through an accident, or per surgery, they

are being given medications to keep them out of pain, and these medications are incredibly addictive," Hostler said.

Addiction is, in fact, one of the biggest problems with prescribing opioids, especially in treating acute pain. When people have accidents that leave them in great pain, they are able to exploit that pain to receive more and more medication.

"If a fifteen-year-old has a motorcycle accident or something like that, and they go to the emergency room, as they should, they've been given these medications, and this kid's saying 'Wow, this is great stuff.' So they tell their doctor, 'Hey, I'm still in pain,'" Hostler said.

Doctors will lose their license to practice if they overprescribe medication, which prevents them from prescribing opioids to one person too often. While this seems like a good deterrent for addiction, it does not always fulfill its intended purpose, as the patient is still addicted. Given the circumstances, the patient will then often turn to buying drugs off the street. According to Hostler, pills are often too expensive for people to afford, so they will turn to a cheaper alternative like heroin, continuing down the path towards further drug abuse.

Unfortunately, opioids are still needed to treat pain, so there is no easy answer to the question of how to manage the epidemic. Some have suggested a registry to hold doctors and patients accountable for prescription, but nothing of the sort has yet been put in place. For now, the opioid crisis continues without a clear solution.

Sex Trafficking

Continued

“I looked up and noticed that instead of him standing in front of the girl and doll to record them that he was actually standing between the two swings and was recording me,” Kathy said. “He noticed me looking and backed up to record the girl and the doll and was moving the phone from side to side.”

Kathy said she discreetly watched him for a while.

“I started pretending to play and kiss on the puppy and lose interest in him but was actually looking up through my eyelashes at him. Once he thought I wasn’t paying attention anymore he walked back between the swings and started recording me again and tapping his phone like he was also taking pictures while videoing,” Kathy said.

Perturbed, Kathy and her sons moved toward the smaller playground. On the way, Kathy confided in her eldest son that the suspect’s behavior frightened her, and he admitted he noticed the man filming his mother.

At the smaller playground, Kathy noticed that she and her sons were the only people in the park beside the man and the girl. The man was still watching her.

“Every nerve in my body and alarm and bells in my head were going off,” Kathy said. “We needed to leave and NOW!”

Kathy and her sons crossed back through the park toward the parking lot, while the man stood and watched them.

By this time, a red Chevy truck in prime condition had parked beside the woman’s car. Three Hispanic men stepped out and sat on the top of a picnic table near their vehicle. The men appeared to be in their early to mid-20s, with dark brown skin and dark hair.

Kathy said she heard internal alarm bells all the while.

“They tried talking to us about our dog. We ignored them and I yelled at the boys



Courtesy of Michael Burchfiel/NWA online

to get in. We got in fast and I immediately locked the doors. I reversed. As soon as I started backing out, they walked around my car and behind it, trying to stop me. I didn’t stop,” Kathy said. “I clipped one of them and kept going.”

Kathy called her husband, and then, at 6:03 p.m., the police.

There were several witnesses at the Bob Henry Park on August 5 who confirmed Kathy’s story in part.

A woman commented on Kathy’s post, saying she saw Kathy at the park and noted that something didn’t seem quite right.

She wrote, “I was there that day. I saw you and the puppy. When you talked away with your kids to the little play area, I wondered if something was wrong. I wish I would have just asked you because I was with my five kids and that man approached me while my husband was out of the way. I knew something seemed weird but my husband walked up to me and the man walked away. We left shortly after that.”

Other people commented on Kathy’s post and encouraged her to talk to the police.

Another woman, a Siloam Springs resident who will be called Olivia, saw the suspect giving water to Kathy’s dog. Because of the way the man interacted with Kathy, Olivia said she thought they were in a relationship. Olivia said she wasn’t acquainted with Kathy.

“I remember thinking that since they so close, and he was all up in her space, that he was with her. He was laughing, smiling, and talking,” Olivia said.

Olivia mentioned that she noticed Kathy moving frequently about the park.

“I do remember that she kept moving around, while we were sitting there. I would see her on the benches and then she would walk over, closer to the swings and then she came back,” Olivia said. “Then, whenever I read the post she put up, I realized what she was doing.”

Other people have reported incidents of possible sex trafficking. Toni Gilleland, a resident of Siloam Springs,

is one such person.

According to Gilleland, she, her husband, and her six-year-old daughter were shopping at Wal-Mart when they noticed two black men with Haitian accents staring at their daughter.

“It wasn’t one of those common ‘We’re going to look at [her] then look away.’ It was an intense staring. Well, I figured when we passed by them, they would look up from her to me, cause I was adult passing by them, but they didn’t. They did not break contact with my daughter.”

Gilleland described one of the men as tall and skinny, about 6’1, with short dreadlocks. The other was skinny and shorter, around 5’7, with a buzz cut. Both looked to be mid-20s to early 30s.

Both Gilleland and he husband noticed the men’s behavior and ensured their daughter stayed between them and held their hands.

Gilleland said that later, near the checkout counter, she caught sight of the shorter of the two men standing among

racks of clothes with his camera trained on another little girl.

According to Gilleland, the parents of the other girl didn’t seem to notice the man filming their daughter. Disconcerted by his behavior, Gilleland said she watched him carefully until they made eye contact, after which he rushed out of the store.

She and her husband debated about whether to call the police and inform them of the incident. Eventually, they decided to make the call.

“I let them know the exact experience. I didn’t embellish and I posted on Facebook just to get the warning out. Just to say ‘Hey, this was an uncomfortable experience,’” Gilleland said.

The S.S.P.D. encourages everyone to contact them if they’ve shared a similar experience. Call 911 for emergencies or the non-emergency line (479) 524-4118. Reports may also be made anonymously using our tip line at tips@siloamsprings.com.

JBU commemorates victims of 9/11 attacks

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For many of the students at John Brown University, 9/11 is a distant memory. Many students were too young to see the implications of the attacks, or even to fully understand what was happening at all, but for adult citizens of the United States, the attacks were terrifying. While there had been attacks on U.S. soil before, the 9/11 attacks were far larger in both cost and loss of life. The attacks claimed the lives of almost 3,000 people and injured over 6,000 more. The magnitude of such an attack carried out by an extremist terrorist group on U.S. soil was unprecedented and led to immediate military action by the United States.

Now, sixteen years later, the facts of the attack have become more a distant point of history. Those born after 9/11 have no reference for what the attacks were or what they meant to America at the time. Everything has come to them after the attacks. Many live only in a world that came after the war in Iraq, and the controversies that followed them. They have no frame of reference for the terror that shook the U.S. and much of the world. They have been told to never forget, but they have nothing to remember. Many do not remember the lives lost in the attack, or the sacrifice of the police, firefighters and paramedics. Many do not remember a U.S. before 9/11.

It is for this reason that students of JBU, specifically

the College Republicans, decorated the quad with small U.S. flags, one for every life lost in the attack. Cole Mowrer, acting chair of the College Republicans, called it an important service, one that was necessary in remembering the sacrifice of the lost. “It made a big impact on our generation. We don’t want to forget what happened to us, or what happened to those people, but we also don’t want to forget the sacrifice that our police officers, firemen or EMS all made.” Mowrer said.

“It’s important, especially in such a politically charged time, when first responders aren’t looked upon in the

best light, to remember the sacrifice they make for us on a daily basis.” Mowrer said.

Humberto Smith, a member of the College Republicans, and native of Chinandega, Nicaragua, said the virtues of the actions exhibited by those responders of the 9/11 attacks transcend cultural boundaries, becoming something altogether human. “I just love the fact that, when trouble comes here, just how quickly people respond, and how quickly everyone is willing to help, and say ‘Okay, I’m here to help. I don’t care who’s in that building, I just want to get them out as safe as I can.’ I think that’s really to be honored.”

The effects of the attacks are still felt today. After these attacks, security became much tighter across the country. People trusted each other less, and many immigrants caught the brunt of the United States’ fear. While the attacks did not begin the debate on immigration law and reform, they certainly exacerbated conflict that was already there.

The source of the attack, however, finds its root in a conflict still being waged in the Middle East today. “Terrorism is a real thing. It’s something that we can’t just forget about. Sometimes we seem safe here because the main conflict is in the Middle East. You know,

there’s bombings every day, people are dying every day.” Mowrer said.“It doesn’t really happen here, so it’s easy to forget there’s still a war on terror going on, there’s still fighting every day, so it’s not just something that’s done.”

In the end, Mowrer said that it is important to remember those who gave of themselves in the attacks, and of the unity it brought to the U.S., a unity that has been lost in the recent political landscape. “In times of crisis, we set our differences aside and band together, mourning the loss of life and reminding ourselves that we need each other.”



KARLA CONDADO/TheThreefoldAdvocate

North Korea: Through the eyes of South Korea

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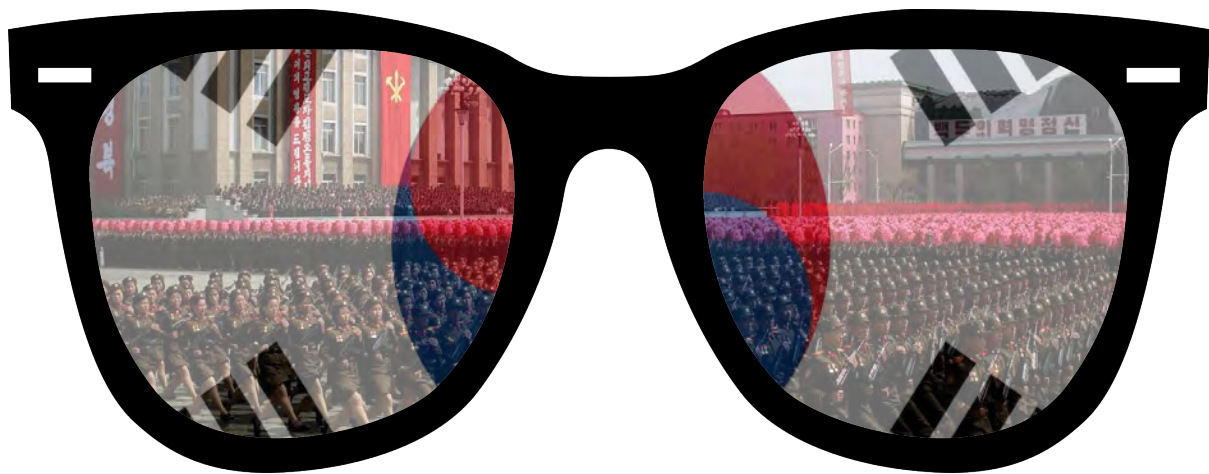
Prior to 1945, North and South Korea were a unified nation. It was in 1948 when the Soviet-backed north and the U.S.-backed south separated into independent nations sparking a long unsolved conflict.

Woo Jong-il, a South Korean national who resides on the border, said in an interview to The Guardian, that after more than seven decades of living on the border, he still thinks any loud noise represents a threat to his life.

“I don’t feel safe, this is the front line,” Woo said. “It is nerve wracking. Weapons these days are so good, the front lines will be completely destroyed if war breaks out.”

Besides the imminent threat of war, the modern cultures of North and South Korea contrast each other.

Ted Song, assistant professor of engineering at John Brown University and a South Korea native, described North Korea as an “isolated” neighbor, forced to seclusion because of the government blockage of all outside influences, including South Korean media.



ASHLYN DAVIS and EMILY CHERRY/ThreefoldAdvocate

Lydia Kim, senior biology major and second generation South Korean, agrees with Song’s view of an isolated North Korea.

“I think it’s almost to the point where North Korea’s so locked in that it’s falling behind—even their language and dialect is different, and the way they’re dressed” Kim said. “There might be more difference, actually, than connections”.

“It is not their [North Korean] culture that impacts us [South Korea], it’s their presence,” Song reflected.

Although Song and Kim suggest that cultural connections are weak right now, both parties affirm that deep relational connections exist between North and South Koreans.

Song recalled that before being colonized by Japan in 1910 and their separation in 1948,

Korea existed as “a big family for centuries.” He noted that although younger generations do not have close relatives living in North Korea, older generations still have cousins and siblings living in the totalitarian state. He commented that older South Korean citizens likely feel love and grace toward their North Korean neighbors.

Kim believes younger South Koreans also care deeply for North Koreans.

“I see a lot of my Korean-American friends in other states who are very active about caring for the people who are still stuck in concentration camps because they have relatives who are still there [North Korea], or from there,” Kim said.

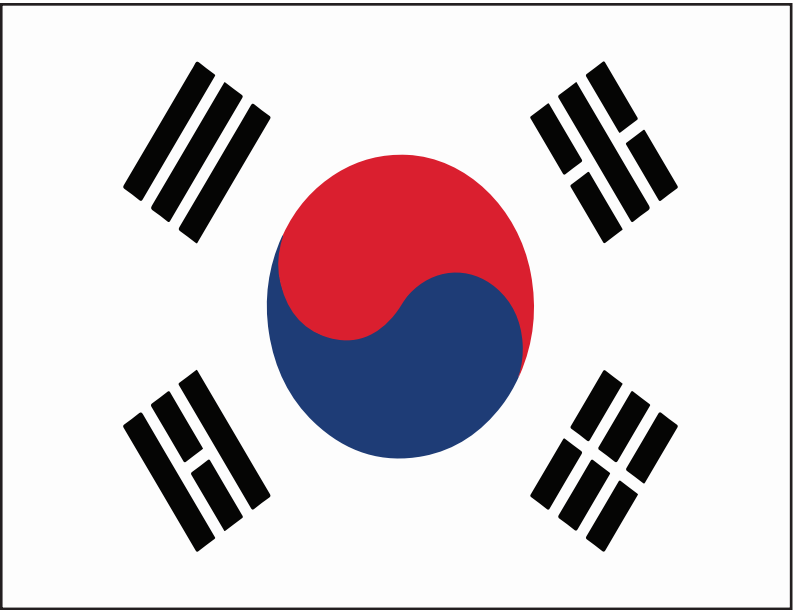
Song noted that it is a misconception to believe all South Koreans share the same political

views regarding North Korea even when “the North Korean government wants to persuade more South Koreans [to accept]

their ideology, but not many are buying it.”

South Korean perceptions about North Korea are diverse, and the tensions that exist between the two countries are not only politically challenging, but also relationally complex.

“I have a heart for North Koreans, because I see them as one of us, as Koreans, but also, one of us as people,” Kim closed.



ASHLYN DAVIS/ThreefoldAdvocate

Feature Country: Vietnam and culture shock

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Jane Le, a junior marketing and international business major at John Brown University, was born and raised in, Hochiminh, one of the biggest cities in Vietnam. Her parents were originally from Binh Dinh but moved to the city to look for jobs. Jane and her brother, Nick, had the desire to study abroad and when they were older, they had the opportunity to attend high school in the U.S.

“My first year in America was full of culture shocks, yet it was eye-opening,” Le said.

She attended, Wheaton Academy, a small private Christian high school in West Chicago.

Le explained that the most difficult thing she had to get used to was the way many Americans in her school greeted each other.

“How are you?” Is just like a greeting, I thought they actually cared about people, so me and my roommate, she was also an international student, kept talking about how we wouldn’t know if they truly care about us or if they were just greeting,” Le explained.

She graduated from high school and decided to apply to JBU. She originally wanted to attend Wheaton College, but eventually decided to follow her brother and enrolled at JBU. She explained that she did not want to be a burden to her mom and she wanted to find a school her family could afford.

“One of the main assumptions I get from many Americans is that



Jane, an International business major, posing for a photoshoot for the Career Development Center

I come from a rich family or that I have the money,” Le said.

Le explained that in Vietnam every child is guaranteed that their parents will pay for their education. She said she was surprised when she learned that many college students help their parents or even pay for all their school bills.

She explained that some people kept pointing out the fact that she did not have to help with her tuition.

“This is not a harmful stereotype, but it can sometimes be annoying,” Le said.

Le had to get used to many cultural differences but there are two main culture stereotypes she had to face.

“Not every Vietnamese does nails, and no, I do not know how to do your nails, and no, I would not charge you for that,” Le said.

She explained that a lot of her friends in high school asked her to do their nails and that that was one of the strongest stereotypes she had to deal with. She also had to confront people with differing ideas on the Vietnam War.

Her high school assigned her a host family, and Le explained that her host dad was one of the people she disagreed with on views of the Vietnam War.

“It was fascinating how we both were taught very differently,

communism and allied with the US. “At that time America tried to stop the spreading of communism because they thought it was the same communism like the Soviet communism,” Le said. “A lot of Vietnamese saw this as a civil war, we didn’t think we needed the American help.”

She explained that communism in Vietnam is giving the government the power to administrate the country. She said that all the land properties can be taken by the government and that even the websites are controlled by them.

She also explained that there is no freedom of speech when referring to the government. Le stated that citizens are arrested when they express unconformity against the political system. Le said she doesn’t like the government controlling everything but she likes that because of communism, Vietnam is less chaotic.

“Communism started with good intentions, they were trying to be good and equal, that was the idea, but then power corrupted communism,” Le explained.

Le said that living in another country can be frustrating because of cultural differences but it opened an opportunity for her to learn and understand about the culture in the U.S. and other parts of the world. She encourages JBU students to take advantage of the diversity in the institution.

“Be more accepting, step back and listen to the international students, be open to trying something new,” Le concluded.



EMILYCHERRY/TheThreefoldAdvocate



Courtesy of ALL FREE PHOTOS

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The Threefold Advocate

Natural Businesses Emerging in Siloam

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As Siloam Springs continues to expand, two fresh and natural businesses have planted their roots Downtown and are bringing a new outlook on food and ice cream to the small Arkansas town.

Pure Joy is a small ice-cream shop situated in the heart of Downtown Siloam Springs. It is not your typical scoop shop.

“As a whole, we have become so distant from fresh natural ingredients due to over-consumerization of food,” Matt Feyerabend, owner of Pure Joy, said. “By bringing back the taste of natural foods, we’re introducing something amazing and special.”

To ensure their ice cream is of the highest quality, Feyerabend said that Pure Joy chooses to use strictly natural ingredients from Northwest Arkansas.

Kevin Gabbert, a Senior graphic design student from

John Brown University, works at Pure Joy. He said that local businesses as well as the Siloam Springs Farmers’ Market downtown currently provide most of Pure Joy’s ingredients.

“We use pure and local ingredients in order to support local businesses,”

A block down from Pure Joy resides Chickadee’s, a fresh fare eatery. Chickadee’s Fresh Fare and Pure Joy Ice Cream have both attained good reviews and popularity in Downtown.

Chickadee’s and Pure Joy have landed a place in the top ten list for their respective categories in the

the owners of Chickadee’s, have dedicated their business as well to providing customers with fresh and natural food.

Located at the entrance of Downtown Siloam, Chickadee’s is a fresh fare restaurant with a menu inspired largely by the West Coast.

“We’re the only restaurant in town that has a glossary,” Bryan Truitt said, laughing. “A lot of people haven’t heard of things on our menu because the style of food is so different than anything else in Siloam.”

Both businesses add nuance to Siloam Springs’ food scene by bringing natural and fresh offerings to a field dominated by deep-fried food and Southern dishes.

Stephanie Truitt said she and her husband love to eat at a good barbeque or Thai restaurant, but, after growing up in Siloam Springs, they thought it was time for the town to have another option—a restaurant that could offer things like acai bowls and Mediterranean cuisine.

Like Pure Joy, Chickadee’s focuses strongly on natural ingredients.

“We try to source food as

local as we can and refuse to have a fryer on the premises,” Bryan Truitt said. “Wheat wraps and that extra fiber and nutrients is essential, and it also tastes good.”

Both businesses look forward to providing for the Siloam Springs community



HEATHER FRIESEN/TheThreefoldAdvocate

Gabbert said. “In one recipe, we use Pour Jon’s donuts, and our cold brew coffee is from Bad Dog Beanery.”

2017 Best of the Best, hosted by the Northwest Arkansas Democratic Gazette.

Bryan and Stephanie Truitt,



courtesy of CHICKADEE’S

and connecting with a big part of their target market: JBU students.

“We would love for JBU students to come out this fall and hangout,” Stephanie Truitt said. “There’s plenty outdoor space. We’re also looking into possible live concerts and events with the visual department at JBU.”

Pure Philanthropy: All Profit goes towards orphan care

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Pure Joy, the local Siloam Springs ice cream shop, seeks to spread love to those in need by donating all of their yearly profit to orphan care and prevention.

The scoop shop has made its home in the heart of Downtown Siloam Springs, but most people are unaware of the shop’s mission to support these children in need.

Matt Feyerabend, the owner of Pure Joy, explained that the shop is a business first and foremost, but its mission is to help organizations that are working to take care of orphans.

Pure Joy not only supports orphan care through finances, but the business is also trying to bring its customers into a one on one relationship with orphan care organizations around the community.

“We are trying to cultivate a business with a staff that cares about the community and its customers, but we also want to be a business that cares about



TITUS HINTON/ TheThreefoldAdvocate

Local employee of Pure Joy ice cream works hard to make customers happy as he scoops ice cream.

orphan care,” Feyerabend said.

Feyerabend is a childhood cancer survivor and understands how hard it can be for individuals to find a good organization to get involved with. He has made the decision to not become personally involved in cancer research because he finds it hard to get connected and actually make a difference within an organization.

“You’re never really connecting to the organization that’s helping and making a

difference. For instance, with Toms your only connection is buying the product,” Feyerabend said. “We don’t want to be the middle man and get in the way of those relationships.”

Feyerabend is happy with the progress they’ve made, but he still sees this gap between Pure Joy customers and what the business is doing with orphan care.

In order to raise awareness and participation, Pure Joy will be sponsoring special events throughout the year. When

these events are happening, 100 percent of the proceeds raised on these days will be donated to organizations in NWA that support the care of orphans.

Sponsoring these kinds of events is the first step, but Pure Joy is still working out the logistics of running a business while keeping philanthropy at the center.

In addition to orphan care, Feyerabend is working to inform and engage the public in the practice of orphan prevention, which

is the other side of it.

Feyerabend looks forward for any opportunity to use his business to make a difference in the community and help care for mothers who are trying to keep their children.

“Although we are a business, we are less concerned about advertising and more worried about connecting with people and making a positive difference for those who need care,” Feyerabend said.



COURTESY OF PURE JOY ICE CREAM

HUB continued from page 1

“I think in the past, the American Dream was more attainable, so when you got on your own, you started your own business. That’s just what you did.” That’s Matt Feyerabend, who, along with his wife Meghan, owns Pure Joy Ice Cream and Feyerabend Photo Artists on Broadway. “Climbing the corporate ladder wasn’t a thing because we didn’t have big corporations back in the 20’s.”

Feyerabend believes along with many other entrepreneurs operating in downtown Siloam Springs that the town has a momentum unique in small-town America. “Somewhere around 2010, 2012, we started to realize there was a tiny amount of momentum in Siloam Springs to make this place special again,” he said.

“Siloam Springs went through what a lot of cities in the United States went through: a bypass that rerouted traffic away from its epicenter.”

Feyerabend is referring to what the highway system did to most of small-town America. When highways were taking hold of America around the 70’s and 80’s, most large corporations moved out of the centers of most towns to areas with more traffic, leaving those businesses that couldn’t afford to move to stay behind and reconsider



ASHLEY BURGER/TheThreefoldAdvocate

their goals. “It forced business to think differently about where they were located and what they provided, and it just made it more inconvenient to go downtown.”

“We saw some momentum, and said ‘[Siloam Springs] is special.’ And there’s not just one or two people who think this. You feel alone if your neighbors don’t share the same vision or excitement, and what we found was a lot of people who had the same vision and ideas and excitement for revitalizing the community,” Feyerabend said.

Chris Moore, owner of Pour Jon’s Coffee, shared this vision when he purchased the coffee shop in 2012. “We were pretty much all in, going to every restaurant every day, volunteering, you know, whatever we could do, and buying the business was just an all-in extension of that.”

Even Pour Jon’s new location, further east of downtown, was intentional. “We were wanting to move down main street. We felt this was the logical place to extend it, and we wanted to be a link to the Latino businesses up the street, and join them up with downtown. The area was so neglected and had so much potential,” Moore said.

There are too many business in downtown Siloam Springs to write about in one article, but they all contribute to making Siloam what it is, developing the community both of JBU and the rest of Siloam.

We are the Threefold Welcome to JBU

Hello and welcome to the first issue of the Threefold Advocate for the 2017-2018 school year. My name is Samuel Cross-Meredith, and I will be your editor-in-chief for the coming year. For many of us, myself included, this will be our last year as undergraduates. For others, this is an introduction to life by way of academic institution. For all of us, we've got our work cut out for us. Our world is fraught with riots in the streets, international threats, and a technologically sedated public, but it's not all bad. It's a foundational belief of mine that we can find redemption in everything.

The Threefold Advocate is a new beast every year. It tends to shape to the personalities and the attitudes of the people writing and editing. While we try to stay as unbiased as possible, we will fall short in some areas. The Threefold is your paper more than it is ours. We're writing for you, to inform you as best we can of the issues that affect this campus and its place in the world. To this end, we hope to transition to writing content in a longer form that represents the context and complications of every story to better show you, the readers, the contexts that we all fit in.

History is a strange thing. For instance, many of us believe in a faith that was officially founded 2,000 years ago, a faith with roots in a historical kingdom that started way before that. To place that in scope, remember that the United States is only around 230-years-old, with problems that started more than 300 years before its founding. There's not an event that occurs in a vacuum. Everything ripples outward to affect everything and everyone else. The homeless woman in Britain is affected by a dip in the U.S. stock market; the Chinese executive is affected by the conflicts in the Middle East. The Mexican college student is affect by the Japanese Yakuza.

It's like we're all connected to this great spider web, and every event and tragedy wiggles and ripples across the web in confusing and unknowable ways. Complexity is almost a story in itself, and as Christians, it is in our job descriptions to know the truth of a matter before we speak, just as Christ did. The Lord was never ignorant of his surroundings. To this end, we wish to see and represent in great detail the many facets of this glittering American life.

We will fail. A lot. There's no way we can possibly cover everything completely. We will fall short, we will offend, and we will ask forgiveness. By the grace of God we persist, and by the grace of God we will see. It is my prayer this semester that We the Threefold Advocate will serve you, the Church established by our Lord.

Response to Charlottesville

At 11:28 a.m. on August 12, Eastern Daylight Time, the city of Charlottesville declared a state of emergency in response to a protest organized by the group "Unite the Right". The protest was in response to the city's decision to remove a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. The protestors organized and began chanting the phrases "blood and soil," and "white lives matter." Counter-protestors organized in response to the white supremacists, and, at 1:42 p.m., a car driven by James Alex Fields Jr. slammed into these counter-protestors, killing Heather Heyer and injuring 19 more.

America is a nation with a complex history. We are a nation built by immigrants who jettisoned their homes to seek a new life. The United States was built by a diverse aggregate of peoples. Our nation, like many, was founded on blood and sweat, and the inhabitants of the United States of America enslaved thousands to accomplish that work.

There are certain times in the history of every nation wherein the citizens must take stock of current events and acknowledge them as they are. Our nation is in a period of turmoil and division as a result of political, racial and religious differences. After the violence and terror in Charlottesville this summer, we must acknowledge who we are, where we come from, and where we are going.

We the Threefold Advocate acknowledge the national indifference to racial tensions and trials and look upward to peace and unity on John Brown University campus in light of these recent events in Charlottesville, VA, and condemn the actions of both Unite the Right and James Alex Fields Jr. When we view one another in the context of the history of our nation, we will see that we are all Americans, and we all have a right to live on American soil. America is not a white country any more than it is an African, Hispanic, or Asian one. America belongs to all of us, or belongs to none of us. That is America. That is our country.

We the Threefold serve a diverse community, living under the banner of America, learning under the banner of John Brown University, and, most importantly, co-existing under the banner of Christ. We have chosen to follow and believe in these institutions, and because of that choice, we are each obligated to uphold the values they champion.

Tragedies centered around race and politics consistently make front page news. Though we may read these articles and see the faces of the peoples that are impacted by such events, are we taking the time to understand their plight and be a brother or sister to someone in need of love? Christ calls us to love our neighbors. What do you do when your neighbor is struggling and hurting due to the hatred of those around them? Do you help them or look in a different direction?

We the Threefold acknowledge and condemn the actions of hatred by those that seek to destroy what America is and what America stands for. We admonish people to Do not ignore the crisis of racism in America or let a brother or sister be hurt by the words and actions of those around you.

We the Threefold encourage you as followers of Christ to break free of indifference and apathy, to make an effort to remedy the ignorance to the discrimination of our brothers and sisters.



Building a Biblical Community Taking a look at international faith



MORIAH QUARLES/ TheThreefoldAdvocate

Erika Reiger CONTRIBUTOR

Friends, for a group of people who use the word community like it's the hottest slang, there's so much we just don't understand. Don't get me wrong, there are aspects of community we at JBU do really well. But there is so much that we just miss.

Let me give you some context. Grab a Bible. Turn to Acts 2. Find verses 42-47. This passage is here to serve as our example of how to be the Church and live in community with each other.

Over the summer I had the privilege of working as the intern at a mission in Trinidad, and let me tell you, the church there understands this idea of community in a way the American church simply doesn't. They still mess up--we all do--but they go out of their way to be the living and breathing church that is described in Acts.

Just before I arrived, two of the women in the church passed away within 24 hours of each other. One had lost

her battle to cancer and the other was murdered in her home shortly after returning from the initial vigil held for the woman who had passed the night before. The church was crippled. The women's group was shattered. And there I was, a new face, in the midst of such great sorrow. If this had happened in America, we would have cared for those left on earth for a little while but let whoever we thought to be closer to those directly affected handle all the messy details. But this isn't what happened in Trinidad. The church mourned together for months, taking the idea of lament to heart and letting God know that they were hurting, that they didn't understand, but that they were going to trust him through that. The other women stepped in to fill the shoes of the wives and mothers that had passed on. They cooked. They cleaned. They did the laundry. And not just for a week or two, they are still doing it.

I was also there during Father's Day. While it was hard to be away from my own father, the appreciation the Trini's have for such influential men was an experience I wouldn't trade for anything. Father's Day is a big deal down there, and from what I was told, so is Mother's Day. Entire church services are dedicated to the fathers. They are recognized by their kids for what they have been doing in front of the community.

Those who have been acting as a father figure, spiritually or otherwise, are also recognized. And the people give of themselves to make sure these fathers get credit where credit is due. They truly value what these men have been doing in their lives and they show that through their actions. They act as a community to honor those who help build their community.

Now go back to that passage in Acts. What would happen if the American church started looking at the biblical example and took some notes from communities in other cultures? We are so arrogant to think that we understand community best when so often our church communities are people we see on Sundays and maybe Wednesday nights, and whom we might say hi to if we pass them in the grocery store. What would happen if we went out of our way to take care of and recognize the people we are surrounded by? Friends, please don't take this as an attack on the American church, but rather see it as an opportunity to see an example of a church that is doing things right, a group of people who believe in the same God we do, and understand his vision for community in the church.

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An open letter to a friend



JESSIE BRANDON/ TheThreefoldAdvocate

Karla Condado NEWS EDITOR

Dear white friend,
Today you spoke to my heart but not in a positive way.

Ironically, Trump was elected president the same week our college decided to celebrate diversity. Ironically the day I proudly decided to wear my traditional clothes you made me feel so scared of being Mexican.

When you said "You should enjoy your time in the States before we kick you out," my heart hurt and I felt powerless.

I know I am an immigrant in your country. I know that I do not have a voice in your politics. I am aware that I am a minority and I understand that this is not my home. But, you don't have the right to make me feel inferior and I will not let you.

I know that you cannot understand the pain that your words have caused. You do not understand the fear my people feel. I hope you never feel rejection in the country you call home. You are privileged by your ancestry, your skin color, and your birth certificate.

Amiga, it hurts me to know that your words carry so much ignorance and hatred. Families cry because they are being separated. Thousands of people are losing everything they have worked hard for.

What you might have jokingly said has become a reality.

The man whom many have voted for to be your president has mocked my roots, my people, and consequently me.

Today more than ever I long for the day that I can return home. I want to breathe the air of Mexico City and soak up its chaos. I want to see my family again and hug my abuelos. I can only imagine the moment I eat some good tacos and when I won't be mocked for being a Mexican.

You ask me why I'm still in your country? First, I am here legally. I have worked hard to get to where I am. I have a full scholarship at this university and I plan to return to my country when I graduate. Neither you nor anyone else can take away what I have achieved by law.

Today, I only ask that you understand the weight of your words and that "kicking people out" is no joke.

Thank you.

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The Threefold Advocate

- advocate.jbu.edu -

The Threefold Advocate invites you to submit a signed letter to the editor. We ask that you keep your comments to fewer than 300 words, and we reserve the right to edit for space and appropriate content. The writer's phone number, classification and hometown must be provided. Email or mail letters by 6 p.m. on Monday.

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The Threefold Advocate would like to clarify that editorials, those pieces in the column above this paragraph, are the opinion of the editorial board. They are therefore not attributed to individual writers. The writings to the right, with mug shots and pithy headlines, are columns. Each is the sole opinion of the mug shot's owner. On occasion, readers wishing to respond to an article or to express a viewpoint will write a letter to the editor. The opinion pages serve as a community bulletin board and are meant to continue the dialogue about various issues relevant to the JBU community. Please write. We want your input.

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Grieving is a gift



KARINA JANSMA/ TheThreefoldAdvocate
Claire Johnson
CONTRIBUTOR

We all have things we’re grieving, whether it is a broken family, the end of a relationship, unjust political policies, intense sickness, or the death of those around us. I’ve spent the past semester reflecting on what it means to grieve in a healthy way.

Growing up, I never learned to grieve. Most times, people associate grieving with death, and rightfully so. I spent most weekends with my grandparents, Mimi and Pa. Pa was a southern Baptist preacher of a small congregation with an elderly population, so I knew my way around a funeral home by the time I was six.

You’d think being around all those sad people, I’d have learned how to grieve. Instead, I learned to smile and small talk my way through the sadness.

The first important death I can remember was the death of Pa my sophomore year of high school. I was completely and utterly crushed. I felt lost, confused and abandoned. I remember feeling the incessant need to pull it together and find the good in the situation. Isn’t that what Christians should do? Aren’t we

supposed to immediately turn away from tragedy and proclaim with happiness all the good of death? Absolutely not.

My false understanding of grief quickly tumbled into a false understanding of joy. The two go hand in hand. To understand one accurately, you have to understand the other. Joy is not the absence of grief, but the choice to hold on to hope in the middle of everything else collapsing. Joy isn’t saying “everything is okay and happy and perfect,” but instead understanding that the world is broken and looking forward to the day all is redeemed and renewed.

Grief is a gift, enabling us to cry out with all the angst we can bear, “This is not right. This is not how the world is supposed to be!”

This summer, a friend and I went on a last-minute trip to Colorado to visit another friend

in the hospital. On the table at the home where we were staying, there was a framed, hand-lettered quote that summed up everything I’d thought or felt over the past semester. It’s from author Adrienne Rich who said, “There must be those among whom we can sit down and weep and still be counted as warriors.”

I’m slowly learning that the greatest gift we can ever give someone is the freedom to fully grieve. Faithful and good friends do not hinder our grieving, but rather weep with us as we sit together at the foot of the cross, clinging to what we know to be true—Jesus is coming again and will make all things new. This utter brokenness was never what was intended to be.

So, what does that look like at John Brown University? For me it means choosing to know those around me deeply, and letting

them know me in return. It means choosing to let people in, even if our grief seems miniscule—it’s not. It means weeping together, but ultimately choosing to hold on to the hope of full redemption while seeking justice for those around us.

We need to learn to actually grieve. We need to learn to live with joy. We need to weep with those who remind us of the redemption to come and help us to see the warriors that we are because of the hope we’ve been given in Christ.

Johnson is a senior majoring in English. She can be reached at JohnsonCla@jbu.edu

Find time for meditation and silence



KARINA JANSMA/ TheThreefoldAdvocate
KJ Roh
MANAGING EDITOR

My first thought every day is always a groggy, crusty-eyed grievance that no one in the past was considerate enough to invent the time machine. While battling the plague and inventing indoor plumbing, did they not consider that I might need to repeat my meager night’s sleep one or two more times.

My second thought is always a clumsy estimate of the exact number of seconds I can remain in bed and still show up to class wearing deodorant and matching

socks. After these thoughts, my mind wakes up properly and is instantly flooded with everything I need to accomplish for the day. (Or else I succumb to the soporific effect of my pillow and make a mental note not to raise my arms too close to anybody’s nose.) Either way, the last thing on my mind is sitting still and being silent.

In our fast-paced world filled with technology and constant stimuli, it is almost impossible to be completely silent. When you have three essays, two projects, a Biology exam to worry about, not to mention the upcoming tennis match or choir concert as well as a social life, little time is left for silent contemplation. What time I do have free is usually reserved for sleeping or Netflix, because who wants to think after an entire day of it? This summer however, I was challenged to

spend time every day in silent contemplation and prayer.

I participated in a study-abroad program through JBU that allotted a week’s stay at a French monastery. The brothers who live there, as well as their visitors, pray three times a day. Not only do the prayer times involve singing and scripture reading, but also a time reserved for silence. At least 30 minutes a day the brothers remain completely silent, meditating on God.

As a Christian, the word meditation has never sat quite right with me. I always associated the word with the ritual emptying of your mind and the monotone chanting of the word “om.” In fact, the Bible calls us to meditate on Christ. Psalm 1: 1-2 says, “How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor sit in the seat

of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.”

After learning about the importance of daily meditation on God and His word, and inspired by the brother’s practice, I sought to try and meditate more during my daily devotion. Honestly, I found it difficult to focus. For one thing, I usually play music in the morning while I read my devotion. It is never too loud, but somehow I always think about the music and not what I am reading. For another thing, I always think about everything else I need to be doing, such as getting ready for the day or working on a time machine prototype. It is hard for me to be completely still and silent when I feel the weight of all of my impending responsibilities closing in on me.

So Often, I find that when I’m in this situation I make time to pray and ask God for help and advice, but take no time to sit quietly and listen for his response. Prayer should not be a one-way conversation. God wants to have a relationship with us, not just

be a sounding board for all of our problems and anxieties. By silently meditating on scripture we can often hear His responses. While not necessarily audibly or even right away, God does always answer our prayers during His timing and in accordance with His plan. If we don’t take the time to stop and listen, how can we be prepared when He calls us to follow Him? It is worth losing a few extra minutes of sleep in order to obey God’s call. Who knows? Maybe you will finally be the person called to build a time machine.

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Mentoring youth is worth the challenge



KARINA JANSMA/ TheThreefoldAdvocate
Rachel Barber
CONTRIBUTOR

August of my freshman year, I sought out a local barn with a volunteer program. Pairing horses and at-risk children had been a dream of mine for over six years. However, I had not been able to find a program. New Life Ranch quickly surfaced. Unfamiliar with their programs, I watched videos about their mission, camps and special programs. Right Lead, established in 1997, was exactly the type of ministry I was seeking.

My heart raced the first afternoon of Right Lead. How was I, an inexperienced college student, supposed to mentor a random, at-risk youth while also being responsible for a 1,200-pound horse? Admittedly, the first few Monday afternoons were challenging. I often became distracted by the conversation with Ellie (not her real name) and

forgot to attend to Topper, our horse. I tried to fend off feeling unqualified to teach my mentee horsemanship. Riding horses is beneficial in numerous areas: physical therapy, occupational therapy, and mental health, just to name a few. However, Right Lead is made effective by the quality of relationship between the mentor and mentee. By second semester, I was beginning to embrace the opportunities I had to enrich Ellie’s life by loving her, not making sure she was brushing her horse to perfection. I was beginning to understand why I showed up every Monday.

Midway through my second semester at New Life Ranch, something clicked between me, Ellie and Topper. Topper responded to Ellie’s commands without balking. I felt as if my presence was positively impacting Ellie, as if my words were touching her grief. She began facing new challenges with excitement and confidence instead of hesitation. I loved watching her thrive. Over the summer, I anticipated the ways Ellie would continue to grow in the upcoming fall. However, my third semester with Ellie was grim. She was sick often. She seemed to lose her passion for riding. Gloom became her permanent disposition. With three weeks left in the fall program, Ellie stopped showing up for Right Lead. My attempts to contact her failed. I was disappointed and even frustrated.

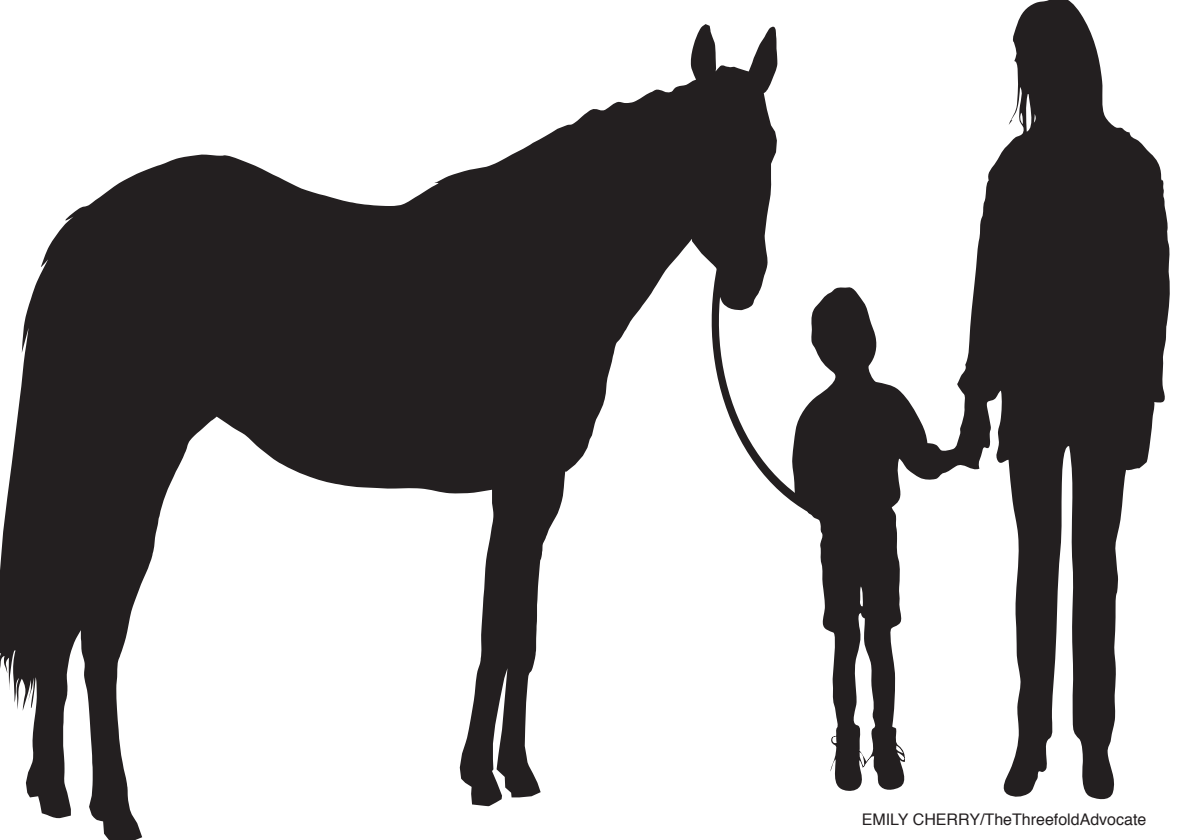
I wanted to mentor Ellie for as long as I was in Siloam Springs. I did not want to be in her life for such a limited time, especially with the daily challenges she faced as a nine-year-old. I was reminded that the Lord has plans for our lives we often cannot expect or comprehend.

My second mentoring relationship has been challenging

the false sense of control I have over my mentee, the Lord revealed the hurt simmering beneath his angry disposition.

A mentor does not mend the mentee, but uplifts, challenges and points towards Christ to the best of one’s ability. Mentoring is never an easy task. We are constantly confronted with circumstances we do not grasp,

inadequacies, mentoring nudges us to the foot of the cross. It requires praying incessantly, seeking the Word of God daily and keeping company with those who are older and wiser in their faith. I am eager to return to New Life Ranch this fall to see what is in store for me and my mentee.



EMILY CHERRY/TheThreefoldAdvocate

from the start. My mentee is a nine-year-old boy who loves to push the boundaries of rules. Nevertheless, by relinquishing

such as why two precious nine-year-olds have been abandoned by their fathers. Instead of being discouraged by our own

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Loving LGBTQ+ at JBU

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The Nashville Statement, 14 articles written by Evangelical leaders in Nashville, Tennessee, sparked renewed controversy over the legalization of gay marriage in the United States. Each article both affirms a Biblical truth and denies a cultural standard surrounding gay marriage and same-sex partnership.

“Whichever way you respond, you set yourself up for criticism,” Dr. Rod Reed, the chaplain at John Brown University, said. The JBU Community Covenant retains the position that “Christian marriage is a covenant relationship between one man and one woman,” and that “Christians should seek to live with integrity and congruence between their birth sex and their gender identity.”

Reed affirmed that this is difficult in real life. “When I look in Scripture, Jesus’ first step towards anyone, except religious people who try to be very rigid, is always a step of love and relationship,” Reed said. He regularly

speaks to students struggling with their sexual identity or orientation. He also leads a group on campus for students on the LGBTQ+ spectrum as a confidential place for them to come and know that they are loved and cared for. “I would guess every student on campus knows someone who is gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, whether they know it or not,” Reed said.

Dr. Andre Broquard, the Dean of Student Life and Director of Residence Life at JBU, agreed that Christians’ first step towards responding to those who identify as LGBTQ+ should be a step of love.

“We still want to create this place that is caring and loving and honors individuals,” Broquard said. “That’s what I would hope for JBU, is that we as individuals seek to understand and know each other.”

According to Broquard, responding in love does not mean that Christians must compromise their beliefs or refrain from sharing Biblical truth with those who identify as LGBTQ+. It simply suggests building relationships instead of condemning.

“Too often I think the Evangelical world has taken on this mentality of being God for other people,” Broquard said.

Broquard said he believes Christians do not have a duty to correct people and show them that they are sinners. “It’s the Holy Spirit’s job to change us,” he said.

Reed cautioned Christians against refusing to see the big picture.

“I think one of the challenges today is Christians conservative Christians in particular who are really desiring to be faithful to Scripture, see the most important thing as standing for truth and winning a short-term battle,” Reed said. “Short-term battles for truth are never won.”

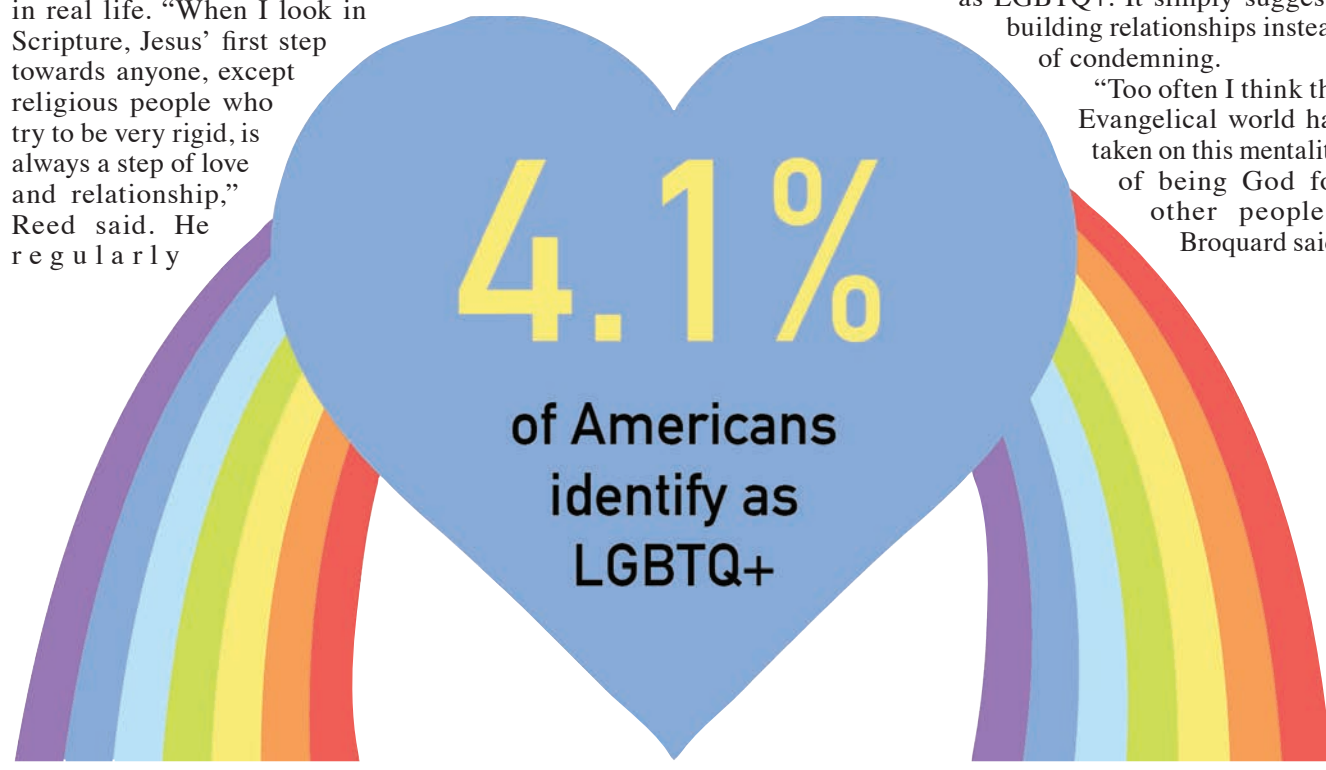
“I think that the church in general needs to do a way better job of making significant friendship available,” Kristie Moergen, the Director of Campus Ministries at JBU, said. “I think being empathetic requires a lot more of us than drawing lines in the sand.”

Preston Sprinkle, author of “People to be Loved,” wrote, “According to the statistics, when young non-Christians were asked about the first thing that came to mind when they thought of evangelical Christianity, you know what they said? Ninety-one percent said that the first thing that comes to mind when they think of Christians is that Christians are ‘anti-homosexual.’” Moergen said she thinks this perception of Christianity could be due to negative social media posts regarding LGBTQ+ legislation as well as blanket statements about those who identify as LGBTQ+. She also said Christians need to “reflect the empathy of the heart of Jesus” when they speak.

Dr. Charles Pollard, the President of JBU, said he believes that answering questions about homosexuality involve both theological principles as well as individual human beings.

“I think a lot of times people can be really right about their theological convictions and really wrong about how they deal with human beings,” Pollard said. “Other times I think people can be really right about how they deal with human beings and really wrong in their theological convictions.” While Pollard said he agreed that sexual identity is an important part of who a person is, it does not completely define them. According to Pollard, the first step in responding to an issue of this magnitude is to listen, and then to ask questions gently once a relationship is formed.

“I wouldn’t start in a place of figuring out where the conflict is,” Pollard said. “I would start in recognizing that you’re both made in the image of God.”



Courtesy of GALLUP POLLS

Illustration student sees the light

NOAH FRANZ
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Garbed in a denim jacket and brushstroke-styled floral skirt, senior Megan Hansen is a vivacious artist in the John Brown University Art and Illustration department.

Megan Hansen has a deep personal affinity for fantasy, philosophy and Greek mythology. Art professor Peter Pohle, who has personally advised her through three years of art classes, encourages her diverse style.

“I had her in comic book class,” Pohle said.

“I noticed a lot of creativity, a lot of interesting ideas. She’s very bubbly and positive.”

Whether it is academic art projects or merely embellishing her own personal belongings, Hansen infuses her environment with her way of “communicating stories.”

“I paint things like my ukulele or my pillow or my longboard because I feel like my things aren’t mine until I change them and make them mine,” Hansen said.

Hansen does not have a preferred medium for art because she considers anything a

viable means of communicating stories. For one particular assignment, Pohle required students to use a different medium to represent the seven deadly sins. Hansen used fabric to create masks.

“She made them all by hand, painted them, used fabric,” Pohle said. “It was quite nice,” Pohle said.

Hansen’s penchant for unorthodox expression is inspired from many different sources, some more obvious than others. “Practically and honestly, I’m inspired by Pinterest,” she said. “As far as subject matter, fantasy creatures like fairies and mermaids. The ocean. Flowers. Greek mythology. I grew up with those things.”

In addition to Pinterest, Hansen’s online presence extends to forums, creative communities and even her own website.

Pohle said he has a hard time pinning down Hansen’s artistic style. Instead, he recognizes her willingness to explore new concepts.

“She was the only one who was not afraid to try something new or challenging,” Pohle said. “She would not hide in her shell, she took risks.”

“I feel like I experiment more than most artists do. I’ve heard that one of the best things is to have a strong style and sense of consistency, and I definitely don’t have that. One of my favorite mediums right now is gouache. I tried it out last year and it blew my mind,” Hansen said. “Oils might be my favorite all-time because of the thickness and texture in paintings. Oil is such a rich experience. It stains my hands for a couple of days, but they take

forever to dry, so I don’t use them a lot. Also, sharpies, but I use them less on paper and more on me.”

While most artists seem to begin creating at an early age, Hansen never fails to be an exception to the rule.

“My art had a very clear beginning. I didn’t start drawing, like Michaelangelo, at three years old. When the movie Tangled came out, I loved it,” Hansen said.

After Hansen walked out of the movie theater, she was obsessed. “I’ve always done things with my hands and I was homeschooled,” Hansen said. “I tried all sorts of hobbies, never sticking to one thing. Pottery to embroidery . . . once the obsession wore off, I just kept drawing.”

To set her further apart, Hansen also has a controversial philosophy on art.

“Good art is the pinnacle of two things: creativity and technical skill. You cannot have art that is one thing and not the other. Creativity without technical skill is like children’s finger paintings or modern art,” Hansen said. “I know that’s controversial, but postmodern art is not art so much as visual philosophy. I don’t think it should be in the same category as art.”

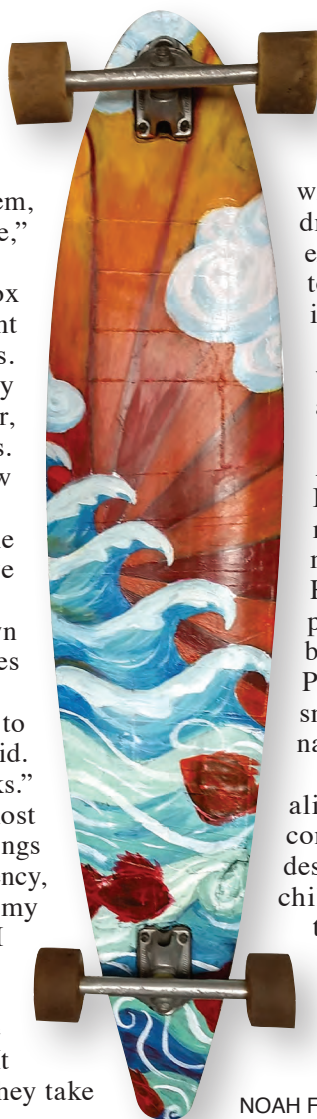
Hansen also has thoughts on the reverse scenario.

“Something that involves technical skill without creativity is photorealistic drawings. I definitely see they are excellent at their craft, but artists have to interpret what is known in order for it to be art.”

Hansen said her initial attraction to JBU was based on the school’s emphasis on both art and academics.

“I love that this campus has the Arties. I knew from the get-go that I wanted to be an Illustration major because it would enable me to tell stories,” Hansen said. Hansen identified storytelling as her primary artistic motivation. “One of the best compliments I’ve ever gotten was from Professor Pohle during Figure Drawing. He snuck up behind me and said, ‘You’re just a natural storyteller.’ I glowed for a week.”

Hansen’s plans span concepts and continents alike. “Two of my biggest dreams are to do concept art for an animation studio or game design,” she said. “I would also love to illustrate children’s books. For immediate plans, I’ve thought extensively, since the art trip to Paris, of teaching art and English in Paris and studying at the Louvre for a year or two.”



NOAH FRANZ/TheThreefoldAdvocate



TITUS HINTON/TheThreefoldAdvocate

10 SPOTLIGHT

September 14, 2017
The Threefold Advocate

“When I am stressed,
Fratelli’s gelato is what
makes my day.”
-Maggie Anderson

“Pure Joy - it’s delicious.
It’s pure. It’s joy.”
-Alan Vongnhay

“A shake from
Barnett’s is a great
study reward.”
-Stephanie Ortiz



“Burton’s is the greatest!
Pick any flavor you want and
load on the toppings.”
-Alyssa Liles

“Andy’s is a yummy and
refreshing treat on a hot day.”
-Chelsea Smith