

# the Gazette

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STUDENT VOICE OF LANGSTON UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2019



## Basketball Season is Here

See Page 8



# the Gazette

The *Gazette* is produced within the Department of Communication at Langston University.

It serves as a teaching tool. The newspaper is published biweekly and is dispersed across campus every other Tuesday, except during examinations, holidays and extended school breaks.

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Opinions expressed in *Voices* are those of the writers whose names appear with the articles.

Letters to the editor should be emailed to [nkturner@langston.edu](mailto:nkturner@langston.edu). Please include your name and telephone number. The newspaper retains the right to edit, accept and/or reject items deemed to be contrary to the best interest of the publication, Langston University and/or any of its governing bodies.

# In Russ I still trust

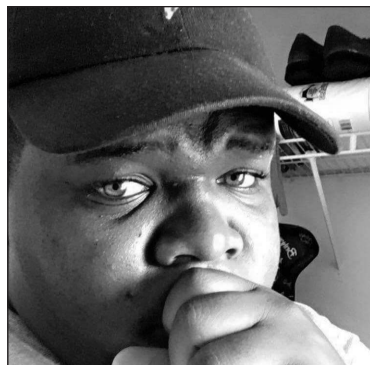
## Thunder games not the same without Westbrook

Growing up a sports fan, I have always been blessed with the ability to go to as many Oklahoma City Thunder games as I wanted.

But, if you haven't been to one during the peak of their time, you truly missed out on an atmosphere that can never be duplicated.

Even after James Harden and Serge Ibaka were traded; even after Kevin Durant did the most upsetting thing in the history of Oklahoma sports and signed with our No. 1 rival team at the time; and, even after numerous injuries (and tons of other circumstances) held that core group of young guys from finally breaking through – one constant that remained was the energy Russell Westbrook gave the crowd night in and night out.

The nickname the Chesapeake Energy Arena earned of "LOUD CITY" definitely rang true when Westbrook



## Gassaway

was here. But, last week I went to my first Thunder game without Westbrook on the roster, or even in the building, and it felt very different.

I'm not saying it wasn't enjoyable. I went with a close friend, and I had a good time. But one thing I noticed was that something was off. It just wasn't the same.

I mean, the crowd was interactive, we were still engaged with the team, the popcorn still smelled GREAT – but it just felt like the en-

ergy that usually engulfs the arena was deflated when Russ left and got traded to the Houston Rockets this past offseason.

The term "LOUD CITY" was the perfect name for Thunder fans in the arena because, as Russ made hustle play after hustle play, fans would cheer and scream for more. His high energy and never cheating the fans will always be cherished.

Honestly, I can't wait until Russ comes back to Oklahoma so the 'Peake can feel that energy its so desperately missing. Though fans booed Durant when he came back for his first game, I think the reaction to Russ will be quite different.

I guess we will see for sure when the Thunder play the Rockets in Oklahoma City on Jan. 9.

*G'ahri Gassaway is a senior broadcast journalism major.*

**Note: This is the final issue of The Gazette for the 2019 fall semester.**

**We will resume publication in February 2020.**

**The Gazette staff wishes everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving and holiday season! Enjoy the break!**

LANGSTON UNIVERSITY

33RD ANNUAL

# Holiday Concert

THURSDAY

## NOVEMBER 21, 2019

7:00PM | I.W. YOUNG AUDITORIUM



# New \$68,000 grant helps with childcare for students

By Monique Bonds  
Editor

The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences in the School of Agriculture and Applied Sciences has lifted a weight off the shoulders of student-parents on the campus.

By receiving a grant worth over \$68,000 from the U.S. Department of Education, the Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program is able to increase childcare options.

"Because the early childhood center closed, we wanted to provide students who have children opportunities to have some type of services for their children," said Dr. Evia Davis, chairperson for the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences.

The application process to receive help with childcare opened Oct. 1, but it is available through Sept. 30, 2020. However, there are only 30 spots available. To be eligible

for the CCAMPIS program, students must be a Pell grant recipient and provide a copy of their current enrollment at Langston University.

"We currently have five students that have completed applications, and we're working with getting them involved in the program," Davis said.

The goal of the CCAMPIS program is to support low-income parents in post-secondary education with the help of campus-based childcare services.

"If they have a child in a center and they have submitted their application, we will pay them starting Oct. 1," Davis said. "Now, we cannot double-dip. If they're receiving [Department of Human Services] subsidy, then we can't pay them on top of that; but if they have a fee or a co-payment, we will pay that amount, and we will pay up to \$260."

With no childcare services in the town of Langston City,

the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences has partnered with Guthrie Early Head Start and Quality Care in Oklahoma City to reserve slots for students who may need childcare assistance.

"Parents may choose a licensed quality childcare center or family childcare home of their choice," said Sonya Moore-Davis, former director of the early childhood laboratory. "[But], having additional funding and adequate childcare access in a limited area relieves stress and anxiety for parents."

While there are limited spots and limited funds, students who are interested in the CCAMPIS program should submit their application and childcare stipend immediately.

For further questions, please contact Dr. Evia Davis by phone at 405-466-3338 or by email at [devia@langston.edu](mailto:devia@langston.edu), or contact Sonya Davis at 405-466-6167 or [sydavis@langston.edu](mailto:sydavis@langston.edu).

SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

CCAMPIS

CHILD CARE ACCESS MEANS PARENTS IN SCHOOL PROGRAM

CHILDCARE FUNDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE TO ASSIST QUALIFIED LANGSTON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WITH CHILDCARE COSTS.

GRANT FUNDED BY:  
THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DATES:  
OCT. 1, 2019 - SEPT. 30, 2020

#### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

Participant(s) must provide copies of current enrollment at Langston University and award summary of the Pell Grant. The CCAMPIS stipend will only cover the balance of childcare cost after the Department of Human Services (DHS) has paid.

HOW TO APPLY: Applications are available below for child care stipends immediately. Please call: Dr. Evia Davis (405) 466-3338 or Mrs. Sonya Moore-Davis (405) 466-6167 for additional information.



## Rep. Kendra Horn visits campus for Writing Democracy Project

By Jade Valenzuela  
Staff Writer

Langston University held the third annual Writing Democracy Project on Nov. 7, an event sponsored by the Writing Center.

Coming from the Federal Writing project, which was originally started by Franklin D. Roosevelt, the purpose behind this democracy project is to get the population more involved in writing for civic discourse and participate more in order to make a difference in the world.

About 50 people attended the event to hear this year's special guest, Rep. Kendra Horn, a Democrat from Oklahoma, who spoke to today's generation of LU students about how to properly write a letter, email or even have a sit-down meeting with a

government official.

There were three parts to this project: the speech from Horn, an open question-and-answer forum with Horn, and a one-on-one workshop with tutors from the Writing Center as well as Horn. During the workshop, students were given a template where they could practice how to properly begin and end an email to any elected official.

"It was nice to have Congresswoman Horn here," said Dr. Mick Howard, English professor and Writing Center director. "One of the things we know, in Oklahoma, this is a state that is heavily dominated by Republican politics, traditionally...our previous two guests were Republicans," he said. "[But] Congresswoman Horn is a Democrat in a state that is heavily

Republican, who won in a massive upset, so having that other voice that represents Oklahoma and her true commitment to diversity, I think that is one of the things, both in her speech and in the conversations that we had with her beforehand, was very apparent – her commitment in that area was very nice to hear."

Horn discussed her own story of becoming a congresswoman in the state of Oklahoma. Hearing her speech sparked an interest in the students, especially because it made them aware of the voice they hold in this country and how to use it.

"I think I am always intrigued and inspired by what young people come up with in their questions and how many dif-

see **WRITING**, page 6

## LU provides update on Young Hall shooting

By Taylor Ross  
Contributing Writer

Logan County police responded to a shooting at Langston University on Nov. 5.

LU police were the first on the scene after responding to a call about hearing gunshots at 9 p.m. in front of Langston dormitory Young Hall.

According to Jaquan Stephens, 26, of 1720 E. College Ave. in Guthrie, Jayden Williams, 20, was shot in the leg and airlifted to Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City.

According to the KOCO 5 News website, Langston issued a statement confirming that the shooting was an isolated incident and they do not believe anybody else in the community was or is in any danger.

On Nov. 6, Langston sent out an official email from Romario Holland, LU police chief, stating, "This remains an open and active, joint investigation involving LUPD and OSBI. Based upon the ongoing investigation and available evidence, we can confirm that this was an isolated incident."

"We strongly encourage members of our community to come forward with any information regarding the incident."

Additionally, another email from Holland on Nov. 8, said a statement released on social media by a student regarding the

see **UPDATE**, page 6



# LUPD officer works dream job

By Jeremy Anderson  
Staff Writer

While there are many outstanding staff members at Langston University, there is one who stands out and brings nothing but positivity (or possibly fright, in some cases) when entering a room.

We introduce Officer Jay, a friend, mentor and inspiration to those on campus.

LU Police Department Officer Jay Molock, known to students as Officer Jay, has been at LU for almost nine years. He started as an admissions counselor, but he then transitioned to one of the most popular police officers on campus. Everyone knows him at LU, whether it be staff, students or alumni.

"I have been on the campus of Langston University since 2012," Officer Jay said. "I began as an exchange fellow from the University of Utah, and when that assignment ended, I applied for an officer position with LUPD."

Surprisingly, even the students

who aren't in the best situations enjoy seeing Officer Jay when he comes around. But, sometimes they can get a little apprehensive because they know exactly why he's around.

What isn't a surprise, though, is how evident it is that Officer Jay genuinely enjoys being an LUPD officer. Actually, it's his dream job, which is what prompted him to apply for the position when it became available.

"An opportunity presented itself, and my prayers were answered," he said.

Officer Jay explained that he has wanted a career in law enforcement since he was 12 years old. Injustices he saw growing up inspired him to go into a career where he could truly make a difference.

"For example, Texas Ranger, state trooper, police officer – in that order," he said. "I got in [to law enforcement] my own way..."

One of the best parts of his job, he said, is "interacting and en-

gaging with students."

While he is on duty, he drives around a golf cart on campus. He said he often teases students with his golf cart by telling them, "You know it cost to ride?," while also getting to know them by asking their names and their majors. He simply likes to engage with the students.

He also has some crazy stories that have happened while on duty over the years.

"The craziest case that I've had was in 2014. The night before homecoming someone stole my golf cart, and it took me 12 hours to locate it," he said.

Officer Jay has also been rewarded for his hard work and dedication to the job.

"In 2015, I completed Oklahoma's Council of Law Enforcement Education training," he said. "In 2018, I received the Langston University MLK Jr. service award and, in 2019, I completed my graduate degree in leadership and higher education from Mid-America Christian University."



Photo by Walter Harris

Langston University Police Officer Jay Molock stands by his famous golf cart that he is so often seen driving around campus.

Officer Jay enjoys stopping and talking with students while making his way through campus on patrol. He says working as an officer is his dream job.

## Griffin, Hollins win titles of Mr. June 12th, Miss 1903

By Tyler McNeal  
Staff Writer

Royalty comes in many different forms. You can be royal to a country, a nation or maybe just one organization.

Normally, a person might be born into a bloodline or chosen by divine right. But, in this case, it could be anyone who goes through the proper training, practice and ceremony.

Five people decided to put in the work and go for the goal of the Sigma Alpha Iota Fraternity Inc. pageant, Mr. June 12th and Miss 1903. Two males and three females competed for the rights to one of the two titles.

To earn their title, contestants had to dazzle the judges in different sections of the show.

The pageant began with the interview questions, where the contestants drew questions from a bowl and answered them on stage. Next, there was the formal wear section, where they showed what they might wear to a formal event.

Then there was the talent display, where contestants tried to impress the audience with their own special skillsets. And, lastly, there was the evening wear competition,

"You know I gotta give it up to God. I've been waiting on this moment, take three!"

— Khalil Griffin,  
2019-2020 Mr. June 12th

with men wearing suits and the ladies wearing evening gowns.

All contestants came out on stage at the end of the competition to show their outfits one last time and receive their awards. Finally, the DJ dropped the drumroll as audience members sat on the edge of their seats. After a long process and a lot of suspense, Khalil Griffin and Jharra Hollins were awarded the titles of Mr. June 12th and Miss 1903, respectively.

"[I feel] outstanding... you know I gotta give it up to God," said Griffin, sophomore broadcast journalism major. "I've been waiting on this moment, take three!"

Jharra Hollins, sophomore music education major, said "it's like a dream still."

The pageant was held Nov. 5, in the I.W. Young Auditorium.



Courtesy Photo

Khalil Griffin and Jharra Hollins win the titles of Mr. June 12th and Miss 1903, respectively. The pageant is sponsored by Sigma Alpha Iota, a musical Greek organization on campus.



## Local communities turn into film sets

**By Joshua Minger**  
Staff Writer

A Langston University professor from Guthrie received a possible offer to be involved in the upcoming action film, "Stillwater," starring Matt Damon.

"A location scout stopped by my house and asked if he could check it out to be featured in the film," said Nicole Turner, instructor of communication. "An actual director came a few days later... They told me the movie would star a 'high-profile' actor who I'd probably know, but I honestly didn't think too much more about it after that because I never heard from them again. Then I found out who the actors were a couple of weeks ago! I can't believe Matt Damon could have been in my house!"

Ultimately, Turner's house was not selected to be part of the movie. But other locations in the area were. The movie just recently finished filming in Guthrie and Coyle, using local businesses, buildings and land.

"They had tons of debris to spread around town for the setup," said Danny McDonald, business owner in Coyle. "The casting director came and compen-

sated me for using my building. They finished filming in about two weeks. They built a couple different houses and tore them down, creating an amazing set."

Also, some of the scenes were filmed in the parking lot of the W.E. Anderson Stadium on campus. Turner said she thinks the exposure is a great opportunity for the local communities, particularly for Langston.

"It gets Langston's name out there in a positive light," Turner said. "We don't receive a lot positive coverage, so this is something it can bring to us. We have a beautiful campus, so it gives people (involved in the movie) an opportunity to see it, to know we're here."

The production caused several detours and extra traffic in the area, but citizens did not seem bothered. Dakecia Hall, a student-teacher at Coyle Elementary, said her students enjoy getting a behind-the-scenes look at movie production in their town.

"The kids that I help during student-teaching are actually very excited about the film and think it's so cool that a movie is being filmed near their homes," Hall said. "This shows them that big things can happen in the smallest of towns."



Photo by Walter Harris

The City of Coyle, located just a couple miles away from campus, is transformed into an action movie set using staged debris for the upcoming film, "Stillwater," starring Matt Damon.

In addition to Damon, "Stillwater" also stars Abigail Breslin and Camille Cottin, according to the IMDb website. It is about an oilfield worker in Oklahoma

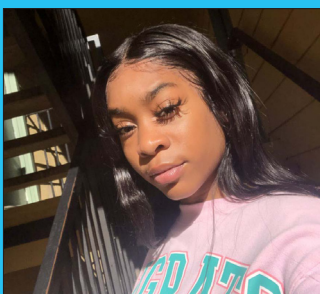
who travels to France to help his daughter, who has been arrested for murder.

It is slated to be released sometime in 2020, according to IMDb.

## Campus Question

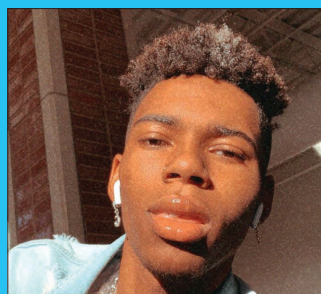
What foods are you looking forward to eating for Thanksgiving?

Compiled by MarQuan Goodman



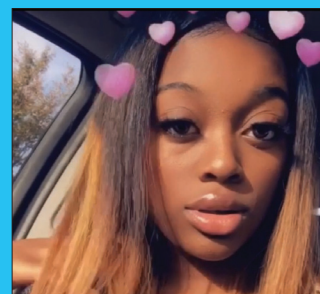
**Cristina Clark**  
Freshman  
Nursing Major

"I'm looking forward to the yams with the marshmallows on top so I can mix it in with my macaroni."



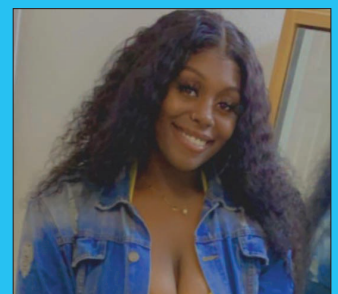
**Erin Cotton**  
Freshman  
Biology Major

"This year I'm looking forward to tasting the macaroni at Thanksgiving dinner!"



**Destiny Myles**  
Sophomore  
Corrections Major

"For Thanksgiving, my family usually does untraditional foods, so this year we're having Chinese, and I can't wait to taste the Ramen."



**Deonia DeLouiser**  
Sophomore  
Health, Physical Education & Recreation Major

"The foods I'm looking forward to this year are candied yams, mac and cheese, greens, with the hot sauce – and I need the bottle full!"



# College students and mental health

## What to do if you're experiencing depression, anxiety

By Lea Houston  
Contributing Writer

Battling anxiety and depression isn't something that comes and goes like a common cold. It leaves when you allow it to leave.

While making a transition from high school to college, there can be major changes, not only physically but mentally, too.

According to the Healthline website, nearly one in three college freshmen reported suffering from mental health disorders in the years leading up to their college arrival.

Depression is a mental disorder characterized by a depressed mood and/or loss of interest in activities. Anxiety,

“It's important to talk to someone who has a background in mental health about your mental health. Talk to someone who's been trained about the same issues as you.”

— Jorell Smallwood,  
senior music education major

however, is the body's natural response to stress. It's a feeling of fear and apprehension about what's to come, according to the Mayo Clinic website.

Austin Hughes, senior psychology major, said depression and anxiety motivated him to choose his major.

“Believe it or not, these are

the two mental illnesses that helped me become who I am today,” Hughes said.

Hughes explained that he didn't think he was going to make it in college by himself. Not having friends, family or even money triggered his anxiety and depression.

“It was important that I

fought back,” Hughes said. “I had to get myself outside of these four walls.”

It wasn't until Hughes' sophomore year that he decided to not let the anxiety and depression get the best of him – Hughes was sure to find friends and people to hang out with to get certain things off his mind.

College students can easily be anxious trying to balance school, work, friends and family while also trying to figure out the rest of their lives.

According to the Anxiety and Depression Association of America, 30% of college students reported that stress and depression had negatively affected their academic performance, and 85% reported they had felt overwhelmed

by everything they had to do at some point within the past year.

“It is important to talk to someone who has a background in mental health about your mental health,” said Jorell Smallwood, senior music education major. “Talk to someone who's been trained about the same issues as you.”

If you feel you have experienced any mental health issues, the counseling office is located on the first floor of University Women, Rooms 110 and 111.

If a counselor is not available, leave a message at 405-466-3400. If these sources are not available, call Student Assistance by Mercy (CallSAM) at 1-855-225-2726.

## Students prepare to study for exams during Thanksgiving

By Walter Harris  
Staff Writer

As the end of the semester approaches, students are getting ready to study for finals on Thanksgiving break, instead of actually taking a break.

Normally, each semester, students have a week before finals – usually termed “dead week” – which is used for studying and reviewing with professors.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Ruth Ray Jackson said this decision was based off timing, but it was not done intently. Most colleges and universities have terms or semes-

ters comprised of 15 weeks.

“We started the semester at the same traditional time,” Jackson said, “a week ahead of a lot of universities. However, due to the way calendar dates came about this year, the 15th-week mark came earlier than normal.”

Though it was purely coincidence, students are taking a displeasure to the calendar dates this year.

Senior health, physical education and recreation major Eugene Fuller thinks that not having an actual dead week is not fair to students who need assistance with reviewing for their

final exams.

“Most students are used to hands-on assistance from their teachers during the review time during dead week,” Fuller said. “Being that we are going to be on break with lack of communication with our professors, how can we get a full understanding on questions we have?”

Dakecia Hall, junior child development major, agrees with Fuller and thinks it is interfering with one's family time over break.

“Not being able to have dead week before finals is draining because I [normally] use my Thanksgiving break to go home

and take a break from school,” she said. “Now I am forced to study my work on top of trying to enjoy my family time.”

Though dead week has been removed this semester, the university is taking steps to ensure this does not happen in the future.

“I asked the [Office of the Registrar] to create a few variations of a calendar for the next academic year, looking at when we start to determine when we close,” Jackson said. “This is one of the major considerations that we are looking at so that we don't walk back into finals during Thanksgiving week.”

## Library to be open until midnight during finals week

By Marquala Ealom  
Staff Writer

The Langston University G. Lamar Harrison Library hours will change during finals week to give students more time to study and prepare for their exams.

The library will be open on Sunday, Dec. 1, from 2 p.m. to midnight and Monday-Thursday, Dec. 2-6, from 7:30 a.m. to

midnight.

Many students agree that it's necessary to extend library hours because it gives them an opportunity to review their material in an academic environment until right before they go to sleep.

“I have two jobs outside of school, and it is hard to go straight home and study,” said Ronrico Brown, junior psychology major. “I normally go to the library during finals week to

keep me up and motivated, versus when I'm at home, I'm sluggish and ready to go to bed.”

Students also take advantage of the late hours for group study sessions. Oftentimes, people's schedules are too hectic to meet at earlier times, so they go to the library at night.

Library personnel said many students request the library stay open later so they can finish everything they need before finals,

so the library staff is committed to doing what they can, when they can.

“We're always interested in what students would like us to do more of or to start doing,” said Caitlin Corbett, head of technical services. “We are very interested in student feedback, so please don't hesitate to let us know things you would like to see happen or things you don't like.”

## UPDATE

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incident was “unauthorized and unofficial.”

“In an abundance of caution given the incident that took place earlier this week, we have taken the necessary precautions by activating enhanced security protocols on campus,” Holland said in the email.

According to Stephens, Williams is now at home in Tulsa after a successful surgery, and he is currently unsure about returning to Langston to continue his education.

## WRITING

from page 3

ferent things people are concerned about,” Horn said. “We had a great question about the tax bill and the implications on that, and a great question on why funding has slowed down...I love questions that don't back down on how our systems work... but I wasn't surprised at all with the good questions and the people interested in it... I loved it.”



# Town of Langston City holds annual Veterans Day events

*Special from the  
Town of Langston City*

A retired Air Force Korean War veteran, an Army veteran turned distinguished FBI special agent retiree, a hometown boy who received the Purple Heart as a Vietnam veteran who now preaches and teaches the Holy Word, and a dynamic former Oklahoma state senator with a passion for civic engagement – all of these individuals were hailed during Langston City's fifth annual Veteran's Appreciation Weekend.

During the past five years, the Town of Langston City has been nationally recognized by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and designated as a regional site for Veterans Day Observances from 2017 to 2019. This year, Langston again saluted U.S. veterans for four impactful days, from Nov. 8 to Nov. 11.

From the preventative health screening and an informative seminar on veteran's benefits Nov. 8, to the insightful words of a history-making civic leader Nov. 11, the Town of Langston City recognized, appreciated and respected veterans.

The expertise presented on duty, service, spirituality and civic involvement came enveloped by the melodic sounds of the Langston University concert ensemble, the powerful playing of a bugler and a military-type musical presentation by the church youth department.

Special thanks goes to all of the groups and individual's who made the event a success.

Mr. Ralph Coleman of Meridian, an employee of the Dale Graham Veterans Foundation, enlightened more than a dozen veterans on potential benefits that they may have overlooked.

The members of the Oklahoma State and the Langston City Lions Club sponsored and the Mobile Health Screening Unit, which tested almost 30 veterans and residents for eight different medical conditions.

Todd Hartwig, a retired U.S. Coast Guard from Sherman, Texas, raised the U.S. Coast

Guard Flag and Coast Guard veteran Quenesta Glover of Oklahoma City, gave the history of the Coast Guard as this singular and memorable moment was achieved.

Fred Gragg of Bartlesville and Anna Bell Brooks of Meridian sponsored the fifth event hosted by Gragg in honor of his fellow veterans.

This year, Langston was honored with the presence of Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs officials: Executive Director Joel Kintsel, Commissioner Jerry Ball and Director of Claims and Benefits Jackie Whitten.

Hugh Allen of Langston gave the gathering and offered a personal reminiscence of growing up in Oklahoma, joining the railroad as a 14-year-old with his 14-year-old best friend and enlisting in the Air Force with that same best friend. But, he never had a chance to serve with him over a 20-year career.

A recent encounter led him to meet a South Korean-American who was raised in a village 14 miles from the military base where he served during the Korean War. She is now a doctor, and her children all have advanced degrees. Allen asserted how America's role in that war allowed that family to live and progress.

Gerald L. Mack, a native of Meridian and an Army veteran who went on to become an FBI special agent, addressed the luncheon theme – "Honoring Brave Men and Women – Past, Present, Future."

He led the Gragg Luncheon audience on a mental and emotional journey from the moment veteran takes the oath of enlistment, or as an officer, to the moments of training and the moments of engagement, to the moments of hurt, harm, danger and even death.

And, through it all, he proclaimed, they never said no or why or what if.

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church's Sixth Annual Veterans Appreciation Worship Service started off with the youth department marching to a military

cadence – "Left, Left, Left-Right-Left."

They sang "I Am on the Battlefield for My Lord" and "I Am a Soldier in the Army of the Lord." The youth led the congregation in a rendition of "America the Beautiful," and before the sermon, they performed a high-energy praise dance to the gospel song "This Means War."

The Rev. Douglas C. Robinson spent his formative years in Langston and is a former member of New Hope Baptist Church. He received the Purple Heart while serving in Vietnam with the 25th Division, first of the 27th Wolfhounds.

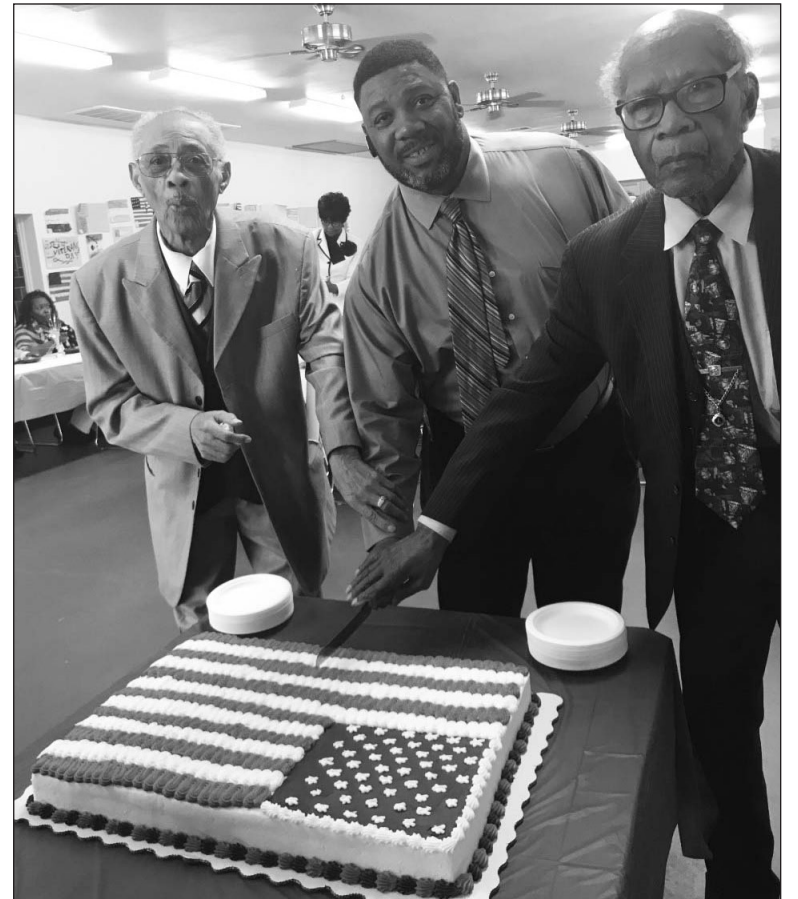
He was wounded in combat and lost his best friend and some Army brothers on Oct. 24, 1968, at the "Iron Triangle," while on ambush control. Called to the ministry in 1984, he has served since 1995 as instructor and now dean of the King is Coming Theological Christian Center in Oklahoma City.

Rev Robinson's sermon highlighted the hard, dangerous, admirable work of veterans as first responders to safeguarding our freedom. He made references to his boyhood friends by their nicknames. With Luke 2:7 as a scripture reference and using the title "The Greatest Responder There Ever Was," his sermon evolved to the spiritual reference of Jesus as the most important first responder, rescuing the world from sin.

Such a profound religious service was followed by the annual group photograph of our veterans; the sharing of Sunday Dinner hosted by the Beta Phi Zeta chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc.; meaningful, lingering fellowship; and the traditional cake-cutting by members of the different military branches.

The 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month of 2019 provided a perfect opportunity to demonstrate Langston's commitment to honoring veterans – come rain, snow, high winds or frigid temperatures.

"A Very Patriotic Veterans Day Program" was hosted by the Wm Conrad Veterans Memorial



Courtesy Photo

Three military veterans participate in the traditional cake cutting. Pictured (from left) are Rev. Ray Peters, Air Force veteran of Guthrie; Anthony Phillips, Navy veteran of Pensacola, Florida; and Alvin Love, Army veteran of Guthrie.

Gardens, located at 313 Turner St. in Langston at the Baptist Collegiate Ministries. The full house was another testament to the respect paid to veterans on their day.

The speaker, former Oklahoma Sen. Connie Johnson, rallied the troops. She credited the U.S. military with the push toward racial desegregation in America. Then she reminded the audience of how much further the military has to go in terms of preventing and properly dealing with the sexual abuse of women in the military. She noted the continuing health challenges, both mental and physical, of veterans returning from active duty.

However, Sen. Johnson's greatest impart was the need for those of us who are the beneficiaries of the brave actions and even deaths of the men and women of the U.S. military to take up the mantle of freedom

by being involved in civic issues, most important of which is voting.

Everyone present was impressed with the presence of the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard from Tinker Air Force Base who presented the Colors and the 145th Army Bugler, SPC Austin Vasicek, who performed bugler calls. SPC Vasicek ended the program with the heart-stirring playing of "Taps", honoring the recent loss of 25-year-old Coyle High School graduate Fidel Du-Shan Simpson, who had just completed six years in the Marine Corps.

Donations to support the continuing recognition of local veterans can be sent to the Wm Conrad Veterans Memorial Gardens, P.O. Box 27, Langston, OK 73050 or contact Stewart A. Williams, founder/developer, at 405-359-8744 or stewartwilliams55@cox.net.



# Lions coast past Steers in home game 'blowout'

By Devin Dourisseau  
Staff Writer

The Langston seniors went out with a game to remember as the now No. 21 ranked Langston University Lions coasted past the Texas College Steers, 44-7, for the final home game of the season Nov. 9, at W.E. Anderson Stadium.

Begore the game, Lorenzo Adger offered his thoughts going into the matchup against fellow HBCU, Texas College.

"My prediction for this, just a blowout," he said. "You know everybody having fun, everyone flying around, and all the seniors getting to play their last home game as a Lion and come out with a blowout."

And, a blowout it was as Langston opened the game with a score from a safety by the defense when Jordan Cooper hit Glenn Irons for a 20-yard touchdown, then tacked on three touchdowns in the second quarter.

According to the Dakstats website, Cooper finished 16-of-31 for



259 yards for two touchdowns and picked up 24 yards and one score on the ground.

Tim Whitfield's 14-yard touchdown run set a Langston University milestone by breaking the single-season rushing yards

record of 1,079, originally set by Carlos Ross in 2009. Whitfield also recorded 95 yards on 17 carries with two touchdowns in his record-setting day.

Isaiah Shaputis led the receivers with six receptions for



Photos by Na'Tianna Stocker

**Left:** No. 10 Jordan Cooper hands off the ball to junior running back No. 44 Tim Whitfield.

**Above:** Senior wide receiver Glenn Irons holds off Texas College defenders during the final home game of the season.

96 yards along with one touchdown, and Irons finished the day with three receptions for 65 yards and one touchdown.

James Cox and Devin Dourisseau

seau tied for the lead in tackles with four. Nicholas Fowler finished with two interceptions, and Dorian Williams tallied one interception for the day.

## Lady Lions start season at 2-2

By Malik Young  
Staff Writer

It is officially basketball season for our Lady Lions.

The LU women's basketball team has launched this season at 2-2, which is a great start for a team that has a lot of new faces.

The team has four returning players from last year, but nine new ladies have joined this season, and the team is still trying to find its chemistry and grit on the defensive end.

"Our chemistry is way better than last year's team. We have formed bonds on and off the court, which allow us to play together," said junior forward Alexia Leventson. "Everyone is willing to play their role and listen to the coaching staff."

This team also has a different mindset than last year. Every-

"Our chemistry is way better than last year's team. We have formed bonds on and off the court, which allow us to play together."

— Alexia Leventson,  
junior forward

one is going out playing every game like it's their last. This is partly because the Lady Lions lost their three leading scorers from last season, which means players have to step up and fulfill those key roles.

One of those players is sophomore guard Grace Williams, who spent a lot of last season with an injury.

"I had to be an all-around player, which meant playing hard on both sides of the

court," Williams said. "They look at me to set the intensity and get everyone involved. I basically just had to step up and be a leader."

The Lady Lions are looking forward to the challenges they may face this season. The next challenge is their first conference game at Mid-American Christian University on Nov. 21. With conference play coming soon, the team expects to be flowing on all cylinders.

## Three players ejected from Langston vs. Lincoln game

By Asheika Alexander  
Contributing Writer

The Langston women's basketball team came out with a 70-61 victory Nov. 3, over longtime rival Lincoln University, but the win came with a price.

The game was particularly intense and full of passion, as three LU players' emotions caused them to be ejected. Langston was making an offense run when the scuffle occurred toward the end of the second quarter, which resulted in the referees deciding to remove three LU players from the game, two from Langston and one from Lincoln.

According to officials, this was an appropriate call for the measure of the altercation.

Mya Parker, junior forward,

said, "I didn't even do anything. I was trying to get the other player off of my teammate."

Parker was one of the players involved in the minor incident, and despite not throwing any physical blows, she was still ejected. With Parker being one of the taller Lady Lions, it forced Langston to play smaller forwards with an absence of height.

But, even with the adversity of being down two players, which ultimately forced others to play out of their normal positions, Langston was still able to come off on top and prove they are the better LU, according to the Lady Lions.

"It was an ugly win, but I rather learn a lesson with a win than with a loss," said senior guard Orionna Shirley.