



THE SHORTHORN

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Editorial: Spoilers ruin the viewer experience, **see page 5**

Sage and crystals are replacing face masks and bath bombs when it comes to self care, **see page 6**

Freshman pitcher brings youth to baseball team, **see page 8**

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS



The Shorthorn: Reese Oxner

Qaphelani Diamini, Global Sports Mentoring Program delegate, rolls his boccia ball while opponent Arlington resident John Bruton waits his turn April 20 during the Adapted Sport Clinic in the Physical Education Building. Boccia is a precision ball game played in a wheelchair.

Clinic fosters adapted sports

Anyone is welcome to play regardless of physical ability

BY BRIAN LOPEZ
The Shorthorn news editor

Inclusivity and awareness are just a couple of things the Adapted Sport Clinic vies to promote.

Since January, the Adapted Athletics Sport Club and the disability studies minor program, along with Lady Movin' Mavs senior Abby Dunkin, have hosted the clinic every third Saturday of the month at the Physical Education Building.

Throughout that time, Dunkin said the clinic has encouraged participants, able-bodied included, to explore sports like wheelchair basketball, wheelchair tennis and boccia.

Dunkin leads the clinic's wheelchair basketball portion, teaching participants how to maneuver down the court in the chair before they learn how to play the game.

"It's wheelchair mechanics first and basketball skills second," said

CLINIC continues on page 3



The Shorthorn: Reese Oxner

Soft tennis balls lie on the floor April 20 during the Adapted Sport Clinic in the Physical Education Building. New players start out with soft balls before working their way up to using harder ones.

CONSTRUCTION

Abram Street project underway

The Abram Street Rebuild project aims to make downtown more pedestrian-friendly, but construction could affect downtown businesses.

BY ROCIO HERNANDEZ
The Shorthorn staff

The city of Arlington continues paving the way to a new downtown area with its Abram Street Rebuild project.

The voter-approved project between Cooper and Collins streets started March 2018 and is scheduled to finish March 2020, said Andrea Ruales, Abram Street Rebuild project manager.

Renovations include road paving, street light installation, landscaping and sidewalk widening, all in efforts to make downtown more pedestrian-friendly and welcoming, Ruales said.

"The goal is to fully rebuild Abram Street," she said.

The city is on phase 4B of the project, which focuses on the north side of Abram Street and has an approximate completion time in August, Ruales said.

According to an Arlington city news release, the city will close Abram Street in front of City Hall to all traffic starting May 1 to June 30 to work on phase 4B more efficiently.

A complete closure will allow contractors to work on brick paving, retractable bollards and enhanced electrical capabilities.

The brick pavers will be used to create a plaza on Abram Street between City Hall and Founders Plaza, according to the news release. The retractable bollards will help temporarily close a street to vehicle traffic, and the enhanced electrical capabilities will provide support for downtown outdoor events.

The closure will also make the direction of travel less confusing for drivers.

With busy construction along Abram Street, Ruales said the city is making communication with nearby businesses a priority.

Randy Ford, J. Gilligan's Bar and Grill owner, said his business has not been affected by the construction because customers find their way around it.

Ford said J. Gilligan's has been a destination for many in Arlington, and he's confident that the business' history will keep people coming despite the construction.

Jeremy Washburn, Old School Pizza Tavern general manager, said he is trying to keep business as usual during the construction.

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The Shorthorn: Reese Oxner

Abby Dunkin, Lady Movin' Mavs senior, keeps the ball away from her opponent, Eules resident Michael Steiner, on April 20 during the Adapted Sport Clinic in the Physical Education Building. Dunkin has played for the Lady Movin' Mavs for five years.

Clinic

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Courtney McKinney, Adapted Athletics Sport Club adviser.

While playing wheelchair basketball for the first time, Dallas resident Ethan Deets, a friend of McKinney, said he loved watching everyone come together.

"Being out here, it's cool just playing and

a smile on people's faces," he said.

The 40-minute drive from Dallas to Arlington was worth it, Deets said, because he got to see the game from a different perspective.

Once he got into a chair, Deets had to change his approach to the game, adjusting everything from his offense to his defense.

"I had to slow down in my head a little bit but speed up on my feet,"

Deets had trouble grabbing rebounds, loose balls and taking shots while trying to adjust to the pace of the game.

"You wanna do stuff in your mind, but your body is not letting you do it," he said.

Deets said watching McKinney strive to help people has inspired him. Going forward, he hopes to work with the clinic's organizers to attain sponsors and expose it to

Dallas resident Anita Nickel has used a wheelchair for about six years.

Nickel attended the clinic for the first time because she wanted to play boccia, but she tried wheelchair tennis as well.

"It's good for your soul," Nickel said. "To be around and have fun with other people, it makes you realize how blessed you are."

The clinic gives those

new ones, McKinney said.

"UTA is a hub for adapted sports, and [it's] really successful at it, but we want the community to come to campus," McKinney said.

For the younger population, she hopes sports clinics like these can inspire them.

"We're hoping to show them that they can be athletes too," she said.

Taxes

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them totaling 650 hours, a decrease from last season, she said. Last year, there were 64 UTA volunteers tallying 909 hours.

The decrease could be caused by Arlington volunteers moving to Fort Worth locations, she said. It could also be caused by requiring the more time-consuming advanced training.

Jimenez volunteered for 271 hours this tax season. She said she learned something new every day.

"Being there all the time I'm getting different scenarios, different things, different tax returns," Jimenez said. "I'm learning a larger scope of everything."

Michelle Beltran, Foundation Communities' community services director, said college students are a big part of the program.

Volunteering at the site is an 11-week commitment and the volunteers are absolutely amazing, she said.

Beltran said it's a great feeling for volunteers when they can help clients.

"[Volunteering] says a lot about your willingness to do things outside the box or to give back to your community," Beltran said.

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Abram

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Washburn said Old School Pizza Tavern has served the Arlington community for several years.

With construction impeding customers to enter from the front entrance, he said people now have to come through the back end of the business, making it inconvenient.

"It's affected our business quite a bit, but we're doing what we can to keep the doors open," Washburn said. "Once the construction is done, it should be for the best."

Haley Page, Old School Pizza Tavern server, said a lot of their business comes from people driving down Abram Street.

With the construction, Page said people are not able to see or get to the business.

"People are probably avoiding this road," she said. "Our front entrance was blocked off for a while, and people couldn't get in. And our back entrance — you can't even see it."

Although the restaurant may be affected, Washburn said he knows the renovations will bring in more foot traffic for the business.

"You gotta get through the bad to get to the good," he said.