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Banner News

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Campus grieves loss of nursing professor

Valree Blewett-Dickson, 59, of Ames died at her home on Tues., March 18. She was a full-time nursing instructor at the DMACC Boone Campus since 1992.

The *Banner News* would like to publish a special memorial page in the next issue of the newspaper (April 9) dedicated to Val. We invite readers to submit their thoughts and memories about Professor Blewett-Dickson to us at bannernews@dmacc.edu by Wednesday, April 2, at 5 p.m. Or drop off your submissions to Room 115. Photos are also welcome.

According to her obituary, Val enjoyed being involved in the teaching and clinical side of nursing. She worked in ICU/CCU at Iowa Methodist Hospital in Des Moines from 1986-1991. She then started her career as a nursing instructor at DMACC in 1992 while concurrently working as a PRN at Mary Greeley Medical Center. She resigned at Mary Greeley Medical Center in 2012 to devote more time to her pursuit of a Doctorate of Nursing Practice at Allen College while continuing to educate the next generation of nurses at the DMACC Boone Campus.

Val is survived by her husband Jim, their children Mackenzie Joy and Nolan Lloyd Dickson all of Ames, sisters Vivian (Stan) Brandmeyer of Versailles, MO, and Brenda Westvold of Clive, IA, and nephews Mike Brandmeyer and his family, Brent Brandmeyer and his family, Nic Westvold and his family, and Jason Westvold and his family. She was preceded in death by her parents.



Freshman Justin Walter works with Professor Jan LaVille in the Writing Center on a Comp 1 text analysis.

WRITE RIGHT

Center offers free help with assignments

By Lester K. Mwirichia
Staff Writer

Inside DMACC's Writing Center, located in Room 170, any student seeking writing assistance will find it.

"The Writing Center provides the opportunity to work with experienced instructors on one paper assignment, or on one career-oriented document like a resume," said English Professor Bret Ross, who helps staff the writing centers at Boone and Ames when he's not teaching classes.

Writing Center Coordinator Krystal Hering, who has a master's degree in creative writing, advises students to try to come to the Writing Center as soon as possible after an assignment is given.

"Students who wait until the last minute to begin typing tend to not perform very well."

Writing is not as easy as some may think, said

Writing Center consultant Angie Mallory. "A lot of students struggle with it."

Mallory, who has experience in the writing field, encourages students to come in to the Writing Center before they even begin to write. Mallory finds it important to "talk about writing" in general, before a student begins to put words on paper. She uses this exercise to process and filter writing information. "It helps boil down the many ideas students have to get the ones they want to write about," she said.

Located inside the entrance to the L.W. Courter Center by the north parking lot, the Writing Center is a place to gather in a writing environment and simply write. Open five days a week: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Writing Center has a strong roster of staff, including Jan LaVille, professor of English/journalism and former director of DMACC's Honors Program and Dennis E. Thompson, associate professor of English and an Iowa State University alum.

No appointments are necessary. Students can just drop in.

See **WRITE**, page 4

New field planned for softball

DMACC- The DMACC softball team is looking forward to having a real home field advantage for the 2015 spring season, a new softball field.

"We are thankful that we will have a field on campus that we will be able to call our own," said DMACC freshmen third basemen Hannah Swafford of Wellston, Oklahoma. "It will be a great contribution to our program and a great place to make new memories together."

The team has been practicing and playing games at the Boone Little League fields about four miles from campus.

"This field will be an outstanding addition to our program," said DMACC Head Softball Coach Bob Ligouri. "It will benefit the DMACC Boone Campus and the community. Next season students will be able to watch our team play on right campus. We'll also be able to offer softball clinics, leagues and tournaments that will benefit athletes in Boone and surrounding communities."

The DMACC Board of Directors recently approved construction of the \$380,000 field that will be located near the baseball fields on the northeast side of campus. DMACC Boone Campus Provost Tom Lee said construction will be paid for through fundraising, with equipment money and a generous donation from the DMACC Boone Campus Foundation. The field will sit on 6.2 acres of land purchased by DMACC in 2012.

"This field will put our program on the same level as some of the best softball programs in the country and provide a complete college experience for students,"

See **FIELD**, page 5

what you said...

Who do you predict will win the NCAA tourney?

Max Schaefer



"Kansas because they have a solid team."

Marisa Graz



"Duke because they have a great winning record."

Joseph Head



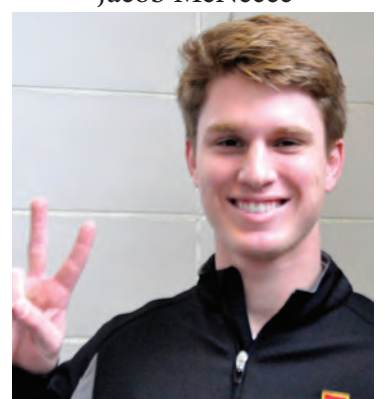
"Iowa State because I live in Ames."

Tiana Thompson



"Kansas Jayhawks because they are my favorite team."

Jacob McNeece



"Florida because they are ranked number 1."



DMACC

Students on All-Iowa Academic Team

Twelve Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) students named to the 2014 All-Iowa Academic Team, were honored at a recent recognition banquet held in Des Moines. The DMACC team, receiving congratulations from DMACC President Rob Denson, includes Loren Church (front row, left to right) of Chariton, Alyssa Bedford of Urbandale, Connie Welcher of Des Moines, President Rob Denson, Caimon Leeds of Stratford, Kyle Hamilton of Altoona, Tiffany Allison of Des Moines, Shawna Babcock (back row, left to right) of Des Moines, Jon Galletley of Lake City, Curtis Kling of Des Moines, Shannon Pierson of Boone, Traci Rosenau of Carroll and Lauren Roush of Kellogg. In addition, Allison was named one of the Coca-Cola Gold Scholars.

In My Boots 5K set for April 19

DMACC Boone Campus is hosting their first "In My Boots" 5K run, walk or ruck-march on Saturday, April 19 starting at 9 a.m. in McHose Park in Boone.

Register prior to April 7 and pay an entry fee of \$25. The entry fee is \$30 per person until the day of the event. An entry fee for a four person ruck team is \$80. This option is only for military personnel and veterans. This event is open to all ages and abilities. Parking and shuttle services to and from the event will be available at the Boone Campus.

Prizes will be given out for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in various categories for the 5K run or walk and one team will win from the ruck-march. These prizes include: T-shirts for those who register by April 7, goodie bags, awards for overall male and female winners, medals for winners in age categories

State-wide bragging rights and an award will go to the first four-person ruck-march team to cross the finish line. Each ruck will be packed with non-perishable food items and clothing to be donated to the local homeless shelters in Iowa.

"Our goal was to be able to offer one small way for members of the DMACC community to show their support for the women and men who serve so courageously and unselfishly in the U.S. military," said Julie Roosa, Professor of Journalism, Law and Honors at DMACC Boone Campus. "Many of our students are members of the military, and DMACC has many support services available."

The "In My Boots" 5K run, walk, or ruck-march will celebrate military veterans and raise money for the Wounded Warrior Project. To register, visit <http://go.dmacc.edu/boone/inmyboots5k/Pages/welcome.aspx>, or to donate to the Wounded Warrior project, visit <http://web.charityengine.net/individual-fundraising/DMACC>. For information, contact Julie Roosa at (515) 433-5033 or jkroosa@dmacc.edu; or Orv Salmon at (515) 433-5050 or orvsalmon@dmacc.edu.

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Spring 2014

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Ping Pong contest

The Boone Student Activities Council is hosting a Ping Pong contest on Thursday, March 27th 10:30am-Noon at the DMACC Boone Campus Lobby of Gymnasium. *Division winners get a free t-shirt.

- Male student
- Female student
- Faculty/Staff

*Participate in 4 intramural activities and get a free t-shirt.

Discover engineering

DMACC and Iowa State University are cosponsoring a Discover Engineering Day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wed., April 2 at the FFA Enrichment Center located on the DMACC Ankeny Campus.

High school students considering a possible career in engineering and their parents are invited to attend this free, three-hour interactive learning experience that will allow students to experience activities performed by professional engineers. At Discover Engineering Day, students will have the opportunity to do the following:

- Learn about many engineering careers
- Take part in hands-on interactive engineering activities and competitions
- Meet engineering professionals and college students

A lunch will be provided to students and their parents. Students can register for this event at www.dmacc.edu/programs/pdp. The deadline to register is March 28.

The ISU Engineering Career Services reports the average beginning salary for ISU Engineering graduates is \$60,712.

For more information, contact Dave Kissinger at (515) 965-7173.

Health Insurance info

DMACC Daily -- Attend a free information session (non-commercial, non-political) on Health Insurance on Wed., March 26th in Room 145 on the DMACC Boone Campus. The information session times are:

- 11:15 to 11:45 a.m.
- 12:15 to 12:45 p.m.
- 1:30 to 2 p.m.

Free pizza will be served for information session attendees. This opportunity will help you understand key health insurance concepts and terms, understand

key provisions of the Affordable Care Act, use Iowa's new Health Insurance Marketplace and understand tax credits and financial assistance available to many consumers. If you have questions, contact DMACC's Erin Neumann at (515) 433-5037 or Barb Wollan, Family Finance Program Specialist at bwollan@iastate.edu or (515) 832-9597.

Childcare and Transportation help

A program called Iowa New Choices offers assistance with childcare and transportation for qualifying single parents and displaced homemakers (separated, divorced, widowed or spouse disabled.) For information, contact, Erin Neumann, Room 124, eaneumann@dmacc.edu. Or call 515-433-5037.

Earth Week photo contest

The 2014 Earth Week Photo Contest is now open. New Categories for 2014 include Mammals Only, Birds Only, and The Year of the Pollinator

Also new for 2014: cash prizes. Submissions are due by Mon., March 31st at noon. The winner will be announced on Earth Day, Tues., April 22nd. Check out all the rules & updates at: <https://go.dmacc.edu/earthday/Pages/photocontest.aspx>

London Study Abroad

There will be two upcoming meetings on DMACC's London Study Abroad program.

March 28th at 1:30 p.m. and April 16th at 3 p.m.

- Ankeny Campus, Bldg. #6, Rm. 8
- Boone Campus, Rm. #117, broadcast from Ankeny
- Carroll Campus, Rm. #144, broadcast from Ankeny
- Newton Campus, Rm. #128, broadcast from Ankeny
- Urban Campus, Bldg. #1, Rm. 213, broadcast from Ankeny

Literary Arts Festival

DMACC's 12th annual Celebration of the Literary Arts will be held April 7-9 with classroom visits to all six DMACC campuses by area writers and literary instructors.

Author Laura van den Berg and Fiction Writer Alan Heathcock will read from their works on the DMACC Boone Campus

from 11 a.m. to noon, Mon., April 7.

Van den Berg's debut story collect, *What the World Will Look Like When All the Water Leaves Us*, was a Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers selection, a finalist for ForeWord Magazine's Book of the Year award, long-listed for The Story Prize and short-listed for the Frank O'Connor International Award. Her second collection of stories, *The Isle of Youth*, was just released. Heathcock's fiction has been published in many journals, including *Zoe-trope: All-Story*, *Kenyon Review*, *VQR*, *Five Chapter* and *The Harvard Review*, and have been selected for inclusion in *The Best American Mystery Stories* anthology. *VOLT*, a collection of stories, was a "Best Book 2011" selection from numerous newspapers and magazines, including *GQ*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Salon*, the *Chicago Tribune* and was named as a *New York Times* Editors' Choice, selected as a Barnes & Noble Discover Prize. All Celebration of Literary Arts events are free and open to the public.

HiSET replaces GED

Since 1949 GED has been the test of choice to determine whether a student has acquired the equivalency of a high school diploma. Starting January 2014, Iowa, along with other states, will begin using the HiSET test in place of the GED test. It will be similar to the GED with Reading, Social Studies, Science, Writing Skills, and Math tests.

The next session of classes will be March 3 through April 24. A summer session will be offered also. For information please stop by the AAC or call 515-433-5095.

Honors seeks applicants

DMACC is seeking highly motivated students to join the Honors program this summer and fall. If you have completed one college-level English and one college-level math class or are currently enrolled in them, will have completed a minimum of nine (9) college credits and fewer than fifty (50) credits at the end of spring with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher, you are eligible to become a DMACC. To read more about Honors, go to www.dmacc.edu/honors and get started on your way to a rewarding, challenging educational opportunity.

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'Somewhere' at DMACC



Dan Ivis/DMACC

Photo above: DMACC Boone students Nick Hicks of Boone and Solena Mendez of Boone rehearse a scene from the play *Somewhere In Between* by Craig Pospisil to be performed at 7:30 p.m. on April 4 and 5 in the Boone Campus Theatre. Tickets are \$5 per person and may be purchased at the door. DMACC students receive free admission. The play is directed by DMACC Drama Department Professor Kay Mueller. This play contains adult language and adult subject matter.

Photo top right: Nick Hicks and Nicholas Bassett of Boone.

Photo bottom right: Keith Schrieber of Boone and Emily Maxfield of Melcher Dallas.



Spring play takes stage on April 4,5

Information and photos By KayCee Stickley
Contributing Writer

The spring play "Somewhere In Between" has found its place at Boone DMACC.

Show dates are Friday, April 4, and Saturday, April 5. Tickets are \$5 at the door for all non-DMACC students.

The play contains adult language and adult situations. It is not appropriate for children, said Director Kay Mueller.

"Even though the show is a comedy, it is a departure from the fluffy farce we did last fall. It deals with issues of insecurity, love, and work and one man's path to balance those in his life. The show is an entertaining and yet thought provoking look at life."

Mueller also said the show starts in an interesting way, which affects those who plan to attend.

"Late arriving audience members will have to wait until after the prologue is finished to be admitted and seated in the theatre," she said. "So I recommend the audience be on time."

The plot surrounds a man named Jasper, a naïve, indecisive and inexperienced man who wants to find love and his overall niche in life. Jasper must try and balance his love life (or lack thereof), his mundane job, and the extreme, polar-opposite personalities that are around him. But no matter what he decides, fate pulls him into a series of odd events that make him gain new perspective of his life. Will Jasper find what he's looking for? Or will he be stuck somewhere in between?



Emily Maxfield – Valerie, Ms. Sanders, Lawyer, Woman 2
Somewhere in Between is Maxfield's first performance at Boone DMACC, as she just enrolled this semester. She's a self-proclaimed movie buff, and if you recognize her, it's because she works at the Café in the Courter Center. Maxfield participated and performed in numerous plays, including at Melcher-Dallas High. She says she has had a lot of fun getting acquainted with the theater department and her fellow castmates. "They're great to practice with, and I like that Kay is flexible and that she helps me learn new acting techniques," Maxfield said.



Aimee Jacobson – *Tourist, Woman's voice, sound.* This is Jacobson's second year at Boone DMACC, and her third play with the theater department. You may also recognize Jacobson as an employee of the Café in the Courter Center. In her spare time, Jacobson enjoys swimming and camping, and she performed in plays when she was in high school. Jacobson likes the intimate atmosphere in *Somewhere in Between*. "We have to perform in small, extremely close groups and it makes for an interesting performance," she said. "The suggestive language and actions are the most fun."



Solena Mendez – *Holly*
Though she's a sophomore at the Boone campus, Mendez is a fresh face for the theater department. She plays the lead female role, Holly. Mendez works at Family Video in Boone and she enjoys keeping up with the newest cinema. For being a new member of the theater department, Mendez feels at home. "I love it when you can meet a new group of people but it feels like you're family," she said. Mendez says that the closeness of the cast is what she likes about being in the play. "There is never a dull moment!"



Nick Hicks – *Jasper*
Hicks is another veteran thespian, performing in numerous high school plays. Now a freshman at the Boone campus, Hicks performed in last year's play, *Leading Ladies*. He is humbled by playing the lead role, Jasper. "The scenes in this play really make the audience connect with Jasper and what he's going through," Hicks said. "But most of it is really funny, so it's just been a blast being in the show." When Hicks isn't acting or studying, he works as a dietary aid at Eastern Star Masonic Home.



Keith Schrieber – *Chris, Construction worker, Robert, Man 2*
Schrieber is a long-time thespian and happily claims he's been in 15 different performances in his lifetime. *Somewhere in Between* is his second play at DMACC. He is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, and is employed at HyVee. Schrieber likes that in the theater department, you're free to come out of your comfort zone. "When you're working with an amazing group of actors and an attentive and inventive director, you have no choice but to come out of your shell and it's a lot of fun," he said.



KayCee Stickley – *Mary, Woman in elevator, Actress, Woman 1*
Stickley enjoyed performing in *Leading Ladies*, she returned for another semester. Stickley is a sophomore at DMACC and is a loving wife and doting mother of a 3-year-old boy. She says more people should get involved in theater. "You wouldn't believe the confidence there is in being another person. When you're up there, it's your responsibility to play your part. Everyone can contribute in their own way, and the group of people we have are perfect in that we all do a great job making Nick (Hicks) feel incredibly awkward."



Kay Mueller – Director



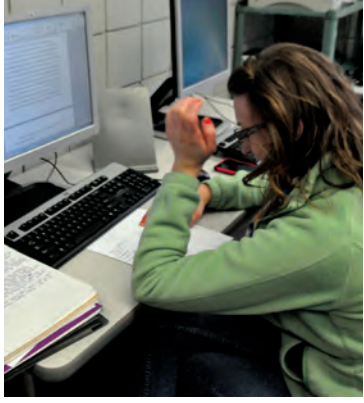
Nick Bassett --

Information not available at presstime.

Join the staff of Banner News for Summer or Fall 2014.

For information, contact Julie Roosa, faculty adviser, jkroosa@dmacc.edu

Students seek guidance from Writing Center, find success



Lester Mwirichia/Banner News

Freshman Carly Pantenburg works on a Comp 1 poetry analysis in the Writing Center.

The writing consultants offer practical feedback on writing to help students succeed.

Thompson said he works toward getting students to articulate their ideas on what they need to work on. "In the Writing Center, I offer a friendly open environment for students," he said.

Students perform better academically when they visit the Writing Center.

DMACC Freshman Sadiq Meja has been to the Writing Center twice this semester and received the help he needed. "The

Writing Center has helped guide me in my writing," he said.

Meja mentioned that he wasn't sure how to write his first film analysis. Krystal Hering helped guide him through the writing process. "I was lost. I don't know what I would have done if the Writing Center wasn't there," Meja said.

Sam Titus, a DMACC student who considers himself a "regular" in the Center, drops in every time a paper is assigned.

For example, when he was writing an essay to go along with a scholarship application, he sought help in the Writing Center. "They

helped me structure the essay, and made sure that what I was saying was effective." The Writing Center consultants encourage students to take authority of their own writing; In Titus' case a \$1,500 scholarship award was the result of his efforts.

Titus not only comes in the Writing Center to write, but just to say hello and visit with the friendly staff. "They are all great people" he said.

Students may shy away from the idea of using the Writing Center and working with the staff there. But Hering said, "Students can expect not to be judged."

Mallory added: "We are just people."

The Writing Center staff is looking to make some improvements for this year and the next. They said they would like to see more commitment from the faculty. The Writing Center staff has requested that instructors share their writing assignments with them, so when students come in, they have an idea of how to help them begin. "The WC" staff said they would also like to see more students utilizing the facility.

"It has much to offer and it's free," Ross said.

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Lester Mwirichia/Banner News

Club hosts movie

A Boone campus student group called "Differences United" hosted a film presentation on Wednesday, March 12, in Room 204. According to publicity for the presentation, the film "Two Spirits" is a documentary following the tragic loss of a young Navajo boy, Fred Martinez, who was murdered because he was transgendered. Fred's story is told by friends, family, and people who stood by him before his passing. The film also talks about a time when most Native American tribes would have revered someone like Fred because of the history of sexuality and gender roles in their culture. About 20 people attended the event. Differences United, a LBGTQ & Straight Alliance, is looking or additional members to grow its network on campus. For more information, contact Krystal Hering, faculty advisor, klhering@dmacc.edu

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Again, All American

The Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) has named DMACC sophomore Carlee Schuhmacher a junior college All-American for the second consecutive season. Schuhmacher, who is from Watertown, Wis., led the NJCAA Division II in blocked shots with a 143 and averaged 4.5 blocked shots a game. She scored 758 points and finished second nationally in scoring with a 23.7 per game average. Schuhmacher was seventh nationally in rebounding, averaging 13.8 rebounds a game. She shot 44 percent from the field, hitting 245 of 552 field goal attempts, and was 245-of-299 from the free throw line for



Carlee Schuhmacher

82 percent. Schuhmacher grabbed 442 rebounds, 158 of which came on the offensive end of the floor, and finished the season with 49 steals and 32 assists.

Players focus on season

FIELD, from page 1
said Lee. "We would like to thank the DMACC Board of Directors, President Rob Denson, Executive Vice President Kim Linduska and the generous donors for their continued support of our students and our campus."

Ligouri said the new field will have an outstanding playing surface, drainage and irrigation system.

"The dugouts will be large and the batting cage and bullpens first-class," said Ligouri. "It will be great for recruiting. We can show potential student athletes a superior venue and DMACC's commitment to providing all student-athletes with a quality experience."

DMACC players say they're focused on this season, but look forward to the new field next year.

"When we are able to play on our own

field, it will be a new home for us," said DMACC freshmen pitcher and utility player Cailey Schlenker of Bondurant. "We can start new traditions and make memories. There is no place I would rather be a part of. We are like a family on and off the field."

The DMACC softball team is 7-3 this spring and ranked 13th in the nation. The Bears kickoff Iowa Community College Athletic Conference (ICCAC) play March 23 at Ellsworth. The home conference opener is March 26 against Kirkwood. DMACC returns four starters and eight letter-winners from a team that finished last season ranked #6.

The DMACC softball team has been ranked nationally during each of the three seasons since reinstating softball and has produced four All-Americans, 20 All-Regional players and 34 Academic All-Region student athletes.

Basketball season ends

DMACC -- The DMACC men's basketball team saw its season come to a close following a 68-53 loss to Wayne County Community College (WCCC) March 20 in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division II National Championship.

The loss was DMACC's second in the tournament and eliminated the Bears from further competition.

The game was close throughout the first half with DMACC holding a 30-29 advantage at intermission. The Bears had a 42-38 lead five minutes into the second half when WCCC took control of the game behind a 24-3 run that resulted in a 62-45 deficit that the Bears could not overcome.

Cold shooting hurt DMACC in the

second half when the Bears made just eight of 25 field goal attempts, including 1-of-11 from three-point range. WCCC, meanwhile, made 15 of 28 shots from the field in the second half.

Sophomore Brandon Nazione of Howell, Mich., led DMACC with 13 points. Freshman Jamar Hurdle of Milwaukee, Wis., was the only other DMACC player in double figures with 12 points. WCCC had a 35-25 advantage on the boards with Hurdle and freshman Jon Fuqua of Maywood, Ill., grabbing six rebounds apiece to pace the Bears.

DMACC closed the season with a 30-7 record and took a No. 7 national ranking into the tournament.

Baseball team splits 4

DMACC -- The DMACC baseball team opened Iowa Community College Athletic Conference (ICCAC) play with a four-game set against Iowa Central Community College (ICCC) on March 21st and 23rd and the two teams split the four games.

DMACC took the opener on March 21st, 13-3, and then dropped the second game, 9-4. ICCAC won the first game on March 23rd, 8-0, and DMACC won the second game, 14-1. The four-game split gives DMACC an 11-9 overall record and a 2-2 mark in the ICCAC.

Freshman Anthony Mroska of Coon Rapids, Minn., had three hits and drove in four runs to spark the Bears in their 13-3 win on March 21st. Sophomore Charlie Coghlin of Colorado Springs, Colo., also

had three hits in the game and drove in two runs for DMACC. Sophomores Patrick Fiala of Sioux Falls, S.D., and Blake Molitor of Plymouth, Minn., had two hits and two RBIs apiece and sophomore Tyler Wolfe of Maple Plain, Minn., drove in a pair of runs for the Bears. DMACC put the game out of reach with nine runs in the third inning.

Freshman Nick Belzer of Ankeny went the distance to improve to 3-2 for the season. He allowed three runs on five hits, struck out five and walked three. Only one of the runs scored against Belzer was earned.

Molitor had three hits and one RBI in DMACC's loss in the second game on March 21st. Sophomore Roman Collins of Maple Grove, Minn., and freshman Chris Kelly of Boone each homered in the game.

Sports Calendar

- March 26: Softball vs. Kirkwood
- Mar 27: Softball vs. Marshalltown
- Mar 28: Men's Golf vs. Graceland University
- Mar 28: Women's Golf vs. Graceland University
- Mar 28: Softball vs. Ellsworth
- Mar 29: Men's Golf vs. Graceland University
- Mar 29: Women's Golf vs. Graceland University
- Mar 29: Baseball vs. Kirkwood
- Mar 29: Softball vs. Iowa Lakes
- Mar 30: Baseball vs. Kirkwood
- Mar 30: Softball vs. NIACC

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In My Boots

5K Run, Walk, Ruck
dmacc.edu/boone/inmyboots5k

Proceeds benefit the Wounded Warrior Project
woundedwarriorproject.org

Date: 4/19/14

Time: 9 a.m. Location: McHose Park, Boone, IA

Pre-register by: 4/7/14

- Entry fees:
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 - \$30.00 same-day registration
 - \$80.00 4-person ruck teams (for military personnel and veterans only)

5K run/walk/ruck: The 5K will be a loop around McHose Park in Boone, Iowa. Individuals can also compete in the ruck-march that will cross through the woods and streams around the park. A limited number of ruck-sacks will be available on race day. If possible, bring your own. Please preload your ruck with non-perishable and clothing items to donate to a local shelter.

Ruck March: Current military members and veterans are eligible to participate in a team ruck-march competition. Each team will consist of 4 members carrying packs weighing at least 30 pounds. Weight limit will be waived if packs are filled with donations for local shelters. The first complete team to cross the finish line together will be awarded the first ever "In My Boots-Team Ruck-March" award and have bragging rights throughout the year.

**Orv Salmon - 515-433-5050, ojsalmon@dmacc.edu
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PRIZES

- T-shirts for those who register by 4/7/14 (T-shirt not guaranteed after deadline).
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For updated race information, bookmark dmacc.edu/boone/inmyboots5k

Strength of 'Winter's Bone' found in camera techniques, characters, plot

Editor's note: Bo Shen wrote this opinion piece as part of a class assignment. An adapted version appears here with permission.



Bo Shen
Contributing Writer

On the day after the Winter Olympics, another significant gold medal competition took place. This time for movies, not athletics. That "gold medal" was the Oscars, which is almost the highest prize in the movie world.

Jennifer Lawrence was nominated for her third Academy Award for American Hustle and her first in the Best Supporting Actress category. But I want to go a little farther back in Lawrence's career. In 2010, Lawrence was shortlisted for Debra Granik's Winter's Bone (2010) and won for David O. Russell's Silver Linings Playbook (2012). I watched Winter's Bone because of my English class. I had never heard about this movie before.

There is no doubt Winter's Bone is one of the top 10 movies of 2010. Unlike major blockbuster movies, Winter's Bone is an independent, low-budget film. Filmmakers shoot low-budget films for two reasons. One is many young or first time filmmakers want to use his/her first low-budget movie to prove their talent before bigger productions. Another reason is that the theme of the movie lacks marketability, look or tech elements. The director and producer can't find investment or funds for the movie.

If you want to find a movie to waste time or take a break, Winter's bone is not your movie. Don't expect it have spectacular

special effects or fantastic costumes. However if you haven't watch Winter's Bone, you are not a real movie buff and not a real Jennifer Lawrence's fan.

This movie is about the realistic world. The story is fiction. It's about poverty, drug, patriarchy, feminism and family. Now we've lost half the audience.

Winter's Bone is based on the book of the same name by Daniel Woodrell. Jennifer Lawrence plays Ree Dolly who is the anchor of the movie. And John Hawkes plays her uncle Teardrop.

This story takes place in a low economy, social status and male-dominated place. Seventeen-year-old Ree Dolly looks after her mentally ill mother, her little brother Sonny, and little sister Ashlee. The father is out of jail and puts the family's house and land up for bond. Ree needs to find her father before his court date to make sure she can keep their home. She tries to find her father by any means she can. She gets threatened by her uncle Teardrop and gets beaten by other relatives. Finally her uncle stands up for her and Merab---one of the females in the family-- shows up to help Ree find her father. What she eventually finds and has to do is key to the story, and I don't want to spoil the ending.

This film has a very clear storyline. The plot flows easily from one scene to another. The film begins with a long shot to show the cabin, yard, and woods. Looking at the set and scenery we know this is a poor family that lived in the woods. In the first few minutes we hear a sweet country music soundtrack which is "The Missouri Waltz" (1914) a.k.a "hush-a' bye, ma baby." We can feel the love of family and happiness in the old time. A banjo stands for family and love in this movie. The words "I hear those banjos playing once again, the same old plaintive strain" has connections with the ending of movie. It hints that the movie's tone is plaintive and sorrowful. At the end we hear the banjos playing again.

This is a low cost movie because the director is not pursuing high shot techniques or complex cuts, but still conveys the personality of characters to the audience. I want to talk about couple scenes in this film and how the director uses shots or camera techniques to communicate with viewers. Following the opening shot we know little of these three characters. Ree is the big sister who takes care of little brother Sonny and sister Ashlee. There is an interesting scene that is a medium long shot to shows Ree sending Ashlee and Sonny to school. This shot shows their interaction with each other. Ree asks Ashlee two simple question, one is how to spell "house" and what is 7 plus 2. Actually the "house" is the key word of this film. The director uses this scene to unveil the main problem in the story. There are always gunshot sounds throughout the entire film. It made me think that there are only two roles for anyone in the forest, hunt or be hunted. It is the law of the jungle. Ree's job is hunting her father while trying not be hunted by others.

After seeking help from her friend Gail, Ree starts her journey to find her father. The first person she finds is her uncle Teardrop. But he refuses to help her. So Ree has to find her father by herself. I created a word "backshot" to describe the shot that I think illustrates the fear Ree has. "Backshot" means a tracking shot or medium shot which is shot from the character's back and then character looks back because of sounds or in fear. We know that people look behind when they scared. It is instinct.

There are four "backshots" in this movie. The first one appears in the scene of finding little Arthur. She feeds a donkey when she thought no one is there, and she got scared by Thump Milton's granddaughter. The second backshot is when Ree is cutting wood in the shed. She got scared by Teardrop who turns off the machine in the back. The director uses over-the-shoulder shots to show the conversation between Ree and Teardrop. Over-the-shoulder shots can draw the viewer in by creating a sense of close distance between two people. It lets the viewer feel the change of emotion of two people. The director wants to use this

shot to make Teardrop become friendlier at that time, because last time he was so irascible when Ree asked him for help. This shot gives us a quick look at Teardrop's personality. The third time we can see a backshot is when Ree gets in her neighbor's truck. This rough neighbor didn't tell her where they were going. On the way to her father's "lab", she looks back again. She was so fearful but she knows that she needs to seize every opportunity to find her father to keep the house. The last "backshot" is when Ree arrives at the lake. Ree is still afraid of Merab and that her sisters will beat or kill her in the wild. Every time she looks behind, viewers can see helplessness in her face. We know that look back is useless when you are going to an unknown, dangerous place. The director uses the "backshot" to show the fear and powerlessness of Ree. She has to step forward and give her destiny to strangers. Before that step she looks behind to seek help by instinct although no one will help her.

Other shot techniques are low-angle camera angles and tilt shots. There is not necessarily a connection between high-angle camera and tilt shot. But one of my favorite scenes in this movie perfectly uses these two techniques at the same time. After Ree is beaten by Merab and her sisters, she was trapped by the Dolly family in the garage. Here the director uses a high-angle camera to express Ree's powerlessness and despair when she is huddled in the corner. Then the camera cuts to the garage's door because we can hear that someone is driving in. When the automatic door is up, the director uses a tilt shot to shoot Teardrop with the door moving straight up. The shot is executed smoothly and confidently. Before Teardrop appeared in front of everyone, the Dolly family already knows it is him. Most of them show the fear before the door opens. The camera is positioned very low, and shoots upward at it. The tilt shot shows the person bit by bit. The effects of a low-angle camera makes Teardrop look dominating and extremely powerful. With the shot or camera's position changing at the same time, the people's status also changed. A viewer's first impression of the scene might be that Teardrop

is a fearless hero. Then the director used a subjective shot of Teardrop to shoot the Dolly family members. All of them showed timorous expression. Ree got saved.

Another example of a low-angle camera is used in the scene when Ree and Merab have found Ree's father. The low-angle camera is used to shoot Merab in this scene and it becomes clear that she is the bravest woman in this movie. The shot makes her become powerful and grateful. No matter what she has done, before she is braver than any man at that moment.

Both of these scenes successfully use camera technique. I loved this movie because of the dramatic change in the character's personality and plot. In this movie we can find how the director uses shot technique to change the status of people and plot. James Cameron said: "There is no such thing as an easy shot." A director's design and editing of shots is the same as a poet choosing words in his poetry. Some of the shot techniques are very basic and others are more advanced, but you should to learn the meaning of the shot if you want to know what the spirit of a movie is. Winter's Bone is about 100 minutes. It took six weeks to shoot, and the budget was \$2 million. Honestly, it was a "cheap" movie at this time. But you can't say cheap means inferior. The art is made by little parts of the whole. All of the performances of actors, the shots of director, the soundtracks, the settings, and the plot twists made this movie become a masterpiece.

We watch a movie to see through the window into another life, a peek into another lifestyle, another culture, another world that is not our own.

In Winter's Bone, we don't know what's going to happen after that winter. But we know one thing: you need to fight for yourself or your family in your life's "winter."

A movie can't solve your own problems, but you can find people like you in the movie. It's like a mirror that you can find yourself in. You are what you see from it. Movie critic Roger Ebert once said 'Movies do not change, but their viewers do.' Watch this movie and find the change in yourself.



FAFSA Fridays

It's time to file the 2014-15 FAFSA!

Stop in during an upcoming FAFSA Friday to get free assistance with completing and submitting your FAFSA. (No appointment necessary.)

February 28: 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

March 14: 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

March 28: 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

April 4: 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: DMACC Boone Campus Room 141

Students and Parents should bring the following items when possible to be prepared to complete the FAFSA:

- ✓ Social Security number, driver's license number, and date of birth
- ✓ 2013 federal and state tax returns
- ✓ W-2 forms and/or other records of income earned in 2013 (or your last pay stub from 2013 if you haven't filed yet).
- ✓ Current bank statements and investment records
- ✓ Records of untaxed income received in 2013 (e.g., veterans benefits, child support received, etc.)
- ✓ Alien registration number, if not a U.S. citizen
- ✓ If you have filed a FAFSA before, bring your federal personal identification number (PIN) if possible.

Source: Iowa College Access Network

FAFSA Fridays are open to all current, former, and prospective DMACC students as well as anyone needing assistance with the FAFSA, regardless of what college or university they will attend in 2014-15.

Questions? Contact Erin Neumann: 515-433-5037 or erineumann@dmacc.edu



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**TRI-STATE INITIATIVE
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PTSD then and now

Continue improving screening, services for veterans

Editor's note: This opinion piece was written as part of an Honors Capstone course.



By Cassey Dirks
Guest Columnist

As part of one of my DMACC honors projects this year, I interviewed two United States Army veterans. These two men saw the horrors of war firsthand, and although the wars they served in are separated by decades, there was an eerie commonality among the descriptions of their war experiences and the aftermath.

This project was completed as part of my mental health nursing class. The purpose of the project was to compare and contrast how the assessment for post-traumatic stress disorder in

military veterans and their access to treatment has changed over the last fifty years. I also talked with the veterans about the different symptoms of PTSD they experienced, and the attitudes others had toward them following their diagnosis.

Often times, soldiers are viewed, by themselves and others, as battle-hardened, rough and tumble individuals. As a result, these soldiers may believe they will be pegged as weak by their peers and commanding officers if they seek mental health treatment or are diagnosed with PTSD. One of our nation's military's primary goals should be to discredit this belief and continue to promote mental health awareness for military veterans.

Combat-related post-traumatic stress disorder has been receiving more public attention in recent years than ever before. There are television and radio commercials that teach us the warning signs to look for in our loved ones. Most people today are aware of the symptoms that comprise post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, even without having a mental health educational background. However, this was not the case fifty years ago.

Soldiers returned home from the Vietnam War feeling detached from the world around

them, feeling guarded and watchful, and plagued with nightmares and flashbacks related to combat. At that time, soldiers afflicted with post-war mental health problems were sent home without a second thought or shipped off to one of the two Veterans' Affairs hospitals in the country equipped to deal with psychiatric problems. While at these hospitals, it is reported that veterans were often over-medicated and received almost no therapy. The Vietnam vet interviewed for this project stated that upon his return from Vietnam, he approached others in the military regarding what he should do related to the disturbing thoughts he was having. "I was told to go home and deal with it on my own," he said.

As a result, this Vietnam vet became a multiple substance abuser who did not receive the necessary help for his mental health problems until recent years. He stated, "I used drugs and alcohol to escape until I was recently diagnosed with PTSD."

Presently, soldiers returning home from war are more specifically screened for mental health problems. There are 1,700 Veterans Affairs hospitals in the United States, most of which offer some level of mental health services. The Iraq/Afghanistan

veteran interviewed for my project stated that his peers and commanding officers were very supportive and knowledgeable about PTSD. He also stated that because of increased awareness about the issue, he did not feel ashamed about seeking help. "The diagnosis of PTSD didn't scare me as much as not knowing what was going on in my head or why," was his response when asked about the stigma associated with having a mental health disorder.

There have been major developments in all areas of the mental healthcare system in recent years. However, there is always room for improvement. According to a study conducted by the Rand Corporation, 14 percent of soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are believed to have PTSD, but only half of these soldiers with the symptoms of PTSD will seek mental health treatment. This fact alone makes it evident that we need to continue to improve on the mental health screening of soldiers returning home from combat. The Iraq/Afghanistan veteran interviewed in this case had a positive experience in terms of seeking and receiving mental health treatment; however, the statistics show this is not always the case.

Both men found it beneficial just to be able to talk with someone about what was going on. However, they also stated that talking with other veterans has been the most valuable in terms of managing their symptoms. In the words of the Iraq/Afghanistan veteran: "Nobody else gets it like someone who has been there and done what you've done or seen what you've seen."

Setting up support groups for military veterans to talk with one another should be one of our main focuses. I also believe we should continue to screen these veterans, not just upon their initial return home, but months and years down the road. The military needs to make sure they are thoroughly debriefing their soldiers on what signs and symptoms to recognize in themselves that are indicative of PTSD. By teaching these men and women that they are not alone in what they are experiencing, hopefully more of them will seek treatment.

Cassey Dirks lives on a farm near Manning. She will earn her associate's degree in nursing at the Carroll campus in May. She will attend the University of Iowa to obtain her bachelor's of science degree in nursing.

Oz's Music Corner

Tribe worth remembering



Brian Osborn
Contributing Writer

It's amazing to me sometimes how short our memory goes back, especially for music. I talk to people about their favorite hip hop artists and they name rappers like Kanye, Lil Wayne, and even Drake (boooo!).

Don't get me wrong, I like some of today's rap, but it has become so shallow and diluted by computer-made beats and auto-tune that it isn't appealing to me at all.

When I am asked about my favorite hip hop groups or rappers, I go old school. I name people like Snoop Dogg, Run DMC, Eazy-E, and A Tribe Called Quest.

Tribe is easily my favorite hip hop group and it blows my mind how few people know who they are. The group is made up of four members: Q-Tip, Phife Dawg, and Ali Shaheed Muhammad with Jarobi White helping here and there. The group's main two members, Q-tip and Phife

were childhood friends who grew up in Queens, New York, while Muhammad came into the fold later during high school.

Starting in 1985, the next five years, Tribe kept making music and building popularity. Many big time record labels came to sign them to big deals but they ended up going with a lesser known and lesser paying record label called Jive Records.

Once they were signed, they made their first debut Album Called "People's Instinctive Travels and the Paths of Rhythm" in 1990. From then until 1998, they made five albums, three of which are in the Top 5 of the The Source's Top 100 Rap Albums of All Time ("People Instinctive Travels," "The Low End Theory," and "Midnight Marauders") while "Beats, Rhythms, and Life" was number one on the charts, went gold by the end of the year, and went platinum in 1998. Specific songs like "Can I Kick it" and "I Left My Wallet in El Segundo" not only became hits, but also became instant classics.

Unfortunately, after Tribe's last album in 1998 "The Love Movement," tensions began to rise with the group and Jive Records, which lead to the group breaking up.

For me personally, "The Low End Theory" and "Beats, Rhymes, and Life" are my favorite of their albums.

Unlike a lot of the angry gangster rap coming out of the West Coast, Tribe relied on smooth, easy listening beats made from guitar, bass, drums, brass instruments, and DJ

scratching to go a long with their free flowing lyrics that just makes you take it all in (and get up and dance if your feeling it).

One of the greatest things about Tribe is how positive their music is. The group has experienced a lot of tribulation from their youth, and the fact they can turn all that negativity in to a positive is an amazing thing.

While many rappers of today can be very demeaning and derogatory with their lyrics towards women, Tribe put out lyrics like from their song Verses from the Abstract from the "The Low End Theory", "The thing that men and women need to do is stick together, progressions can't be made if we're separate forever."

Even during the mid 90's when west coast gangster rap started to explode and tension between east coast and west coast rappers began to escalate, Tribe still kept it positive, responding with Keep it Moving from "Beats, Rhymes, and Life" saying that they don't have time any time for "shuckin and jivin."

If you have never heard of A Tribe Called Quest and are into hip hop, I would highly suggest looking into them. The best way to start with them is with their first album and proceed on in chronological order. The evolution of their sound alone with worth the listen and if you have record player, vinyl is definitely the best way to listen to them too.

Keep your ear to the ground as well. There are rumors of the reunion album coming, which I know I am excited for.



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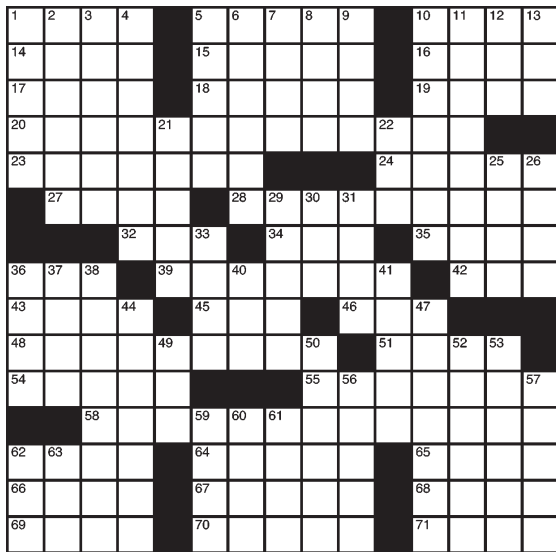
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Entertainment

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- Injury reminder
 - Pet adoption gp.
 - Environs
 - Nobel Peace Prize winner Wiesel
 - U.S.-Canada defense letters
 - Having a hard time deciding
 - Hard to find, to Caesar
 - Gay: WWII bomber
 - Thom ___ shoes
 - Original Ice Follies slapstick skating duo
 - "Just one darn minute!"
 - Amazed reactions
 - Three in a deck
 - Retaliatory equivalent
 - Found really groovy
 - Bud
 - Challenge
 - Part of WWII
 - Happy heartbeat sound
 - Like veggies on a veggie platter
 - Expected landing hrs.
 - Prohibition
 - Opposite of post-
 - Knickknacky stuff
 - Bible bk. with a sea crossing
 - Trite
 - Opie Taylor's caretaker
 - Small, irregular amounts
 - List-ending abbr.
 - 11th-century Spanish hero
 - Give off
 - Low-cal
 - It divides the Left and Right
 - Banks
 - Pal at the barbie
 - Run into
 - More quirky
 - Being, to Ovid



By Marti DuGuay-Carpenter

3/24/14

DOWN

- Feudal farmers
- Red wine from Bordeaux
- Better ventilated
- Got through to
- Lend ___: listen
- 14-line verse
- Cattle poker
- Ranch newborn
- Purim month
- Use of one requires a PIN
- Groupie's idol
- Significant period
- Raggedy doll
- Make excited
- Gone by
- Prefix with legal
- Ladled-out meal
- Bucky Beaver's toothpaste brand
- Pub spigot
- Envelope part
- Bee Gees family name
- "Dragnet" star
- Jack
- Gillette razor brand
- Bad weather contingency
- Paving goo

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

S	H	A	N	E	C	L	O	T	G	A	W	P	
L	E	N	O	X	H	A	S	H	O	S	H	A	
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3/24/14

Movie review: 'Veronica Mars'

This review appeared in the Iowa State Daily on March 17. It is reprinted in the Banner News with permission.

By Nick Hamden
Guest Movie Critic

Alright everyone. Inhale. Exhale. Inhale. Exhale.

This is the moment a lot of you may have been waiting for. "Veronica Mars" has finally been given a movie.

For those who weren't blessed with experiencing one of the better TV shows of the mid-2000's, "Veronica Mars" ran for three seasons before getting canceled. It was one of those shows that was critically acclaimed, but suffered with ratings. It also didn't help that the third season was a lot different from the first two (college), with several minor arcs instead of a big one. It also unfortunately ended on an awkward unfinished cliff hanger. Not as awkward as the series finale of "My Name Is Earl," but awkward nonetheless.

But that isn't the only crazy thing about this movie! No, it was funded by Kickstarter. Warner Bros. wouldn't green light the film, so the cast raised money. They wanted \$2 million to make the movie. In ten hours, the \$2 million was raised, a record for the website. In the month time frame over \$5 million ended up being donated. Needless to say, there was a lot of hype around it. Because of the Kickstarter, not only was the film released theatrically, it was also released same day Video on Demand, and the movie being sent out to all who backed it at the same time. Wow.

I will admit some bias. As a fanboy of the TV show (and as a Season 3 apologist), there is a good chance I like this no matter what.

Guess what! It is time for Neptune, California's favorite high school class to have their ten year reunion. Turns out after the third season of the show, Veronica (Kristen Bell) switched out of town to Stanford. Yeah. She got real far away. She went to law school and now she is about to get a high paying fancy lawyer job at NYC. But just when she thought she was out, they pulled her back in.

That's right, Logan Echolls (Jason Dohring) is being charged with murder. He was dating another former Nuptunian, don't worry about her, she had two episodes in the series. She eventually became a pretty famous pop star, and now she was found electrocuted in her own bath tub. Logan says he is innocent and for whatever reason, Veronica believes him.

So she is back in town. Her dad (Enrico Colan-toni), still a P.I., the police force still inept and her friends Mac (Tina Majorino) and Wallace (Percy Daggs III) are still by her side. Will this be her final case, something she swore she would never do again?

It also features more returning cast members than you can shake a stick at.

Piz (Chris Lowell), Dick (Ryan Hansen), Gia (Krysten Ritter), Weevil (Francis Capra), Leo D'Amato (Max Greenfield), Deputy Sacks (Brandon Hillock) and Vinnie Van Lowe (Ken Marino).

Also featuring some new faces, played by Martin Starr, Jamie Lee Curtis, Jerry O'Connell and



Wally Skali/MCT/File Photo

Kristen Bell, who stars in "Veronica Mars," arrives at the 86th annual Academy Awards on March 2 at the Dolby Theatre at Hollywood.

Gaby Hoffmann.

Going into this movie — despite my fanboyism — I was still a bit skeptical. I am used to the plot taking 22 episodes to solve, not one in less than two hours. I thought the plot might feel rushed or forced and I wouldn't get enough cool clues along the way.

Well, after seeing it, I think the story really does work. It has twists and turns, there are multiple plots, and they did a few things I definitely would never have seen coming.

At the same time, this film might actually be accessible to those who haven't seen the TV show. I wouldn't suggest seeing the movie first still, because the show is phenomenal but everything you need to know gets explained in the plot. You won't get every character reference or throwback joke, but you can still get by.

Still, this film only seemed to arouse my appetite without bedding it down. What I — and everyone — really wants now is new seasons to continue the story onward. From what I can tell, there is absolutely nothing in the works but a small web series and that is all we are getting.

With just the length of a movie, although the story was good, it just didn't feel like enough for me. Now I might find myself living in denial that it is truly over and done.

"Veronica Mars" is an excellent film continuation of a TV series, but I would argue it doesn't match the quality given to us from the first two seasons. Alas, perhaps my lofty goals were set too high.

4/5

Your horoscope for this week



Aries (March 21-April 19) -- Today is a 6 -- Use your wits to gain a prize. Clever communications go far. Get friends enlisted, and it takes off. Support comes from your partner. Study the inner mechanisms. Travel virtually instead of actually. Confirm your insights with facts.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -- Today is a 6 -- Use brains over brawn. Protect your good reputation. Others are impressed. Your wit and creativity scores you new fans. Collaboration builds skills all around... the more, the merrier. You discover an underlying truth. Friends provide answers.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) -- Today is a 7 -- An adventure has caught your fantasy. Make optimistic plans. Keep track of your earnings. You understand your elders better. Others admire your work. You surprise everyone. Talk is cheap. Make the most of what comes your way.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) -- Today is a 6 -- The two of you see the path you want to follow. Share in envisioning the future. A technical breakthrough lights the road. Go back to a place you enjoyed. Good news comes from far away.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Someone's feeling generous. Good news arrives from far away. You're in the spotlight. Okay, you can go shopping now, without touching savings. Pay back a favor. Work out a misunderstanding, and issue a correction.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Let your imagination wander freely. You can solve the puzzle. Do what it takes. Share the load with partners who have the necessary expertise. Check out an interesting suggestion. Make a loving pact. Words come easily.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is a 6 -- Aim for innovation, in your creative approach. This invention takes work and financial backing. Ask for more and get an encouraging response. Update your technology. Prepare to use what you've learned. Listen to a joyful song.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is a 7 -- A new understanding arises at home. You can find what you're looking for. Check your local outlet. Let people know what you need. Your sweetheart believes in you. Love finds a way. Express your feelings aloud.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is a 6 -- Accept encouragement on your latest adventure. Make repairs and keep gear in working order. Invest in newer technology. Friends offer excellent suggestions, and keep you balanced. Inspiration comes in the strangest places! Write up the idea immediately.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is an 8 -- Get help building your dream. Confer with your team, and share information. Curiosity leads to answers. Keep asking interesting questions. Use what you're learning. Discover a fringe benefit. Try a new angle, and results get profitable.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is an 8 -- Let your partner do the talking. Help with the script, maybe. Keep it practical. Check out your ideas with friends before a big push. Discuss the minutia. Define your focus. A little surprise would be nice.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is a 7 -- Make a shrewd move. Keep an important appointment. You're very creative now. Follow your heart. Plan ahead. It all seems clear, seen with new eyes. You understand a piece of a mystery. Share what you've learned.

“THE TRANSFERRING PROCESS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN EASIER HERE AT SIMPSON. THEY DO A GREAT JOB STAYING IN TOUCH AND TELLING YOU EXACTLY WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO MAKE THE TRANSITION GO SMOOTHLY.”

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