It's about time.









Summer 4

Fall 10

Winter 42

Spring supplement (insert after page 64) S2

REFERENCE

SENIORS **68** UNDERCLASSMEN **98** FACULTY **130** TEAMS **134** CLUBS **142** INDEX **150**



Mallard **2009**
Taylor High School
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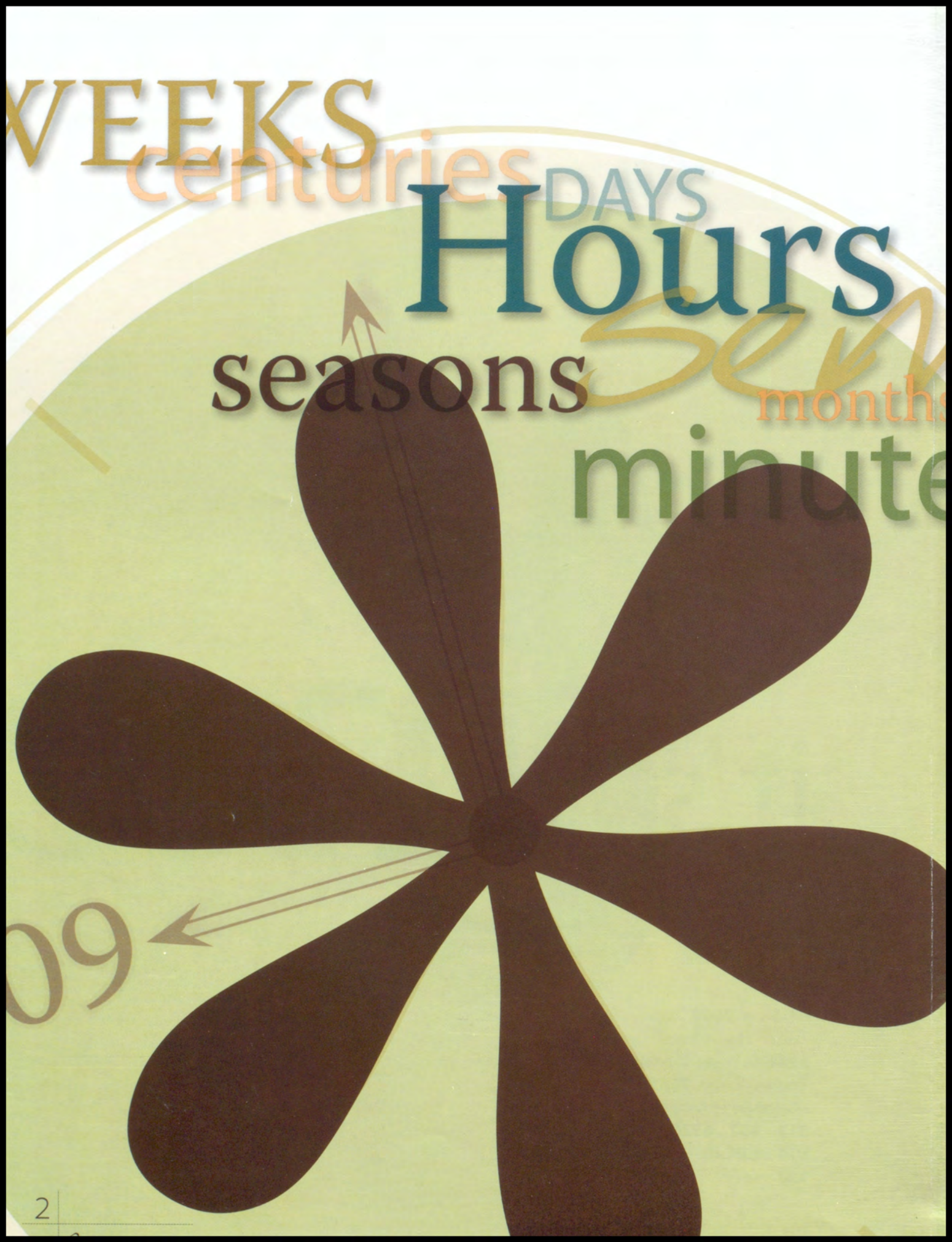
www.taylorisd.org
512 . 352 . 6326
910 students
122 staff


WEEKS
centuries
DAYS
Hours
seasons
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minute
09



From the moment you entered the classroom on the first day of kindergarten you knew you were one step closer to independence. Soon, those carefree finger paintings that once hung on the refrigerator were replaced by report cards. Grades started to matter. There was no more recess and no more warnings. In Middle School, who you hung out with started to matter. Parents wanted to know everything. You went up two shoe sizes. People started holding hands. The game boy color you thought was cool suddenly wasn't. There were so many new faces in class that you had never seen before. You began to branch out and build a reputation. As you grew older, you could taste freedom. It was what you longed for. When piggy banks started getting empty, it didn't mean that you had nothing, but that you had something to buy. When you stopped getting praise for every little thing you did right or good, you knew that you were being treated as an adult. While lots of luxuries are lost with time, many privileges are gained. You are no longer babied, but instead viewed as a responsible and mature young adult; capable of making good choices, right decisions, and being held accountable for your actions. High school puts you that much closer to adulthood, closer to true independence. Life is the years you spend waiting, weeks you rush looking forward to the next, days you keep putting off studying for that algebra test, hours you should sleep at night, minutes you waste waiting for the lunch bell to ring, and seconds when you cherish everything that is important to you. It's about time.



Water Bug. Working on her backstroke, Taylor Robichaux prepares for the first meet at swim practice in Murphy Park. "It's a good way for me to exercise since I don't play any other sports," Taylor said. It was Taylor's first year to swim.



SUMMER

Tick tock. Watching the hands move on the clock is never an easy thing to do. The very last bell of the school year rings. Finally you can kiss waking up early goodbye. Exams are over and there is no need to study. Days grow longer. Eleven weeks of freedom have arrived at last and you can pull out your flip flops and shorts. Time flies, though, and summer is over before you know it--so enjoy it while you can! There is no dress code, and there is only one rule: have fun. The intense heat serves as a reminder to enjoy the sun; a little suncreen never hurts either. Pools are the place to be. Friends are the people to be with, making memories that stay with you forever. The family vacation you take every year proves that there are people who will always love you, and then there's the thrill of the summer romance. It is moments like these when we realize that we hold the key to unlocking our own happiness. Summer is where the fun begins.

50 Feet Up But Down For Anything



High Time. Trying to keep her balance, Karyn Roznovak (12) stands on a thin wire high above the ground waiting for her partner to meet her at the top. "I really wished Rachel would take her time," Karyn said. "I didn't want to start." The object of the high rope activity was to tight rope across with a partner to ring the cow bell at the end.

Unlike Cotton Boll camps and workshops of the past that focused souly on journalism, Mrs. Fischer decided to take seven of her Cotton Boll 2008-2009 staffers to the John Newcombe Tennis Ranch's team building facility for a different kind of camp.

"The staff this year, I did not feel, was as well acquainted from years past, so I felt it was a great opportunity for the staff to bond," Mrs. Fischer said. The camp had a variety of activities on the low ropes courses, such as being blindfolded in a maze. Another low rope activity was the tire suspended five feet in the air which all of the staffers had to get everyone through in a limited amount of time. The purpose of the low rope course was for the staffers to develop leadership, teamwork, and creative problem solving.

"I learned in any organization it's not what you do, it's how you do it", Kevin Lindsay (12) said.

The high ropes course consisted of the leap of faith, zip lining, and tight rope walking to the "Scream", all of which were about 50 feet high. The leap of faith was the first high rope activity, where a person stood on top of a telephone pole and jumped off to grab a gold ring.

Jenna Howard (12) was the first to volunteer. After her ice breaking jump the rest of the staff found the confidence to do it also. Even Mrs. Fischer participated in jumping off telephone poles and tight rope walking 50 feet in the air.

"It was funny watching Mrs. Fischer on the high ropes course," Kevin said. "She just doesn't seem like the person to do that."

The last high rope activity, the "Scream," was basically a free fall where one was left swinging in mid air until someone could get them down.

"Even though the "Scream" was the scariest it was also my favorite," Courtney Svatek (12) said.

At the end of the long day of team building and dangling from extreme heights the staff sat back in front of a campfire and made smores.

"It was the perfect ending to a hard day," Mrs. Fischer said.

Looking Up. Smiling after her successful completion of the ropes course, Rachel Weison (12) watches as fellow staffers attempt to complete it too. "We were all so scared , but thankfully no one was hurt," Rachel said. Rachel was no newcomer to the staff, having been on it since freshman year.



Three Blind Mice. With both hands on the shoulder of the person ahead of them, the Cotton Boll Staffers walk blindfolded single file to the maze. "I hate being blindfolded, I can't see where I'm going," Elric Martinez (10) said. The maze was a circle of ropes and trees which the staff had difficulty trying to find their way out.



Up And Over. Rachel Weison (12) and Karyn Roznovak (12) make a basket hold with their arms to give Jessie Hilscher (12) a boost up to the suspended tire. "I sort of felt bad for the people hoisting me up," Jessie said. "That tire was intense." The staff had to get everyone through the tire in a restricted amount of time.



Hi-Stepper Officer Camp



Diary of Michelle Campos (11)

Day 1: Left from THS at 2 PM. Dressed casual and arrived in Houston at the Hyatt hotel. Settled in and then went out to eat. Headed to bed for the next day's activities.

Day 2: Woke up at 6 AM. Wore black jazz pants and shiny top. Had to be downstairs at 7 AM to start warm-up and learn camp dance. Went to lunch and learned how to become a great social officer. Shared spirit gifts. Dinner time. Afterwards worked on homework and went to bed.

Day 3: Woke up at 6 AM. Got dressed and wore a silver dance shirt with black hot shorts. Then went to social room and then learned one dance called "Fun Monkey Around Social Dance". Did fun social activities that lasted till dinner. Later on worked on a project that lasted until 2:30 AM.

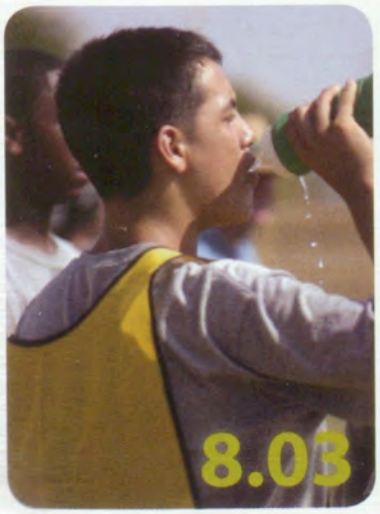
Day 4: Woke up at 6 AM. Got dressed and wore blue tank top with gauchos. Then went to social room and learned a hip-hop dance by Danity Kane. Went to lunch. After that did more social activities and performed "fun monkey around social dance". Later that night worked on homework. Went to bed at 4 AM.

Day 5: Woke up at 6 AM. Got dressed and wore a crowd pleasers camp shirt with hi-stepper pants. Went straight to the big ballroom and had show offs till lunch. Continued show offs then left hotel to head home at 3 PM. Got back to THS at 7 PM.

Feed Your Baby. As part of initiation to the squad, senior cheerleaders feed the freshmen cheerleaders Gerber baby food after a long day of work at UCA cheer camp held at the University of Texas. "I was fed beets and they were awful," Rhegan Stroup (9) said. "We all kept gagging. It was not pretty." It has been a tradition for a welcome ceremony to take place at camp in hopes that the squad will bond.



Thirst Quencher. Matt Gonzalez (11) takes a drink of water before going back to practice. "It was too hot; our own sweat was weighing us down," Matt Gonzalez said. While most kids were still sleeping during the summer, football players were ready for practice at 7 am working in the heat.





Pushing Up. To prove their committment to and dedication to the team, Carla Hoffman (12), Kelsey Marek (12), and Jillian McQuillen (12) do push-ups for volleyball two-a-days. "Two-a-days was killer. I think we sweated more than we ever have," Kelsey said. The girls participated in various ball drills and conditioned themselves by running laps to test their skills.



Flag People. Practicing for their show "From Darkness to Light", the color guard tries to perfect their routine before their first performance at half time of the football game. "We secretly are the main focus of the show," Lindsey Teggeman (12) said. "But shh, don't tell anybody." The guard used five flags during the show along with rifles.

Count HIM In

The wheels lifted off the ground and the AeroMexico plane took off into the sky. Trent Rojas (12) overheard his best friends Tristan Meyer (12) and Patrick Garrett muttering about their fear of flying. It was Tristan's first plane ride, but Trent was at ease since he had flown once before. The boys were in route to celebrate Tristan's cousin's wedding in Cancun.

"The beach was a nice setting," Trent said. "We went on a little cruise in the gulf for the rehearsal dinner."

The wedding began at sunset on the beach. It was a small ceremony with less than fifty people in attendance. Afterwards, the guests gathered under a pavilion for the reception.

"The meals were excellent," Trent said. "The best part though was when Pat started dancing with some old lady!"

Although he had to pay his own way, Trent was excited to travel out of the United States for the first time with his friends. If he is not at his own home, one could probably find him at Tristan's house eating Mexican food.

"His family is like my second family. I don't know why Pat got invited though," Trent said jokingly.

Ready To Take Flight. Waiting patiently in the Austin Bergstrom International airport for their plane to arrive, Tristan Meyer (12), Trent Rojas (12), and Patrick Garrett causally strike a pose with their luggage. "We were so tired because we only had four hours of sleep," Tristan said. "Pat kept tripping over his suitcase and people were staring at him. It was funny."



Sky High. Enjoying their time at Schlitterbahn water park, Addison Turner (10), Samantha Anderson (12), and Krista Seidel (12) fly high in the "Sky Coaster". "I'd always wanted to do it, but could never find anyone to go with me," Krista said. "I've never been afraid of heights." Vowing to try everything her senior year, Krista's next adventure was to go skydiving.

Kodak Moment. After stopping to take in the scenic view of Kauai on their ATV tour, Alex Sarp (12) and Maia Richter (12) pose for a photo taken by their tour guide "Cousin Peter". "Maia kept making fun of how dirty I was," Alex said. "We were stubborn and refused to wear bandanas over our face to shield us from debris." During the 2 hour tour, the girls were served guava juice and Kauai cookies as well as shown areas where movies had been filmed.



Hot Springs. Jillian McQuillen (12) stands by a town historical marker on her family vacation to Hot Springs, Arkansas to celebrate her grandparent's 50th wedding anniversary. "My family became closer and everyone had a great time," Jillian said. The family also saw the hot springs, a crystal mine, and went horseback riding and to a magic show.





2008 Olympics

On 8.8.08 the 29th Olympics began in Beijing, China. For two weeks the entire world came together to compete for the highest prize, a gold medal. Dreams were dashed, world records were broken, even some bones snapped, but spirits stayed strong. Through it all the United States came out on top, winning 36 gold 38 silver and 36 bronze medals for a total of 110. During the Olympics some very amazing things happened. At the Water Cube, Michael Phelps broke the Olympic record for the most gold medals won in a single game, eight. Eight is a lucky number in Chinese, because the Chinese word for eight, sounds like the word for wealth. One may notice the date the games were started. The Chinese also built a stadium nick named "The Birds Nest" for its peculiar design, where Jamaica's Usain Bolt broke the world record in both the 100 and 200M sprints. A first for women's volleyball, Misty May- Treanor and Kerri Walsh won gold for their second Olympics in a row. Nastia Liukin and Shawn Johnson won gold and silver in the all around gymnastics competition and later, Johnson won gold in the balance beam.



"I was amazed when Shawn Johnson finally won her gold medal, she is an incedible gymnast," Fabiola Sanchez (12) said.

Overall the Olympics were highly watched by millions of viewers and athletes will continue to train for another shot at the ultimate goal.



V-I-C-T-O-R-Y. Michael Phelps smiles at his victory during the 2008 Beijing Olympics after winning one of his eight gold medals. "When Michael Phelps got his total of eight golds, it was unbelievably awesome," Christian Campbell (10) said. Phelps broke several Olympic and World records.

City Of Lights. The Bird's Nest and National Aquatics Center are lit up as the Olympic races run long into the night. "Watching the opening ceremonies, I realized dang, China has a lot of people," Tino Arzola (11) said. The structures' capacities were over eighty thousand.



Where'd the time go?

Hello World. Stopping for a photo after competing, Odessy of the Mind participants Heather Hegar, Seth Marcon, Kasi Lozano, Matt Lozano, Rufina Polasek, Courtney Svatek, and Jonathan Cortinas show off their costumes from the game "Clue" for a skit they performed. "The challenge is exciting," Seth Marcon (12) said. "It's good to know that we are one of the top schools in OM." The OM team took the opportunity to compete at the world level and had the task of building a strong structure out of balsa wood.

Forever & Always



How did you meet?

"I actually met her online. She lived in Mansfield, a town south of Arlington. We dated for about 2 years."

Who proposed to who?

"I proposed to her in her living room. I would have done it sooner but I wanted the ring to be perfect. I special ordered it with amethyst because purple is her favorite stone."

How was the wedding?

"The wedding was in Arlington. Her two daughters and my daughter designed the wedding. The theme colors where purple and gray. The girls special ordered M&Ms. They were purple and gray with our names on one side and our wedding date on the other. It was a small wedding. What was interesting though was that she was on the pastor search committee and we thought it would be nice if she was part of the wedding but her close friend was also a pastor so she was in the wedding too. So we had two pastors at our wedding."

How was the honeymoon?

"We had some problems because I had to be back at work on August 5th. My sister recommended this really nice hotel in Plano. When we got there though the manager said that they had overbooked the rooms, so he asked if a suite would be okay. It was bigger then our house! Then we drove to the Guadalupe river and floated down on inner tubes."

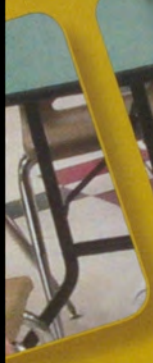


Hey There. Taking a seat in the cafeteria on the first day of school, Simon Martinez (11) reacquaints himself with old friends. "Even though I didn't want school to start, I was really glad to see everyone," Simon said. School started later in September because of new legislation.













FALL



Daylight Savings Time ends. The leaves fall. Temperatures drop, and sweaters are brought out from the back of the closet. Flip flops get put away. Suddenly there don't seem to be enough tissues. With the hustle and bustle of school beginning, it becomes easy for us to lose sight of what is really important. Time is of the essence, and everyone is busy. Each day we look longingly at the clock, hoping for the bell to ring. Finally when 4:00 rolls around we all scatter to our various activities: football, science club, academic decathalon. It seems the fuller your plate, the less time you have to eat. Between juggling homework, sports, college applications, and that job your mother warned you about getting, it is no wonder you are worn down. Trick or treaters come knocking, and the days actually get shorter, which only adds to the stress. Before you know it, Christmas decor lines the shelves of Wal-Mart which means that the exams you've been dreading are coming up. We are caught up in a whirlwind this season and the anticipation keeps growing stronger. On the plus side, the school year is halfway over. We all just need a break.

smells like SCHOOL Spirit



SOUNDCHECK

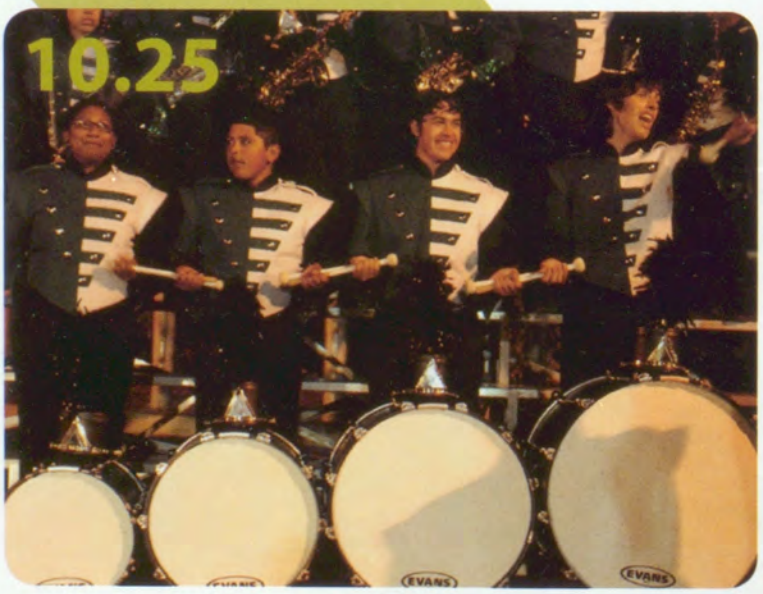
When the THS band concluded their 10:30 Monday morning performance on November 7th, Director Jacques Brown joyously joined assistants David Motl and Kendall Prinz on the floor of the Alamodome in a clearly congratulatory moment.

"It was a really good feeling when we marched off the field," Allyson Matthys (12) said. "It was awesome to hear everyone cheering for us."

The Ducks took months of practice and their previous experience of competing at State to put together their "best effort of the season" and although they did not win, just being at the state competition was an honor. "We have accomplished a lot and we are going to keep working and see if we can come up to that level," Mr. Brown said. "This is not just music; it's a sport."

The Ducks can now point to 2010 as their next opportunity to return to the Alamodome. Texas High School bands compete at the State level every other year.

> "This is not just music; it's a sport."





GODUCKSGO
When she's not on the sidelines being a trainer, Heather Hegar (10) cheers on the track to get the crowd pumped. "It's great when I can actually get the crowd evolved and excited about game," Heather said.

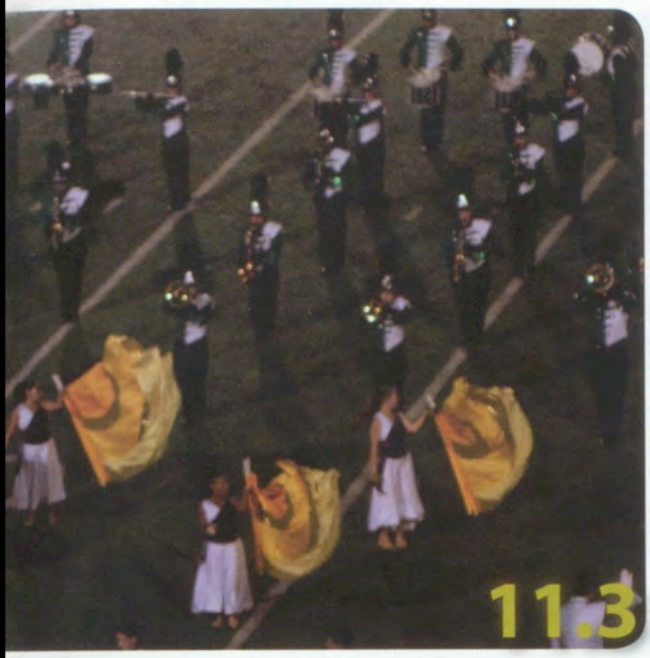


DONTFORGETTOSMILE
Hi-Stepper Victoria Ochoa (10) watches the scoreboard at the homecoming football game against Bryan-Rudder. "I think school spirit is a big thing, it's fun to get into it," Victoria said.

ALLTOGETHERNOW
Band and Hi-Steppers perform during the halftime show. "That seven minutes is the most intense for us," band member Mallory Strmiska (12) said.

BEATYOURDRUM
Smiling after a successful show at Area UIL, band members Paul Smith, Daniel Duran, Aurther Brusard and Madi Fernandez wait to listen for their ratings. "We had a good feeling and we where just messing around having a good time," Paul Smith (10) said.





KICKINGSOME**BRASS**
Competing in Area UIL, the band and colorguard perform their show "From Darkness to Light." "It was a big adrenaline rush for everyone." Michelle Smith (12) said. "We all knew we had to give it our best shot if we wanted to go to state." The band placed 3rd at Area and advanced to State held at the Alamo Dome in San Antonio.

GETA**GRIP**
Mark Jackson catches the ball at the Taylor vs. Caldwell game. "I didn't want to get mossed on so I caught the ball." Mark Jackson (11) said. Despite their efforts, the Ducks lost the game 19 - 48.



TEAMHERO
At the T.H Johnson Pep Rally, during homecoming week, Chris McFarlin (10) slaps hands with some of the 4th graders there. "It was nice to do something for the kids," Chris said, "I felt like I was somebody's hero." The 4th graders won the spirit stick.

how to show your duck pride

Dye your hair green. Buy a duck and bring it to school on a leash. Support your team: wear school colors. Respect your campus! Paint your face green and white. Run down the hall way screaming "quack"! Steal the mascots costume and wear it to class. Run for class office. Join school clubs. Have your name officialy changed to "Waddles".



WINNERS'**CIRCLE**



After the game finally ended it was an intense moment when the Ducks brought home their second consecutive win in their opening football season. The football team huddled together, as tradition, in a circle after the game against Manor. Surrounded by coaches, cheerleaders, and Principal Mason the players celebrated as Coach Cobia gave them a victory speech. "There is no glory without team victory," Alex Bogan (11) said. "We go out there and play till the end everytime. Football isn't just a game to us."





surviving THE FIRST 8 HOURS

Monday, August 25

The beginning of the year is always the hardest for the freshmen because they are adjusting to high school, from being B.M.O.C. in 8th grade to bottom of the totem pole. "The first day is always the most hilarious, as they run around with their little maps trying to find 1st period," Nathan Burrow (12) said. He also wondered, "Were we ever that short and little?"

"Were we ever that short and little?"

One of the biggest differences about coming to THS is the six schedules one has to memorize.

"We have so many to keep up with. It's a little overwhelming," Lily Engler (9) said.

Mr. Craig Miller, who teaches only freshmen in his World Geography classes, says he has seen everything, having been a teacher for over 10 years. He remembered a time when he had a class composed entirely of freshman girls.

"You practically have a sorority," fellow Geography teacher Robyn Rogers kidded him.

Cameron Dupy (9) enjoyed having his older brother, Brandon Dupy, here at THS because he already knew a couple of his friends.

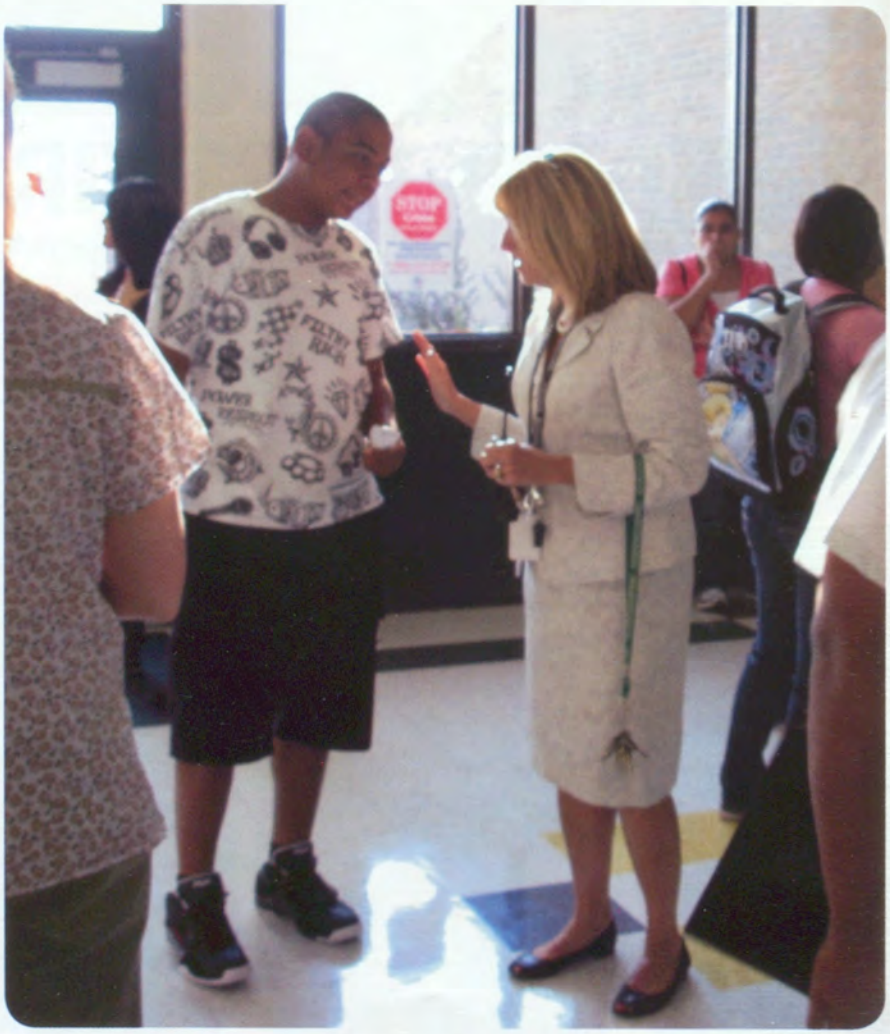
"It's definitely a little less stressful having some people already sort of know who you are," Cameron said.

Jan'ae Rathke (9), on the other hand, didn't mind that no one knew her. Coming from a different school was not a setback.

"I got to reinvent myself," Jan'ae said. "Plus, everyone was really nice."



New Arrival. Waiting nervously for her schedule, Guadalupe Rodriguez (9) is escorted by Mrs. Pam Pekar to the counselor's office. "I always tell people that taking challenging courses is good," Mrs. Pekar said. Over 300 people tried to get their schedule changed in the first six weeks.



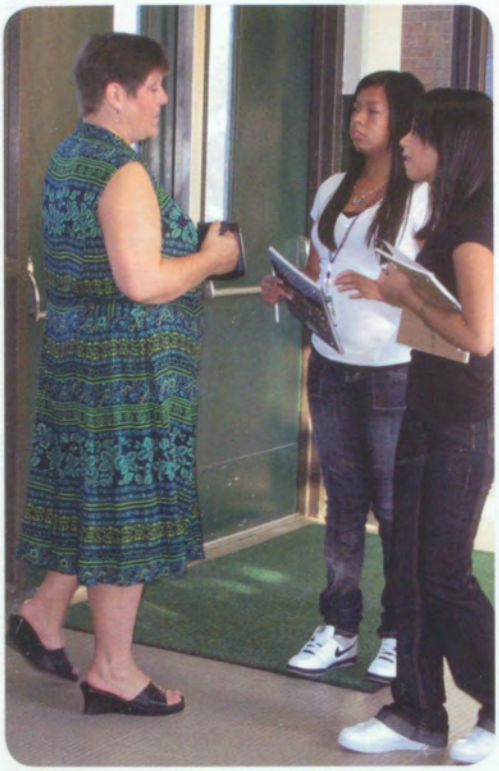
Identification, Please. To explain the importance of wearing an I.D., Mrs. Mason stops Wendell Jones (10) in the student center. "I never got in trouble for not wearing it in middle school," Wendell said. I.D.'s had to be worn in order to establish a safe learning environment where strangers could be easily distinguished from faculty and students.

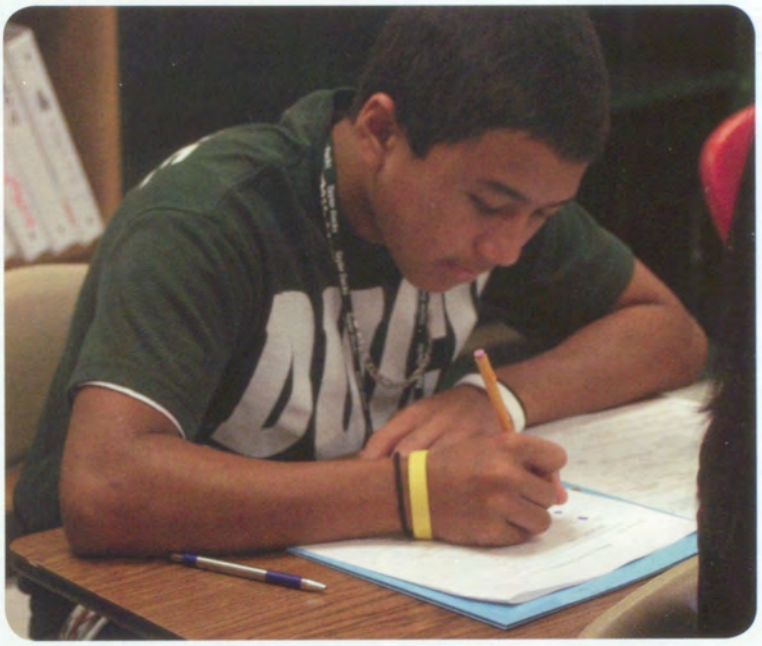


Misguided. Lost on the first day, Ruth Arriaga (9) and Maggie Correa (9) ask Mrs. Gray for assistance in finding their way to class. "Everyone was really helpful on the first day," Ruth said. The freshmen received campus maps at Fish Camp to help guide them around the school.

Listen Up. Hunter Matysek (9) and Moses Guererro (9) take notes in Biology. "Coach Kuhl is cool," Hunter said. "He lets us play bingo in class sometimes." Playing games was a method used to help review biology terminology and improve test scores.

Putting It On Paper. Making use of his class time, Mikey Mcintire (9) does worksheets in Mr. Gonzales' 2nd period Geometry class. "His class is definitely the hardest," Mikey said. "I actually study for his tests." It was Mr. Gonzales' first year of teaching at Taylor High School.





Changes For FISH

everyone is more mature

a bigger school

a lot more confusion

more privileges and responsibilities

block scheduling

tardy tank

The tardy tank punishment was changed from writing essays to doing physical work such as picking up trash outside and around the school.

"The tardy tank is brutal," Greg Carter (12) said. "It's no longer an escape from class; it's hard work!"



Just Checking. With walkie talkie in hand, Assistant Principal Mr. Brown checks on students in the tardy tank. "It's wack," Jacqueline Crittendon (12) said. "I can't stand not being able to talk to anyone." The tardy tank was meant to serve as an incentive for students to be on time to class.

August 8 Rowdesha Scott (11) August 12 Mallory Strmiska August 14 Juniors picked up August 15 Mr. Aaron Basinger August 17 Chris Lerma (12) August 18 Lisa Marie Farmer (10)

AND SO

it begins

students head back to school

Monday, August 25

It's never easy to see the summer come to an end. After the relative freedom of June and July, students struggle with the regimented schedule of the school year.

"I get to school at 6:40," Mallory Strmiska (11) said. "In the summer I slept until at least 10:00."

To ease the pain, the cheerleaders offered their services to teachers preparing for the beginning of school. They helped the teachers decorate their rooms, posted cut-out letters onto bulletin boards, made copies, and left "welcome back" notes on teacher's doors the night before school started.

"I really liked the welcome signs," Mrs. Catuogno said. "They made me smile."

There's always plenty to complain about when school starts, but students were excited to find a new feature in the schedule—an extended, single lunch period.

"I like that we all have lunch together," Brandon Dupy (11) said. "You don't have to worry about whether your friends have the same lunch as you."

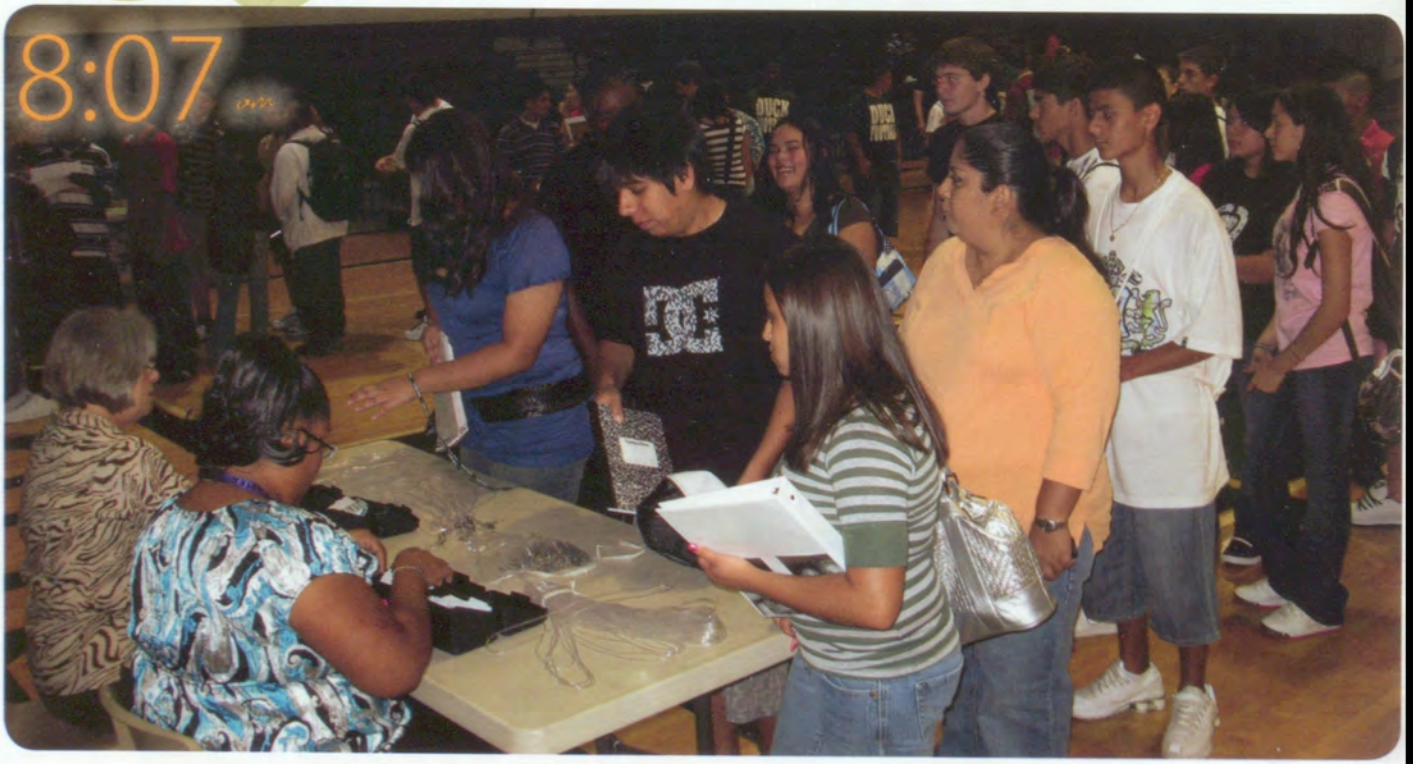
This year brought a new push to eliminate cell phone use during school hours. "Turn it off and put it away;" was the new slogan from the staff at THS. Any phone that was seen out with the power on was taken away, and held ransom in the office for the price of fifteen dollars.

"I just always hide mine in my purse," Heather Hegar (10) said.



Zoning Out. In a daze, Julieta Cruz (9) walks down the hall on the first day of school. "I was scared I was going to get lost," Julieta said. The campus was new for freshmen and many kept looking at their schedules to help them know where they were going.

A Clean Slate. Erica Estrada (9) gets her student ID on the first day of school. "I felt happy because school started," Erica said. "I wanted to see my friends." Many students had to pick up their ID's and schedules on the first day because they did not pick them up in the summer.





7:58 am

Saved By The Bell. Before their first class, teachers Matt Walker and Donna Curtis wait for their copies hoping they will be ready for first period. "I love copy machines," Walker said. "Every time, it's like 'Let's see, is it going to work?'" Curtis added. The copy machine has been known to have technical difficulites.

5 lousy things
to have happen to you on the first day of school

Fall *down right in front of everyone as you enter the building.*

*Get your pants all wet from the water fountain so it looks like you had an "***accident***."*

Get **lost** *and end up in an AP Physics class instead of Health.*

*Your mom comes right into your classroom and says, "***Honey, you forgot your lunch!***" and gives you a big smooch before she leaves.*



Your boyfriend chooses this day to **break up** *with you, right before your first class.*

8:19 am



9:32 am



Here we go. Stephanie Schwan (9) opens the door on the first day of school. "I can't believe I'm in high school already," Stephanie said. "I was a little nervous, but excited at the same time." August 25 marked the beginning of the high school career for the freshmen.

Making the introductions. In Desktop Publishing with Mrs. Catuogno, Claire Berger (11) and Leah Morales (11) interview each other so they can introduce each other to the class. "It's less embarassing that way," Mrs. Catuogno said. "You don't have to stand up and tell everyone about yourself. You get to tell them about someone else instead." Teachers were asked to provide ice-breaker activities on the first days of school to help the students get comfortable with their new classmates and teachers.

August 23 — **All teachers** participated in the Community Walk.

August 25 — **First Day** of school

August 26 — **Caleb Cavazos** (11) answered questions about

August 27 — **Jordan Brogan** (11) got to know his class

August 28 — **Rebecca Cocke** (11) learned about Mr. Springer

August 29 — **First football** game against the Reagan

A time of SWIRLING Confusion

At 8:25 Thursday morning, the first bell rang, classes began, and Hurricane Ike rolled in. The hurricane that was supposed to be bigger than Katrina was coming straight towards the Texas coast and people were evacuating. Even with all the chaos Friday's game was still on, or so students thought, until morning announcements said otherwise. Friday's football game against Elgin had been moved to Thursday night.

"We had to get in game mode fast," Bryan Mundkowsky (12) said.

The craziness of the day was not over yet; the first pep rally of the season was in jeopardy of being cancelled. By lunch the entire school was buzzing with confusion. It was decided that the community pep rally was not going to be cancelled but moved to earlier in the day, 4:30 to be exact. The plan was to be at the H.E.B parking lot ASAP. The band, cheerleaders, Hi-steppers, volleyball team, and cross country team were stressing out.

"I had to drive twenty minutes home during lunch to get my uniform and megaphone for the game," Maia Richter (12) said. "Then I had to leave work early for the pep rally. It was all a blur."

By 4:30 the pep rally began without a glitch, and the only thing missing was the football team. Since they had to play that night, the boys were already suiting up at the field. The Ducks fought hard against the Elgin Wildcats but were defeated 14 -17.

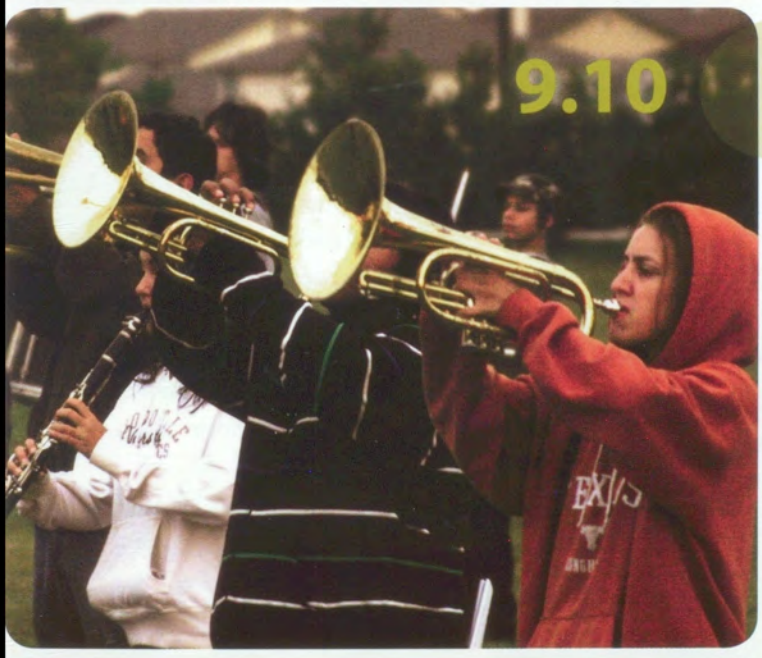


Tugging For Victory. During the community pep rally, Hi-steppers, band members, and cheerleaders challenge each other to a tug of war. "It was exciting because we actually got to do something besides just standing there in the sun," Valasha Cummings (10) said. A DJ played music to fire both sides up.

9.11



9.9 Pep Talk. Coming together for a group huddle during a time out at home, the Varsity Lady Ducks strategize on their next move to defeat their opponent the Caldwell Hornets. "It was scary because the other team was never too far behind us on the score board," Miressia Steele (11) said. The girls won the first two games, lost the third, but prevailed, winning the fourth for the best 3 out of 5. **9.10 Blow Your Horn.** Practicing for the week's football game, Samantha Howard (11) and other band members lift their instruments to play. "The schedule change was kind of a pain. I had to go home and get my drumline shirt," Gabe Montemayor (9) said. The band practiced every morning before school. **9.11 A Race Against Time.** In an attempt to score a touchdown, quarterback Mark Jackson (11) runs past Elgin Wildcats clutching the ball. "I was mad at first when we lost, but then I just put it in the past," Mark said. The Ducks were defeated in the last six seconds of the game with a final score of 14 -17.





Got a minute?

Mr. Craig Miller



Mr. Craig Miller remembers the shock and sorrow when the Twin Towers came down in 2001. "I was in class trying to teach," Miller recalled. As a military veteran, Mr. Miller said, "I think we need to remember September 11 because history tends to repeat itself. We have to learn from our mistakes."

September1 Taylor High School was closed for Labor Day.

September2 Laura Martinez (12) celebrated her 3rd anniversary with her boyfriend.

September11 Mark Jackson (11) prepared for a suprise football game.

September16 Kelly Salazar (11) got her belly button pierced.

September18 Mala Richter (12) turned 17.

"HE'S STILL OUR MARINE and he *always* will be."

Family and friends bury Anthony Gonzales

Anthony Norman Gonzales, a 19-year-old Cherry Point, N.C. marine and Taylor native that was murdered in New Bern, N.C. last week, was buried September 22 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Cemetery.

In the words of his mother, Cynthia Gonzales, "it was like they were burying a president."

Gonzales' parents were taken by limousine to Austin-Bergstrom International Airport to see the arrival of his body. As soon as Cynthia Gonzales saw the casket she had chosen for him, she breathed a sigh of relief, she said.

Waiting for him to arrive "was the longest three hours of my life," she said. "I saw the corner of the casket and thought, okay, my boy is home now."

The occasion of Gonzales' arrival was directed with pride and dignity that surprised Cynthia.

"No one was allowed off that plane until they got my boy out of there," she said. "They weren't even moving luggage on the whole side of the tarmac. I mean no one was allowed to move until my boy was in the hearse and coming home."

Gonzales' parents were given the option to have a military funeral in any place in the country, but Cynthia elected to bring him home, because though he was a member of the Marine Corps, his faith as a Catholic was more important.

Members of the U.S. Marines served as pallbearers during the funeral, which more than 500 people attended.

"We had the bugles, we had swords, we had saluting, the honor guard. The military takes care of its boys; let's put it that way," Cynthia Gonzales said.

In addition to the military-style funeral, a large part of the guests were members of the Taylor High School marching band, which took time off from class to see Gonzales interred, said band director Jacques Brown.

Only the freshman that didn't know him stayed behind and former band students and THS graduates came from all over the country for the funeral, some as far north as Chicago, Brown said.

"That shows what kind of impact he had on their lives, that they didn't want to miss that service," Brown said. "He was friends with everybody. Everybody knew him."

Gonzales was a trombone player as well as an avid devotee to the band while a student at THS. He served as a member all four years in high school, leading the low brass section as first chair. He was also a member of the jazz band and the varsity choir. He earned a chair in the All-Region Band and the All-Region Jazz Band.

"He was a really, really good student," Brown said. "He always had a smile on his face. Actually, sometimes we had to get onto him, because he always liked to crack jokes and keep people happy all the time. Sometimes we had to tell him it was time to get serious. He was a warm kid to be around."

At the Taylor High School varsity football game September 19, the band performed a tribute to Gonzales and presented his parents with a floral arrangement with Gonzales' dress cover in it.

Middle School Band Director Kendall Prinz remembered Gonzales as a hard worker, as well, and was upset when he heard what happened. One of Gonzales' brothers is in the middle school band, and told the story to the band director and his band mates.

"He was pretty torn up about it," Prinz said. "I think it's a big loss. [Gonzales] was an excellent student, very enthusiastic about music and very energetic and ready to perform and do his best. He was an outstanding kid with a really bright future, and it's sad that it got cut so short."

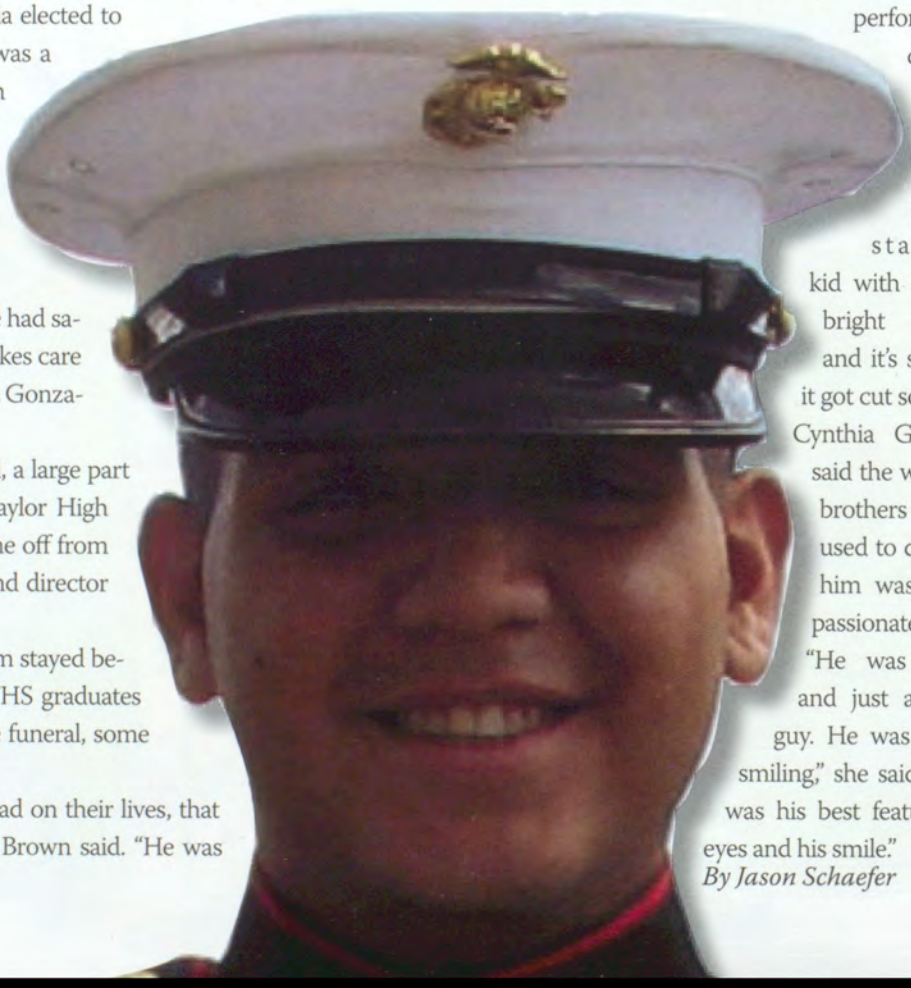
Cynthia Gonzales said the word his brothers always used to describe him was "compassionate."

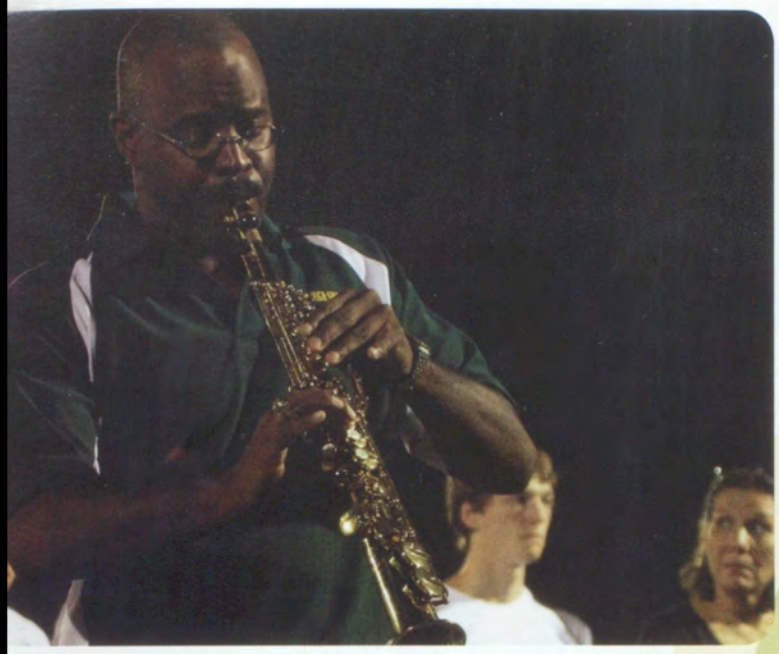
"He was loving and just a funny guy. He was always smiling," she said. "That was his best feature: his eyes and his smile."

By Jason Schaefer











Police Escort. Police officers and Sheriff's deputies parked their motorcycles along the side of the runway at Austin Bergstrom Airport. The City of Austin Police Department sent escorts to follow the hearse carrying the casket of Anthony Gonzales. The Austin Police Department Motorcycles stopped traffic at every intersection from Austin to the Round Rock city limits.

Solemn Notes. Head band director Jacques Brown volunteered to play "The Marine Hymn" on his soprano saxophone at the football game, as part of a special ceremony honoring Anthony Gonzales. As friends and family members of Anthony stood on the sideline of the field, they all felt a deep sorrow as they remembered Anthony's musical career.



Honor Guard. United States Marine Corp members of the same platoon with Anthony Gonzales volunteered to endure an airplane ride from North Carolina to honor Anthony by unloading his casket from the airplane and draping the American flag over it. Family members present at the Airport had an emotional moment, since they had not been able to see their Marine for many months. "All I wanted was to see my brother again, I really missed him and his jokes. I finally got to see him that day, but it wasn't how I wanted to see him", Jonathan Gonzales (12) said.

Military TIME

Students plan to enter Armed Services

Brandy FOSTER

Branch: Air Force

"Joining the Air Force is something I would be really proud to do."



Davy PEPPER

Branch: Army

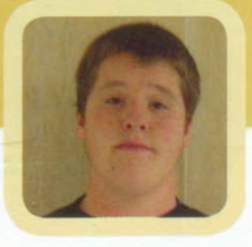
"I want to join the Army and get more education so I could get a better job in the Military."



Matthew WINCHESTER

Branch: Navy

"The economy is trash, but with the service, you are guaranteed a paycheck, and that is definitely what I need later in life."



Daniel OCHOA

Branch: Marines

"It is a life changing decision, but it can better your life."



fashions of the moment

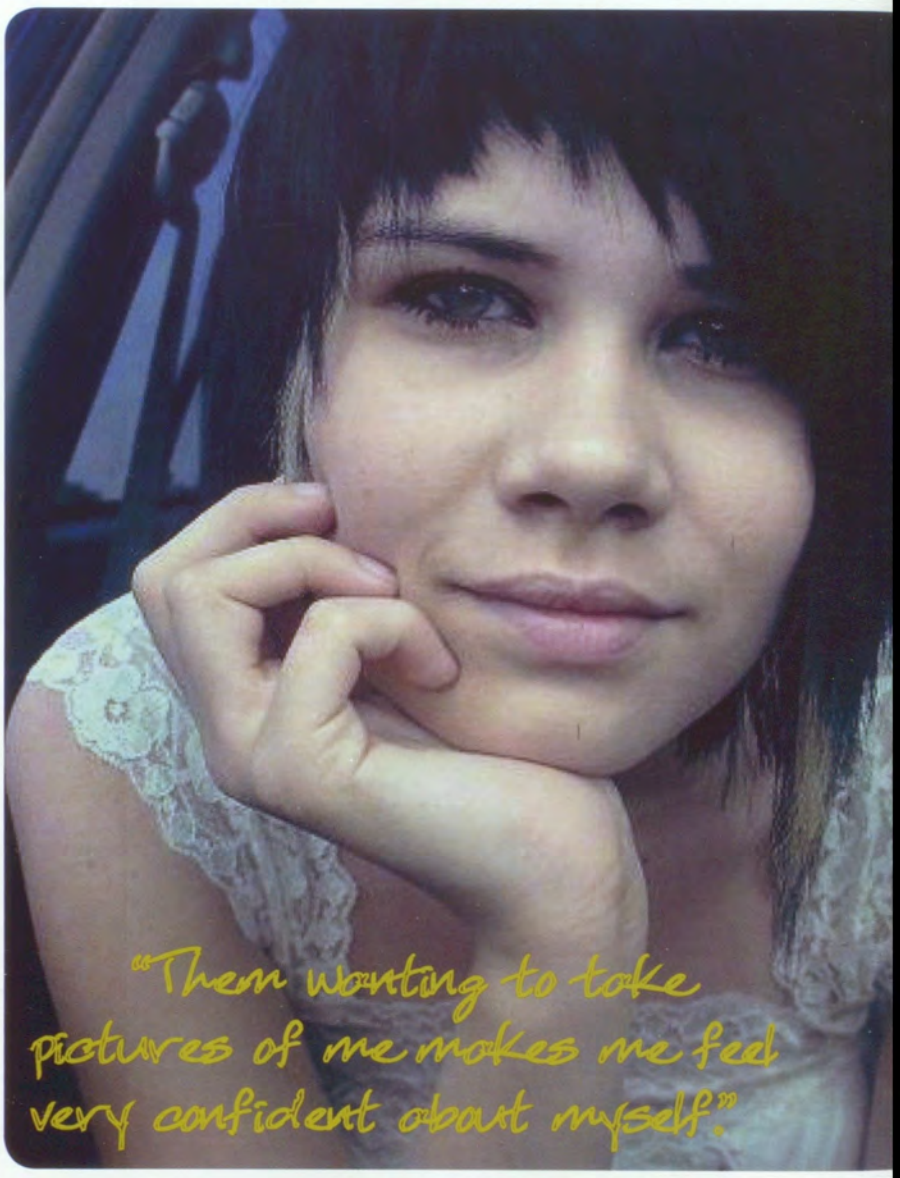
When Taylor Koenig (9) walked into MAC cosmetics, she had no idea that they'd be asking her to model for them. She entered the store looking for make-up like any other teenage girl would. While she was looking at the store's merchandise two ladies walked up to her and said, "We want you to do portfolios for us." Taylor was elated that they wanted to take photos of her skin.

"Them wanting to take pictures of me makes me feel very confident about myself," Taylor said.

For every photo shoot she gets paid around eight hundred dollars.

"They dress me up; they'll take pictures of me and put them in portfolios. They put the make-up on me and show how it's done to other people."

Since that day, Taylor has been more confident in herself, in her appearance, and her attitude towards others.

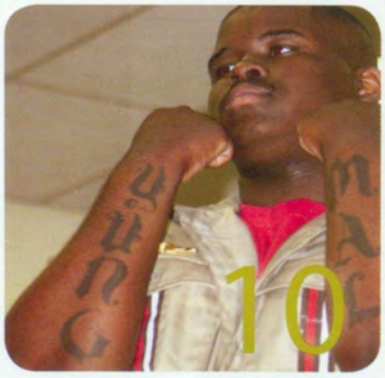


TIMEOUT



Liberty Jones likes to call herself a fashionista, "I believe fashion is a mixture of who you are and who you want to be. Your whole personality reflects through your clothes. I like how good you feel when you have a great outfit on, like you can take on anything, the compliments you get don't hurt either."

Liberty Jones 9





















1 Say Cheese. Taylor Koenig (9) models for MAC cosmetics. "When I finish high school I really want to do some runway modeling, that's the one thing my mind's set on," Taylor said. Since Taylor had some modeling experience under her belt, she hoped to pursue it as a career. **2 Tatted Up.** Leo Sandoval (10) shows off his skull tattoo. "It didn't really hurt while he was doing the outlining, but when he started the shading, it really started to hurt!" Leo said. Instead of going to a professional tattoo shop, Leo had one of his friends do the job for him. **3 Duck Pride.** As the new season for football starts there are new faces on the field as well as new equipment. "The T's on our helmets are lot bigger this year," Robert Brenson (11) said. "Now we really represent the Taylor Ducks." The football team also received new Nike cleats for games. **4 Safety First.** While in Mr. Springer's chemistry class, Kourtney Woods (11) and Stephanie Stegall (11), dressed in lab safety gear, pour chemicals into a test tube. "The labs are hard; I get lost very easily," Kourtney said. It was important to not spill anything that could be detrimental to a student's health. **5 Seeing Stripes.** Hi-stepper Danielle Zavala (12) works on algebra homework while sporting her new team sweatshirt. "All of our jackets, shirts, and pants match each other," Danielle said. Last year the Hi-Stepper theme was polka dots, but for 08-09 the dancers used a zebra print and hot pink theme. **6 Holy Moly.** Taylor Martin (11) shows off one of his four piercings. "I like them 'cause they're big," Taylor said. Taylor made the holes himself. **7 Buckle Up.** Caleb Chambers (10) wears his dad's rodeo belt buckle. "My mom gave it to my dad in high school and he passed it down to me when I entered high school," Caleb said. He was a Future Farmers of America member and has been a judge for livestock shows. **8 Studying in Style.** While working on a study guide in AP English, Krista Seidel (12) displays her giraffe purse on her desk with pride. "It's fake," Krista said. "I got it and the matching wallet at a flea market for like $60." Giraffe purses came in a variety of colors and could be found locally at the gift shop "Dreams to Treasures." **9 New Year, New Uniforms.** To engage the crowd before Friday night's game against the Llano hornets, JV and Varsity cheerleaders perform the fight song at the first pep rally of the year in their new uniform. "I really like the new uniforms, they're more comfortable and are so much cuter," Heather Hegar (10) said. The other uniforms the cheerleaders had were over four years old. **10 Young Ink.** Jamal Shaw (12) shows off his tattoo "YUNG MAL". "It explains me in a way because I can be young acting sometimes and I can be serious too," Jamal said. "I feel that if i'm gonna get something thats going to be permanent for the rest of my life then it has to mean something to me." Tattoos often reflected a personal story or mark an important event.

wear it* NOW
Fashion
must haves

skinny jeans

asymmetrical hair cuts

ballet flats

big belt buckles

giraffe purses

September 19 **Jared Delony** (11) took a test in Mr. Quarles' [illegible]

September 24 **Amy Salazar** (11) got her driver's permit.

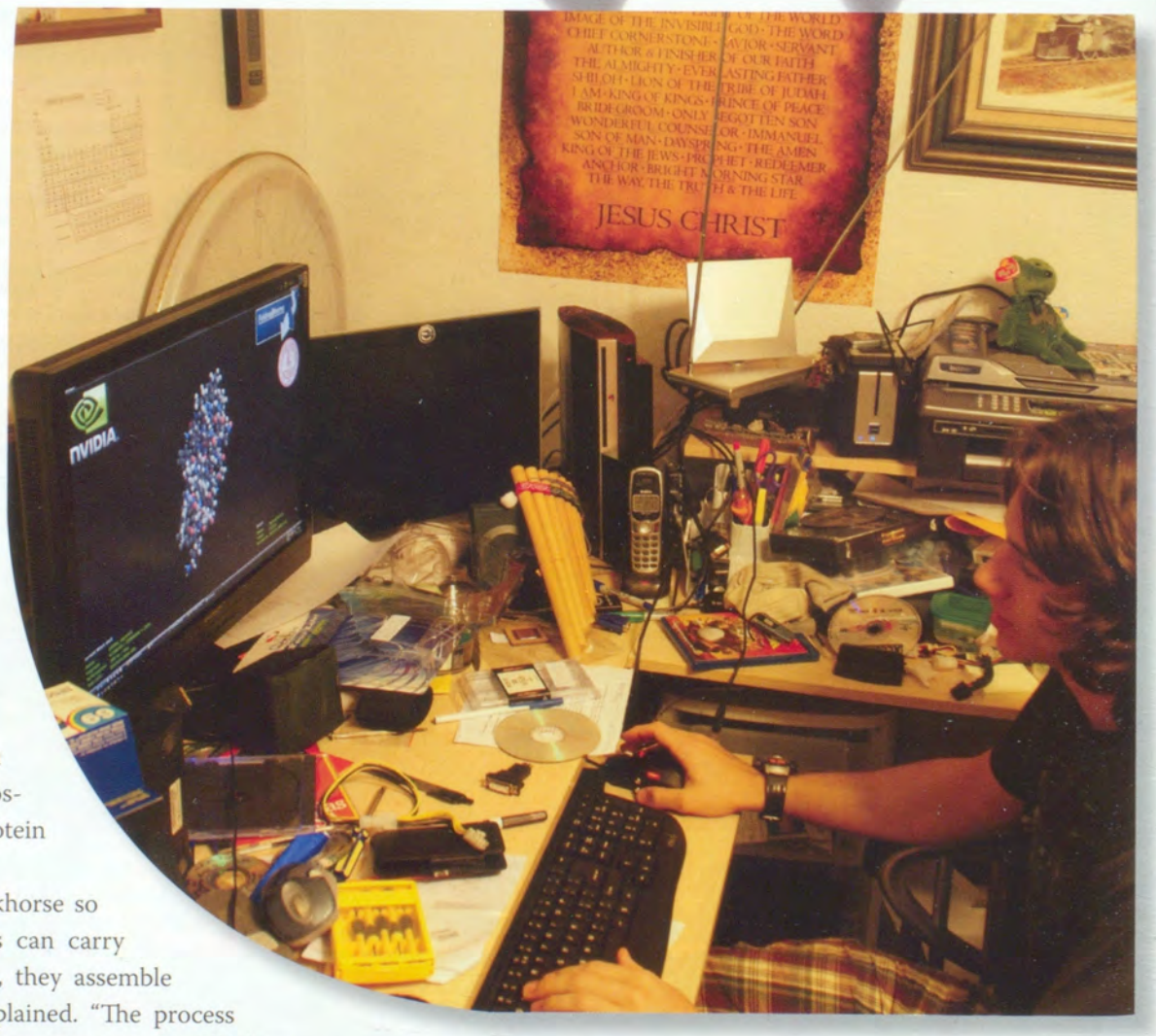
September 25 **Cathy Carmarda** (11) took her elements quiz.

September 26 **The football team** had an open week.

September 27 **Mrs. Melanie Catuogno** celebrated her 37th birthday.

giving time FOR A CURE

One Taylor High school student could be the key to acquiring a cure for cancer. Jared Delony (11) in conjunction with Stanford University and thousands of other around the world just like him, have created the largest supercomputer in the world. The project is called "Folding @ Home," where the participant's computer connects to Stanford University online and retrieves and works on files in the Folding Package. Then it processes the data and sends it back. The program works by calculating all the possible positions in which a protein can fold.



"Proteins are biology's workhorse so to speak, and before proteins can carry out their important functions, they assemble themselves, or 'fold,' Jared explained. "The process of protein folding, while very important to all of biology and medicine, remains a mystery. Instead of Stanford spending millions of dollars on a huge supercomputer, they have many computers working a little bit at a time."

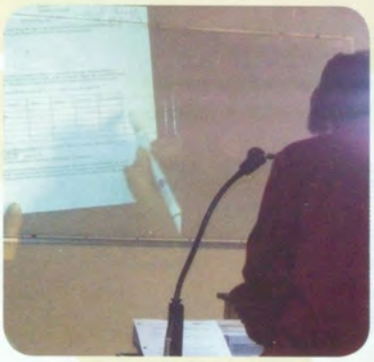
Anyone can do this at home, just by going to http://folding.stanford.edu/ and downloading the program. Normal computers only use 10-20% of their CPU processing power, and this uses the other 80% to help process data to find cures for diseases such as Alzheimer's, Mad Cow, Huntington's, Parkinson's, and many cancers and cancer-related syndromes. Jared doesn't mind that he isn't paid for his work.

"Its nice to do something beneficial on the computer instead of just wasting time on MySpace," Jared said.

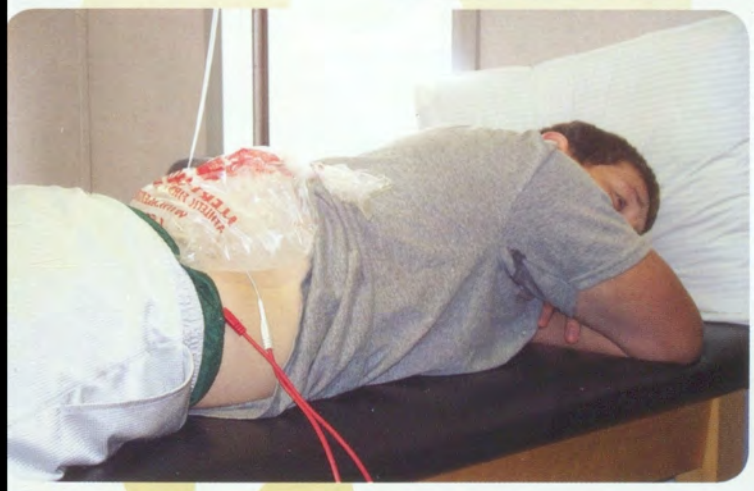
"It's nice to do something beneficial on the computer instead of just wasting time on MySpace."

Making Adjustments. During a TV Staff in-school field trip, Jenna Howard (12) adjusts the camera before preparing to shoot. "Filming is what I do. I guess its a talent I have," Jenna said. "It just comes naturally to me." The staff was visited by Austin independent filmmaker Robert Luke, who gave them tips on setting up lighting and getting the most out of their new camera, a Canon GL2. "It's way more fun when we get to use the good camera," Jenna said.

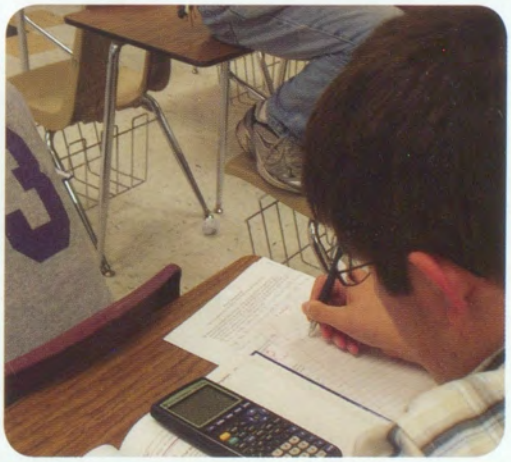




Taking a closer look In order to help her students with notes, Physics teacher Mrs. Gifford uses her document camera and projector. "I can give notes on the same outline the students use, and at the end of class, I have a hard copy to save for a student who may have missed class," Mrs. Gifford said. The district bought enough projectors for all campuses and the high school received one projector per teacher.

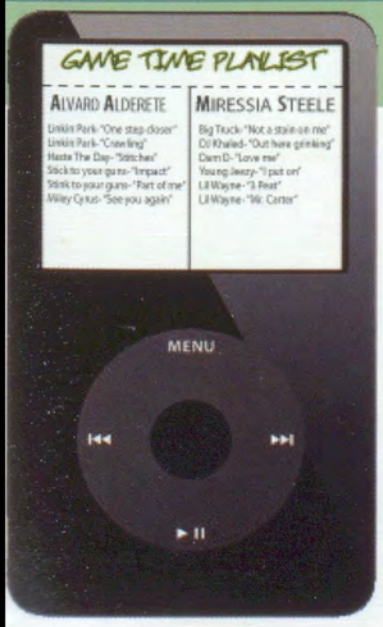


Life Saver. Hooked up to the "Stim" machine, Jonathan Cervantez (12) relaxes while receiving shocks to relieve the pain in his muscles.. "We do get our money's worth out of the machine. We use it about five times a day for knee surgeries, volleyball shoulders, and sore backs from football and kids that run a lot," Head Athletic Trainer Nikki Ray said. The machine used ultrasonic waves to reeducate muscles.



Crunching Numbers. Trevor Gray (12) uses his scientific calculator in his AP Statistics class. "It helps me keep track of the information that won't stay in my head", Trevor said. Ti-83 scientific calculators were used in the science and math departments to help students with their work.

technophile





Julia Moody (11) types a text message on her new Instinct. "It looked like the iPhone and I always wanted one, so I ended up getting the Instinct instead. My dad got really jealous when I got it," Julia said.





Carter Sakewitz (10) pulls his phone out of his pocket to play Bubble Breaker on his Blackjack II. "I get really bored in class, so whenever the teacher's not looking I play on my phone," Carter said.

Johnny Epperson (11) shows off his iPhone "I fell in love with it because it was the first touch screen phone. I love it; I only use it for music, texting and YouTube," Johnny said.

September 28
Holly Frazier (12) played in a volleyball game at home.

September 29
Conoley Rheinhardt (11) went to percussion rehersal.

September 30
Amanda Williams (10) taught cheers at Little Dixie Camp.

Killing time in the great OUTDOORS

Hannah Weison (9) has been bow hunting with her dad since a very young age. He owned an archery shop for many years and hunts often. Hannah began accompanying him when she was seven, and started to actually shoot when she was 11.

"Going on a hunt with my dad is a fun way for us to become closer," Hannah said. "Taking away all the cell phones and distractions helps us bond," Hannah said

She is no Elmer Fudd, but definitely not Shirley Temple either. Hannah is the exception to the hunting stereotype, making people forget the image of boys decked out in camouflage with shotguns.

"It's something I think more girls should try," Hannah said.



10.18

Working Up A Sweat. To stay in shape during their off season, Chase Richter (10) and Cody Alderete (11) run up the hill by the field house in Athletics. "Running up the hill is probably the hardest thing we do," Cody said. "How hard you work out determines how much of a sweat you'll break." Off season was a time where athletes worked out to prepare for the sport that they would be playing the next season.



No Smoking. Since the attempts to jump her car off resulted in sparks and smoke, Paul Flores of Taylor Towing tows Alex Sarp's (12) Mitsubishi Outlander from the school parking lot. "It was so embarrassing," Alex said. "People thought it was getting towed because I didn't have a parking permit!" The car was taken to Andrew's Automotive where a new battery was put in it.







Say Cheese. With the right lighting, and the striving passion of photography, Darrian Torres (9) anxiously aims her camera and captures the perfect image of Jared Collins (10), who patiently sits and poses on the wooden handrails in front of one of the portables. "I like taking pictures," Darrian said. "It's fun!" Darrian felt that lighting was the most important factor when taking a good picture.

Hop Off The Bus. In order to ensure she knows what to do in case of an emergency, Courtney Svatek (12) jumps off the bus during the safety drill. "I hope that I'm not actually in an accident where we have to evacuate, but it's good to practice it," Courtney said. Students were shown how to operate the emergency brake as well as lift the latch to open the top of the bus.

Oh Deer. Hannah Weison (9) poses with the buck she shot while out on a hunt with her father. "Some people think hunting is cruel," Hannah said. "I just tell them that its a sport."



Grab A Shovel. To fix the cracked sidewalk by the band hall, Kyle Leeper (12) mixes the cement with his shovel before pouring it. "It's nice to know that we are doing something good for the school," Kyle said. "Physical labor is better than writing papers." Ag students under the direction of Mr. Bishop used the skills they learned and applied them around campus.

Travis Carpenter (11)



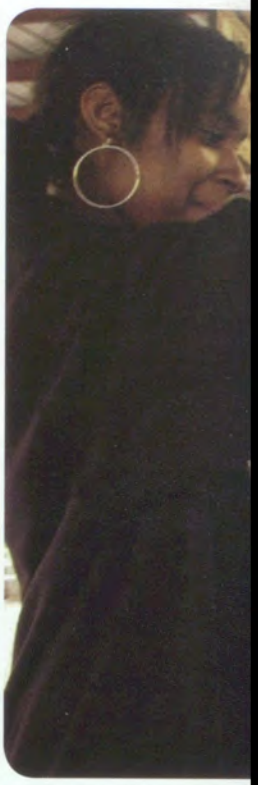
Travis Carpenter (11) is a typical skater boy. Although he didn't grow up with the passion to skate, it's obvious to anyone who sees him at lunch that he would rather skate than eat. "Skating is like a rush," Travis said. "It's really exciting till you realize you're about to fall." Being a skater for only a year, Travis likes to free style and see what happens. He usually can be found practicing at the hike and bike trail. "My friend just handed me a skateboard one day and said "do it", so i did," Travis said.

Got a minute?

FRIDAY NIGHTS

10.17





Homecoming**Queen**
Danielle Zavala (12)

"I felt surprised, shocked, happy, excited, and nervous all at the same time."



Since the first Taylor Homecoming in 1954, students celebrated by wearing mums and garters, rallying at a bonfire, and going to a dance hosted at the school. The bonfire tradition slowly died, but mums and garters still continued to be a hit. In recent years though, the once-anticipated dance has waned in popularity. The Sadie Hawkins Dance of 2007 did not have much of a turn-out due to the lack of advertisement which caused the Student Senate's money supply to go in the red. When discussing possible activities this year, the dance was at the bottom of the list. No one was sure whether or not to risk putting in the hard work decorating and spending money on a dance that no one would attend.

But at last a yes was decided. The theme was to be "Friday Night Lights;" the inside of the student center would look like a football field. The dance committee immediately started preparing, buying streamers, balloons, and PVC pipe to make goal posts. Flyers were posted through out the school. Everything was going smoothly until four days before the actual event, when plans came to a screeching halt: no one had asked the Principal to approve the dance.

"I can't believe we forgot to ask her," committee chairperson Alex Sarp (12) said. Immediately Alex and Mrs. Gray rushed to the office, but Mrs. Mason was out. As soon as she returned, she was hit with the question: could there be a Homecoming Dance?

"We were hoping for the best, but not prepared for the worst," Ashley Rivera (12) said. After pleading their case, members waited anxiously for a decision. The answer was no because the maintenance department needed at least two weeks notice before an event so they could turn on the air conditioner.

Just when everyone was willing to give up though, Mrs. Mason decided to approve the dance with a date change to the Friday night after the Homecoming game. All their efforts had not been in vain, and the dance turned out to be a success with over 220 people in attendance.

"I was surprised by how many people showed up," Seth Marcon (12) said. "The student center was packed and I was like 'whoa.' It was fun."





Dancing The Night Away. After winning Senior Class Princess, Fabiola Sanchez (12) enjoys herself at the Homecoming Dance . "I was so tired from the rush and excitement of the game," Fabiola said. "I could never be to tired to dance though." After shutting out Bryan - Rudder 49 - 0, Taylor Ducks flocked to the student center for the football themed dance.

Take A Bite. La'Star Payne (11) holds a donut on a string while Assistant Principal Mr. Randy Brown tries to take a bite out of it. "The donuts were good. I had a couple myself," La'Star said. The donut-eating game was one of the most popular at the Homecoming Carnival, at which several school clubs sponsored free games for the community. The carnival was followed by a community pep rally.

Just One Of The Girls. Flying into the air for a prep stunt during the Homecoming Pep rally, varsity football player Seth Samuelson (12) is boosted into the air by fellow teammates to get the crowd's energy up. "I do all my own stunts," Seth said. Twelve senior football players volunteered to be cheerleaders for a day and dance at the pep rally.





All Smiles. Students at T.H Johnson Elementary celebrate homecoming with smiles as the THS Cheerleaders high-five them on their way out from performing. "It was the sweetest thing when the girls showed up and did cheers for them," Mrs. Paige Ward said. "All their faces lit up." Cheerleaders went down hallways chanting until the kids came out of their classrooms.

Playing To Win. Oscar Rodriguez (12) decorates his fifth period door for the Homecoming door decorating contest. "We were hoping we'd win by being unique, by using sticky notes and masking tape pieces," Oscar said. Due to the lack of turnout for hall decorating last year, Student Senate decided to decorate doors instead.

Here Comes The King. Tristan Meyer crosses the field with his parents to line up with the other nominees for Homecoming Court. "I didn't expect to win at all," Tristan said. "I was just jealous I didn't get a tiara like Danielle." Court nominations resulted in a tie for both boys and girls which made a total of 18 girls and boys; Tristan was voted Homecoming King.





Breaking Free. Trent Rojas (12) breaks free of the Rudder defense in an attempt to gain extra yardage for the first down. "We just tried to avoid as many mistakes as possible and play 4 quarters for that win," Trent said. "All that practice wasn't for nothing." The Ducks took home a victory that night with a score of 49 - 0.

October 2 — **Victoria Fail** (10) did a lab in AP

October 6 — **Claire Berger** (11) had cheerleading

October 9 — **The Duck** football team played

October 13 — **Taylor High School** received an Exxon/Mobil

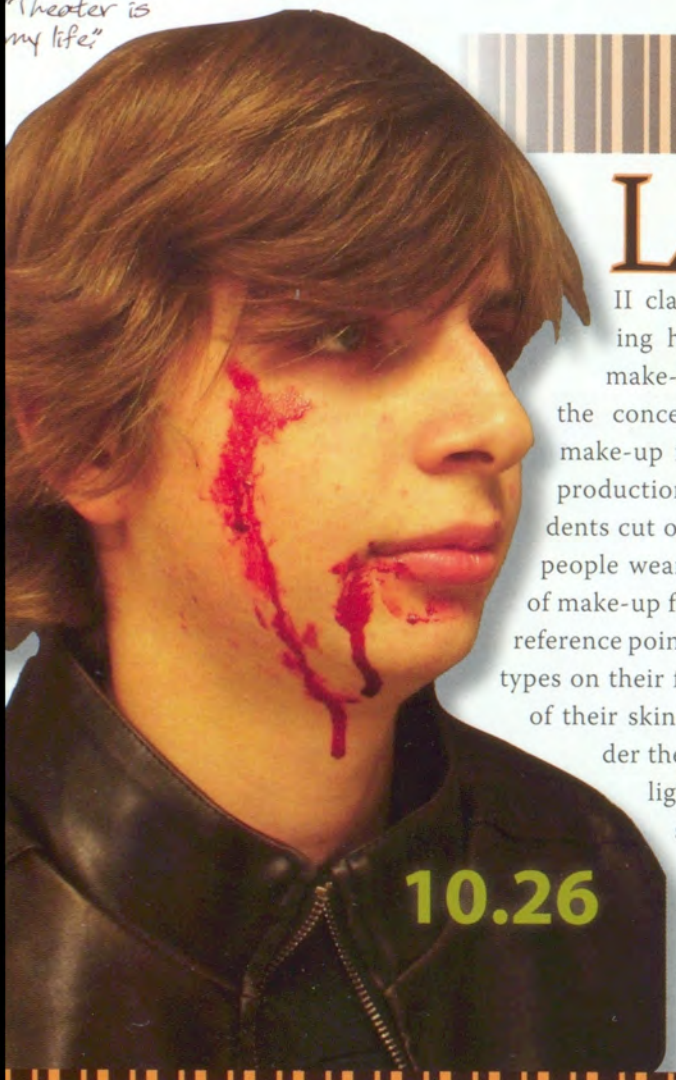
October 15 — **Brandon Broussard** (9) took the

October 16 — **Mr. Springer** got dunked at the Home-

The Witching Hour

Kameren Hodnett (11)

"Theater is my life"



10.26

Lights, Camera, Make-up! Mr. Alonso's Theater II class practiced learning how to apply basic make-up techniques into the concept of using stage make-up for their upcoming productions. Most of the students cut out clips of different people wearing different kinds of make-up from magazines as a reference point and used different types on their faces or other areas of their skin to experiment under the auditorium's stage lighting. Many of the students enjoyed being able to get a break from practicing acting, or having to memorize lines.

"It is really fun being able to change how you feel about yourself internally just by adding a layer, or two of make-up to your exterior," Fabiola Sanchez (12) said.

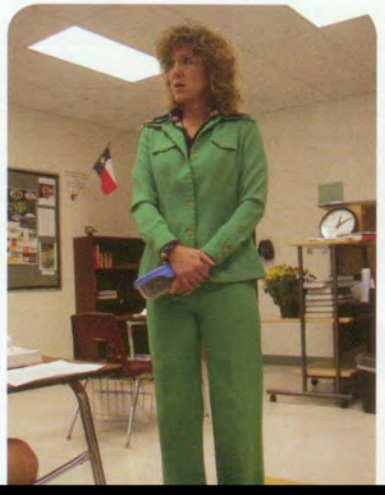
The three major genres of make-up that the students studied were corrective, fantasy/ horror, and old age. In corrective, the students used dramatic shades and hues to correct "flaws" on their bodies. Under the stage lights, all colors were drained from their faces so the students had to learn to create shadows and highlights. In fantasy, the students used their own personality to create unique designs, colors and patterns. The emphasis was to be creative and original and to explore different possibilities. Tied in with fantasy was horror because both genres used imaginative designs. Many of the students used different kinds of dramatic looking colors like deep shades of red to represent blood. Old age was the final genre the students had to learn by adding an elderly appearance to themselves. Wrinkles were the most common effect students achieved through make-up.

"Sorry if I offend any old people, but old age is all about adding wrinkles to your face, and I hate wrinkles," Kristina Bourdeau (11) said.

Mrs. Cathy West

your TIME

"What can be worse than green polyester?" Mrs. Cathy West said. "Although, it does last a long time." Mrs. West wore a pantsuit from her high school days to celebrate the decade pep rally theme on Halloween.







Presidential Action. Masked as Presidential candidates Barack Obama and John McCain, drum majors Kevin Lindsay (12) and Courtney Svatek (12) have a fake fight before their half time show. "No one expected us to actually do it," Kevin said. "It was funny because I was for McCain but I wore the Obama mask." Obama won the mock election held at school that week.

Scary Jack. Koby Huckabee (10) created a digital pumpkin using photoshop in his Desktop Publishing class. "It took too long to make," Koby said. "I still don't like it. I'm very picky." Mrs. Catuogno tried to make her publication design assignments fit with the season.







Edible Eyeballs. With Halloween spirit in the Mallard office, Jenna Howard (12) and Abel Rincon (12) play with their candy. "I love how Abel's eyes were cross-eyed, even though mine were too," Jenna said. "Halloween is just a good time to have fun and eat candy." Mallard staffers celebrated the holiday by decorating the office with cut out pumpkins and ghosts.



Who Wants Cake? To join in the festivities, Mrs. Carpenter contributed to the teachers' Halloween party by making scary treats. "Ew. That looks gross," Aaron McQuary (9) said. Teachers often celebrated holidays in their lounge before school.

Spooky Fun. Hitting up the different booths at Spooktacular, Gabrielle Solis (11) takes advantage of the free candy given out by playing a game. "It's always fun to see whats going on in town," Gabrielle said. "I really enjoyed the spook house." Spooktacular was an annual event put on the middle of main street.



Sock It To 'Ezm. Cheerleaders Maia Richter (12) and Ashley Rivera (12) show their Halloween spirit by wearing orange and black socks with their uniforms. "We looked goofy with our crazy socks and uniforms, but it was Halloween!" Ashley said. The cheerleaders also wore their crazy socks and ribbons as they crossed the field at the game for senior night.

October 19 — **Taylor ISD** had its Annual Buddy Walk.

October 21 — **Simon Martinez** (11) took a biology test.

October 22 — **Seth Marcon** (12) turned 18.

October 23 — **Mrs. Tennill** worked at the 2nd Annual Library Gala.

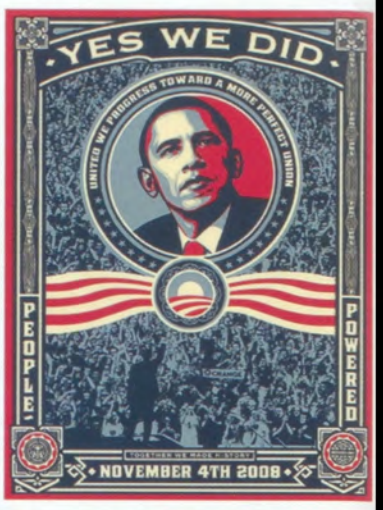
October 30 — **Ashley Estrada** (11) went to Spooktacular.

October 31st — **Seniors** celebrate senior night at the

November 4, 2008

TIME FOR A NEW THS?





The silent majority turned out in record numbers for Taylor's $43 million school bond election November 4th and by a vote of 2,462 to 2,021, Taylor High School students can expect to hold classes on a new campus by 2010-2011.

Six of Taylor's seven Precinct polling sites passed the school bond vote by a margin of 54.92%.

"Everyone deserves the same chance at having a decent school."

"We just can't say enough to thank our taxpayers for the support they have shown us," said a very pleased Taylor Superintendent Dr. Bruce Scott. "We knew that we had some strong support and some extremely active supporters, but we also knew we needed a record show of support from voters."

That is exactly what Taylor ISD and its supporters gained Tuesday as 4,483 voters cast their ballots and a record 2,462 said "yes" to Taylor's first new high school since 1969 and "no" to costly portable classrooms.

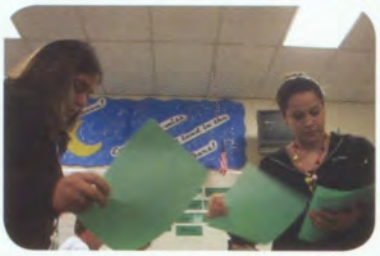
While the large bond package did have its share of opposition during these hard economic times, there was a large base of support for Taylor ISD students, the Community Facilities Committee, the Board of Trustees and the Administration's plan to construct the new high school campus adjacent to the proposed East Williamson County Higher Education Center just off FM 973.

The earliest Taylor's new high school could expect to open doors for classes would be January, 2011. The high school will be Phase One of the total project which expects to add an additional one thousand seats to the district's capacity and ease overcrowding at the Northside Early Childhood Center, T.H. Johnson Elementary School and Taylor Middle School.

The renovations to the current high school could be fewer and less expensive than earlier estimates suggested as grade configurations are reviewed, the construction bids are delivered and campuses are designated for grade assignments.

Taylor ISD appreciates the support of the City of Taylor and the Taylor Economic Development Corporation in bringing utilities south of the Highway 79 Loop for the EWCHEC project. Those cost savings will enable the district to use bond monies toward the list of needs identified by the Facilities Committee.

Even though Megan Holman (12) won't be here to attend the new high school, she still has an opinion on the new school bond. "I do care. I think everyone deserves the same chance at having a decent school," Megan said, "I think it's a good decision, they need a new building, this place is falling apart."

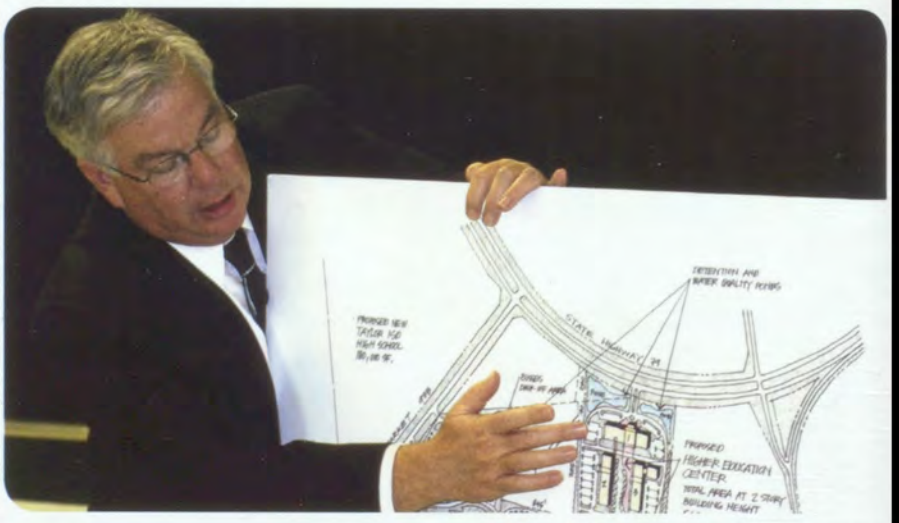




Numbers Don't Lie. Megan Holman (12) and Fabiola Sanchez (12) count the ballots at Taylor's mock election. "I wish that it would've been a real one, so that the computers could count the ballots for me," Fabiola said. The final results were Obama winning 62% of the students votes and McCain trailing with 32% of the votes.



Don't Mock Me. With ballot in hand, Megan Chacon (11) stands with classmates preparing to cast her vote. "I voted for Obama, because I agree with a lot of the things he's for, and I think it's really cool that we made history," Megan said, "I liked the mock election, because I was curious to know what our school thought." Students were released from their 2nd period to go vote in the mock election.



Change For The Better. Superintendent Dr. Bruce Scott shows to the audience the blueprints for the new Taylor High School. "It was refreshing to realize that voters had officially given their support for a new high school and an expected one thousand new seats. We will also begin the process of renovating a forty year old campus and eliminating some thirty year old portable classrooms." Dr. Scott said. The election was close, with only four hundred and forty one votes making the decision.

Time for Change

Stick It. These commemorative stickers mark Barack Obama's historic victory and were designed by groundbreaking artist Shepard Fairey—the same artist who designed the world-famous, iconic "Hope" poster for Obama.





First Time Voter. Kelsey Davis (12) signs up at First Methodist Church to vote. Kelsey said. "I actually turned 18 two days before the election," Kelsey said. "I was really excited because I knew who I wanted to win." Where you went to vote depended on where you lived in the district.

Just A Test. Jacob San Miguel (11) fills out his ballot at this years Taylor high school mock election. "It sucks that I can't vote for real, but this is good enough." Jacob said. Every year a mock election is held at the high school to prepare teens for the real voting experience.



Obama Mamas. Shelby Johnson (12), Holly Frazier (12), and Harmony Lorentzen (12), were all smiles when they found out Barack Obama was the new President. "At first when I heard that Obama was behind, I locked myself in my room," Harmony said. "Then I got a phone call from my mom saying Obama was the President, and I was like WHOO-HOO!"

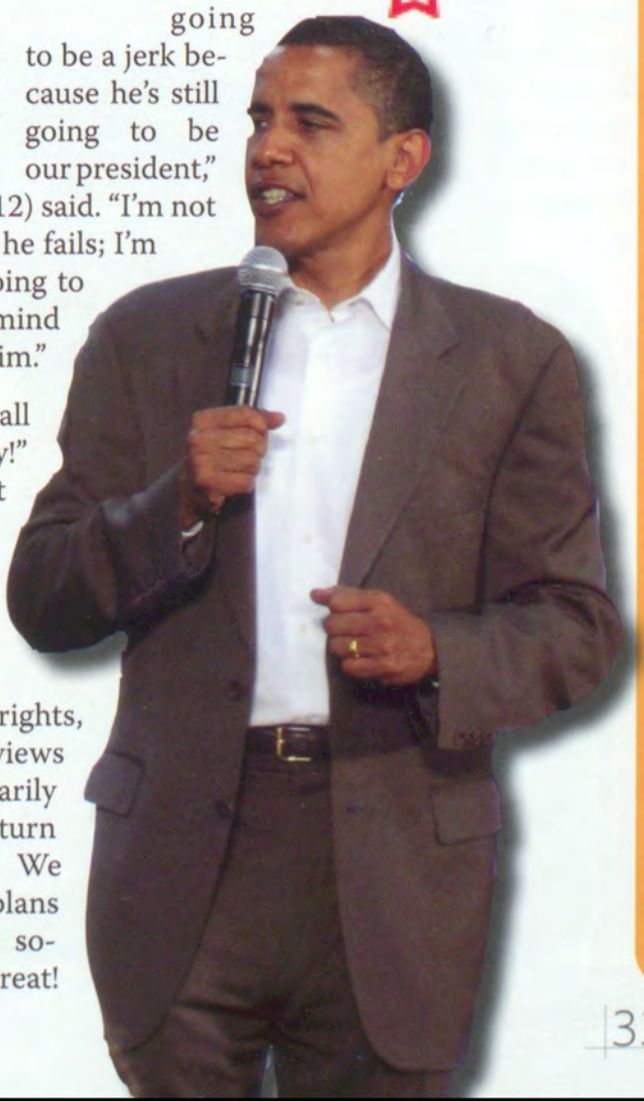
"If I could have voted I wouldn't have voted for Obama, but I'm not going to be a jerk because he's still going to be our president," Kevin Lindsay (12) said. "I'm not going to hope he fails; I'm hoping he's going to change my mind about him."

"Obama all the way!" Kyle Fontenot (11) said. "His plans for college tuition, his contribution to the minorities and their rights, his environmental views are just extraordinarily great! He plans to turn our country green! We need that! He has plans to use wind power, solar power, he's just great!





President-Elect. His campaign slogan for change was hardly an understatement. "This is the greatest thing to happen in America. He could be even greater than George Washington or Abe Lincoln," Kyle Fontenot (11) said. Not only being the first African American president, Barack Obama also wants to have universal health care and invest money into alternative energy.



November 1 Manuel Cornejo (11) voted
November 2 Day Light Savings Time ended
November 3 THS Band went to State
November 4 Kyle Leeper (12) voted
November 8 Camryn Stoll (11) went to Wurstfest
November 9 Chardonnay Suarez (11) turned 18

Time for Others

As the time of giving approaches, organizations do various activities to help the community. The school has a tradition of participating in the annual canned food drive and this year was no exception. Every student was encouraged to contribute in whichever way they could. Many partook for the pure joy of being kind, while also being able to raise a grade in a class.

Most teachers gave extra credit to students who took part in the canned food drive.

"My scholars are helping others and I'm rewarding them for doing what's right in the world," Mrs. Vicki Rowe said. Each student who donated canned goods got a free 100 in Mrs. Rowe's class.

About 1,500 cans were collected the week before Thanksgiving. The Science club delivered the canned goods after everything was collected. "I love doing it every year," Mr. Springer, who sponsors the Science Club, said. The Science Club distributes the canned goods every time. "We deliver them to Shepherd's Heart, but we don't get to meet the people who actually receive them," Mr. Springer said. At Shepherd's Heart it is not certain families who receive the canned goods, but anybody in need. "We do selfless service," Mr. Springer said. "We give for the sake of giving, knowing we need nothing in return," Mr. Springer said.





Science **Club**
Mr. Springer
"We do selfless service," Mr. Springer said.

Can Can. While at Walmart, Carin Gonzales (11) shops for the canned food drive. "I wanted my 2nd period class to win so bad!" Carin said. Mrs. Catuogno's class recieved 2nd place in the drive, with three hundred sixty three cans. Mr. Springer's class won by about fifteen cans.

10 things not to do during thanksgiving

DO NOT...

burn the turkey
stick your finger in the icing
call your grandma old
release bodily gasses
clog the toilet at your grandparents house
scream obsenities
run aroud with undies on your head
eat the last piece of pie
lick a spoon and put it on your nose
insult your parents cooking

In Remembrance. To honor the veterans of our country, Mr. Quarles, Kevin Lindsay (12), and Stephen Svatek(9), listen to a commemorative speaker by the flag pole. "They deserve to be remembered," Kevin said. " Select band members played a song of tribute for Veterans by the flag pole.

Nifty Fifty. Mrs. Johle displays her birthday flowers that she recieved from the faculty and staff. "Although I was down about being fifty, flowers made me feel a little better", Mrs. Johle said. The phrase "Aint it Nifty, I'm 50!" was written on the vase.

Showing Off Baby. Kasey Estrada (9), Chris Garza (9), and Tiffany Stovall (9) pose with their personalized flour babies. "The baby was really hard to take care of," Kasey said. "It was like having a real baby to watch all the time!"







let's make some [flour] babies

What started as a simple class project became an all out invasion. One could not walk down the hall way with out being bombarded with the sight of square bodies and lumpy limbs and heads. Their constant presence was heightened to the comparison of plague like proportions.

It was Mrs. Sumpter's Personal and Family Development class that participated in the week long "Flour Baby" project. Each student was required to carry their baby everywhere. There was no mother or father the baby could be dropped off with since everyone was graded on being a single parent. It would be an automatic 25 points off the student's grade if Mrs. Sumpter caught any of her students with out their babies.

"The objective of this was project was for the students to understand how to care for a baby," Mrs. Sumpter said.

Other criteria that the students had to accomplish was keeping a baby book that logged when a baby was fed, changed, or cried. Students had to make a birth certificate for their baby as well as take a teacher sign sheet for each of their teachers to signature to prove that the student was practicing good parenting conduct.

"Carrying the baby around, I learned some of the responsibilities that comes with being a parent," Capreshia Blakely (9) said.

November12 **Lisa Marie Farmer** (10) Celebrated her 10 month anniversary.

November25 **Thanksgiving** break started.

November27 **Jacob Sanchez** (10) went to Arizona to see his older brother.

November28 **Dylan Saucedo** (11) visited his family.

November30 **Chris Leal** (11) moved into his new house in the country.

Brotherhood

TEAMMATES OFFER SUPPORT IN DIFFICULT TIMES

It was a typical Thursday night. Ryan Montalvo (11) celebrated with the JV football team after their victory over the Llano Hornets as they headed into an open week. He had no idea his life was about to drastically change. Just two days later his step-dad had a fatal car accident.

"When I heard about it, I couldn't believe it; I had to talk to him," teammate Carter Sakewitz (10) said.

Ryan spent the next week away from school and football.

"The coaches, they let my mom know that they were there to support me in any way," Ryan said. "They let her know that I didn't have to come back. It was completely my choice."

When Ryan went back to school a week later, he decided to continue with football as an escape from his family's tragedy.

"Football helped me get it off my mind," Ryan said. "It gave me something to do, instead of just having to sit around and think about it."

That coming Thursday, Ryan felt he was ready to play in the game against Cameron. "Off the field, all you could really do was just try and talk to him," Carter said. "But on the field at the start of our game, he asked us to win for his step-dad. He played with 'RIP Dad' on the tape that was on his wrist. We won the game."

Although football forced him to think of other things, Ryan and his mother were still left to take on the family business. In addition to the pressures of high school and just being a teenager, Ryan now had to take on extra chores and the duties that his father would have normally done.

"It's me, my mom and two sisters, so we have to help each other out," Ryan said.

The support of his teammates and coaches helped him cope with his loss.

"The team was a real support," Ryan said.

"It's brought the team a lot closer; we all know each other a little more-- we've become like a band of brothers, "D'vonte Fischer said.

The season was over. What started as a football team had transformed into a brotherhood.





Stop Right There. Running to score a touchdown, Tristan Meyer (12) dodges opponents while Trent Rojas (12) blocks for him and Mark Jackson (11) watches during the game against Llano. "I do what I can to help my teammates," Trent said. "There is no I in team." The Varsity team fell short to the Llano Hornets 7 – 27.

Give Me A T. Ricky Cobia (11) prepares to throw a touchdown pass to DeMarea Kerley (10) against Bryan Rudder. "You get this sort of rush from being out there with all the lights," Ricky said. "It's like all eyes are on you." Taylor beat Bryan Rudder with a shut-out score of 49-0.

August 29	September 5
Reagan 32-6	Manor 21-14

Just Like The Trophy. Halfback Mark Jackson(11) does the Heismann on an Austin Reagan player. The final score of the game was 37-6.

Get Em' Boys. Emilio Pachicano(12) falls to the ground after an attempted tackle during the senior night game against Caldwell while Abel Rincon(12) wraps up their running-back. "That game was really rough," Emilio said. "We were running around like chickens with our heads cut off!" The Ducks finished short of Caldwell with a 19 - 48 finish.









Taking The Field. Eric Brooks (12), Mark Jackson (11), Lorenzo Crawford-Sanford (9), Jesse Shaw (12), and Kelbie Stifflemire (10) charge down the field in a kick off against the Reagan Raiders. "I enjoyed the intensity and speed of the game," Eric Brooks said. "We were sure we would win." The outcome of the game was a Duck win 36 – 7.

Mid-Air Action. In an attempt to stay on offense, Cade Samuelson (10) wrestles an opposing player to keep him from getting the ball while teammates J'coy Barber (10) and Daniel Hyzak (10) assist during the Rockdale game. "He kept thinking he would dodge me," Cade said. "I knew better though. I finally got him." The JV Ducks beat the Tigers 14 - 13.

4 elements of football

Get Fired Up: "Motivation is the key to victory," Corey Strimiska (12) said.



Tackle: "We gotta get them down if we don't want them to score" Chris Martinez (12) said.

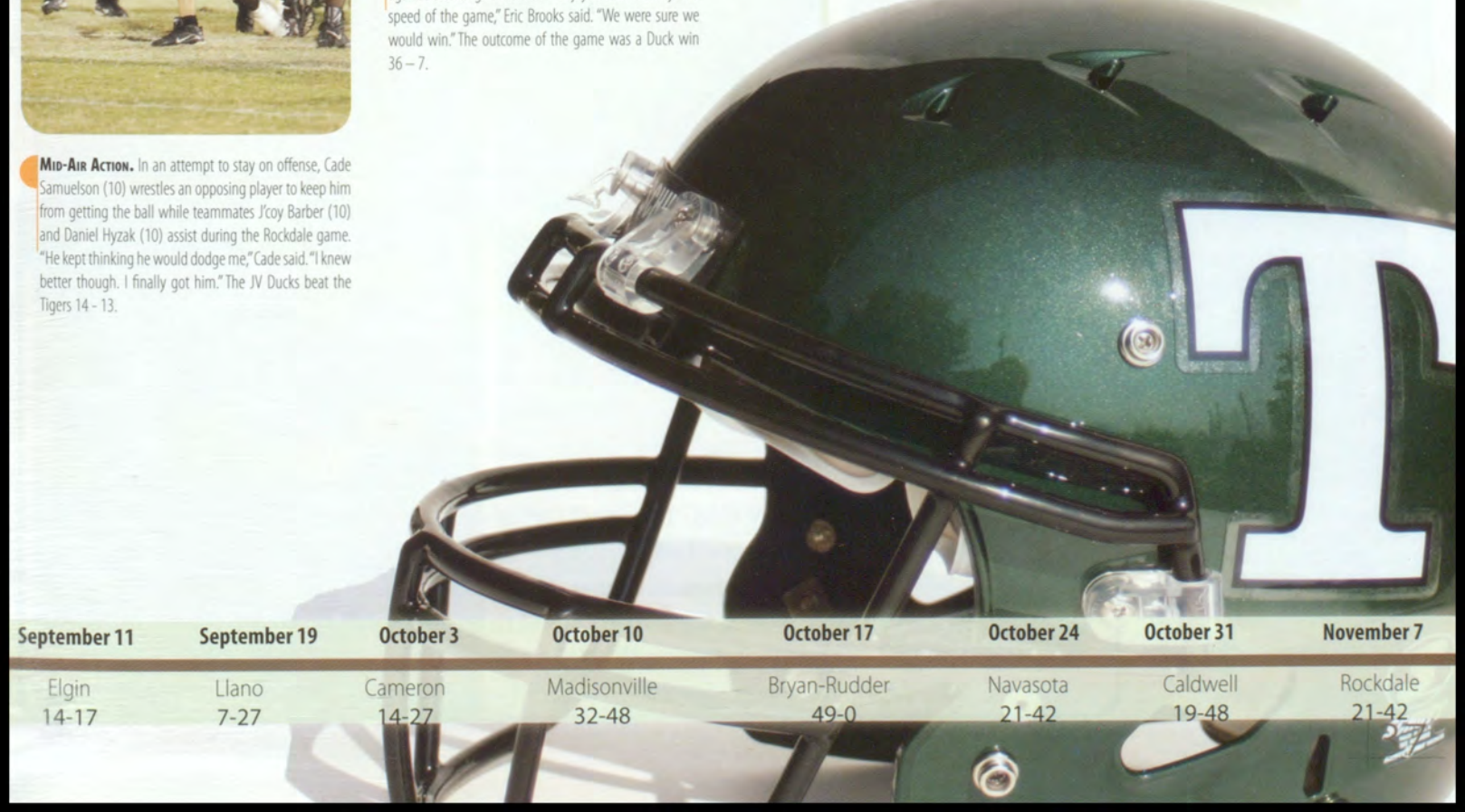


Run: "If you aren't fast, forget it," Chris McFarlin (11) said.



Catch: "Every catch is important," Tyler Stance (12) said.





September 11	September 19	October 3	October 10	October 17	October 24	October 31	November 7
Elgin	Llano	Cameron	Madisonville	Bryan-Rudder	Navasota	Caldwell	Rockdale
14-17	7-27	14-27	32-48	49-0	21-42	19-48	21-42

Volleyball in 4 steps



Serve - To begin a serve, the player holds the ball opposite to the dominant hand. The player then makes sure they are behind the serving line. If the player passes this line, the point and ball go to the other team. The player throws the ball in the air and as it is coming back down the player hits the ball. The ball has to pass over the net and not go outside the boundary lines



Bump - After the ball is served the first pass is always a bump. To bump, the player makes a fist with their dominant hand. The other hand is then wrapped around the fisted hand. Make sure the thumbs don't cross over each other and point forward. As the ball nears closer, bump it. Make sure to not bump on the wrists. Hitting the wrists can cause them to break.



Set - A set is the most crucial part of the game. A good set is usually made with the fingertips. The player should be able to reach the ball fast and make it go towards a hitter. Once the setter reaches the spot where the ball is likely to fall in, he/she bends his/her arms and waits for the ball to come close to the height at which they can extend their hands the highest. Using just the fingertips the setter pushes the ball towards a hitter.



Hit/Spike - As they go up for a hit the player has to move their opposite foot forward. The player then moves their dominant foot forward and before the jump he/she places his/her feet together. As the player is doing this, the arms are moving as well. The arms are crossed, and then brought out. The non-dominant hand is then placed parallel to the floor as the dominant hand is brought over the player's head.

Sept.9th-Caldwell-Win

Sept.16th-Madisonville-Win

Sept.19th-Rockdale-Win

Sept.23rd-Bryan-Rudder-Win

Sept.30th-Navasota-Win

Oct.3rd-Cameron-Win

Oct.7th-Caldwell-Loss

Oct.10th-Madisonville-Loss

Oct.14th-Rockdale-Win

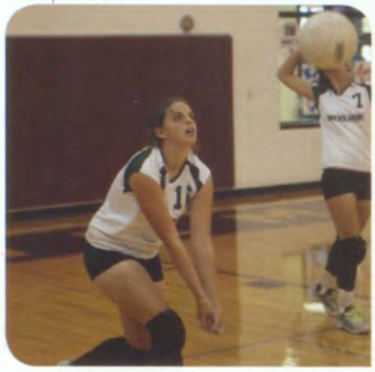
Oct.17th-Bryan-Rudder-Win

Oct.24th-Navasota-Win

Oct.28th-Cameron-Win

Oh So Happy. Varsity player, Ashley Heselmeyer (10) glances over at the scoreboard after their win against Cameron. "I was excited that we won!" Ashley said. "We always celebrate after our victories." The girls played to win2 out of 3 games with scores of 25 - 15 (w), 25 - 18 (w), and 24 - 26 (l).

Here It Comes. Preparing to bump the ball back to her partner, Sloane Cotner (10) practices her technique minutes before playing in the game. "Hitting is the most critical skill," Sloane said. "We want the other team to be intimidated by us." The JV girls volleyball team received 3rd place in district.







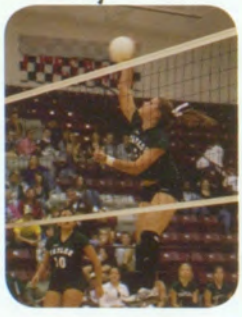


Keeps Gettin' Better. Kelsie Kaatz (9) tries to save the ball, while teammate Lilly Engler (9) looks on in the Freshmen game against Cameron. "We've improved a lot from middle school," Kelsie said. The girls lost two matches and won one with scores of 25 - 19 (l), 26 - 24 (l), and 25 - 18 (w).

Ready? Set! Jumping to set the ball, Leah Morales(11) plays hard during the Varsity game to win against Cameron. "It takes a lot of endurance," Leah said. "I just wanted to hurry up and finish so I could get my homework done," Leah said. The Lady ducks successfully won against Cameron.

Most Valuable Players

Offensive
Kelsey Marek



The most valuable player on offense was Kelsey Marek (12). She is most known for her spiking ability. "MVP was something I had been working for since I've been on Varsity so I was really excited to accomplish that," Kelsey said. The most valuable player on defense was Holly Frazier (12). Holly is known for her aggressiveness. "I won this award last year so it feels really good to know that I've been improving."

Defensive
Holly Frazier



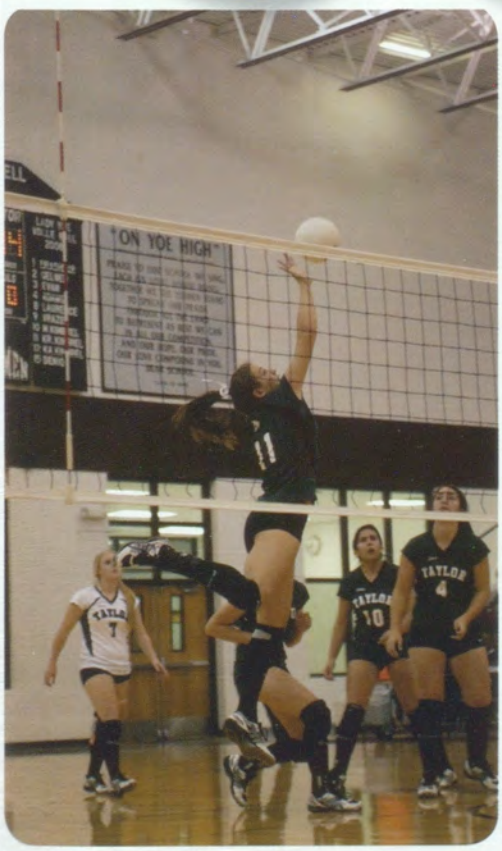
dominate

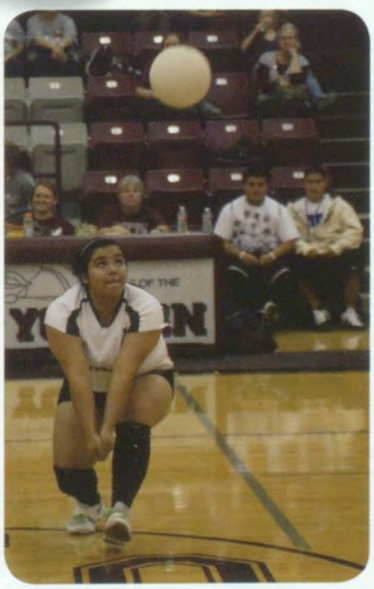
VOLLEYBALL GIRLS TAKE OVER THE COURT

As the volleyball season ended, the seven seniors looked back and reminisced on their time as a team. "It's sad it's our last time playing as a team, we have been together for a long time," Holly Frazier (12) said. The group of seven seniors has been the first team in twenty years to go past district. The first time they went to playoffs was in 2006 and made it to the third game. In 2007 they repeated their success. This year was no exception. "I'm sad we didn't go past the first round this year but we had fun,' Jillian McQuillen (12). The end to the season could have been caused by the numerous injuries the teammates suffered. Harmony Lorentzen's (12) season ended with a wrist injury. The team lost Carla Hoffman (12) early in the season due to a torn meniscus. Next came the shoulder injuries Katie Yanez (11), Jillian McQuillen and Morgan Ward (12) suffered. "I don't blame the injuries for ending our season but they did have a big effect on the team," Holly said.

Although the season ended with a loss to the Hamshire- Fannett Longhorns (1-3) the memories these seniors had will never be forgotten.

"I'll miss singing the school song on the bus after a game and playing with my teammates. What I'll miss the most is putting on my uniform and playing as a Taylor Duck," Holly said.



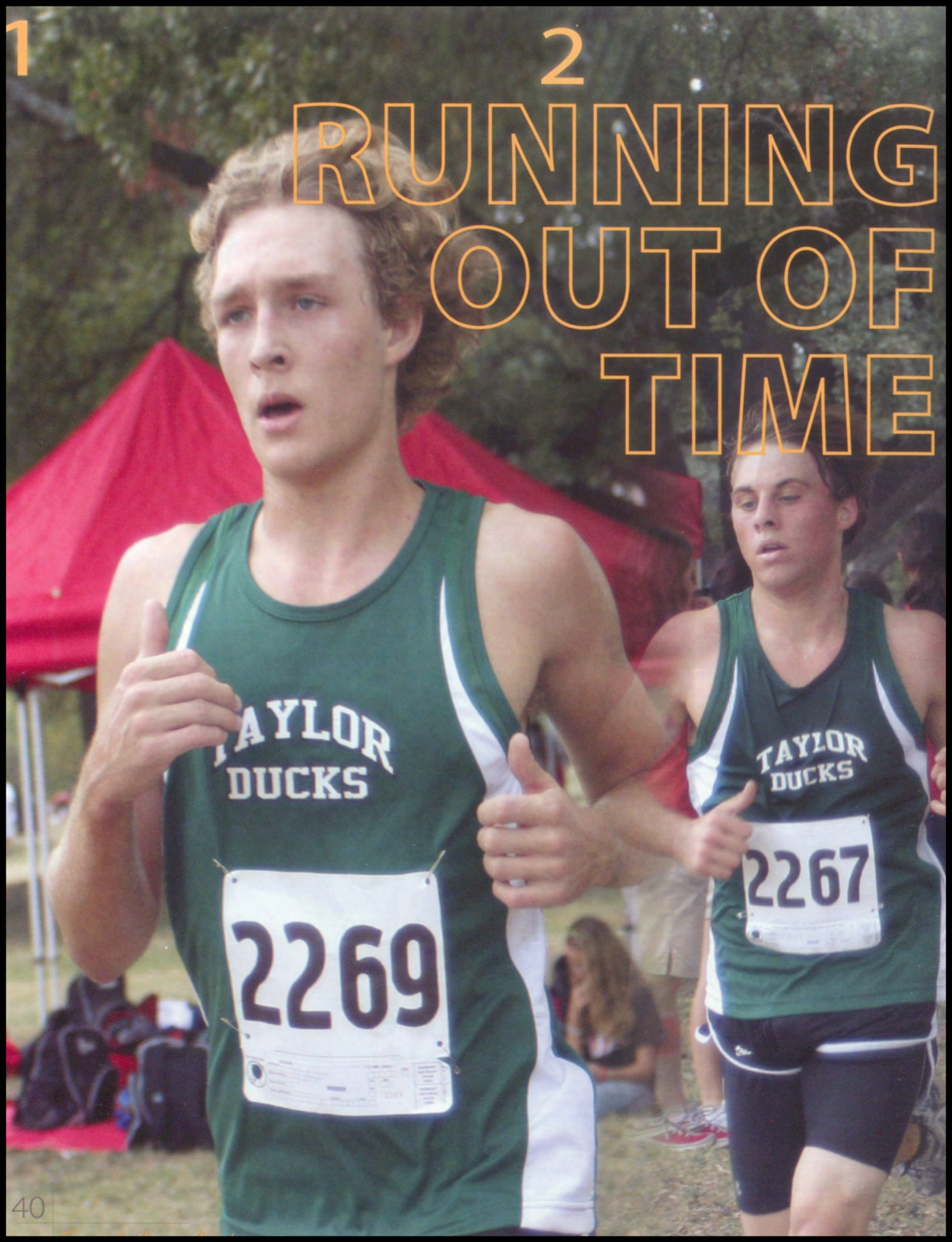


Bump It Up. Crystal Lopez (11) crouches down in preparation to bump the ball across the net during the JV game against the Cameron Yoemen. "We gave it our all," Crystal said. "I'm happy that it shows on the scoreboard." The JV girls won a total of 4 matches this year against the Cameron Yoemen with scores of 13 - 25, 25 - 18, 15 - 25, and 25 - 21.

Over The Net. Kelsey Marek (12) tips the ball over to Cameron's side. "We played the first and second games very well, but we let the third game slip away," Kelsey said. "We won the match in the fourth game." Taylor won against Cameron three games to one.



Strategically Speaking. In a huddle with Coach Turnbough, the Varsity Lady Ducks strategize their next moves against their opponent the Cameron Yoemen. "Game time is serious," Shelby Johnson (12) said. "We don't mess around. We are only on that court for one purpose: to win." The girls finished strong with a victory against the Yoemen.


1
2
RUNNING OUT OF TIME
TAYLOR
DUCKS
2269
TAYLOR
DUCKS
2267



Cross country is a physical sport just as much as it is mental. The sacrifice of sleep as well as a social life is enough for most students to not give cross country a second thought. But it's the 6-8 mile practice routes and 5k races that make the cross country team only a select group of athletes.

"It takes a lot of stamina to wake up at 5:30 every morning to run routes that only get longer as the season progresses," Coach Cobb said. The past two years the guys were able to advance to the Regions meet, but they were not able to advance to State either year. Determined to win Regions in 2008 the boys dedicated their whole life to improving their times to have the chance to make it to State.

"Being my senior year I was going to do whatever it took to make it to State," Seth Samuelson (12) said. This was the mentality of almost all of the guys on the team, considering half the boys varsity team was all seniors. From the end of June to October the team practiced every morning facing the elements of scorching heat and downpours of rain.

Easily winning first place at the District meet in Cameron the boys had high spirits for Regions. Only two weeks away, the cross country team had limited time to recover and prepare Regions in Humble. Their practice routes became more rigorous, but their tenacity only grew stronger.

The day had come; the boys stretched their muscles and drank lots of water to be sure they were ready for the big race.

"I was so nervous, this race was my last chance," Nathan Burrow (12) said. The cross country team huddled together on the line as Coach Cobb did her usual pep talk. Pumped and ready the gun was sounded; the boys sprinted off the line to get to the head of the pack.

They all finished in seconds of each other and felt good about how well they had run, but when the results were announced the team was devastated. They were one point short of advancing to State.

"Everyone cried on the way home, it was just really disappointing,"

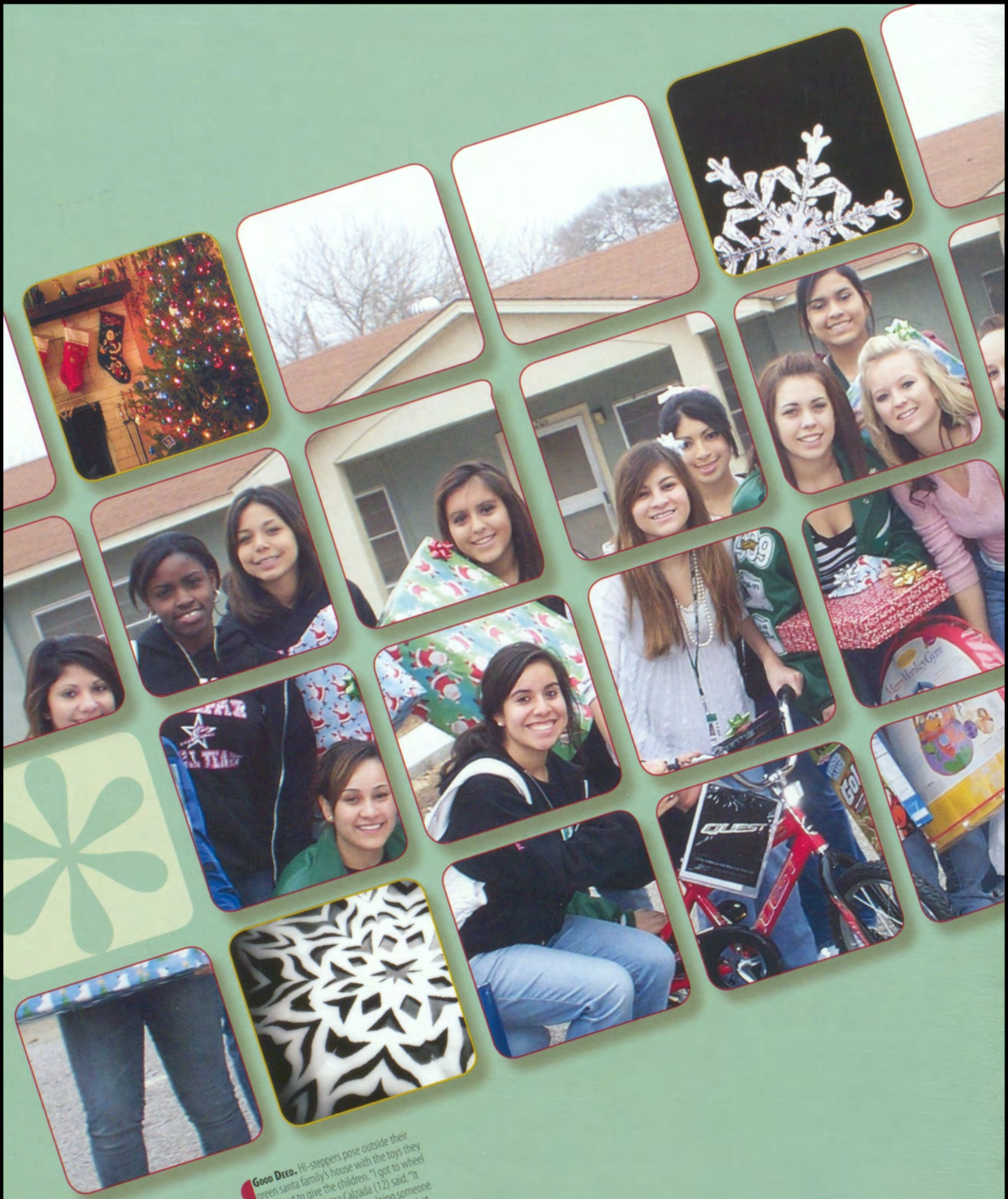
Georgetown Invitational

1 **Breathe In.** Rounding a corner, Seth Samuelson (12) perserveres to finish the race. "All you hear is heavy breathing," Seth said. "You feel so heavy when you run that hard."

2 **Hot Topic.** Contestant #2267, Kyle Leeper (12), perseveres to finish the race during a cross country meet in Cedar Park. "It gets so hot. I don't know how I'm alive at the end," Kyle said.

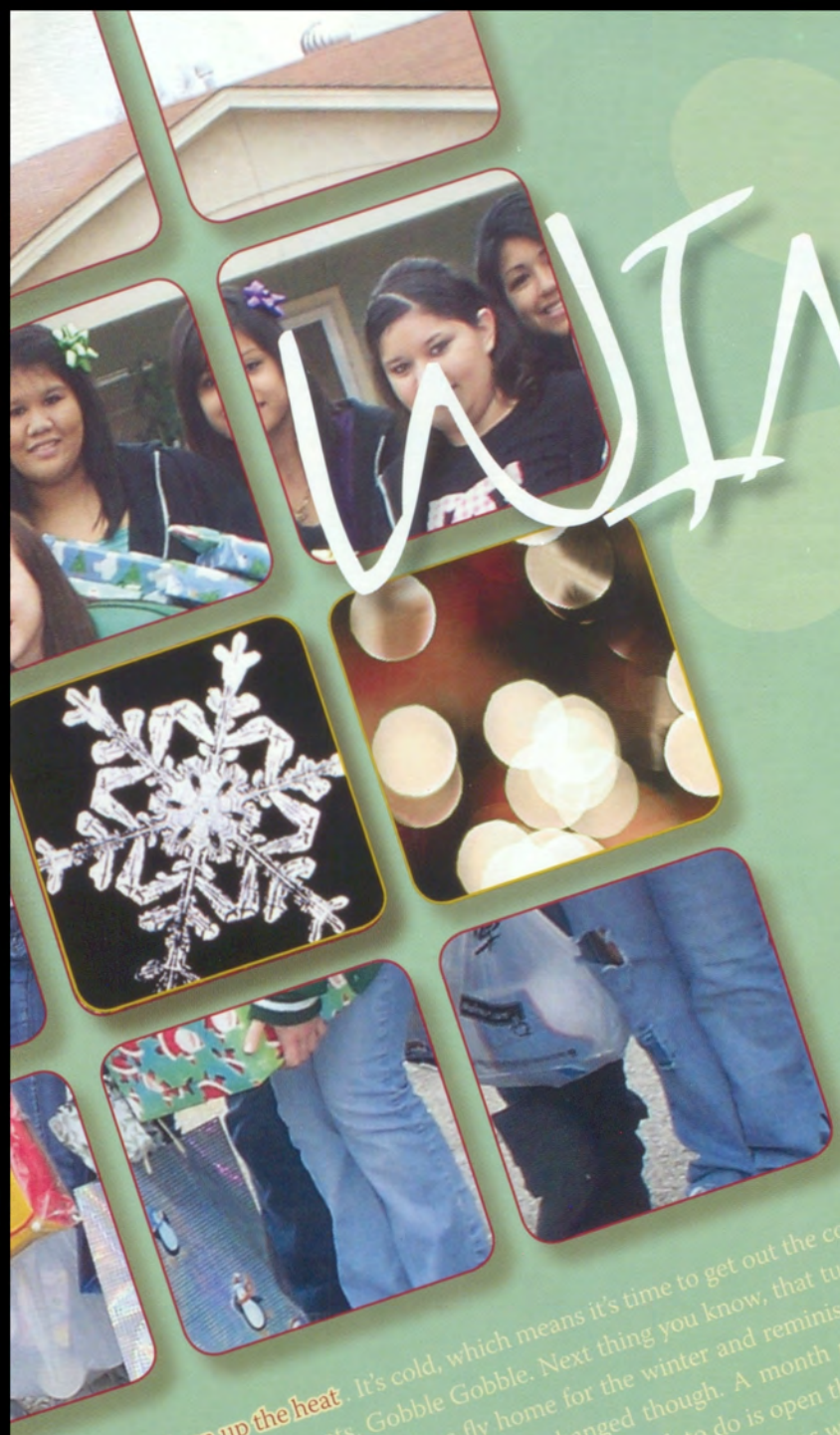
3 **Lone Runner.** Leading the head of the pack, Brianna Yanez (12) begins to pick up speed as she nears the finish line. "I try not look at the girls behind me because it throws off my concentration," Brianna said.

4 **Keeping It Going.** Brooke Gable (12) pushes herself during her run in the Georgetown Invitational.



Good Deed. Hi-steppers pose outside their green santa family's house with the toys they are about to give the children. "I got to wheel the bike in," Andreina Calzada (12) said. "It was nice to know we were helping someone who really needed it." Each club asked that the members contibuted 5 to 10 dollars to help the cause.

WINTER





Turn up the heat. It's cold, which means it's time to get out the coats and furry boots. Gobble Gobble. Next thing you know, that turkey is on the table. Relatives fly home for the winter and reminisce on when they were your age. Times have changed though. A month passes. The tree is up, the ornaments hung. All there is left to do is open the presents. That iTunes gift card your mom got you could be useful, as well as the pair of socks you got that grandma bought. The number on the scale gradually increases. Now you're thinking you probably should have skipped the cookies. The spirit of Christmas is over as fast as it began. The days seem to speed up to signal the return to school. If only we had another week to sleep in! Not long after returning to the regimented school schedule, Martin Luther King reminds us that there are some things in this life worth fighting for. Always stay true to yourself and listen to your heart. After all, Valentine's Day is just around the corner.

Tinker time

"We're not going to eat her, she's too cute."

It's a girl! It was a rainy and cold night when Tinker Farmer was born on January 9th. The kid's happy owner is Lisa Marie Farmer (10). Tinker is an edible goat, but instead of being on the dinner table, Tinker can be found in the barn with her goat mother, Baby. "We're not going to eat HER, she's too cute." The Farmers do eat their male goats though.

Lisa plays with Tinker almost every day. "I like to check up on her, to make sure that nothing bit her or anything happened, since we live in the middle of nowhere." When Lisa goes outside Tinker is excited to see her. "She's a trouble maker, she likes to jump on everything and get in her water bowl." This playful behavior could be detrimental to her health though.

One night in January the temperatures dropped below freezing. Tinker had jumped into her water bowl like any other day, but the cold was to much. While doing a routine check, Lisa found the poor thing shaking. "I was so scared, " Lisa said. "I thought she was going to die." It turns out, Tinker was just moments away from getting hypothermia.

Sadly Tinker and Lisa may be separating soon. "I might be moving in May so we will probably keep her at the farm house," Lisa said. Even if Lisa moves away Tinker will always be in her thoughts.





Kid Time. Lisa Marie Farmer (10) sits on a hill at her country home with her new baby goat Tinker. "People don't usually think of goats as nice," Lisa said. "But he is so sweet! He will just sit in my lap." Lisa had 5 goats.





Scaly Attraction. Daniel Gonzales (9) nervously holds his pet lizard, which is an Australian Bearded Dragon. His parents purchased this pet at a local Pet Co in Round Rock after purchasing a snake and a Guinea Pig. "He is kind of scary looking, but he is an awesome pet!", Daniel said.

Showing Off. Like many other students have indoor pets, Addison Turner (10) has a goat, lamb, and a pig. "I have a goat named Uno, a lamb and a pig." Addison said. Addison raises her animals, and takes them to livestock shows to show, in hopes of winning money, trophies, and scholarships.

Meow. As many of the students show off their animals, Abel Rincon's (12) cat stands out the most. "My cat Garfield is pretty much allergic to everything, grass, dust, pollen..." Abel said. Like many other pets that play catch or go fetch, his cat is always sneezing. "The most annoying thing about him is at night when he catches his allergies and never stops sneezing!" Abel said.

Splashing Around. What once was a tank full of water is now an empty tank with molding rocks. The beloved fahaka puffer fish and zebra eel are no longer the residents of the tank located in Ms. Robertson's room in the science wing. "The fish were left in the care of various teachers for the summer. The care failed," Ms. Robertson said. Fresh water was filled into a salt water tank to the brim causing the filtering system to fail leaving the fish with limited oxygen.









Man's Best Friend. "Mud" is the name of Lucas Orosco's (12) four year old pit-bull. "All he can do is give 'dap', sit, and eat food all day." Lucas said. Although pit-bulls are known to be very aggressive, Lucas' dog is very friendly. "He's the nicest dog you'll ever meet, nothing can aggravate a lazy dog. He just sleeps," Lucas said.

Hay There. Cameron Dupy (9) loves all his animals especially his two horses. The grey one is Domino, and the multi-colored one is Casino. "Casino is pregnant, and is due in June, I'm really excited about a new baby," said Cameron. Cameron's mom rode Domino in rodeo competitions.

orphaned oinker

Hanging out in the high school parking lot, Ryan Jaecks feeds his pig during his office aide period. "All this dag gum pig will ever do is just eat and scratch itself", Ryan said. He found the baby wild hog on his land one night while trying to hunt for some of the grown hogs that were digging holes, and ruining the farm land. "I ended up hitting her mother with my truck, I felt bad for the little thing so I took it home with me", sad Ryan. When he got home he realized that the pig's left eye was scratched up really bad and she could barely walk. Ryan tried to clean it up the best he could and started to put on medicine and eye drops on to try and prevent it from scabbing. "She was in real bad shape, her face looked all beat up and she looked too skinny. If I had just left her she probably would have died," Ryan said. Now that he has had her for about four months her left eye has cleared up, she has gained some weight, and is now able to walk without falling over.



December 1 — Dell Buckalew (11)
December 2 — Camyrn Stoll (11)
December 3 — Jennifer Reyna
December 4 — Taylor Varsity Choir

'tis the Season

STUDENTS CELEBRATE HOLIDAYS WITH FAMILY, FRIENDS, & CHARITY





City Of Lights. The lights in Heritage Square were funded by the Taylor Chamber of Commerce. "Last Christmas I went and saw my friend sing under the pavillion," Chaston Matta (11) said. The lights are put up annually and the Chamber accepts donations from local citizens to pay for them.

Ice Queen. After the day's freeze, Mrs. Rowe scrapes ice off her truck before heading home from school. "My husband was an Eagle Scout and there motto is: Always be prepared," Mrs. Rowe said. "Fortunately I was. This time it was an ice scraper." Mrs. Rowe moved to Texas from Minnesota.

New Tradition. Lexie Orozco (9) started a new Christmas tradition called Las Posadas, with her family this Christmas. "It's a Mexican tradition," Lexie said, "Where we had all the little kids rock a glass baby Jesus in a blanket. We rocked it on Christmas Eve day, then on January 6th it sat up, and it sits up for the rest of the year." The new tradition was discovered by Lexie's mother and aunt at a flea market. They asked the vendor what the glass doll was for and thought it was an interesting tradition. "I don't really like the tradition," Lexie laughs, "If you're not rocking the baby you're just sitting and watching, and when you are rocking the baby it's awkward."



Gone Shoppin'. Science Club member Jordan Kiewit (11) shops in the toy isle of Walmart for the Green Santa family the club adopted. "The boy really liked Spiderman," Jordan said. "So I was going to get him a helmet so he could pretend to be him." Over twenty six clubs participated in Green Santa.







Tree Time. To celebrate Christmas, Counselors Mrs. Holt and Mrs. Tennill put up a Christmas tree in their office. "We spend more time in this office than at home," Mrs. Tennill said. "So we treat it like it's our home." There was also a Christmas tree in the Student Center.

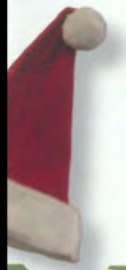
White Elephant. While at a Christmas party, Jordan Trevino (9) opens a gift she picked from under the tree as friends look on to see what she got. "It's fun to see what kind of gifts that everyone brings each year and to figure out what each person brought." It has become a tradition for this group of freshmen girls to have a gift exchange every year.





Starbooks. Jennifer Reyna (10) inspects a book at the book fair. "I really enjoyed it," Jennifer said, "I just wish they would have book fairs more often, instead of just once a year." "Starbooks" was the theme for this year's book fair. Besides the normal stuff that is always sold, coffee, hot cocoa, and donuts were also available for purchase.

The Perfect Tree. After hauling her Christmas tree in the tractor with her dad, Jessie Hilscher (12) stops for a photo. "I got to hold the tree this year and that was a new thing," Jessie said. "It was really bumpy, so it was hard to hold on to." She got the tree at the Elgin Christmas Tree farm.



New Year New Schedule

HO! HO! HO!



At 8:30 am January 5th, students had no choice but to return to school after the much anticipated break. Schedules were being handed out in the Student Center as kids drifted in from the parking lot and the carpool drop off. Once in class, Mrs. Mason came over the speaker for her usual morning presentation of the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence. This day was different though. Apparently the 10 minutes in which announcements were given was to be moved to after the 2nd class of the day. In most cases, a student's 3rd period teacher was their new designated Homeroom teacher. In Homeroom, announcements would be read, report cards given out, and the Pledge and moment of silence would be recited. After the 10 minutes, those who had passed their release TAKS test and were passing all their classes were released for an hour lunch, while others reported to TAKS tutorials or remained in study hall. Although the same amount of time elapsed, the new Homeroom period created a new set of bell schedules to memorize. "I felt bad for the kids who had the correct time down to the second on their watch," Drew Weise (11) said. "They had to change everything!"



Homeroom Crew. Using strategic methods during homeroom, Tiffany Farr (11) talks discreetly on her cell phone to her mother while James Fields (11), Kelsey Walton (11), and Manuel Cornejo (11), continue talking to divert attention. "I was asking my mom to bring me my lunch." Homeroom was a new 10 minute period added after Christmas break.

December 6 **Megan Holman** (12) [illegible]

December 7 **Travis Carpenter** (11) [illegible]

December8 **Cresia Olvier** (9) [illegible]

Decemeber 13 **Mr. Gray** and his family went to the trail of lights.

No time to be sick

STUDENTS GET VACCINATED AS FLU SEASON APPROACHES



No Pain No Gain. By getting her free influenza shot from nurse Powell, Jenna Howard avoids getting caught up in the mess of the 2009 THS flu epidemic. "I wasn't nervous about getting the shot, just about the after affects of possibly still contracting the flu," Jenna said.

Bless you!" During the reign of Pope Gregory, this phrase was meant to pray for people suffering from the conditions of the bubonic plague. A sneeze they thought was the first sign of the awful disease. Nowadays, a sneeze is merely a common symptom, not believed to cause dire consequences. However, students at Taylor High School were doing more than just sneezing. Symptoms included watery eyes, sore throat, nausea, fever, and a runny nose. Shane Mundkowsky (12) was out for three days with bronchitis.

"My mom didn't believe me when I said I was sick, but she could just tell by the way I lounged around the couch," Shane said. "I'm never like that."

As of Monday, over 168 students and 16 teachers were absent from illnesses. By 5th period, rumors were swirling that if 16 more people went home sick that school with be shut down. Immediately text messages began being sent telling people to go to the nurse and fake sick.

"I've never seen it come on so quick," THS Nurse, Debbie Powell said. "

KEYE news even made an appearance to deem Taylor the "sickest school". Even after the publicity and kids efforts though; school was still underway on Tuesday. After the cases started to die down, Taylor ISD arranged for free vaccinations to be administered at the high school for any student or faculty member. One of the two methods was to receive a flu mist by inhalation; the other was the traditional shot. Either way, the vaccine still took about two weeks to become effective. "You really can't stop it," Mrs. Powell said. "I had the flu shot and still got it."



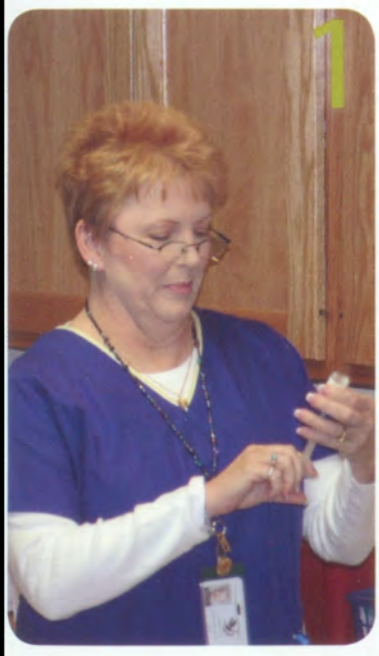
Shot Time. A student from TH Johnson Elementary waits patiently with his mother and brother as the nurse fills out his information before he gets his free flu shot while KEYE news films. "It was great because the shots were free to the students and it saved parents time," Nurse Powell said.



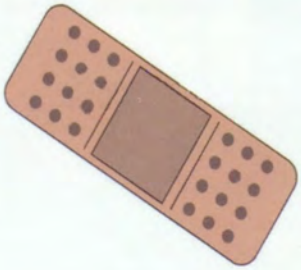
1 Hold Still. Nurse Debbie Powell draws out 0.5cc of flu vaccine to administer it to a waiting patient. "I always wanted to be a nurse, I just got a late start," she said. She went back to school to get her degree in medicine in her late thirties. **2 Yummy!** Maintaining her healthy lifestyle, Destiny Popham (9) enjoys eating a light yogurt. "Key Lime Pie is my favorite flavor, and it's healthy!", Destiny said. She sneaks snacks in class to help her concentrate and stay healthy. **3 Walk it Out.** While working out at the Taylor Family YMCA, Valkyrie Landrum (12) walks on the treadmill. "My face always gets red when I work out," Valkyrie said. Valkyrie usually went to the gym with friends and partook in the Zumba workout classes. **4 Stitch It Up.** Niayesha Jackson (10) sutures up a pig's foot for a Health Science Technology class taught by Mrs. Vaughn. "We cut open the foot and took out some tissue, and then the students sewed it back up," Mrs. Vaugn said. This lesson taught the students how to make stitches in case of an emergency.











crunch time



Hands Down: Prep with both hands on the ground and toes curled under. In picture: George Thompson (9), John Shanerock (9), Gabe Stutton (11), Tyler Susan (10) and Daniel Stubbs (10).



Arms Up: Extend your arms and toes. Make sure your back is parallel to the floor.



Get Set: Start on your back with hands behind head. Pictured: Jose Gonzales (11).



Curl Up: Lift from the core and sit up all the way to your knees.

Prepared For Anything



It's An Emergency. Playing dead, George Thompson (9) waits for help during the "Disaster Drill" on the bleachers at the Williamson County Events Center. "It was really dramatic," George said. "It got us ready for the real thing." The drill was held where the rodeo usually took place.



Giving Blood. Cindy Arriaga (11), Kristin Martinez (11), and Briana Ortiz (11) wait patiently on the curb for aid during the "Disaster Drill" at the Williamson County Events Center. "The blood was gross, but was realistic," Cindy said. HOSA stands for Health Occupation Students of America.

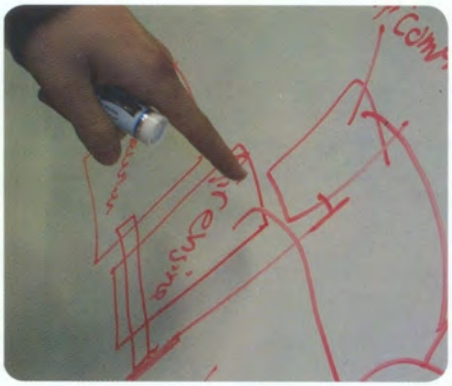


Baby Mama. Receiving medical attention from the EMT on site, Heather Hegar (10) portrays a young pregnant woman during the "Disaster Drill" at the Williamson County Event Center. "When the plane crashed into the stadium I lost my husband, but thankfully myself and my baby were alright," Heather said. The drill was put on by HOSA.

Time to GO



Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone, Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin, and Christopher Currie (12) invented the "Air Engine", but who is Chris Currie? An inventor at Taylor High School, he is best known for taking something simple and making it complex or just fixing things. This year his main focus was on a perpetual motor engine that runs on air. In other words, it is a generator that generates more energy than it uses.



"I want a way to have free energy," Chris said.

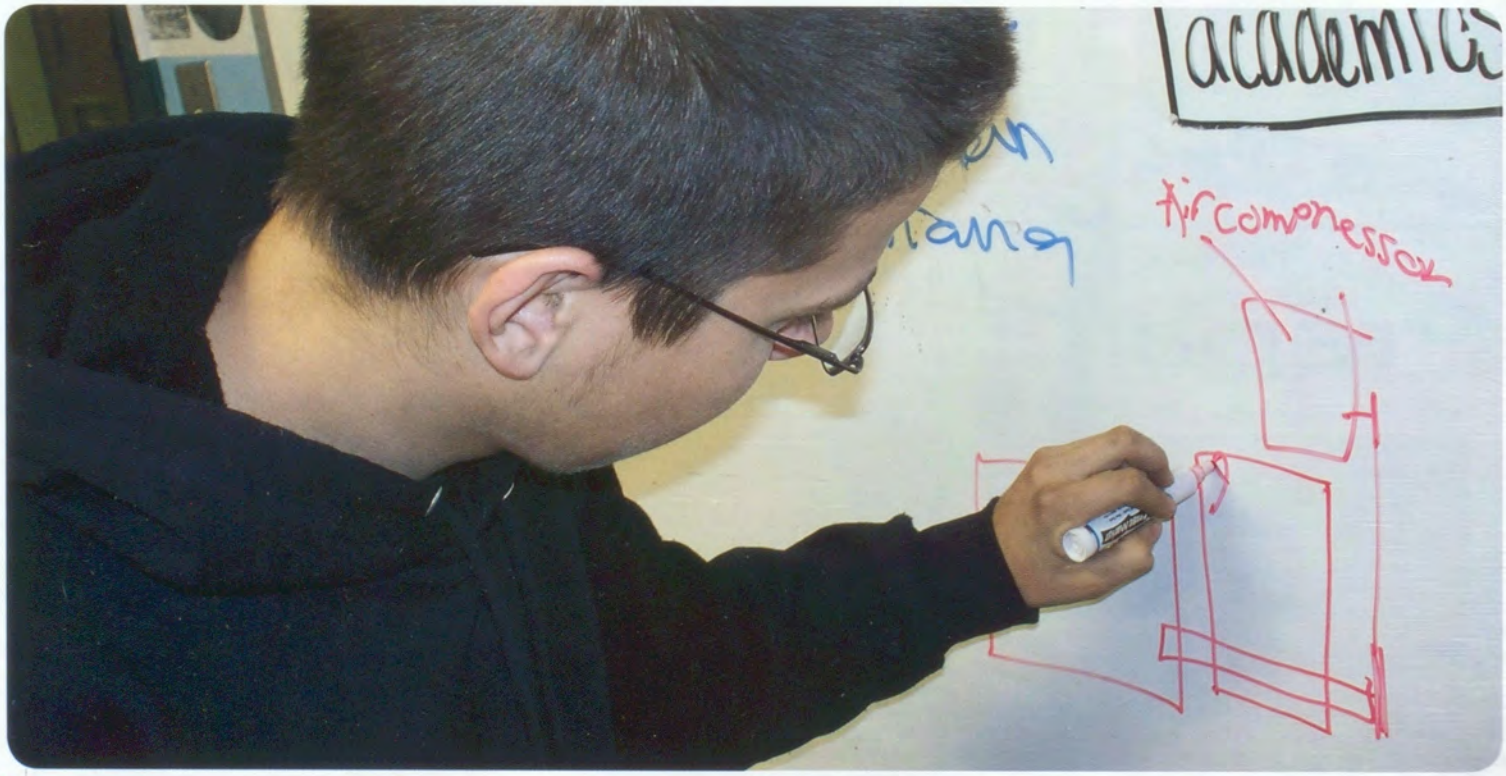
Chris' idea started when he decided he was bored with an impact wrench, and tried to copy the design. He started with a lawnmower engine and generator and began experimenting from there. Originally Chris wanted to build his "Air Engine" for a go-cart. Although currently it is only powerful enough to run a generator, he is hoping it will someday be able to run a car. His work can be described as nothing short of brilliant, and because of this a major corporation is interested in buying his design. Time will tell if Chris's stroke of genius proves to be a success. Maybe one day the cars on display at the dealership will be running on air.

Name any kind of vehicle, and Chris has probably worked on it. "I was ten when I started working on engines," Chris said.

"It was a necessity. I was the only one who was willing to work on anything that broke." Living with his mother, Chris had to fix things if he wanted them fixed. "It would either work, or fail horribly," he said.

In high school, Chris signed up for Mr. Johnson's Auto Tech class, where he learned the more intricate details of car engines. After graduation, Chris plans to go to Texas State Technical College (TSTC) and study diesel technology. Ultimately, he wants to work on "heavy equipment, like tractors and semi trucks."

"I love anything mechanical," Chris said. "It's not driven by emotions."





1 Pop A Wheelie. Struggling to keep his balance, Blake Haley (12) manages to ride his unicycle in the parking lot. "It's harder to stay on than you think," Blake said. "Balance is key from front to back and also left and right." Blake is a member of the unofficial unicycle club along with Seth Marcon and Dalton Cummings. The group gathers to cycle on random occasions. **2 Can't Be Late.** David Rodriguez (11) and Ricky Cobia (11) run from the main building to field house in hopes of being on time for Athletics. "It'd be much more convenient if they let us drive there," David said. Due to crazy drivers, all athletic boys lost the privilege to drive to the field house for the class period. Rain or shine, the guys march to the T.H. Johnson gym and locker rooms. Until they can prove to be better drivers, the athletes will be getting in an extra workout before class. **3 ZzzZzz.** While on the bus to the game, Robert Brenson (11) takes a nap. "The trips we have on bus rides are so long. We took one to Bryan-Rudder, a two hour trip, and the only thing you really can do is sleep," Robert said. "When we can't sleep, we rap to pass the time, and Boz be gettin' mad at us." Basketball season brings lots of long bus rides for the boys, but somehow they find ways to entertain themselves. **4 Rollin' On 20's.** In the student parking lot, Alvaro Alderete (12) stands by his truck. My truck is my baby," Alvaro said. Alvaro self details his GMC Sierra at least once a week. "Gotta keep the slab lookin' thoed!" Alvaro said. **5 Decked Out.** "Skateboarding is by far the most fun thing to do," Cody Slavych (11) said. Cody is a member of Mr. Gray's skateboarding club, which gathers in the morning before school show off tricks and have a meeting. The group is planning a field trip to a skate park in Austin. Cody can often be found skating with others at the Hike and Bike trail.









Boy's**Athletics**
Seth Samuelson (12)

"I take my time. There's no rush when you're Seth Samuelson."



January12 **168 students** were absent because of the flu.

January13 **Ariel Thomas** (11) took a quiz in Algebra II.

January14 **Quade Mccauley** (11) took tests in spanish.

January15 **Brooke Selby** (11) participated in Night

January16 **Ruby Pumphrey** (10) practiced her solo for UIL

January22 **Kevin Lindsay** (12) served at the chamber

Gametime

Squaaawk!" The wail of a air horn shocked unexpected fans and players gathered in the high school gym before the boys basketball game.



Friday night at the boys Varsity basketball game against Rockdale, all of the members of the Sixth Man were thrown out by Coach Cobia for having an air horn. The officials of the game said that they would not start the game unless that side of the bleachers was cleared or the air horn was given up.

The Sixth Man's usual antics are yelling, talking smack, and trying to distract the players. "It'd be really stupid to lose a basketball game because of our fans," Coach Tennil said when asked how he felt about the air horn.

The air horn belonged to Eric Camacho (12). "My goal this year was to get kicked out for bringing an air horn in," Eric said. "I'm glad I accomplished it."

Air horns are against UIL rules, and prohibited at basketball games. Nonetheless, all can say the Sixth Man will always make the basketball games a little more entertaining. "The Sixth Man is undefeated. Everytime we cheer, the other team loses," Kyle Leeper (12) said.





Justin Koehler (12)
Tennessee Titans



Jacob Sanchez (10)
Dallas Cowboys



D'vonte Fisher (11)
Taylor Ducks



La'Star Payne (11)
Chicago Bears

Birds Of A Feather. Standing with her family, Cardinals baseball player, and the Cardinals mascot, Katelyn Kuhl (9) poses for a picture at Busch Stadium in St. Louis, Missouri. "I've been to almost half of the pro baseball fields in the United States," Katelyn said. Katelyn's dad is the head baseball coach here at THS.



The Cru. Ashley Rivera (12) and Cassie Rozacky (12) pose on the University of Mary-Hardin Baylor sideline during the homecoming game. "We were asked to work a game with the sports medicine team, "I never thought I'd be working with a college team so soon," Cassie said. Both girls planned on attending college for sports medicine.





Hook'Em. While at the Texas Longhorns game, Jillian McQuillen (12) poses with her friend and fellow volleyball teammate Morgan Ward (12). "We couldn't have asked for better seats," Jillian said. "We were four rows from the field!" It was Morgan's first experience at a UT game.

5 ways to show you're a REAL FAN

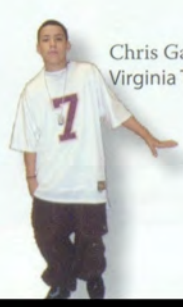
- **Body Art**: You paint your whole body the colors of your favorite team.
- **Stats**: You know and tell everyone the stats and updates of your favorite team.
- **Non-stop talking**: You talk about how good your team is, to everyone, even when they lose.
- **Attendance**: You go to every single game. Away and home.
- **Paraphernalia**: Your whole room is decorated with your favorite team colors and logo.



Mr. Paul Quarles
Texas Longhorns



Greg Carter (12)
Oklahoma Sooners



Chris Garza (9)
Virginia Tech Hokies



Heath O'Bannon (12)
Texas Aggies

February 1 — Super Bowl
February 2 — Groundhog Day
February 3 — Ryan Gonzales (11) turned in his DBQ for
February 6 — Devyn Tone (11) took her club
February 7 — Gabe Montemeyor (9) went to indoor drumline
February 9 — Seth Marcon (12) watched Paranormal



day of LOVE

Although Friday the 13th was a day of bad luck, some received good luck on that day after receiving early Valentine's Day gifts. Students, teachers, and faculty made this into a campus-wide celebration of the Day of Love. Celebrating an ancient tradition of love and romance, many students participated as they gave flowers, candies, and occasional stuffed teddy bears to their friends or loved ones. Love truly was in the air, and it was evident through all the affectionate couples and friends caught both giving and receiving different types of gifts.

For most students, Valentine's Day tends to be a romantic day. "Getting something from a boy makes me feel so special," Cathy Camarda (11) said. Teachers also joined in the act of giving and receiving gifts as they had campus wide Secret Valentines. The most common gifts among the teachers were flowers because they had desk space to keep them on. Many students also received flowers, but they had to leave them in the front office since they had to travel between classes.

Some students decided to focus on the fact that it was a day of bad luck instead of a pre-Valentine's Day. "I didn't have a Valentine," Julia Moody (11) said. "No one loved me!" Julia went to see the movie "Friday the 13th" that night instead of celebrating the holiday early.

Lucas Alderete (12) also enjoyed watching the movie with friends. "I screamed my head off on the dreaded Valentine's Day," Lucas said.







Special**Delivery**

Kaneisha Griffin (12)

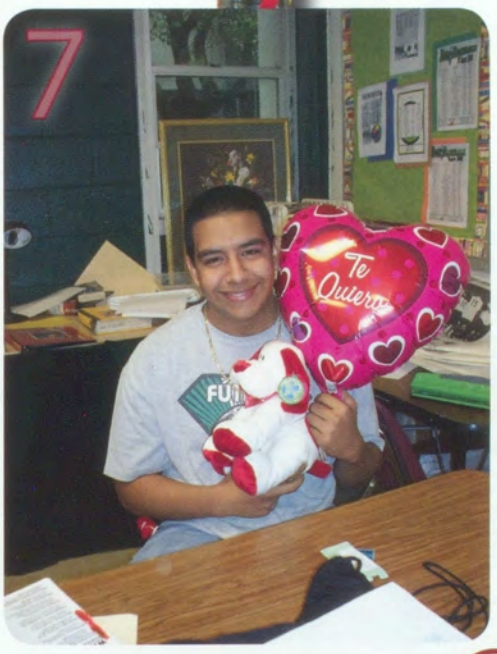
"My boyfriend got me roses. I was really surprised he even got anything."











1 Balloon Boy. Chris Seigmund (12) poses with the balloon his girlfriend gave him. "I love getting stuff," Chris said. **2 Oh So Loved.** Destiny Popham (9) poses holding the bear and flowers she got from her significant other. "Sometimes it's not good when you don't have some one. But its fun when everyone's walking around telling you 'Happy Valentines Day'," Destiny said. **3 Beary Cute.** During lunch, Abigail Luna (12) poses with the bear that her boyfriend got her. "I thought the bear was adorable," Abigail said. She bought her boyfriend Sour Patch Kids and Warheads. **4 Love Sick.** While working in her office, Nurse Powell celebrates Valentine's Day by wearing her heart scrubs and having her room decorated in paper hearts. "When the students walk by it makes them feel good," Mrs. Powell said. "This place needs some decoration." It was Mrs. Powell's first year at Taylor. **5 Monkeying Around.** Jennifer Flores (9) carries around her stuffed monkey with a box of chocolates attatched to him. "I'm glad I didn't get a bear," Jennifer said. "The monkey is so unique." **6 Piece of Cake.** Reaching with plastic knife in hand to cut a herself a piece of pink cake, Rachael Voytek (11) celebrates her birthday and Valentine's Day with the Mallard Staff. "It was cool celebrating on Valentines," Rachel said. "I loved how there were rose petals everywhere." Mallard staffers alternated baking cakes for each other's birthdays **7 Te Quiero.** While in Mrs. Bustamante's Spanish class, Aurelio Lopez (12) holds up his friend's balloon and stuffed dog. "It wasn't mine, but everyone thought it was," Aurelio said. "I was just watching it for a friend."

TIME OUT



Kayla Johnson was all smiles when she received her giant bear in 2nd period Biology with Coach Kuhl. Her best friend got her the bear, a singing card, and candy. "The bear was almost as big as me," Kayla said. "The only thing I didn't like was having to carry the bear around all day."

Kayla Johnson 10

February 10 Brooke Selby (11) worked on a project in

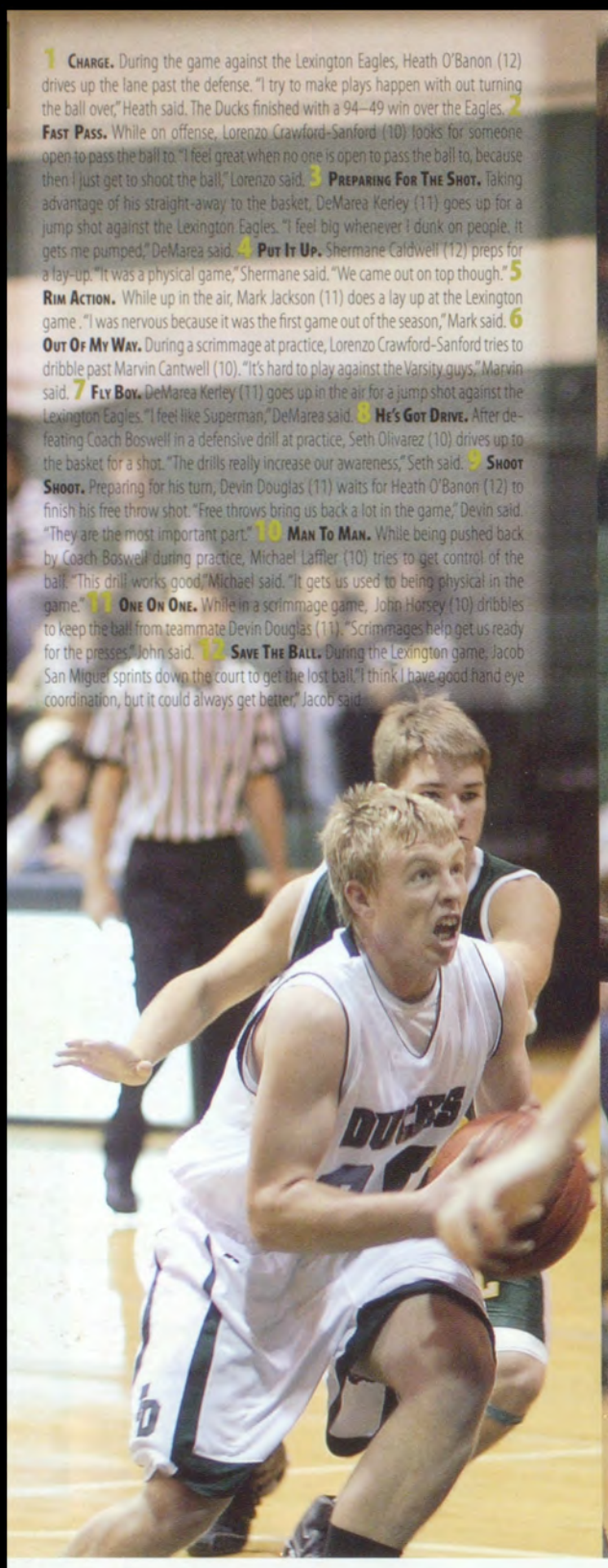
February 11 Black history month pep rally.

February 14 Valentine's Day

February 17 Emily Thorpe (11) started to work on

February 19 Trinia Thompson (12) reviewed for her Algebra

1 Charge. During the game against the Lexington Eagles, Heath O'Banon (12) drives up the lane past the defense. "I try to make plays happen with out turning the ball over," Heath said. The Ducks finished with a 94–49 win over the Eagles. **2 Fast Pass.** While on offense, Lorenzo Crawford-Sanford (10) looks for someone open to pass the ball to. "I feel great when no one is open to pass the ball to, because then I just get to shoot the ball," Lorenzo said. **3 Preparing For The Shot.** Taking advantage of his straight-away to the basket, DeMarea Kerley (11) goes up for a jump shot against the Lexington Eagles. "I feel big whenever I dunk on people. it gets me pumped," DeMarea said. **4 Put It Up.** Shermane Caldwell (12) preps for a lay-up. "It was a physical game," Shermane said. "We came out on top though." **5 Rim Action.** While up in the air, Mark Jackson (11) does a lay up at the Lexington game . "I was nervous because it was the first game out of the season," Mark said. **6 Out Of My Way.** During a scrimmage at practice, Lorenzo Crawford-Sanford tries to dribble past Marvin Cantwell (10). "It's hard to play against the Varsity guys," Marvin said. **7 Fly Boy.** DeMarea Kerley (11) goes up in the air for a jump shot against the Lexington Eagles. "I feel like Superman," DeMarea said. **8 He's Got Drive.** After defeating Coach Boswell in a defensive drill at practice, Seth Olivarez (10) drives up to the basket for a shot. "The drills really increase our awareness," Seth said. **9 Shoot Shoot.** Preparing for his turn, Devin Douglas (11) waits for Heath O'Banon (12) to finish his free throw shot. "Free throws bring us back a lot in the game," Devin said. "They are the most important part." **10 Man To Man.** While being pushed back by Coach Boswell during practice, Michael Laffler (10) tries to get control of the ball. "This drill works good," Michael said. "It gets us used to being physical in the game." **11 One On One.** While in a scrimmage game, John Horsey (10) dribbles to keep the ball from teammate Devin Douglas (11). "Scrimmages help get us ready for the presses," John said. **12 Save The Ball.** During the Lexington game, Jacob San Miguel sprints down the court to get the lost ball. "I think I have good hand eye coordination, but it could always get better," Jacob said.



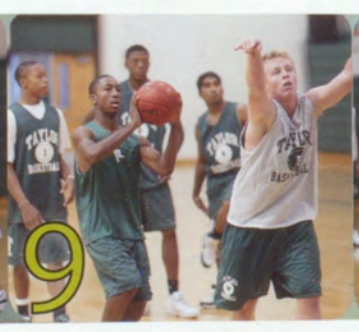


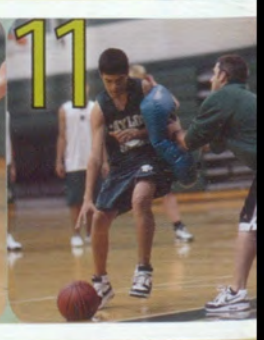




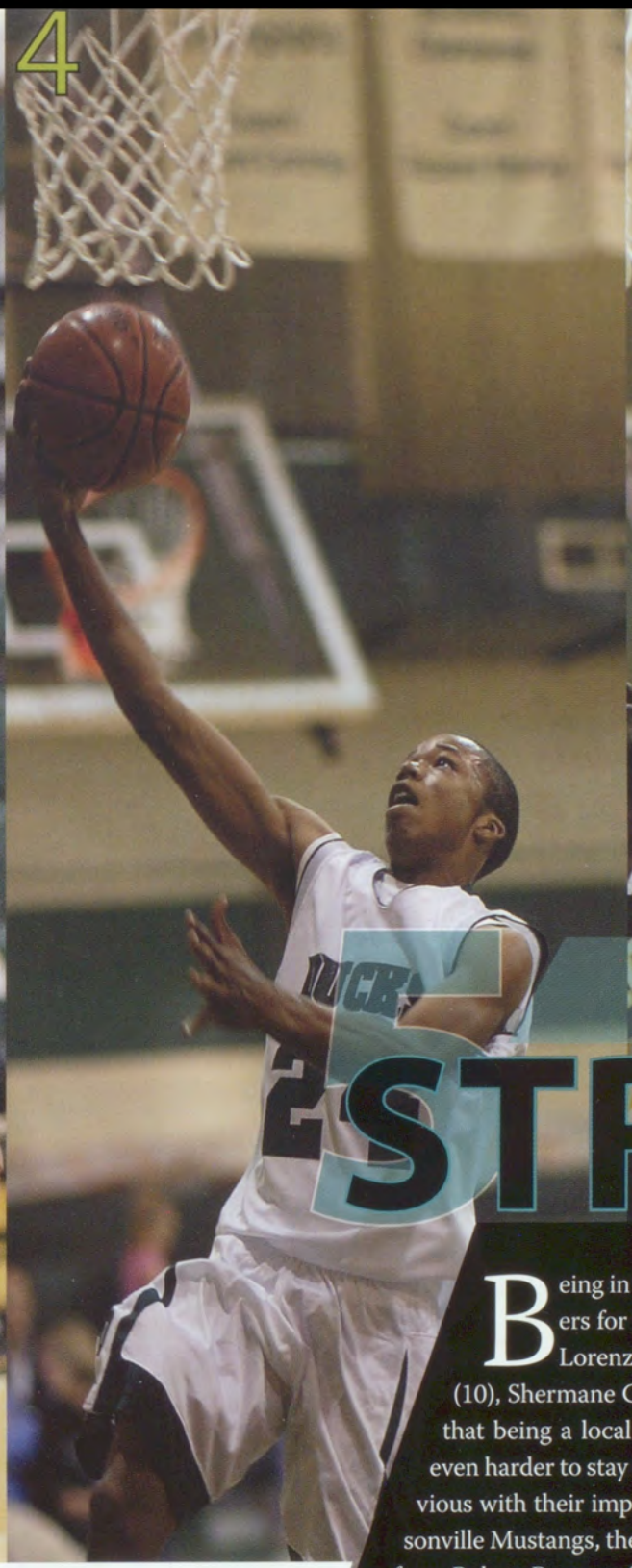


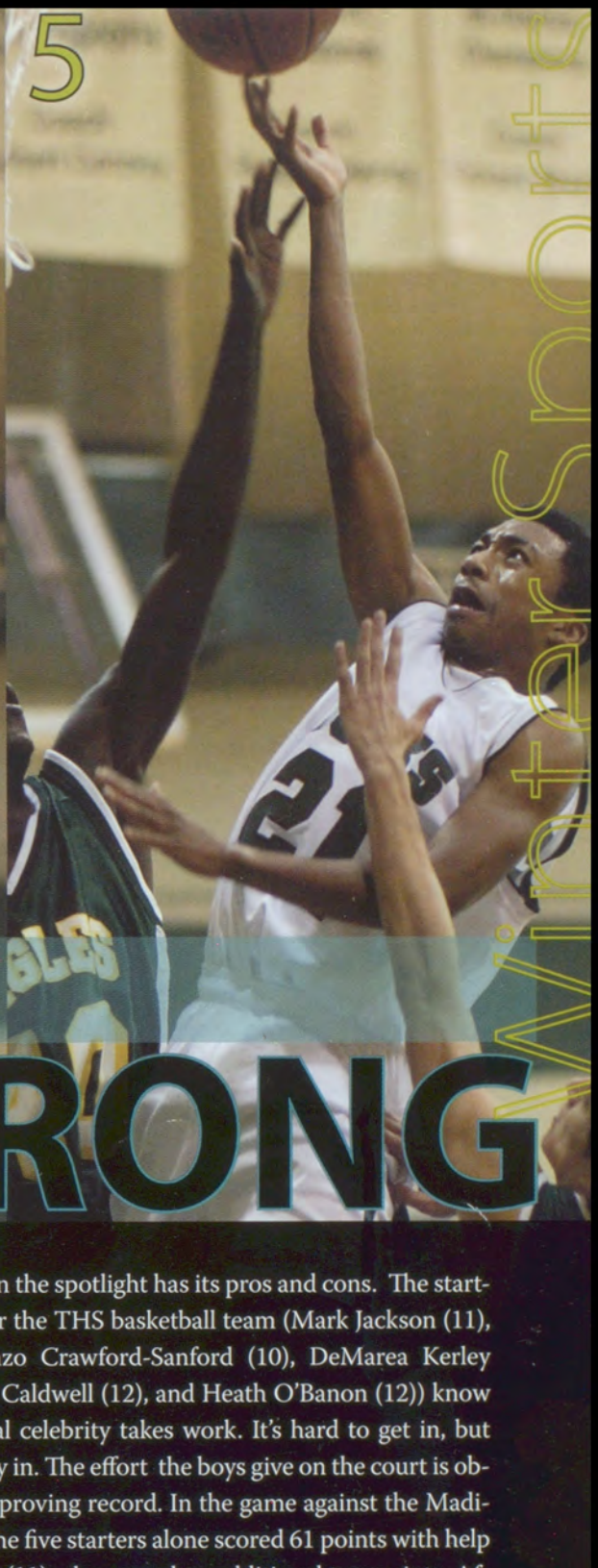






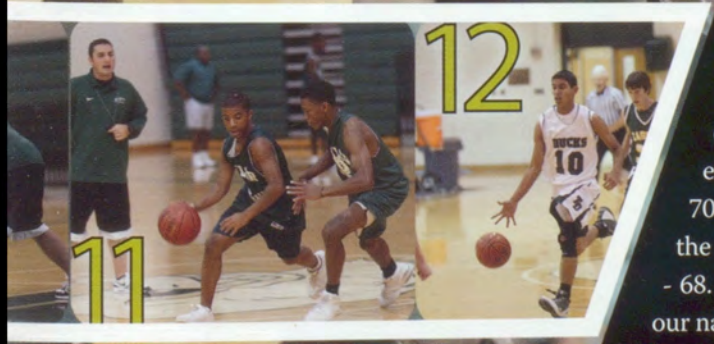




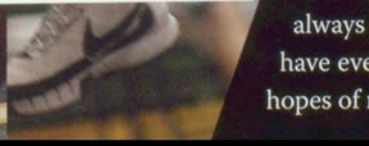


STRONG

Being in the spotlight has its pros and cons. The starters for the THS basketball team (Mark Jackson (11), Lorenzo Crawford-Sanford (10), DeMarea Kerley (10), Shermane Caldwell (12), and Heath O'Banon (12)) know that being a local celebrity takes work. It's hard to get in, but even harder to stay in. The effort the boys give on the court is obvious with their improving record. In the game against the Madisonville Mustangs, the five starters alone scored 61 points with help from Robert Brenson (11) who scored an additional two points. After going into overtime, the Ducks were victorious winning by a free throw shot by Mark Jackson with a final score of 63 - 62. While tied during the last 49 seconds of the game against the St. Andrew's Crusaders, DeMarea Kerley (11) stole the ball and sunk it putting Taylor ahead 70 - 68. With 9 seconds left on the clock, a technical foul was called against the Crusaders. Mark Jackson made both free throws winning the game 72 - 68. The starters know there is no "I" in team, though. "It feels good to see our name in the paper, but the five of us don't do it all," DeMarea said. "We can always count on all the guys to show up on the court. We are good because we have everyone." It is with this attitude that the Ducks continued their season in hopes of reaching the ultimate goal: a spot in the playoffs.











Help Me Out. While being surrounded by the Llano defense, Shelby Johnson looks around to see who is open before making a pass. "You have to be quick or else you'll get swamped," Shelby said. Despite their efforts, Taylor was defeated by the Hornets 57 - 42.

Put It In. Going up for a jumpshot against McAllen, Chasity Douglas pushes her way through the defense. "Everytime I go up in the air I just hope it does," Chasity said. The Bulldogs were defeated by the Ducks with a score of 68 – 63.







Swish. While focusing on the goal, Kelsey Marek (12) prepares for a free throw during the game against the Rockdale Tigers. "They actually don't play me that hard and it's a good thing," Kelsey said. Kelsey scored a total of fourteen points during the game which helped Taylor win, 70 - 31.

Ball Hog. Clutching the ball, Stephanie Zachary (12) looks for a teammate who is open during the game against the Cameron Yoemen. "I get nervous and think that if I get it passed this point we get a prize," Stephanie said. The Ducks were victorious over the Yoemen 50 - 32.

Open Up. Standing out of bounds to throw the ball in, Manayah Miller (12) looks to see which of her teammates is not being swarmed by the Snook defense. "I am a strong defensive player myself so I know how it feels," Manayah said. Taylor won the game with a final score of 58 - 31.

Lay It Up. In the game against the Madisonville Mustangs, Jessie Hilscher (12) goes up for a layup. "I always think 'God I hope I don't miss,'" Jessie said. Sadly, the Ducks were defeated by the Mustangs.





Down The Court. After stealing the ball from opponents, the Cameron Yoemen, Holly Frazier (12) dribbles to the other end of the court in hopes of setting up a play and scoring. "My first thought is go to the basket," Holly said. Taylor defeated Cameron 56 – 40.

towering above

Lady Ducks Leave a Legacy Behind

One team, one season, one last shot to inscribe their names into the history books as arguably the most successful team in Taylor basketball history; they did just that when they were crowned Area Champions on February 20.

"After we won Area it felt like we were on cloud nine, we were on top of the world," Jessie Hilscher (12) said.

Filled with eight seniors, the Varsity Girls Basketball team had no tomorrow, there was no second chance.

"We had to work hard and play as a team, not as one person," Chasity Douglas (12) said.

"We are all competitive we want to win," Holly Frazier (12) said.

For four years, this group of girls had played for each other in order to achieve their goals.

"We play for each other, our teammates make us want to win, because they are out there playing for you," Stephanie Zachary (12) said.

What made this team special however was not their ability to put a ball through a hoop more then the other team, it was their passion for the game and each other that set them above the rest.

"My team is very kind and helpful towards each other. The girls have made me a better person. They helped me build confidence in myself," Manayah Miller (12) said.

"We are like a family, we grew up together, you fight, you get over it, everyone on this team will say they love each other," (12) Kelsey Marek said.

This family ended on February 24, but its legacy will live on as they leave Taylor with the most successful outcome in history. They leave here champions.



PostPlayer
Carla Hoffman (12)
"I just look at those girls like they need to get out of my way."

HALFTIME

with Stephanie Zachary (12)



"I just listen and think. I try to figure out how to make myself do better in the 2nd half."

Weig

Every year, the girls' power lifting team is shy of a whole team in order to place. This year, the girl's team has a full team to compete. Last year the conflict was, only four girls were on the team. "It was a small team; we couldn't compete as a full team, just as individuals." Coach Holmstrom said. To have a chance of winning a meet, there must be at least eleven lifters on the team. "They just didn't have enough girls; not many were involved," Lucas Orosco said.

So the team started recruiting. "We put up flyers around the school, we made announcements, and we talked to people. We were sure we were going to get some girls to join," Ariel Lopez said. The 2009 team has seven more girls lifting, and the team has placed at almost every meet. "From a team of four to a team of ten is a huge difference, we actually have a chance at winning meets this year." Coach Holmstrom said.

"The girls are fun to be with, and now we have help wrapping each other. It's good to know we have a teammate to support us while we lift," Adriana Romayor said.

The girl's team consists of four seniors, one junior, one sophomore, four freshmen. "They're hard workers, very smart girls, they're all dedicated." Coach Holmstrom said.

With the Taylor Invitational being one of the biggest meets in the state of Texas, the girls' team took third place at the meet, as well as the boys.Both teams traveled to Caldwell, and both took first place, becoming District Champions in 24-AAA and winning the meet's top two individual honors.



1


2


3

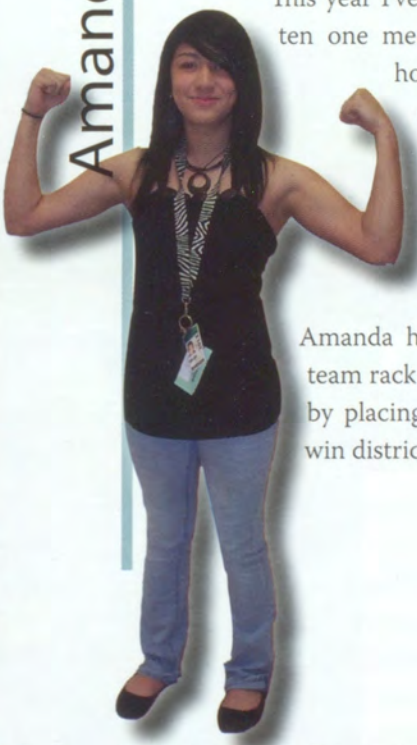

4

ghting THEIR TURN



Got a minute?

Amanda Foster (9)



Lifter Amanda Foster (9) has been power lifting since her eighth grade year. "I wanted to get more muscle; everyone was stronger than me," Amanda said. Her favorite lift is the dead lift. "This year I want to either lose a pound or gain a pound of muscle," Amanda said. She hopes to qualify for regionals. "This year I've only gotten one medal, but I hope to win more in the future." At the Caldwell meet, Amanda helped the team rack up points by placing third, to win district.





1. Girl Power. On the girls' power lifting team, Amanda Foster (9) dead lifts 225 at the Taylor meet in the 132 weight class. "The only thing is I hate having to wake up early in the morning, I missed the first meet because I overslept," Amanda Foster said. "I also wanna get ripped," Amanda said. **2. Personal Best.** Abel Rincon (12) squats at the Giddings powerlifting meet. "At the meet I ended up getting third place, and getting my best total," Abel said. As one of the veteran powerlifters Abel helps out the team by placing, spotting, and wrapping knees. **3. Shape Shifter.** Placing third, Kasi Lozano (9) deadlifts 245 pounds at the annual Taylor meet in the 132 weight class. "Its keeps me in shape, and it doesn't involve a lot of running," Kasi Lozano said. **4. Simon Says.** State Medalist Simon Martinez (11) deadlifts 425 at the Taylor powerlifting meet in the 132 weight class. "I've gone to state twice and hopefully I go this year again and win it all," Simon said. At the meet Simon placed first in his 132 weight division. **5. Love to Lift.** 2008 state medalist Lucas Orosco (12) lifted at a Taylor meet, taking home first place, as well trophies for best bench, best squat and best dead lift in the lightweight division. "I'm really not here to place or win medals; I just want to improve my total for regionals" Lucas's favorite lift is squat. He has been in power lifting since the seventh grade. "I love to lift, I can't even put it into words--that's how much I love it," Lucas said. **6. Top Notch.** Finishing as one of the top Taylor finishers, Bryan Mundkowsky (12) squats at the Elgin meet. "I just like lifting. It's fun to do, and you're competing using your strength." Bryan said. He placed second in the 242-pound class by lifting 1,250 pounds — 470 in the squat, 320 in the bench press and 460 in the dead lift.

Moment of Truth

DUCK SOCCER GETS RECOGNIZED IN THE UIL



For the first time since soccer was introduced to Taylor High it has become a UIL sport. The past two years, soccer had just been a club, where students competed for fun and hoped to someday get the chance to participate in playoffs, just like other sports. This year, they are finally getting the chance to do just that.

Mr. Casey Shuck is the boys' soccer team coach. "He has been pushing us and we have definitely improved," Ulises Avalos (10) said. "I plan to be in soccer until my senior year." This is Ulises' second year playing soccer for the school. "We want to put Taylor on the map," Ulises said.

Midfielder, Jose Morales (12) has been involved with soccer for three years now. "I like that soccer is finally a UIL sport," Jose said. "It's more difficult because we have a lot more competition now, but it's nice to know that if we do good, we can move into the playoffs."

Ms. Rose Robertson has been the girls' soccer team coach for the past two years and has helped the girls improve.

Deyanira Castillo (10) is a second year player. "I really like our coach, she pushes us to always do our best," Deyanira said.

Captain, Brooke Gabel feels that the team needs added discipline though."I think Coach Robertson has done a great job in helping us get better, but I think she needs to be tougher on us," Captain Brooke Gabel (12) said. "As captain, I feel more responsible for taking care of the team."

Now that the teams are officially a part of the UIL, the hard work of the players was not done in vain. This year everyone was working towards a chance at going to the playoffs.

"Because it's a UIL sport now, we get to play more teams, and play them twice, which allows us to fix our mistakes," Brooke said.



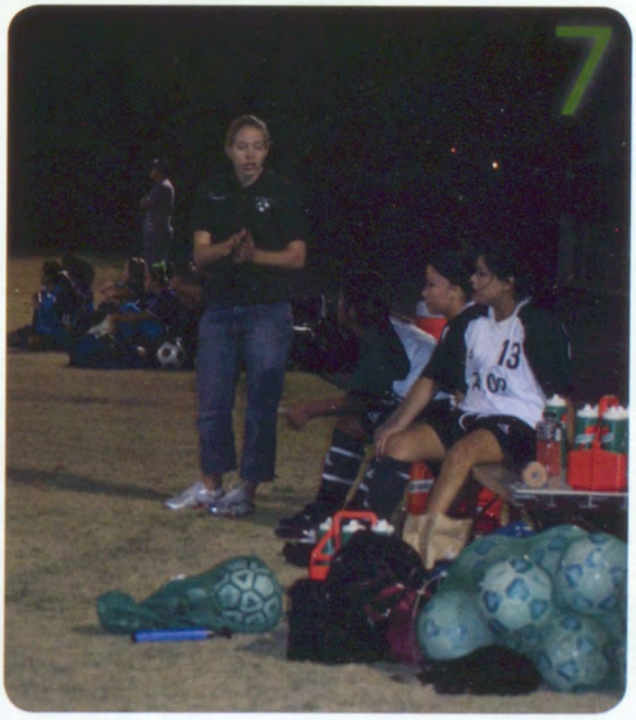






1 Balancing Act. At the girl's home game against Del Valle, Deyanira Castillo (10), struggles to keep her balance while going for the shot. " I like soccer because I get to push people around without getting in trouble," Deyanira said. It was Deyanira's 2nd year on the soccer team. **2 Air Time.** At an after school practice, Marco Gonzales (10) shoots for a goal and follows through with a twisted jump in the air. " I feel like I'm flying everytime I go for the ball," Marco said. Marco was the goalie for the team. **3 Steal It Away.** During the home game against Del Valle, Ulises Avalos (10) tries to steal the ball from an opponent while teammates Jace Fontenot (9) and Abel Rincon (12) wait to assist. "I just try to juke out the defenders so I can get past them," Ulises said. The Ducks tied the game 2 - 2. **4 No Shot.** Issac Aparicio (11) attempts to interfere with the Del Valle player's shot at the goal. "I was trying to get the ball up to our forwards," Issac said. Issac's main position was a forward. **5 Get It Girls.** At the home game against Snook, Zoey Howard (10) and Robyn Reyes (9) attempt to steal the ball. "I fell in love with soccer this year. Being a starter feels good and gets me pumped for the game," Zoey said. Unfortunately, Taylor lost the game with a score of 4 - 0. **6 Look At That.** While at practice, Jose Leyva (11) watches the ball fly up in the air after he attempted to shoot it in the goal for a drill. "I get a rush when I'm running towards the ball," Jose said. At practice, drills such as kicking, shooting, and dribbling were incorporated. **7 Coach Critique.** Erika Gonzales (12), Deyanira Castillo (10), and Zuleica Dela Cerda Orda (10) watch the game from the sidelines and listen to Coach Roberston as she directs them on their next move when they go back in the game. "Coach always tells us to talk during the game because it helps," Deyanira said.



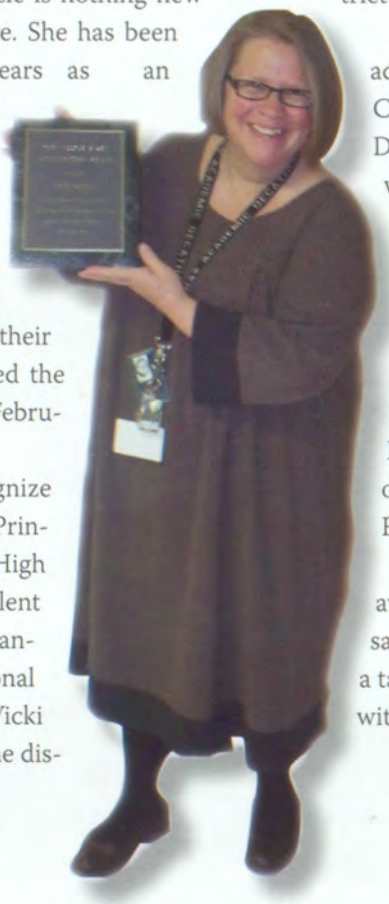


teachers reap rewards

MRS. ROWE ACCEPTS THE AP AWARD

Being part of the winners circle is nothing new to educator Mrs. Vicki Rowe. She has been teaching for over twenty years as an instructor of Advanced Placement classes and teaches both AP Language & Composition and AP Literature. In December, Mrs. Rowe was awarded with the 2009 AP award. She was officially recognized by the Board of Trustees at their January board meeting, and received the actual award in Oklahoma City on February 5th.

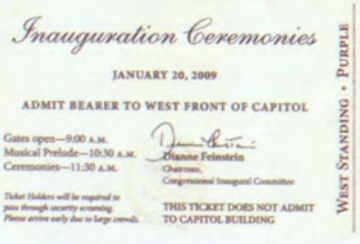
"It's always a pleasure to recognize good teaching and good people," Principal, Mrs. Mason said. "Taylor High School is blessed to have many excellent teachers and this award serves as another example of the many professional achievements and honors that Vicki (Rowe) has brought to herself and the district in general."



Rowe splits her time and attention as the advisor to the two-time defending State Champion Taylor High School Academic Decathlon team. In addition to be recognized with the 2009 AP Award, Rowe has been named one of the state's most Outstanding Humanities Teachers, a Top Six finalist for Texas Teacher of the Year honors, the Region XIII Secondary Teacher of the Year, an HEB semi-finalist for Excellence in Education, a Taylor Rotary Distinguished Educator and the winner of national recognition from the Claus Nobel Educational Foundation.

"We continue to be excited about the awards and honors bestowed on Mrs. Rowe," said Superintendent Dr. Bruce Scott. "She is a talented instructor that truly enjoys working with her scholars."





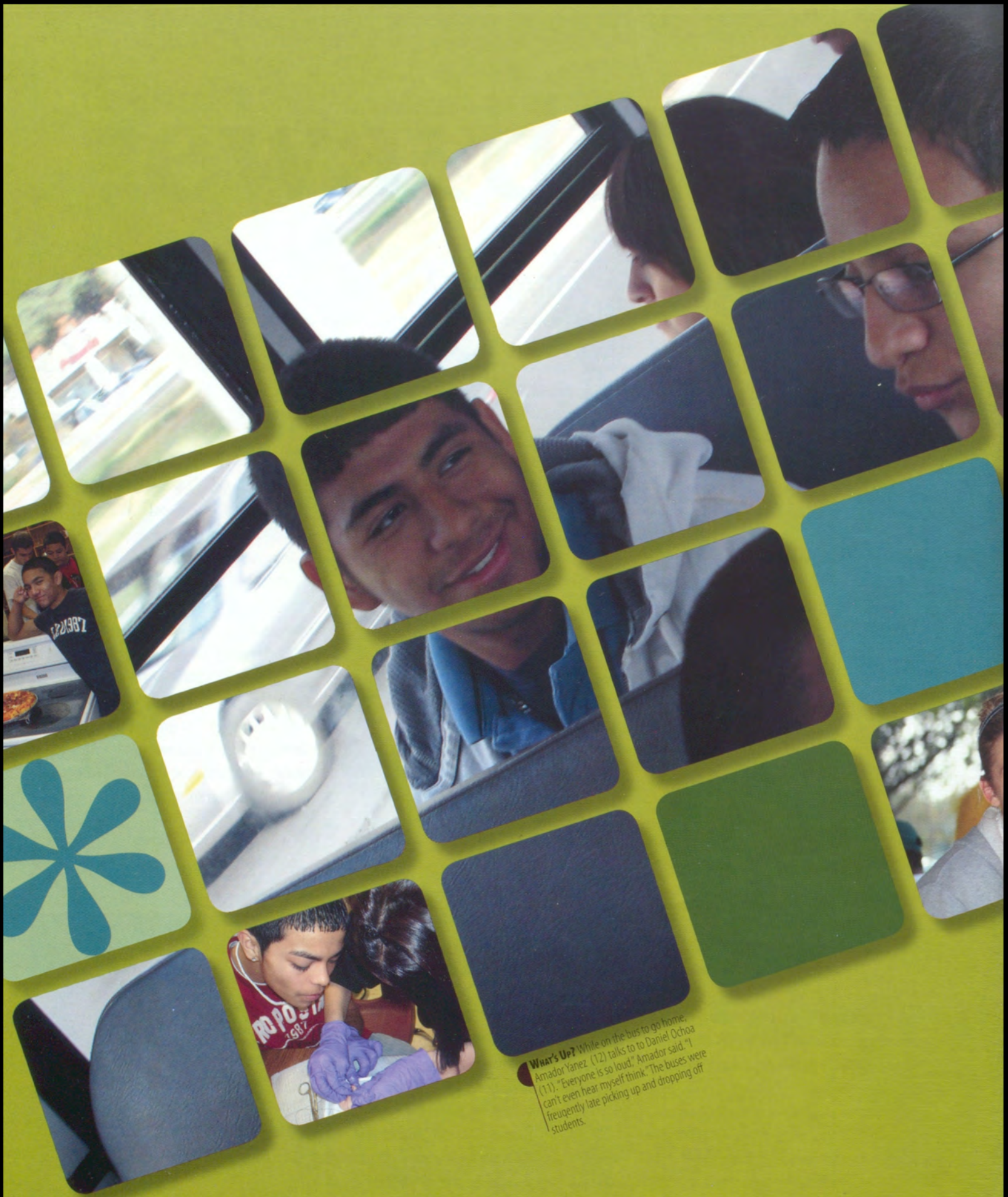
MRS. GRAY WITNESSES HISTORY

Government/Economics/History teacher Mrs. Maureen Gray, went on a historic trip this past January. With a group of American History teachers through Region 13, also some students from McNeil High school, Mrs. Gray traveled to the the historic inauguration of the first African American President, Barack Obama. "It was so early the morning we left, we had to be at the airport at 4:45 am," Mrs. Gray said.

The first day they went and sight saw all of Washington D.C., including the Smithsonian Museum, the Capital Building. They also took a riverboat cruise down the Potomac. On Tuesday, inauguration day, their group decided to go to the parade instead of the swearing in. "It was very crowded, there were over 1.6 million people there just for Obama. It was also very cold. When we were standing in the streets it was 18 degrees Fahrenheit!" Mrs. Gray said. Since 9/11 security has been stepped up everywhere, especially the inauguration of a President. Everyone had to pass through metal detectors, be security wanded, and empty his or her bags; also "you couldn't take any liquids, or umbrellas," Mrs. Gray said. The experience was unforgettable for Mrs. Gray who voted for Obama herself. "It was cool because you knew that everyone was visiting for a common goal, there was a strong sense of community," Mrs. Gray.

Do not write in this area. This is where your spring supplement will be glued in!

Autographs



What's Up? While on the bus to go home, Amador Yanez. (12) talks to to Daniel Ochoa (11). "Everyone is so loud." Amador said. "I can't even hear myself think." The buses were frequently late picking up and dropping off students.

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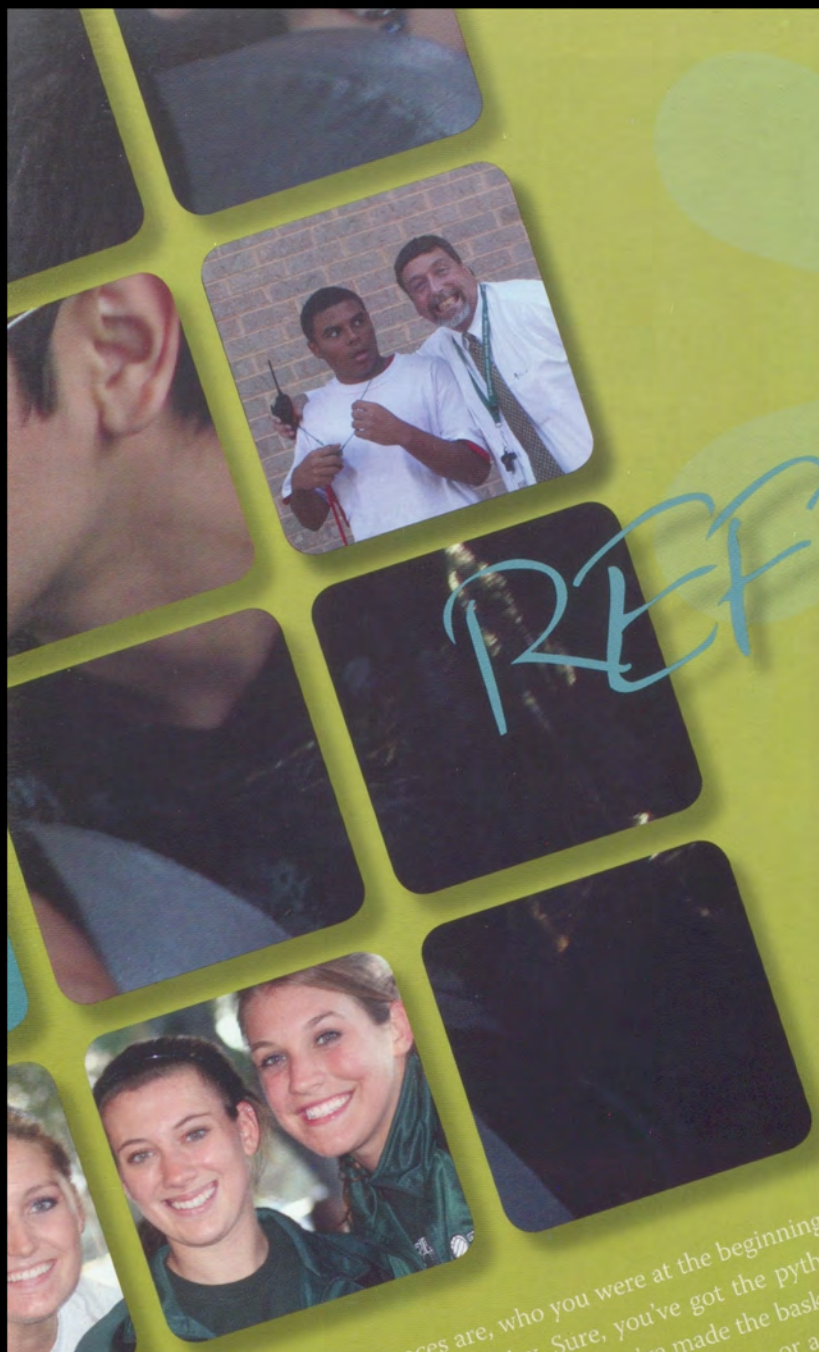




Take a look around. Chances are, who you were at the beginning of the year is not who you are today. Sure, you've got the pythagorean theorem drilled in your brain, and you've made the basketball team, but in perspective it is not about being the Valedictorian or a sports star. Remember that time you shot rockets off in physics class? Or the day you were late to school and had to go to the tardy tank? So many changes have taken place, yet it is easier to notice them in other people as opposed to yourself. The girl who sat next to you in English dyed her hair, and the boy who was always in ISS actually got to stay in class for a few days. Flip through these pages and you'll see their faces. Then you'll see yours. The portrait brings back memories. What were you thinking when you chose the purple background? It doesn't matter anymore. When all is said and done, your name will still be in the back with every page number you are on. The friends who made you laugh, the teachers who made sure that you had an A, and the people who made you cry all influenced who you are today. Time flies.


Alvaro Alderete

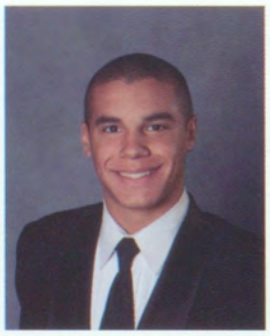

Kristen Alderete


Lucas Alderete


Samantha Anderson


Briana Bohac


Tina Bradford


Eric Brooks


Nathan Burow


Shermane Caldwell


Andreina Calzada


Eric Camacho


Brandee Carlson


Gregory Carter


Wes Carter


Alysia Castillo


Susan Castillo


Jesse Cervantez


Jonathan Cervantez


Dalton Cummings


Christopher Currie

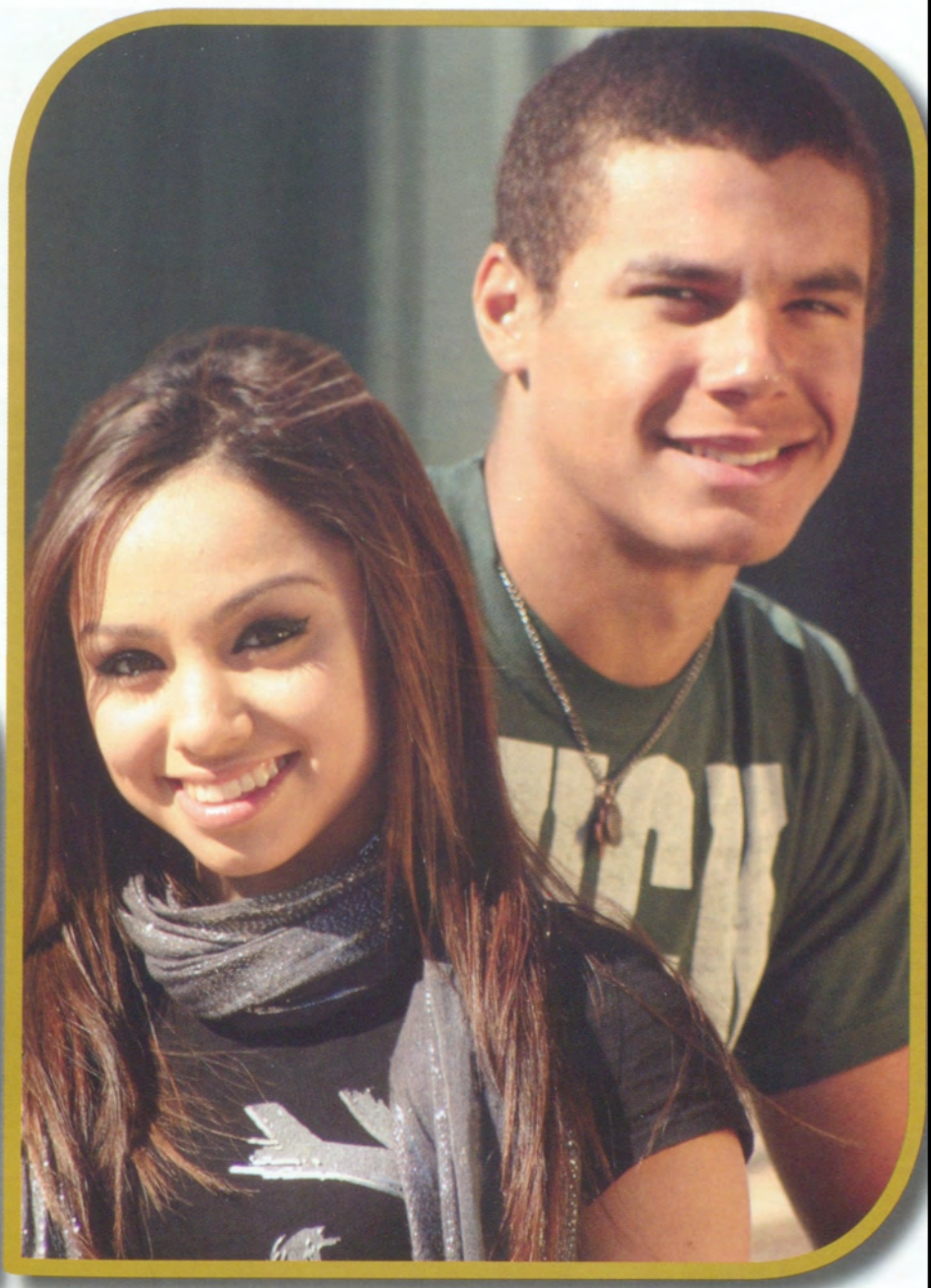

Kelsey Davis


Gustavo Dehoyos


Joshua Devaul


Kelly Dominguez


Chasity Douglas



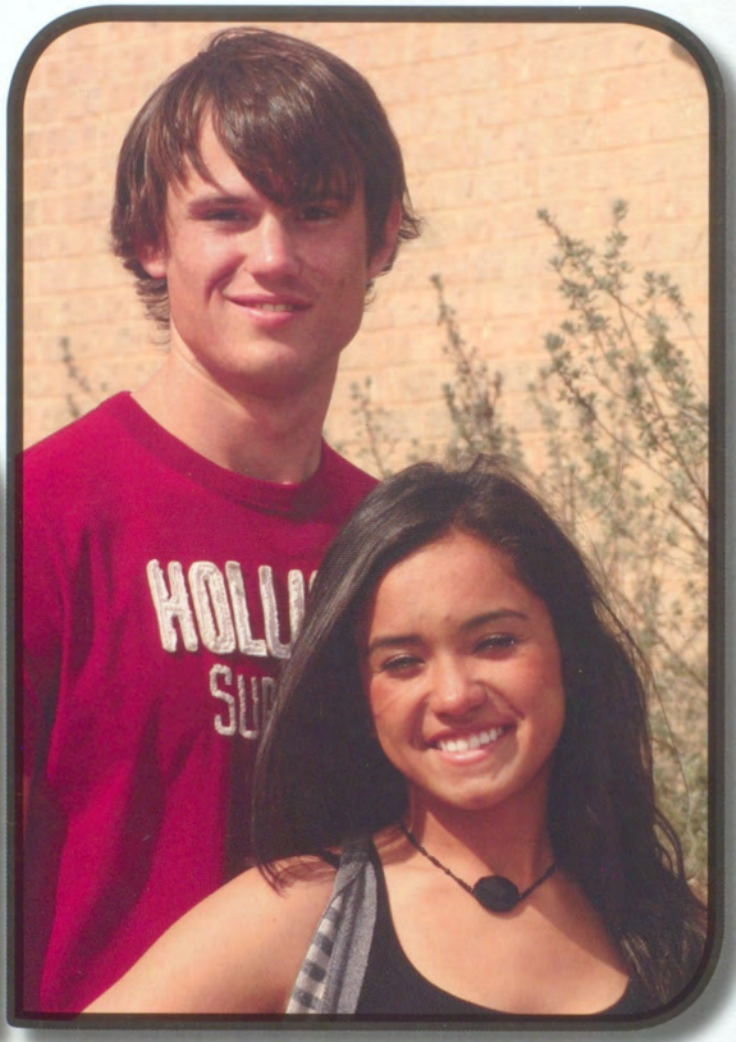
Danielle
Zavala

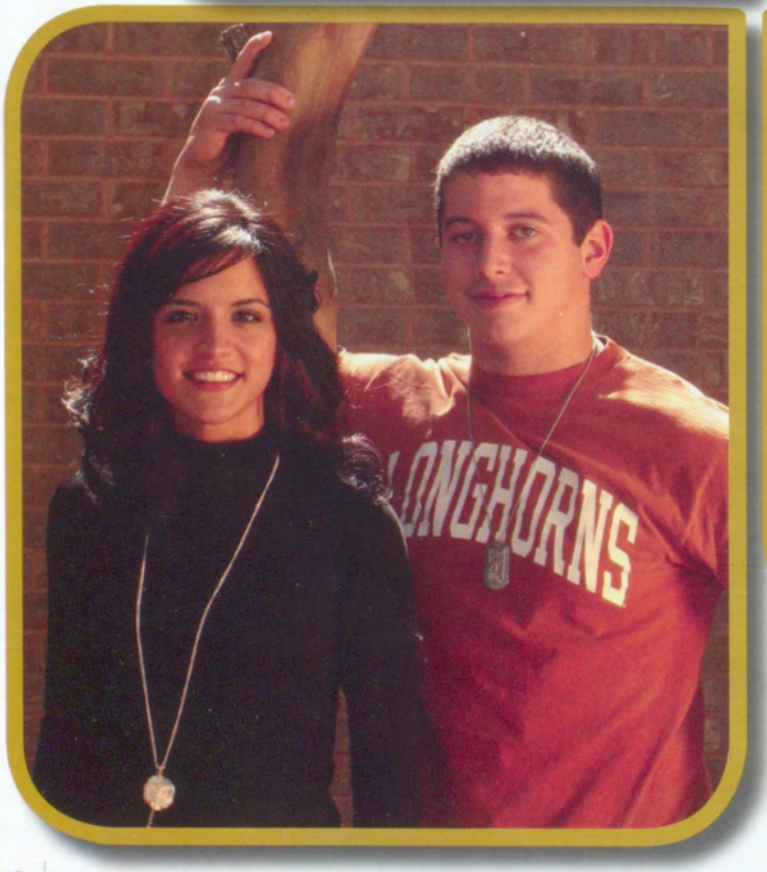
MR & MISS
THS

Eric**Brooks**

Most**Handsome**
Ryan
Jaecks

Most**Beautiful**
Brianna
Yanez





BEST
DRESSED

Trent**Rojas**

Jennifer
Murphy



Jordan Eppinett



Krystal Estrada



Brittnay Fail



Marki Fischer



Ryan Fontenot



Holly Frazier



Brooke Gabel



Mariah Garza



Nicholas Gault



Steven Gibson



Jonathan Gonzales



Victoria Gonzalez



Trevor Gray



Andrea Guttierrez



Blake Haley



Janaye Hall



Tiffany Herklotz



Ana Hernandez



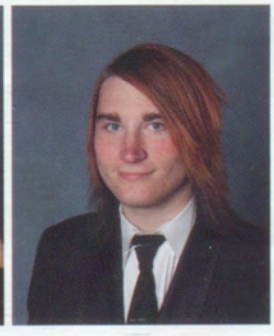
Matthew Hernandez



Noel Hernandez



Christine Hill



Christopher Hill



Ryan Hill



Jessica Hilscher



Carla Hoffman


Megan Holman


Jenna Howard


Samantha Howard


Brittney Jackson


Terence Jackson


Ryan Jaecks


Shelby Johnson


Jasmyne Kernell


Justin Koehler


Valkyrie Landrum


Steven Lawler


Kyle Leeper


Christopher Lerma


Kevin Lindsay


Ariel Lopez


Aurelio Lopez


Valerie Lopez


Destiny Lorentzen


Harmony Lorentzen


Abigail Luna


Amber Luna


Raymond Lute


Josefina Macedo


Seth Marcon


Kelsey Marek

Funniest

Alvaro
Alderete

Brandee
Carlson





FRIENDLIEST

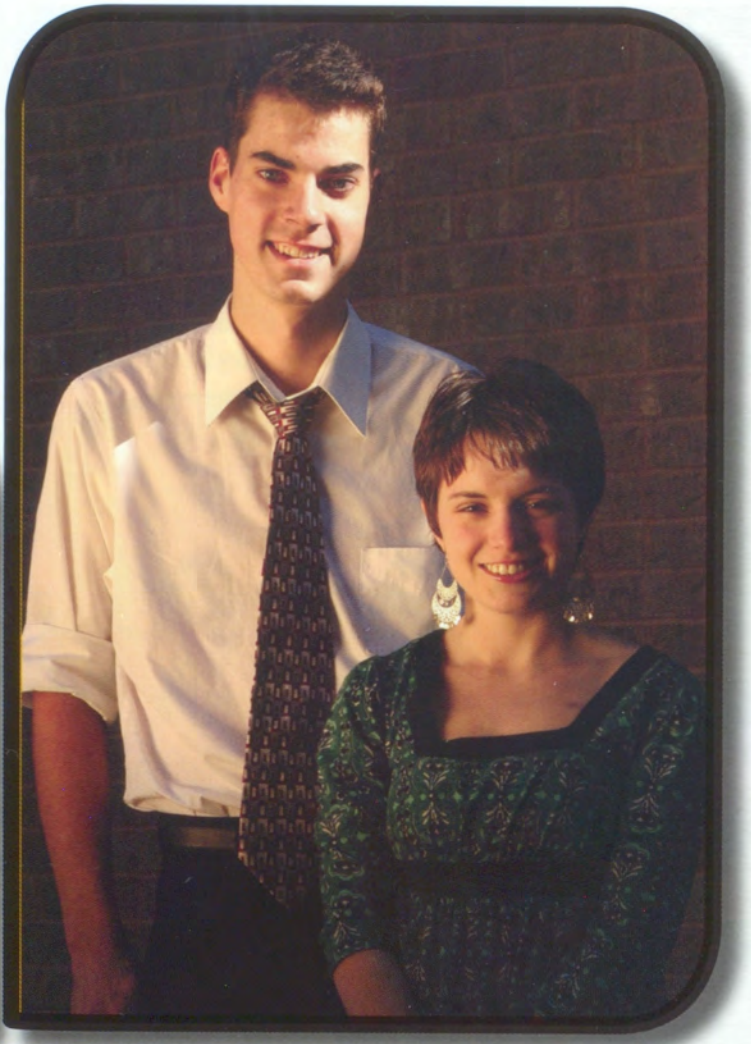
Matt
Hernandez

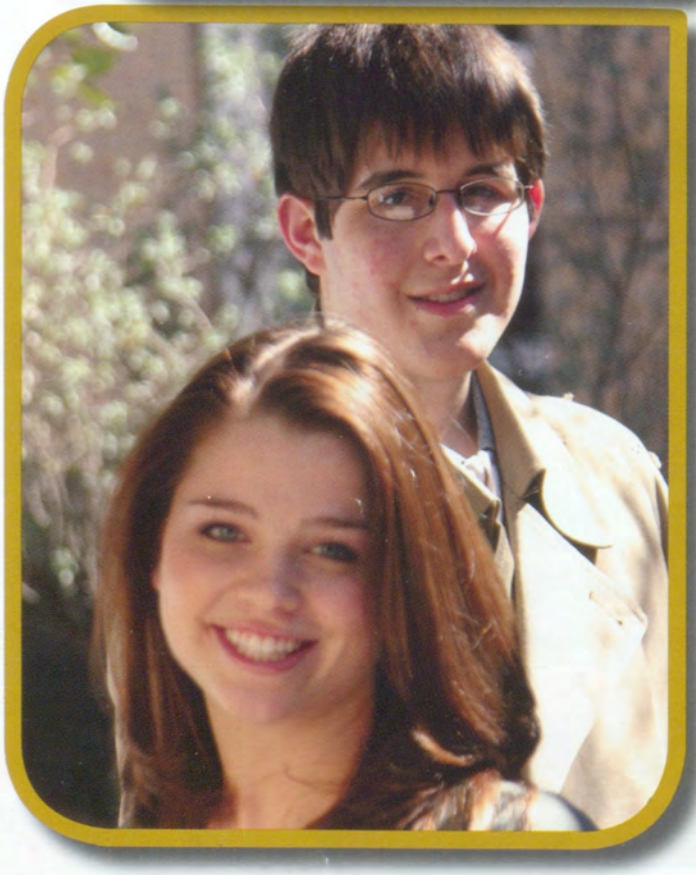
Andreina
Calzada

Most**Intelligent**

Kevin
Lindsay

Courtney
Svatek





MOST LIKELY TO
SUCCEED

Trevor Gray

Rachel
Weison



Christine Maresh



Christopher Martinez



Laura Martinez



Allyson Matthys



Jillian McQuillen



Tristan Meyer



Manayah Miller



Christian Miravete



Mario Moreno



Bryan Mundkowsky



Shane Mundkowsky



Jennifer Murphy



Casey Nygrin



Heath O'Banon



Daniel Ochoa



Lucas Orosco



Dinah Ortiz



Jonathan Ortiz



Alicia Pachicano



Arzella Parker



Dillon Pfluger



Rufina Polasek



Stacy Ramcochan



Mariana Ramirez

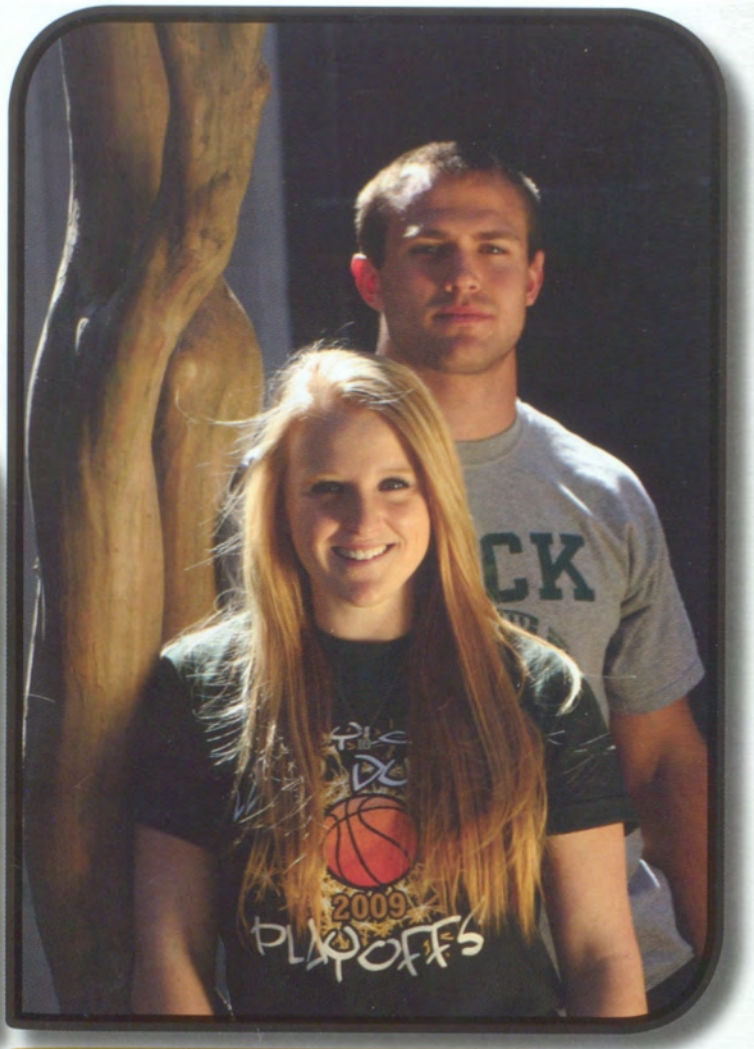


Natalia Ramos

Most**Athletic**

Holly
Frazier

Tristan
Meyer





MOST
ORIGINAL

Abigail**Luna**

Dalton
Cummings



Eric Recendis



Ashley Reyes



Maia Richter



Abel Rincon



Ashley Rivera



Andrew Rodriguez



Christopher Rodriguez



Michael Rodriguez



Oscar Rodriguez



Trenton Rojas



Adriana Romayor



Cassandra Rozacky



Karyn Roznovak



Kyle Sakewitz



Matias Salazar



Tiffaney Salinas



Seth Samuelson



Fabiola Sanchez



Ceara Sanford



Candan Sarp



Brittany Seggern



Krista Seidel



Christopher Seigmund



Jamal Shaw



Jesse Shaw

Courtney Nicole Svotek



No matter where your life takes you, remember we love you and are proud of you every day.
Love,
Mom & Dad
(& Stephen too!)

















Mildred Shaw



Michelle Smith



Tyler Stance



Corey Strmiska



Courtney Svatek



Jessica Tapia



Ransom Taylor



Lindsey Teggeman



Glenna Tharp



Trinia Thompson



Adrian Torres



Olivia Torres



Evangelina Valdez



Marcela Valladares



Jacob Valverde









Ally, Jessie and Lindsey.
You'll learn to love 'em.

Allyson Matthys Jessie Hilscher Lindsey Teggeman

Seth Marcon

How will we ever get anything done without you?



Christopher Martinez Cre

Love,
Mom, Dad (Moses), John,
Lil Moses, Christine, Jessica.

We are so proud of you!



Cassie Rozacky









Krista Seidel

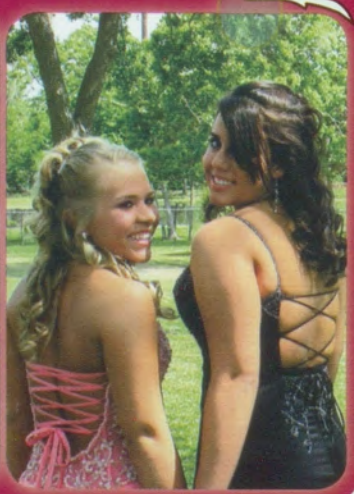
Over the years we have watched you grow into young women and we are so proud of you girls! Good luck at UT and Texas State! We love you girls so much!
Love, Your Families

Trust in your Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.
-Proverbs 3:5-6











Connor Vanecek



Theodor Vargas



Tyler Volek



Morgan Ward



Rachel Weison



Troy Weiss



Brittany Wilkerson



Matthew Winchester



Lateya Winn



Meagan Woolridge



Amador Yanez



Brianna Yanez



Stephanie Yanez



Stephanie Zachary



Danielle Zavala

Gregory Carter

Congratulations!
Love,
Your Family.

We are so proud of you!

















Brittany Seggern

Congratulations Britt-
You have worked hard
and made us proud!
We love you,
Dad, Mom & Jessica
Pee-Paw, MeMe & Nonie
Jazz & Tator too!

















"Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."-*Joshua 1:9*

Glenna Tharp

You are the light of our lives. Good luck in college. We love you.

Mom, Charlie, & The Pups









Glenna,
We are so very proud of you and your accomplishments! You will always be my "Little Princess!"

Love,
Dad & Sandy

Rufina Polasek

We're so proud of you.
-love Mom, Dad & Julie



Christian Miravete

I hope your dreams come true and you reach all your goals. Maybe someday we'll see you on a big field.
You are great.

Love, your "little sister"

Christine Moresh

I'm so proud of you.
Love,
Dad









Victoria Gonzales





You will always be our little Princess no matter what.

Love Mom and Dad







Shelby Johnson

Congratulations Shelby!

We could not be more proud of you. Good luck!

Love,
Your Family























Alexandria Soap

















To My AllieCat,

The years have gone so fast. I still remember my Pookey. I love you and am so proud of the young woman you have become. I know you will become and do whatever you want in life. Remember it is all about making the right choices! And learning from the wrong ones. You are always my baby girl no matter how big and old you may grow. I am always thinking of you every moment of every day of my life.

I love you!

-Mommy







Tyler Vdek





Tyler,

"I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." - *Phil. 4:13*

"Today is your day. You're off to great places! You're off and away! You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose." - *Dr. Seuss*

We love you,

Dad, Mom, Leighanne, Ashlynn, and Dayton







Jillian McQuillen





Jillian we are so proud of you and what you have accomplished. You have proven that hard work and dedication will allow you to achieve your dreams! We can not wait to see what future dreams will come for you!

Love Mom, Dad and Kale







Taylor High School Band Seniors 2009



Front: Ariel Lopez, Adriana Romayor, Michelle Smith, Krystal Estrada, Lindsey Teggeman, Abigail Luna, Ana Hernandez-Huert, Trevor Gray, **2nd:** Lucas Alderete, Megan Holman, Courtney Svatek, Kevin Lindsay, Rufina Polasek, Samantha Howard, Jonathan Gonzales, **Back:** Theodor Vargas, Jesse Cervantez, Tyler Volek, Tiffany Salinas, Allyson Matthys, Anthony Moreno, Conner Vanecek

2006 & 2009 State Marching Semifinalists
2008 Sugar Bowl
2007 Sweepstakes Band
2008 Sweepstakes Band

Congratulations

from the Taylor Band Boosters
& the 2009 Senior Band Parents

Jesse Shaw

For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
Jeremiah 29:11











Congratulations J.D!
What a blessing you are!
Keep your focus and your beliefs strong!
Your family supports and loves you very much!

- Mom, Chris, and Casey

Holly Frazier









Good Luck playing Volleyball at East Texas Baptist University!
We Love You!
Mom and Dad



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Jessica Tapia



We are so proud of ya'll. God has brought you this far and now that you are about to begin your lives he will take you to even greater places! We love you Jessica and Samantha.

- Your loving parents



Samantha Howard

Karyn Roznovak

What an incredible journey God has begun in your life. Your faith and strong convictions have been such a blessing and inspiration to so many. We can't believe this season is already ending and another is beginning. God has huge plans for you. With tears and excitement we look forward to what lies ahead. What do we wish for you? It is this "...that out of His glorious riches He may strenghten you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your heart through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."
Ephesians 3:16-19

We love you Karyn.
Mama, Daddy, and Katelyn











Morgan Ward

Morgan,

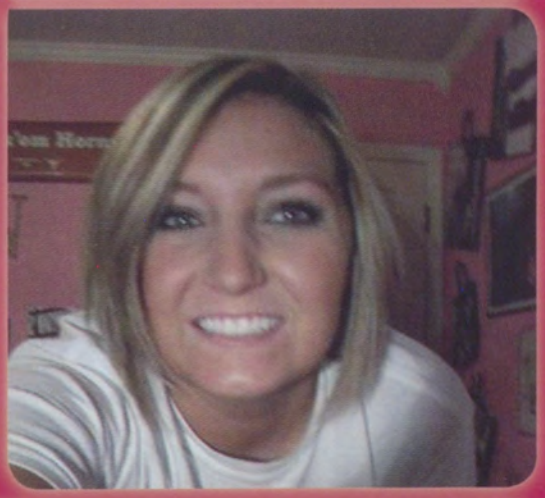
We've watched you grow from a baby to a young woman. We hope all your dreams come true.

Love , Mom, Dad & Maddie











Senior Motto

Be who you are. Those who matter won't mind, and those who mind don't matter.

Color: green

Flower: lily

Song:

You're Gonna Miss This
by Trace Adkins

Jonathan Gonzales









Jonathan, you have had a wonderful senior year. We have had many ups and downs this year. Hope the best of wishes with your upcoming college days. Your brother and grandmother would have been so proud. Their smiles will live on through you.

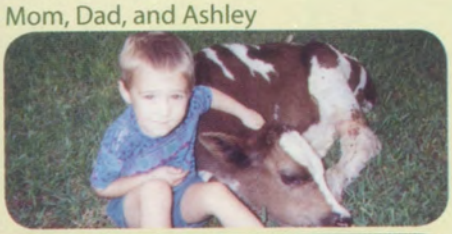
Love,
Mom,Dad, Rosa, Daniel and Pedro





Nathan Burow

Nathan,
We have helped guide you through the first phase of your life and now it is time for you to spread your wings and fly. Good luck at school and follow your dreams!We love you and will always be your safe place to land. Go get'em Bubba!
Love,
Mom, Dad, and Ashley











Lucas Alderete

Lucas,
We are so proud of you!
Always, "Trust in the lord with all your heart...
And He shall direct your paths." *Proverbs 3:5-6*
Love, Mom, Dad and Family



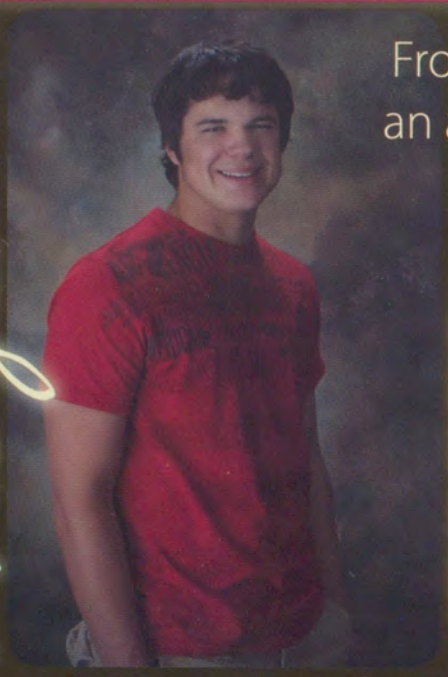








Dillon Pflueger



From *Baptism* to *Baseball* to *Graduation*--what an awesome journey you've taken us on! Now it's time for the real game to begin.

Play ball!



All our love,
Your Parents
& Families



















Eric Brooks

Danielle Zavala

"There was a star that Danced and under that you were born"

Danielle
We are very proud of you! We wish you the best in the future in everything you do! We love you!

Love, Your Family

























Jenna Howard











Jenna, We are so very proud of you and your accomplishments Dream big...You Deserve the world. With Lots of love & wishes- Dad,Mom,Zoey & Abby

"Do not follow where the path may lead. Go, Instead where there is no path and leave a trail."--*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Carla Hoffman

Congratulations & Best Wishes

Love, Mom











Congratulations Andreina & Marcela,
We are very proud of you!

Love, Your Families

Marcella Valladares







Andreina Calzada





Brianna Yanez

Brianna,
We are so proud of all your accomplishments.
We are so proud of the young women you have become.
Your faith will guide you in making good choices.
We love you so very much!
Congradulations sweety!!
Love Mom, Dad, Katie, Frank, Grace







Thanks for being such an awesome sister and my best friend. Love you pandabear!
-Love Katie

Rachel Weison

Class of 2009

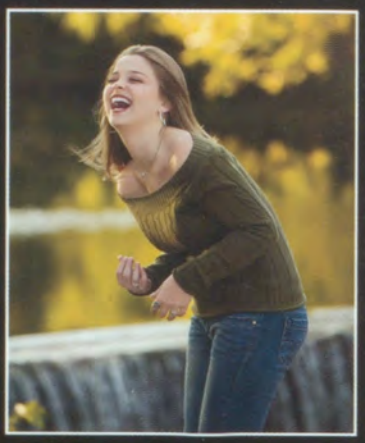
We pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know Christ better. ~ *Ephesians 1:17*

We love you, Rachel
Mom Dad Hannah and Casey



















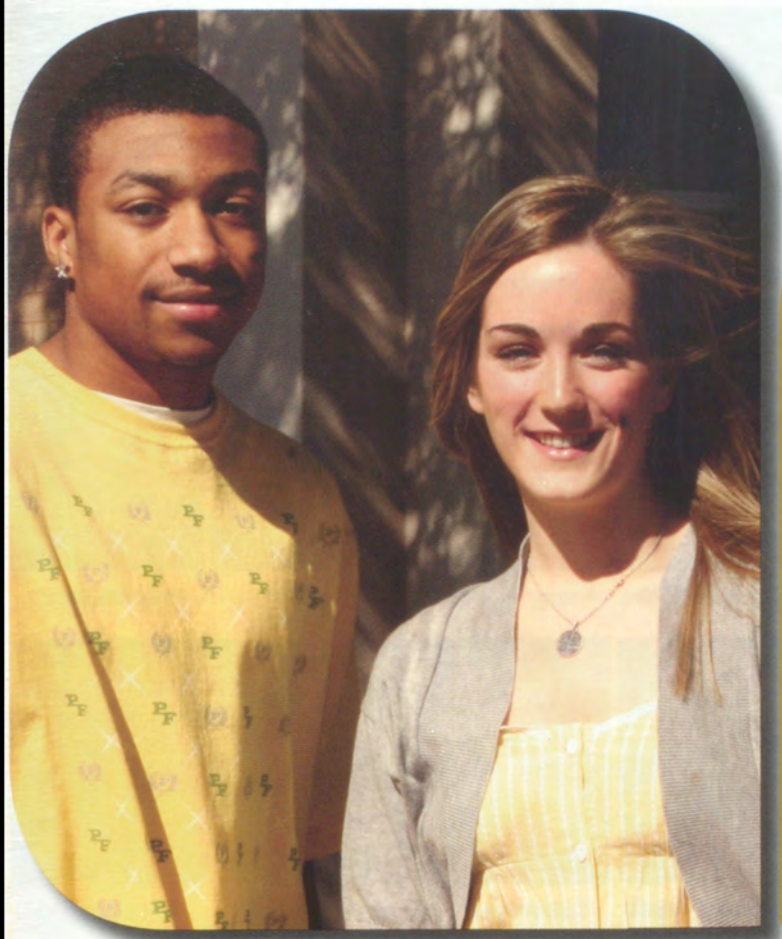












CLASS FAVORITES

JUNIORS

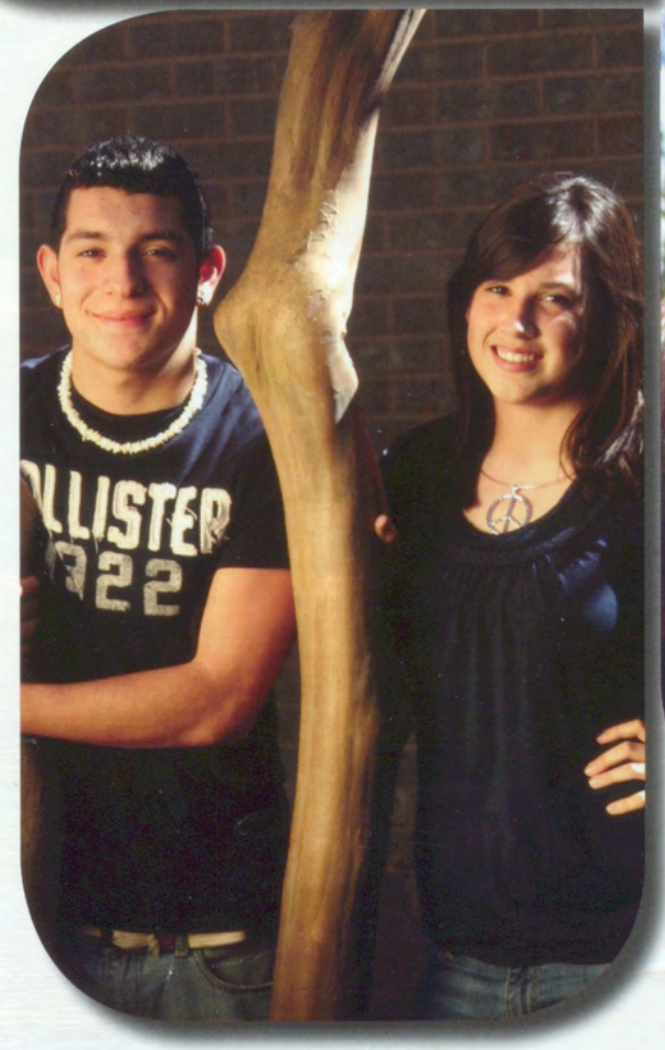
Claire**Berger** & Mark**Jackson**

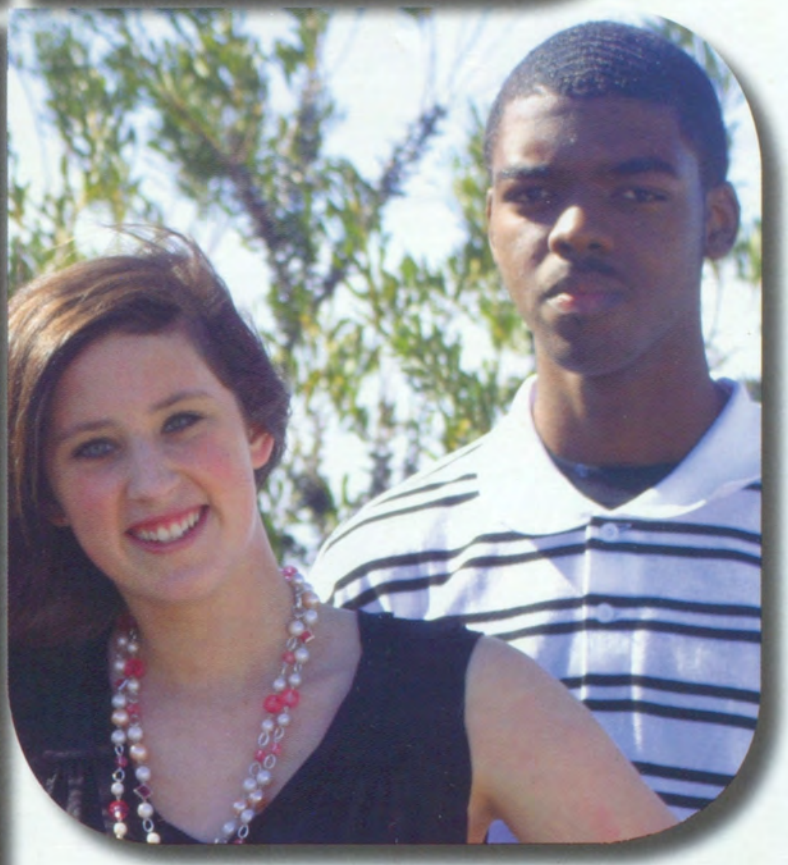
SOPHOMORES

Maisen**Lawhon** & Chris**Lucio**

FRESHMEN

Liberty**Jones** & Malcom **Gault**





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Desmond Aldridge 9


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Amanda Arguelles 9



Cindy Arriaga 11



Ruth Arriaga 9



Christino Arzola 11



Shakyetra Ashford 9



Sabrina Atkinson 11



Kelsey Aunspaugh 11



Ulises Avalos 10



Estevan Aviles 10



Tanea Bailey 10



Luz Balboa 9



Jonathan Ballard 9

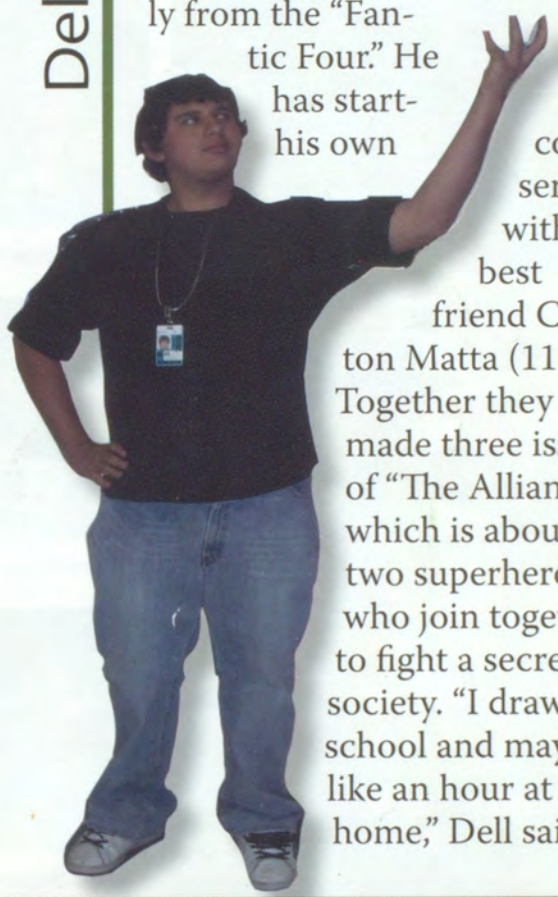


Matthew Ballard 11

Got a minute?

Dell Buckalew (11)

Dell Buckalew (11) is in love with comic books. His favorite comic book artist, Alex Ross, has drawn for "Kingdom Come" and has his own series called "Justice". "As I get older, comics are the one thing that keeps me feeling like a kid," Dell said. His favorite character is Galactis, who is originally from the "Fantastic Four." He also has started his own comic series with best friend Chaston Matta (11). Together they have made three issues of "The Alliance," which is about two superheroes who join together to fight a secret society. "I draw at school and maybe like an hour at home," Dell said.



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Shanice Caldwell 9



Cathy Camarda 11



Lisa Camarda 9



Juan Camarillo 10



Christian Campbell 10



Christopher Campbell 9



Shaquille Campbell 10



Michelle Campos 11



Milagros Campos 9



Amanda Cannon 11



Maximiliano Cantu 9



Jenay Cantwell 9

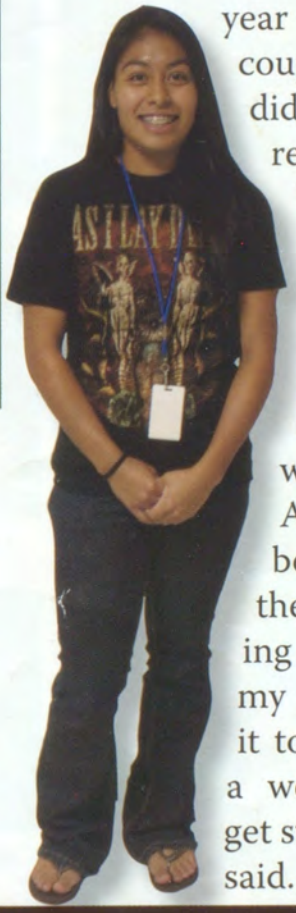


Marvin Cantwell 10

Adriana Romayor (12)

Got a minute?

Adriana Romayor has been in powerlifting since her sophomore year. She does it because she likes working out, but having to make her weight class can be pretty annoying. "Last year I got first in a couple of meets, but didn't get to go to regionals. I was bummed out," Adriana said. While maxing out is when a person lifts the maximum weight they can, Adriana calls not being able to lift the weight "bombing out". "This year my goal is to make it to regionals, drop a weight class, and get stronger," Adriana said.



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Alysia Castillo 11



Deyanira Castillo 10



Caleb Cavazos 10



Augustine Cervantes 11



David Cervantes 11



Austin Chacon 9



Megan Chacon 11



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Adrian Costilla 10


Eric Costilla 9


Sloane Cotner 10


Brittany Covey 9


Erica Crabb 10


Jonathon Crabb 9


Caneisha Crathers 11


Lorenzo Crawford-Sanford 9


Jackie Crittendon 9


Alexander Cruz 9


Julieta Cruz 9


Kristen Cuba 10


Valasha Cummings 10


Jon David 9

Braden Gross (10)

Got a minute?

Before Coach Walker decided to sponsor an Ultimate Frisbee Club, Braden Gross (10) spent his days running track and playing tennis. Now he can be found on the practice fields after school or in the courtyard during lunch throwing around a Frisbee.



"I'd never even thought about playing," Braden said. "It's just a fun way to be active. There is no scoreboard."

In Ultimate Frisbee, team members move toward the goal by throwing the frisbee; you can run until you have possession of the frisbee, and then you have to throw it.

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Victoria Fail 10



Ashleigh Falcon 9



Tiffany Farr 11



Olivia Fausett 9



Abel Fernandez 9



Maricela Fernandez 10



Monica Fernandez 9



Courtney Fields 10



James Fields 11



D'Vonte Fisher 10



Justin Fitzgerald 9



Treland Fitzgerald 9



Jennifer Flores 9

Got a minute?

Miressia Steele (11)

One day after competition, cheerleader Miressia Steele was ready to show off the toe touches that won the team 2nd place at Regionals in Dallas. "I never thought Taylor would be on the back of a cheer competition t-shirt," Miressia said. The girls gave it their all at 3 hour practices and were given jump exercises to do at home on their own. It was obvious at practice who had been doing them. "Stretching hurts, but the only way to ease the pain is to do more," Miressia said.



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Brandy & Amanda;
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Coty Gola 9



Matthew Gonzales Reyna 11



Angel Gonzales 10



Arnulfo Gonzales 11



Carin Gonzales 11



Crispin Gonzales 10



Daniel Gonzales 9



Devinity Gonzales 9



Jacob Gonzales 9



Kara Gonzales 10



Matthew Gonzales 11



Richie Gonzales 11



Ryan Gonzales 11



Cruz Gonzalez 10



Juan Gonzalez 11



Laura Gonzalez 9



Lorena Gonzalez 11



Marco Gonzalez 10



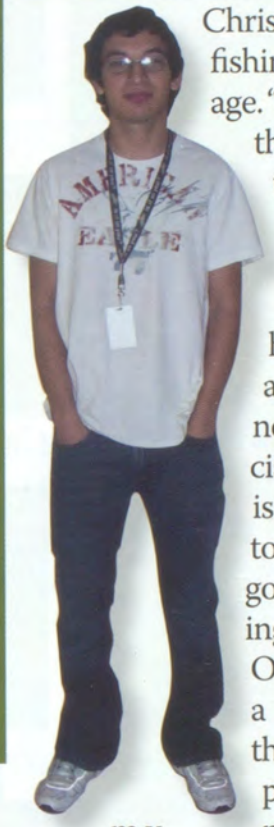
Victoria Gonzalez 11



Karla Gonzalez-Rodriguez 9

Got a minute?

Christino Arzola (11)



Christino Arzola's love for fishing began at an early age. "It's probably the first thing I learned how to do," Tino said. "I've been fishing since before I could even walk." He fishes with his dad, his brothers, and sometimes his nephew Freddy Garcia (11). Granger Lake is his favorite place to bass fish and he goes deep sea fishing in Corpus Christi. One time he caught a baby hammerhead that was about 10 pounds. "I've carved my name into sharks a few times," Tino said.



On December 25, 2008, Freddy Garcia was killed in a one-car accident on his way home after visiting his girlfriend. Freddy was a junior, a baseball player, and member of the track team. Freddy will be deeply missed by his family and friends at Taylor High School.

Freddy Garcia 1992-2008

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Moses Guerrero 9


Rex Gutierrez 9

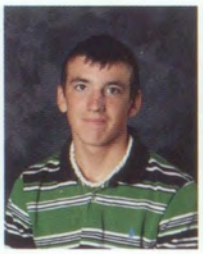

Stephanie Gutierrez 10


Marissa Guzman 9


Keith Hair 9


John Hankins 11


Zachary Hankins 9


Seth Harvey 11


Heather Hegar 10


Jake Henderson 11


Matthew Herklotz 9


Anthony Hernandez 10


Brenda Hernandez 11


Chelsea Hernandez 10


Hernan Hernandez 9


Jeremy Hernandez 11


Jonathan Hernandez 9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Joshua Hinkle 11



Brendan Hix 9



Kameren Hodnett 11



Gail Holman 10



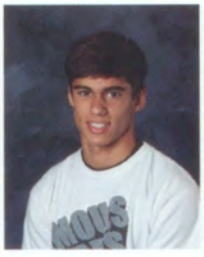
Jonathan Holman 11



Zoey Howard 10



Koby Huckabee 10



Matthew Hudson 9



Nicholas Hull 11



Jessica Humphreys 9



Naomi Hundley 10



Daniel Hyzak 10



Brandon Irizarry 10



Barry Jackson 11



Larry Jackson 11



Mark Jackson 11



Niayesha Jackson 10



Clifton James 9

Chelsie Carter (9)

Got a minute?

One of the hardest things to go through in life is change. All the freshmen had to adjust this year to a bigger campus with stricter consequences for their actions. Chelsie Carter wasn't worried about being the youngest though. "It sucked being in 8th grade because you had to say goodbye to middle school," Chelsie said. "But I've always heard that freshman year is the best so I was excited!"



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Vela Karla 11



Charles Kemp 9



Chelsea Kemp 10



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Jacob Lanoux 10



Naptally Laprade 10



Rachel Latham 9



Leonel Lavalle 11



Sandy Lavalle 10



Maisen Lawhon 10



Crystal Lawler 9



Christian Lawson 9



Jairo Lazaro 10



Charles Leadford 9



Christopher Leal 10



Daniel Leatherman 10



Aaron Leeper 9

Got a minute?

Jesse Shaw (12)



Jesse Shaw has 4 close friends. On weekends they like to throw water balloons at cars, go bowling, or sneak out and go to IHOP at 3 in the morning. "My mom thinks I'm all snug as a bug in my bed when really I'm out eating pancakes," Jesse said. He has never been caught sneaking out by his mom. "As long as I'm not doing anything illegal, I don't think she cares," Jesse said.

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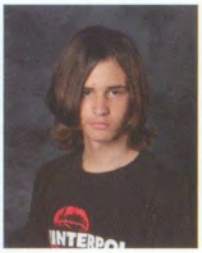
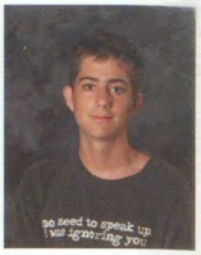

Marcus Lieber 9


Zachary Lindsay 10


Chelsea Lockinger 9



Jacob Loper 9


Alexandra Lopez 9


Blanca Elena Lopez 10


Brittany Lopez 11


Crystal Lopez 11

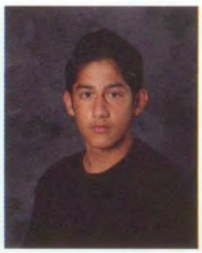

Erik Lopez 9


Ignacio Lopez 9


Jessi Lopez 10


Joe Lopez 9


Jose Lopez 9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Jose Lopez-Leyva 11


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Kasi Lozano 10


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Amanda Luna 10

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Ashley Maran 11



Rajnesh Maran 10



Kenneth Marek 11



Leticia Marmolejo 10



Maria Marmolejo 11



Shante Marshall 11



Taylor Martin 11



Eric Martinets 9



Teyra Martinez Medina 9



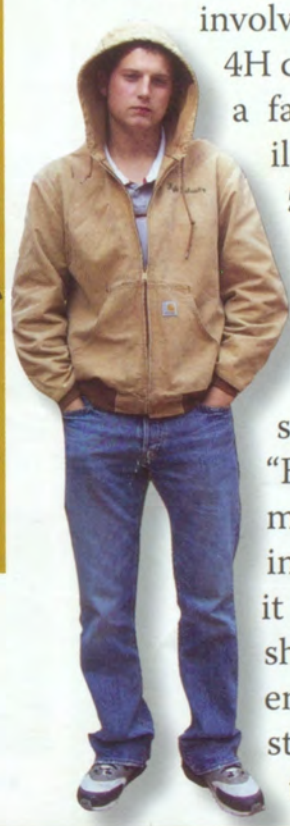
Amanda Martinez 9



Elric Martinez 10

Got a minute?

Kyle Sakewitz (12)



It's not easy taming wild animals or expecting them to perform well at stock shows. Animal lover Kyle Sakewitz is involved in FFA and 4H club. He lives on a farm in Circleville, a town about 5 miles north of Taylor. There he raises pigs and chickens. "The pigs stink," Kyle said. "But I can make money by showing them so I suck it up." Many who show animals end up judging at stock shows after they graduate.

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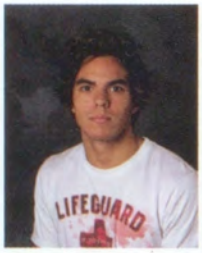
Chaston Matta 11


John Matuke 9


Megan Matuke 10


Hunter Matysek 9


Steven McAllister 10


Christopher McFarlin 10


Darlene McFarlin 11


Laura McGrew 10


Michael McIntire 9


Aaron McQuary 9


Kale McQuillen 9


Roberto Medina 10


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Gabriel Montemayor 9



Julia Moody 11



Isaac Moore 11



Jose Morales 10



Leah Morales 11



Martha Moran 10



Concepcion Moreno 11



Joshua Moreno 9



Salvador Moreno 10



Tracy Morgan 10



Alex Mullins 10



Miguel Munoz Moncada 10



Samuel Murguia 10

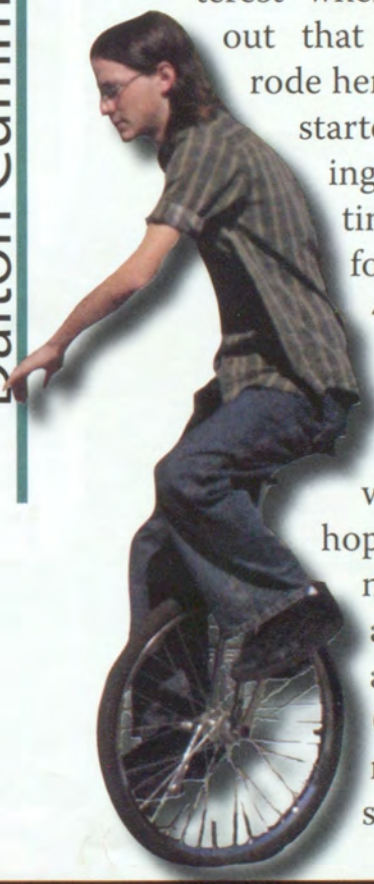


Rebekah Murphy 11

Dalton Cummings (12)

Got a minute?

Dalton Cummings is one of the talented few who can ride a unicycle and solve a Rubik's Cube at the same time. Dalton sparked an interest when he found out that Mrs. West rode her unicycle. "I started practicing about two times a week for roughly 45 minutes each time." Dalton Said. After a while I could hop a curb and now I am able to solve a Rubik's Cube and ride at the same time."



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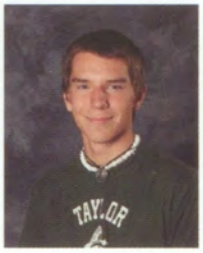

Andre Nevins 10


Daniel Nzeka 9


Natalie Ochoa 11


Nicholas Ochoa 9


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Mariah Ojeda 10


Selena Olguin 10


Seth Olivarez 10


Cresia Oliver 9


Abraham Oranday 10



Henry Oranday 9


Alexandria Orozco 9


Jordan Orta 10


Elgar Ortega 9


Anibal Ortiz 9


Briana Ortiz 11


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Karyn R.
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Love, Mrs.Fischer

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Jacob Patterson 9



Cardray Payne 11



La'Star Payne 11



Dillon Pekar 9



Mario Pena 10



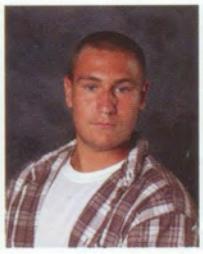
Perla Pena 11



Carlos Perez 9



Raymond Pesina 10



Jay Peterson 9



Destiny Popham 9



Ruby Pumphrey 10

Got a minute?

Valkyrie Landrum (12)



When a student is a sophomore they have the opportunity to decide if they woould like to graduate early. Many seniors regret the choice they made to stay all four years, but Valkyrie Landrum isn't one of these seniors. Last year she was classified as a sophomore, but now she can proudly say she made it through high school in 3 years. "I just wanted to get out as soon as possible," Valkyrie said.

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Paula Reeves 11


Conoley Reinhardt 11


Melissa Reveles 9


Alexandra Reyes 9


Casper Reyes 11


Emily Reyes 9


Jaime Reyes 9


Javier Reyes 10


Liana Reyes 9


Richard Reyes 10


Robyn Reyes 9


Steven Reyes 9


Cristina Reyna 11


Jennifer Reyna 10


Johnny Reyna 11


Matthew Reyna 10


Camron Richardson 9

Red Granite Farms


Chase Richter 10


Joshua Richter 9


Asuncion Rincon 11


Maria Rios 10


Shelby Jo Roan 11


Taylor Robichaux 10


Rene Robles 9


Adrianne Rodriguez 10


Armando Rodriguez 11


David Rodriguez 11


Guadalupe Rodriguez 9


Isaha Rodriguez 9


Jeremiah Rodriguez 9


Katherine Rodriguez 10


Marcy Rodriguez 10


Maricela Rodriguez 9


Marissa Rodriguez 9


Rolando Rodriguez 10


Daniel Rojas 10


Eric Rojas 10

Abraham Oranday (10)

Got a minute?

AB Oranday is a band member in "Hell Hound Roar". Brandon Broussard (9), Gabe Sutton (10), and AB Oranday all work together to make music. "We meet like twice a week and pretty much every weekend to practice," AB said. They play grind core and metal. "Hell Hound Roar" played at The Red Seven during the summer.



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Kelly Salazar 11



Christian Saldana-Gaona 9



Joseph Salgado 10



Cade Samuelson 10



Jacob San Migel 11



Aimee Sanchez 9



Alejandro Sanchez 10



Alexis Sanchez 10



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Stephen Schroeder 9



Stephanie Schwan 9



Ronald Scott 9



Rowdesha Scott 11



Terrence Scott 10



Elizabeth Seda 11



Brooke Selby 11



Ashlee Silva 11



Aleshia Simien 9



Lakeisha Simien 10



Cole Sims 10



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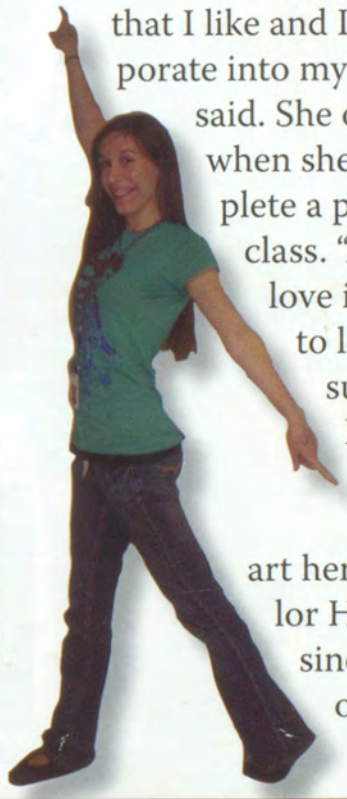
Adrian Smith 9



Aspen Smith 9

Got a minute?

Daphne Macauley (11)



Daphne Macauley is an artist. "I just think about stuff that I like and I try to incorporate into my art," Daphne said. She only draws when she has to complete a project for art class. "Although I love it, I try not to let art consume my life," Daphne said. She has been taking art here at Taylor High School since her sophomore year.

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Lauren Standifer 10



Miressia Steele 11


Chelsea Stefek 9


Dustin Stefek 9


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Corey Terwilliger 11



Ariel Thomas 11



Christa Thomas 11



Seth Thomas 9



George Thompson 9



Matthew Thompson 11



Emily Thorpe 11



Kami Tillotson 9



Ruby Tinajero 9



Horeb Tinoco 9



Jennifer Tislow 9

Austyn Savage (9)

Got a minute?

Austyn Savage (9) is very involved with her church youth group. She attends First Baptist Church Taylor. "I have been going there for about ten years," Austyn said. Her youth group gets together every Wednesday night to play games and learn about Christ. Her youth also goes away for church camps. This summer the high school students went to South Padre for Student Life at the beach. "I really like my youth group, all of my really close friends are there," Austyn said.



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Anna-Lisya Trevino 10

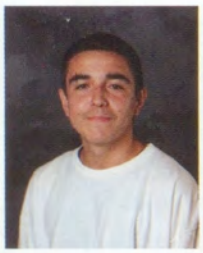

Jordan Trevino 9


Lauren Tucker 11


Addison Turner 10



Marcos Urbina 11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Juan Vargas 9


Eric Vasquez Becerra 11


Elizabeth Vasquez 9


Ashleigh Veit 11


Karina Velasquez 10


Mariana Velazquez 10


Omar Ventura Sorto 11


Elsy Ventura 10


Joshua Villanueva 10

Our Lady of Guadalupe



Maximiliano Villanueva 11



Carlos Villarreal 9



Shannon Vongerichten 10



Rachael Voytek 11



Anthony Vreeland 10



Chelsea Waechter 9



Brandie Walls 10



Eric Walton 10



Kelsey Walton 11



Kelsi Wardy 9



Quinton Ware 9



Drew Weise 11



Dylan Weise 9



Hannah Weison 9



Troy Weiss 11



Josiph Welton 11

Joseph Welton (11)

Got a minute?

Joseph Welton is a huge pizza enthusiast. "I probably eat pizza about two to three times a week, I eat it as much as I can," Joseph said. His favorite place to order pizza is Pizza Hut. "I prefer Pizza Hut's pan pizza over their thin crust," Joseph said. His favorite pizza toppings are pineapple and Canadian bacon. He does not like peppers or onions on top of his pizza. "I'm not a fan of vegetables," Joseph said.



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Mary Williams 9


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Kourtney Woods 11


Kamery Wooldridge 9


Kristian Wooldridge 11


Malaysia Wright 9


Kendall Wrinkle 10


Isabel Yanez 10

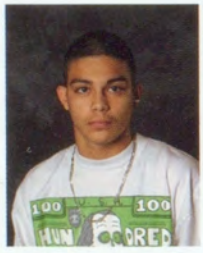

Israel Yanez 9


Katie Yanez 11


Kathleen Young 9



Ashley Zavala 9



Angel Zuniga 11


Christian Zuniga 10

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Visitation Pastor: Walter J. Miller
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Jonathan Alonso
Theatre Arts I, II, III

Leah Ancell
IPC

Jean Barnett
Art I, II

Adrian Basinger
English I PAP, Eng II

Scott Bishop
Intro Ag Mech, Aquatic Sci, Wildlife Rec

Justin Boswell
Psychology, Asst. FB Coach, Head Boys Basketball Coach

Eliza Boyd
Life Skills Instructor

Herlinda Brown
Diagnostician

Jacques Brown
Head Band Director

Randy Brown
Assistant Principal

Rachel Burklow
English III, IV

Lorraine Bustamante
Spanish II, III PAP, IV AP

Patricia Calhoun
Assistant Principal

Kirsten Carpenter
Life Skills Instructor

Casidy Castillo-Wilson
JV Choir, Varstiy Choir

Melanie Catuogno
DTP, Video Tech, Mallard

Johna Childress
English II PAP, English III

Wayne Christmas
Algebra I, Geometry

Shelli Cobb
English I, Head Girls Track, Head X-Ctry, Girls Ath. Dir.

Rick Cobia
Head Football Coach, Boys Athletic Director

Lloyd Collier
ELA Facilitator

Sherri Cook
Life Skills Instructor

Candice Crider
Nutrition and Food Science

Donna Curtis
English SOL 1/2, Spanish I, English III/IV

Leslie Decker
German, Reading

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Bonnie Estrada
STEP/VAC, A+ TSC



Dawn Fischer
Digital Graphics, Cotton Boll Advisor



Diann Fox
Librarian



Bethzabelt Fuentest
Cafeteria Staff



Ashley Gaar
English II, III



Jean Gifford
Physics, Physics PAP



Maureen Gray
US History, Government, AP Government



Nathan Gray
Art I, II, III



Gracie Guerrero
Attendance Clerk



Vicki Hall
Girls PE, Head Tennis Coach



Chandra Hefta
On-Track Instructor



Carlos Hernandez
Migrant Facilitator-Parent Services



Christine Hodges
Early College Education English I, I AP, II AP



Terrie Holmstrom
Basic English I, III, IV, Girls Athletics



Wendy Holt
Counselor



Connie Janak
Registrar



Melvin Jenkins
Health, Head Softball Coach



Barbara Johle
Receptionist



Ed Johnson
Auto Tech 1/2, ITSC



Douglas Kuhl
Biology, Bio PAP, Asst. Football Coach, Head Baseball Coach



Amin Lalani
Math Facilitator



Jennifer Lane
IPC, Biology



Susanna Lawson
BCIS, BIMM, Keyboarding



Barbara Leschber
Business Ed, FSC Co-Op



Robert Marak
Bio, AP Bio, Asst. Football Coach, Head Powerlifting Coach



Deborah Marek
Cafeteria Staff



Norma Marquardt
Assistant Principal



Kimberley Mason
Principal



George Matthys
Opportunity Center



Jane Medema
Life Skills Instructor

Got a minute?

Mrs. Rachel Burklow

Mrs. Rachel Burklow has taught in Taylor for twenty four years. "My favorite thing about teaching is learning along with the students," Mrs. Burklow said. She has plans to retire, but says "bills must be paid!"





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Lending Center: 116 West 3rd Street in Downtown Taylor
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Craig Miller
Criminal Justice, World Geography, World Geo PAP


Suzanne Morris
Content Mastery Instructor


Britt Narrell
Psychology, World History, Asst. Football Coach


Tracy O'Quinn
French I, Spanish I, II


Linda Paredes
Life Skills Instructor


Pam Pekar
Registrar


Danny Potts
Opportunity Center


Debbie Powell
Nurse


James Proctor
World History, Asst. Football Coach


Paul Quarles
World History PAP, US History AP


Kevin Ramm
Math Models, Algebra II, Asst. Tennis Coach


Viola Razo
Principals' Secretary


Debra Rinderknecht
Content Mastery Instructor


Blake Rives
A+ Recovery, Health, Asst. Football & Baseball Coach


Rose Robertson
IPC, Chemistry, Env. Science AP, Head Girls Soccer Coach


Loretta Robinson
Life Skills Instructor


Robyn Rogers
World Geography


Julie Rohan
Algebra I, Algebra II, Algebra II PAP


Vicki Rowe
English II, IV AP, ACDEC


Patti Ruemke
ISS Supervisor


Esperanza Ruiz
Custodian


Nancy Santiago-Bracero
ESL Migrant Teacher


Alicia Sarvis
Algebra I, Geometry


Gloria Schuldt
Science Facilitator, Head Swim Coach


Ashley Sengsouvanh
Dance I, II, III, IV, Hi-Stepper Director

WWJD?

What would Jordan do?

2009 Mallard Staff





Carin Shaughnessy
Content Mastery Instructor



Breanna Sherman
Math I, II, III, Alg. I, Geometry



Chad Springer
Chemistry, Chemistry PAP



Nisa Stevens
Communication Application, Debate I/II



Susan Sumpter
Personal & Family Dev., Interior Design



Dee Sutton
Life Skills Instructor



Michael Svetly
Algebra I, Geometry, AP Statics



Krystina Tellez
Latin I, II, III/IV AP



Marilyn Tennill
Counselor



Melissa Thomas
Reading I, II, English II



Darleen Tucker
Clerical Aide



Lisa Vaughn
Health Science Tech I, II



Ryan Vrabel
US History, Asst. Football Coach



Matt Walker
Principals of Technology, Asst. Football Coach



Cathy West
Pre Calculus PAP, Calculus AP, Computer Science



Kevin Widmer
Life Skills Instructor



Kindra Wimberley
Content Mastery Instructor



Susan Wind
Technology Facilitator



Magdalena Zavala
Journalism, Photojournalism



Mary-Ann Zucknick
Sp.Ed. Instructional Aide

SCHOOL BOARD



Front: Secretary Shorty Mitchell, President James "Bo" Stiles, Vice President Johnny Sanford **Back:** Thomas Martinez, Brad Moss, Assistant Secretary Kathy Cotner, Anita Volek

COUNSELING STAFF



Front: Secretary Darleen Tucker **Middle:** Counselor Wendy Holt, Counselor Marilyn Tennill, Registrar Pam Pekar **Back:** Counseling Intern Whitney Thomas, Connie Janak



All District Honors

Offense
1st Team
Running Back
Tristan Meyer

2nd Team
Running Back
Mark Jackson
Linemen
Jonathan Cervantez

Defense
1st Team
Backs
Mark Jackson

2nd Team
Linebacker
Trent Rojas

Texas Sportswriters Association All-State Football Honor Roll
Tristan Meyer



Front: Cassie Rozacky, Jacob Valverde, Amador Yanez, Lorenzo Crawford Sanford, Chris Martinez, Jonathan Ortiz, Kyle Leeper, Tyler Stance, Matthew Gonzales, Chris McFarlin, Ashley Rivera. **2nd:** Shanice Caldwell, Abel Rincon, Kelbie Stiffiemire, Emilio Pachicano, Alex Bogan, Shermane Caldwell, Trent Rojas, D'Vonte Fisher, Seth Samuelson, Dylan Malan, Jesse Shaw, Jeremy Hernandez, Heather Hegar. **3rd:** Emily Reyes, Julia Trejo, Coaches Matt Walker, Rusty Rohan, James Proctor, Robert Marak, Blake Rives, Head Coach-Athletic Director Rick Cobia, Blake Scheider, Britt Narel, Doug Kuhl, Ryan Vrabel, Justin Boswell, Athletic Trainer Nikki Ray, Kelsey Marek, Alyssa Torres. **Back:** Matthew Hernadez, Tristan Meyer, Alvaro Alderete, Jonathan Cervantez, Davey Pepper, De-Marea Kerley, Matthew Winchester, Eric Brooks, Bryan Mundkowsky, Robert Brenson, Corey Strmiska, Ricky Cobia, Mark Jackson.

Varsity Football

Austin-Reagan: 32-6 (W)
Manor: 21-14 (W)
Elgin: 14-17 (L)
Llano: 7-25 (L)
Cameron: 14-27 (L)
Madisonville: 32-48 (L)
Bryan-Rudder: 49-0 (W)
Navasota: 21-42 (L)
Caldwell: 19-48 (L)
Rockdale: 21-42 (L)



Front: Edward Murray, Rodney Ross, Uilses Avalos, Paul Luna, JP Gonzales, Marvin Cantwell. **2nd:** Patrick Gamez, Concepcion Moreno, Cade Samuelson, Gregory Mixon, Jonathan Holman, Sammy Dominguez, Wendell Jones, Ryan Montalvo, Seth Olivarez. **Back:** Andrew Makare, Marcos Urbina, Daniel Hyzak, Jacoy Barber, Joseph Welton, Steven McAllister, Carter Sakewitz, Johnny Reyna, Justin Fitzgerald, Jared Meyer, Matthew Pescina.

JV Football

Manor: 16-6 (win)
Elgin: Hurricane Ike-No Game
Llano: 34-20 (win)
Cameron: 14-20 (loss)
Madisonville: 42-0 (win)
Bryan-Rudder: 20-14 (win)
Navasota: 6-12 (loss)
Caldwell: 6-34 (loss)
Rockdale: 14-12 (win)



Front: Royal Lucas, Jermiah Rodriguez, Jackie Crittendon, Chris Garza, Mikey McIntire, Mike Aguirre, Austin Chacon, Jalen Kerley, Aaron Wilson, Alex Cruz. **2nd:** Henry Oranday, Jacob Gonzales, Dustin Stefek, Jace Fontenot, Cameron Richardson, Steven Reyes, Holden Hudson, Josh Richter, Kale McQuillen, J.D Anderson, Keith Hair. **Back:** Adrian Smith, Ryan Hill, Dillon Pekar, Moses Guerro, Jarvis Caldwell, Jonathan Martinez, Aaron Gasu, Christian Lawson, Seth Thomas, Hayden Stewart, Ronald Scott, Quinton Ware.

Freshman Football

Manor: 36-22 (win)
Elgin: Hurricane Ike-No Game
Llano: 20-16 (win)
Cameron: 14-20 (loss)
Madisonville: 30-35 (loss)
Bryan-Rudder: 20-14 (win)
Navasota: 30-0 (win)
Caldwell: 6-34 (loss)
Rockdale: 14-12 (win)

Varsity Volleyball



Front: Leah Morales, Harmony Lorentzen. **2nd:** Miressia Steele, Holly Fraizer. **Back:** Jillian McQuillen, Morgan Ward, Stephanie Zachary, Kelsey Marek, Carla Hoffman, Shelby Johnson, Katie Yanez.

Bryan-Rudder:
Match 3-0 (win)
25-3 (win)
25-12 (win)
25-10 (win)

Caldwell:
Match 3-1 (win)
25-20 (win)
25-22 (win)
20-25 (loss)
25-23 (win)

Rockdale:
Match 3-0 (win)
25-8 (win)
25-7 (win)
25-19 (win)

Madisonville:
Match 3-0 (win)
25-21 (win)
27-25 (win)
25-9 (win)

Navasota:
Match 3-0 (win)
25-13 (win)
25-12 (win)
25-12 (win)

Cameron:
Match 3-1 (win)
25-13 (win)
25-21 (win)
13-25 (loss)
25-14 (win)

Caldwell:
Match 1-3 (loss)
23-25 (loss)
13-25 (loss)
25-18 (win)
22-25 (loss)

Madisonville:
Match 1-3 (loss)
25-19 (win)
18-25 (loss)
17-25 (loss)
23-25 (loss)

Rockdale:
Match 3-0
25-5 (win)
25-11 (win)
25-11 (win)

Bryan-Rudder:
Match 3-0 (win)
25-13 (win)
25-16 (win)
25-12 (win)

Navasota:
Match 3-0 (win)
25-8 (win)
25-9 (win)
25-10 (win)

Cameron:
Match 3-1 (win)
25-22 (win)
25-13 (win)
19-25 (loss)
25-11 (win)

JV Volleyball



Front: Addison Turner, Lauren Tucker. **2nd:** Crystal Lopez, Kelsey Aunspaugh, Megan Matuke, Tara Eulenfeld. **Back:** Brittany Buckman, Jessi Lopez, Kristen Cuba, Sloane Cotner, Ashley Heselmeyer, Sonya Schmidt.

Rockdale:
Match 2-0 (win)
25-22 (win)
25-23 (win)

Bryan-Rudder:
Match 2-0 (win)
25-18 (win)
25-14 (win)

Navasota:
Match 1-1 (tied)
21-25 (loss)
25-18 (win)

Cameron:
Match 2-0 (win)
25-17 (win)
25-17 (win)

Caldwell:
Match 0-2 (loss)
23-25 (loss)
19-25 (loss)

Madisonville:
Match 2-0 (win)
25-18 (win)
25-23 (win)

Rockdale:
Match 2-0
25-20 (win)
25-14 (win)

Bryan-Rudder:
Match 2-1 (win)
25-15 (win)
21-25 (loss)
25-17 (win)

Navasota:
Match 2-0 (win)
25-12 (win)
25-13 (win)

Cameron:
Match 0-2 (loss)
27-29 (loss)
15-25 (loss)

Freshman Volleyball



Front: Chelsie Carter, Jordan Trevino. **2nd:** Kelsie Kaatz, Coty Gola, Rhegan Stroup, Katelyn Kuhl. **Back:** Marissa Guzman, Lily Engler, Ashley Burow, Amanda Foster, Amanda Martinez, Ashley Zavala.

Bryan-Rudder:
Match 1-2 (loss)
25-19 (win)
23-25 (loss)
16-25 (loss)

Navasota:
Match 2-0 (win)
25-14 (win)
25-12 (win)

Cameron:
Match 1-2 (loss)
20-25 (loss)
25-14 (win)
10-25 (loss)

Caldwell:
Match 0-2 (loss)
12-25 (loss)
17-25 (loss)

Madisonville:
Match 0-2 (loss)
22-25 (loss)
23-25 (loss)

Bryan-Rudder:
Match 2-0 (win)
25-20 (win)
25-15 (win)

Navasota:
Match 2-0 (win)
25-9 (win)
25-18 (win)

Cameron:
Match 0-2 (loss)
13-25 (loss)
23-25 (loss)

All District Honors

Offensive Player of The Year
Mark Jackson

All District Second Team
Shermane Caldwell

Honorable Mention
Heath O'Banon
De-Marea Kerley
Lorenzo Sanford

Academic All-District
Heath O'Banon
Shermane Caldwell



Front: Lorenzo Crawford, Chris Lucio, Mark Jackson, Chris Martinez, Jacob San Miguel. **Back:** Wes Carter, Robert Brenson, Shermane Caldwell, Terence Jackson, Heath O'Bannon, De-Marea Kerley.

Varsity Basketball

Madisonville: 57-73 (L)
Madisonville: 49-83 (L)
Bryan-Rudder: 84-63 (W)
Navasota: 48-93 (L)
Caldwell: 62-41 (W)
Rockdale: 57-36 (W)
Cameron:
Madisonville: 63-62 (W)
Bryan-Rudder: 60-63 (L)
Navasota: 69-82 (L)
Caldwell: 67-38 (W)
Rockdale: 57-46 (W
Cam-
eron: 71-57 (W)
State Playoffs
Cleveland: 59-80 (L)
Season Record: 7-5



Front: Matthew Gonzales, Seth Olivarez, Marvin Cantwell, John Horsey, Justin Johnson, Edward Murray, Johnny Epperson, Johnny Reyna. **Back:** Jacoy Barber, Devin Douglas, Jake Henderson, Gregory Mixon, Marcus Urbina, Michael Lafler, Alex Jewett, Koby Huckabee.

JV Basketball

Madisonville: 34-39 (L)
Bryan Rudder: 43-60 (L)
Navasota: 30-57 (L)
Rockdale: 41-42 (L)
Cameron: 29-45 (L)
Bryan Rudder: 45-50 (L)
Navasota: 33-65 (L)
Rockdale: 33-37 (L)
Cameron: 48-49 (L)



Front: Aaron Wilson, Isaiah Murray, T.J Flores, Jalen Kerley, Chris Garza, Ryan Hill **Back:** Christian Lawson, Ronald Scott, Quinton Ware, Adrian Smith, Jarvis caldwell, Moses Guerro, Malcom Gault

Freshman Basketball

Madisonville: 52-40 (W)
Bryan Rudder: 35-69 (L)
Navasota: 56-34 (W)
Caldwell: 54-29 (W)
Rockdale: 35-39 (L)
Cameron: 39-37 (W)
Navasota: 64-51 (W)
Caldwell: 36-30 (W)
Rockdale: 25-50 (L)
Cameron: 46-39 (W)



Front: Manayah Miller, Holly Frazier, Millie Shaw, Jessie Hilscher. **Back:** Carla Hoffman, Stephanie Zachary, Kelsey Marek, Chasity Douglas, Shelby Johnson.

Varsity Girls' Basketball

Madisonville:
56-49 (W)
Bryan-Rudder:
78-66 (W)
Navasota:
49-63 (L)
Caldwell:
58-22 (W)
Rockdale:
55-29 (W)
Cameron:
32-50 (L)
Madisonville:
36-44 (L)
Bryan-Rudder:
60-61 (L)
Navasota:
55-43 (W)
Caldwell:
70-34 (W)
Rockdale:
70-31 (W)

State Playoffs
Cleveland:
76-64 (W)
Madisonville:
58-66 (L)

Season Record:
7-4



Front: Shakeytra Ashford, Marissa Guzman, Trishawn Meyer, Courtney Fields, Diana Ramirez, Kiera Maddox, Brittany Maddox. **Back:** Amanda Martinez, Brandie Walls, Lakiesha Simeon, Tanea Bailey, Kadejah Dembo, Malaysia Wright, Lilly Engler.

JV Girls' Basketball

Cameron:
27-25 (W)
Madisonville:
30-29 (W_
Bryan-Rudder:
45-29 (W)
Navasota:
15-27 (L)
Caldwell:
43-31 (W)
Rockdale:
20-15 (W)
Cameron:
37-46 (L)
Bryan Rudder:
53-48 (W)
Navasota:
37-40 (L)
Caldwell:
51-41 (W)
Rockdale:
29-22 (W)



Front: Kendall Wrinkle, Zoey Howard, Brooke Gabel, Brianna Yanez **2nd:** Jeff Carpenter, Kelly Dominguez, Sabrina Atkison, Devyn Tone, Jennifer Townsend, Angel Gonzales, Kyle Leeper **Back:** Stephen Svatek, Drew Weise, Noah Kopit, Nathan Burow, Ryan Jaecks, Conoley Reinhardt, Jordan Kiewit, Seth Samuelson, Thomas Solbach, Antonio Elizando.

Cross-Country

Inks Lake Invitational:
August 23
Lockhart:
September 6
Texas A & M University:
September 13
Cedar Park:
September 20
Cameron:
September 29
McNeil:
October 4
Georgetown:
October 11
Fredericksburg:
October 22
Survivor Run:
October 24
District (Cameron):
October 27
Regionals (Humble):
November 8
State (McNeil):
November 15



Front: Marco Gonzalez, Christian Miravete, Manuel Lopez, Ulises Avalos, Jose Aguilar, Salvador Morales, Jonathan Flores, Jairo Diaz, Matias Salazar, Coach Casey Shuck **Back:** Issac Aparicio, Miguel Mancada, Stephen Svatek, Eric Lopez, Victor Ramirez, Antonio Elizondo, Abel Rincon, Jace Fontenot, Alex Bogan, Rafael Jacobo , Santos Moises Tellez, Jose Lopez, Jose Lopez Leyva .

Boys Soccer

Elgin: January 23
Manor: January 27
Del Valle: January 30
Lockhart: February 3
Smithville: February 6
Giddings: February 10
Elgin: February 17
Manor: February 20
Del Valle: February 24
Lockhart: February 27
Smithville: March 2
Giddings: March 6



Front: Kristen Martinez, Esperanza Ortiz, Karla Vela, Zoey Howard, Diana Ramirez, Megan Holman, Zuleica de la Cerda, Blanca Lopez, Tiffany Salinas. **Back:** Blanca Lopez, Dina Romero, Cindy Arriaga, Mariana Ramirez, Adriana Romero, J'Nae Rathke, Brooke Gabel, Lilly-Ann Engler, Deyanira Castillo, Hailey Kuntschik, Robyn Reyes, Allyson Mathys, Coach Rose Robertson.

Girls Soccer

Elgin: January 23
Manor: January 27
Del Valle: January 30
Westlake Tournament: January 31
Lockhart: February 3
Hutto: February 6
Giddings: February 10
Elgin: February 17
Manor: February 20
Del Valle: February 24
Lockhart: February 27
Giddings: March 6



Front: Felicia Alderete, Megan Holman. **Back:** David Bogan, TJ Florez, Seth Harvey

Golf

Blackhawk Golf Course : January 20

Balcones CC Westwood: February 5th

Lampasas: February 9th

Lampasas: February 12th

Cottonwood Creek Waco Robinson: February 18

Star Ranch Golf Course: February 23rd

Rockdale Invitational: March 4th-5th

Cameron Invitational: March 9th and 12th



Front: Diana Ramirez, Kaylee Nemec, Aaron McQuary, Brianna Yanez, Isabel Yanez. **2nd:** Dylan Weise, Lilly-Ann Engler, Coty Gola, Kayla Baran, Edward Murray. **3rd:** Jessie Hilscher, Kristin Cuba, Maisen Lawhon, Bradley Ging, Jeff Carpenter. **Back:** Braden Gross, Sloane Cotner, Drew Weise,Karyn Roznovak, Hayden Wilkins, Andrew Makare, Coach Vicki Hall.

Tennis

Georgetown Tournament:
January 30
Varsity

Killeen Tournament:
February 6th

Marble Falls:
February 12
JV/Varsity

Waco Robinson:
February 20
Varsity

Georgetown Tournament:
February 24
Freshmen/JV

Granger Tournament:
February 27
Varsity

Granger Tournament:
February 28
Freshmen

Pflugerville Hendrickson Tournament:
March 12
JV

State Team Tennis:
March 12-13
Varsity

Del Valle Tournament:
March 26
JV

Del Valle Tournament:
March 27
Varsity

District Spring Tournament:
April 2-3
JV/Varsity

Regional Meet:
April 20-22

State Meet:
May 11-12



From Left: Alex Bogan, Seth Harvey, Noah Kopit, Corey Terwilliger, Adriana Romayor, Jesse Cervantez, Morgan Ward, Liberty Jones, Taylor Robichaux.

Swimming

David Bogan:
31.56 Y F 50 Free-District 25 Swim Meet
1:18.13 Y F 100 Free-Round Rock Invitational
3:05.60 Y F 200 Free-District 25 Swim Meet

Christian Campbell:
37.47 Y P 50 Free-2008 AISD Capital City Swim Classic
1:36.13 Y F 100 Free-Round Rock Invitational

Wes Carter:
34.81 Y P 50 Free-2008 AISD Capital City Swim Classic
1:22.89 Y F 100 Free-Round Rock Invitational

Jesse Cervantez:
36.89 Y P 50 Free-2008 AISD Capital City Swim Classic
1:28.39 Y F 100 Free-District 25 Swim Meet
3:22.47 Y F 200 Free-District 25 Swim Meet

Seth Harvey:
29.00 Y P 50 Free-2008 AISD Capital City Swim Classic
1:11.74 Y L P 100 Free-Region 7-4A

Ryan Hill:
40.54 Y P 50 Free-2008 AISD Capital City Swim Classic

Liberty Jones:
37.78 Y F 50 Free-Round Rock Invitational
1:35.09 Y F 100 Free-District 25 Swim Meet

Jalen Kerley:
39.42 Y P 50 Free-2008 AISD Capital City Swim Classic

Noah Kopit:
30.09 Y F 50 Free-District 25 Swim Meet
1:13.41 Y F 100 Free-District 25 Swim Meet

Kevin Lindsay:
33.02 Y F 50 Free-Round Rock Invitational
1:20.78 Y F 100 Free-Round Rock Invitational
2:59.60 Y P 200 Free-2008 AISD Capital City Swim Classic

Taylor Robichaux:
41.62 Y F 50 Free-Round Rock Invitational
1:37.08 Y L P 100 Free-2008 AISD Capital City Swim Classic

Adriana Romayer:
43.18 Y P 50 Free-2008 AISD Capital City Swim Classic
1:48.07 Y P 100 Free-2008 AISD Capital City Swim Classic

Corey Terwilliger:
28.42 Y F 50 Free-District 25 Swim Meet
1:15.43 Y F 100 Free-District 25 Swim Meet

Morgan Ward:
30.24 Y F 50 Free-District 25 Swim Meet
1:09.97 Y L P 100 Free-Region 7-4A 7:19.75 Y F 500 Free-District 25 Swim Meet



Front: Kiera Maddox, Alyssa Solis, Courtney Fields, Zoey Howard, Miressia Steel. **2nd:** Sabrina Atkison, Cindy Arriaga, Brittany Buckman, Kelly Dominguez, Angel Gonzales. **3rd:** Mary Smith, Sonya Schmidt, Devyn Tone, Manayah Miller, Daniela Davis. **Back:** Chasity Douglas, Stephanie Zachary, Kendall Wrinkle, Jennifer Townsend, Malaysia Wright, Kelsey Marek.

Girls Track

Fredricksburg:
February 28

Rockdale:
March 6

Elgin:
March 13

Round Rock:
March 20

Texas Relays:
April 3-4

Madisonville:
April 9

Navasota:
April 15-16

Humble:
May 1-2

State meet:
May 15



Front: Jacob Doss, Jonathan Ortiz, David Rodriguez, Eric Camacho. **2nd:** Dillon Pfluger, Bradley Nemec, Cade Samuelson, AJ Gonzales, Samuel Jirasek. **Back:** Jordan Stefek, Ryan Jaecks, Kyle Sakewitz, Tyler Volek, Eric Brooks.

Varsity Baseball

Liberty Hill: February 9
Burnet: February 13
Llano: February 16
Elgin: February 21
Burnet: February 23
Copperas Cove Tournament: February 26-28
Wimberly: March 2
Elgin Tournament: March 5-7
Cameron: March 10
Madisonville: March 13
Bryan Rudder: March 17
Navasota: March 20
Caldwell: March 24
Rockdale: March 27
Cameron: April 3
Madisonville: April 7
Bryan Rudder: April 9
Navasota: April 14
Caldwell: April 17
Rockdale: April 21
San Marcos: April 24



Front: Alex Cruz, Chase Richter, Colton Anderson, Concepcion Moreno. **2nd:** Kale McQuillen, Josh Richter, Mark Jackson, Jacob San Migel. **Back:** Johnny Reyna, Carter Sakewitz, Steven McAllister, Alex Jewett, Ian Rucker.

JV Green

Burnet: February 13
Llano: February 16
Elgin: February 21
Burnet: February 23
Burnet Tournament: February 26-28
Leander Rouse: March 2
Marble Falls Tournament: March 5-7
Cameron: March 10
Madisonville: March 13
Bryan Rudder: March 17
Navasota: March 20
Caldwell: March 24
Rockdale: March 27
Cameron: April 3
Madisonville: April 7
Bryan Rudder: April 9
Navasota: April 14
Caldwell: April 17
Rockdale: April 21
San Marcos: March 20



Front: Mikey McIntire, Jalen Kerley, Dylan Weise, Austin Chacon. **2nd:** Jacob Gonzales, Cameron Richardson, Bradley Ging, Stephen Srnensky. **Back:** Hunter Matysek, Noah Kopit, Quinton Ware, Dylan Pekar, Moses Guerrero, Jarvis Caldwell.

JV White

Burnet: February 13
Llano: February 16
Elgin: February 21
Burnet: February 23
Salado: February 28
Hays: March 3
Cedar Park: March 6
Thrall: March 7
Leander Rouse: March 9
Elgin Tournament: March 12-14
Thorndale: March 24
Rockdale: March 30
Elgin: April 4
Thorndale: April 4
Hays: April 6
Leander Rouse: April 16
Rockdale: April 20
Elgin: April 25



Charles Kemp, Dylan Saucedo, Thomas Solbach, Brandon Negus, Royal Lucas, Ronald Scott, Corey Terwilliger. 2nd: Christian Lawson, Robert Brenson, Justin Fitzgerald, Jordan Kiewit, Andrew Miller. 3rd: Bryan Mundkowsky, Koby Huckabee, Seth Samuelson, Kyle Leeper, Tristan Meyer, Nathan Burow. 4th: Devin Douglas, Mark Jackson, Chris Lucio, Jeff Carpenter, Christian Tone, Lorenzo Crawford Sanford, Elric Martinez. Back: Brandon Dupy, DeMarea Kerley, Aaron Gasu, Jarvis Caldwell, Chris McFarlin, Cameron Dupy.

Track

Match 3-1 (win)
26-24 (loss) 24-26 (win)
23-25 (win) 6-25 (win)

Dripping Springs:
Match 3-2 (win)
25-21 (win) 23-25 (loss)
25-23 (win) 20-25 (loss)
15-5 (win)

Thrall:
Match 2-0 (win)
15-8 (win) 15-0 (win)

Robinson:
Match 2-0 (win)
15-9 (win) 15-6 (win)

Salado:
Match 2-0 (win)
25-15 (win) 26-24 (win)

Rogers:
Match 2-0 (win)
25-18 (win) 25-10 (win)

Cameron:
Match 2-1 (win)
25-15 (win) 24-26 (loss)
25-18 (win)

Killeen Ellison:
Match 3-0 (win)
21-25 (win) 25-11 (win)
8-25 (win)

Lockhart:
Match 3-1 (win)
26-24 (win) 25-16 (loss)
25-18 (win) 23-25 (win)

Crockett:
Match 2-0 (win)
14-25 (win) 25-23 (win)

Brenham:
Match 0-2 (loss)
10-25 (loss) 21-25 (loss)

Shoemaker:
Match 2-0 (win)
25-11 (win) 10-25 (win)

Crockett:
Match 3-0 (win)
15-25 (win) 25-11 (win)
20-25 (win)

Hays Tournament

Lake Travis:
Match 0-2 (loss)
25-18 (loss) 20-25 (loss)

San Marcos:
Match 2-1 (win)
22-25 (loss) 22-25 (win)
15-25 (win)

Poth:
Match 0-2 (loss)
19-25 (loss) 14-25 (loss)

Anderson:
Match 2-0 (win)
21-25 (win) 25-21 (win)

Liberty Hill:
Match 3-1 (win)
25-17 (win) 14-25 (win)
18-25 (loss) 19-25 (win)

Caldwell:
Match 1-3 (loss)
25-23 (loss) 28-26 (win)
25-16 (loss) 13-25 (loss)

Llano:
Match 3-0 (win)
16-25 (win) 25-10 (win)
11-25 (win)

Moody:
Match 3-0 (win)
25-8 (win) 24-18 (win)
25-18 (win)

Rockdale:
Match 3-0 (win)
14-25 (win) 25-14 (win)
12-25 (win)

Cameron:
Match 3-0 (win)
18-25 (win) 25-19 (win)
13-25 (win)

Hutto:
Match 0-3 (loss)
25-22 (loss) 22-25 (loss)
27-25 (loss)

Rockdale:
25-18 (win) 22-25 (win)
25-8 (win)

Liberty Hill:
Match 3-0 (win)
14-25 (win) 25-15 (win)
19-25 (win)

Cameron:
Match 3-0 (win)
12-25 (win) 25-19 (win)
19-25 (win)



Front: Brittany Wilkerson, Chelsie Carter, Brianna Yanez, Megan Matuke, Brandie Walls. **2nd:** Katie Yanez, Jillian McQuillen, Ashley Burow, Tara Eulenfeld. **3rd:** Kelsie Kaatz, Shelby Johnson, Karyn Roznovak, Rhegan Stroup. **Back:** Coaches Nathan Gray, Hailey Hall, Melvin Jenkins.

Varsity Softball

Hutto:
February 17

Marble Falls Tournament:
February 19-21

Robinson:
February 24

Round Rock Tournament:
February 27-28

Lehman:
March 3

Florence:
March 6

Cameron:
March 10

Taylor Duck Invitational:
March 12-14

Madisonville:
March 13

Bryan-Rudder:
March 17

Navasota:
March 20

Caldwell:
March 24

Rockdale:
March 28

San Marcos:
March 31

Cameron:
April 3

Madisonville:
April 7

Bryan-Rudder:
April 9

Navasota:
April 14

Caldwell:
April 17

Rockdale:
April 21



Front: Kasi Lozano, Marissa Guzman, Jordan Trevino, Coty Gola, Jessica Humphreys. **2nd:** Sabrina Atkinson, Ashley Zavala, Katelyn Kuhl, Jessi Lopez. **3rd:** Kelsie Kaatz, Samantha Pachicano, Lauren Standifer, Daniela Davis, Amanda Martinez, Rhegan Stroup. **Back:** Coaches Nathan Gray, Hailey Hall, Melvin Jenkins.

JV Softball

Hutto:
February 17

Robinson:
February 24

Lehman:
March 3

Cameron:
March 10

Madisonville:
March 13

Bryan-Rudder:
March 17

New Braunfels Tournament:
March 19-21

Navasota:
March 20

Caldwell:
March 24

Connally Tournament:
March 26

Rockdale:
March 28

San Marcos:
March 31

Cameron:
April 3

Madisonville:
April 7

Bryan-Rudder:
April 9

Navasota:
April 14

Caldwell:
April 17

Rockdale:
April 21

THS-TV Producer
Seth Marcon (12)

"It gets hectic at times because I have to make sure everyone else is on track."

THS-TV



Front: Jenna Howard, Andreina Calzada, Mrs. Melanie Catuogno (Adviser). **2nd:** Claire Berger, Matthew Ballard, Adrian Torres. **Back:** Nathan Burrow, Jordan Kiewit, Seth Marcon, Tristan Meyer.

FCCLA



Front: Zulecia De La Cerda, Ana Ramirez. **2nd:** Esperanza Ortiz, Deyanira Castillo, Shaneka Hill,Ivy Albright (President), Ms. Candice Crider (Sponsor). **Back:** Emily Thorpe, Tonya Sorrells, Lucas Orosco (Vice President), Edward Murray, Edward Barrera. **Not pictured:** Susan Sumpter (Sponsor)

SPANISH CLUB



Front: Senora Lorraine Bustamante (Sponsor). **2nd:** Aaron Leeper, Jacob Gonzales, Abigail Luna, Ana Hernandez, Chelsie Carter, Ulises Avalos, Taylor Robichaux. **3rd:** Briana Bohac (President), Sabrina Atkinson, Tara Eulenfeld (Historian), Ryan Montavo, Zach Talavera, Mary Griffin. **Back:** Lucas Alderete, Jonathan Gonzales (Vice President), Brandon Dupy (Treasurer), Jordan Kiewit, Andrew Makare, Christino Arzola, Concepcion Moreno.

ART CLUB



Front: Abey Orandey, Katherine Rodriguez, Kalen Kruse, Jordan Eppinett (Treasurer), Adriana Carrizales, Victor Ortiz, Daphne MacCauley, Josh Bucek, Andrea Cortez, Nathan Gray (Surpreme Dictator). **2nd:** Richie Gonzales, Gustavo De Hoyos, Daniel Ochoa, Briana Bohac, Chris Hill (Historian), Nick Hall, Omar Ventura, Oscar Rodriguez, Mary Lefner, Zach Talavera. **Back:** Ryan Schrader, Tyler Susan, Andrew Makare, Alex Aminzadeh (Vice President), Brandon Dupy, Conoley Reinhardt, James Fields, Quade MacCauley, Dell Buckalew (President), Ryan Montalvo.

PEER MEDIATORS



Front: Trinia Thompson, Abigail Luna, Natalie Ochoa, Mrs. Wendy Holt (Sponsor). **2nd:** Valasha Cummings, Chelsea Hernandez,Natalia Ramos. **Back:** Tonya Sorrells, Lucas Alderete, Dalton Cummings, Felicia Alderete.

SKILLS USA



Front: Eric Vasquez, Jacob Jenson, Chris Currie, Mr. Ed Johnson (Sponsor). **2nd:** Morgen Sprenger, Dedrick Williams, Antoine Alderete. **Back:** Aaron Kalka, Rodney Ross, Max Villanueva, Spencer Nevins.

HI-STEPPERS



Front: Kristyne Baran (Major), Glenna Tharp (Major), Danielle Zavala (Colonel), Brittany Segern (Lt. Colonel), Victoria Ochoa (Major). **2nd:** Kacey Estrada, Sandra Rangel, Michelle Campos, Fabiola Sanchez (Historian), Andreina Calzada (President), Kari Alderete, Marissa Chavana. **Back:** Maria Torres, Aimee Sanchez, Chelsea Hernandez, Stephanie Gutierrez, Maria Rios, Cathy Camarada, Julie Martinez, Ashley Estrada, Mrs. Ashley Sengsouvanh (Director), Carin Gonzalez, Alexandra Orozco, Amber Gamboa, Valasha Cummings, Tiffany Stovall.

VARSITY CHOIR



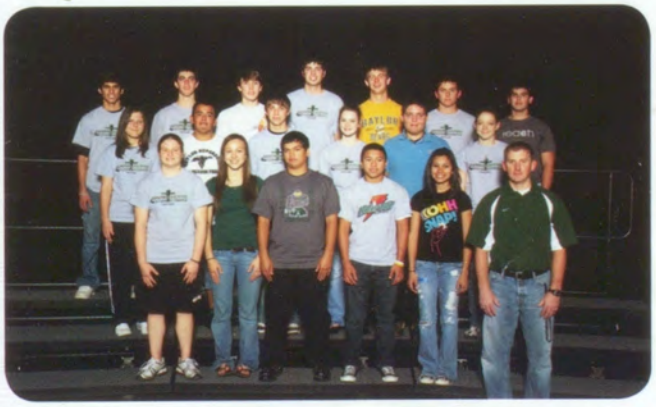
First: Maria Torres, Kara Gonzales, Cathy Camarda, ChaCha Stowers, Mr. Casidy Castillo-Wilson (Director). **2nd:** Taylor Robichaux, Samantha Howard (Treasurer), Brandie Lewis, Fabiola Sanchez (President), Christian Campbell. **Back:** Jonathan Gonzales, Ryan Hill (Secretary), Natalia Ramos (Vice President), Theodor Vargas, C.J. Clifton, Brandon Dupy (Pianist).

JV CHOIR



Front: Roland Meyers, Destiny Popham, Noemi Cardenas, Tichina Parker, Mariah Cisneros, Mr. Casidy Castillo-Wilson (Director). **2nd:** Ashleigh Falcon, Marissa Rodriguez, Paul Luna, Stephanie Schwan, Amecia Miller. **Back:** Jacoy Barber, Brandon Kruse, Taylor Donovan, Johnathan Schoonrock, Beth Lowrance, Tyler Arabie.

FCA



Front: Kasi Lozano, Sabrina Atkinson, David Rodriguez, Michael McIntire, Jordan Trevino, Coach Matt Walker (Sponsor). **2nd:** Katelyn Kuhl, Henry Oranday, Cameron Dupy, Austyn Savage, Ryan Montalvo, Tara Eulenfeld. **Back:** Holden Hudson, Andrew Makare, Corey Terwilliger, Brandon Dupy, Tyler Volek, Alex Bogan, Zach Talavera.

JV Choir Member

Beth Lowrance (9)

"We goof off in class, but we always get our work done."

Debate Club Member
Julia Trejo (9)

"I like arguing with people."

SCIENCE CLUB



Front: Kelsey Aunspaugh, Stacey Platz, Courtney Fields. **2nd:** Addison Turner, Rachel Weison, Sabrina Atkinson, Krista Seidel **3rd:** Michelle Smith (Treasurer), Sonya Schmidt, Camryn Stoll, Taylor Robichaux, Katie Yanez. **4th:** Devyn Tone (Secretary), Tara Eulenfeld, Ryan Montalvo, Matthew Hernandez, Concepcion Moreno, Mr. Chad Springer (Sponsor). **Back:** Lucas Alderete, Andrew Makare, Koby Huckabee, Brandon Dupy (President), Jordan Kiewit, Zach Talavera, Christino Arzola.

THEATER CLUB



Front: Ashley Rivera, Krista Seidel, Jenna Howard. **2nd:** Jordan Eppinet, Brandee Carlson, Fabiola Sanchez, Mr. Jonathan Alonso (Sponsor). **Back:** Camron Dupy, Brooke Gabel, Chris Hill, Laura Wiegmann, Seth Marcon.

DEBATE CLUB



Front: Amanda Foster, Megan Holman (President), Chelsea Hernandez (Vice President), Amanda Martinez, Mrs. Nisa Stevens (Sponsor). **2nd:** Natalie Eason (Treasurer), Kendal Andrews, Jasmine Barber, Fabiola Sanchez (Secretary), Julie Martinez. **Back:** Gerald Dobbs, Antonio Elizando, Jace Fontenot, Seth Thomas, Julia Trejo, Zach Talavera.

NATIONAL HISPANIC INSTITUTE



Front: Andreina Calzada (Senior Rep.), Megan Holman (Senior Rep.) **2nd:** Ashley Rivera (Historian), Mariana Ramirez (Treasurer), Marissa Chavana, David Rodriguez. **3rd:** Zach Talavera, Fabiola Sanchez (President), Brandy Foster (Vice President), Natalia Ramos. **Back:** Matthew Hernandez (Parliamentarian), Jonathan Cervantez, Jesse Cervantez, Ryan Gonzales (Junior Rep.), Mr. Jonathan Alonso (Sponsor).

GERMAN CLUB



Front: Krissy Hicks, Courtney Svatek, Lauren Tucker, Krista Seidel (2nd VP), Isabel Yanez, Brandee Carlson (President). **2nd:** Jose Salvador Morales, Tori Fail (Secretary), Kayla Beran, Addy Turner, Katelyn Kuhl, Elric Martinez, Mrs. Leslie Decker (Sponsor). **3rd:** Lillyann Engler, Shannon Vongerichten, Camryn Stoll, Ashley Burow, Lindsey Teggeman, Justin Patschke (Treasurer), Damian Alayon, **4th:** Tiffany Salinas, Matt Thopson, Nick Hull, Cardray Payne, Stephen Svatek, Allyson Matthys (Parliamentarian), Michael Carlson, Bradley Ging. **Back:** Maisen Lawhon, Samantha Pachicano, Lucas Alderte, Trevor Grey, Ryan Jaecks, Brittany Fail (1st Historian), Jessie Hilscher (1st VP), Morgan Ward, Laura Wiegmann

FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA



Front: Aaron Leeper, Aaron McQuary, Ashley Wilson, Addy Turner (Secretary). **2nd**: Ashley Burow, Zach Talavera, Ryan Montalvo, Matt Thomas, Camryn Stoll (Secretary) **Back:** Blake Haley, Nathan Burow (President), Ryan Jaecks, Kaleb Chambers, Seth Marcon, Catie Stewert (Reporter).

SOPHOMORE CLASS OFFICERS



Front: Gail Holman (Secretary), Addison Turner (Parliamentarian), Angel Gonzales. **Back:** Shaneka Hill, Tonya Sorrells, Heather Hegar, Kasi Lozano.

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND



Front: Zoey Howard, Courtney Svatek. **2nd:** Rufina Polsek, Heather Hegar, Courtney Fields. **3nd:** Liberty Jones, Devyn Tone, Kasi Lozano, Jessica Humphreys. **Back:** Austyn Savage, Corey Terwilliger, Seth Marcon, Zachary Lindsey, Stephen Svatek. Not Pictured: Jenna Howard.

COTTON BOLL



Front: Courtney Svatek (Editor), Jenna Howard. **2nd:** Rachel Weison (Design Editor), Tiffany Herklotz, Briana Bohac, Mrs. Dawn Fischer (Adviser), **3rd:** Victoria Gonzalez, Megan Chacon, Trent Rojas, Josh Bucek. **Back:** Jessie Hilscher, Becca Carnes, Andrew Jones, Chris Hill, Kevin Lindsay (Business Manager).

FRESHMAN CLASS OFFICERS



Front: Coty Gola (Treasurer). **Back:** Jessica Humphreys (President), Jordan Trevino (Secretary).

Odyssey of the Mind Member
Austyn Savage (9)

"I love meeting new people at competitions. They always have fun stuff for us to do."

UFC Member
Corey Terwilliger (11)

"I feel like a dog when I have the frisbee."

SENIOR CLASS OFFICERS



Front: Tyler Volek (Vice President), Rachel Weison (Secretary). **Back:** Mariana Ramirez (President), Andreina Calzada (Treasurer).

LATIN CLUB



Front: Stacey Platz (Scribe), Naomi Hundley (Historian). **2nd:** Kaylee Nemec, Gail Holman, Kelsey Walton. **Back:** Mrs. Krystina Tellez (Sponsor) Zach Lindsay (Sr. Consul), Rebekah Murphy (Jr. Consul), Natalie Ochoa.

HOSA



Front: Gail Holman, Leticia Marmolejo, Tina Bradford (Secretary), Mrs. Lisa Vaughan (Sponsor). **2nd:** Cassie Rozacky, Heather Hegar, Lorena Gonzales, Morgen Sprenger, Tiffany Salinas. **Back:** Amber Luna, Janaye Hall (Treasurer), Lucas Alderete (President), Courtney Sprenger, Dulce Araujo, Ashley Rivera.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE CLUB



Front: Christian Tone, Kasi Lozano, Addison Turner, Aaron McQuary. **2nd:** Corey Terwilliger, Chase Richter, Jesse Shaw, Kyle Leeper, Colton Anderson, Coach Matt Walker (Sponsor). **Back:** Ian Rucker, Andrew Makare, Nathan Burow, Ryan Jaecks, Tyler Volek, Brandon Dupy. Not Pictured: Braden Gross (Vide President), Jeff Carpenter (President).

CHESS CLUB



Front: Stephen Schroeder, James Clifton, Mr. Amin Lalani (Sponsor) **Back:** Max Beckwith, James Bunch, Travis Krovar.

INTERACT



Front: Marcella Valladares (Vice President), Mariana Ramirez, Tiffany Salinas, Andreina Calzada (Secretary), Camryn Stoll. **2nd:** Kelsey Davis (President), Briana Bohac, Brandon Dupy, Mallory Strmiska, Samantha Howard, Mrs. Marilyn Tennill (Sponsor). **Back:** Concepcion Moreno, Anthony Hernandez, Ashleigh Veit, Zach Talavera (Vice President), Devyn Tone, Natalia Ramos.

ACADEMIC DECATHALON



Front: Courtney Svatek. **2nd:** Rebekah Murphy, Megan Holman, Michelle Smith, Rufina Polasek. **Back:** Zach Lindsay, Trevor Gray, Jared Delony, Kevin Lindsay, Seth Marcon. Not Pictured: Mrs. Vicki Rowe (Adviser), Dalton Cummings, Simon Martinez.

BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS OF AMERICA



Front: Holly Frazier, Brandee Carlson, Krista Seidel. **2nd:** Maia Richter, Camryn Stoll, Jillian McQuillen, Mrs. Barbara Leschber (Sponsor). **Back:** Cassie Rozacky, Briana Bohac, Lucas Alderete, Kelsey Davis, Morgan Ward.

MALLARD STAFF



Front: Mariana Ramirez, Carin Gonzales, Jenna Howard, Rachael Voytek, Marissa Chavana, Andreina Calzada. **2nd:** Jessica Humphreys, Brandy Foster, Lindsey Teggeman, Lisa Marie Farmer, Ashley Rivera (Reference Editor), Marcella Valladares, Mrs. Melanie Catuogno (Adviser). **3rd:** Becca Cocke, Allyson Matthys (Design Editor), Alex Sarp (Editor in Chief), Kelsey Davis, Maia Richter, Jonathan Gonzales. **Back:** Seth Marcon, Abel Rincon, Blake Haley (Business Manager), Mallory Strmiska, Greg Carter, Brandon Dupy.

SILVER CORD



Front: Michael McIntire, Jordan Trevino, Brittnay Fail, Destiny Lorentzen, Camryn Stoll, Ashley Rivera, Brandon Dupy, Jordan Kiewit, Nicholas Hall. **2nd:** Antonio Elizondo, Ashley Zavala, Chaston Matta, Karyn Roznovak, Rachel Weison, Krista Seidel, Heather Hegar, Angel Gonzales, Travis Kovar, Mary Griffin. **3rd:** Moses Guerrero, TJ Florez, Chelsie Carter, Matthew Hernandez, Concepcion Moreno, Courtney Fields, Michelle Smith, Justin Patschke, Paul Smith. **4th:** Amanda Martinez, Lexie Orozco, Jessica Humphreys, Seth Harvey, Jace Fontenot, Elric Marinez, Shannon VonGerichten, Naricela Fernandez, Kendall Wrinkle, Late Clark. **5th:** Kaylee Nemec, Bradley Ging, Katelyn Kuhl, Hailey Kuntschik, Tiffany Salinas, Andrew Makare, J'nae Rathke, Aaron McQuary, Austyn Savage, Mary Smith. **Back:** Charles Kemp, Julia Trejo, Naomi Hundley, Michael Carlson, Marisssa Guzman, Lillyann Engler, Hannah Weison, Daphne Maccauley, Holden Hudson, Stephen Svatek.

NHS Vice President
Andreina Calzada (12)

"I like helping people. It makes me feel good."

JUNIOR CLASS OFFICERS



Front: Claire Berger (Vice President), Tara Eulenfeld (Treasurer). **Back:** Leah Morales (President), Felicia Alderete (Secretary).

QUEEN'S COURT



Front: Marissa Rodriguez (Historian), Paige Caruthers, Lisa Marie Farmer, Lashaye Deary. La'Te Clark (President). **Back:** Natalie Ochoa (Secretary), Jasmine Barber, Cresia Oliver, Essence Brown, Capreshia Blakely, Taylor Donovan (Vice President).

STUDENT SENATE



Front: Heather Hegar, Gail Holman, Selena Olguin, Andreina Calzada, Devyn Tone. **2nd:** Morgan Ward, Mariana Ramirez, Rachel Weison, Tara Eulenfeld, Kasi Lozano, Mrs. Dawn Fischer (Adviser). **Back:** Brandon Dupy, Tyler Volek, Ryan Montalvo, Lucas Alderete, Zach Talavera, Kevin Lindsay. Not Pictured: Alex Sarp.

JUNIOR HISTORIANS



Front: Naomi Hundley, Courtney Svatek (Secretary). **2nd:** Brandee Carlson (Treasurer), Rufina Polasek, Mr. Paul Quarles (Sponsor). **Back:** Kevin Lindsay (President), Lucas Alderete (Vice President), Zach Lindsay, Trevor Gray.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY



Front: Megan Holman, Courtney Svatek, Brandee Carlson (Parliamentarian), Krista Seidel, Rachel Weison (Treasurer), Jenna Howard, Andreina Calzada (Vice President). **2nd:** Lindsey Teggeman, Michelle Smith, Brooke Gabel, Devyn Tone, Ana Hernandez, Mariana Ramirez, Leah Morales, Lauren Tucker, Mrs. Gloria Schuldt (Sponsor). **3rd:** Jillian McQuillen, Camryn Stoll, Morgan Ward, Matt Hernandez, Brittany Fail, Zach Talavera, Bradly Nemec, Mallory Strmiska, Allyson Matthys, Alex Sarp. **Back:** Claire Berger, Johnny Reyna, Kevin Lindsay (President), Jordan Kiewit, Jordan Stefek, Ryan Jaecks, Tyler Volek, Brandon Dupy, Sam Jirasek, Trevor Gray, Rebekah Murphy. Not Pictured: Rowdesha Scott.

JV CHEERLEADERS



Front: Selena Olguin, Hannah Weison, Amanda Williams, Gail Holman, Naomi Hundley. **Back:** Heather Hegar (Captain), Mariah Ojeda, Liberty Jones (Co-Captain), Ms. Nicole Caffey (Coach), Alyssa Torres, Jessica Humphreys, Rhegan Stroup.

VARSITY CHEERLEADERS



Front: Miressia Steele, Brandee Carlson (Captain), Krista Seidel. **Back:** Alex Sarp, Ashley Rivera. Becca Carnes, Ms. Nicole Caffey (Coach), Claire Berger, Rachel Weison (Co-Captain), Maia Richter.

BAND



Front: David Motl (Director), Kendall Prinz (Director), Ashleigh Falcon, Michelle Smith, Krystal Estrada, Heather Luna, Courtney Svatek, Kevin Lindsay, Adriana Romayor, Lindsey Teggeman, Abigail Luna, Ariel Lopez, Chelsea Kemp, Kristina Gaudin (Director), Mr. Jacques Brown (Director), Chris Montemayor (Director). **2nd:** Nathan Jones, Thomas Solbach, Catie Stewart, Blanca Lopez, Shelbie Stegall, Augustine Cervantes, Lucas Alderete, Devyn Tone, Tanea Bailey, Ashley Bengtson, Alyssa Garza, Emily Reyes, Ana Hernandez, Lorena Gonzalez, Marcy Rodriguez, Trevor Gray, Shannon VonGericten, Felicia Alderete, Kristina Bourdeau. **3rd:** Travis Kovar, Josh Hannington, Megan Holman, Laura Gonzalez, Rebekah Murphy, Alejandro Sanchez, Rufina Polasek, Samantha Howard, Tiffany Salinas, Tyler Volek, Josiah Kernell, Allyson Matthys, Anthony Moreno, Salvador Morales, Anthony Hernandez, Connor Vanecek, Ulises Avalos, Antonio Elizondo, Stephen Svatek. **4th:** Deyanira Castillo, Jonathon Holman, Kendall Wrinkle, Ruby Pumphrey, Mallory Strmiska, Taylor Matin, Conoley Reinhardt, Jared Delony, Alex Lanoux, Jonathan Gonzales, Gabe Montemayor, Maricela Fernandez, Arthur Boussart, Daniel Duran, Paul Smith, Mark Chaidez, Jenay Cantwell, Theodor Vargas, Jesse Cervantez, Justine Patschke, Francisco Araujo, Jake Lanoux, Charles Kemp, Damian Alayon, Zack Lindsay. **Back:** Elric Martinez, Jace Fontenot, Seth Harvey, Mary Griffin.

BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS OF AMERICA



Front: Edward Barrera, Justin Koehler, Edward Murray. **Back:** Mrs. Susanna Lawson (Sponsor), Ana Araujo, Maryl Williams.

Varsity Cheerleader
Claire Berger (11)

"Going to competition this year was interesting. It was a new experience."

a

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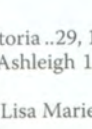

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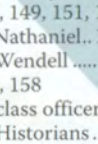

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colophon

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Mallard Policies

Statement of Purpose

By virtue of the fact that the yearbook is a student conceived, planned, and produced publication, as well as a product of an academic program,there are certain legal and ethical guidelines which the staff follows. The 2009 Mallard and its staff are protected by and bound to the principles of the First Amendment and other protections and limitations afforded by the Constitution and the various court decisions implementing those principles. By not interfering with the publication content, school officials are therefore not liable or responsible for the content.

Journalistic in nature, the yearbook informs and entertains its audience in a broad, fair, and accurate manner on all subjects that affect readers in the areas of academics, community, groups, sports, and student life. The entire student body of 1000 prospective readers constitutes the book's target audience. Secondary audiences include school personnel, community members, and scholastic journalism groups.

Since this policy is revised and updated each year, all parts of the policy apply only to the 2009 Mallard, Volume 63 of the Taylor High School Yearbook.

Coverage

Content focuses on coverage which will meet the wants and needs of the majority of the student body, so long as those wants and needs are not contradictory to the principles of scholastic journalism.

The staff encourages constructive criticism of any part of the book, both before and after publication. However, final authority for the content of the yearbook rests solely in the hands of the yearbook students under the guidance of their adviser.

No material which is libelous, irresponsible, and/or an advocate of illegal activity will be published. No material which the editor and/or adviser deems in poor taste will be printed. The content coverage period lasts from the summer before school starts to early March,when the yearbook is completed. Events occurring past this date are included in a summer supplement which is mailed to all purchasers of the book and which attaches to the book in a seamless and professional manner. The yearbook staff strives to include Mallard staff members no more than any other student would be covered; that is, only through class portraits, group photos, and in pages specifically about the yearbook staff. The staff strives to include every student in the yearbook at least once; it is not always possible to do so. While the yearbook staff strives to include all official school sports and organizations as equitably as possible, the ultimate decision for page allocation is decided by the editor and adviser. All faculty, coaches, and staff are notified of publication deadlines and the yearbook staff makes its best effort to work with all groups to maximize coverage.

Portrait photography

All students and school personnel must have their portraits taken by the official school photographer,Photo Texas, to be included in the yearbook. All students and school personnel are afforded at least two opportunities to have their portraits taken or retaken. Seniors who do not have their portraits taken on or before the announced deadline in October will not have their portrait included in the yearbook. Seniors are given the opportunity to select their yearbook pose from among their proofs. If no pose is selected, the studio selects one. The yearbook staff does not have the ability to change this selection. Occasional errors may occur at the photography studio that are not the responsibility of the yearbook staff.

Sensitive issues

Should a student or school personnel die during the current coverage period, the staff will treat the death in a professional, tasteful, and respectful manner. A modest ad space will be allocated to a memoriam. Family and friends may also purchase advertising space for additional tributes.

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All advertising accepted by the staff must meet the same guidelines as editorial content. Acceptance of advertising does not constitute an endorsement by the Mallard staff or adviser, Taylor High School's administration, faculty, staff, or students, or the Taylor Independent School District. Senior advertisements are sold from the beginning of the school year until December. The Mallard staff discourages advertisements which include boyfriends/girlfriends because advertisements cannot be removed or changed after submission. Advertisements will be designed by the yearbook staff. Collages will not be accepted. Photos and content may be provided in print or digital format. The quality of photo reproduction in the advertisement will depend upon the quality of the photos provided.

The yearbook staff does not guarantee the safe return of photos submitted for advertisements.

client satisfaction

Because the yearbook is a student production, complete satisfaction is not guaranteed to the purchaser. Refunds will not be given for minor errors such as poor portrait quality, misspelled names, etc. Occasional printing errors may occur at the publishing house that are not the responsibility of the yearbook staff. Books returned for refund must be free of damage or writing. Once returned, the book becomes property of the staff and can be resold at the current price. Exchanges can be made for books with flaws if no writing appears in the book. If a book has been written in, then no exchange can be made unless the adviser determines the flaw in the book is of major proportion, i.e., page missing or upside down. All refunds and exchanges are made at the discretion of the adviser. It is the responsibility of the buyer to provide proof of purchase if the yearbook staff has no record of a sale. Valid proof of purchase includes a valid receipt, cancelled check, or credit card statement. The staff cannot hand out any yearbook without proof of purchase. Yearbooks will not be mailed unless the postage is paid by the purchaser. Buyers may be asked to provide photo identification when picking up a yearbook.

Pricing

Students who do not purchase a book prior to April 1 will not be guaranteed to receive a book. A limited number of books are sold upon delivery for $60 on a first-come, first-served basis. A letter including details of yearbook pricing, advertisement, and deadlines is included in the first-day packets given to each student. Several purchase offers are mailed to students' homes by the yearbook company. This information is also available from the yearbook office or on the district website (www.taylorisd.org) at any time.

Photo manipulation

Photographs will only be altered or manipulated by the staff to improve the quality of the photo or achieve a specific artistic effect; i.e., desaturating the background of a photo to black and white, feathering the edges. Photos may be combined to create a montage background. No photos will be manipulated in a manner that changes the meaning of their content.

editor's note

2009 Mallard Readers,

So much has happened this year. When you flip through these pages my hope is that you choose to remember. Remember the tragedies because they make us stronger. Remember the icky cafeteria food because one day you won't have to eat it anymore. Remember the mistakes you've made so that you learn from them, and remember the good times because they will always make you smile. As I correct the spelling of your name or find a way to track you down and get a quote from you, I am reminded that everyone is different. If you take nothing else from this school year, please understand that you are you. There may be people with the same shirt or last name, but there is only one you. You were put on this earth for a reason, and as the years pass, I challenge you to find that reason. Make the most of every opportunity and don't forget to always stay true to yourself. That being said, I could not be happier that this year is over. This book has been the hardest task for me, but hey, we did it! I'll never forget the first day when I read the contract and stumbled over my words because I was so nervous. Just when I was beginning to doubt my ability to lead, though, things started to fall into place. Mallory, thanks for listening to me vent. Abel, thanks for understanding when I was stressed and needed a shoulder to cry on. Mrs. C, you have taught me so much about life (and Photoshop!). Thank you for being patient with me. To the rest of the staff, thank you for cooperating with me in this learning experience and going to get me food when my brain would no longer function. This book has truly been a group effort and I could not be more proud of the final product.

Alex Sarp

2009 Mallard Staff

ALEX SARP
Editor in Chief



Did I sound mean?

ALLYSON MATTHYS
Design Editor



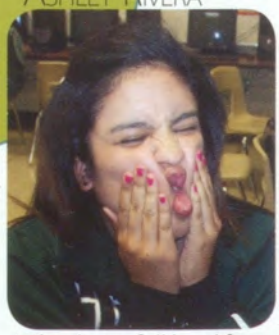
Wait...there's more.

BRANDY FOSTER
Ads Editor



Ok, like, seriously.

ASHLEY RIVERA
Reference Editor



Why do we fall hard for those B.U. boys?

MRS. MELANIE CATUOGNO
Adviser



Can somebody get me a tea?

MALLORY STRMISKA



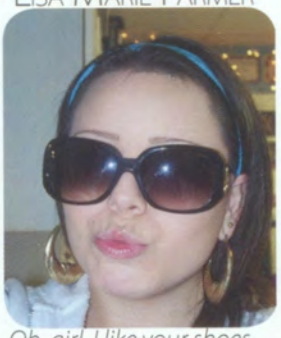
Team Jacob.

BLAKE HALEY



At least I'm honest.

LISA MARIE FARMER



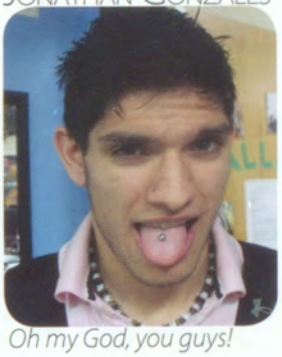
Oh, girl. I like your shoes.

JENNA HOWARD



Girl, I will CUT you.

JONATHAN GONZALES



Oh my God, you guys!

BECCA COCKE



I hate writing captions.

MARIANA RAMIREZ



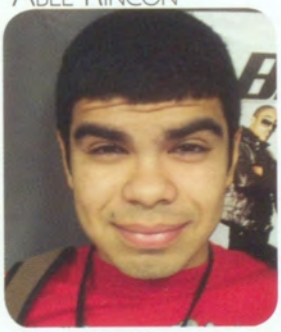
Who took camera 1?

RACHAEL VOYTEK



I can barely even hold my pencil.

ABEL RINCON



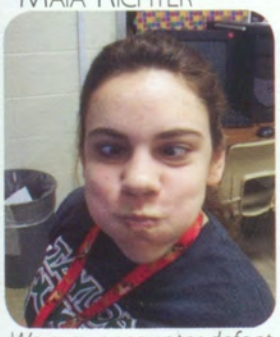
Why are you so crank?

CARIN GONZALES



Everyday is a new day for me and I don't care...

MAIA RICHTER



We may encounter defeat but we must not be defeated.

MARCELLA VALLADARES



So, Kelsey is not here again.

ANDREINA CALZADA



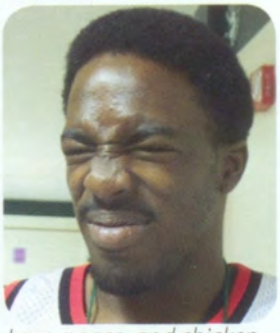
Oh, my.

MARISSA CHAVANA



Ashley, can you hug me?

GREGORY CARTER



Love, peace, and chicken grease.

BRANDON DUPY



I'm not a funny guy.

LINDSEY TEGGEMAN



Um...

JESSICA HUMPHREYS



What can I do?

KELSEY DAVIS



We're best friends now!











1 Miss Coco. During the book fair in the library, library aide Tara Eulenfeld prepares coffee, hot chocolate, and muffins to sell to students. ," Tara said. The theme of the book fair was "Starbooks". **2 Band of Gold.** Leo Sandoval (10) shows off his skull tattoo. "It didn't really hurt while he was doing the outlining, but when he started the shading, it really started to hurt!" Leo said. Instead of going to a professional tattoo shop, Leo had one of his friends do the job for him. **3 Pie Guys.** While in food science, Marvin Cantwell (10), Jordan Kiewit (11), Wendell Jones (10) and Jordan Stefek (11), make pizza. "My favorite is ham pizza," Marvin said. Food science classes cooked every Thursday. **4 Tacky Tuesday.** For spirit week, students gather in the courtyard to take silly pictures on "Tacky Tuesday". "I try to dress up everyday so it was fun to just go wild," Liberty Jones (9) said. Spirit week dress up days were decided by the Student Senate. **5 Roughin' It.** Athletic girls participate by playing flag football in the Turkey Bowl held every year around Thanksgiving. "We thought we would win because we had plays," Kelly Dominguez (12) said. The freshmen and seniors were on teams and the juniors and sophmores were on teams.

Tick tock. The year is coming to an end. The production of this book is in its final seconds and you are a part of it. Amid the sea of faces, you will find yourself. Maybe this year has brought a new found sense of independence or led you to a path of self-discovery. Maybe you've experienced a first kiss, got your first car, started a new job, quit texting in class, made new friends, won an award, or took the last test of your high school career. All things happen for a reason. Some we may understand, some we may not. In essence, high school is only a part of the big picture. In ten years it won't matter if you didn't go to the tardy tank when you were supposed to. In two years it won't matter what you wore for picture day. What will matter is the lives you have influenced, the people who have influenced yours, and the person you have become because of those experiences. Whether you were voted Mr. THS or thought of as the biggest geek in school, the experience has shaped you. Remember to stay true to yourself. There is life after high school. *It's about time.*



Running Free. Nick Hull (11), Elric Martinez (10), Chelsea Hernadez (10), and Kendall Wrinkle(10) run outside after the day ends. "Every time the final bell rings I am so ready to leave," Elric said.

AcDec



Know It All. For the third year in a row the Academic Decathelon team won the state tittle. "Durning Acdec season we didn't have lives, and didn't see our parents. We spent most of our time at Mrs. Rowe's house. Most people say we are crazy for doing it, but I learned a lot and I made a lot of new friends," Rebekah Murphy said. The Acdec team always works very hard.

odyssey of the mind



This Is OM! Jenna Howard (12) stands as a Trojan at the Odyssey of the Mind competition. "I felt stupid dancing around in a homemade costume in front of so many people," Jenna said.

Ready To Take On The World. For the second year in a row the OM team advanced to the world competition. "It was a challenge and everytime it got harder and harder. It was an acomplishment being able to get that far," Stephen Svatek (9) said. At World, the team built an 18 gram balsa wood structure which held 970 lbs.



educator of the year



Candice Crider

Choir

Corey Terwilliger (11) - 1st Division Rating (Superior)
Cha Cha Stowers (11) - 2nd Division Rating (Above Average)
Taylor Robichaux (10) - 3rd Division Rating (Average)

UIL events



U to the I to the L. Seth Thomas (9), Fabiola Sanchez (12), and Megan Holman (12) wait their turn to debate at a UIL meet in Navasota. Students were successful in a variety of events.

1 ACT PLAY

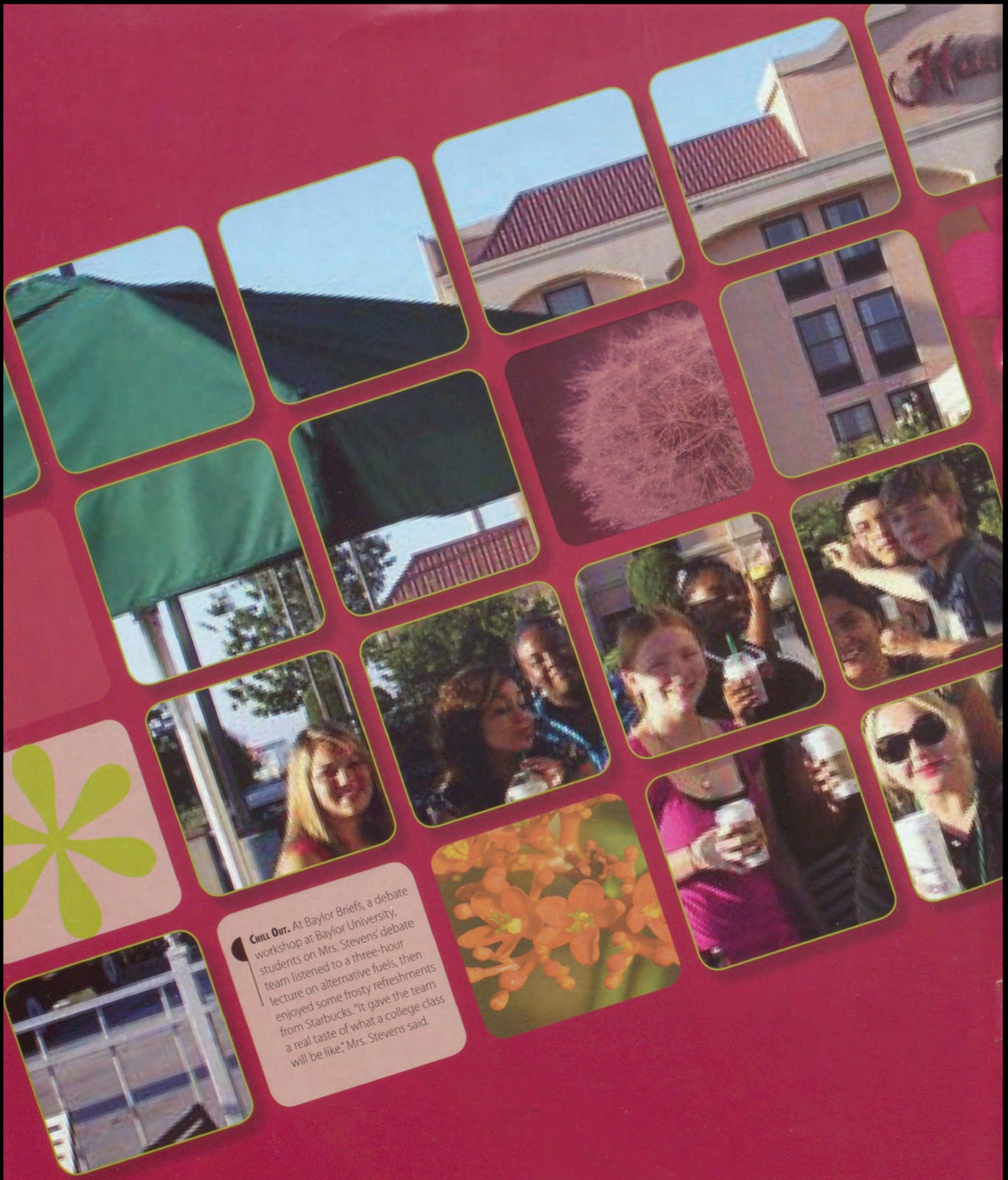


Break a Leg. While on the On Act Play crew Laura Wiegmann was the stage manager. "Being in One Act Play was alot of fun, but it was also difficult to get everyone together because all the hard work we had to do. The One Act Play cast and crew competed in Cameron with their show "Crimes of the Heart".

Rotary Scholars

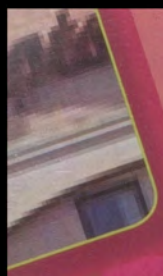


Rotary Scholars: Trevor Gray, Courtney Svatek, Mariana Ramirez, Kevin Lindsey, Tyler Volek, Rachel Weison, Alex Sarp, Karyn Roznovak, Brandee Carlson, Brooke Gable, Jessica Hilsher, Rufina Polasek, Andreina Calzada, Marcela Valladares, Allyson Matthys, Maia Richter, Michelle Smith, Krista Seidel, Lindsey Teggeman, Manayah Miller, Ana Hernandez-Huerta, Dillon Pfluger, Jillian Mcqillen, Seth Samuelson, Kelsey Davis. **Rotary Scholars Distinguished Educator:** Cathy West



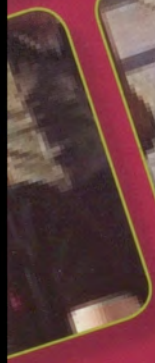
Chill Out. At Baylor Briefs, a debate workshop at Baylor University, students on Mrs. Stevens' debate team listened to a three-hour lecture on alternative fuels, then enjoyed some frosty refreshments from Starbucks. "It gave the team a real taste of what a college class will be like," Mrs. Stevens said.

SPRING















April showers bring May flowers. It's spring! The flowers bloom and the birds sing. The sun lingers in the sky till later hours in the day. You stay up later and wake up earlier. The Easter Bunny makes an appearance and allergies start to kick in. Suddenly the calendar is filled with events. The end of the year is signaled with all the banquets scheduled, not to mention Prom. People begin receiving awards, and seniors reminisce on the years, knowing that it will be the last time they will see some of these people. The thirst for summer grows stronger. Pretty soon it will be warm enough to swim. The yearbook is in and people are asking you to sign it. Talk about parties begins and pretty soon seniors are in their caps and gowns. Congratulations, Class of 2009. It's about time!

Spring





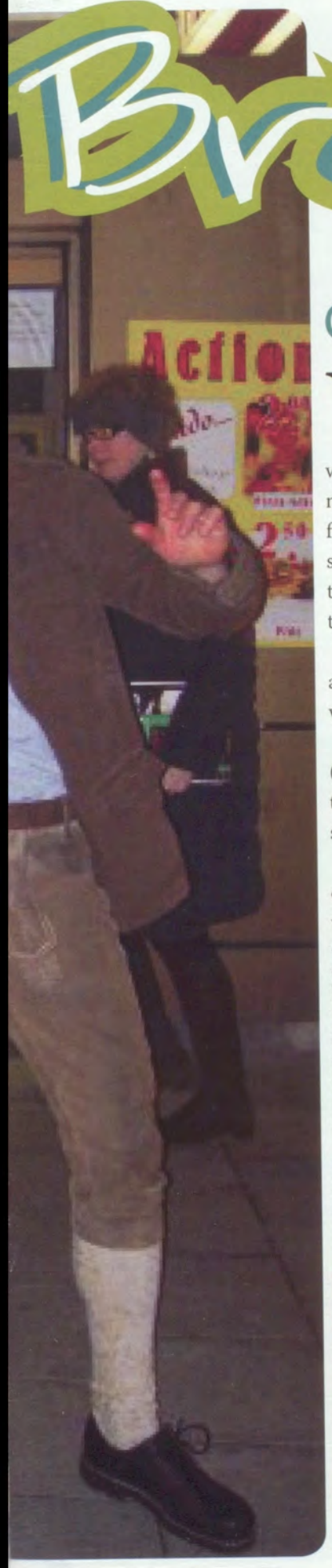








Break



German Club visits the Fatherland

Welcome to the Fatherland. It took the German club about a year to fundraise for their week long trip this Spring Break to Germany. After being successful with a chicken fried steak dinner fundraiser and concession stands, most of the students were able to have a fraction of their share paid for. The total cost was $3200.

The club traveled to Munich, Dachou, and Salsburg, where the "Sound of Music" was filmed.

"Dachou was very sad," Jessie Hilscher (12) said. "It was where the first concentration camp was. Some of the cremators still stand."

The group visited many castles with other groups traveling. Most of the castles were constructed by Ludwig II.

"We saw a castle, Neuschwanstein, it was gorgeous like the one in Disney movies," Brandee Carlson (12) said. "One direction you would see beautiful stained glass and the other direction the whitest snow, knee deep."

Besides the high cost, the only other drawback to being in a foreign country was the lack of air conditioning.

"If we wanted to cool down, we had to raise our window," Jessie said.

The different atmosphere is what attracted Brandee, though. Instead of finding the different electrical outlets or lack of central air a nuisance, she found it added to the adventure. "I was completely inspired," Brandee said. "It made me want to study abroad; I want to have a career that deals with traveling."

1. Deutschland. Brandee Carlson (12) snaps a photo with two German guys at the airport. "Their names were Matthew and Thomas. They like American girls," Brandee said. **2. Face It.** Cassie Rozacky (12), Destiny Lorentzen (12), Krista Seidel (12), Chase Danek, and Christine Maresh (12) pose in a wood beach scene cut out during their trip to Port Aransas. "Being with goofy friends made spring break awesome," Destiny said. **3. Snow Day.** On their trip to Germany, Brandee Carlson (12) and Jessie Hilscher (12) pose in front of a historic site. "We looked like major tourists because we're from Texas and never see snow. It was beautiful," Jessie said. **4. Show Offs.** During the WOW Showcase Ivy Albright (10) shows off her dress made of trash bags while home economics teacher Mrs. Sumpter stands by. "It was kind of cool having everyone look at you and wonder why you were wearing a trash bag," Ivy said. **5. One Step Up.** While at Disney World, Isaac Apparicio stops to take a picture with his family. "It was a fun and exciting experience and I would like to visit it again," Issac said. **6. One Step Up.** Standing at the top of the staircase at Edisto Beach, Brittnay Fail (12), Victoria Fail (10), and Taylor Donovan (10) pose for a picture. "I think it's good every now and then to get away from everybody. Being at the beach helps me relax," Brittnay said. **7. Sweet 15.** At her quinceanera, Alexandria Orozco (9) poses with her court members Rhegan Stroup (9) and Coty Gola (9). "My family put a whole lot of effort into it," Alexandria said.



Mud on the Tires

On March 14th, the night THS released students for Spring Break, three of the Junior class' top students had no intention of spending time in the slammer. After mudding on the local golf course and the middle school practice fields, the boys were punished by spending time in a detox cell, paying a fine, being sentenced to do community service hours, and spending nearly 3 weeks at the Taylor Opportunity Center, formerly known as TALC. "It was really stupid," Brandon Dupy said. "We just weren't thinking."

Jordan Kiewit, Zach Talavera, Brandon Dupy (11)

March

March 14 First Day of Spring Break

March 15 Rachael Voytek (11) locked her keys in her car.

March 16 Rebecca Cocke (11) went to Granger Lake.

March 17 St. Patricks Day.

March 20 First official day of Spring.

You got Served

The Taylor Duck tennis team won both the district and the regional tournaments this spring. State bound on the team are Kristen Cuba (10), Jessie Hilscher (12), Karyn Roznovak (12), Brianna Yanez (12), Braden Gross (10), and Sloane Cotner (10).

"I was shocked that we got to go," Kristen said. Although she is only a sophomore, Kristen has been playing the game for four years. For some, playing doubles with a senior makes the pressure high. Kristen, however, enjoys her partner very much. "We are always playing around and having a great time!"

"Brianna, Karyn, Jessie, and Kristen worked hard to reach the ultimate dream of the tennis state tournament. They represented THS well," Coach Vicki Hall said.

SEASON Standings

2009 District Champions

REGIONAL QUALIFIERS

Girls' Doubles
- 1st Karyn Roznovak & Brianna Yanez
- 2nd Jessie Hilscher & Kristen Cuba

Boys' Doubles
- 1st Brad Ging & Andrew Makare
- 2nd Jeff Carpenter & Dylan Weise

Mixed Doubles
- 2nd Braden Gross & Sloane Cotner (22-6)

Girls' Singles
- 4th Coty Gola

Boys' Singles
- 2nd Drew Weise

REGIONAL CHAMPS
- Brianna Yanez, Karyn Roznovak
- Runners up Jessie Hilscher, Kristen Cuba

STATE QUARTERFINALISTS
- Brianna Yanez, Karyn Roznovak (26-7)
- Jessie Hilscher, Kristen Cuba (20-14)







1 Serving Em'. During her singles match at home, Brianna Yanez (12) prepares for the return. "I'm constantly moving so I don't miss the ball," Brianna said. **2 Prep Time.** Braden Gross (10) stands prepared near the net waiting for a slice. "I really like playing up at the net because it makes me feel like I'm in control of the court," Braden said. The team closed the match with a 13-6 finish. **3 Taking A Breather.** While on the Taylor courts, Jeff Carpenter (10) breaks before his match begins. "It is exhausting, especially with the heat," Jeff said. **4 Double Time.** Dylan Weise (9) and Drew Weise (11) play doubles at the Taylor courts. "I like doubles because you know there is help if you need it," Drew said. **5 Hit It.** In her singles match at Taylor, Karyn Roznovak (12) brings her arm back in order to hit the ball. "I try and not think about what is going on around me so I can focus on what I'm doing," Karyn said.





LEADING THE PACK

Taylor Track coach Mike Tennill was both excited and stunned last Friday as the Ducks took 2nd place at the Region III AAA track meet and both Mark Jackson and Eric Brooks qualified for the State UIL Meet to be held in Austin, June 5-6.

What stunned Tennill was the fact that all three of his celebrated relay squads finished 3rd in their respective races and failed to advance to the next level. The differences were as close as thousandths of a second, but it was still shocking.

Junior Mark Jackson once again set the standard for the Ducks as he broke his school record with a personal best of 50'-6 1/2" in the Triple Jump and set another personal best to advance to state in the High Jump with a leap of 6'-4." Jackson's triple jump mark was just 4 1/2" short of the State mark.

Senior Eric Brooks took time off from baseball Friday to claim 2nd prize in the 100 meter dash with a mark of 11.05 ... just short of personal best of 10.59.

In the relays, the Ducks finished 3rd in the 400 Meter Relay (42.00 - Jackson, Meyer, Brooks and Sanford); 3rd in the 800-Meter Relay (1:28.38 - Meyer, Sanford, Jackson, Brooks) and the 1600-Meter Relay took 3rd with a 3:22.99 (Leeper, Samuelson, Meyer, Jackson).

Individually, senior Seth Samuelson took 4th in the 800 Meter run with a time of 2:00.41, Koby Huckabee placed 4th with a personal best jump of 13'-6" in the Pole Vault and Robert Brenson took 5th in the Long Jump with an effort of 22'-3/4." Senior Nathan Burow was 6th in the 300 Meter Hurdles with a time of 40.30.

Coach Shelli Cobb and her Lady Ducks track team continued to impress the opposition last week as they earned three berths at the upcoming UIL State Track Meet to be held in Austin, June 5-6th.

According to Cobb, the girls had a great showing at the Regional Track Meet in Humble. Chasity Douglas is no stranger to the state track meet and will make her third appearance in the discus. Chasity easily out-threw the competition to become the regional champion. The closest competitor to her was over 7 feet away! She was scheduled to compete on Friday, June 5th at 5pm.

Stephanie Zachary will experience the state meet for the first time as she jumped from 10th to 2nd place in the shot put on her final throw of the prelims. That throw held up as she finished the competition as the Regional runner-up. She was scheduled to compete at 10:30 am on Saturday, June 6th at the state meet.

Kelsey Marek came from behind in a strong finish in the 300 M Hurdles to become the regional runner-up. Cobb felt that if Kelsey would have had about two more meters, she would have claimed the number one spot as she was clearly running down the Cameron girl in the home stretch. She was scheduled to run at 2:00 pm on Saturday, June 6th at the state meet.

"All three girls are seniors and have chosen a great way to put their stamp on their final season," said Cobb. "We are so proud of these girls, as well as the ones who came up a just short of qualifying for State."







1 **Making Faces.** At the Round Rock meet, Kelbie Stifflemire (10) starts off strong. "I block everything out so I can focus on the race," Kelbie said.

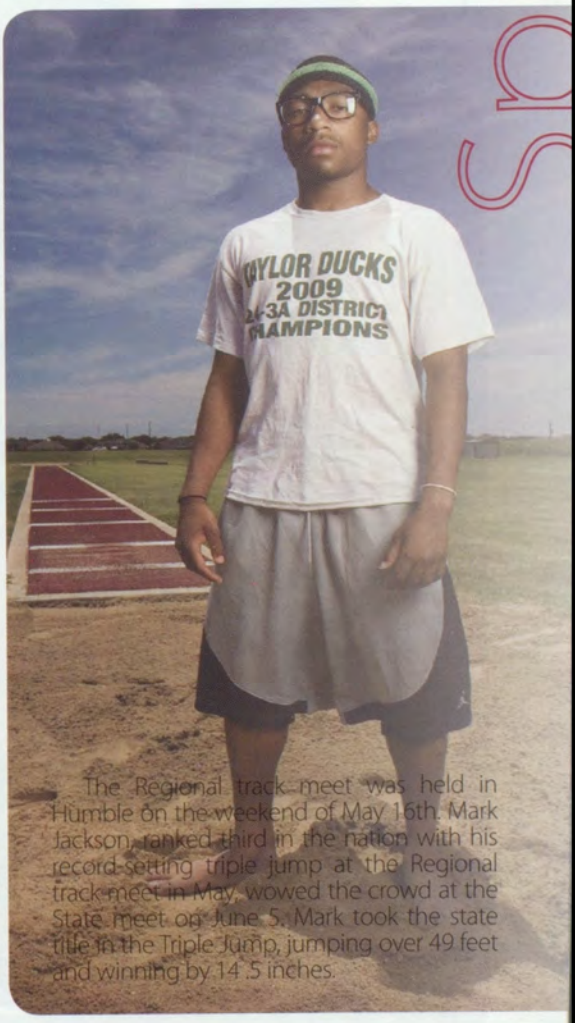
2 **Baton Boy.** Kyler Leeper (12) runs with the baton at the Texas Relays at UT. "As soon as you're done, you want to collapse," Kyle said.

3 **Taking Off.** Kobe Huckabee (10) bursts out of his crouched position at he beginning of the race. "I'm off as soon as I hear the gun," Kobe said.

4 **Go Go Go.** Kelly Dominguez (12) races down the track during the Round Rock Relays. "It's hard to pace yourself when all you're thinking of is going fast," Kelly said.







The Regional track meet was held in Humble on the weekend of May 16th. Mark Jackson, ranked third in the nation with his record-setting triple jump at the Regional track meet in May, wowed the crowd at the State meet on June 5. Mark took the state title in the Triple Jump, jumping over 49 feet and winning by 14.5 inches.

Tee Time



Double Dive. While honing up on their skills at the pool in Murphy Park, Kevin Lindsay (12) and Corey Terwilliger (11) go for a dive. "When I hit the water I feel like a sea otter," Corey said.

Spending long hours in the rain and shine, the THS golf teams competed in multiple golf tournaments. This year, a girls' team and a boys' team represented Taylor. Both teams had many different challenges and hard trials they had to overcome to achieve a level of personal satisfaction. The girls' team members consisted of Megan Holman (12), Felicia Alderete (11), and Stephanie Steggall (11). The boys' team members were TJ Florez (9), Seth Harvey (11), Alex Bogan (11), Kale McQuillen (9), and Holden Hudson (9)

The girl's team did not have enough girls present at any tournaments to officially make a proper performance at any of the tournaments. "It was hard only having two girls playing at each tournament," Megan said. "We never had a full team." Although the team was very small, the three girls became very close to each other. Megan recalls when she was tossed off the back of a golf cart by Assistant Coach, George Matthys.

Besides the fun times on the course, there were also unhappy times and feelings of defeat. The girls won together and lost together. "We did pretty horrible," Felicia said, "We needed more people and more practice." Lack of practice was also a leading factor that many of the guys felt held them back from being more successful.

The guys placed higher overall in their tournaments because they had more returning members and a bigger team. The success from the boy's season was due to the team efforts and support from their fellow teammates. "We didn't do very good," Alex said, "We needed more practice, but we were glad we had a full team." The boys ended their season well with 7th place overall won by TJ. This was TJ's first year in this sport. "I felt proud to win a title my first year playing," TJ said.

Although the season had to come to an end, one graduating teammate offered advice to future members of the Taylor golf program. "Support from family, friends and the overall school campus, is the key to success in any activity students compete in," Megan said.

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Just Resting. After swimming 100 yards, Seth Harvey (11) props himself up on the side of the pool to catch his breath before it's his turn again. "It gets really tiring. I didn't know it would be that much work," Seth said.

Double Dive. While honing up on their skills at the pool in Murphy Park, Kevin Lindsay (12) and Corey Terwilliger (11) go for a dive. "When I hit the water I feel like a sea otter," Corey said.

Form Is Everything. Prepping to dive in, Wes Carter (12) practices his technique at the Murphy Park pool while teammate Taylor Robichaux (11) observes from the side. "It's important to practice good form so you don't injure yourself," Wes said.



Fish OUT OF WATER

What started out as one lonely duck swimming in the pond evolved into a full flock of athletes competing in many swim meets. A one person swim team expanded to more than eight swimmers. "I didn't feel lonely anymore; I had teammates that were at all the swim meets with me," swim team founder, Morgan Ward said.

Every morning the swimmers had to wake up at 6:30 in the morning, and make the drive to the Taylor public pool. Not having an indoor pool caused the water temperature to go down which made the best swimming environment. "The practices were killer, the water was so cold," Corey Terwilliger (11) said.

With having the pool broken down, the team had to postpone a couple practices until the pool got fixed. "On some days we had to run and not swim, but other days we had to drive to the Round Rock public pool and have our practices there," Adriana Romayor (12) said.

With a couple weeks until their first district meet, the swimmers had to work hard to prepare. At that meet, nine swimmers qualified for regionals. "We had some goals. First it was to make our time marks, then when we realized that it was possible, we wanted to make it to Regionals," Coach Gloria Schuldt said.

Though the team still may be young, the athletes are striving for more success torwards their future in swimming.









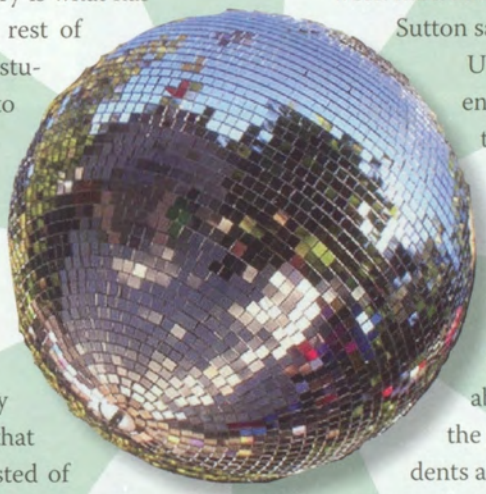
1. Go For The Gold. On the Special Olympics team, Barry Jackson (12) anchors the 400 meter relay. **2. Getting The Gold.** Destiny Rodriguez (12) poses after winning the Gold in the softball throw. **3. Carrying On.** Michael Rodriguez (12) gives McGruff the crime dog a run for his money. **4. Jumping For The Gold.** Michael Rodriguez (12) makes his leap for the gold at the area track meet in Round Rock.

BOOGIE *time*

An athlete is one who strives for perfection, and doesn't allow "no" to be an answer. The kids in Taylor's Special Olympics program are truly exemplifying the standard of a true athlete.

"I want to win the gold," Roland Meyers (12) said.

His enthusiasm for victory is what has fueled him, as well as the rest of the Taylor Special Olympic students to have the tenacity to make it all the way to State.



Out of the twenty-five special Olympic athletes that have dedicated their time to the many practices only fourteen of the athletes were able to have the opportunity to compete. The events that they had trained for consisted of bowling, bocce, basketball, and track and field. Of all of the events the most popular is in the track and field area, the 100 meter dash. All five coaches do whatever possible to encourage the students to achieve their highest potential.

In a State meet at Texas A&M, the Special Olympics students went up against 1000 other Special Olympics students. The Taylor athletes were able to get gold in every event but one, only because there were two Taylor students competing in the same event. The other Taylor athlete proudly took second to her teammate.

"We have a special group of kids who work hard and are very good at it too", Mrs. Sutton said.

Unfortunately a number of talented athletes will be leaving the Special Olympics program due to graduation.

Though many of the Taylor Special Olympic students are eager to compete at State on May 21, and 22, they are most enthusiastic about the dance at the end of the evening. At the dance the students are able to mingle with athletes from other schools as well as meet Miss America, Miss Texas, and other celebrities.

"I can't wait to let loose and boogie," Roland said.



1...2...3...Take Off. Andrew Myer is ready for take off in the 400 meter relay.

March

March23
Taylor High School was closed for Labor Day.

March24
Laura Martinez (12) celebrated her 3rd anniversary with her boyfriend.

March25
Mark Jackson (11) prepared for a suprise football game.

March26
Kelly Salazar (11) got her belly button pierced.

March28
Maia Richter (12) turned 17.

Making a splash

MARK CHAIDEZ COOLS OFF WITH A SWIM AT PROM

What would you do for one hundred dollards? Mark Chaidez (11) had never thought of this until Matt Hernandez dared him to to jump in the pool. There is one problem though, it is Prom night and they are at The Taylor Mansion Earlier in the night Matt Hernandez (12) had bet Mark a green Benjamin to jump into the pool, not thinking Mark would actually go through with the dare. At approximately 10:43, though, Mark stripped down to his boxers and under armour before diving in. Everyone around was laughing, and just as Mark was about to get out, Mr. Brown walked up to the edge of the pool not laughing. Mark got out and hurriedly put his clothes back on with out drying off. Mr. Brown told him to leave or Mrs. Calhoun would have to write him a citation for indecency and public exposure, so he left his first Prom

"My mom though I was on drugs," Mark said "She was really angry."

By the end of the night, many rumors were circulating about the incident. "I heard Mark got arrested," Ryan Gonzales (11) said. To clarify, some students even approached Mrs Mason to get the facts. At the previous Prom held at The Taylor Mansion, no one jumped in the pool, but something felt weird about that night to venue owner Traci Qualls.

"I just had a feeling someone would jump in this year," Traci said. "Kids are always going to be tempted. I wasn't mad. Boys will be boys."



King & Queen

Erica Brooks

Jordan Eppinet

April

1. Smile For The Cameras. Hours before the Prom begins, Jacob Valverde's (12) group shows up to take photos at The Taylor Mansion. "I was one of the first people there," Jacob said. **2.Showin Up In Style.** The group consisting of the baseball team and their dates, gets dropped off from their stretch limo. "The limo was really cramped. I was glad to get out," Lauren said. **3. Dancing Shoes.** THS students dance in the Crystal Ballroom at The Taylor Mansion. "Prom was fly, I like to watch people dance so I know what i'm up against, " Chris Mcfarlin(10)said. **4. Settling In.** After being checked in, Harmony Lorenzten (12), Kevin Lindsay (12), Brandee Carlson (12), and Ashley Rivera (12), mingle and find a table to set their belongings. "I really liked the decorations at prom, and having a sepertate place to sit in was alot better than being crowded into one," Harmony said.**5. Ring Ring.** While in the stretch Infiniti limo, Abel Rincon (12) uses the car phone to talk to the limo company. "I wanted to look cool using the limo phone," Abel said. **6. The Grass Is Greener.** Kelsey Davis (12) takes a break to the restroom to wipe the grass off of her heel. "As soon as I stepped out of the car, my heel sunk into the mud," Kelsey said. "It was gross." **7. My Little Boy.** Before taking off in his limo to go to dinner, Trent Rojas gives his mom a kiss goodbye. "I love my mom," Trent said. "And I'm pretty sure she loves me too." **8. Limo Time.** Matt Hernandez (12) and friends enjoy their limo ride by talking and sipping on sparkling apple cider. "Everyone thought it was champagne, but we reassured them it was cider," Matt said. **8. Taking a Bite.** While eating chocolate covered strawberries at prom Erica Estrada (9) became chocolate covered herslef. "It was good untill the chocolate fountain got all over my dress," Erica said. Nonetheless Erica enjoyed the rest of her prom night.

















April 1
Mallory Strmiska went to her grandpas birthday.

April 3
Brianna Yanez (12) played in a tennis tournament.

April 4
Nathan Burow (12) ran at a track meet.

April 9
Emily Thorpe (11) took a history test.

April 18
PROM was held at The Taylor Mansion.





DANCERS PERFORM AT SPRING SHOW

Chaotic" was the theme for this year's Spring Show. Hi-Steppers have no off season. This year they went straight from football season to four contests (including Nationals), to having just four weeks to put Spring Show together.

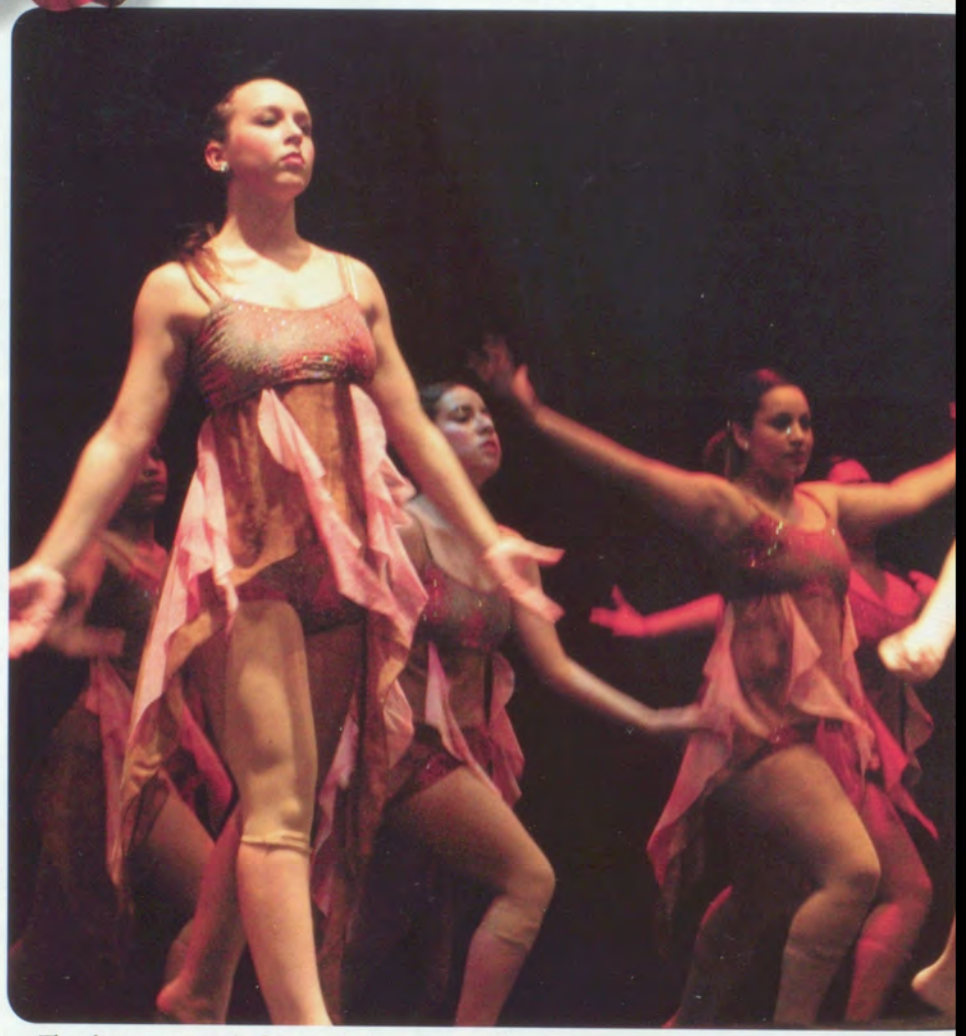
"Spring Show is the heart and soul of the Hi-Steppers," Director Mrs. Ashley Sengsouvanh said. The show puts an end to the Hi-Steppers' jam packed year. It is the last time the team performs together as one.

"Out of all three years I have been here at Taylor High School, this has been the hardest to say goodbye to my five seniors," Mrs. Sengsouvanh said. The seniors on the team were Danielle Zavala, Brittany Seggern, Glenna Tharp, Andreina Calzada, and Fabiola Sanchez.

"It's really hard for me to let go of the team. It's everything I expected and beyond," Danielle (12) said. All of the seniors on the team were vets, so it was tough for them to dance together one last time. "It's so difficult to say goodbye to the five seniors," Marissa Chavana (11) said. "We spend more time with the team than we do with our own families, so it really is like your sisters are leaving."

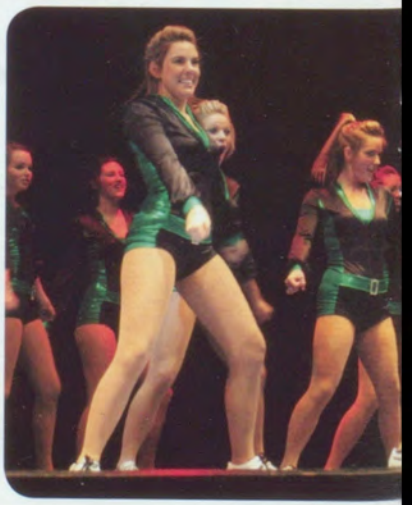
Show night on Friday went very well and the girls were excited for the next night. "I actually didn't want it to be Saturday," Andreina (12) said. "I knew it would be the last night in which I would perform and I just thought it had come too soon."

Saturday night went even smoother than the previous night. "It felt so amazing to perform," Aimee Sanchez (9) said.



The show consisted of the typical opening, officer, social officer, company, parent, class, and finale dances as well as a few other numbers. Mrs. Sengsouvanh even danced with the team for the last part of finale. "I saw someone dancing that wasn't wearing a costume and I was like wow that's Mrs. Sengsouvanh!" Marcela Valladares (12) said. "It was completely unexpected."

Losing team members, being judged by the color of their costumes, yet pulling through and returning home as National Champions, then performing one last time at Spring Show; the Hi-Steppers had a very chaotic year indeed.







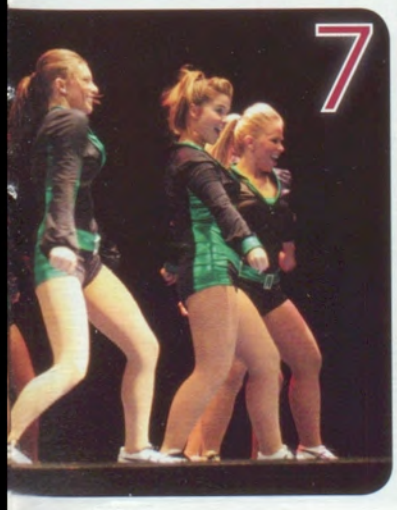
1 Dancing Queens. Kristyne Baran (11), Andreina Calzada (12), Fabiola Sanchez (12), and Danielle Zavala (12) perform their modern dance. "Modern is one of my favorite styles of dance," Andreina said. "I really feel connected to the music." **2 Bittersweet Moment.** Hi-Stepper officers take a bow on their last night to dance together. "When the curtains closed on our finale dance Saturday the whole team was crying. I was sad because it meant the seniors wouldn't be dancing with us anymore," Kristyne Baran (11) said. **3 Under My Umbrella.** Kari Alderete (10) performs to the song "Daydreamer". "I liked that dance," Kari said. "I thought it was really cute with the umbrellas." **4 Lookin' Good.** Alexandria Orozco (9) applies eye shadow before going on stage. **5 Just Chaos.** Glenna Tharp (12) and Danielle Zavala (12) perform a theatrical finale. **6 It's All In The Hips.** Performing "Black Sweat", Valasha Cummings (10) shakes her hips. "I listened to the song a lot when it first came out," Valasha said. **7 They've Got Spirit.** Cheerleaders Maia Richter (12), Claire Berger (11), Brandee Carlson (12), Rachel Weison (12), Krista Seidel (12) perform the competition routine that earned them a bid to Nationals in Orlando, Florida. "My nerves nearly got the best of me," Maia said.











StealingtheSpotlight

Taylor Robichaux (10) & Jesse Cervantes (12)

"I liked doing the duet with Jesse. It was a good experince."



April

April 19	April 22	April 24	April 25	April 27
Heath O'Banon (12) turned 18.	**Moses Guererro** (9) worked the Rotary spaghetti supper.	**Brittany Wilkerson** (12) played in a softball game.	**Hi-steppers** performm Spring Show.	**Alyssa Torres** (9) went to the TAKS pep rally.

Having a Ball

After more than two hours of an intense struggle that meant the end of one softball team's season, the emotion was evident in the faces of the Lady Ducks as the nine-inning 1-0 playoff loss to the Huffman-Hargrave Lady Falcons sank in.

"I'm really proud of my kids," Taylor coach Melvin Jenkins said. "You hate this for the kids most because they have worked so hard. I told them I loved them and it has been a privilege to be their coach this year."

Taylor pitcher Karyn Roznovak and the Lady Ducks defense held Huffman-Hargrave scoreless through eight innings, working out of jams with big pitches and key defensive plays while the offense battled to put anything together against Huffman pitcher Savannah Wiggins.

The Lady Falcons finally pushed a run across in the top of the ninth with a single, a sacrifice and another single to take the lead.

After two quick outs in the bottom of the inning, Taylor's Brianna Yanez singled up the middle. Jillian McQuillen then grounded to short, but the throw to second got away, starting a chain of events that would leave Taylor a few feet short of extending the game.

Yanez hustled to third on the overthrow to second; then when the throw to third got away she headed home, but the throw home beat her to end the game.

The ninth inning excitement was a stark contrast to the battle of defense and pitching throughout the game.

The first two Lady Falcons to bat in the first inning reached base, but in a sign of things to come, the Lady Ducks stranded the runners to keep Huffman-Hargrave off the board. The Lady Falcons stranded 11 runners in the game.

Wiggins retired the first 16 batters she faced until Taylor's Chelsie Carter broke through with a single to centerfield in the sixth inning. Yanez' single in the ninth was the only other Taylor hit. In the game Wiggins struck out 17, including seven straight two different times.

While it might not have had the flash of Wiggins' effort, Roznovak matched her zero for zero on the scoreboard. Roznovak allowed eight hits in nine innings, struck out three and walked three.

In the sixth inning, a pair of one-out singles put Huffman-Hargrave in position to take the lead and then a 10-pitch battle for Roznovak ended with a walk to load the bases. But Roznovak came back to strike out the next batter and induced a ground out to end the threat.

"I have to give kudos to her," Jenkins said of Roznovak. "She was tiring, but she dug down and found another gear, pitching better as the game wore on. She could have let up when she got tired but she stepped it up and that shows a great mentality."

While Jenkins shared his team's frustrations, he made sure they knew how impressed he was with their effort in the loss and their solid season.

"These seniors have been amazing," Jenkins said. "These players have developed so much from where they started and every one of them has stepped up this year."

By Jerrad Lindenmuth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2


3


4



1 Swing Swing. Tara Eulenfeld (11) swings in an effort to hit the ball and get a run. "Everything goes in slow motion until you hit the ball," Tara said. **2 Hey Batter Batter.** Brittany Wilkerson (12) goes up to bat. "I always think, 'I better hit it,' "Brittany said. **3 Play Ball.** At a practice, Brianna Yanez (12) practices her throwing skills. "A bad throw could always cost you the game," Brianna said. **4 Taking Time.** After a play, the Ducks meet in the middle of the field to discuss their next strategy. "Even though I had an injury mid-season, I still lost and won with the team," Ashley Burow (9) said. **5 Ready To Run.** While on base, Brianna Yanez (12) gets ready to run after the ball is hit. "My eyes are always open when I am on base," Brianna said. **6 Pitching Ambition.** Karyn Roznovak (12) winds up in the game aginst Madisonville. "I focus on getting my team ready for the next play and what pitch to throw to the batter," Karyn said.



3 strikes & you're OUT

Taylor Coach Doug Kuhl and his Ducks were eliminated from the State AAA UIL playoffs Saturday May 30th as the Carthage Cougars followed Thursday's 4-3 upset with a 5-3 victory that sent Taylor home for the season.

Pitcher Jordan Stefek (11) couldn't find an answer fast enough in the 4th inning as the Cougars erased an early 3-0 Taylor lead with four runs on five hits and one error that proved costly.

Taylor tried to bounce back, but Cougar pitching ace Michael Burchett shut down every attempt, including a bases loaded jam with no outs. The Ducks stranded several runners on the bases as they failed to get a clutch two-hit after the opening inning.

Saturday, it was more of the same as Taylor couldn't hold an early lead and Sam Jirasek (11) was upset in a 5-3 loss. Taylor Eric Brooks (12) (11-1) was not able to pitch in the series due to an injury.

The two losses dropped Taylor's season mark to 26-8-1.

"It just wasn't our game," said Coach Kuhl. "We should have won; we were the better team. But that's just the way it went."













Spring Sports







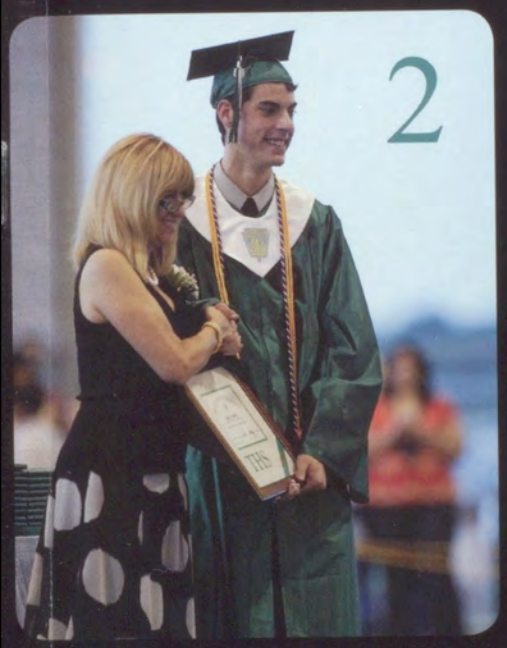
1 Power Pitch. Pitcher, Eric Brooks (12) winds up before releasing the ball. "I make sure I make a pitchers pitch and hit my location," Eric said. **2 Water Boys.** Coach Cmerek, Cole Sims (10) and Johnny Reyna (11) hose down the field. **3 Coach Knows Best.** Walking on the field with bat and ball in hand, Coach Kuhl shows Cody Alderete (11) and Ryan Jaecks (12) how it is done. "We all respect Coach," Ryan said. "We know that there is still so much that we have to learn." **4 Gotta Catch Em' All.** In the outfield, Dillon Pfluger (12) and Jacob San Migel (11) stand ready to catch a ball furing practice. "I hate it when it's windy because the balls go in different directions and it makes it hard to catch them," Jacob said. **5 Game Time.** Rounding the team up in a game, Coach Kuhl discusses who is up to bat next. "Coach tries to get us pumped up so we score some runs," Tyler Volek (12) said. **6 Sliding In.** After rounding the bases, Bradly Nemec (11) slides in. "I always plan out how fast I need to run before getting called out," Bradly said. **7 Good Eye.** Catcher David Rodriguez watches intently as the game goes on. "You've always got to watch. You never know for sure what will happen," David said.

time flies

In the words of Kevin Lindsay

Thank you to all the teachers, counselors, administrators, parents, siblings, and relatives of all types for guiding us to this very event in our lives. Thank you mom and dad, for supporting me now like you always have. Thank you, Class of 2009, for choosing to politley listen to my ranting and raving one last time. Many of us were told today that this event is the moment when our lives change. However, I am under the impression that this event is the moment when our lives begin. Until now, the state of Texas has required that we go to school and that we are provided food and shelter from our parents or legal guardians, and we had no say in the matter. When we leave this stage with our diplomas, when we throw our hats into the air, the government will only require that we pay our taxes. Higher education is not mandated, and neither is getting a job or joining the military. Once we leave here, we could choose to walk on the highway everyday and panhandle for smokes and booze for all anyone cares. Because we are now given control of our lives, we are now really living. I will end this tirade with

1. Hats Off. 2009 graduates toss their caps happily after the playing of their school song. "It was like we were free at last," Samantha Howard (12) said. **2. Salutations.** Saludatorian, Kevin Lindsay (12) gets honored by Principal Kimbery Mason. "I worked hard this whole year and it feels great to get rewarded," Kevin said. **3. Lend Me Your Ears.** Valedictorian, Courtney Svatek (12) gives her speech. "It was only about 6 to 8 minutes," Courtney said. "But I think that was long enough." **4. Short And Sweet.** Senior Class President, Mariana Ramirez (12) delivers her speech. "I was nervous and you could hear it in my voice," Mariana said.





one last piece of advice, Class of 2009: leave here tonight cherishing the happy memories and attempting to find humor in the bad, but appreciate them for what they are and no more: vestiges of years gone by. Do not try to live in what is no more, but always in what is now and for what will be. Leave remembering what Einsten says about life, what Kennedy says about conformity, and what Dr. Seuss says about individuality in our motto. Leave her knowing full well that tonight is the moment high school ends and our lives begin.



May1
Jenna Howard (12) looked for yearbooks in the video studio.

May4
Ariel Thomas (11) went to see Judge Hobbs.

May5
Brandy Foster (11) wrote a BBQ in history.

May6
Michelle Smith (12) took her calculas AP test.

May7
Ashley Rivera (12) took her AP english test.





1 No Contrabands. Mrs. Marquardt finds and discards beach balls under grads chairs before the ceremony. **2 Ryan Fontenot. 3 Sing Sing.** The THS senior choir members sing the National Anthem. **4 Kelsey Davis. 5 Kristen Alderete. 6 Brianna Bohac. 7 Graduates. 8 Last Song.** Senior band member Tyler Volek prepares to play his french horn for the last time with classmates. **9 Valkyrie Landrum. 10 Clarinets.** Seniors Mariah Garza and Lucas Alderete play their clarinet with the band for the last time. **11 Jose Salazar. 12 Andreina Calzada.**





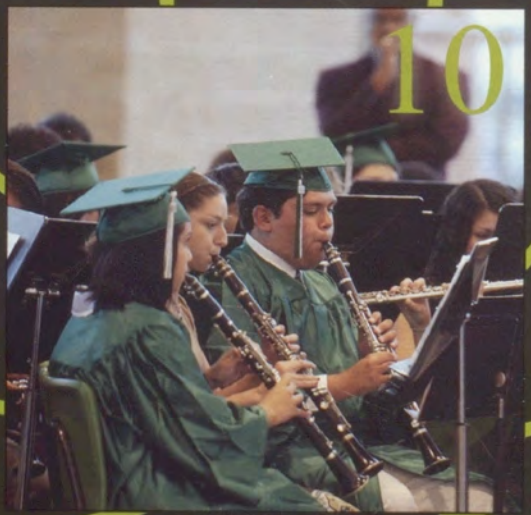






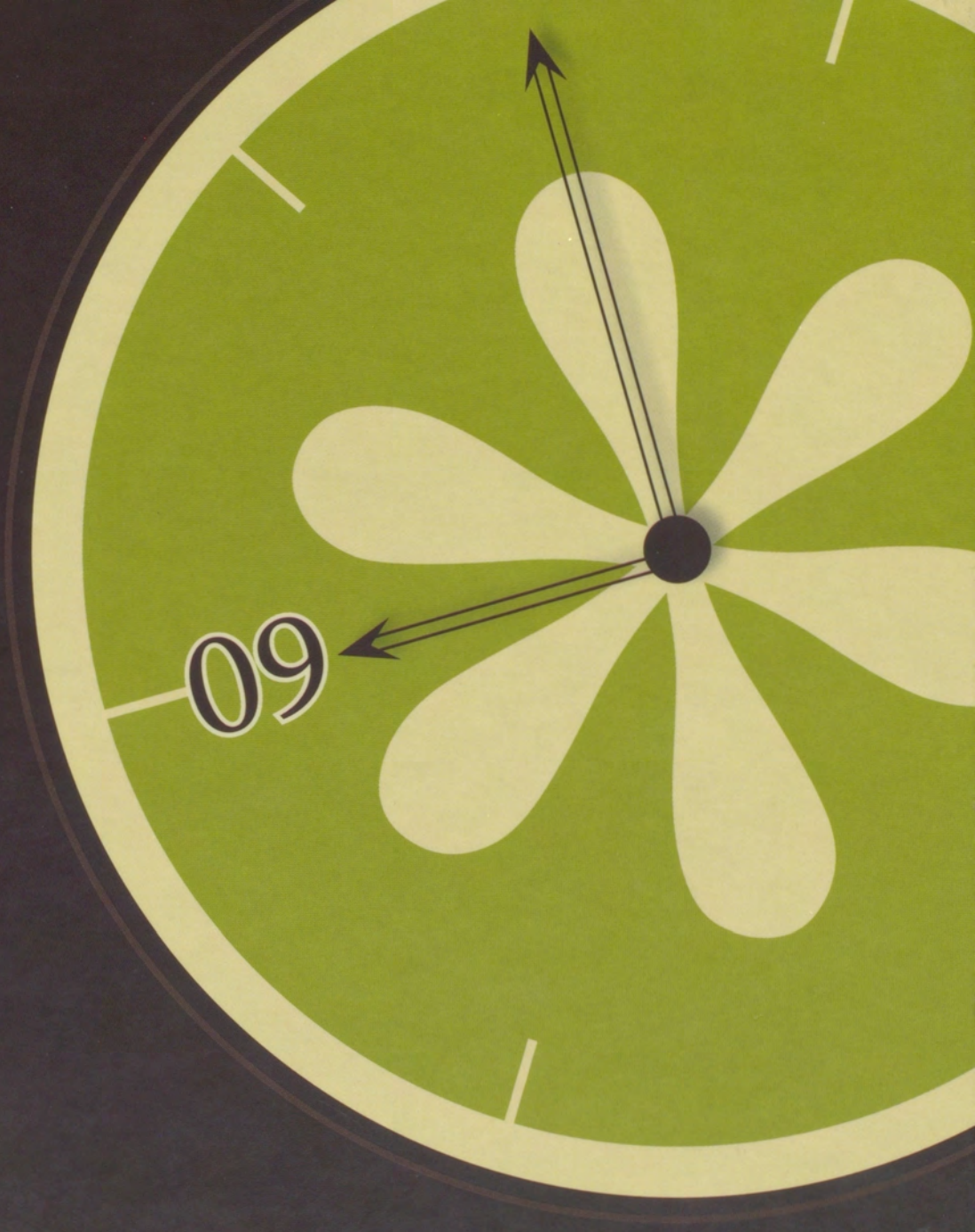












*It's about time.