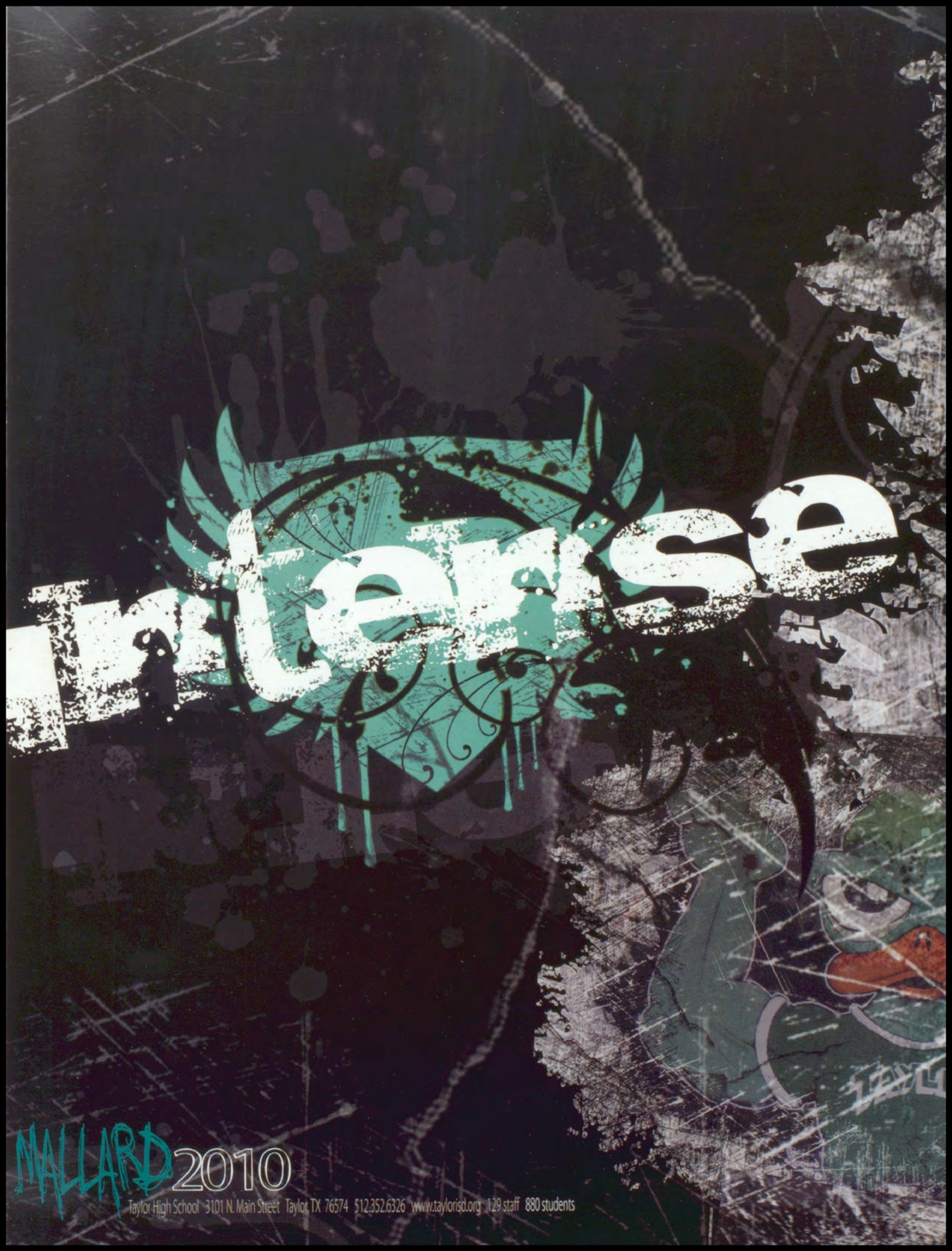

let
see.
MILLARD 2010


INTENSE.

events 5
groups 59
individuals 107

teams 52 clubs 74 seniors 108 underclassmen 126 faculty 148 index 152



MALLARD 2010
Taylor High School 3101 N. Main Street Taylor, TX 76574 512.352.6326 www.taylorisd.org 129 staff 880 students













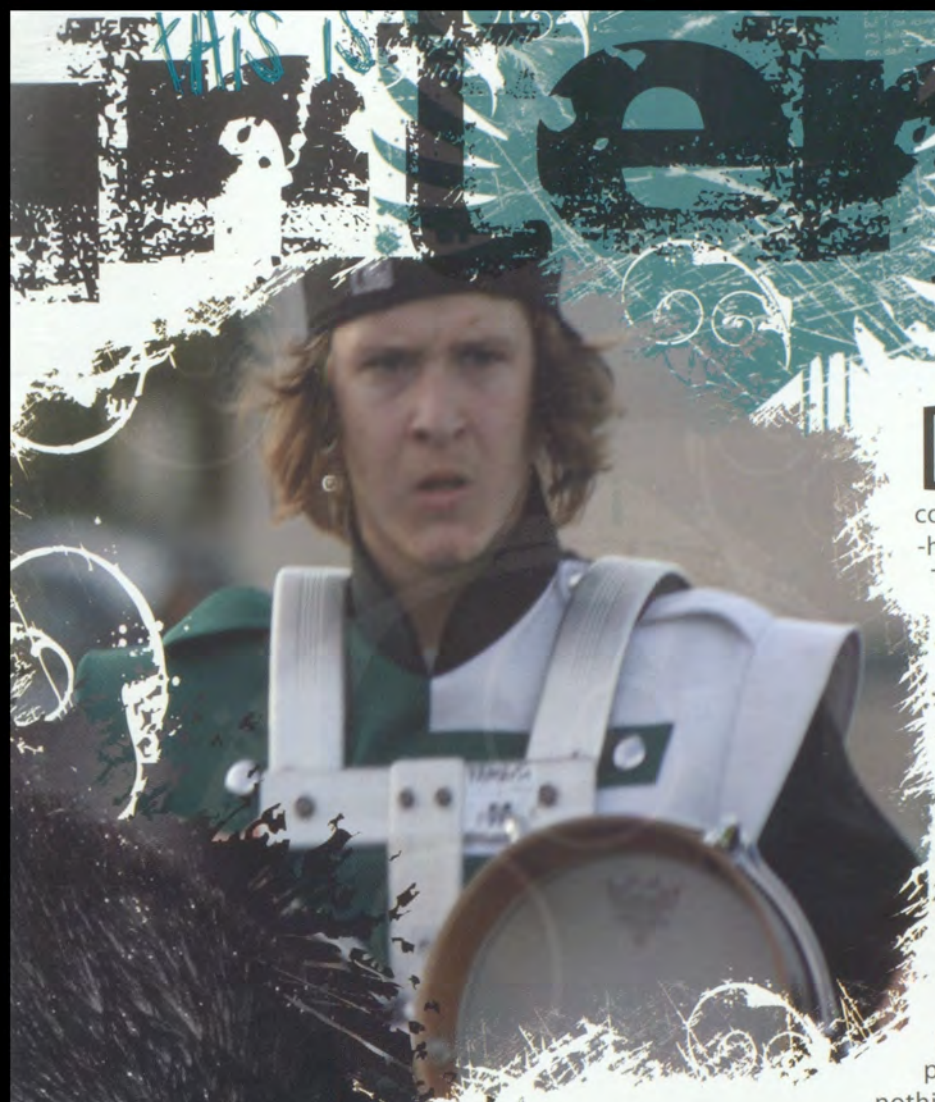


1 Ivy Albright (11) latches pinkies for the school song after the last football game. "I kinda knew we would lose, but I hoped we would win. I was disappointed," Ivy said. The ducks lost to the Rockdale Tigers 14-57. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.* 2 The football team yells for the spirit stick at the pep rally before the game against the Manor Mustangs. "It feels like everyone's watching you. All eyes on you. When we win the spirit stick I feel untouchable," Malcolm Gault (10) said. That night the Ducks beat Manor 46-28. *Photo by Addison Turner.* 3 In room 207, a dry-erase poster of Joe Jonas helps Mallard staffers remember what's due. "I love having Joe around to remind us of things," Mallard adviser Mrs. Catuogno said. "But, I hate it when people mess up his face." *Photo by Kameren Hodnett.* 4 Stuck up. Moses Guerrero (10) and Lilly Engler (10) sport their duct tape attire while in Coach Robertson's chemistry class. "It wasn't hard to make suspenders. People told me I was creative because I could adjust them," Moses said. The two dressed in duct tape for "Ducks Stick Together Day" during Homecoming Spirit week. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.* 5 Angel Gonzales and Kayla Beran (11) scope out colleges at the College Day on campus. "I feel confident in what I want to do, but at the same time, I'm scared about leaving town," Angel said. Seniors and Juniors from Taylor and surrounding schools all visited the student center and cafeteria, where multiple colleges had information booths set out. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.* 6 A blast from the 80's was Claire Berger's (12) clothing theme for the Flashback peprally. "It was my senior year, and my last chance to be spirited," Claire said. The flashback peprally was before the Austin Reagan game. That night the Ducks beat Reagan 51-0. *Photo by Sloane Cotner.* 7 David Rodriguez (12) was overcome by emotion on the night after the last game against Rockdale. "At first, I didn't feel it meant that much, but then I realized the seniors weren't ever going to play together again," David said. That night the Ducks lost to Rockdale 14-57. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

A PERFECT SEASON

Jared Meyer (11) takes a second to rehydrate, while the Taylor Ducks run ramped both on the field and on the scoreboard against Reagan High School. "It was a great feeling winning the first game of the season, and to be completely dominant really sets the tone for the rest of the year," Jared said. The Taylor Ducks took home a 49-0 victory against Reagan High, and a perfect 1-0 start. *Photo by Addison Turner.*

This is intense



Deadlines, exams, relationships, fights, arguments, sports, competitions, your future--high school is intense. Throughout the year we've had our share of breakups, breakdowns, and breakthroughs. This book was created for you to look back and remember all the intense feelings and situations that took place in 2009-2010.

Stressful feelings lurked the halls as we come nearer to TAKS. To some passing a test is nothing, but to others it is everything. Intense feelings whirled around the pep rally fight before the Rockdale game. There was blood, ambulances, and cop cars--it was intense.

Teams went to playoffs, individual players battled injuries and egos and exhaustion. Students huddled around tables studying calculus for hours at a time. Latin club members raised money to travel to Italy.

Parties were thrown. Gifts were given, and taken back. Canned goods were collected, and cell phones.

Couples formed with passion and romance and disintegrated amid angry screams and quiet tears. Loved ones were lost. Recoveries were made. Friends fought, hugged, made up, moved on. There was love. There was hate. It was intense.

As the years pass, memories fade. The things you thought were important become trivial. However, looking back we'll always remember: year 2010 was intense.

READY.
Taylor Martin (12) waits for Mr. Brown to give him some instructions during the game against the Austin Reagan Raiders."I feel shaky [before a performance] and have a little butterflies. I'm always nervous to get out there in front of a couple hundred people,"Taylor said about being on the Drumline. *Photo by Addison Turner.*



1 Small multi-colored cars are cute and fun, but they do have a purpose. "Constant velocity vehicles are used in an outdoor lab to graph distance and time to develop an equation for velocity," Mrs. Gilford said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.* 2 Beth Lowrance(12) Looked at the colleges that came to the college fair in the student center and cafeteria." Stephen F. Austin University and Austin community college both have the classes that I want to take. I don't really want to go to a big college," Beth said. *Photo by Courtney Sprenger.* 3 Can you party like a rock star? The girls from journalism could. Lauren Vrana (9) dressed like a rocker. "I love rock star day, I think that it was a great way to show school spirit," Lauren said. *Photo by Brandon Dupy.* 4 The Ag shop was broken into the same night as the cafeteria. Someone stole the safe in the cafeteria office and then broke into the Ag building to try to find tools to get it open. "The cops in the shop didn't really bother me. They were trying to get evidence," Mr. Scott Bishop said. Evidence was collected and the police left the scene before school even started. *Photo by Mallory Sprinkle.* 5 Cheerleading is a sport, and it takes a lot of effort to be good. The THS cheerleaders attended camp over the summer at the A&M campus in College Station to work on their routines, stunts, and over all teamwork. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.* Jessi Lopez (11) gives a player from Bryan Rudder a high five after the game. "It stinksdosing but all you can do is do better the next game," Jessi said. The JV team won 4 of their games during their season *Photo by Addison Turner.* 7 Rhythm, color, motion, Chelsea Kemp (11) has all of these things. Captain of the Color Guard, Chelsea competed in marching competitions with the band. "When you're walking on to the field you get nervous but when you're done and you get your score you're relieved," Chelsea said. The Color Guard placed 1st in the USSBA marching contest. *Courtesy photo*

events

The bell rings, school starts, and students rush to class. Stuff happens, clubs meet, sports are played, and tests are taken, life goes on. A lot occurred this year, new principal Danny Ward rejuvenated the campus with fresh ideas and energized the students to take a more active role in their education. Senior Paula Reeves went to the Vans Warped Tour in San Antonio and rocked out to her favorite bands, juniors Izabel Yanez and Maisen Lawhon got their German on at Wurstfest in New Braunfels. Seniors Jordan Kiewit and Simon Martinez went with friends and marked skydiving off their "before we graduate" list. Senior Ashleigh Veit and others danced Michael Jackson's Thriller on Halloween night in the middle of Main St. Through all the fun times we did find time to do school work; clubs, projects, and mountains of homework that filled most students evenings.The ACDEC team tried for the state title again, and our school became acceptable in TAKS. Moral of the story... high school is intense.

TACKY ATTRACTION Liberty Jones (10) dresses to impress on tacky day. "I pretty much just picked random things from my closet. I did it because it's fun to dress crazy every once in awhile. I liked the peoples reactions," Liberty said.

CHANGING LIVES

Different people, different city, one week, one cause.

The National Youth Gathering is where teens from around the nation were able to participate to worship and work to make a change. The activities began on July 23 and ended July 27." In one week we did service work, such as laying mulch in the park," Braden Gross (11) said. Braden, a member of St. John Lutheran in Thrall, participated in praise and worship in the Super Dome and got the chance to meet many different people.



"There were three people from France and two from South Africa," Braden said. Many different countries came together to share this inspirational event, so the mission had a schedule during the day and dances at night.

Samuel Jirasek (12) also attended this gathering with his church, St. Paul Lutheran in Taylor. "We did lots of sight-seeing," Sam said.

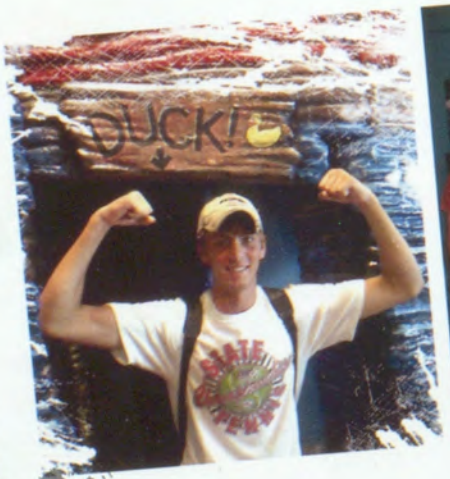
Many different performers also came to share their faith. "AGAPE, a Christian rapper, The Katrina's, and the little boy from Africa were just a few," Braden said. A voice recording from President Obama was played for the attendees and also priests spoke.

"We got to see the world famous jugglers," Sam said.

"One special thing that happened to me was that I still talk to people from Pennsylvania," Braden said. This event seemed to encourage teens like Braden and Sam to help, worship, and have fun all at the same time.

"Heck yeah this was fun!" Braden proclaimed, making it obvious he would go again when given the opportunity. For Samuel, these five days were just the start for a senior year.

"Duh I had fun," Jirasek exclaimed," There were hot girls and good food!"





ONCE A DUCK ALWAYS A DUCK Braden Gross(11) traveled with his church, St. John Lutheran Church from Thrall, to New Orleans in July for the National Youth Gathering. He spent four days learning about God and doing service projects to help others. "I was the only person in my group from Taylor, and everyone else was from Thrall, so it was kind of an inside joke." *Photo courtesy of Braden Gross*

ANOUTHER GROUP IN NEW ORLEANS. The St. Paul Church's Youth Group also traveld to New Orleans in July. They got to listen to real life changing stories during their worships. "The main thing I didn't like was walking everywhere," Jennifer Townsend (11) said. "Our hotel was about two miles from the Superdome." *Photo courtesy of Jace Fontenot*



INTO THE WILD.

Holden Hudson (10) traveled to Anchorage Alaska for a three week mission trip in August. He learned about God while ice fishing and visiting the cold mountains of Alaska. "It's like Colorado on steroids, because the mountains are bigger, whiter, and way more prettier," Holden said. Holden stayed there two weeks with his church group, and the last week his family came to visit. "I would definitely go back," Holden said. While in Anchorage he wore a light jacket, because it was never extremely cold. It stayed in the mid 60s. "One day it got into the 70s and I got to wear my shorts and t-shirt." Holden said. *Photo courtesy of Holden Hudson.*

WARRIOR IN TRAINING.

Addison Turner (11) visited Lutherhill, a Lutheran camp retreat in LaGrange, for 2 weeks during the summer. She goes every year as a camper from St. Paul's, but this year she got to help younger campers experience activities like archery while learning about the Holy Spirit. "I love meeting these kids and hearing their life stories, while making them laugh and learn about God. It puts a smile on my face to see them grow through Christ in about 4 days," Addison said. *Photo courtesy of Addison Turner.*



Ten up.

Andrew Makare's (11) list of things to pack for a mission trip

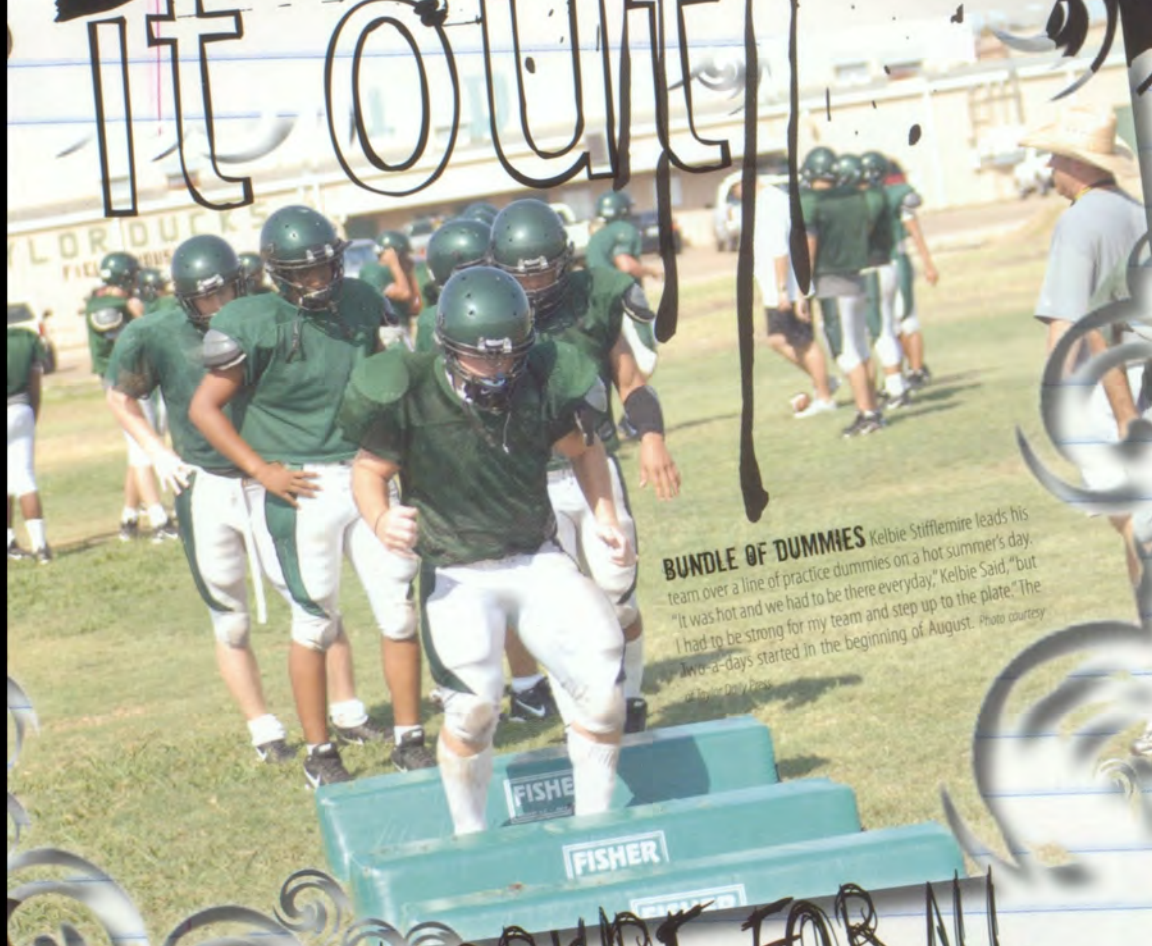
- Bible
- sunscreen
- beach clothes
- old toys to give to kids
- money
- tools for construction work
- church pamphlets
- food
- canned goods
- cell phone



GROUP HUG.

The first Baptist church's youth group went to Alabama for four days during the summer. Twenty-five kids rode in vans for 850 miles in 12 hours. "We left at 5am and didn't arrive until 5pm; I slept most of the way," Morgan Cmerek (9) said. Though the trip was supposed to be a church camp, it felt more like a vacation; the youth went shopping, went to the beach, and played dodge ball. Each night everyone went to worship. "I liked being away from home," Mallory Marcon (9) said. *Photo courtesy of Morgan Cmerek.*

sweat it out



BUNDLE OF DUMMIES Kelbie Stifflemire leads his team over a line of practice dummies on a hot summer's day. "It was hot and we had to be there everyday," Kelbie Said, "but I had to be strong for my team and step up to the plate." The two-a-days started in the beginning of August. Photo courtesy of Taylor Pray Kelbie

10 summer things to do

- O Work at Dave's Heat & Air. *Jacob San Miguel (12)*
- O Lazy summer baby sitting. *Megan Matuke (11)*
- O Attend the College World Series. *Cody Alderete (12)*
- O Florida family vaction. *Coty Gola (10)*
- O Attend regional baseball tournament. *Erik Nunez (9)*
- O Work at fireworks stand on 79 *Taylor Martin (12)*
- O Go to Disney world. *Bryanna Guerrero (11)*
- O Fourth of July at Ranger Stadium. *Julian Ramirez (12)*
- O Run cross country at Baylor *Carpenter (11)*
- O Play scholarship softball games all over texas. *Tara Eulenfeld (12)*

TWO A DAY TORTURE FOR ALL

The grass is watered, the sun is hot, and the full swing of football season is underway. Players show up bright and early in the morning to begin drills that become part of an everyday practice routine. For most players two-a-days is a means for getting back into shape after a long and relaxing summer where all stamina and conditioning is lost. Two-a-days attempt to fix that problem with rigorous drills, conditioning, and even more strenuous workouts. "Two-A-days was really long, very hot, and every morning I asked myself 'why do I play football' We spent most of practice going over drills," Charles "Sammy" Dominguez (12) said. Two-a-days is the time for players to build chemistry that makes the team have a familial feel to it. This is where teamwork and hard work come together to form one functioning single unit; a team.

The blistering heat is the first element that hits players really hard. When chasing another player around, and doing drills over and over again it makes a real heck of a time of staying hydrated. Players keeping themselves hydrated is a challenge that the players and coaches must keep a close eye on. Water and Gatorade are available and the players are told to keep the best of diets both on and off the field, it is obviously a big pig part to have players in top physical physique come game time. Usually hard work and perseverance is showed on the field, and "by judging on the first three games of the season it paid off big time," Concepcion Moreno (12) said.

Setting records for Texas heat this summer well over twenty days during the summer were spent over a hundred degrees Farenhiet.

VALASHA CUMMINGS' OFFICER CAMP DIARY

June 17th- We left for camp. The officers and socials gathered everything we thought we would need.

June 18th- The officers woke up at 6 am to get to perform. We ate and met with the camp leaders. At 5:30 pm we performed the dance that Mrs. Sengsouvanh chose to take to camp. Before that we performed at our first pep rally. We didn't do as well as everyone else. At that point, we started feeling the pressure.

June 19th- We woke up at 6:30 am and had to go learn dances. It wasn't just like a minuet dance.. Think more of 2 minutes of turning and jumping. A little too much for me! We stayed up till 2 or 3 in the morning working on the dances. We all were tired. We started freaking out! Including Mrs. Sengsouvanh.

June 20th- Learned two more dances and went to technique classes! No ma'am. I was so sore, it didn't make sense. Some of the other officers couldn't take it. Some of us broke down and one of them already knew what it was like. She kept messing up and making us do the dances over and over.

June 21st- I felt like poo! We had to perform all the dances we learned except one. It was a mess! I personally did not like it but that's what you have to go through to be an officer. I cursed a lot and threw everything in my way. They almost made me act my color! I was so happy we left that day because I couldn't have made it another day!



HI-STEPPERS

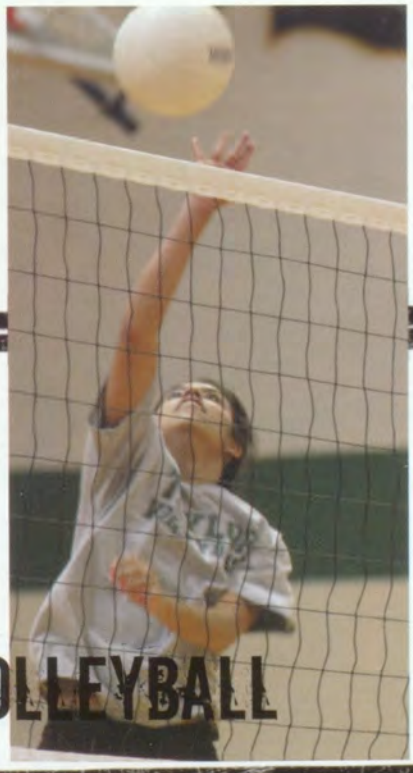
A DAY OF CHEER CAMP

8:00-Head Cheerleader/Captain Meeting, squad unity ceremony. 8:15-Warm up. 8:30-Cheer class/Jump class. 9:15-Dance class. 10:15- Private coaching prep, squad unity ceremony. 11:30-Lunch break. 1:30-Elective classes, Dance-Stunts-Material review. 2:15- Private coaching. 3:00- Break. 3:15- Dance review/ TEAM UCA. 4:00-open practice. 4:30- Dinner break. 6:00- Cheer Evaluations. 6:45- Material review/ Jump off.

7:30- Awards/ Big bro/ Sis, Q&A with Concierge. 9:00-Club UCA.



CHEERLEADERS



VOLLEYBALL

KATIE REBUILDS HER ARM

Hurling her body in the air for a spike at volleyball practice, Katie Yanez continues to work her arm back to full power. Katie has struggled with her right arm for the past few years. "I just had to suck it up and ice it A LOT, and rest it as much as possible", Katie said. Playing both volleyball and softball, two sports that require a powerful arm, never stopped this young dedicated athlete. She continued to strive to be the best possible athlete she can be. Showing up for early morning two-a-days, and staying for late-afternoon practices, Katie gave up a portion of her summer to show her dedication.

"SWEAT AND BRASS"

Dedicated and well practiced, the THS band wakes up early in the AM and practices late in to the PM during the 2009 summer. This group of driven young musicians gave up part of their summer for an early start on practice. Temperatures above 100 did not stop the band; they toughed it out and "you had to look forward to another day of sweat and brass," Nathan Jones (10) said. All this practice resulted in top ratings at several prestigious competitions later in the season.

BAND



NEW STUDENTS MOVE TO TAYLOR


AUBRIE DAVIS


OLIVIABURK

Photos by Ryan Gonzales.


SAMANTHA BIRCHARD

As the clock marked the first hour of a new school year, students and staff flooded the halls of Taylor High School. The majority had just returned from summer, re-acquainting themselves with the campus, while others walked through the halls for the very first time.

Freshmen began a new chapter, tackling a more complex version of that monster we called "school." Within hours, newcomers attempted to find their niche and determine who they wanted to be for those next four years. "I used to feel like a big dork," Olivia Burke (9) said. "But now it feels good to know who I am."

Freshmen weren't the only new students. Some were transfer students from other schools. They too, were walking through those hunter-green doors into an entirely new environment, where each face was unrecognizable and the "Fish Tank" might as well have been a foreign country. Aubrie Davis (11), coming from Elgin High, was one of those students. "Everything is totally different. The school is bigger and there aren't a lot of cliques here, which I like," Aubrie said.

Samantha Birchard (11) transferred to Taylor from Thrall. "The first week and a half, I didn't really know anybody," Samantha said, "so I just read a lot."

After the third week, however, it was no longer "back to school." We had memorized our classes and mentally mapped out the route to each of them. We knew which table we sat at and with whom we sat. We knew the fastest way to our trucks so we didn't waste a second of our lunchtime. We walked in and realized that this was it; this was our high school, and this was where we would spend the most crucial years of our lives.

BIG FISH
New Pond


Photo courtesy of Mr. Ward.

NEW PRINCIPAL DANNY WARD BRINGS HIS FISH PHILOSOPHY TO THS

"CATCH THE ENERGY AND RELEASE THE POTENTIAL." It's ok to have a good time while you work.

"CHOOSE ATTITUDE," come to work and school happy. Make the best of your day.

"MAKE THEIR DAY," make the students want to learn and the teachers want to teach.

"BE THERE" "It's important to be there for others. Also, actually be there and pay attention," Mr. Ward said.

"PLAY," even though work and school is hard it's important to enjoy what you're doing. School may not be where you want to be, but it's where you need to be. So make it fun and worth your time.

Brand-Spanking NEW

OLD SCHOOL GETS INFUSION OF NEW PRINCIPALS, TEACHERS, AND STUDENTS

Miss Morgan Turpin
Math Teacher

MAYBE NEXT YEAR WE'LL BE TALKING ABOUT A NEW BUILDING FOR ALL OF US OLD TEACHERS!
Mrs. Caturegio

MORE new FACES



Mrs. Christina Solorio
Principal's Secretary



Mrs. Jana Richardson
English I Teacher



Mr. Jamieson McCaffity
Choir Director



Mr. James Casselman
Biology Teacher

Photos by Ryan Gerard

Not long after completing her higher education and earning a major in history at Texas A&M, Miss Morgan Turpin joined the staff of THS. "The biggest change from student to teacher was the responsibility." Turpin said

Perhaps because of her youth, Miss Turpin excels at developing excellent relationships with students. In other words, students love her. "She talks to them on their level," principal Danny Ward said.

Miss Turpin's career choice was influenced by her parents, both of whom are teachers. "It's everything I dreamed it would be—it's very rewarding. It's a job I look forward to going to everyday," Miss Turpin said.

Being a principal isn't new to Mr. Danny Ward, but he is new to THS. After being a high school teacher for ten years, Mr. Ward became a middle school principal. "The biggest difference is there is more work, "Mr. Ward said.

Regarding the change from middle school to high school, Mr. Ward enjoys the new atmosphere "because the students are older and easier to reason with." Ward said

Most importantly, Mr. Ward values the lifelong benefits of a high school education and wants students to be successful. "His heart for the students here at THS is admirable," Miss Turpin said.

duck pride never



Many different organizations represent Taylor in a positive way, but with all of these different activities the one thing that pushes them to their fullest is the support of their community. During the football season, THS showed their duck pride and school spirit by hosting pep rallies in the gymnasium before every home game.

"Duck pride is showing that we support and care about something," Lauren Vrana (9) said. Lauren participated in pep rallies along with her classmates in winning the spirit stick. The class of 2013 showed their pride and came out on top above the upperclassmen.

"Spirit means good participation in school," Deanna Mendez (9) said. Deanna, a Hi-Stepper, not only shows her support with her class but also takes her Duck pride on the field that same night with her team. The Hi-Steppers take a step past their performance on the field Friday nights and compete as national champions representing the Taylor Ducks.

"I show my Duck pride by going to games and being in athletics," Kaylah Torres (9) said. Taylor athletes represent the Ducks by advancing to ranks higher than ever before. Each student had a different way to show his or her spirit.

The propane gang kept things loud and up beat for our Varsity boys on Friday nights. "We helped the defense by getting them pumped up," Seth Thomas (10) said. This support shows their pride for the ducks.

"Its true Duck pride," Seth said, "Duck pride for life!"

CHEER TAKES OVER Heather Hedar (11) holds up a Propane Gang noise rank to disrupt the opposing team's offense in football play. The small cheerleader does not actually shake the ranks, but when she viewed the Gang just mosying around she geared up and took over. "My arms hurt after I got done shaking it," Heather said. *Photo by Kevin Bonnell*

DES



HALFTIME SHOWDOWN The band shows their spirit during half time on the last game against Rockdale. Their spirit pumped up the crowd, leaving them with high excitement and anticipation towards the following half. "I was happy it was over," Shayla Harvey (9) Said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

TAILS NEVER FAILS Miressia Steele (12) and Leah Morales (12) cheer wildly as their Turkey Bowl '09 team wins the opening coin toss. "I felt confident. I thought we were going to win, but we lost. Seniors rock!" Miressia said. The Turkey Bowl is a girls' athletics flag football game that is held every year around Thanksgiving time. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*









YOU WOULDN'T GET IT Post playoff game against Bryan Rudder, Lauren Tucker (12), Maisen Lawhon (11), and Addison Turner (11) give Kristen Cuba (11) the signs they made. "It was sort of an inside joke between my friends and me," Kristen said. The Lady Ducks lost 3 sets to 0. *Photo courtesy of Kristen Cuba.*

DANCE OFF Students at the Senior Night pep rally get great entertainment as the Hi-Steppers and Cheerleaders collaborate and dance together. "We practiced twice a week for a month. The Hi-steppers had to learn how to do jumps, and we had to learn how to do a calypso. Don't ask me what that is, I don't even know," Selena Olguin (11) said. The two teams performed together for the first time during the pep rally to show that even totally different teams can work together and create something even better than ever. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

WADDLE WADDLE Cameron Richardson as "Waddles" our own Taylor High School mascot, has fun on the sidelines at the first home game of the season against Reagan. He enjoys interacting with the crowd and having fun with the children that attend the game. "It's awesome being a duck, because no one knows who you are," Richardson said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

10. Must haves for duck pride:

1. Taylor Duck shirts
Jackie Pollard (9)
2. Yelling
Lauren Vrana (9)
3. Dancing
Diana Lepe (9)
4. Going to all games
Aubrie Davis (11)
5. Wearing green and white
Deanna Mendez (9)
6. Buying a pet duck and naming it Waddles
Mallory Strmiska (12)
7. Stealing the mascot costume and wearing it to school
Braden Gross (11)
8. Green painted faces
Jace Fontenot (10)
9. Running down the hall way yelling "go ducks"
Victoria Gardener (9)
10. School spirit
Shanice Caldwell (10)

the ART of Cooking, down to a SCIENCE



Culinary Arts, a new class, teaches students more in-depth cooking skills and food safety. The course is designed to give students the opportunity to be creative and earn college credit. At the end of the class the students will get a SERVSAFE certificate that's good all over the United States, and allows them to enter into the food service industry better prepared. They also get their food handler's permit that allows them to work for a year in any food establishment, and 5 hours of college credit can be earned.

The new Culinary Arts students practiced their craft by serving refreshments to teachers at faculty meetings, then had their first fundraiser in October. Teachers were impressed and enticed to place more orders with the culinary arts students. "Wonderfully delicious beef fajita tacos!" said Mrs. Marilyn Tennill, counselor, remembering the fajita box lunch. "What I was so impressed with is the quality and professionalism. Some of [the students] could be professional caterers," Mrs. Tennill said.

Victor Ramirez(11), was the food supervisor. "I am responsible for making sure all the food is cooked properly and tastes good," Victor said.

In charge of all financial means was Sonya Schmidt (12) "The money was used for our trip to regionals for FCCLA," Sonya said. The plates were pretty cheap [$6] for such a well prepared meal. The grand total came to be just a little more than three hundred dollars," Sonya said.

"I'm so proud of these students, they are my pride and joy," teacher Candice Martin said.





SIZZLIN CHEF

As the manager of the teacher's dinner, Victor Ramirez (11) prepares beef fajitas for the FCCLA fundraiser "I know how to organize," Victor said. The students in Food Science Technology class cooked a full multi-course meal near the end of the term as an exam. "You get to be creative. The most challenging part is trying to give the food good taste," Victor said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



POTS PANS AND HOT PLATES:

Delicious aromas float throughout the culinary arts room as some of the schools finest chefs prepare a feast. "The class is hectic, but I still love to cook and I have lots of fun preparing meals in the class," Sonya said. The class went on to enjoy a delicious meal. *Photos by Ryan Gonzales.*

attention please



Debbie Marek

Q&A

Q: What are the perks of being a lunch lady?
A: "It's my love of cooking and my love of children in the same sitting. It's hard work, but it's rewarding at the end of the day."

Q: Describe your typical work day.
A: "I wake up at 4:00 A.M, Arrive at 6:30 A.M, begin preparing breakfast, serve at 7:45 A.M, Clean up at 8:30, and begin preparing lunch, serve 250 students on average, and then my work day ends at 1:30"

Q: What is your favorite meal to prepare?
A: "I love to make cheeseburgers. I'm very particular about mine, so I need to make them just right for the students; the cheese needs to be right, the meat cooked right, it's just fun to prepare all the fix-ins."

IM LOVIN' IT

Grubbing down on McDonalds fries, Chris Leal (11) enjoys his lunch off campus. Only Juniors and Seniors are allowed off campus during lunch due to lack of cafeteria space and safety issues. "For now, underclassmen shouldn't be allowed off campus, cause we had to wait our turn too," Chris said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*





BITE ME

Kasi Lozano (11) takes a bite of Mallory Marcon's(9) Chicken Express during the lunch period. "I like having the freedom to do what I want during lunch since I am an upper classman," Kasi said. Underclassman do not have the privilege of going off campus. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*





MAMMA MIA

Blaine Hagar (9) and Tyler Jakes (9) brace themselves for a mouth watering pizza from Dominos. Lots of underclassmen ordered Domino's rather than eat cafeteria food. "I like to order between 4th period and homeroom, then I meet the delivery guy outside," Blaine said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

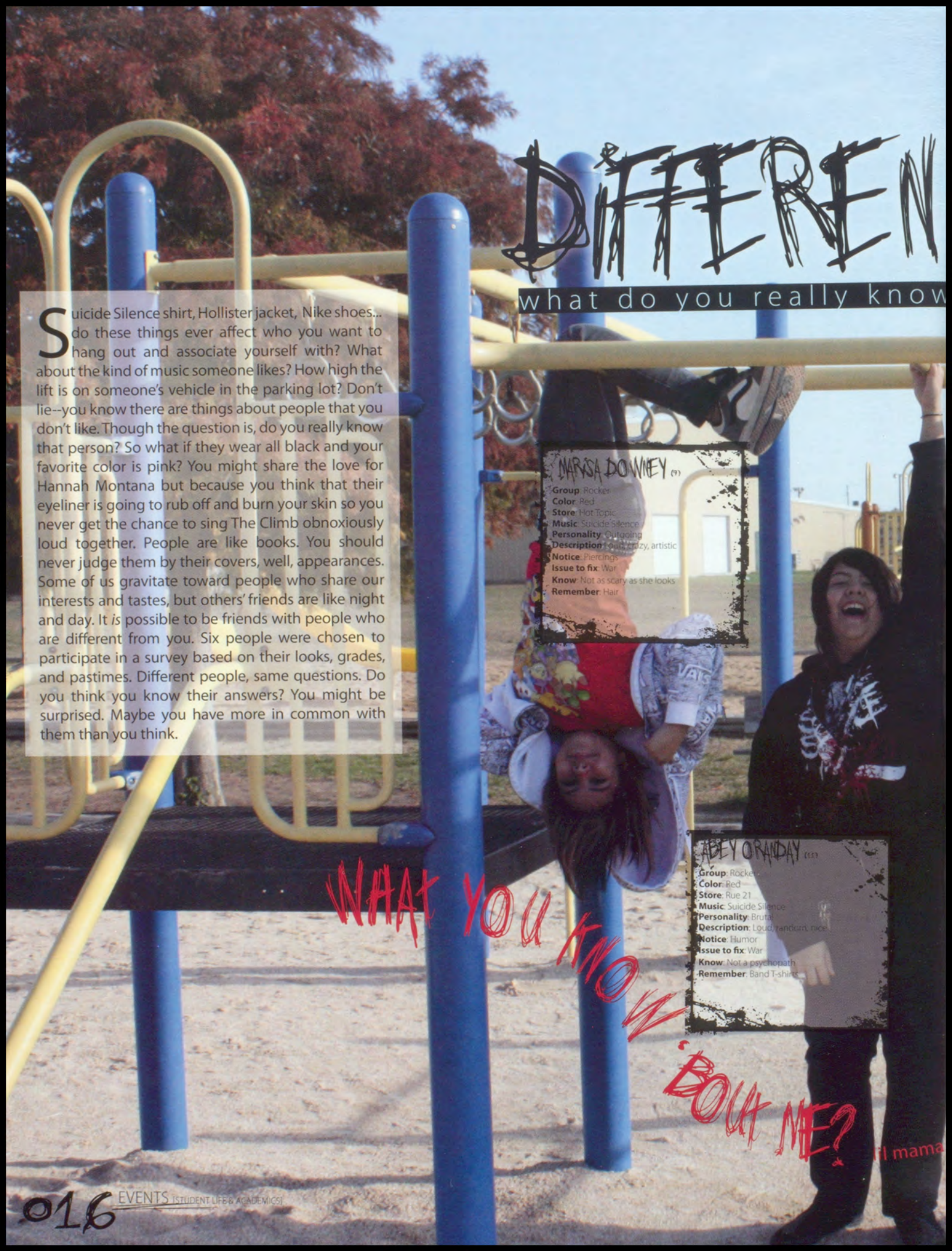
D.Q. DELIGHTS

Kelsey Aunspaugh (12) enjoys chowing down for lunch at Dairy Queen. "The hour off campus is relaxing, because I'm normally stressed out with school work," Kelsey said. Eating and chilling with friends for lunch makes it an ideal time of day for every senior. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

DIFFEREN

what do you really know

Suicide Silence shirt, Hollister jacket, Nike shoes... do these things ever affect who you want to hang out and associate yourself with? What about the kind of music someone likes? How high the lift is on someone's vehicle in the parking lot? Don't lie--you know there are things about people that you don't like. Though the question is, do you really know that person? So what if they wear all black and your favorite color is pink? You might share the love for Hannah Montana but because you think that their eyeliner is going to rub off and burn your skin so you never get the chance to sing The Climb obnoxiously loud together. People are like books. You should never judge them by their covers, well, appearances. Some of us gravitate toward people who share our interests and tastes, but others' friends are like night and day. It *is* possible to be friends with people who are different from you. Six people were chosen to participate in a survey based on their looks, grades, and pastimes. Different people, same questions. Do you think you know their answers? You might be surprised. Maybe you have more in common with them than you think.



MARYSA DOWNEY (9)

Group: Rocker
Color: Red
Store: Hot Topic
Music: Suicide Silence
Personality: Outgoing
Description: Loud, crazy, artistic
Notice: Piercings
Issue to fix: War
Know: Not as scary as she looks
Remember: Hair

ABEY ORANDAY (11)

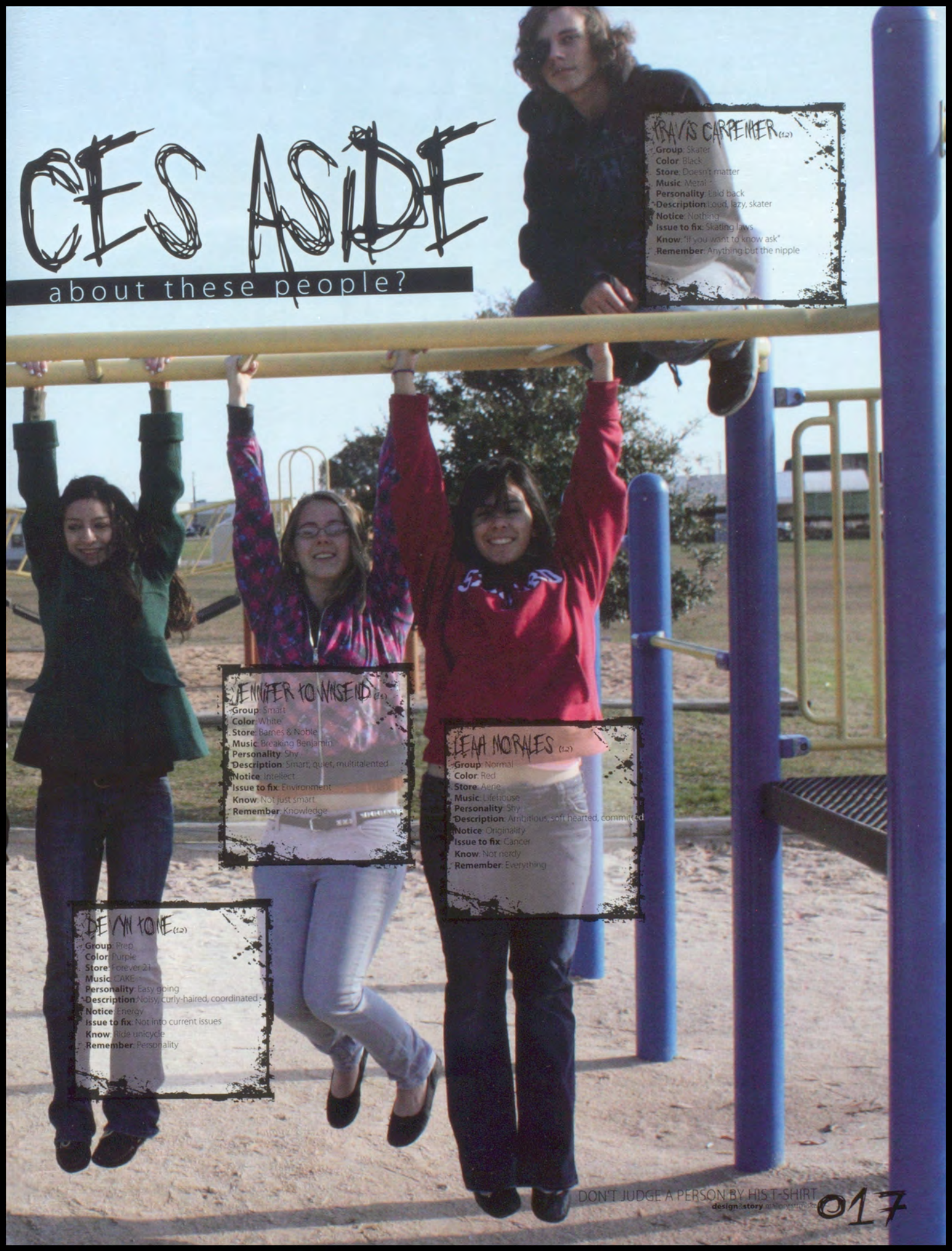
Group: Rocker
Color: Red
Store: Rue 21
Music: Suicide Silence
Personality: Brutal
Description: Loud, random, nice
Notice: Humor
Issue to fix: War
Know: Not a psychopath
Remember: Band T-shirts

WHAT YOU KNOW 'BOUT ME?

il mama

CES ASIDE

about these people?



TRAVIS CARPENTER (12)
Group: Skater
Color: Black
Store: Doesn't matter
Music: Metal
Personality: Laid back
Description: Loud, lazy, skater
Notice: Nothing
Issue to fix: Skating laws
Know: "If you want to know ask"
Remember: Anything but the nipple

JENNIFER TOWNSEND (12)
Group: Smart
Color: White
Store: Barnes & Noble
Music: Breaking Benjamin
Personality: Shy
Description: Smart, quiet, multitalented
Notice: Intellect
Issue to fix: Environment
Know: Not just smart
Remember: Knowledge

LEAH MORALES (12)
Group: Normal
Color: Red
Store: Aerie
Music: Lifehouse
Personality: Shy
Description: Ambitious, soft hearted, committed
Notice: Originality
Issue to fix: Cancer
Know: Not nerdy
Remember: Everything

DEVIN TOME (12)
Group: Prep
Color: Purple
Store: Forever 21
Music: CAKE
Personality: Easy going
Description: Noisy, curly-haired, coordinated
Notice: Energy
Issue to fix: Not into current issues
Know: Ride unicycle
Remember: Personality

it's a HARD life





BEEP BEEP. BEEP. BEEP!

At 5:30 A.M on a Thursday morning, Henry Oranday (10) hears his alarm clock ring and forces himself awake. He can't sleep in for 6 more hours, he can't ask his mom for 5 more minutes, and he can't pop a Hot Pocket in the microwave and fuse to his video game chair. By 6:00 A.M Henry is on his way to work.

Henry Oranday works at a construction site to help his family pay the bills and support his younger sister, Betty Oranday, and her baby. The days are hot, the breaks are non-existent, and the sleep is minimal. "We fight a lot, but I have a lot of respect for all the hard work he does," Betty said.

At 7 P.M Henry makes his way back home. Sleep is still not an option, however, as he still has homework and chores to complete. Henry never had the opportunity to be a lazy teenager or rely on his parents financially. "We need three jobs instead of two to support all of us so I don't complain," Henry said, "It's what families do."

Photo by Ryan Gonzales.

LIVIN' WITH GRACE Among the students of Taylor High School, there are some being forced to make adult decisions. Ruby Pumphrey (12), when given the decision to either stay in town and finish high school or move to Beaumont with her father, chose Taylor. "After my dad left I moved in with the Jackson family," Ruby said. Sophomore year, however, Ruby started band and left the Jackson's to live with Rebekah Murphy (12). Ruby now lives with Grace Samuelson (10). "It's frustrating because our schedules are so different," Grace said, "but it's also fun sometimes." Even though Ruby has been through so many households, she's still stayed focused on her aspirations to become a percussion teacher because of her passion for music. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales*

READY OR NOT Daniela Davis (11) and boyfriend Chris McFarlin (11) are expecting a new baby girl. "It never crossed my mind to leave her," Chris said, "I want my baby to have a father figure." Update: Keyiana McFarlin was born on February 5th. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



school, you, and a baby too.

Despite receiving news confirming her pregnancy at age 16, Kourtney Woods (12) managed to maintain an equilibrium between her personal and school life. During the laborious nine months of carrying a child, it was crucial for the mother-to-be to practice normal sleeping habits and intake nutrients provided by a healthy diet. There are many health risks involved that affect both the mother and the baby. Often, babies born to young mothers are of low birth weight. This can result in underdeveloped organs and further health problems.

Teen mothers are forced to recognize and deal with adult decisions. Often they are tried with financial dependency. Only 40% of teenagers who have children before age eighteen graduate high school.

"I was nervous but I knew for sure that I had the support of my family," Kourtney said.

Raising a child, while working extensively to complete school, is a stressful and strenuous job. Unfortunately, a large percentage of teenagers are not financially, emotionally, or morally supported by their partners and parents.

Kourtney does not want people to think it is a great idea to get pregnant at 16. "In Video Tech, right after she found out she was pregnant, Kourtney scripted a TV show centered around her situation. I think it was a way for her to start processing what was happening to her. It was a very difficult time," teacher Melanie Catuogno said.

Alongside pregnancy, are also extremely physical challenges.

"She was really sick for a while and was out of school for around six weeks," classmate and fellow teen mother, Gabby Solis (12) said.

During these complications, however, Kourtney never caved under the challenges of young motherhood.

"She has the best work ethic of anybody I have ever met. She has a lot of inner strength and drive," counselor Mrs. Marilyn Tennill, said.

Kourtney Woods has attended some parenting classes provided by a federal grant program on campus known as Even Start. It is a family literacy program that offers support for teen moms and adults. Even Start also offers a child development center for qualifying students, as well as assistance for adults earning their GEDs and learning English skills. Students can attend regular high school courses while their babies are enrolled at the child development center. Children aging from 6 weeks to 4 years engage in interactive learning activities including dramatic play, reading, and a science center. Although Kourtney does not have her son enrolled at Even Start, she has benefited from the parenting classes.

"Our ladies give back to the community," Director of Even Start Program, Chris Wineland said.

Kourtney Woods will be graduating with the rest of her senior class despite the life-altering event of giving birth to her new baby Izsac. "She has goals for Izsac and herself. There is no doubt in my mind that she will achieve them," Tennill said.



Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.



SHE SHOOTS! SHE SAVES! Mrs. Palmer puts a little spin on saving the environment, as she shoots a paper ball into a recycling bin. The Anatomy and Chemistry teacher is one of the biggest 'greenheads' in the school. "I don't see any reason not to recycle, it's so easy. I don't do it to fell better, it's more about doing my part," Mrs. Palmer said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

When it comes to helping the community, the student body comes together to make a change. One of these changes includes recycling. Recycling is a process where consumer waste is collected, sorted, and processed into raw materials such as fibers. The raw materials are then manufactured into new products. This multi-billion dollar industry reaps many benefits, recycling conserves resources and reduces greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane.

Upon entering Mrs. Palmer's classroom, one may observe several assorted bins used for recycling. "I recycle everything I can - plastic, aluminum, newspaper. If something has too much plastic, I won't buy it," Palmer said.

Recycled paper requires fifty percent less energy and seventy-five percent less water to make instead of creating it from new fibers. By conserving natural resources, minimizing pollution, and saving energy by reducing the need to process and manufacture new materials. Recycling is all around good for the community and beneficial environmental health.

Mrs. Palmer is an active member in creating a better community. From a young age, she was taught to recycle most anything and everything she could, including her brown paper bags from school lunches. "Growing up, we didn't buy things with excess plastic. My parents made us reuse our brown lunch bags, or we didn't take a lunch to school," Mrs. Palmer said. The average American contributes 2,000 pounds of trash per year.

The earth-friendly action urged by Mrs. Palmer made an impact on the student body. Kristin Alderete (12) is a member of the soccer team coached by Mrs. Palmer. "She never lets us go to restaurants. She always brought food before a game - Sandwiches and fruit," Kristen Alderete said.

"It makes a difference if everybody does it and people are conscious about buying recycled items. It comes down to awareness. It takes effort," Mrs. Palmer said. "There's no valid reason not to recycle, if it can be used again."

Along with recycling, there are many simple actions that people can take to make the world a cleaner, green place such as switching off unused energy sources and using biodegradable shopping bags. Helping the environment is beneficiary to the community and to yourself. "It makes me feel better. Most of the world doesn't live that way," Mrs. Palmer said.



FULL CIRCLE Skylar Crayton (12) optimistically places paper into a recycle bin to be reused. Students participated in collecting expended paper from classroom recycling bins throughout the year. Instead of being disposed in a landfill, items were taken to Taylor Recycling Center and reprocessed. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

Ten tip:

Emily Thorpe(12) lists ways to help the environment.

- Recycle... nuff said.
- Bulk is better.
- Flip the switch before you ditch.
- Rechargeable batteries are the way of the future.
- Tupperware is tight.
- Use reuseable shopping bags.
- Drive a hybrid.
- Lighten up! Use flourescent lightbulbs.
- Ride with a friend or use your feet.
- Plant trees in your community.

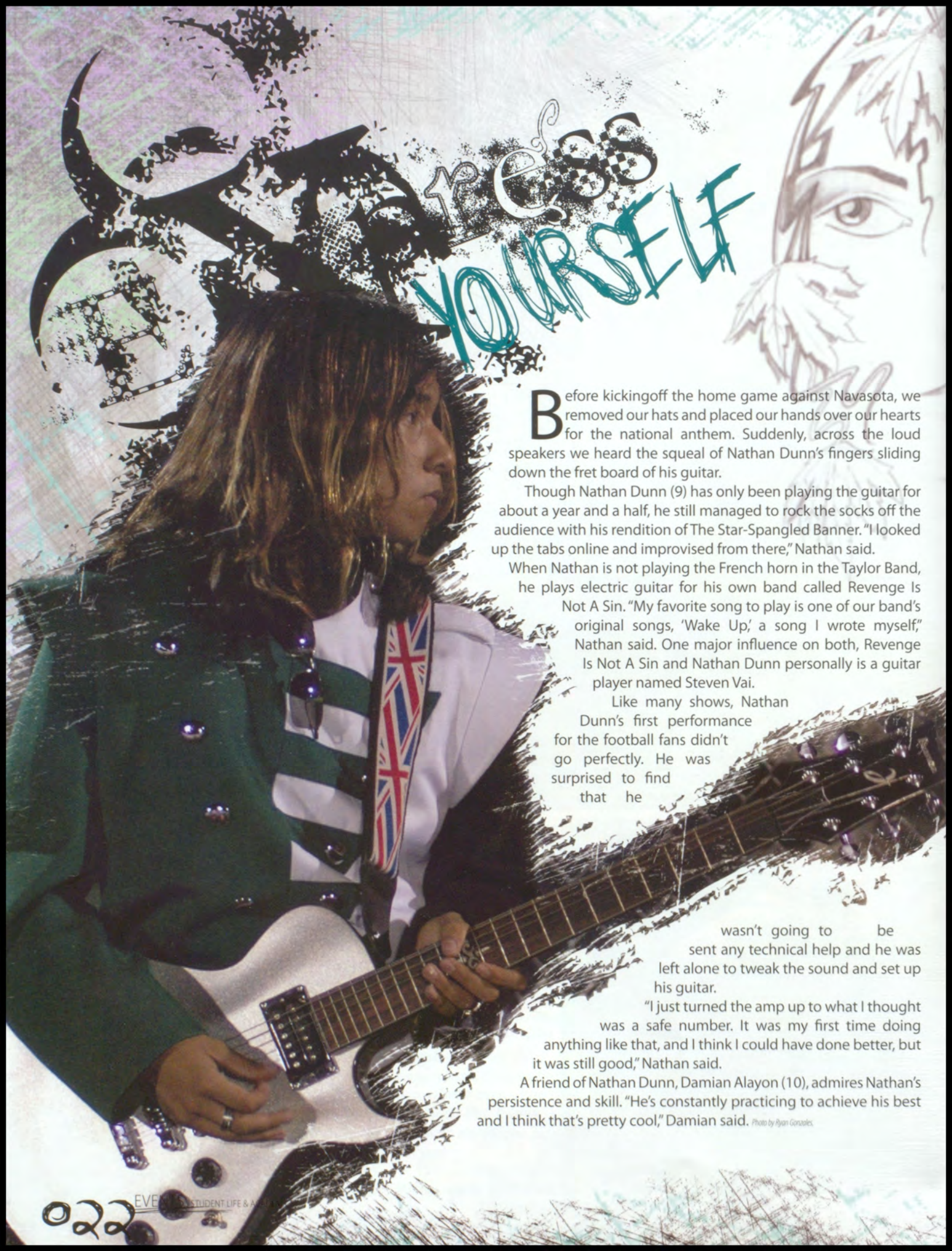




THE SAME IN ANY LANGUAGE French and Spanish teacher Mrs. O'Quinn hoists up a 'Reduce. Reuse. Recycle' sign to remind her students to do what they can to keep the Earth clean. Teaching two different languages does not, in any way, hinder the recycling abilities of her classes. "I keep a recycling box under the table. My classes tend to shoot paper 'basketballs' so sometimes there is a lot of recycling. I currently do not have a firm plan for cans and bottles, but I'm working on it," Mrs. O'Quinn said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

DON'T MESS WITH THS

Christian Jensen (9) and his crew go on the prowl for recyclables during 7th period. When a teacher's recycle bin fills up they rush to the scene to clean it up. "It makes me feel proud, like I'm helping the school and the Earth," Christian said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



Express Yourself

Before kickingoff the home game against Navasota, we removed our hats and placed our hands over our hearts for the national anthem. Suddenly, across the loud speakers we heard the squeal of Nathan Dunn's fingers sliding down the fret board of his guitar.

Though Nathan Dunn (9) has only been playing the guitar for about a year and a half, he still managed to rock the socks off the audience with his rendition of The Star-Spangled Banner. "I looked up the tabs online and improvised from there," Nathan said.

When Nathan is not playing the French horn in the Taylor Band, he plays electric guitar for his own band called Revenge Is Not A Sin. "My favorite song to play is one of our band's original songs, 'Wake Up,' a song I wrote myself," Nathan said. One major influence on both, Revenge Is Not A Sin and Nathan Dunn personally is a guitar player named Steven Vai.

Like many shows, Nathan Dunn's first performance for the football fans didn't go perfectly. He was surprised to find that he wasn't going to be sent any technical help and he was left alone to tweak the sound and set up his guitar.

"I just turned the amp up to what I thought was a safe number. It was my first time doing anything like that, and I think I could have done better, but it was still good," Nathan said.

A friend of Nathan Dunn, Damian Alayon (10), admires Nathan's persistence and skill. "He's constantly practicing to achieve his best and I think that's pretty cool," Damian said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

ART ATTACK



Picasso, Michelangelo, Van Gogh, Murphy? Brace yourself, because Rebekah Murphy (12) may have what it takes to be the next famous Artisté! Rebekah has been pursuing her artistic passion since she was 12 years old.

Rebekah loves to draw and paint, but her first love was Animated Comics, or "Anime". Manga, the Japanese form of sequential comics, is Rebekah's favorite because there are so many types. "It all depends on the story; if you want a mushy love story, or a forever-long story that has lots of fight scenes, Manga is for you," Rebekah said.

Left, is a drawing of Rebekah's AP English and ACDEC Teacher, Mrs. Vicki Rowe. She is one of the many fans of Rebekah's art work, "Rebekah has the dedication to become great," Mrs. Rowe said.

After high school, Rebekah Murphy plans to pursue a career as an animation designer for the Walt Disney Company. "This has always been a big dream of mine; first it was an astronaut, but I think this career is better suited for my taste." Rebekah said.

Xtreme Art



SIMPLER ART Standing ten inches tall, alabaster white, and with all the stocking one could hope for, Erica Estrada (11) adds the finishing base color to her absinthe sculpture. "I think it's beautiful, my own little masterpiece, I'm also glad I decked out with lots of stars and the color pink too," Erica said. Definitely not a starving artist, Erica plans to turn her art work into Benjamin's one day. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



LOVE STRUCK ACTORS. Thespians Cameron Dupy(10) and Liberty Jones(10) practice their lines for their production "Bus Stop". "We were not actually in love, in the play. I'm actually trying to force her to love me, but in the play and in life it just wouldn't work out that way," Cameron said. The students work hard everyday after school, to bring Mr. Alonzo's play "Bus Stop" to life in front of an audience one day soon. *Photo by Courtney Sprenger.*



With a passion similar to that of Isadora Duncan and a technique and grace reminiscent of Martha Graham, Taylor Robichaux (11) expresses herself through dance.

Taylor began dancing with her parents when she was 4 years of age. "My parents and I began dancing at Melissa's Dance Academy, and it has been my life ever since," Taylor said.

Of the almost endless list of dance styles in existence, however, contemporary is her favorite. "When I dance, it takes me to another world where I can escape all of my everyday pressure and stress," Taylor Said, "It helps me express what I'm feeling."

Taylor Robichaux takes Lyrical and Jazz dance classes at the Dance Spot and Ballet at Austin Conservatory of the Arts." After high school, Taylor plans on taking dance to a career level. "I'd like to major in dance in college, but I'll probably just minor," Taylor said. Taylor hopes to become an instructor at her own dance studio to teach aspiring dancers and share her love of the art. *(courtesy photo)*

we bleed green

Bells, whistles, school pride. These things set the tone for Taylor High School's homecoming week. The week was full of funky outfits, alumni, mums that seem to never end, and of course, the football game. Participating in homecoming is a tradition at THS. It started off with twin day and ended with camo and school color. The week went by fast but was always something that most look forward to. Alumni came home to see old friends and rekindle old memories. They met at the KC hall Friday for lunch filled with jokes, memories, and Chicken Express tea. Friday at the game they got to sit together and watch the game, then to finish out the week Saturday night they all went to dinner at Coupland Inn and then went to the dance in the next building over at the Coupland dance hall. Don't forget about football, the most anticipated game of the season. Even though this year the Ducks didn't pull out, getting defeated by a mere two points wasn't as bad as it could have been. "It was whack, we lost," Mark Jackson (12) said. Door decorating is also part of the homecoming festivities. Mrs. Rowe's homeroom class took the win with their "Lambaste the mustangs" theme. "Mrs. Rowe wanted to use another word for beat, so we whipped out the thesaurus and came up with lambaste. The party was okay but brownies and water tasted weird together," Conoley Rheinhardt (12) said. Mrs. C's homeroom took second with their "THS rocks my socks" theme. Seniors, juniors, sophomores, and freshman were given a hallway to decorate. Responsible for the theme, decorations, and over all presentation the classes had all week to work on their hall. Some students even stayed after school to work on them. "About 20 people stayed after 'till ten at night. We should have won because ours took more effort," Kelsey Aunspaugh (12) said. The Juniors won the hallway competition with their theme "Welcome to the jungle". "It felt really good to win and know that all of our hard work paid off," Kayla Beran (11) said. Homecoming ended for students with the dance after the game in the student center. Black lights and posters with paint splatters hung from the ceiling. All the decorations were put up by Student Senate members. "I'm glad that a lot of people showed up because we put a lot of hard work into planning it," Brandon Dupy (12) said.



TEAMING TOGETHER

Teamwork takes everything in the line challenge during the homecoming pep rally. The Steppers, football team, cheerleaders, and band all formed lines, linked arms, and chose one contestant to be tossed in the air multiple times by their team. "It felt kinda scary, I thought that Lauren was gonna fall, but it was good to know that the teammates kept her up," Chelsea Hernandez (11) said. Photo by Ryan Gonzalez



AND THE CROWD GOES WILD

Students cheer in attempt to win the spirit stick during the penalty for homecoming. The spirit stick was won by seeing which bleacher section could cheer the loudest while Mr. Gray ran around the gym waving the stick and the band played the hey song. Inside the spirit stick was a variety of candy shared among the winning section. Photo by Ryan Gonzalez



MUMTASTIC

Jingle jingle, you can't miss Renee Torres (11) as she walks down the hallway with her three homecoming mums. "One of them was from my boyfriend, but we're not together anymore. The garter was from my big sis Claire," Mariah said. Photo by Addison Turner



ROYAL DUCKS

Seniors Mark Jackson and Carin Gonzales take their ribbons during the pre-game Homecoming festivities. "They forgot my crown. But I was shocked—I didn't realize that many people liked me," Carin said. "I felt really good, on top like a king," Mark said. Carin and Mark will present next year's royalty. Photo by Addison Turner



splat







Question: What do you get when you add Ricky Cobia, Mr. Brown, Christian Jensen and a pie? Answer: A mess. During the homecoming pep rally Ricky Cobia(12) had the chance to hit Mr. Brown in the face with a whipped cream pie. "I laughed when I missed, but then I felt bad because it hit Christian," Ricky said. Mr. Brown waited for the pie to splat in his face, but it never made it there. "I know Rick, he has a good arm but I don't know what happened. I was fully expecting to get pied," Mr. Brown said. Instead of hitting the assistant principal it hit Christian Jensen (9). "It was funny, and I was happy because they were trying to hit Mr. Brown," Christian said.

DUCK TAPED DUCKLING

Insulated and waterproof, Jonathan Martinez (9) went all out for duct tape day. Making an entire outfit out of duct tape, he taped his shirt and jeans. "It took me a long time, like, six hours," Jonathan said. He was one of the few who went to the extreme. Photo by Melanie Galvan



TWIN TENDENCIES

The first day of homecoming week starts off with twin day. Zoey Howard (11) and Jennifer Townsend (11) dressed alike to show their school spirit. "We went to Wal-Mart and saw the shirts and thought they were cute, but it was extremely hard to find the right sizes and accessories to match," Zoey said. Photo by Ryan Gonzalez



tormented terror





At the House of torment, the cross country team had a hard time remembering that their trip was supposed to be fun. Instead, the fear of their journey into the nation's fifth scariest haunted house was slowly creeping into their thoughts. On Saturday October 24th the team, along with Coach Cobb and two parents, went to the famous haunted house for a team outing.

The House of Torment is known for the 20,000 square feet of extreme terror produced between its walls. The cross country team ordered tickets online before hand, bypassing the long line. "There were people running through the crowd and a werewolf chased Zoey Howard and Katie Bryant during the wait," Devyn Tone (12) said.

Going in, the group was combined with random people but they knew after stepping into the house, there was no turning back. Coach Cobb visited the house the weekend before, to check it out. Knowing where the different creatures would be, Cobb slowed down before approaching the chain saw man's position, and caused the tension to rise. Zoey and Katie seemed to have the awful half of the deal; with blonde hair they were hard to miss. The man came at them.

"They were so scared. Katie almost tore my shirt from all her fear," Devyn said. The cross country team also visited the Mansion of Illusion. "My favorite part was when these two big fat pig heads came at me and Katie, chasing us at the very beginning," Devyn said.

All together the team outing lasted only about 30 minutes for both haunted houses. An outing as this can definitely hold many memories, especially of those who are not usually frightened. "The houses were not as scary as I expected them to be, but definitely enough to make me want to go back," Devyn said.



CLOWNIN' AROUND Bradley Nemec and Jordan Stefek (12) show their Halloween spirit on October 24th while playing around with Halloween costumes. "We were too live at Peety's house," Stefek said. *Photo courtesy of Kelsey Aumspaugh.*

CARVING PUMPKINS Katie Yanez(12) and her sister Briana Yanez explore the Pumpkin Patch in Taylor's First United Methodist Church yard. "We went there to take some family pictures, it was nice, I like seeing my sister," Kaite said. Later the sisters carved a traditional Jack-o'-lantern. *Photo courtesy of Katie Yanez.*

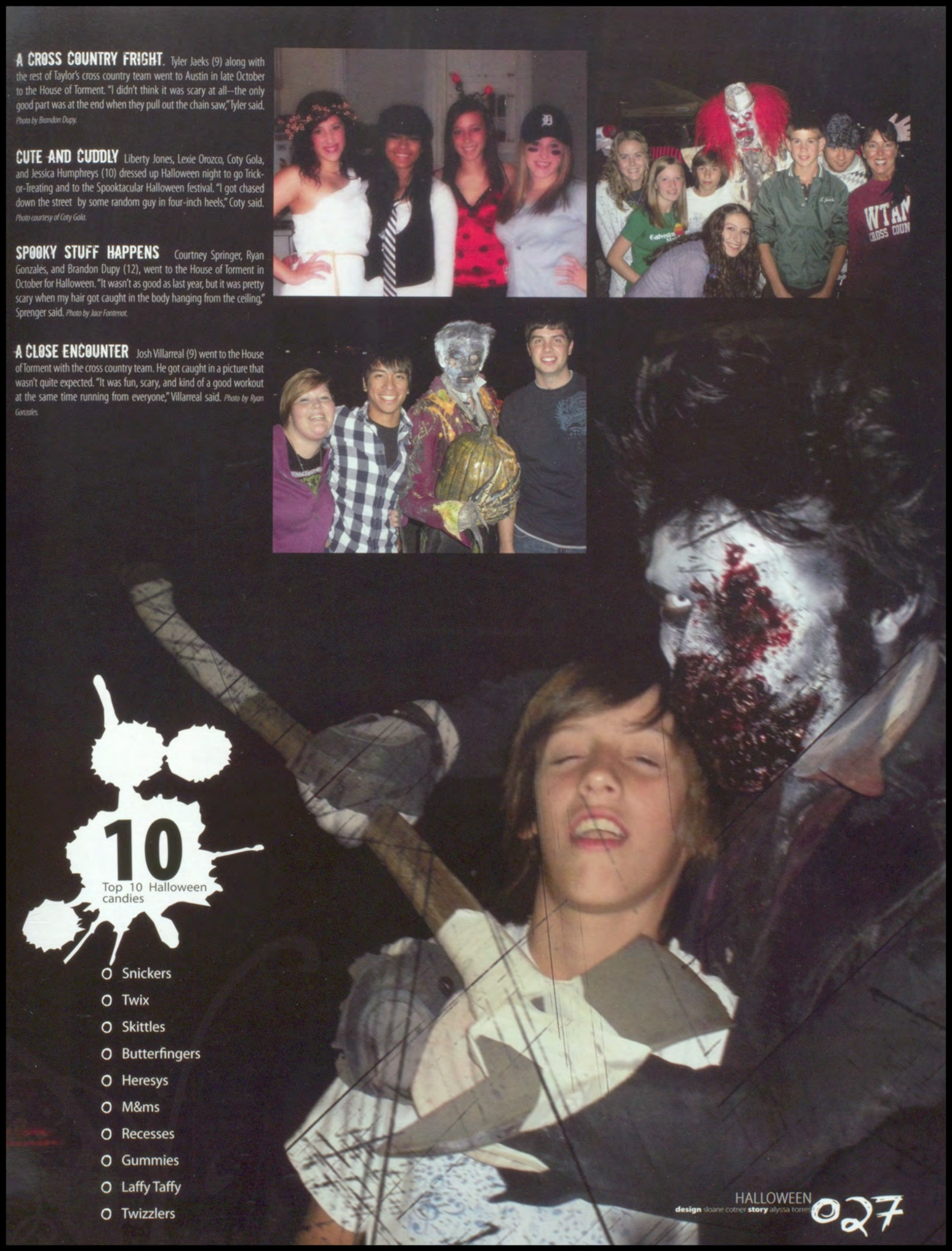
ZOMBIE REUNION Emily Thorpe(12), Ashley Veit(12), and Chris Campbell(9) dressed in their costumes in downtown Taylor for the Spooktacular Halloween festival. "It was awesome to be a part of an event where the community came together. The *Thriller* performance was spectacular!" Emily said. *Photo courtesy of Emily Thorpe.*

A CROSS COUNTRY FRIGHT. Tyler Jaeks (9) along with the rest of Taylor's cross country team went to Austin in late October to the House of Torment. "I didn't think it was scary at all--the only good part was at the end when they pull out the chain saw," Tyler said. *Photo by Brandon Dupy.*

CUTE AND CUDDLY Liberty Jones, Lexie Orozco, Coty Gola, and Jessica Humphreys (10) dressed up Halloween night to go Trick-or-Treating and to the Spooktacular Halloween festival. "I got chased down the street by some random guy in four-inch heels," Coty said. *Photo courtesy of Coty Gola.*

SPOOKY STUFF HAPPENS Courtney Springer, Ryan Gonzales, and Brandon Dupy (12), went to the House of Torment in October for Halloween. "It wasn't as good as last year, but it was pretty scary when my hair got caught in the body hanging from the ceiling," Sprenger said. *Photo by Jace Fontenot.*

A CLOSE ENCOUNTER Josh Villarreal (9) went to the House of Torment with the cross country team. He got caught in a picture that wasn't quite expected. "It was fun, scary, and kind of a good workout at the same time running from everyone," Villarreal said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



10

Top 10 Halloween candies

- Snickers
- Twix
- Skittles
- Butterfingers
- Heresys
- M&ms
- Recesses
- Gummies
- Laffy Taffy
- Twizzlers

Rambo Meets Van Gogh

Look before you move, travel with stealth, duck and dodge to stay in the game. A stretch of land is the battle field, woods are the cover, and a mind set to search and destroy is all Jeremy Hernandez has at hand when it comes to guerilla type warfare. From the moment he first received his Tippmann 98 custom, Jeremy had a knack for playing a game that puts you in real life situations of being pinned down behind enemy lines, with little hope of success, ammo running low, facing only one choice either the one that saves him or the one that has him stung by the sure bluntness of a paintball with the relative hardness of a marble.

"You can usually hear the balls whiz by you if they're close, but when they hit you, it's definitely way different," Jeremy said.

What draws people to paintball is the heart-pumping, fast paced, adrenaline action that can only be experienced in paintball. It is a sport like no other, which can be played in a wide variety of ways, such as *speedball*, where the objective is to capture the flag of the other team in a lay-out that has many bunkers to take cover in. Another way to play is *woods ball*, where it would take more military tactics, to overcome another team for a win. This game is not for the weak hearted; neither is it for the easily bruised. A host of safety precautions must be followed just for minimal risk of damaging ones self. Aaron McQuary suits up in his official paintball gear, composed of thick pants, a long shirt, and just in case a helmet for protection.

Aaron is no stranger to blood and glory; it is inevitable that one would shed blood on the battlefield. A long time veteran of the game, Aaron didn't mind showing a few of his battle wounds to exhibit how one can easily be scarred in the game. He made sure to let us know that they are "mere flesh wounds [and] that's all they are."

A few shots is all it will take to have him feeling like Rambo, ready to destroy every enemy that crosses his line of sight.



SUIT UP Max Villanueva (12) fits on his mask to make sure it's tight for when he plays paintball, he is just beginning to formulate his game plan. In the woods of the San Gabriel River Zack covered head to toe in camo, uses the woods to take Ryan by surprise. "The only thing I was thinking of was `who wasn't going to have a partner in the game, two versus one.`". *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

WAR GAMES Zach Tallevera (12) (in camo) and Max Villanueva (12) lock, load, and open fire on unseen enemies in a weekend paintball match in the woods around the San Gabriel River. "It's a war. Your adrenaline pumps and your heart beats faster and it's a real rush", Villanueva said. Paintballing is a weekend activity that they try and get to as much as they can for the very reason that it is an exciting escape from school and the normal everyday. Each has his own equipment including guns, paintballs, and any accessories that they may need. "It's really not so expensive" Tallevera said, "You get all your equipment together over time and soon you are pro." *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



RIDING ON YOUR HIGH HORSE

Passionate about horses, Kaleb Chambers (11) use to compete in a rodeo event called Roping. In roping, the goal is to rope a steer in the best possible time. Chambers competed in this for about a year. "I haven't competed in a long time", Kaleb said. It was hard for him to make time for roping while in school. But even school cant keep this dedicated rider out of competing forever. "I've been looking into doing it in the future, its definitely a possibility," Chambers said. He has always been passionate about his horses. "I have always liked horses when I was a kid, and when I finally got old enough, I bought one of my own," Kaleb said. The horse Kaleb rides now is a Quarter Horse named Charlie, an American breed of horse that performs superlatively in sprinting short distances. Now, Chambers just rides on his ranch gathering his cows or just for the fun of it. *Photo courtesy of Caleb Chambers.*



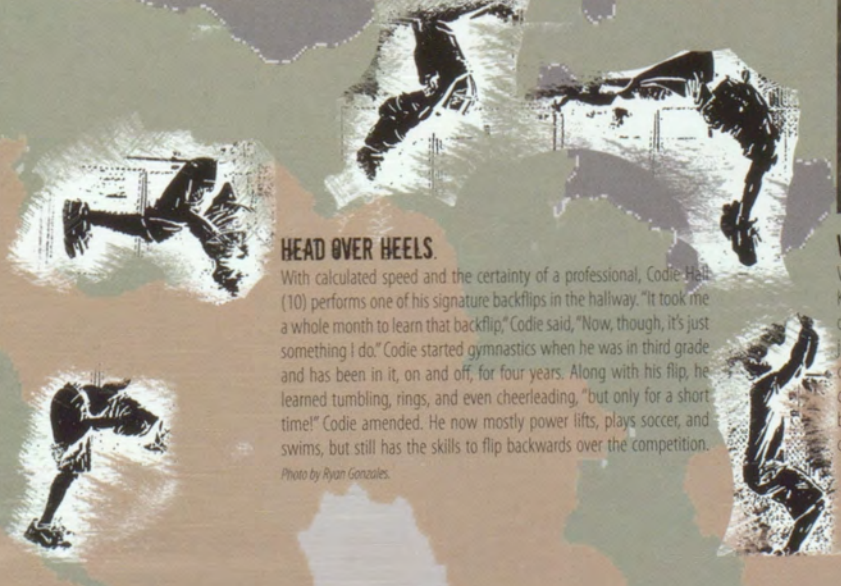
PULL!

Zach Talevera (12) leans back and unloads his twelve gage down range at a flying discus. "The gun really kicks like a mule if you don't lean into it just right," Zach said. Zach always likes to get his money's worth when Skeet Shooting by hit every discus that is thrown. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales*



WILEY COYOTE, NOT SO WILEY.

Waiting perched at the top of a tree dangling feet from the ground, Kale McQuillan (10), sat patiently for any big game to come by, armed only with a bow and arrow. " I was freezing and tired and the sun had just rose, it was prime time for deer," Kale said. But as the morning hunt came to an end all that came into Kale's sight was a not-so-elusive coyote. With his bow drawn, Kale released an arrow that struck right between the coyote's eyes. Kale holds his prize proudly, along with the coyote Kale shot two does and a buck. *Photo courtesy of Kale McQuillan*



HEAD OVER HEELS.

With calculated speed and the certainty of a professional, Codie Hall (10) performs one of his signature backflips in the hallway. "It took me a whole month to learn that backflip," Codie said, "Now, though, it's just something I do." Codie started gymnastics when he was in third grade and has been in it, on and off, for four years. Along with his flip, he learned tumbling, rings, and even cheerleading, "but only for a short time!" Codie amended. He now mostly power lifts, plays soccer, and swims, but still has the skills to flip backwards over the competition. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



what is STYLE?

ROBERT BRENSON (12) IS THE KING OF SWAGGER.
"I describe my swag as unique. I create my own swag, terrific swaggerific. Not in a conceited way though. I keep myself well groomed."

BRITTNEY BUCKMAN (12) IS A ROCK N' ROLL DIVA
"My fashion is sexy. It's dancer/rock Urbanish."

TYLER JAECKS (9) IS A COUNTRY BOY AT HEART.
"My style is country. I like Wranglers and boots."

MICHAEL LAFLER (11) IS FRESH TO DEATH.
"I like to be different. Still stay nice and kept up."

HANNAH WEISON (10) IS A FEARLESS FASHIONISTA.
"My style is classy and bohemian. Sometimes more classy and sometimes more bohemian, but most of the times I like to wear both."

LAUREN CAMACHO (9)



"Style is what you wear, and not try to impress anyone."

MICHAEL MCINTIRE (10)



"Guys don't really have a style."

HAILEY KUNTSCHICK (10)

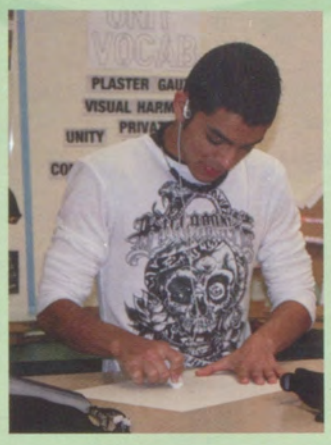


"Style is whatever you want. I don't follow any thing. Just be yourself."



IVY ALBRIGHT (11) IS IMITATED BUT NEVER DUPLICATED. "I don't really have a style. It's original. I just wear what I feel like wearing that day."

PAINTING IN STYLE Issac Aparicio (12) works on his art work looking fashionable. He makes his style his own. "Style is being you, not trying to imitate someone else." Aparicio said. *Photo by Addy Turner.*



BUMP IT UP Brianna Wilkerson (9) finishes her work in her art class as she shows her hair style giving a new way to bump it up. Her different styled hair made a fashion statement of its own. "I play with it" Wilkerson said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*





REVIN' UP THE STYLE METER Jarvis Caldwell (10) prides himself in his enviable style. "Style is something I always have," Jarvis said. Wearing a simple jacket and flat rimmed hat can make anyone seem fresh and clean. Adding a little lanyard 'bling' helps to rev up the style meter even farther. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



WORKING IT Victoria Ochoa (11) shows off her fashion while working a problem on the board on an ordinary day. This junior's fashion fever has never taken a break. "Style is something that is unique and fancy," Ochoa said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

"Style makes you, you."



MALLORY MARCON (9)

"It makes you different from everyone."



CONALLY RENNHART (12)

"Style is who you are."



MARIAH OJEDA (11)

"Style is whatever you feel like wearing."



LEAH MORALES (12)

"How people present themselvs"



JOHN MCMAHN (11)

"It brings out your own personality."



KRISTEN CUBA (11)

STEPHEN SVATEK (10)



tyle is originality, that shows your personality."

KAYLA BERAN (11)



"It is what sets you apart from other people."

JACOB SAN MIGEL (12)



"It's the way you make your appearance to others."

BODY MODY

modification to the extreme



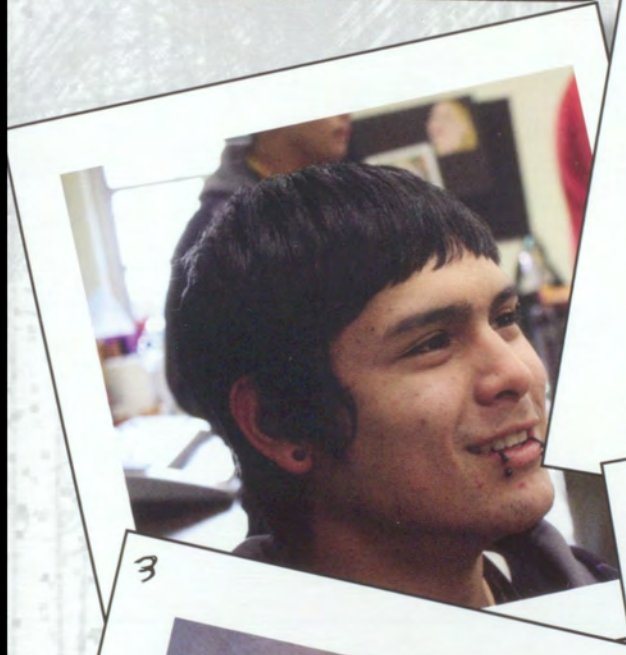
With piercing



After rejection

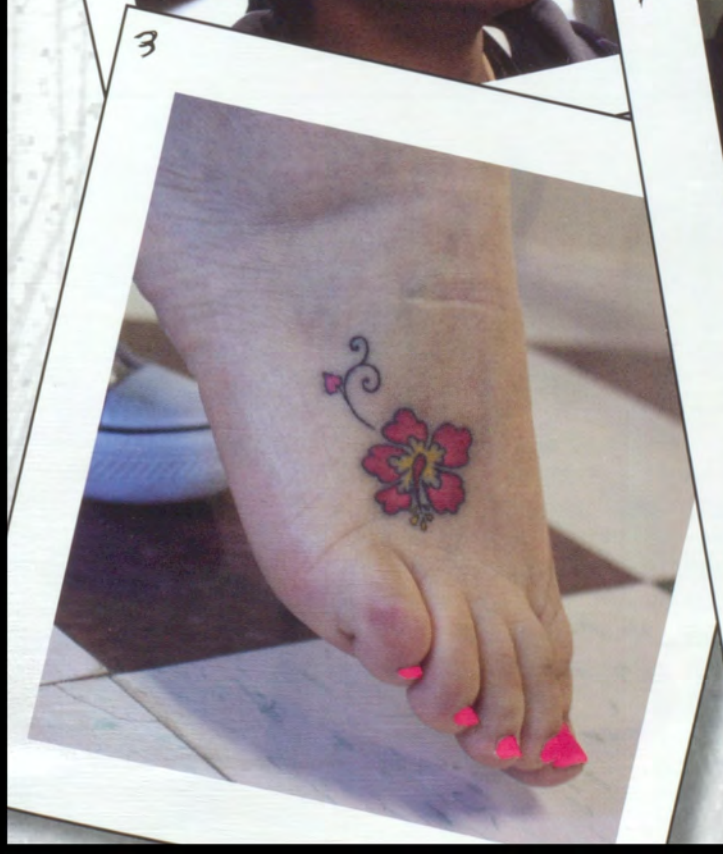
Every one likes to set themselves in someway, either in looks, personality, or in body modification. Stephanie Stegall (12) has numerous piercings and one tattoo. Semi permanent and completely her own Stephanie had the gumption to get one of the largest piercings known to the modification world, the Corset piercing. The piercing consists of two rows of rings on both sides of the back so that when they are healed you can lace a ribbon through them. "My mom thought I was crazy, and so did everybody at school," Stephanie said. Stephanie had the piercings for about three months before the unbelievable happened, all of the rings surfaced. When a piercing surfaces it means that the body rejected it and literally pushed it out of the skin. "It didn't hurt," Stephanie said. Piercings and tattoos are semi to completely permanent if something were to go wrong the damage and scars would always be with you. If you are ever thinking about getting body modification of any kind, keep that in mind.

1 FACIAL PHENOMENON Louis Flores (9) sits in Ms. Stevens' Debate class, very proud of his piercings, living like nothing is out of the ordinary. "I do it to stand out, and for originality. The pain, it's kind of addicting," Louis said. He plans on getting more piercings done in his ears along with his gauges, and is thinking about getting tattoos after high school. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.* **2 BODY MARI** Mari Fernandez (11) has huge holes in her ears. Gauges were common to see in the hallways, ranging from tiny to large. "They're addicting. I tried to stop at double zero but couldn't," Mari said. After double zero Mari's gauge size went up to an inch. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.* **3 MATCHING YOUR MOTHER** A colorful tattoo of a hibiscus plant adds a tasteful modification to Felicia Alderete's (12) body. "I got it because I'm 18, and my mom and I wanted matching tattoos. It didn't hurt too bad, it only really hurt when he got close to my toes," Felicia said. Felicia would have gotten her tattoo sooner, but she did not want to get one done until her grandmother gave her permission to do so. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.* **4 HOMESICK** Ryan Gonzales (12) shows his spider tattoo. "It really has a bigger meaning than just a random spider on my skin. It's symbolic to me because of my leaving home next fall, going to college, and ultimately starting my own life away from my home and family," Ryan said. The tattoo was inspired by Ryan's favorite band A Day To Remember's album Homesick, which is all about leaving home and living your life, while still missing everyone and everything back home. *Photo by Mallory Strmiska.*

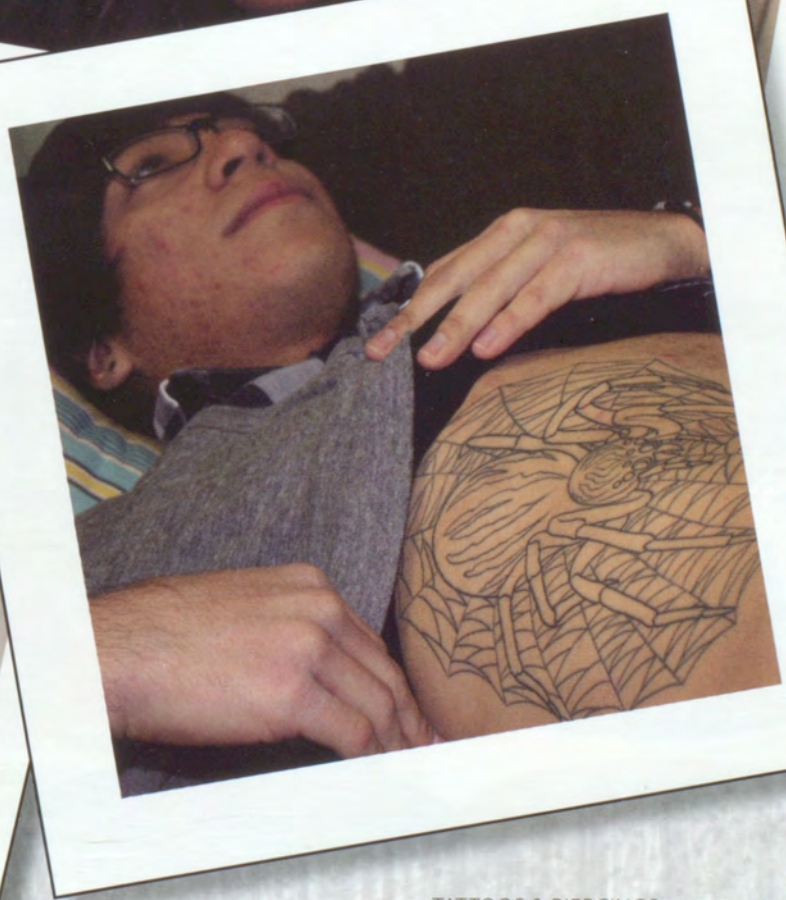




3



4



Texting AND Driving

DO YOU FOLLOW THE LAW?

BRADLEY GING (10) "I can multi-task if the conversation's important, sometime's I'll drift though. Sunglasses keep the cops off, Oakley's help."

OFFICER CULP "Texting and driving is more dangerous than drunk driving. No matter how good of a driver you thing you are, that doesn't mean that every one else is a safe driver as well. Laws are made to keep people safe, not to restrict. "

LISA MARIE FARMER (11) "I mostly text on country roads with my phone in both hands and on the wheel. It's really not a good idea to text and drive, although, I still do it. Don't tell my mom though."

MRS. UNDERWOOD "Sometimes I'll send my husband quick messages or reminder notes on familiar roads, like the loop. I haven't been close to an accident, but I have drifted a little, which was scary."

KEITH HAIR (10) "There's no point! Nobody's that important to text while driving. Plus I have a touch screen which is too hard to text and drive."

MR. GRAY "I grew up without cell phones, so it's just not an impulse for me. Texting and driving is dangerous and illegal. 'Arrive alive, Don't text and drive' ...or I'll beat you with a wet mop."

KAYLA BERAN (11) "When I got in my accident, everyone accused me of texting and driving, but I was just changing the radio. No one believes me though!"

ELRIC MARTINEZ (11) "I don't drive, but I would text and drive. That doesn't make it okay though."

GAIL HOLMAN (11) "I think texting and driving is okay, as long as you pay attention."

HOW TO ACCORDING TO...

myspace.com a place for friends



SIERRA GONZALES (9)

- go to www.myspace.com
- **sign in** with your username and password
- It brings you to your home page
- I don't get caught, I **hide my phone** in my jacket, purse, and my books.

YouTube



KRISTYNE BARAN (12)

- I have a browser on my phone, so I go to it,
- type in youtube.com
- and then **click go**.
- My **teachers don't really pay attention** so I do it in my purse, or if someone in front of me is really tall I do it behind them.

facebook



LAUREN TUCKER (12)

- I have a facebook app on my phone, so I tap that.
- Sign in, and then check if I have any **new notifications**. It's pretty simple.
- I feel the more obvious you are, the less **they can tell** you're doing anything.

twitter



ALEX AMIRZADAH (12)

- I have a **Twitter app** on my phone. I just sign in and look at everybody's **updates**. It's pretty easy.
- I attempt to not get caught by **being secretive**. I know which teachers look for it and I do it when the class is busy doing work.

photos by: Ryan Gonzales

10 Random Facebook Updates

Alexandra Reyes(10) *The Bible said that good things come to those who wait, so I didn't do my homework. I love Mrs. Rohan's.*

Tiffany Stovall(10) *Maybe the cold's messing with me? I forgot my shoes haha, school! :)*

Braden Gross(11) *Bob Marley is the only reason I made it home today, ha.*

Aaron Leeper(10) *cidmw2*

Erica Agundis(11) *Erica sometimes you have to flap your wings and go to the doctor alone'-Jr the sl :)*

Taylor Robichaux(11) *lion king's thoedest character, raphiki*

Antonio Elizondo(10) *It's dark, I can't see, and somewhere in my room is a pissed off cat. Save me.*

Austyn Savage(10) *I don't have time to 'brainstorm what I know about meso american cultures' I have waaaaayyyy to much to do...*

Courtney Sprenger(12) *tried to explain the 'Man Meeting' to Aubrey's mexican friend in Counselor's Aide. Hahaha! Hilarious! *cheet click click* XD*

Mallory Strmiska(12) *Ugh frozen pooter. kml.*



MOBILE

Social Networking

STUDENTS FORCED TO CHECK INTERNET ON THEIR OWN PHONE

Teachers of Taylor High School now have more things to worry about than their students just texting during their classes. Now while students are supposed to be sitting in the AP English class taking notes over "The Westminster Abby", they're updating their statuses on Facebook and twitter, surfing Myspace, and even watching videos on YouTube, using an app on their cell phone.

Due to the blocking of certain sites, such as these, on the school's computers, students are forced to be more resourceful when wanting to check notifications and update their peers on their thoughts, moods, and what they're doing. "What is the goal of a school? Is it education or social? Education is number one," Mr Randy Brown, assisstant principal, said about the reason for the blocking of social networking sites, "that's why those sites are blocked." *Photo by Addy Turner*

ALL ABOUT ACL

Austin City Limits is a three day music festival held once a year in Austin at Zilker Park. Ashleigh Veit (12) was one of 300,000 plus people who attended the eight stage event. Over one hundred bands came together and played music for the exuberant audience who were literally swept off their feet. "Some of my favorite bands were there. It was cheaper than spending a lot of money and several different concerts," Ashleigh said. The music genre ranged from rock of country, and some of today's greatest bands participated, such as Kings of Leon, the Dave Matthews Band, and the Yeah Yeah Yeahs. According to Ashleigh Veit, there was never a moment when no one was playing. "The shows started in the morning and we wouldn't leave until eleven pm. Then the next day you would do it again," Ashleigh said. Austin City Limits was so crowded that listeners huddled shoulder-to-shoulder beneath the gray skies. Music fans refused to be washed out when rain fell for two of the three day festival. "I love music," Ashleigh said. "I think its cool how everybody comes together at concerts because they love music. Everybody gets along. There's a moment when the band stops playing and the audience is singing together all at once. It's amazing."

Photo courtesy of Ashleigh Veit.





MUSIC ON DEMAND

To some of us, music is not only something we love, but something we do. If you were to look around the hallways of Taylor High School you might find that some of the people around you possess the same talents as your musical idols. The garage band Carnivorium consists of lead guitarist Nathan Dunn (9), vocalist Abey Oranday (11), bassist Josh Hannington (11), drummer Gabe Sutton (11), and guitarist Cody Slavych (12). The band's name came to mind when the boys were watching an Animal Planet program about Carnivores.

"The show reminded us of a song called "Carnivorium" by the band The Irish Front," Abey said. "After that it was pretty much meeting adjourned, we all loved

WRAPPED AROUND WARPED Warped Tour, an annual music and sport festival, caters to more than 2,400,000 concert goers each year. The tour features over 60 bands spanning in genres from Alternative to Techno.

The night before Warped Tour was filled with angst and excitement. Paula Reeves (12) hardly slept at all because the concert was 9 hours away and she had been fervently counting down the days since April. Paula went to the concert with former Taylor students Jordan Eppinette, Daniel Ochoa, and Krystina Bordeau. "In the morning, we went to Fajitas on wheels to stock up for the road, and then we left for San Antonio." Paula said.

Although the event opened its gates at 11 am, the group got to the ATT Center in San Antonio at 9. "The band 3OH!3 interacted with the crowd," Paula said, "and Less Than Jake had water guns which was amazing because the heat was excruciating. It was totally worth it and more."

Photo courtesy of Paula Reeves.

the name."

During the week, when none of the bandmates are busy, Carnivorium practices in Nathan Dunn's living room. Despite the little to no walking space, and Nathan's dog tripping over the cords, the boys still manage to head-bang while screaming the lyrics to their song "Beauty's Flaw". "One time I screamed so hard I coughed up blood," Abey said.

Carnivorium writes all of its own songs, and has played at venues such as Emo's and the Red 7 in Austin. "I nearly electrocuted myself at one of our shows while plugging in an amp because my fingers were wet," Abey said. Ah, the price of fame.

Being in a band is not always about and head-banging, however. It requires a lot of hard work and practice hours. Also, each band-mate must be able to put up with the others in times of frustration in order to keep the band together.

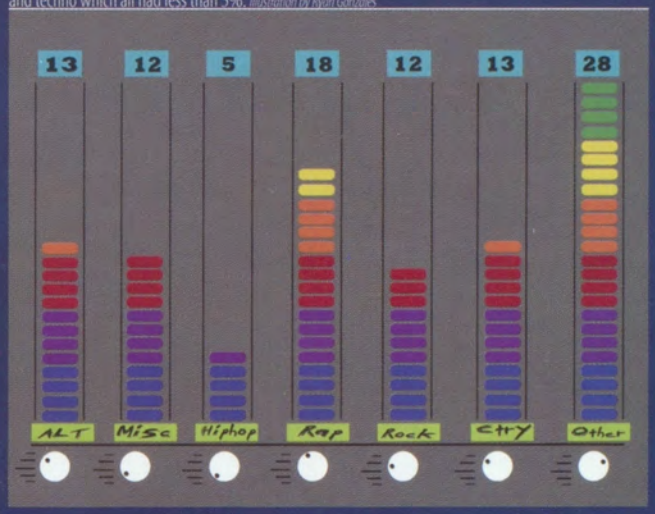
"We argue," Abey said. "A lot. When the dust settles though, if we haven't killed each other, we are still a family."

Whether band mates, concert goers, or someone who loves to sing in their car, we are all connected by this melodious bond called Music.



LADY GAGA IS NOT A GENRE

Students took a poll to determine their favorite genres of music. Rap had the highest percentage of students' votes. Country and Alternative tied with 13%. The Rock genre had the same percentage as the "misc." group which came about with people who either did not follow directions or counted Lady Gaga as a genre. Hip-Hop is preferred by 5% of the student body and the "other" category accumatively represents blues, r&b, pop, and techno which all had less than 5%. *Illustration by Ryan Gonzales*





"The radio is so repetitive and my car is too old and it doesn't have an auxiliary plug so I pretty much just make a lot of mixed CDs," Kelsey Aunspaugh(12) said.



"My favorite concert ever was Devil Wears Prada and my most recent concert was Never Shout Never and it was amazing!" Marissa Downey (9) said.



"I'm not going to lie. I get all of my music from Frostwire, it's free," Courtney McConnell (9) said.



"I like punk because it's funny and gets out my anger. It makes me laugh and smile," Shelbyjo Roan(12) said.

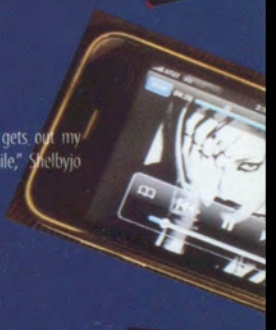


"I usually just transfer from iTunes. ONLY Legally. I recommend people follow that law of the land," Mrs. Rowe said.



"I take my iPod everywhere. I listen to music while I do homework. I like all kinds – alternative, country, and rap," Coty Gola (10) said.







design melanie catuogno **story** courtney springer

MINI SNOWMAN Lilian Mendez(10) shows Guadalupe Rodriguez (10) her miniature snowman on Taylor High School's only snow day. "It was really cold," Lilian said. *Photo by Lisa Vaughn.*



SNOW ANGEL Smiling brilliantly, Jessica Burke (9) embraces the snow that seldom falls on Taylor. "It was fun. I haven't seen snow since fourth grade. I went home and had a snow fight with my dad. It hurt!" Jessica said. However, pain was the last thing on Jessica's mind during the whitest day of the year. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



THERE'S SNOW FEELING LIKE A NEW ONE Like all of the vehicles in Taylor that day, an old Chevy truck belonging to sophomore Jace Fontenot sits under a pile of snow. "I was so excited to see that! Finally my truck is one color!" Jace (10) said. His truck pictured usually has a rusted brown hood but the snow covered the blemish almost perfectly. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*









AND THERE'S THE WIND UP.... On the wind up and about to let loose a stinging ball of slush, Henry Oranday (10) joins in the courtyard snowball fight Feb. 23. "I still cant believe it was snowing in Texas. This was a one time chance so I really took advantage," Oranday said. Most of the students around had identical ideas, which made for a really snowy-fun day. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

AN ASSORTMENT OF TAYLOR SNOWMEN Julia Trejo's (10) Bob; the world's smallest snowman, built in the courtyard by Maisen Lawhon (11); the Life program's celebration of snow; Antonio Elizondo (10) and his RUN-DMC snowfan. *Courtesy photos.*







FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING Students have a snow ball fight in the court yard between passing periods. "It was one of the funnest days of my life, I'm not used to the snow," Lorenzo Sanford (11) said. It was the first time a lot of the students had seen snow. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales*



SPRING BLIZZARD Laughing with excitement along with her peers, Kadijah Dembo (10) spends some time in the snow. "Everyone was happy and got along. I had never seen snow before. I played in it more when I got home after school," Kadijah said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

LET IT SNOW

Snow in Texas at the end of February? The unlikely becomes a joyous reality as is the case with the infamous Taylor High Snow Day. February 23 was a day of historic happenings as the white flakes began to fall and didn't stop for an entire day, blanketing the campus with white Winter wonder. It started with just a few, it sped up to a few more, and by fourth period that day, the snow had progressed to a legitimate Texas snowstorm, or at least to the kids of Taylor. Of course, during the passing period, students couldn't resist running out to all corners of the school and having snowball fights, building snowmen, and just experiencing the day.

There were no complaints about school letting out an hour earlier either, so when students dared to brave the parking lot to go and find their cars under piles of white, what they actually found was pure pandemonium. "It was like a battle field out in the parking lot after school. There were snowballs and piles of slush flying everywhere, people taking shelter behind their cars as if they were bunkers, it was a madhouse but it was awesome," Nathan Jones (10) said. It was a literal battle between Upper Parking Lot and Lower Parking Lot as people threw snow at their friends, their teachers, and even at the people trying to beat a hasty retreat in their cars. Afterwards, the rest of the day was spent reveling in the amazing scenery and doing snow-type activities like snowball fights, sledding on trash can lids, and gathering snow boulders for epic sized snowmen. "After school we went around and picked up huge snow boulders to throw in the back of Jace's truck to save snow for later. His pickup probably weighed a good 400 pounds more after that," Antonio Elizondo (10) said.

The next morning brought even more fantastic times not in the form of more snow but in the form of absolutely nothing at all. "I think I did what every other high school kid in Taylor did. I slept in for like what, three more hours? It was great," Andrew Makare (11) said. Not a single person had to be in class until 10:30 Wednesday morning, an unprecedented happening that left a sweet taste in everyone's mouth and ended Taylor's winter run with a punctuation of content.

For the students of Taylor in all its schools, if snow ever falls again like it did the day of February 23, 2010, then they will know just what to do. Snowballs will once again begin to fly and the smiles and laughter that innately goes along with the soft snowfall will fire up once more for as long as scene decides to play out.



FIRST TASTE THE SEASON During a winter day, Mariah Ojeda (11) and Heather Hegar (11) attempt to catch snow flakes on their tongues outside the classroom during Mrs. Vaughn's HST class. "It was weird seeing snow in Taylor," Mariah said. By the end of the day the ground was covered in two inches of snow. *Photo courtesy of Lisa Vaughn.*

10 field trips we loved

ROME
Mrs. Gaar went sophomore year of college to tour city and parks.

ENGLAND
Mrs. Rowe went to see Westminster Abby.

ICE SKATING
Russel Boussart 8th grade.

WONDER WORKS
Codie Hall loves optical illusions .

FARM
Natalie Ochoa got to pet animals and milk cows.

SUMMER FUN USA
Essence Brown went to the water park in 8th grade.

BOB BULLOCK MUSEUM
Chris Lucio went every year during middle school.

NEW ORLEANS
Devyn Tone went to the Sugar Bowl 2008 when the band competed there.

NASA
Noah Kopit 6th grade tour. Robots and spacecraft.

INNER SPACE CAVERNS
Victoria Gardner went into the caves.



ALL ABOARD Everybody file line into the school bus heading off with Brittany Maddox (10), Kristin Martinez (12), Maria Torres (12) to San Antonio on the H.O.S.A. filed trip. "We gathered lots of information on the filed on health professions of any kind like Dentistry and Nursing," Kristin Martinez said. Eventually one day these girls will have a future in some sort of health profession. *Photo by Addison Turner.*

WUNDERBAR One last look over the finished product, a ginger bread house made to look like Texas with the Capitol on top, and Camryn Stoll (12) is happy to see her hard work come together. "It took lots of time and hard work but putting it all together and spicing it up really made it all worth while" Camryn said. Camryn took home first place and looks to head to state and win there as well, just as she has done in previous years. *Photo courtesy of Camryn Stoll.*



FAIRY TALE ENDING Joshua Bucek (12) gives his opinion on the performance they have just seen at the renaissance festival, along with friends Quade McCauley (12) and Daphne McCauley (12). "I thought the show was great, couldn't have asked for a better ending," Joshua said. Leaving that day from the renaissance fair they had already decided to make another trip to go back. *Photo courtesy of Daphne MacCauley.*





HYDROGEN HYPE Mariah Ojeda (11) gives a thumb up to an electrolysis system while on the HOSA field trip to San Antonio. "They use thermal energy to split the molecules of water, I don't know how they do it, but it's cool," Mariah said. While on the field trip, the students got a first hand experience in the different jobs within the health industry.



BEHIND THE SCENES Future film makers from Mrs. Catuogno's Video Technology class tour the Austin City Limits studio at KLRU in Austin. Students took a trip to the University of Texas campus to learn about UT's film school and tour the facilities. "We learned about video production. We walked around Austin and went to the Underground," Max Villanueva (12) said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



BIKER CHICKS HOSA Members Leticia Mermelejo (11) and Lorena Gonzales (10) stand beside Austin Emergency Medical Technician Mathew Hinojosa and his motorcycle. "The motorcycle was so cool," Leticia said. "Right when we walked into the building, the lights from it were the first thing you saw." HOSA, or Health Occupation Students of America, is a club that competes both locally and state-wide in health occupation-related activites. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



GYPSY MADNESS

Like a twirling, flaming, exotic flower, a gypsy performs a traditional folk dance for an entranced crowd at the Texas Renaissance Festival in Houston. "The dancer brought new meaning to the phrase 'playing with fire.' With clothing and moves inspired by fire she was truly Lord of the Flames," Mr. Gray said. When the whole Art club went to the faire, they expected to see some pretty amazing things but the troupe of gypsy dancers, both men and women performing, made the day a complete cultural learning success and a real shot back to the past.

Photo by Mallory Strnadka.

off the campus...

it GETS REAL

Bring out your iron armor, clean off your robe and cape, find your cliché wood work weapons and bring your best horse down to the Renaissance Festival. Greeted by the music of bards, the pure aura of the Faire transports you into a world five-hundred and sixty years ago. Not an Abercrombie or Aeropostale shirt within at least a few hundred yards in every direction.

So many options but where to start? The jousting tournaments, the intense action of a sword fight, or maybe just watching a fool perform. If you are new to the scene and maybe not in the right apparel, just pick up some clothes from a nearby merchant and get back into the past.

First time attendee Samera Abdelbagi(10) thoroughly enjoyed her adventure, "We were able to go out on our own with groups," Samera said. "I had a good time. We watched jousting. We bought trinkets and souvenirs. We talked to the people dressed up in Renaissance Costumes. Also the performances the people put on were my favorite part."

With the whole day in front of them Mr. Gray's students also enjoyed a concert there, Adrianna Carizales (12) just loved the band Tartanic, and said "they were bomb diggity." For every knight a feast, and for every night a star, and when the day came to an end for the RenFest, Mr. Gray's students walked out of the fair back into modern times and loaded up onto the bus knowing that they were heading home to their village.

not home for the holidays

STUDENTS GO ON VACATION DURING WINTER BREAK





BROUGHT ALONG

Hailey Kuntschik (10) along with Joie Aparicio (10), Issac Aparicio (12), and Cody Alderete (12) stand at the foot of a mountain in New Mexico. "We left like the 30th of December, Joie invited me to go with her and her family. It was really fun," Hailey said. This trip was the first winter break trip taken by the Aparicios. *Courtesy photo.*

NEW MEXICO.

Stopping to take a picture, Johnny Epperson (11) and Kayla Beran (11) stand in New Mexico during winter break. "I went to spend time with Kayla. It was fun getting out of Texas, and seeing the sights," Johnny said. Johnny went with Kayla and her family to New Mexico the day after Christmas and then returned the 31st. *Courtesy photo.*

A SWEET WINTER BREAK.

Taylor Robichaux (11) with her two cousins cut down sugarcane in Louisiana during winter break. "We went to go see my family and my grandma. It was a success, I bonded with all of them," Taylor said. She and her family usually go to Louisiana every summer. *Courtesy photo.*



BLIZZARD IN BALTIMORE.

Damian Alayon (10) makes a snow mohawk on his sister's car in Baltimore, Maryland. "There was 20 inches of snow! It came up to my waist!" Damian said. He went to visit his sister, brother-in-law, and nieces for Christmas. *Courtesy photo.*



OFF TO MEXICO

Selena Castillo (9) and Deyanira Castillo (11) pose for a picture in their grandparents' house, in Mexico, during winter break. "We went for the whole two weeks of Christmas vacation. Most of my family lives in Mexico, so we usually spend our Christmas and New Years in Mexico," Selena said. *Courtesy photo.*



COOL IN COLORADO.

Thomas Solbach (11) with his sister about to embark on their first ski adventure for the day, stop for a picture. "It was a new experience, and definitely fun! One of the first few times that I've actually seen snow," Thomas said. He and his family went to Wolf Creek Ski Resort in Colorado for their winter break vacation. *Courtesy photo.*

HOLIDAY traditions



NOAH KOPIT (10)

What's your Holiday Tradition? "Everyday of Hannukah my family and I bake potato Latkes and play Dreidel. We usually do it at my house or at my grandparents'. Its one of my favorite Jewish holidays, and it's when I get to see pretty much all of my family." *Photo by Addy Turner.*



COACH KEVIN RAMM

What's your Holiday Tradition? "We have our Christmas on New Years' Eve, usually at my grandparents house. After having a big breakfast, my uncle takes the story of the Birth of Jesus and splits it up into 14 sections, so that each person there gets to read a part of it. Then we all go play a football game, except my grandparents." *Photo by Addy Turner.*



TJ FLOREZ (10)

What's your Holiday Tradition? "We stay the night at my grandparents every Christmas. All of my family plays cards and poker and watches movies. Then when we wake up, and eat a big breakfast. I love doing it because it brings my family together." *Photo by Jessica Humphreys.*



RHEGAN STROUP (10)

What's your Holiday Tradition? "Every year my dad's side of the family throws a Christmas party on Christmas Eve. We have a rotation system to see who's going to have it next. They're always a lot of fun because my family's pretty crazy!" *Photo by Addy Turner.*



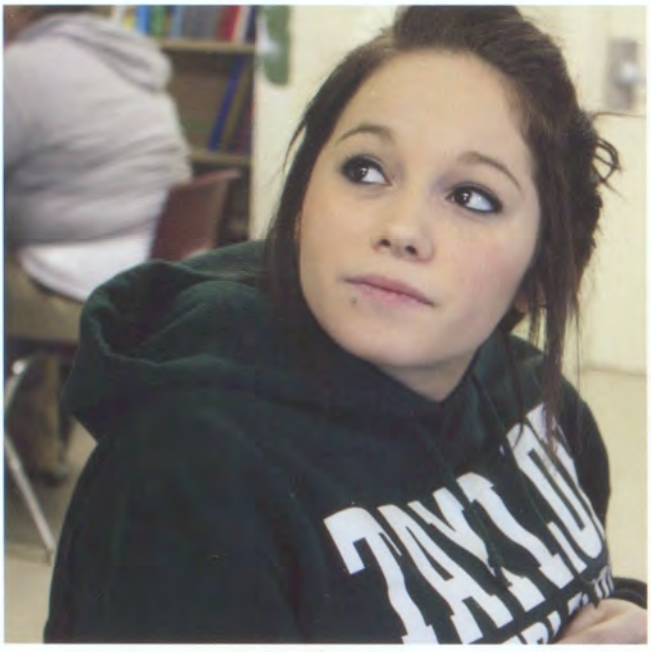
MARIANA VELAZQUEZ (11)

What's your Holiday Tradition? "On Christmas we stay up til 5 in the morning. I do it with my mom, dad, brothers, aunt, uncle, and friends of my dad. We just stay up, eat, watch movies, play games, talk, and mess with the first person to fall asleep." *Photo by Jessica Humphreys.*



OFFICE JAM

When principal Danny Ward left for a hunting trip the day before Winter Break began, teachers and staff crammed in his office for a group photo. "It was our proof that we stayed here on the work day until 1:00 like we were supposed to," teacher Dawn Fischer said. The picture was sent to Mr. Ward's cell phone, but he didn't get it right away. "I was in a deer stand," Mr. Ward said, "and I don't know how to do all that stuff on my cell phone." *Photo by Magdalena Zavala.*



ON HER WAY Megan Chacon Williams (12) is a graduating senior who opted for the Achievement Program in order to finish her diploma and get out to California to be with her new husband and family. Update: Megan graduated on February 5. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*





EARNING REWARDS Lauren Webb (12) listens to her iPod as she works. At the Opportunity Center students can earn rewards like the right to listen to their music by exhibiting good behavior and staying on task. "The Achievement Program is a unique place that is very different from the conventional classroom," said teacher Mr. George Matthys. "It is a dynamic environment that allows learners to study and progress at their own pace." *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

TEACHER TEACHER Mr. George Matthys and Mrs. Rachel Burklow are two of the teachers at the Opportunity Center. Teachers rotate among students and offer encouragement and support as well as instruction. "These students motivate me through their perseverance and determination," Mrs. Burklow said. "Things can get quite exciting over here," added Mr. Matthys. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS



MARY MCFARLIN OC Secretary *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



COACH DANNY POTTS OC Teacher *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

Three Taylor Opportunity Center students paid a visit to the Taylor ISD Board of Trustees Monday night to show their appreciation for the TISD Achievement Program, an intensive credit recovery program that allowed all three students to come back from "poor decisions" and reach their educational goals.

The students enrolled in the TOC program earn their credits working with an educational software program called A+, according to Principal Patricia Alford, taking the same courses and learning the same concepts taught at Taylor High School. In a way, the program is simply another branch of THS — a different way to learn that caters to students with special needs in their lives.

"We have students with children, students that dropped out, students that struggle with peer pressure and students who just work better in a non-traditional setting," Alford said. "Some of the students are extremely bright, and this (program) gives them the opportunity to go to school part-time, so they can work half the day."

To become a participant in the program, students must go through a competitive interview process to gain one of an exclusive 15 seats at the TOC, Alford said, as opposed to students who are sent to the campus for disciplinary reasons. Those students are placed in the Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP).

The three students who approached the board touched its members and the audience with their stories of hardship and success, Alford said.

"One brought a baby with her, and said she was thinking about dropping out (of high school), but that she wanted a good education for her baby, and the only way to do that was to get a good education herself," Alford said. "Another man said he got in trouble not doing the right things, and now he's going into the military and was sworn in this past week. The third man did drop out (of high school), but he came back and realized he wants to be a counselor now."

The program has been in place for about two years, Alford said, and is growing in both popularity and student success in that time period.

By Jason Schaefer, Taylor Daily Press. Reprinted with permission.

turning it AROUND

For Jose Salazar, it took only two weeks of schoolwork to change his life.

That's not to say the task wasn't difficult. He crammed two credits — four entire classes worth of work — into that time period, learning the concepts and earning the grades the hard way, just like any other student.

With the completion of those credits, he earned his high school equivalency, and will cross the stage with the student body during the next graduation ceremony. The occasion marks Salazar's first step into adulthood and a return to what's truly important in life, he said, after dropping out of high school just shy of his requirements May 2008.

"When I turned 18, I got into trouble, went down the wrong path, took my parents and my grades for granted and made a lot of mistakes in life," Salazar said.

Following his girlfriend at the time, Salazar moved to Missouri Jan. 1. He thought his love for her was "the only thing in life," he said, but it didn't turn out how he expected it. Through his girlfriend, he got in trouble with the law and rebelled against his parents.

In addition, it was more difficult to make a living on his own without a high school education. He was doing "kid stuff" like working on cars, he said. Though it was one of his joys in life, he felt like it was never a real job.

"I tried growing up when I wasn't ready, and tried acting mature when I wasn't," Salazar said. "The real world wasn't what I expected, so I decided I'm going to finish my high school diploma, ... one of the great steps to becoming mature."

June 22, Salazar moved back to Taylor with his family, and soon after applied to enroll in the Taylor Achievement Program at the Taylor Opportunity Center, and was immediately met with an important question from Principal Patricia Alford.

"She asked me, 'Why should I be offered a second chance?' and I said, 'Because I messed up, and I admit that I messed up,'" Salazar said. "That and because my dad has cancer, and it's a promise I made to him (that I finish school)."

It was a strong answer, and immediately, Salazar showed his desire to succeed. His greatest difficulty, he said, was simply just not having enough time in the day to do the work he wanted to complete.

"I could have stayed there all afternoon and kept on working," Salazar said. "I had a short time to complete (my lessons), but I overcame that."

With the support of his peers, administrators and Calhoun, Salazar completed what he had set out to do, not only proving to himself what he was capable of, but impressing TISD administrators as well.

"He's an awesome student, and I'm very proud of him, I mean extremely proud," Alford said. "He has really set a precedent for other students."

Salazar plans to attend college at The University of Texas or Texas State University in San Marcos. The only thing that could hold him back is money, he said, which he is confident he will overcome.

Salazar hopes to become a counselor to help keep youth on the right path, helping to teach them the importance of education from his own experience, he said. In addition, he has applied to become a youth minister at a local church and hopes to work as a substitute teacher until he begins college.

"We're very proud of him," Executive Director of Secondary Education Kim Mason said. "I've watched him make some big changes academically and make some good choices."



CELEBRATE SUCCESS Jose Salazar stands with those who have supported his success in the Achievement Program at the Taylor Opportunity Center: Executive Director of Secondary Education Kimberley Mason, TOC Principal Patricia Alford, and his mother . *Photo courtesy of Taylor Daily Press.*

By Mike Eddleman, Taylor Daily Press. Reprinted with permission.

WHY ARE WE HERE?



If you asked Tye Click (12) about how he got here and where he's going, he'd ask you to pull up a chair because his story is very long and very important. It began during his sophomore year in Arlington, Texas. Tye looked at his education as a waste of time. More often than not, Tye was skipping school, smoking marijuana, and getting drunk. "School wasn't a priority for me back then," Tye said.

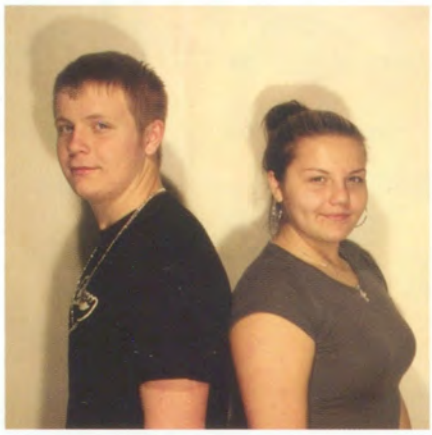
Later that year, Tye was told that he had to start paying rent or move out. Inevitably, the party life, the rent payments, and the tickets for being truent caught up to Tye causing his mother to have no choice but to make him move out. "It got to the point where I had to sell my XBOX but that still didn't cut it," Tye said.

For the next year and a half Tye was homeless. Living from couch to couch with nothing but the clothes on his back, the hat on his head, and whatever contents he packed in his backpack. "If I couldn't sleep on a friend's couch I'd have to sleep in the park, even when it rained," Tye said. "It was the worst time of my life and it was a huge slap in the face."

Tye gave into the trials of being homeless and called his grandmother, who lives in Taylor. He asked if he could live with her until he got back on his feet. Tye's grandmother accepted his request but asked that he stay clean and worked hard to finish up his high school education.

Since then, Tye has been working to turn his life around. Tye attends tutoring sessions at the Opportunity Center for the math TAKS. He enlisted into the military and upon passing the TAKS will begin basic training in April. He plans on being active in the military for 3 years then going to college to major in Biology. He also plans to be a Wildlife Ecologist. "If I could give any advice to the kids in high school it would be stay in school. i know that's cliche but really... that's your only major responsibility at our age," Tye said. "It's not as hard as we let ourselves think and it's definitely to prepare us for the future. So next time you're saying 'oh man, why do we have to be here?' remember that it could always be worse."

WON'T YOU SAY YOU LOVE ME TOO If you look at Dusty or Chelsea Stefek singularly, you would never think that they were a set. When you do a double take, you can see the connection between then despite the fact that they are polar opposites. "We don't hang out with the same people but we never tell on each other. I know I can trust him," Chelsea said. Although Dusty and Chelsea forget they are twins, sibling rivalry is an inevitable aspect of having a twin. "It'd be pretty cool having someone to trade places with, but I also like it that we're boy and girl because we don't have to worry about borrowing each other's stuff," Dusty Stefek said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*





MEET THE MACAULEYS If you see one, the other isn't far behind. Quade and Daphne MacCauley (12) are a set of twins that you never really see apart. They spend their time in the same crowds and participate in the same activities. "Everyone always asks us if we can read each other's minds… we can't," Quade said. Chances are that Mr. Gray's class is where you'd go to look for them. The duo is passionate about painting and culinary activities. "He's the good twin," Daphne said, "I'm evil." *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*





SEEING DOUBLE Monozygotic twins Brittany and Tiffany Jensen may not be able to communicate telepathically, but they appear as a mirror image when seen together. "We switched places once in the third grade. We didn't get caught but we haven't done it since," Brittany said. However, being a twin is not out of the ordinary for Brittany and Tiffany. "We don't really notice it," Tiffany said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*





MATCHING MILES The Miles twins, Cheyenne and Seneca (10) are not only identical siblings, but best friends. Anyone can tell in an instant that nothing will break the bond these two sisters have. "A lot of the time we finish each other's sentences," Cheyenne said. Like any normal siblings, the twin-tastic pair has it's moments of duality, however, they both know that trust is never an issue. "I would never tell a secret of hers, and vice versa," Seneca said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*





EVERYBODY NEEDS THEIR MOMMY

We know her as Mrs. Fischer but he knows her as mom. Reagan Fischer and his mother Dawn Fischer have a typical mom-and-son relationship. "During Fish Camp he established a bunch of rules: Don't hang out with me, don't call me baby, I'm gonna do my own thing," Mrs. Fischer said. "But now he's always in my office." Mrs. Fischer loves that her coworkers are the same people that are sculpting her son's young mind. "I support them 100%," Mrs. Fischer said. "They are constantly telling me how he's doing and I think it keeps him on track. He is a very hard worker." *Courtesy photo by Dawn Fischer.*



CAN'T GET AWAY

From Your Family

The chance of twins being born is three out of one hundred, or 3%. There are two types of twins – identical and fraternal. Identical twins share the same physical features; where as fraternal twins do not. In the case of Amy and Adam Janeka (9), fraternal twins can be of the opposite gender and of the opposite mind.

Amy is also in the school band but prefers the euphonium. "It's like the tuba, smaller," Amy said. She values her quiet time when she can sit down and read a book. "The best times of my life are when he goes to camp! I get the house all to my self." Amy said.

Adam's interests range from playing the trumpet in the high school band to living in the virtual world of video games. "He plays too many video games." Amy said. "You can never play too many video games," Adam said. Adam's other passion is driving Amy crazy. "I pretend to be psychic because it gets her mad," Adam said.

Although they can't read each other's minds, their connection is apparent. Any time spent with the dynamic duo will surely summon a giggle or two. The sibling rivalry between the the two occurs more often than not, but almost always competitively and playfully. Since birth, they have been competing for just about everything. "He always used to steal my stuff when we were little," Amy said, "And now I just like to get back at him."



The twins have only been apart for duration of a week, but Amy considers that the most relaxing time of her life. Unlike Amy, Adam is apathetic about their constant association. "She doesn't like that we're always together because she's likes everything to be quiet," Adam said, "It's okay, though. I like to bug her."

Adam and Amy are both on the chess team, involved in band, and even in the same geometry class. As much to Amy's dismay, the two won't be apart for too long at any one time. When they get home, they shuffle off to opposite sides of the house. Amy enjoys a good book while Adam likes to plug in his XBOX and show the alien's who is boss.



LIKE FATHER LIKE SON Having a father as a coach does not mean an easy way out for Ricky Cobia (12). "He has higher expectations for me. He doesn't allow me to goof off," Ricky said. The two work side by side during football season to instill a winning spirit in the team. Ricky Cobia has been active in football during all four years of high school. *Courtesy photo by Rick Cobia.*



MOTHER MAY I? Mother, Gracie and Son, Moses Guerrero (10) join together for a close loving hug, after ash Wednesday service. "Its nice having my mom close by, she can practically take me off anytime I want, but teachers e-mail her a lot, so they can try to threaten me if they wanted," Moses said. Moses also remarked that he enjoys being able to talk with his mother in the morning along side the police officer and not get into trouble. *Courtesy photo by Gracie Guerrero.*



3 STRIKES YOU'RE OUT Katelyn Kuhl (10) and her Dad, Coach Doug Kuhl, are together 24/7. Many kids would find that having their parent work at the school they attended is embarrassing or even tiresome, but Katelyn has a different story. "Me and my dad are really close," Katelyn said. "It doesn't bother me because I tell him everything." Doug Kuhl is the coach for Varsity baseball and Katelyn plays on the varsity softball team. *Courtesy photo by Doug Kuhl.*

design jessi lopez story courtney springer

tackling the TAKS



ARRRR YOU READY? Ms. Whitney Thomas stands by all of the testing material that she has packed and made ready to ship out for scoring. *Photo by Mallory Strmiska.*

The TAKS procedure to students is pretty well known. Walk int the room, get the granola bar and carton of orange juice, s down, only to get moved again to the assigned desk, wait for th announcements, raise your hand for the pencils and high-lighters, the wait for your scantron and test to be passed out. All of that is length but how do the pre-sharpened pencils and Orbit get into those boxe full of test supplies? Ms. Whitney Thomas, of course. She has bee organizing and planning the TAKS test for the past two years. "I lik organizing things," Ms. Thomas said. Sh does everything from training the staff to ordering the snack "When it gets close to testing have to put all of the materials together and assign teachers rooms and students and the after the test is over I get sort [the material], organize and pack it up to be graded. "I all of that four times a year," Thomas said.



TOO BUSY TO RELAX Being in charge of t TAKS is hard work but it doesn't leave much time to and relax. "The day of testing I run around like a craz person," Ms. Thomas said. *Photo by Mallory Strmiska.*

confronting COLLEGE

Kindergarten through senior year, the same question is asked over and over... What do you want to be when you grow up? No matter what the answer, most careers require an education past a high school diploma, and that means picking a college. Schools have reputations for being the best or the worst and depending on what you want to be--that's how you have to choose.

"I want to go to OPSU (Oklahoma Panhandle State University) because my mom went there," Seth Harvey (12) said. Once you hit your senior year your future is right around the corner, and college is on the brain. Choosing a school was difficult, there were many factors in the decision. What classes do they have? What program is best for me? What do I want to major in?

Applications were filled out and sent in, then acceptance letters were received. "All my dreams came true when I recieved my acceptance letter. I cried," Camryn Stoll (12) said.



AGGIES ALL THE WAY Ever since she was nine, Camryn St (12) has dreamed of going to Texas A&M. As soon as early admissio opened Camryn had her application ready. She was the first person the senior class to recieve an acceptance letter. "It was relieving becau I knew where I was going," Camryn said. *Photo by Mallory Strmiska.*

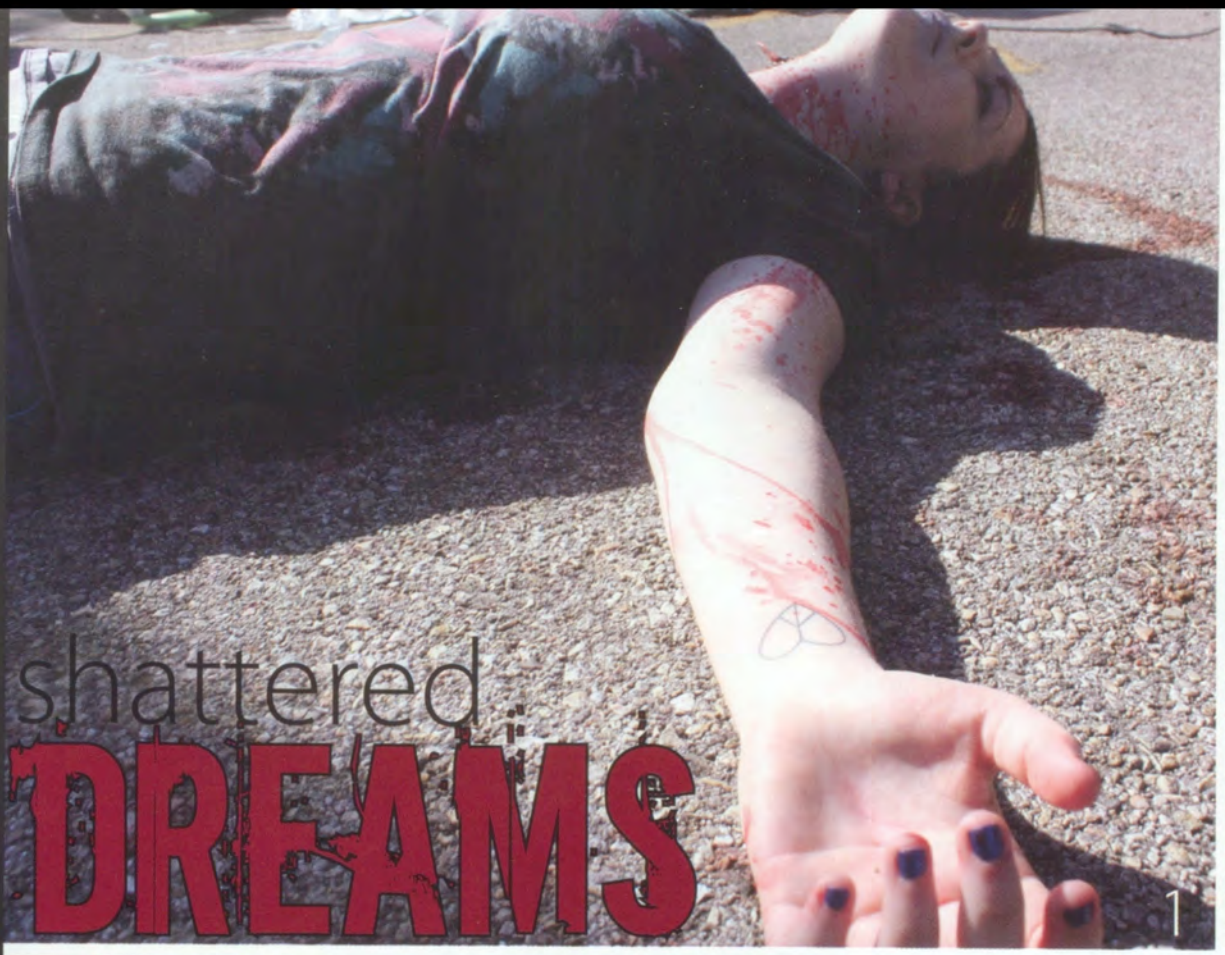


AEROSPACE Simon Martinez (12) applied to Stanford Univers "I found out that they are ranked number two in aerospace engineerin which is what I plan on majoring in," Simon said. Stanford was ha to get into and Simon was uncertain of his admission. "I think I prepared myself pretty well so far to get in, but you can't just expect get into a school like that," Simon said. *Photo by Brandon Dupy.*



OUTA' STATE OF MIND Here, there, Oklahoma, everywhe Seth Harvey (12) is planning on attending college at Oklaho Panhandle University. "My mom graduated from there and I really the school," Seth said. *Photo by Mallory Strmiska.*

shattered DREAMS















1 Being dead never looked so alive. Paula Reeves (12) lies "dead" on the ground. "It was hard not to move when I was lying on the ground, I kept freaking out because all of the stuff going on around me," Paula said. She had to act like she was dead through the entire shoot. When it was over the funeral home came and picked her up just like an actual corpse. "Being in a body bag was crazy--not many people get to live through that," Paula said. **2** Crawling inside the wrecked car, Max Villanueva (12) gets in position to portray the drunk driver in Shattered Dreams. "I was sitting in class and I get a note that says come to the office immediately, for a minute I was scared because I thought that I was in trouble. When I walked in I saw all the cops and ambulance people I wondered if I was in trouble even more," Max said. Max had to take a DWI field test in front of everyone witnessing the drill. In the film, Max killed 2 students and critically injured one. "During the filming it was somewhat realistic being in a type of situation where I killed somebody and injured three of my friends. It really hit home after all of the filming was done and gave me a different perspective on drinking and driving when I came back to school and people were asking me how I felt about killing someone," Max said. **3** THS-TV was in charge of filming the Shattered Dreams dramatization. "I liked filming the party, but it was hard trying to schedule around everyone, and it was cool telling the wrecker how to wreck the car. It was interesting seeing the whole thing come together, but the process of editing it was tiring," Kameren Hodnett (12) said. **4** Getting pulled out of the car, Cameron Dupy (10) acts like he was injured critically. "When they were pulling the car apart I just kept thinking.. DUDE! I just got jaws of lifed out of a car!" Cameron said. After it was all over and done with Cameron had to go home and change out of his ruined clothes. "I got really depressed in the car on the way home. I really started thinking about what could really happen," he said. **5** Nicole Clayton (11) lies in the bottom of a wrecked car. "I was in an actual wreck about a year ago that was so similar to this one. When I got into the car I just kept thinking how I wasn't going to be able to do it," Nicole said. "I hope it made people realize that something like that could actually happen to someone they know," she said. **6** Drinking and driving don't mix. Juniors and Senior got to witness first hand what would happen if fellow students would get into an accident. The mock accident had everything from police cars to StarFlight. It was made to scare students away from drinking and driving. "The wreck was so real looking, they busted out the windows in the cars and everything. I was getting freaked out and I knew that it wasn't even real," Mallory Strmiska (12) said. **7** Alex Eppinet (11) plays a seriously injured passenger who is taken to the hospital by chopper. "The fracture on my leg was awesome, my shin looked like it was sticking out of my leg. When I was under the helicopter blades it got really windy and hot from the exhaust. I wasn't able to talk or laugh or move during the acting. It was really hard to look dead," Alex said. The final film was played for the entire student body and used for the police, EMS, and other emergency personnel as a training video. *Photos by Ryan Gonzales.*

Double fault

Coach Kevin Ramm is not only the girls and boys tennis coach, but also a forced to be reckoned with in the world of math. With his scruffy beard and Algebraic knowledge, Coach Ramm gives a new meaning to the word multi-task. During the day he teaches Algebra II and Math Modeling. "I enjoy doing both jobs because they compliment each other," Ramm said. "If I'm having a bad day in class, tennis practice usually makes it better and vice versa."

Coach Ramm has been teaching for 5 years; two years at Taylor Middle School and three here at Taylor High School. He attended the University of Texas for two years then transferred to Letourneau University where he played baseball and worked to earn his Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics.

The Fall season of Tennis starts in August and ends in November. The Spring Season beings in January and ends in early May. Practices for the players end at 6 o'clock. For Coach Ramm, the work is just beginning. Coach Ramm still has to grade about 120 student's tests and homework. Among those students only two girls, Maisen Lawhon (11) and Isabel Yanez (11), from the tennis team have ever been in his classes. "I'm much harder on them. I expect equal effort on the court and in the classroom," Ramm said.

To the majority of his students he is just a math teacher they have to put up with for an hour and a half, but to the tennis players walking the halls, he's the coach who'll throw up a "turkey" and a couple of "snails".



RENAISSANCE MAN Coach Kevin Ramm listens to a student during his Algebra II class. "It's a very rewarding experience to be a teacher," Ramm said. Kevin balances his life between teaching, coaching tennis, and being a good father. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



CALCULUS Leah Morales (12) gets calculus help from Ms. Cathy West. "If you do your work you'll be fine it's not as intimidating as people make it out to be," Leah said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

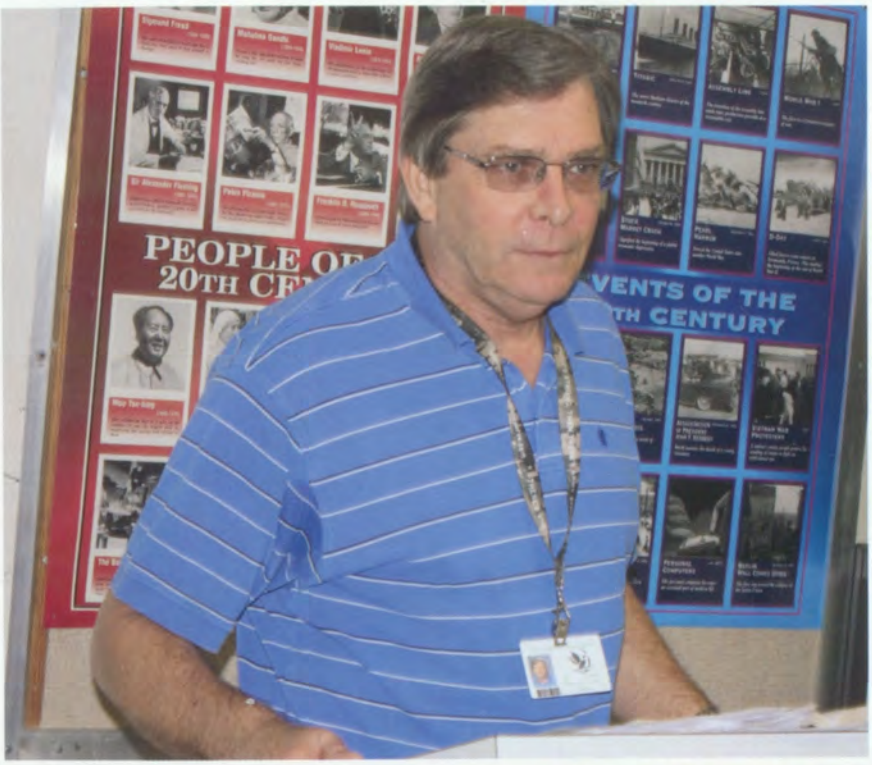
IN THE SUN Students from Mrs. Rohan's math modeling class measures the shadows of different objects to see how tall they were. Using the angle of the sun and the length of the shadow, the students could figure out the height of the telephone pole. *Photo by Brandon Duoy.*



LIKE SHOOTING FISH IN A BARREL Katie Walls (9) looks over her calculator work carefully in Mrs. Turpin's math class. "I like high school. I love that everyone gets along here. Math is my favorite subject," Katie said.



social security



Passing down hundreds of years worth of history, Mr. Paul Quarles teaches his students about their country's victories and tragedies. Anyone in his class will tell you that history is more than a series of dates in a ragged textbook. Instead, it is a story that unravels itself with underlying mysteries and morals. "Everything we learn and everything that has happened is related to history," Mr. Quarles said.

Mr. Paul Quarles was born and raised in Houston until he attended college at the University of Texas. There, he majored in U.S. Government. The beloved social studies teacher has been teaching for fifteen years. "I like high school kids and I like teaching," Mr. Quarles said. A typical day in his AP U.S. History class includes meticulous notes, often followed by a quiz about previous material. Although his class can be tedious, students enjoy having Mr. Paul Quarles as their teacher. "He is really funny. Mr. Quarles keeps your attention. I've had him my sophomore and junior year. He's a really good teacher," Jennifer Townsend (11) said. When he is not standing in the front of his classroom or greeting students in the hallway, Mr. Quarles enjoys fly fishing, surfing, and skiing.

During February 2010, Mr. Quarles was out of school due to complications with his heart. A procedure was performed to determine the cause. The doctors discovered blockage in his heart and his legs. He underwent several surgeries to correct his health complications. "I had a bad knee. Over the years, I couldn't exercise. That was the problem," Mr. Quarles said. He was absent from school for only a week, surprising fellow teachers and students by returning to school shortly after his operations. The surgeries restored his strength and energy.

"Mr. Quarles always puts his students first. He really cares about them," Mrs. Vicki Rowe said. Mr. Quarles will go down in history at Taylor High School as one of the most passionate and enthusiastic social studies teachers. "I will continue teaching as long as I enjoy it," Mr. Quarles said.





NEWS FLASH Mrs. Gray's second period U.S history class plays an intense game of jeopardy. "My favorite thing about history is knowing stuff about history, other than just what is in the news." Michael Lafler said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



THE BRITISH ARE COMING! Eleventh grade students attentively listen as Mr. Quarles lectures about events in United States History. "My favorite thing about U.S History is World War II," Jeff Carpenter said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

NOSE TO THE GRINDSTONE Meticulously studying for Coach Tenill's U.S. Government course, James Fields (12) concentrates on the assignment before him. "Its a hard class, but Tenill makes it interesting," James said. U.S. Government is a required course for all senior students. Students learn the fundamental elements about how the government operates. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

REMEMBRANCE Leo Sandoval (12) observes the traveling Vietnam memorial wall. The 1/3 scale wall came to Taylor on a Texas tour. This was the only town in Texas that it stopped, and was here for one weekend. *Photo by Mallory Strmiska.*



WEIRD Science

Science is a rather broad subject and can not be described in a simple way, without along the way losing the attention of some students. With each level of science no matter which it maybe, anywhere between biology and physics, it requires a different type of expertise to become skilled in it. Biology is more about the knowledge and study of life, and what the body or any living organism must do internally to maintain life. More than likely this is the class where students get to take a look internally at an animal to better understand what they are studying. Some students first remember dissecting a starfish, some a minx, and some a piglet. The students who you think would just tear right through an animal, usually become squeamish during cutting time, while those more reluctant at first, become braver than they put on.

"I like knowing about the world around me and being able to look past the physical outside and into the biological inside," Courtney Martin (9) said.

As soon as your sophomore year comes around the next thing a students learns during the course of that year is chemistry. This is where many students see the fabulous gummy bear roast show, where Mr. Springer uses a little Chem. 101 to extinguish a flaming gummy bear in a test tube, once every year for his chemistry students to witness. Although it may be hard to grasp at first, you will find out it is just a little slump before a student gets adjusted to this academic class that requires a little more precision in studying. However if you should come to completely understand chemistry, you could then figure out how to light water on fire inside a glass cylinder. "The stuff in Chemistry is fun but the writing is not!" Gabe Montemayor (10) said.

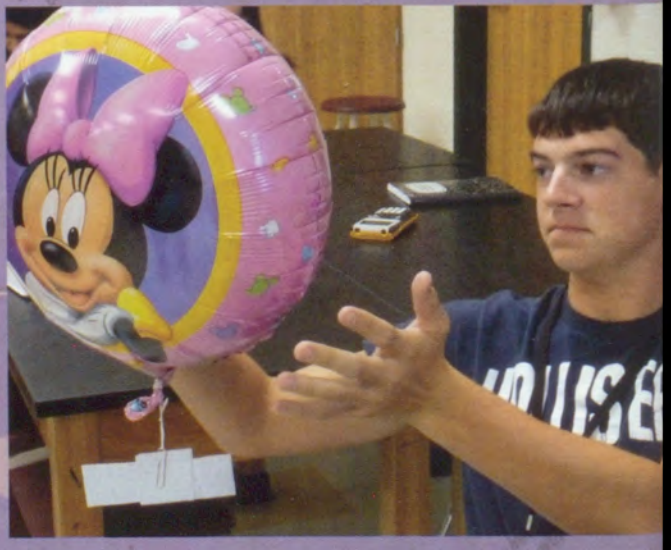
If you should be so lucky enough to take physics around your junior year, then you will finally be able to understand how to see what happens around you in a much more complex way. For instance, you will understand a video that you will see in Mrs. Gifford's class, where a truck traveling at sixty-five miles per hour with a speed pitch machine bolted to its back; while at that speed the speed machine fires a baseball and as soon as the ball barely passes the truck's tail gate the ball stops like it hit a break wall and falls directly to the ground. Also the students get to understand motion, and get to make mouse trap cars and race them in class, seeing which teams car can travel the farthest. Even with the knowledge gained in physics you could learn how to stop a balloon dead in its tracks.

"It felt great to finally get it to stay still, it took a few tries to get it accomplished but it finally worked," Chase Richter (11) said.

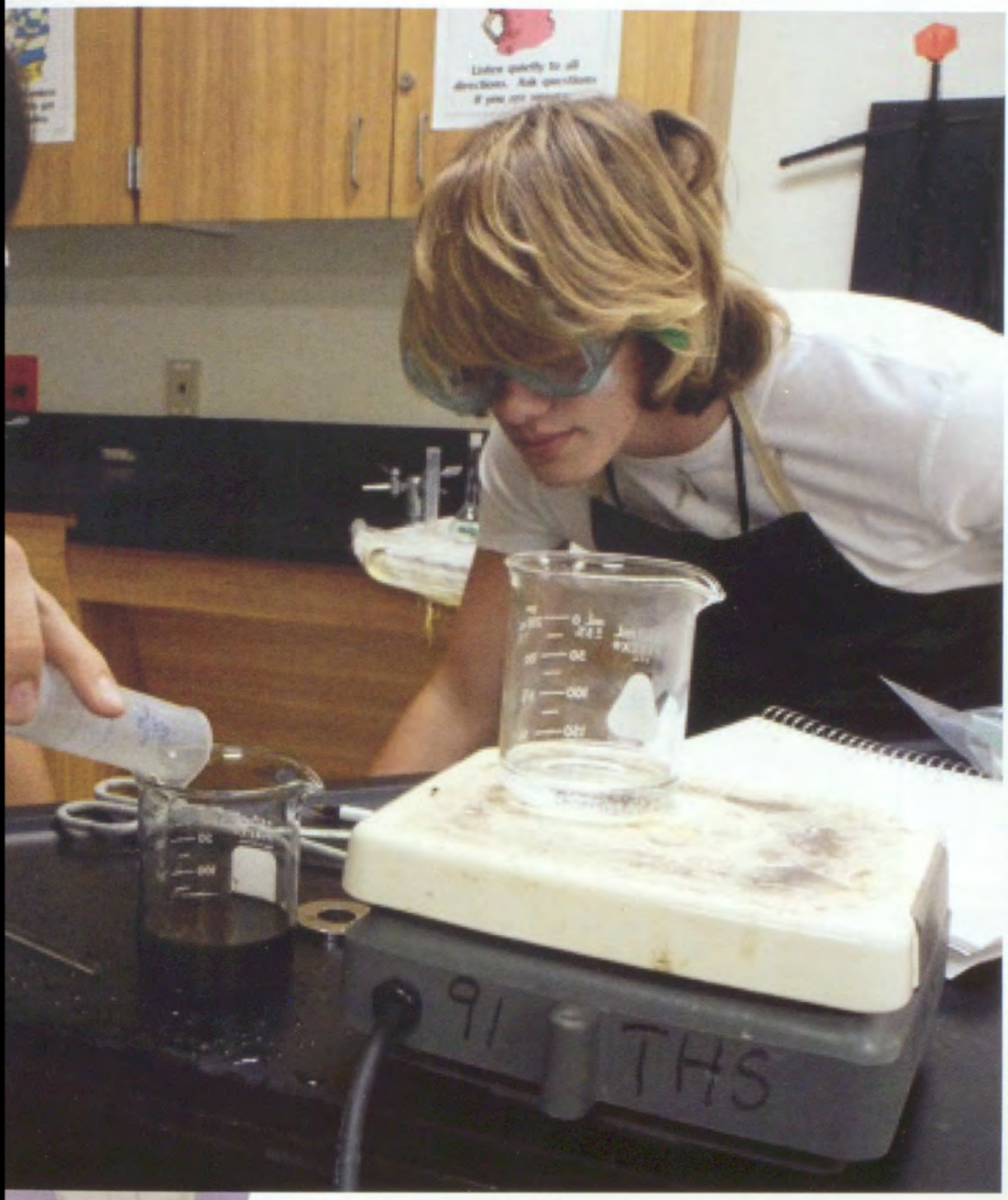
A major component in a students education through out high school is the science courses, and if looking to have a successful future once out of high school, then knowing these subjects makes life a little easier on you, because science is every where and in everything we do. So the next time you get shocked while walking on a rug with socks on, you will know why.



WATER LOSS
Jared Delony (12) cautiously pours a compound into a solution, in AP chemistry along side Jordan Kiewit (12) preparing to see what will happen. "AP chemistry has taught me the importance of precision," Jordan said. The students spent the rest of class decanting and dehydrating a substance to determine its final product. *Photo by Addison Turner.*

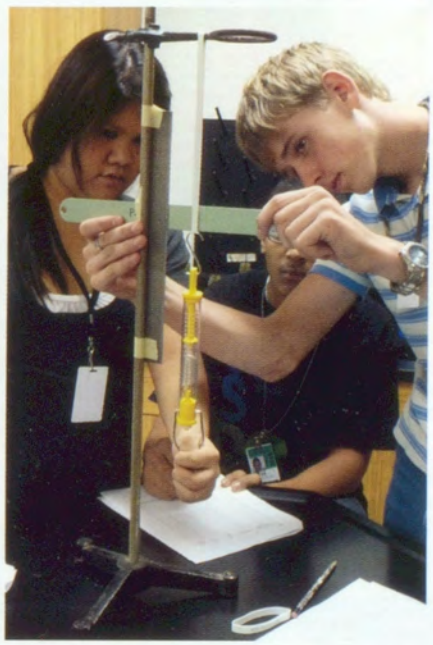


PERFECT BALANCE Chase Richter (11) tries to perfectly suspend his Minnie Mouse balloon in midair for Mrs. Gifford's pre-AP Physics class. "I like the labs," Chase said, "and Mrs. Gifford is pretty cool." The students had to use their knowledge of buoyancy and mass to try to keep their balloons stationary within the air. *Photo courtesy of Jean Gifford.*



BYE BYE BRUCEY
Advanced placement biology students disect a female shark to identify and examine the internal organs. "I was excited to disect a shark, it didn't bother me," Tara Eulenfield (12) said. Disecting dead animals is just one part of the rigorous curriculum of AP biology. The students also engage in interactive laboratory experiments and designs. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

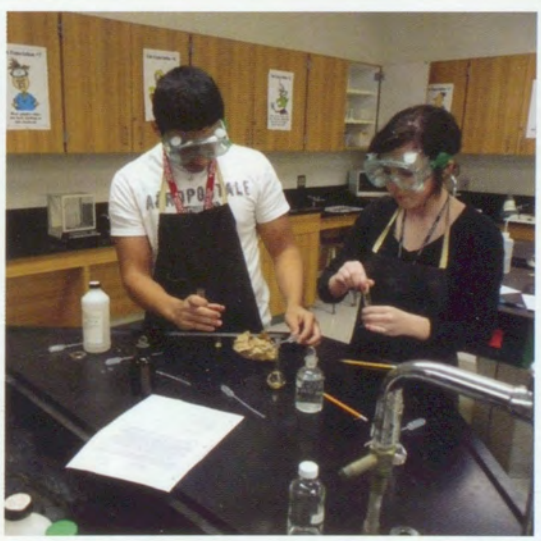




RUBBERBAND MAN Julie Martinez (11) and Caleb Chambers (11) measure the tension of a weighted rubber band in Mrs. Gifford's Pre-AP Physics class. "Mrs. Gifford explains everything really well, and she goes into a lot of detail," Julie said. The students in Pre-AP Physics are required to do their homework online on the University of Texas website. *Photo courtesy of Jean Gifford.*



RACECARS RULE! While in Mrs. Gifford's Class, Ian Rucker (11), Steven McAllister (11), and Daniel Hyzak (11) discover the physics behind their mini race cars. The boys had to measure the speed and velocity in three different trials. "It was awesome and we got to be outside of the classroom," Daniel said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



MIRROR MIRROR ON THE WALL Partners Simon Martinez (12) and Kelsey Aunspaugh (12) work together to make glass inside a test tube with silver nitrate. "Ours didn't exactly come out right, all you could see was silver and no reflection," Kelsey said. Kelsey's partner Simon was very understanding and knew that there was nothing they could do to turn the tube into what they wanted. *Photo courtesy of Chad Springer.*

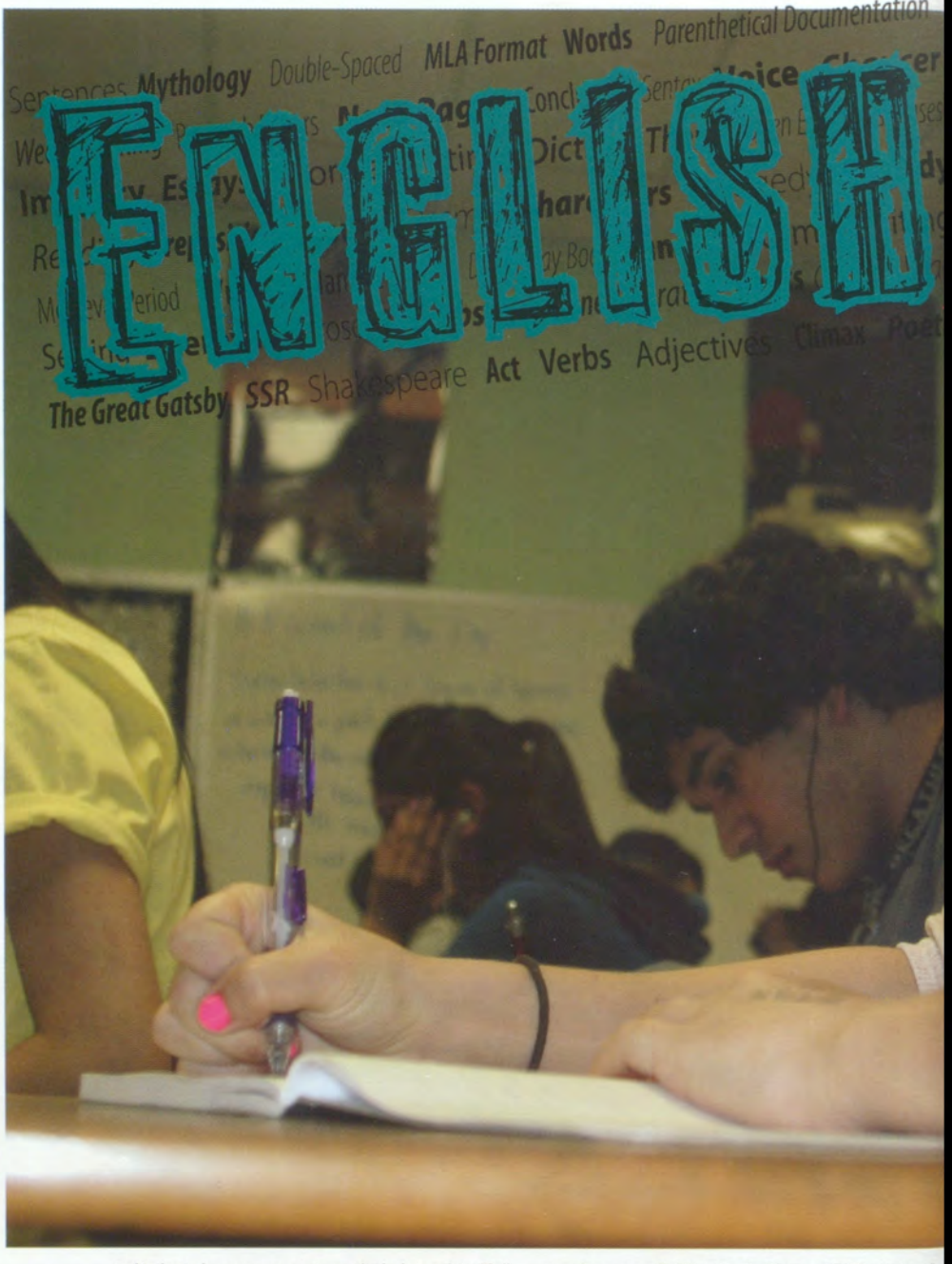








EN-GLISH



STICK UP Noah Kopit (10) holds a play gun up to Dusty Stefek (10), while Mike Aguirre (10) watches on, to reenact the myth "The Golden Fleece" for a project in Mrs. Underwood's class. "They 'shot' me for stealing Mike's girl. I enjoyed being a gangsta pimp," Dusty said. The Pre-AP sophomore class was divided into groups and each assigned a Greek myth to act out as if it was happening in modern times. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

FEELIN' FRANKENSTEIN With his nose in a book, Dell Buckalew (12) sits in Mrs. Raez's English 4 class. "Pretty much all I do in this class is do a warm-up, spin in my wheely chair, and sing," Dell said. Mrs. Raez read the book to the class while her students followed along. *Photo by Courtney Sprenger.*

ADJUSTED FISH Working on a paper for Mrs. Farr's English 1 Pre-AP class, Mariah Ramirez (9) writes about Homer's The Odyssey. "I really love learning about greek mythology, it's like a made up world," Mariah said. Freshman english consists of classical literatures, like Romeo and Juliet and The Odyssey. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

GRADE A Olivia Burk(10) with her teacher Mrs. Estrada. Olivia entered a contest called "Breaking the Silence to End Teen Violence." "I had alot of fun wirting it, the topic inspired me and i wanted my words to help others," Olivia said. Olivia's blank verse poem was called "I wanted you to be the one to save me," and she won first prize which is $25 cash prise and publication. *Photo by Brandon Dupy.*

9th Grade

- Thesis Statements
- Romeo and Juliet
- The Odyssey

10th Grade

- Culture Projects
- Much Ado About Nothing
- Pun-Off

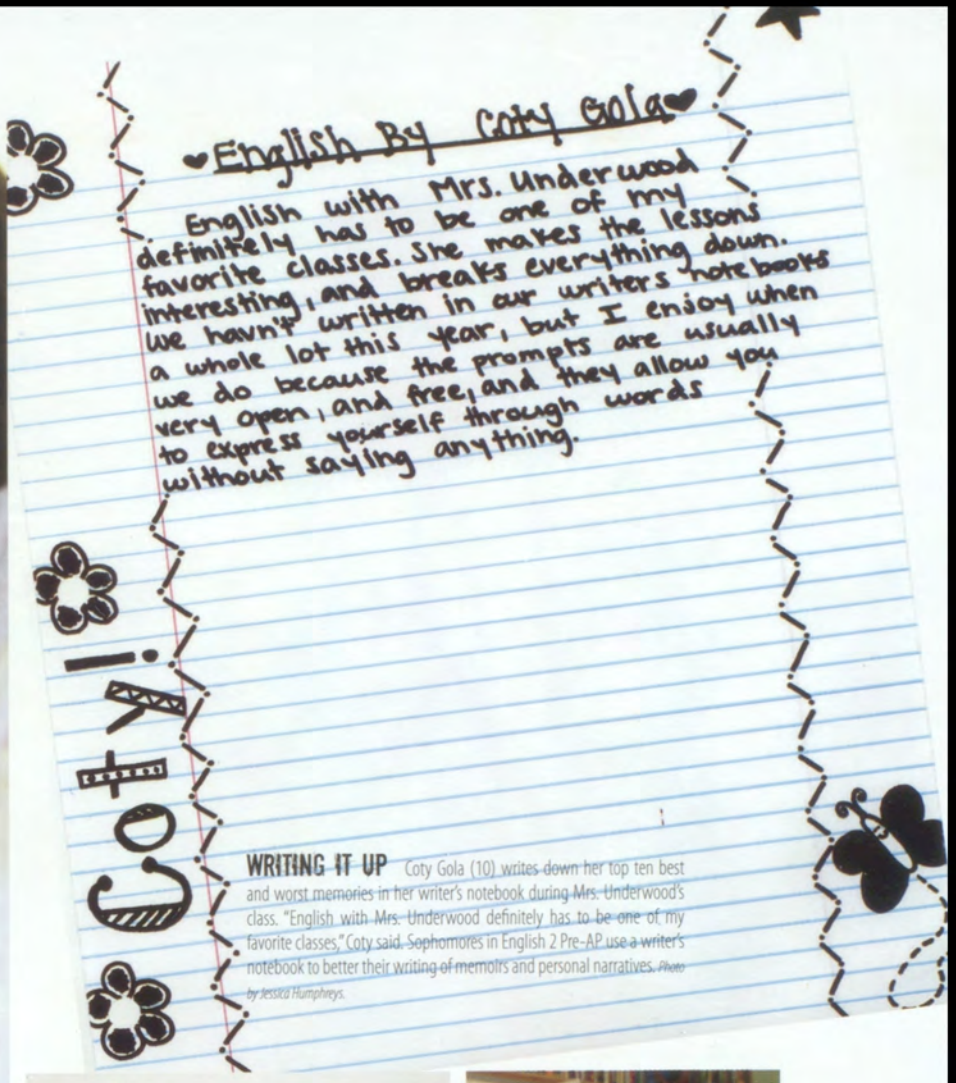
11th Grade

- "We Didn't Start the Fire" Essay
- Gallery Walks
- Scoring AP Essays

12th Grade

- Chaucer
- Medieval Film Project
- Application Essays





WRITING IT UP Coty Gola (10) writes down her top ten best and worst memories in her writer's notebook during Mrs. Underwood's class. "English with Mrs. Underwood definitely has to be one of my favorite classes," Coty said. Sophomores in English 2 Pre-AP use a writer's notebook to better their writing of memoirs and personal narratives. *Photo by Jessica Humphreys.*

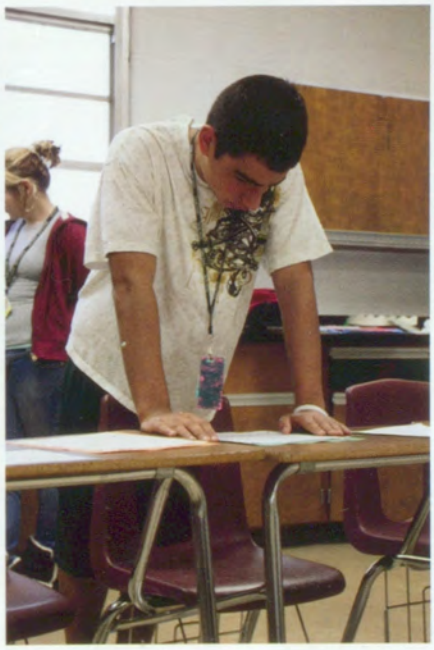




ENGLISH'D OUT Frustrated, Chelsie Hutcherson (11) puts her head down at the English 3 Gallery Walk in Mrs. Gaar's class. "Some [of the poems]made no sense," Chelsie said. Mrs. Gaar asked her students to write poetry and then displayed them around the room for other students to give their opinions on. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

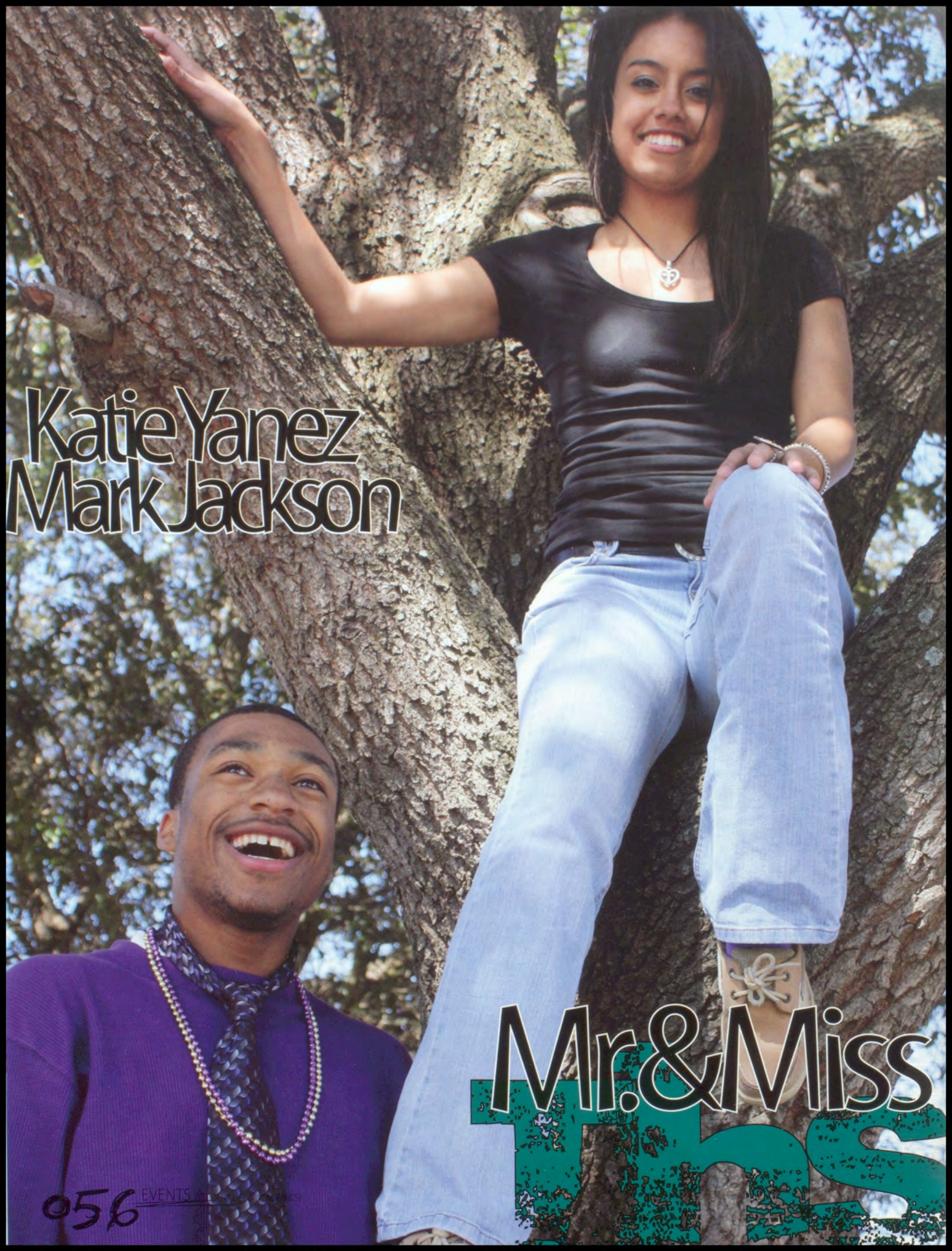


CRACKING UP Jace Fontenot (10) chuckles at one of the puns of Mary Griffin (10) and Stephen Schroeder's (10) Pokemon pun routine during the Pun-Off in Mrs. Underwood's class. "Their Pokemon pun show was pretty jank, but it was funny in a not-so-funny way," Jace said. Each student was expected to come up with a thirty seconds or more pun routine, and the three best won prizes. *Photo by Mallory Strmiska.*



STRUTTIN' IT Henry Oranday (10) eyes his audience as he reenacts a Greek myth as a pimp. "It was entertaining," Mrs. Underwood said, "although perhaps not so academically relevant." Mrs. Underwood had her students re-write a modern story line for three well-known myths. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

POETRY READIN' Carlos Perez (11) intensely reads another student's poetry in Mrs. Gaar's Gallery Walk. "I felt like other people should look at their writing, besides just the teacher," Mrs. Gaar said. Each student went around the room and gave their opinions on each poem they read. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*


Katie Yanez
Mark Jackson
Mr.&Miss
HS

most

Likely to succeed

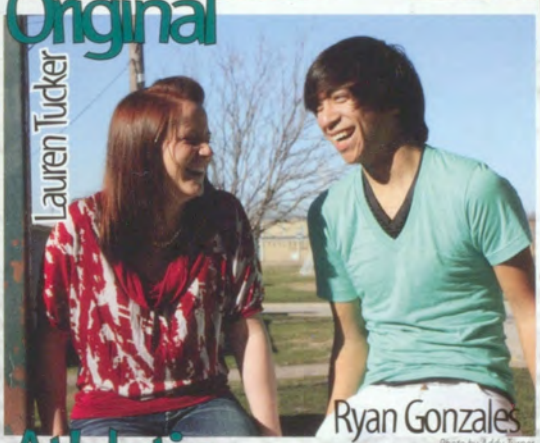


Simon Martinez

Claire Berger

Photo by Addy Turner.

Original



Lauren Tucker

Ryan Gonzales

Photo by Addy Turner.

Friendly



Courtney Sprenger
Max Villuinava

Photo by Addy Turner.

Athletic



Miressia Steele

Samuel Jiresk

Photo by Sloanie Cotner.

Intelligent



Brandon Dupy
Leah Morales

Photo by Addy Turner.

Best Dressed



Robert Brenson
Ashlee Silva

Photo by Sloanie Cotner.

"I can't wait to tell my grandkids!" Taylor Robichaux (11)

Juniors



Braden Gross
Heather Hegar & Taylor Robichaux

Sophomores



Hannah Weison
& Camron Richardson

Freshmen



Jeremy Snyder
& Brianna Wilkerson

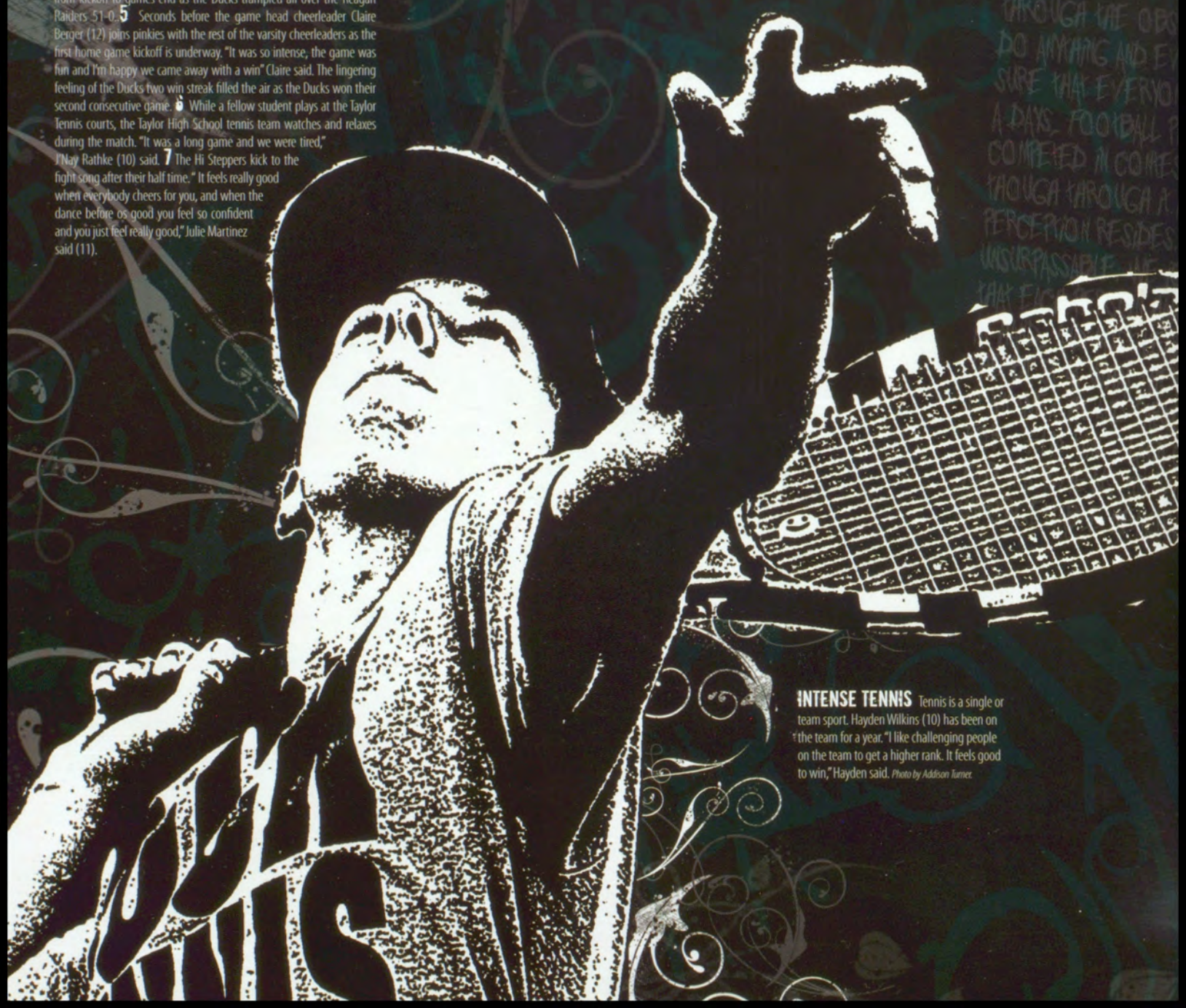








1 The halls of Taylor High School are compiled of some of the most famous and notorious time eras ever to grace the time line. "To be a wealthy roman politician would be kind of nice to experience, so I thought why not, I don't think ancient Rome had pep rally's in it though," Zach Lindsey (11) said. In the span of the day centuries were seen as many students dress according to their favorite time in history. **2** Doing a salute for Michael Jackson's passing, Felecia Alderete (12) and Maricela Fernandez (11) tip their hats in memory of his signature dance moves. The crowd reacted with yells and screams of praise. "He had died while we were at drum major camp, so we thought we would honor him", Felecia said. **3** Gathering for a meeting, the homeroom representatives listen while teacher Dawn Fischer talks about what a representative should do and how they should act. "We talked about being responsible and showing leadership", Aubrie Davis (11) said. **4** Ricky Cobia (12) alongside his teammates joins hands as they approach the coin flip for the first decision of the game. "I had a good feeling heading into that game, everything leading up to the game just felt right." Ricky said. That proved to be true from kickoff to games end as the Ducks trampled all over the Reagan Raiders 51-0. **5** Seconds before the game head cheerleader Claire Berger (12) joins pinkies with the rest of the varsity cheerleaders as the first home game kickoff is underway. "It was so intense, the game was fun and I'm happy we came away with a win" Claire said. The lingering feeling of the Ducks two win streak filled the air as the Ducks won their second consecutive game. **6** While a fellow student plays at the Taylor Tennis courts, the Taylor High School tennis team watches and relaxes during the match. "It was a long game and we were tired," J'Nay Rathke (10) said. **7** The Hi Steppers kick to the fight song after their half time." It feels really good when everybody cheers for you, and when the dance before os good you feel so confident and you just feel really good," Julie Martinez said (11).



INTENSE TENNIS Tennis is a single or team sport. Hayden Wilkins (10) has been on the team for a year. "I like challenging people on the team to get a higher rank. It feels good to win," Hayden said. *Photo by Addison Turner.*

Groups

Within each of us, passion, persistence, and perception reside. When a challenge presents itself, these traits take over our bodies and allow us to achieve things that were previously impossible. We join clubs and teams to be with individuals who acquire skills and ideas parallel to our own. However, we eventually learn that each person has their own unique ideas as well. In order to succeed, teams must pull together and fight through the obstacles that are at hand, and must learn to merge together in order to work as a whole. When expectations are high, teams do anything and everything to be the best at what they do. Clubs come together to organize meetings, trips and various fund raisers, making sure that everyone carries their own weight and participates. NHS served food for banquets, the volleyball team suffered through two a days, football players competed for field time, Latin club members frantically scrounged up enough money for their trip to Italy and BPA competed in contests ranging from Job Interviews to Videos. All of these clubs, teams, and groups required time, effort, and some money, but through it all, intense and unforgettable memories were made, that will never be forgotten.



1



2



3



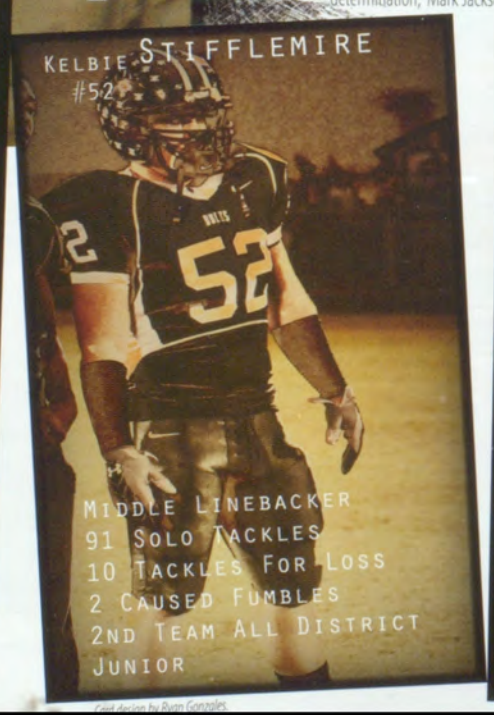
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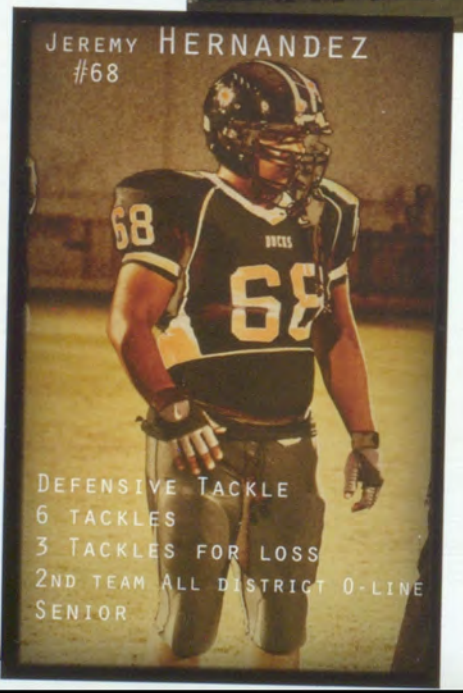


5

1 During the homecoming pep rally, Samuel Jirasek(12) displays his school spirit by dressing up and painting his face. With about a minute left, Taylor attempted to hold on to their one point lead, but fell short by two points when Madisonville kicked a field goal to end the game 28-26. "The pep rallies are normally exciting, but there is always a special feeling about the homecoming pep rally because of the alumni coming back to watch," Samuel said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.* **2** With mud on their fingers, the JV defensive line, led by Max Garcia(11), Daniel Rojas(11), Steven Reyes(10), and Moses Guerrero(10) position up against Rockdale's offensive line. Taylor battled after being down from a three touchdown deficit and cut the lead to just one score, and was defeated 35-22. "We had a lot of players out of position, we adjusted well but came up short," Moses said. *Photo by David Rodriguez.* **3** Praying the Lord's Prayer, the freshman football team, including Daniel Moreno(9), Eric Alderete(9), Brandon Martinez(9), Corey Casey(9), and Dustin Johnson(9) bow their heads in reverence. The freshman ducks played against Bryan Rudder with a loss and final score of 14-24. "We were pumped up for Rudder coming off a win, but after we lost, it motivated us for the next week," Daniel said. *Photo by David Rodriguez.* **4** Physically ready, Johnny Epperson(11), Matt Gonzales(12), Greg Mixon(11), Johnny Reyna(12), and Moises Tellez(10) stare down their opponent during kick off at Taylor Memorial Field. The Ducks defeated the Regan Raiders 51-0. "Nerves begin to kick in when you're just standing there, but as soon as you hear the band and start running down the field your heart beats faster and faster until collision, then the nerves are gone," Reyna said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.* **5** The varsity team breaks through the banner, ready to take on the once number 5 team in state, the Navasota Rattlers. The squad came out with a defensive strategy to force one of the best quarterbacks in the district to escape the pocket and force his line to keep up with the speed of the defensive line. "Leading my troops onto the field to battle a tough opponent took guts, heart, and determination," Mark Jackson said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*







FOOTBALL

Varsity



Reagan	51	0	W
Manor	46	28	W
Elgin	30	21	W
Llano	14	30	L
Cameron	21	47	L
Madisonville	26	28	L
Bryan Rudder	27	25	W
Navasota	0	44	L
Caldwell	0	47	L
Rockdale	14	57	L

Front: Shanice Caldwell, Carol Vasquez, David Rodriguez, Jacob Doss, Zach Talavara, Ryan Montalvo, John Paul Gonzales, Moises Tellez, Devyn Tone, Alyssa Torres. **Second**: Sadie Komandosky, Isaac Apparicio, Ernest Garza, Charles Dominguez, Lorenzo Crawford-Sanford, Kelbie Stifflemire, Christopher Lucio, Concepcion Moreno, Patrick Gamez, Johnathon Holman, Lauren Camacho. **Third**: Trainer Nikki Ray, Coaches Mark Freeman, Blake Reeves, Justin Boswell, Gerald Jones, Rusty Rohan, Robert Marak, James Proctor, Blake Schneider, Ryan Vrabel, Doug Kuhl. **Fourth**: Matthew Gonzales, Cade Samuelson, Chris McFarlin, Gregory Mixon, Johnny Epperson, Mark Jackson, Jacob San Migel, Adrian Smith, Jeremy Hernandez. **Fifth**: Jared Meyer, Daniel Hyzak, Andrew Miller, Justin Fitzgerald, Devin Douglas, Marcos Urbina, Wendell Jones, Alex Bogan. **Back**: Ricky Cobia, Chaston Matta, Carter Sakewitz, De Marea Kerley, Coach Rick Cobia, Johnny Reyna, Samuel Jirasek, Robert Brenson.

JV



Stony Point	10	6	W
Manor	16	14	W
Elgin	16	41	L
Llano	26	18	W
Cameron	7	39	L
Madisonville	6	14	L
Bryan Rudder	0	21	W
Navasota	34	20	L
Caldwell	8	32	L
Rockdale	22	35	L

Front: Mike Aguirre, Ulises Avalos, Jackie Crittendon, Royal Lucas, Austin Chacon, Mikey McIntire, Nicholas Ochoa, Paul Luna. **Second**: Jalen Kerley, Henry Oranday, Aaron Wilson, Daniel Rojas, Rodney Ross, Kale McQuillen, Max Garcia, Jay Peterson. **Third**: Ryan Hill, Keith Hair, Jace Fontenot, Quinton Ware, Moses Guerrero, Dusty Stelek, Carlos Perez. **Back**: Steven Reyes, Hayden Stewart, Dillon Pekar, Seth Thomas, Daniel Nzeyka, Malcolm Gault, Jarvis Caldwell, Ronald Scott.

Freshmen



Thorndale JV	8	22	L
Manor	6	42	L
Elgin	0	62	L
Llano	28	50	L
Cameron	0	33	L
Madisonville	18	0	W
Bryan Rudder	14	24	L
Navasota	2	27	L

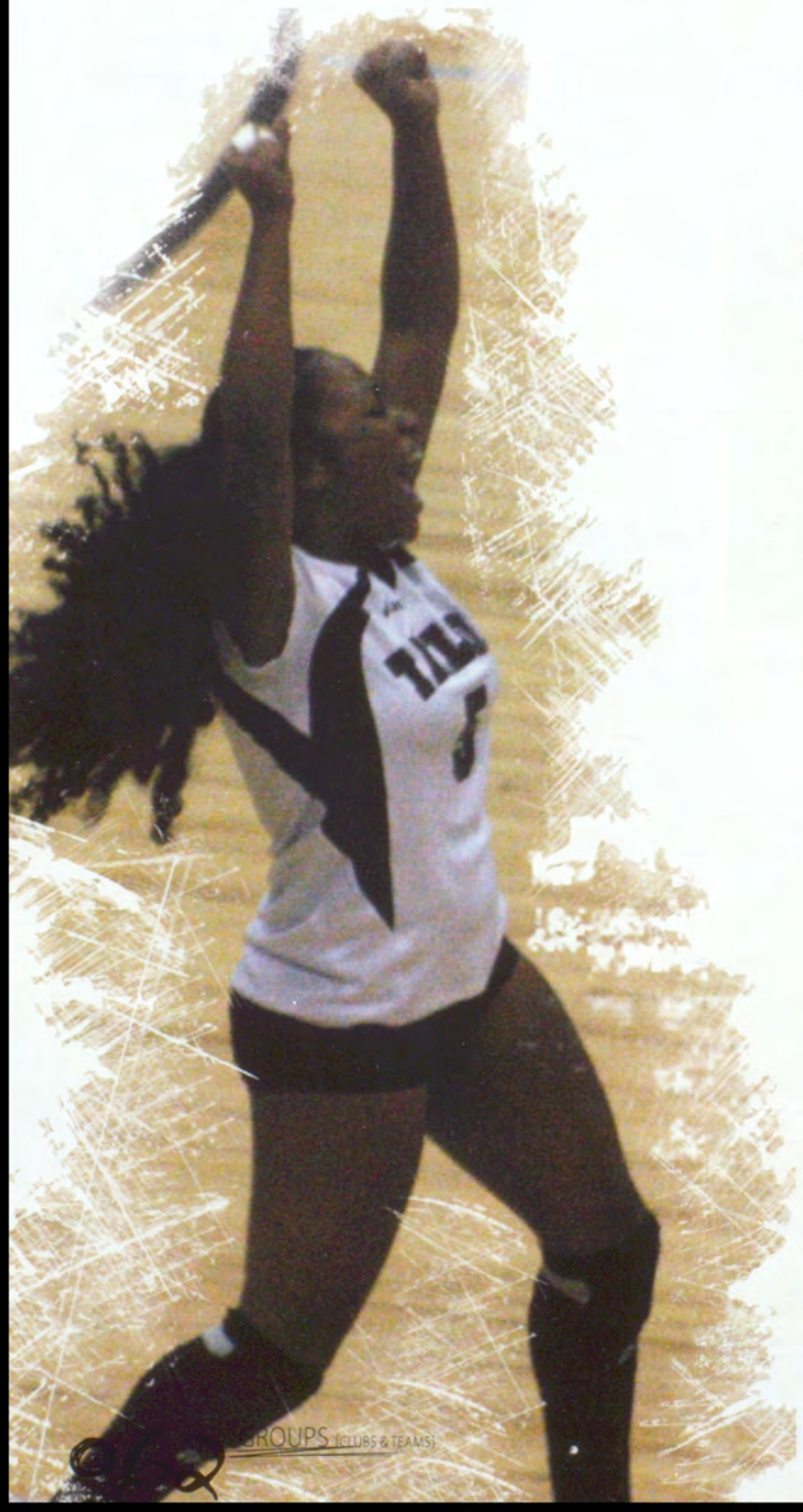
Front: AJ Devlin, Taneal Coleman, Michael Cruz. **Second**: Raymond Rodriguez, Eric Alderete, James Alcoser, Brandon Martinez, Justin Deary. **Third**: David Salazar, Joseph Cantu, Blayne Hegar, Brandon Martinez, Fabian Rodriguez, Daniel Moreno. **Fourth**: Roy Moreno, Raymond Herrera, Adrian Uriegas, Corey Casey, Tycom Wright. **Back**: Reagan Fischer, Dantrel Hargers, Chris Vrana, Jeremy Schneider, Fred Kerley, Dustin Johnson.

HUDDLE IN Before the game against Bryan Rudder begins, Coach Geeslin gives some words of encouragement to the Junior Varsity team. The JV fell to Rudder in two games. "This year's JV team worked extremely hard. I'm proud to have coached such dedicated young ladies," Geeslin said. *Photo by Addy Turner.*



ECSTATIC Miressia Steele (12) screams in excitement as Varsity scores against Rockdale. Varsity went on to beat Rockdale in a three games. "Miressia is a great player who always works hard, hustles, and does her best," Chelsie Carter(10) said. *Photo by Addy Turner.*





HANDS IN THE AIR As the volleyball sails over the net, Leah Morales(12) turns to note exactly where it falls. "It was the best year of my four years and I really enjoyed my teammates," Leah said. This volleyball season was the senoir's last.

SERVING IT UP Varsity player Kristin Cuba(11) serves a perfect ball to Navasota. Varsity went on to defeat Navasota in a three to zero game victory. "She's a good team player and she works well with others. She also has a mean serve," Selena Lopez (9) said.



10 MUST HAVES for volleyball :

1. Screaming Crowd! Jennifer Townsend (11)
2. Knee Pads! Ashley Heselmeyer (11)
3. Cheerleaders! Claire Berger (12)
4. Determination! Lauren Vrana (9)
5. Skills! Conoley Reinhardt (12)
6. Team Spirit! Jonathan Holman (12)
7. An incredible vertical jump! Mrs. Rowe
8. A mind set to win! Ashley Burow (10)
9. The Heart to win! Stephen Svatek (10)
10. We need girls to play! Joseph Cantu (9)

VOLLEYBALL



VARSITY

Front: Katie Yanez, Lauren Tucker, Miressia Steele, Leah Morales. **Second:** Amanda Foster, Ashley Burow, Ashley Heselmeyer, Kristen Cuba, Sonya Schmidt.

Elgin	1	3	W
Salado	0	3	L
Killeen Ellison	3	0	W
Gatesville Tourn.	1-2		
Groesbeck	3	2	
Belton Tourn.	5-2		
Crawford	0	3	L
Hays Tourn.	2-6		
Caldwell	0	3	L
Madisonville	3	0	W
Rockdale	3	0	W
Bryan Rudder	3	1	W
Navasota	3	0	W
Cameron	0	3	L
Caldwell	0	3	L
Madisonville	3	0	W
Rockdale	3	0	W
Bryan Rudder	3	0	W
Navasota	3	0	W
Cameron	3	0	L
La Grange	0	3	L
Iola	1	3	L
Cleveland Tarkington	0	3	L



JV

Front: Rhegan Stroup, Diana Ramirez, Coty Gola, Jordan Trevino. **Second**: Kelsie Kaatz, Jessica Humphreys, Chelsie Carter, Marissa Guzman. **Back**: Jessi Lopez, Amanda Martinez, Robyn Reyes, Lilly Engler, Katelyn Kuhl.

Elgin	0	2	L
Salado	0	2	L
Killeen Ellison	0	2	L
Groesbeck	0	2	L
Crawford	1	2	L
Caldwell	0	2	L
Madisonville	0	2	L
Hutto Tourn.	1-7		
Rockdale	2	1	W
Bryan Rudder	0	2	L
Navasota	2	1	W
Cameron	0	2	L
Caldwell	0	2	L
Madisonville	2	0	W
Rockdale	1	2	L
Bryan Rudder	0	2	L
Navasota	2	0	W
Cameron	0	2	L



FRESHMEN

Front: Katie Faught, Mallory Marcon, Kaylah Torres, Jensen Anders. **Second**: Alicia Vanek, Amber Vrabel, Natalee Branscum, Mariah Gonzales. **Back**: Selena Lopez, Morgan Cmerek, Lauren Vrana, Amanda Powers, Courtney Findley.

Elgin	0	2	L
Salado	0	2	L
Killeen Ellison	1	2	L
Groesbeck	20	1	W
Crawford	2	0	W
Caldwell	0	2	L
Hutto Tourn.	1-6		
Rockdale	2	0	W
Bryan Rudder	2	1	W
Navasota	2	0	W
Cameron	2	1	W
Caldwell	0	2	L
Rockdale	2	1	W
Bryan Rudder	0	2	L
Navasota	2	1	W
Cameron	1	2	L

GIRLS SOCCER

KICKIN' IT Amber Vrabel (9) kicks the ball down the field in hopes of kicking a goal against Bryan Rudder. "We've come a long way," Amber said. Many of the players have never played before, which posed challenges for the team. *Photo by Cameron Dupy.*

INTENSIFIED Trying to decide on her next move, Zoey Howard (11) prepares to make a goal kick during a home soccer game. "It's a really intense feeling," Zoey said. She has been playing soccer since she was in first grade. *Photo by Cameron Dupy.*





HOLY GOALIE Guarding the goal at the home game, Carli Drake (9) watches as her team passes the ball back and forth across the field. "It was fun, every time they come to the goal it gets scary. I like diving for the ball though," Carli said. *Photo by Cameron Dupy.*





WAITING FOR THE BALL Hailey Kuntschik (10) waits for the ball to come her way. "We won for the first time in three years, we were all really excited," Hailey said. *Photo by Cameron Dupy.*



Front: Diana Ramirez, Katy Bryant, Esperanza Ortiz, Maria Lopez, Zuleica De la Certa, Zoey Howard. **Second:** Joselyn Vega, Amber Vrabel, Lacy Black, Selena Castillo, Cindy Ariaga, Blanca Lopez. **Third:** Carli Dra
Alex Garcia, J'nae Rathke, Lily Engler, Deyanira Castillo, Ismenia De la Certa, Kristin Martnez. **Fourth:** Robin Reyes, Shayla Harvey, Hailey Kuntschick, Karina Diaz.

BOYS SOCCER

GOING FOR THE GOAL Ulises Alvalos (11) runs to the ball to try and get to it before the other team does. "Ulises is a great asset to the team because he is one of the few experienced players that we have and he helps coach the others on the field," Jace Fontenot said. The boys went to playoffs but lost 1 to 3 in the first game. *Photo by Mallory Strmiska.*



FOOT FIGHT Manuel Lopez (11) fights for the ball during a game. "My favorite part about soccer is juking people out and helping my team score," Manuel said. *Photo by Mallory Strmiska.*





WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE Tangled up, Jace Fontenot (11) entwines himself into another player to gain control of the ball. "Since I play defense I usually have to play rough, so I check myself into another player before I go for the ball," Jace said. The Ducks soccer team took home a well deserved 7-0 win against La Grange, and with a district win sent the ducks that much closer to the playoffs. *Photo by Mallory Strmiska.*



GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME Getting the team together before their game against Manor, Moises Tellez (10) gives them a pep talk. "We talk to the guys about not being selfish, passing the ball, and to be good leaders," Moises said. The practices and teamwork got them far this year. "It's our first year to make it to the playoffs and we're really excited," Moises said. *Photo by Mallory Strmiska.*



Front: Nicholas Ochoa, Codie Hall, Marco Gonzalez, Jonathan Flores, Jose M. Lopez. **Second:** Martin Hernandez, Ulises Avalos, Taylor Martin, Jose Valladares, Johnathon Martinez, Jose Morales. **Third:** Jonathan Holman, Jairo diaz, Victor Ramirez , Jose L. Lopez, Isaac Aparicio, Joshua Hinkle. **Fourth:** Maximiliano Villanueva, Kameren Hodnett, Seth Harvey, Jace Fontenot, Moises Tellez. **Not pictured:** Russel Boussart.

GOLF



Lampasas Tounrament

Girls
Canceled due to Weather

Boys
Individual medalist
T.J. Florez-80
Team Score
402
Place
7th

Cameron Tournament

Girls
Individual medalists
Alex Reyes-142
Ashley Zavala-143
Team Score
590
Place
6th

Boys
Individual medalist
T.J. Florez-89
Team Score
Not avalible

Blackhawk Tournament

Boys
Individual medalists
T.J. Florez-89
Seth Harvey-114
Aaron McQuary -116
Zeke Leslie-109
Gabriel Perez-108
Team Score
420
Place
6th

"IT'S GREAT WHENEVER YOU HIT THAT ONE GOOD SHOT... IT FEELS GOOD. YOU KNOW IT'S GOING TO BE A GOOD ROUND OF GOLF."
-FELICIA ALDERETE (12)



Front: Alexandra Reyes, Felicia Alderete, Ashley Zavala. **Back:** Seth Harvey, Zeke Leslie. **Not pictured:** Gabriel Perez, Aaron McQuary, T. J. Florez, Taylor Koenig, Kayla Torres.

POWERLIFTING



BENCHIN' BABE Kristin Martinez (12) looks up while lifting at the Taylor powerlifting meet. Kristin qulaified for state and placed 8th over all. "I wanted to place higher but the girls in front of me were really strong," Kristin said. *Courtesy photo.*

Front: Jordan Trevino, Chelsie Carter, Bryan Martinez, Kasi Lozano, Kristin Martinez. **Second**: Lorne Codie Hall, Michael McIntire, Jonathon Flores, Royal Lucas, Tycom Wright. **Back**: David Salazer, Edward Barrera, Brandon Negus, Steven Reyes, Kelbie Stifflemire, Simon Martinez.



THE BOGANATOR With determination in his eyes and his trustee spotter Jeremy Snider (9) , Alex Bogan (12) squats. "It's the best sport I've taken part in," Alex said, "I work hard and doing a good set makes me proud." *Photo Courtesy of Sue Lawson.*





REGIONAL QUALIFIERS

Michael McIntire
Squat - 405
Bench - 225
Deadlift - 340

Codie Hall
Squat - 335
Bench - 145
Deadlift - 335

David Salazar
Squat - 330
Bench - 190
Deadlift - 380

Royal Lucas
Squat - 355
Bench - 215
Deadlift - 425

Simon Martinez
Squat - 495
Bench - 305
Deadlift - 470

Chris McFarlin
Squat - 560
Bench - 365
Deadlift - 540

Kelbie Stifflemire
Squat - 600
Bench - 365
Deadlift - 520

Edward Barrera
Squat - 680
Bench - 345
Deadlift - 415

Kristin Martinez
Squat - 335
Bench - 180
Deadlift - 300

WONDER WOMAN Chelsie Carter (11) puts her game face on as she squats during the district powerlifing meet. "It was a very competative meet and I really had to push myself to win," Chelsie said. Chelsie won district in her weight class. *Photo Courtesy of Jordan Trevino.*

CHECK OUT THOSE GUNS Codie Hall (10) prepares himself for bench by keeping his arms loose in his suffocating suit. "The bench suit really helps me, but it leaves a lot of bruises," Codie said. Codie finished in second place and will be attending regionals. *Photo Courtesy of Sue Lawson.*





UNDER PRESSURE Kasi Lozano (11) begins her final squat attempt while competing at the Taylor meet. "All the weight makes me feel like superwoman," Kasi said. Kasi finished in second place. *Photo Courtesy of Sue Lawson.*

STATE RESULTS

3rd place 198 lb class--Chris McFarlin
4th place 123 lb class--Michael McIntire
5th place 220 lb class-- Edward Barrera
(Set a new state record with a squat of 700 lb)
8th place 165 lb class-- Simon Martinez
Team results- 13th out of 75 3A teams

FREE THROW PRESSURE Trying to stay focused, Mark Jackson (12) gets ready to shoot a free throw. "I concentrate," Mark said. That night the Ducks won against the Caldwell Hornets 59-35. *Photo by Brandon Dupy.*

HALTING THE HORNETS Raymond Herrera (9) defends a Caldwell Hornet for the Freshman game played at Taylor. "It was intense," Raymond said about the whole Freshman season. That night the Freshman Ducks lost. *Photo by Brandon Dupy.*

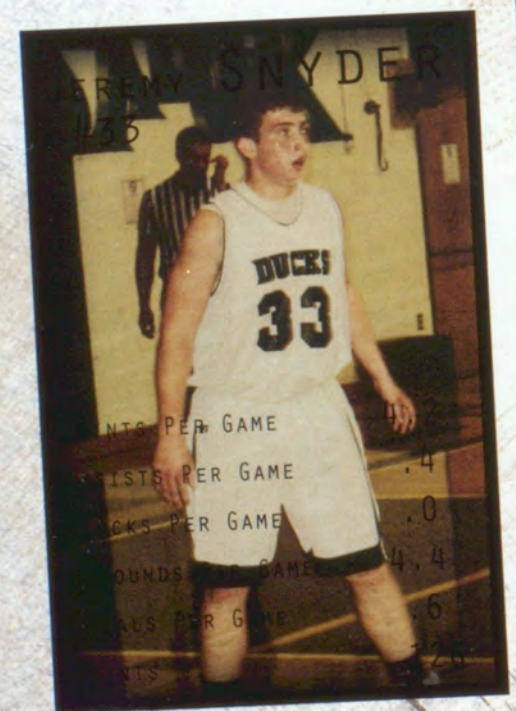
LAYIN IT UP Holden Hudson (10) makes a lay-up for the JV game against Caldwell. "We started coming back at the end, it was kind of rough, but still fun," Holden said. That night the JV Ducks lost. *Photo by Brandon Dupy.*

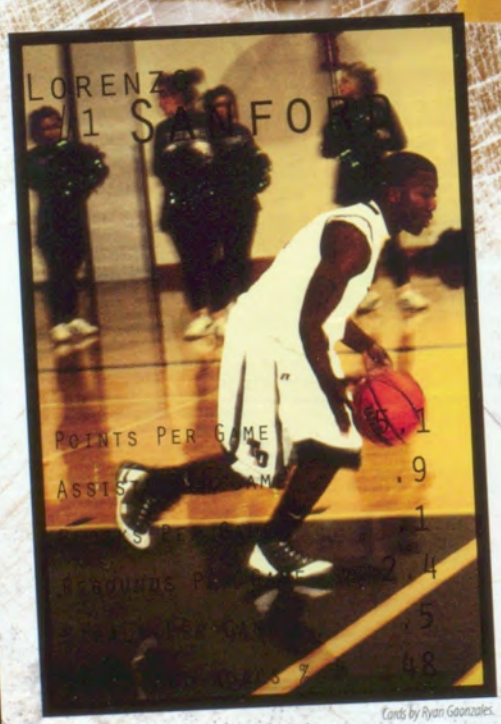
THE SIXTH MAN All members of the Taylor Sixth Man wear black to "Black-out" the Rockdale Tigers. "It was kinda funny," Jessi Lopez (11) said, fellow member of the Sixth Man, about Colton Anderson's (11) trick for the Rockdale game. *Photo by Brandon Dupy.*



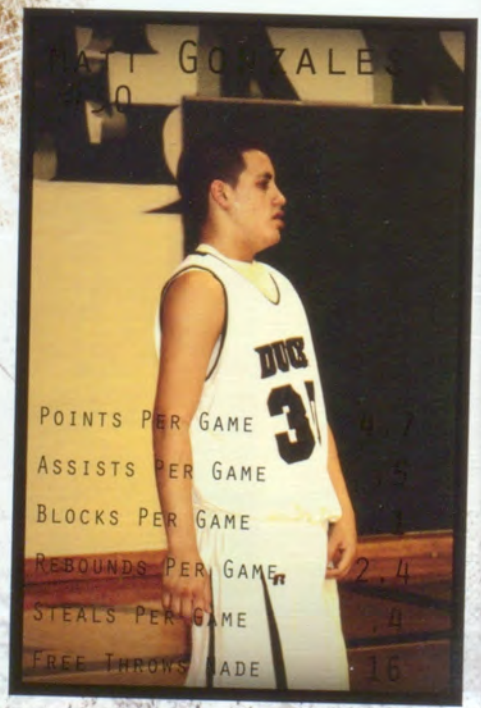








Cards by Ryan Gaonzales.



BASKETBALL



Front: Lorenzo Crawford-Sanford, Matthew Hudson, Mark Jackson, Matthew Gonzales, Chris Lucio. **Back**: Ronald Scott, Malcolm Gaullt, Jeremy Snyder, Jarvis Caldwell, Devin Douglas.

Llano	48	42	W
Burnet	28	59	L
Troy	36	58	L
Belton	33	70	L
Huntington Tourn.	2-3		
Waco Robinson	51	38	W
Lexington Tourn.	2-1		
Bastrop	56	67	L
Salado	61	48	W
Cameron Tourn.	2-2		
Madisonville	68	63	W
Bryan Rudder	52	77	L
Navasota	53	75	L
Caldwell	59	35	W
Rockdale	51	75	L
Cameron	45	69	L
Madisonville	60	71	L
Bryan Rudder	50	71	L
Navasota	62	73	L
Caldwell	66	41	W
Rockdale	69	67	W
Cameron	63	61	W



Front: Terry Flores, Isiah Murray, Justin Johnson, Aaron Wilson. **Back**: Wendell Jones, Ryan Hill, Seth Thomas, Michael Lafler, Moses Guerrero.

Scores Unavailable



Front: Justin Deary, Taneal Coleman, Logan Jezisek, Adrian Uriegas, Abimael Rincon, Jaden Kubiak. **Back**: Elijah Gault, Dantrel Hargers, Fredrick Kerley, Dustin Johnson, Reagan Fischer, Corey Casey

Scores Unavailable

CUTTIN' CORNERS Attempting to get the ball to the basket, the point guard of the JV team, Jessica Humphreys (10) tries to get past the Rockdale defender. "We lost pretty badly to Rockdale at home, but then when we went there we won!" Jessica said. That night the JV team lost to the Rockdale Tigers. *Photo courtesy of Gabriel Gonzales.*



BALLIN' Amanda Martinez (10) puts up a 10-foot jumper from the elbow during the district matchup against rival Rockdale. "Basketball is my favorite sport. I love playing in the games because we always have a good time," Amanda said. That night the Varsity team lost to the Rockdale Tigers. *Photo courtesy of Gabriel Gonzales.*





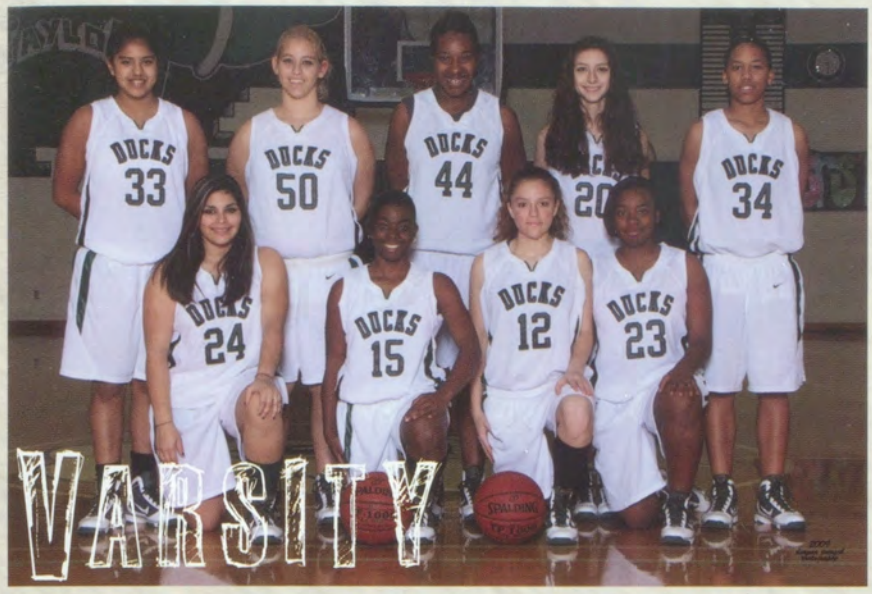


TAKEOVER Courtney Findley (9) chases down a loose ball in transition for the JV Lady Ducks against the Rockdale Tigers at home. "Finishing out the season was one of our biggest accomplishments as a team," Courtney said. The JV team lost the game that night. *Photo courtesy of Gabriel Gonzales.*

SET N' READY Brittany Maddux (11) holds the ball for her team to set up and run a play, at home against Rockdale. The Varsity girls lost to the Tigers. *Photo courtesy of Gabriel Gonzales.*

REBOUND After going up for a rebound, Brandie Walls (11) holds the ball waiting for her teammate, to throw an outlet pass against the Rockdale Tigers. That night the Lady Ducks Varsity team lost 25 to 31. *Photo courtesy of Gabriel Gonzales.*

BASKETBALL



Front: Marissa Guzman, Courtney Fields, Brittany Maddux, Keira Maddox. **Back:** Amanda Martinez, Brandie Walls, Lakeisha Simien, Devyn Tone, Shaquon Khauls.

Reagan	32	28	W
Groesbeck	36	33	W
North Zulch	24	46	L
Troy	11	59	L
Travis	19	58	L
Lanier	49	28	W
Granger Tourn.	1-2		
Llano	22	56	L
Lexington Tourn.	1-2		
Thorndale	8	19	L
Cameron	27	42	L
Thorndale Tourn.	1-2		
Madisonville	17	85	L
Bryan Rudder	22	97	L
Navasota	20	71	L
Caldwell	29	52	L
Rockdale	25	31	L
Cameron	32	40	L
Madisonville	21	83	L
Bryan Rudder	21	82	L
Navasota	35	80	L
Caldwell	57	58	L
Rockdale	30	39	L



Front: Bianca Davila, Shakeytra Ashford, Mariah Ramirez. **Middle:** Jensen Anders, Mary Smith. **Back:** Jessica Humphreys, Kadijah Dembo, Jennifer Townsend, Lilly-Ann Engler, Natalie Branscum.

Scores Unavailable



Front: Alicia Vanek, Griselda Moreno, Katie Walls. **Back:** Carra Johnson, Michelle Lefner, Lauren Vrana, Courtney Findley, Alicia Palomo.

Scores Unavailable

TRACK



Front: Kathryn Bryant, Jocelyn Vega, Mariah Ramirez, Courtney Feilds, Miressa Steel, Angel Gonzales. **Second:** Alex Garcia, Reagan Stroup, Kiera Maddox, Amber Vrable, Katie Fought. **Third:** Sabrina Atkinson, Rachel Morson, Robyn Reyes, Jennifer Townsend, Devyn Tone.



Front: Kodie Hall, Charles Kemp, Dillon Saucedo, Josh Villareal, Justin Deary, Jaylen Kerly, Jeff Carpenter, J.T. Something. **Back:** Stephen Svatek, Dantrel Hardgers, Malcom Gault , Fred Kerley, Mark Jackson, Wendall Jones, Jordan Kewitt, Holden Hudson, Jarvis Caldwell, Kobie Huckabee, Corey Terwilliger.







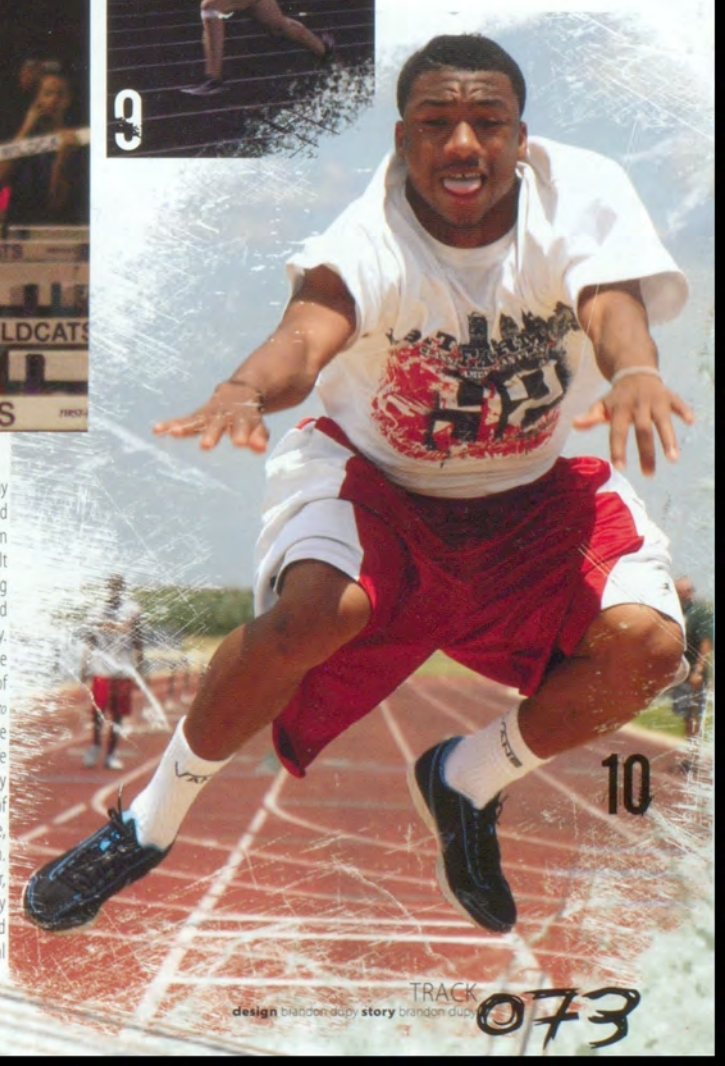












1 Koby Huckabee (11) jumps over 13feet 6inches at the Elgin High track meet. "I really don't notice anything when I'm up there, all I think about is clearing the bar, then just enjoying the trip down when I know I've cleared it," Koby said. He had already won 1st but just wanted the extra practice. *Photo by Brandon Dupy.* 2 The girls track team watches from the field as their girls run the mile relay. "We all cheer each other on, its nice to know you have a team to back you," Sabrina Atkinson (12) said. Coach Shelly Cobb watches her runners from the sideline with a stop watch in hand. "I'm very proud of their accomplishments this year, they've come so far as a team," Coach Cobb said. *Photo by Brandon Dupy.* 3 Getting ready to run their event on a cold night, Devyn Tone (12) and Amber Vrabel (9) do a set of high knees to loosen up. "It's so intimidating being a freshman on varsity but it's also really exciting. I did great in that meet and I was really surprised at how good we were," Amber said. *Photo by Brandon Dupy.* 4 Jordan Kiewit (12) preps for takeoff during the 400m relay race. "Track is the hardest sport there is, mentally and physically you have to prepare yourself before each race and push yourself to your physical limit with every shot of the gun," Jordan said. *Photo by Brandon Dupy.* 5 Making a fast paced handoff look easy is not so easy to do, but Devyn Tone (12) and Katie Faught (9) pull it off with bravado at a track meet in Elgin. "The weather hates track runners! Whenever it's supposed to rain, which would be great while we run, it never does till we are already done! But the meets still make it all worth it," Devyn said. Despite any weather issues, the girls of the relay still have time to practice hard and make the handoff. *Photo by Brandon Dupy.* 6 Francisco Araujo runs the 800m at the Elgin meet. He placed third. *Photo by Brandon Dupy.* 7 Malcolm Gault (11) and teammate Justin Deary (9) run the 800 meter sprint during a track meet in Elgin. "I enjoy seeing my friends from basketball and football," Malcolm said. Malcom also runs the 100 meter sprint relay. *Photo by Brandon Dupy.* 8 Corey Terwilliger (12) runs the 110m hurdles at the Elgin track meet. "I like the actual hurdle part, but I'm not a huge fan of the running in between," Corey said. Corey placed 2nd in the event. *Photo by Brandon Dupy.* 9 Rachael Morrison (12) is flying with both feet of the ground while running the 200 meter race at the Elgin track meet. "We do so much more in track here, and on top of that the meets are way funner than they were in Thorndale. I can't wait to see how the rest of the season turns out," Rachael said. A transfer student from Thorndale, Rachael has proved her worth and dedication here on the Taylor team. *Photo by Brandon Dupy.* 10 Mark Jackson (12) a world class triple jumper, jumps over 50feet regularly at each meet. Mark Jackson recently traveled to Boston for the national Nike indoor meet, where Mark placed first. "Boston was the first place I'd really had competition, all the local meets no one even comes close," Mark said. *Photo by Brandon Dupy.*



DESTINATION: FINISH-LINE Elric Martinez (10) and Stephen Svatek (10) race to the finish line at the district meet in Cameron. "It rained the day before so the ground was really swampy," Stephen said. *Photo courtesy of Marcie Svatek.*

ON THE ROAD AGAIN Jordan Kiewit (12) and Steven Svatek (10) support each other on the road to another District victory. "That day was insane. The energy was great and we knew we had the team to win" Jordan said . *Photo courtesy of Marcie Svatek.*

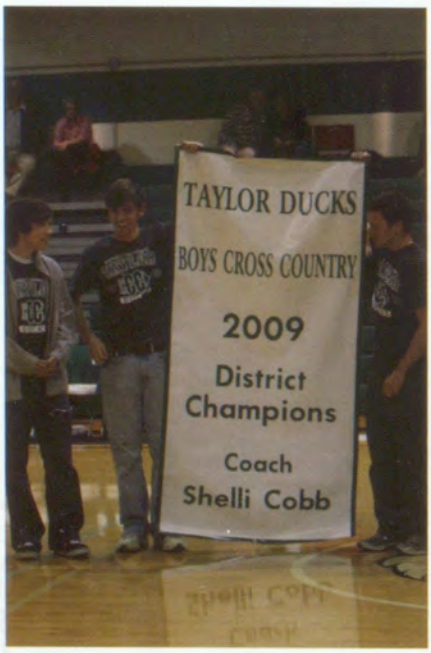
DRIVIN' IT HOME Zoey Howard (11) puts on an extra burst of speed to make a great pass on Crawford at a meet in Georgetown. "Georgetown really is a runner's course. Its nice and flat and it doesn't even feel long," Zoey said. She finished in the top quarter of the race. *Photo courtesy of Marcie Svatek.*





IN THE WINNER'S CIRCLE The varsity cross country team strikes a triumphant pose after sweeping the district meet in Cameron. "It wasn't one of my best meets personally, but as a team we won and that counts," David Salazar said. The team then took their momentum to regionals in Humble. *Photo courtsey of Melanie Weise.*





WAVING BANNER Elric Martinez (11) stands with the cross counrty team at a pep rally showing off the banner that they won for being District champions. "I'm ready to go beyond regionals next year," Elric said. *Photo by Brandon Dupy.*

CROSS COUNTRY



Front: Zoey Howard, Mariah Ramirez, Angel Gonzalez, Jennifer Townsend, Devyn Tone, Robyn Reyes, Kathryn Bryant. **Second**: Nickolas Ochoa, Martin Hernandez, David Salizar, Christopher Tone, Tyler Jaecks, Bryan Martinez, Josh Villereal. **Third**: Dylan Weise, Elric Martinez, Dylan Saucedo, Jonathan Holman, Stephen Svatek, Jeffrey Carpenter, Coach: Shelli Cobb **Fourth**: Antonio Elizondo, Drew Weise, Noah Kopit, Conally Reinhardt, Jordan Kiewit, Cameron Dupy, Nathan Jones.

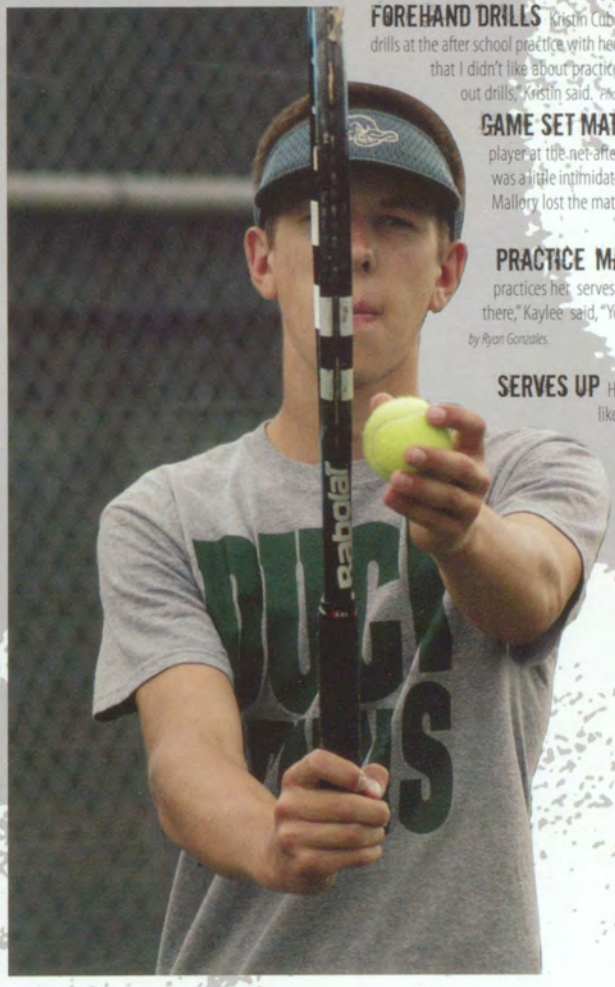
TENNIS



Front: Kaylee Nemec, Jeffrey Carpenter, Aaron Mcquary, Lynsie Patschke. **Second**: Leah Morales, Morgan Cmerek, Kayla Beran, Coty Gola, Isabell Yanez, Kasi Lozano, Elizabeth Sengler. **Third**: Sloane Cotner, Kristen Cuba, Maisen Lawhon, Dylan Weise, Jay Fiedler, Drew Weise. **Fourth**: Hayden Wilkins, Andrew Makare, Steven Mcallister, James Ging, Ryan Gonzales. *Not Pictured: Braden Gross*



FOREHAND DRILLS Kristin Cuba (11) practices her forehand drills at the after school practice with her teammates. "The only thing that I didn't like about practice was running and the work out drills," Kristin said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



GAME SET MATCH Mallory Marcon (9) meets the other player at the net after a singles match during a tournament. "It was a little intimidating because she was a senior," Mallory said. Mallory lost the match. *Photo by Mallory Strmiska.*

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT Kaylee Nemec (10) practices her serves after school. "There's a lot of competition out there," Kaylee said, "You have to try and practice to improve." *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*





SERVES UP Hayden Wilkins (10) gets ready to serve the ball. "I like going out and hiting," Hayden said. "I'm more of a singles person than a double," Hayden played on the varsity team. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



SWIMMING TO THE FINISH Seth Harvey (12) looks ahead to the finish and pushes himself to the end. "We did good as a team and dropped a lot of time," Seth said. The boys finished with one of their best times at the regional swimming meet. *Photo courtesy of Corey Terwilliger.*

DUCKS IN WATER Corey Terwilliger (12) strides to the finish during his 50 meter freestyle. "For being a new team, the team swam hard which prepared us for making finals in regionals," Corey said. Corey finished with a time of 27.01 and a second place finish in his heat. *Photo courtesy of Corey Terwilliger.*





HARD WORK PAID OFF Mary Jobe, Killeen's head coach, and Mrs. Schuldt, are the girls and boys 4A coaches of the year. "This is a wonderful accomplishment, considering we compete in 4A," Mrs. Schuldt said. Mrs. Schuldt coached the swimming team and had a successful season. *Photo courtesy of Gloria Schuldt.*



FREESTYLIN'
Seth Harvey (12), Corey Terwilliger (12), Charles Kemp (10), and Noah Kopit (10) are the boys 400 Free Relay team. "It was hard, it took a lot of energy to swim, it was harder than running," Charles said. The boys relay team dropped their time by 25 seconds and finished with a team best of 4:34.41 . *Photo by Mrs. Schuldt*

SWIMMING

BREATHTAKING Taylor Robichaux (11) dashes through the water during regionals at the University of Texas. "It's alot of hard work, but it all pays off," Taylor said. Taylor was one of the few girls to qualify for the regional swim meet. photo courtesy of Corey Terwilliger



Front: Shayla Harvey, Taylor Robichaux, Liberty Jones. **Back:** Charles Kemp, Corey Terwilliger, Seth Harvey, Noah Kopit, Kodie Hall.



design melanie catuogno reporting bradly nemec

1 STEP AND THROW Jacob San Migel (12) fields a ground ball and throws it to a waiting first baseman. " I play shortstop for the love of the game. I play the game like my role model Derek Jeter," Jacob said. The Ducks played the Navasota Rattlers in one of their first regular season ball games. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales*

2 TEAM MOTIVATION Eric Alderete(10) and Josh Richter(10) bid each other a good job after a half inning of play. Josh caught for Eric throughout the entire game against Navasota. "I'm always thinking of what pitch is going to be called next, where the ball needs to be. Catcher is the best position in the game," Josh said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

3 KEEPIN' IT KUHL Coach Kuhl speaks to his team and explains to them that they have to keep the pressure up in order to do well against a good pitcher. "I don't do it for the money. I do it for the kids. I enjoy watching kids grow up, and their ability as a baseball player increase as they get older. The game is like taking a test, if we practice the way we study for a test then the game should end up like a test with a good turnout," Kuhl said. In his 28th year of coaching, Coach Kuhl looks forward to reaching his goal of winning a district title and making another deep run in the playoffs. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

4 NATIONAL RESPECT The Ducks' outfield stands at attention, and respectfully listens to the National Anthem. "I always want the ball to come my way in the outfield," Jacob Doss (12) said. The team won the game against the Navasota Rattlers, 3-1, putting the team at an even 2-2 district record. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

5 POP UP Jalen Kerley stretches out for a hard hit pop fly. "When I'm getting ready to catch a ball I always think relax, relax, and just catch it," Kerley said. Jalen started playing ball when he was young; he wanted to be hit by a pitch because he thought it looked cool. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

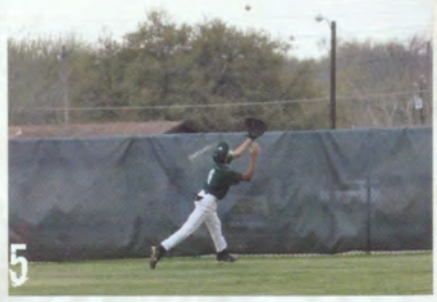


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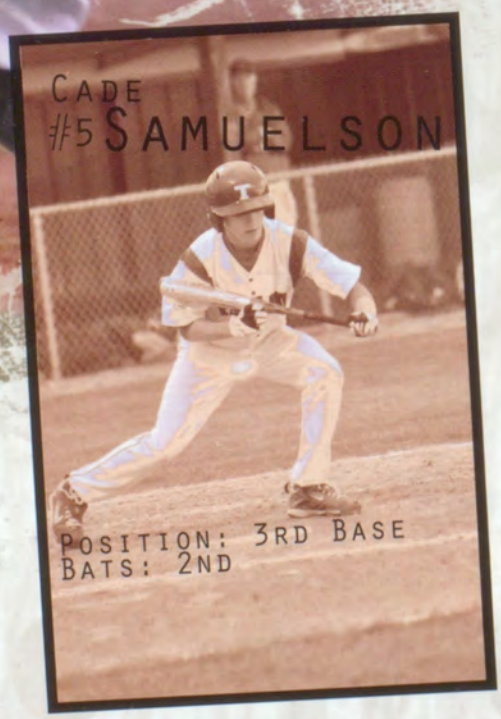

3



4


5







BASEBALL



VARSITY

Front: Concepcion Moreno, Bradly Nemec, Jacob Doss. **Second**: Kale McQuillen, Jacob San Migel, David Rodriguez, Cade Samuelson. **Back**: Jordan Stefek, Carter Sakewitz, Cody Alderete, Samuel Jirasek, Alex Jewett. **Not photographed:** Cole Simms. **Coach:** Doug Khul.



JV GREEN

Front: James Bradly Ging, Chase Richter, Eric Alderete, Michael McIntire. **Back:** James Alcoser, Joshua Richter, Seth Smensky, Dillon Peckar. **Not photographed:** Ian Rucker, Dillon Weise, Colton Anderson, Jalen Kerley, Jarvis Caldwell, Noah Kopit. **Coach:** Kenny Cemerek.



JV WHITE

Front: Mauricio Camarillo, Steve Larson, Raymond Rodriguez, daniel Rojas, Joseph Cantu. **Second**: Trever Knight, Joel valverde, Tycom Wright. **Back:** Cory Casey, Erik Nunez, Cameron Richardson, Roy Moreno. **Not photographed:** Tyler Jaeks, Bluyne Hegar, AJ Devlin, Daniel Moreno, Brandon Martinez. **Coach**: Blake Rives.









1 TEAM LEADER Tara Eulenfield (12), a team leader, warms up with her pitcher during an after school softball practice. Tara caught for the Lady Ducks during their 2010 season. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.* **2 WARM UPS** Palming the softball, Katie Yanez (12) starts practice with a simple ball toss to warm up her throwing arm. Katie is an important asset to the softball team, being only one of two senior players. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.* **3 PERFECT FORM** Samantha Pachicano (10) strategically bunts the ball thrown by the opposing Navasota pitcher during a junior varsity game. "It's so rewarding to run those bases while the other team scrambles for the ball," Samantha said. *Photo courtesy of Gabriel Gonzales.* **4 BATTER UP!** Varsity player Megan Matuke (11) sits patiently as her partner finishes up in the batting cage. "The batting cage helps me improve my hitting skills," Megan said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

SOFTBALL



Front: Chelsie Carter, Marissa Guzman, Lauren Standifer, Katelyn Kuhl, Megan Matuke. **Second**: Selena Lopez, Kasi Lozano, Ashley Burow, Amanda Martinez. **Back**: Katie Yanez, Brandie Walls, Tara Eulenfield, Samantha Pachicano. **Coach:** Carla Geeslin.



Front: Mariah Gonzales, Jordan Trevino, Alicia Vanek. **Second**: Mary-Kate Walls, Ashley Smith, Alexandria Eppinett, Lacie Black. **Back**: Lynsie Patschke, Lauren Vrana, Natalie Branscum, Jessi Lopez. **Coaches:** Joseph Schulze, Nathan Gray.





FRESHMAN TERROR Catcher, Alicia Vanek (9), rears back to bullet the ball down the baseline. Vanek was a freshman catcher for the Lady Duck JV softball team. *Photo courtesy of Gabriel Gonzales.*

SMOOTH SLIDING Ashley Smith (9) makes if safely to third base, putting on a show as she slides, figure four, into the bag. Ashley helped the Ducks play hard against the Navasota Rattlers. *Photo courtesy of Gabriel Gonzales.*



PEPPING UP THE PEP RALLY Kacey Estrada (10) performs with the drill team at a pep rally. The Hi-Steppers' dancing always causes the students at Duck pep-rallies to cheer and whistle. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



HALFTIME HEROS The Varisty Hi-Steppers show off their dancing skills at halftime during a basketball game. "Being in Hi-Steppers is life changing," Stephanie Gutierrez (11) said. The team was preparing for their five competitions coming up. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*





HIP-HOP HAVOC In a flurry of well practiced chaos, the Varsity Hi-Steppers pose in their favorite hip-hop stances as the final beat to their award winning hip-hop routine rings out across an awestruck audience. "This really is my favorite dance. We have always had so much energy for it, it's just really fun," Joie Aparicio (11) said. This hip-hop routine was the Steppers' dance that conquers all other schools at, including their greatest competitor, Rouse High School. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

COMING TO LIFE Lexi Orozco (10) 'comes to life' as a doll in the military dance for this years Hi-Stepper show. "It's cool because I can be different people throughout the day," Lexi said. This year's theme for the Hi-Steppers was 'Give It Your All or Get Off the Court'. *Photo by Addison Turner.*



Achievements

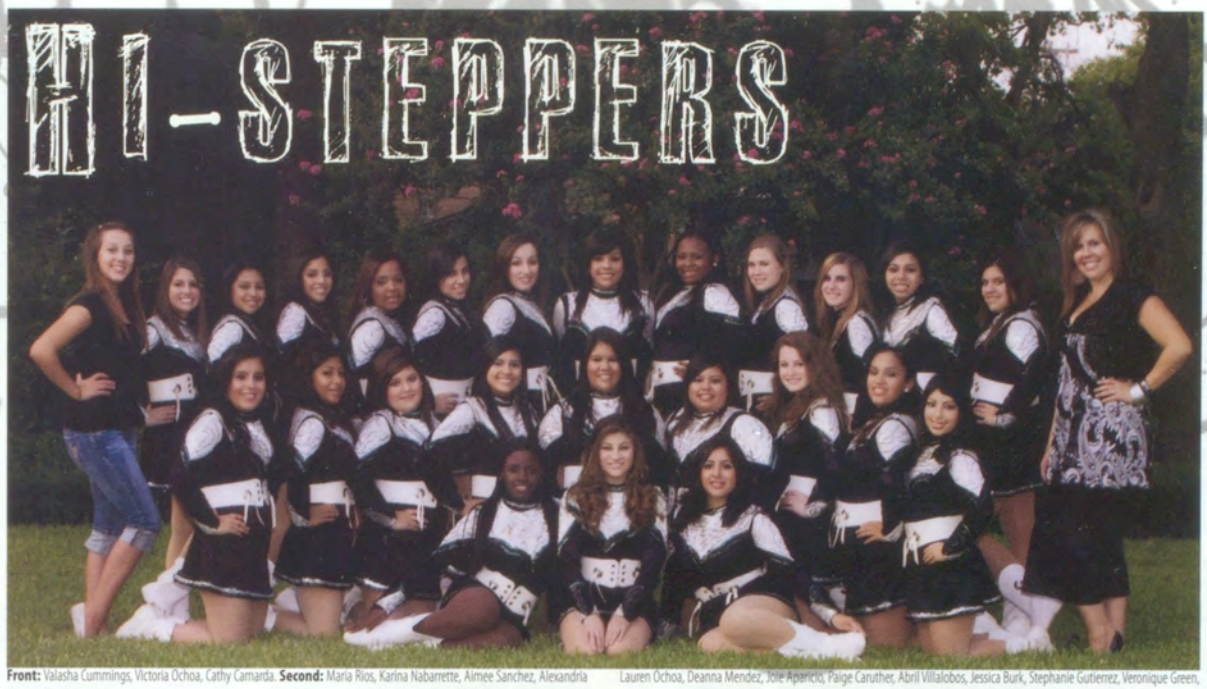
Leander Winter Classic
Division 1 in all catergories
Overall top scoring team

Vandergrift American Contest
Sweeptakes
Best in class award
Best techinue
Showmanship award
Friendship award
Best of the best award

Vista Ridge Dance Championship
2nd place Officer Jazz
1st place Officer Modern
Showmanship Award
1st Team Novelty
1st Team Military
1st Team Hip-Hop
Overall Grand Champions

GOLDEN GIRLS With the shining gold fruits of their labors held high in the air, the Varsity Hi-Steppers celebrate together with Coach Ashley Sengsouvanh after winning the regional competition in Leander. "I can't believe we did it again! All of our hard work paid off! I'm so proud of my whole team and all the hard work they did to prepare for this," Sengsouvanh said. With this most recent win, the Steppers continue their winning streak over the past few years. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

HI-STEPPERS



Front: Valasha Cummings, Victoria Ochoa, Cathy Camarda. **Second:** Maria Rios, Karina Nabarrette, Aimee Sanchez, Alexandria Orozco, Julie Martinez, Marissa Chavana, Austyn Savage, Chelsea Hernandez, Kacey Estrada. **Back:** Manager Taylor Robichaux, Lauren Ochoa, Deanna Mendez, Jose Aparicio, Paige Caruther, Abril Villalobos, Jessica Burk, Stephanie Gutierrez, Veronique Green, Bethany Mathys, Victoria Gardner, Marcy Rodriguez, Shadow Roland, Coach Ashley Sengsouvanh.

Officers

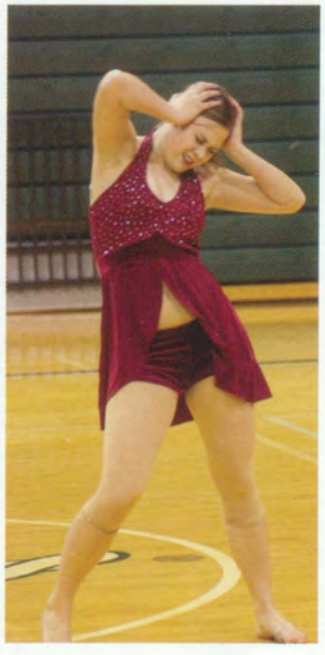
Colonel- Victoria Ochoa
Lt. Colonel- Cathy Camarda
Major- Valasha Cummings



ALL DOLLED UP Colonel Victoria Ochoa (11) prepares to begin the Hi-Stepper's military dance for the performance. "Every dance that we do has a story behind it or a meaning," Victoria said. The girls were dolls coming to life for this dance. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



TRYING TO GET GANGSTER Valasha Cummings (11) and Julie Martinez (11) perform a hip hop dance during halftime. "Hip hop is exciting to me, because I was raised doing it," Valasha said. The Hi-Steppers used halftime to prepare for competitions. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



FLYING SOLO Bethany Matthys (9) performs her solo for an upcoming competition. "I was nervous, but it was also really exciting," Bethany said. She recieved a 93 out of 100 for her solo from the judges. *Photo by Addison Turner.*

STAND UP & Holler



LOOKING UP Liberty Jones (10) and the JV cheerleading squad parade down the halls of T. H. Johnson elementary school prior to the homecoming game against Madisonville High School. "It was really fun. All the kids look up to you and get really excited," Liberty said. Liberty Jones is the captain of the JV cheerleading squad. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



BIG GREEN Selena Olguin (11) cheers at a pep rally for a home football game. "It's exciting, because you try to get everyone up and peppy," Selena said. The Ducks started off the season with a victory of 51 to 0, against Reagan High School. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*





SENIOR YEAR Captain Claire Berger (12) stands with the rest of the varsity cheerleading squad during the National Anthem at a home football game. "Its bittersweet because I've been cheering for all these years and its finally over, but I'm going to miss it," Claire said. Claire has been cheering for all four years of high school. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

OUT ON TOP In a monumental tower of concentrated energy and skill, Mallory Marcon (9) fires up the crowd from atop the cheerleader's tri-pyramid at the September 11th pep rally, a tribute to public service officials like the police force and the fire department in Taylor and across the country. About being on top of a very tall three person pyramid, "It's very scary but it's really fun," Mallory said, "Most of all you have to trust the other girls holding you up, because they literally have your safety in their hands." Falling, of course, is a very real possibility, but for such a crowd pleaser it is a risk we are all glad that they take. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



Front: Megan Chacon, Naomi Hundley, Ivy Albright, Selena Olguin. **Back:** Coach Nicole Schneider, Heather Hegar, Claire Berger, Mariah Ojeda, Coach Tisha Lira.

Officers

- Captain: Claire Berger
- Co-Captains: Mariah Ojeda and Heather Hegar



Front: Lorena Torres, Mallory Marcon, Chantell Dominguez, Sierra Gonzales, Lauren Camacho. **Back:** Coach Nicole Schneider, Liberty Jones, Alyssa Torres, Coach Tisha Lira.

Officers

- Captain: Liberty Jones
- Co-Captain: Alyssa Torres



HANDING OFF THE POM

Heather Hegar (11), co-captain, and Claire Berger (12), captian, cheer at a home basketball game. "I'm looking forward to being captain and i'm hoping to have a really good team next year," Heather said. Heather will be filling Claire's shoes as captain for the upcoming year. *Photo by Addison Turner.*

BAND

Waking up in the morning at 5:30 just to get to the field on time, even though it's dark, cold, and damp. Band nerds, geeks, losers, whatever. If people only knew what it took to earn that title, they would think twice before referring to the band members as such. Dirty hundreds for being late, pushups for missing sets, and laps for talking back, when you step onto the marching field you either work hard or go home. The Taylor band knows what it takes to win and with an almost perfect contest season it shows. The only loss was by a fraction of a point, 0.7 to be exact. Dedication is key but determination feeds the drive to win. Band is about more than oiling your slide or buying a new reed. It's about team work, pride, and being in tune. All of these crucial things are a part of being a successful group. Practice every morning and Monday nights plus sectionals; this isn't the organization for the weak minded. It takes crucial focus ability to remember steps, and music to an entire show. Five minuets of marching may not seem like a big deal but when you are running at 170 beats a minute and playing your heart out it can be the most invigorating five minutes of anyone's day. As soon as the drum major gives the last beat of the show, standing on the field whether the crowd is cheering or not, the feeling of accomplishment ran through the veins of the marching band's bodies.



NEW MAN ON THE FEILD People think that just freshman have to be new to the game but to Taylor Bryant (10) that isn't the case, he moved here at the first of the year. The ways of Taylor band being new to him. "It was okay, long hours, hot, waking up early, not that fun. But the show was better than I expected," Taylor said. *Photo by Courtney Sprenger.*

BASSES AND TENORS AND SNARES OH MY! The award winning drum line moves to the front of the field to play their break, or solo, in the show. "People think playing a solo is a lot of hard work, but it's easy for us because we're pro," Abey Oranday (11) said. The drum line won first in the percussion caption at all of the contests during their 2009-2010 season. *Photo courtesy of Mrs. Jean Gifford.*





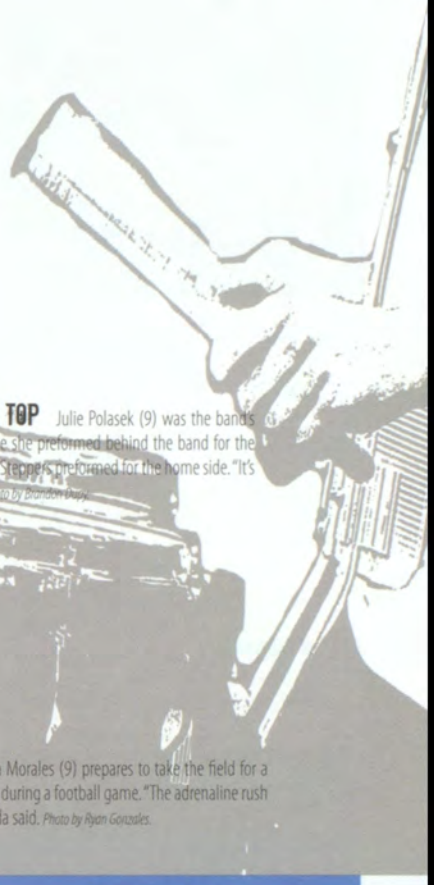
RHYTHM COLOR MOTION. During their first marching contest the band works hard to listen back, keep time, and avoid flags to the face. "Band is so much effort and if you're not having fun than it really is just a waste of time, but if you enjoy winning and making yourself better it is worth every second," Mallory Strmiska (12) said. *Photo courtesy of Mrs. Jean Gifford.*



FLUTE FRENZY Freshman have fun too. Courtney McConnell (9) plays her flute at a pep rally before the football game against Manor. "I love playing the flute," Courtney said. Freshman, sophomores, juniors, and seniors all get to participate in band. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*







TWIRLING TO THE TOP Julie Polasek (9) was the band's only twirler and at half time she preformed behind the band for the opposite team while the flirt steppers preformed for the home side. "It's nerve racking," Julie said. *Photo by Brandon Duty.*

SHOW TIME Griselda Morales (9) prepares to take the field for a halftime show performance during a football game. "The adrenaline rush you get is incredible," Griselda said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



Front: Mark Chaidez, Ruby Pumphrey, Mallory Strmiska, Jared Delony, Daniel Duran, Abraham Oranday, Russel Boussart, Felicia Alderete, Maricela Fernandez, Joshua Villarreal, Christopher Montemayor, Paul Smith, Connoley Reinhardt, Taylor Martin, Colorgaurd Instructors: Savanna Lerma, Chris Montemayor, Adriana Romayor. **Second:** Alyssa Garza, Ashley Bengston, Diana Lepe, Tanea Bailey, Jackie Polanco, Zuleica De La Cerda, Blanca Lopez, Maria Lopez, Heather Luna, Griselda Morales, Selena Castillo, Lorellye Graham, Shannon Vongerichten, Lorena Gonzalez, Courtney Martin, Jonathan Holman, Kendall Wrinkle, Andrea Navarro. **Third:** Leann Cantwell, Allyson Powell, Chelsea Kemp, Elizabeth Sengler, Sadey Komandosky. **Fourth:** Thomas Solbach, Joshua Hannington, Nathaniel Jones, Travis Kovar, Johnathon Martinez, Laura Gonzalez, Mary Nardecchia, Anthony Hernandez, Stephen Svatek, Taylor Bryant, Ulises Avalos, Salvador Morales, Bryan Martinez, Courtney McConnell, Jina Torres, Director David Motl. **Back:** David Salazar, Seth Harvey, Justin Patschke, Elias Alayon, Charles Kemp, Ryan Little, Amy Janecka, Elric Martinez, Alex Kauai, Nathan Dunn, Lyndsey Patschke, Shayla Harvey, Julie Polasek, Adam Janecka, Mary Griffin, Trey Meaker.

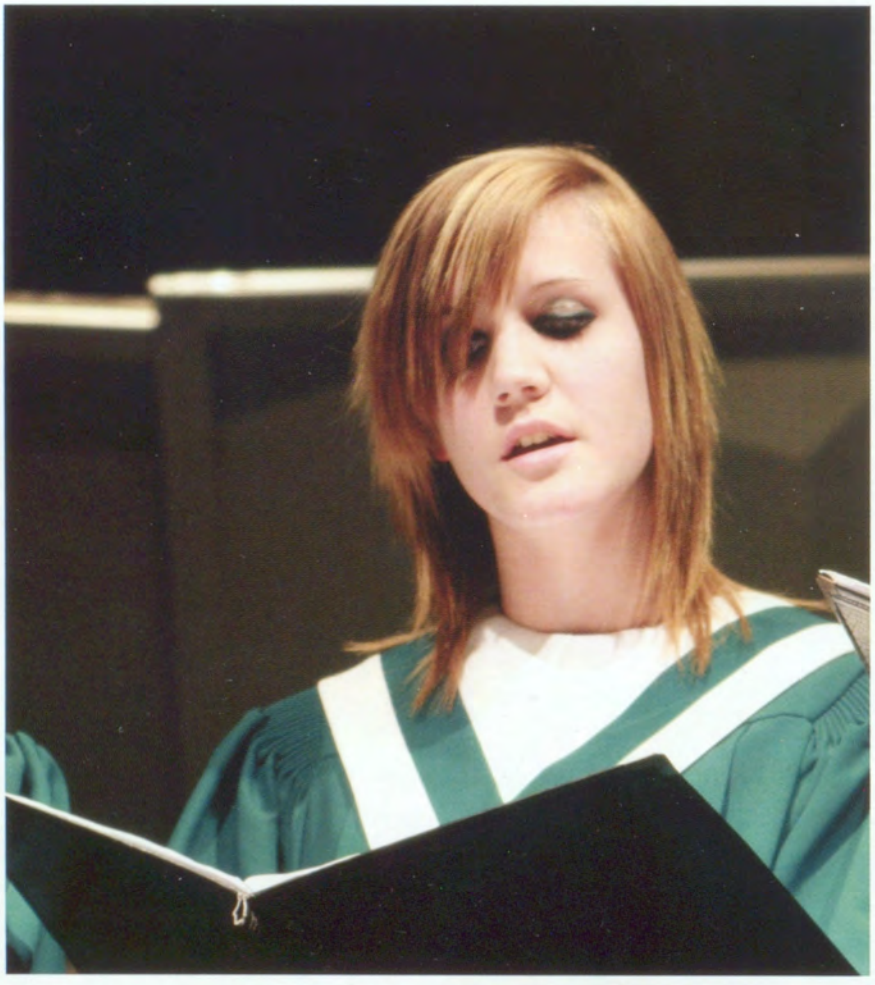


CHOIR

A Rebuilding Year

Jamieson McCaffity, the new choir instructor, is rebuilding the Choral department after membership dropped off in previous years. The 2009-2010 Choral department consists of Concert Choir, Chorale, and a new group named Mallard Minstrels.

Front: Kara Gonzales, Katrina Bushyhead, Taylor Robichaux (Vice-President), Jared Collins, Stephanie Schwan, Marissa Rodriguez, Hannah Weison (Treasurer/Secretary). **Back**: Sarah Miller, Bethany Lowrance, Charles Clifton, Corey Terwilliger (President), Brandon Kruse, Christopher Campbell. **Not pictured:** Destiny Popham.



ALL IN HARMONY The Choir unites together to sing in the Christmas Concert. "It was fun, because everyone got together, and it was fun singing with everyone," Lacie Black (10) said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*





TEAM WORK The Taylor Varsity Choir sings at the Alumni Luncheon on the friday of Homecoming week. "Its a great way to express myself, no one can hold me back when I sing," Katrina Bushyhead (12) said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

FOCUSED IN Stephanie Schwan (10) harmonizes with the rest of the choir as they perform during one of their concerts. "I've been singing for two years now, and it's something fun to do," Stephanie said. She has been singing ever since her aunt suggested it to her after hearing her sing at a church function. *Photo by Courtney Sprenger*



FOLLOW THE LEADER New instructor Jamieson McCaffity directs various sections of the choir to crescendo and decrescendo simultaneously. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



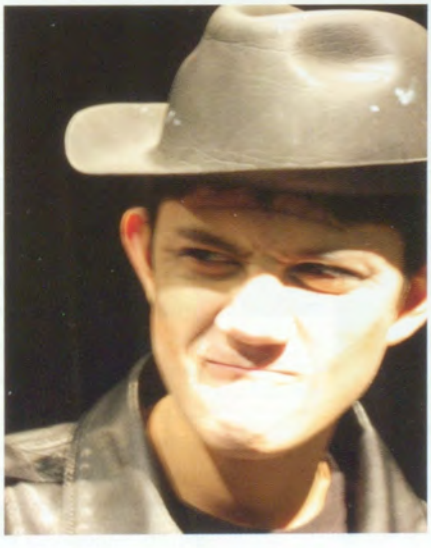
Front: Naomi Hundley, Paula Reeves (President), Bryanna Guerrero, Alexandria Eppinett. **Second**: Liberty Jones, Alfred Beltran, Cameron Dupy, Sponsor-Jonathan Alonso. **Back**: David Bishop, Dell Buckalew, Conoley Reinhardt, Noah Kopit, Cardray Payne.

"IT'S AMAZING, BECAUSE YOU CAN ACT WILD. PEOPLE THINK YOU'RE ACTING, BUT YOU'RE ACTUALLY ACTING LIKE YOURSELF."

--Bryanna Guerrero (11)



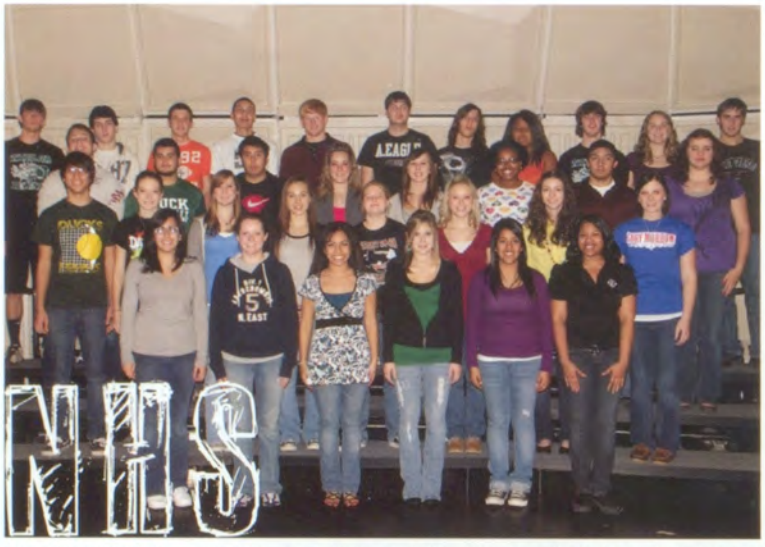
MAKE ME UP Naomi Hundley (11) and Xavier Sanchez (10), practice putting on make-up for a fantasy make-up lesson in Theater Arts. *Photo by Mallory Strmiska.*



IT'S NATURAL Estevan Aviles (11) performs a scene for theater class. "It just comes naturally," Estevan said. The theater class had to get dressed and made up to practice their acting skills. *Photo by Mallory Strmiska.*

THRILLER Liberty Jones (10), Conoley Reinhardt (12), and Cameron Dupy (10) perform a scene from "Bus Stop" in the fall show. "It was probably the funnest thing I've done all year. Being up on stage in front of everybody, it was thrilling!" said Liberty. A large crowd of students and members of the community attended the evening performances. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

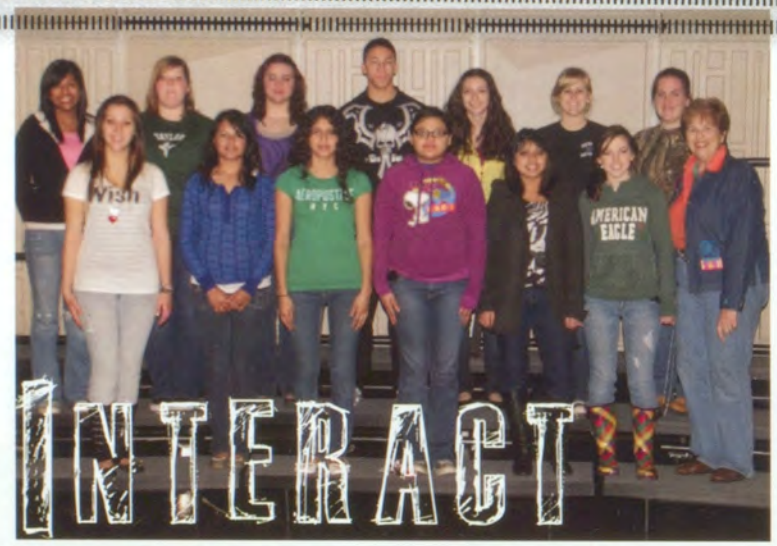




Front: Leah Morales (Vice-President), Lauren Tucker, Naomi Hundley, Gail Holman, Zuleica Delacerda-Ordaz, Shaneka Hill. **Second:** Ryan Gonzales, Tara Eulenfeld, Shannon VanGerichten, Sabrina Atkinson (Treasurer), Kasi Lozano, Heather Hegar (Secretary), Devyn Tone, Addy Turner. **Third:** Kelbie Stifflemire, Zach Talavera, Sammy Dominguez, Claire Berger (President), Kristyne Baran, Rowdesha Scott, Simon Martinez, Mallory Strmiska. **Fourth:** Braden Gross, Alex Aminzadeh, Bradly Nemec, Johnny Reyna, Samuel Jirasek, Brandon Dupy, Paul Smith, Tanea Bailey, Andrew MaKare, Jennifer Townsend, Drew Weise. **Not pictured:** Sponsor Gloria Schuldt.

Scholarship is Key

In addition to stringent academic requirements, the National Honor Society also expects its members to participate in community service and help raise money for scholarships which are given to deserving members in the spring.

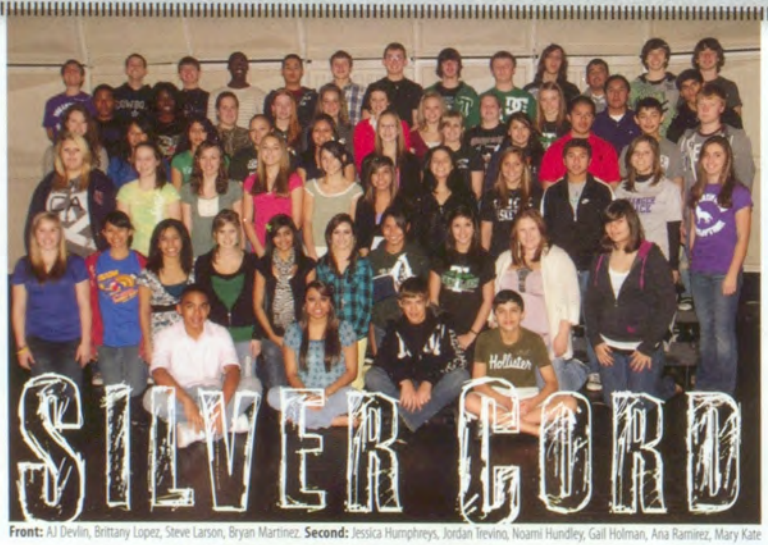


Front: Taylor Robichaux, Cindy Arriaga, Briana Ortiz, Natalie Ochoa, Perla Pena, Kelsey Aunspaugh, Sponsor-Marilyn Tennill. **Back:** Carol Vasquez, Courtney Spenger Mallory Strmiska, Cody Alderete, Devyn Tone (President), Lauren Standifer, Camryn Stoll (Vice-President).

All Volunteer Army
You call, we serve!

Interact is the student branch of the Rotary Club, an organization of local business people. Interact focuses on community service.

According to sponsor Marilyn Tennill, "Ringing the bell for the Salvation Army is always a challenge, but people always give more when they see kids. The kids were amazed at how much money was donated. It's very fulfilling. If kids just try, it changes their attitude."



Front: AJ Devlin, Brittany Lopez, Steve Larson, Bryan Martinez. **Second:** Jessica Humphreys, Jordan Trevino, Noami Hundley, Gail Holman, Ana Ramirez, Mary Kate Walls, Amanda Kimble, Paige Moya. **Third:** Becky Smith, Lynsie Patschke, Ally Powell, Elizabeth Sengler, Ashley Smith, Renee Torres, Katrina Bushyhead, Chelsie Carter, Michael McIntire, Katelyn Kuhl, Kaylee Nemec. **Fourth:** Austyn Savage, Cindy Arriaga, Briana Oritz, Kristin Martinez, Leticia Marmolejo, Amber Vrabel, Lauren Standifer, Selena Lopez, Concepcion Moreno, TJ Florez, Justin Patschke. **Fifth:** Edward Murray, Malaysia Wright, Camryn Stoll, Tracy Morgan, Claire Berger, Liberty Jones, Heather Hegar, Kasi Lozano, Courtney Findley, Daniel Moreno, Holden Hudson. **Sixth:** Dylan Weise, Keith Hair, Brad Ging, Dantrel Hargers, Moses Guerrero, Blayne Hegar, Jeremy Snyder, Andrew Makare, Dusty Stefek, Paul Smith, Henry Oranday, Elric Martinez, Stephen Svatek.

Community Connection

Every Thursday, a table is set up in the student center where students can come and sign up for volunteer assignments that have been generated by community requests. Students who have 160 community service hours when they graduate get to wear a special silver cord with their robes. In addition to the good karma generated by their hard work, students may receive additional benefits--many colleges look for volunteer hours when reviewing student applications.

LIFE PROGRAM



HOMECOMING SPIRIT Students proudly display thier homecoming mums and garters they made. *Photo courtesy of Kevin Widmer.*



POSTAGE DUE Larry Jackson and Alysha Kruse tour the Post Office with the LIFE class. *Photo courtesy of Kevin Widmer.*

LET IT SNOW Mrs. Alford, principal of the Opportunity Center, takes time out to play in the snow with LIFE students Barry Jackson, Alysha Kruse, Roland Myers, Diana Mendez, and Larry Jackson. *Photo courtesy of Kevin Widmer.*



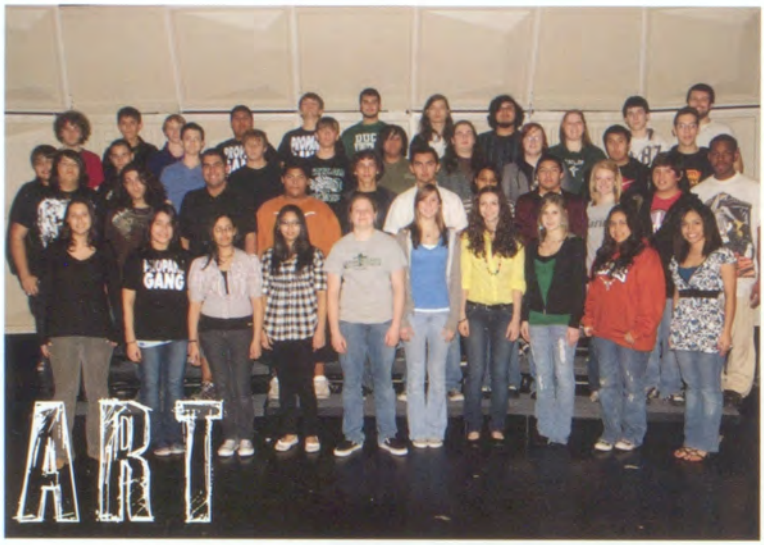
SHAKE IT Larry and Barry Jackson and Roland Myers get down at the Winter Games. *Photo courtesy of Kevin Widmer.*





WINNERS The five-on-five basketball team waits for their silver medal at the Area Basketball meet at Texas State University in San Marcos. *Photo courtesy of Kevin Widmer.*

design nathan jones **reporting** emily thorpe



Front: Christian Campbell, Alexis Sanchez, Katherine Rodriguez, Mandy Ortiz, Kasi Lozano, Shannon VonGeritchten, Devyn Tone, Gail Holman, Adriana Carrizales, Naomi Hundley. **Second:** Abey Orranday, Alex Mullins , Jered Boney, Freddie Garza, Travis Carpenter, Omar Ventura, Monica Milligan, Simon Martinez, Aubrey Davis, Joshua Bucek, Cardray Payne. **Third:** Romen Diaz, Jacob Jensen, Hunter Wilson, Ian Rucker, Braedon Gross, Rebekah Murphy, David Bishop, Andrew Jones, Charles Dominguez, Quade MacCauley. **Fourth:** Max Beckwith, President Estevan Aviles (President), Cody Slavych, Patrick Gamez, Steven McCallister, Zach Talavera, Conoley Reinhardt, Dell Buckalew, Courtney Dunbar, Alex Aminzadeh, Sponsor-Mr. Gray.

Activities

The majority of the Art Club students are in either one of Mr. Gray's or Mrs. Barnett's art classes.

Another activity that the Art Club participates in, is displaying their various projects in the hallways or inside the display cases around the school.

Art students painting quotes around the school, create scenery for theatre productions, and go on trips to museums.



INSPIRATIONAL ART Kale McQuillen (10) painted this mountain scene. "I hope to inspire people with my art," Kale said. Mrs. Barnett's Art 2 drawing classes had to paint mountain scenery for a school project. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



CAMOUFLAGE Mr. Gray's Art 1 classes had to make a camouflage monument for a class project. Reynaldo Moreno (9) and Jonathan Flores (10) helped to make the monument. "Drawing and working on projects is fun," Reynaldo said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



BLACK ON BLACK Students in Mr. Gray's Art class enjoy a demonstration of screenprinting technique. "It was pretty cool. I might actually want to do it, professionally," said Cody Slavych (12) *Photo by Melanie Catuogno.*



Front: Lilly Engler, Katelyn Kuhl, Kasi Lozano (Vice-President), Diana Ramirez, Sabrina Atkinson (Treasurer), Chelsie Carter, Sponsor-Mr. Gray. **Back:** Henry Oranday, Ryan Montalvo, Moses Guerrero, Vice-President Andrew Makare, Holden Hudson (President), Corey Casey.

Mission

FCA meets every Tuesday early in the morning at 7:45 in Mr. Gray's Room.

They have various fundraising projects, including this year's Dodgeball Tournament.

The reason for the FCA club is to reach out and give back to the community by doing community service work.

"FCA'S PURPOSE, AT ITS ABSOLUTE CORE, IS TO COMBINE PEOPLE'S PASSION FOR SPORTS WITH THEIR PASSION FOR CHRIST, AND TEACH THEM THAT THOSE TWO WORLDS DON'T HAVE TO BE SEPARATE. FCA WANTS TO GIVE MEANING TO THE ATHLETIC NATURE THAT ALL OF US ARE BORN WITH AND USE IT FOR SOMETHING THAT STRETCHES BEYOND SPORTS."

From Beginner's Guide to FCA by Nick Dunn, www.fca.org



Front: Alexis Sanchez, Lisa Marie Farmer, Niayesha Jackson, Kara Gonzales, Sponsor-Mr. Gray. **Second:** Henry Oranday, Simon Martinez, Corey Casey, Daniel Gonzales. **Third:** Patrick Gamez, Steven McAllister, Seth Thomas, Fredrick Kerley, Holden Hudson.

Mission

The propane gang attends every game and supports the football team whether the game is at home or away.

The gang's mission is to make as much noise as possible and make the opponents hear and feel the intense surroundings.



PATIENTLY WAITING Trevor Knight (9) looks on as the ducks take the field before gametime. "Pre-game was the time to shake the tanks and make sure they were loud enough to shake up the opponent," Trevor said. The propane gang was the club to join during football season, and every year it seems to get bigger and bigger. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



COMING OUT STRONG The Propane Gang leads the way for the football team, running out onto the field representing the Taylor Ducks. "My favorite part of the Propane Gang is making noise and talking mess," Dillion Pekar said. The Propane Gang supported the football team during every game being as loud as they could be. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



Front: Jacob Jensen, Zach Talavera, Alex Mullins. **Back:** Cody Slavych (President), Travis Carpenter (Vice-President), Conoley Reihnhardt, Sponsor-Mr. Gray.

Activities

The Skate Club gets together and practices new tricks usually during lunch or after school.



OH YES, WE CAN " Skateboarding is not a crime," said Zach Talavera (12). Zach and other skateboarders gather on the basketball courts after school to practice their cool tricks. Some also use their boards as transportation to and from school, but are required to leave them in the office during the school day.

design jessica humphreys **story** mallory strmiska



Front: Julie Polasek, Ally Powell, Stephen Svatek, Elias Alayon, Travis Carpenter, Jared Delony, Instructor-Vikki Rowe. **Second**: Drew Weise, Zach Linday, Connely Reinhardt, Brandon Dupy, Andrew Mackare, Nathaniel Jones, Tenea Bailey, Jenniffer Townsend. **Not Pictured:** Emily Thorpe, Rebekah Murphy, Augustine Cervantes, Jonathan Holman, Simon Martinez, Antonio Elizondo.

Achievements

- 7 state runs
- 3 state championships
- Over $70,000 in scholarship money



MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU Her passion is sculpting young minds and those lucky students who have had the privilege of taking one of her classes will say the same thing: "She's pretty much like Yoda." Mrs. Vicki Rowe, the AP English and AcDec teacher, led her students through another promising Academic Decathlon. "This year's team was very well balanced. They all scored consistently across the board." Mrs. Rowe said. The team won third in state and Mrs. Rowe was very proud of their success. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



MY BRAIN HURTS Jared Delony (12) diligently studies his AcDec material during class. "We do a lot of studying, I started during the summer," Jared said. The students had practice everyday after school and on Saturdays and some Sundays. "When it snowed we had a Skype conference call, it was... interesting," Jared said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



GO DUCKS! The Taylor High School Academic Decathalon team rejoices on stage after a bronze finish in the state meet. "Taking the tests one after another was crazy, the 30 minute breaks went by way too fast. I really liked the music part; it was unique," Stephen Svatek (10) said. The team traveled to San Antonio for the competition, "The feeling was bittersweet, a little depressing we got third, but i'm so glad were done! After the competition we played video games all night, until Mrs. Rowe said we had to go to bed," Jennifer Townsend (11) said. *Photo courtesy of Brandon Dupy.*

The Academic Decathlon team won the overall bronze medal in the State Small School Division with a total of 35,700 points at the State Academic Decathlon competition held in San Antonio in February, missing the silver by only 95 points.

"This team of scholars has shown a tremendous heart," said Taylor ISD Superintednent Dr. Bruce Scott. "With only two returning members, no one knew what this team was capable of and for them to wins Regionals, advance to State and bring home the bronze medal is just super. I congratulate Mrs. Vicki Rowe and all of her team. They continue to bring honor and praise to their families, their school and their community."



Individual winners were: Economics – Rebekah Murphy Varsity Bronze, Drew Weise Scholastic Silver; Mathematics – Zach Lindsay Varsity Bronze; Art – Rebekah Murphy Varsity Silver; Science (Chemistry) – Travis Carpenter Scholastic Gold; Zach Lindsay Varsity Silver; Music – Zach Lindsay Varsity Bronze; Language and Literature – Jennifer Townsend Honors Bronze; Conoley Reinhardt Varsity Silver (8 of 9 students finished in the top 10); Super Quiz Overall (The French Revolution) – Brandon Dupy Honors 5th Place, and Rebekah Murphy Varsity 4th Place.

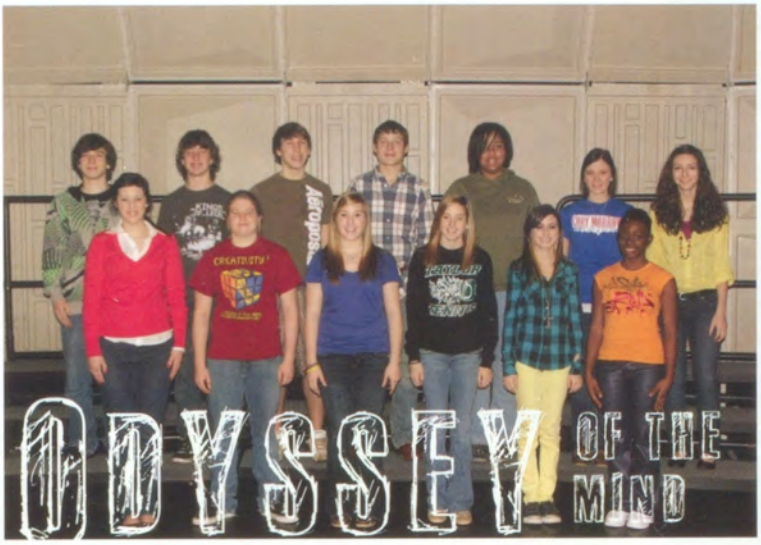
Drew Weise finished 3rd overall individually in the Scholastic Division and will receive an additional $1500 in scholarship money. Also, Rebekah Murphy finished 4th in the Varsity Division and will be awarded another $1000 in scholarship money.

Each team member received $500 in scholarship money for their third place team finish.

The private school John Paul II took 1st place overall and Splendora took 2nd place.

According to Rowe, "This team's balance shines through this bronze medal. Although our individual medal count is not as high as in the past, the scholars proved their thorough understanding of this year's curriculum placing 4, 5, and 6 across their divisions, in addition to our medal winners. Not only as a coach, but as a teacher, I recognize that these scholars have benefited academically from their in-depth study over all 10 categories, and their outstanding finish proves this."

Above, Principal Danny Ward hands Drew Weise his medal during the award ceremony for Regionals. *Photo and story by Larry Robbins. Reprinted with permission.*



Front: Liberty Jones, Kasi Lozano, Jessica Humphreys, Mallory Marcon, Ivy Albright, Courtney Fields. **Second**: Elric Martinez, Stephen Svatek, Corey Terwilliger, Blayne Hegar, Rebekah Murphy, Addison Turner, Devyn Tone.

SONGS, DANCES, AND PUPPETS TOO Liberty Jones (10) and Heather Hegar (11) work on the song and dance for their performance, while Jessica Humphreys (10) repairs a puppet. "My whole OM team is a family. Liberty and I call Mrs. Svatek our 'Second Mom'," Jessica said. The ladies along with the rest of their team won first at the regional competition held at Taylor Middle School. *Courtesy photo.*





TREE GIRL Courtney Fields (11) repairs her palm tree at OM practice. "OM is fun, it makes you think outside the box," Courtney said. Courtney and her team also won first at their regional meet at the Taylor Middle School and are advancing to state. *Courtesy photo.*

Achievements

Once again, Taylor excelled at the Odyssey of the Mind Regional Meet. Taylor won 3 gold team medals, 3 silver team medals, and 2 bronze team medals, which advanced each of these teams to the State Meet. The Ducks won more medals than any other school district at the competition, taking home 52 medals in all.



Front: Adam Janecka, Alexander Kauai (Treasurer), Amy Janecka, Max Beckwith (President), Chris Mejia, Bobby Jones. **Second**: Tristan Kaatz, Trey Meakar, Cardray Payne, Zach Lindsay, Chris Velazquez.



"WE PLAY CHESS DURING LUNCH. I LEARNED NEW RULES AND HOW TO PLAY BETTER. IT'S A GOOD WAY TO PASS THE TIME."

Alexander Kauai (9)

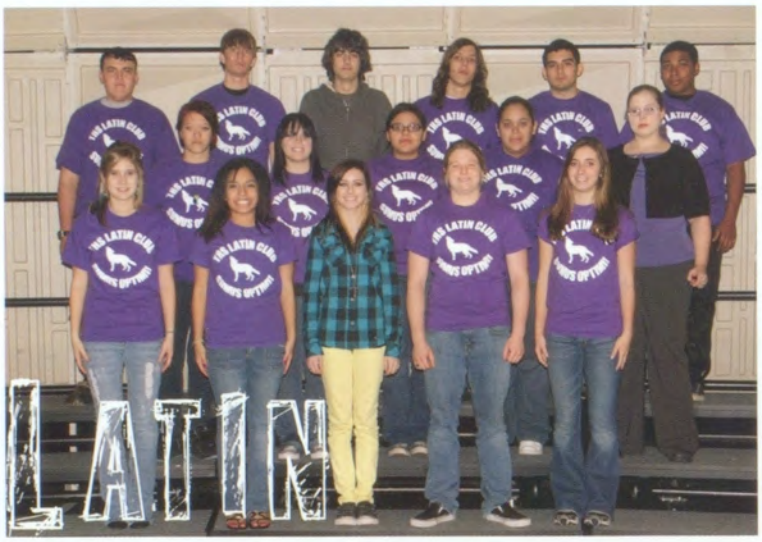
CHECK MATES Trey Meakar (10) & Adam Janecka (9) play chess during lunch. *Photo courtesy of Lloyd Collier.*



Front: Max Beckwith, Stephen Schroeder, Chris Mejia, Jamie Holt, Henry Oranday. **Second**: Sponsor-Nisa Stevens, Mary Griffin, Rebekah Murphy, Zach Lindsay, David Bishop, Zach Talavera, Sponsor-Nathan Gray.

"WE PLAY WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY AFTER SCHOOL. IT TOOK US THREE WEEKS TO MAKE THE CHARACTERS. IT'S VERY FUN, AND IT'S A CHANCE TO MAKE FRIENDS."

Max Beckwith (10)



Front: Gail Holman, Noami Hundley, Ivy Albright, Kasi Lozano, Kaylee Nemec. **Second:** Ruby Pumphrey, Kelsey Walton, Natalie Ochoa, Erica Ortiz, Sponsor-Kristina Tellez. **Third:** Kale McQuillen, Braden Gross, Zach Lindsay, Paul Smith, Manuel Cornejo, Edward Murray.

Officers

Consuls: Zach Lindsay & Rebekah Murphy

Secretary: Natalie Ochoa

Treasurer: Gail Holman

Historians: Kelsey Walton & Naomi Hundley

SUMUS OPTIMI

(That's "we're awesome" in Latin.)



Front: Shayla Harvey, Lynsie Patschke, Allison Powell, President Victoria Fail, Kelsie Kaatz, Camryn Stoll, Addy Turner, Second VPShannon VonGerichten. **Second:** Parliamentarian Justin Patschke, Nick Hall, Damian Alayon, Stephen Svatek, Jeremy Snyder, Seth Smensky, HistorianLillyann Engler, Kayla Beran, Elric Martinez. **Third:** Secretary Ashley Burow, Blayne Hegar, Joshua Richter, Reagan Fischer, Maisen Lawhon,Treasurer Samantha Pachicano, Samantha Birchard, Sponsor-Leslie Decker. **Not pictured:** VP Katelyn Kuhl, Historian Tracy Morgan.

Achievements

On February 27, several THS German students traveled to Austin to compete in the state German competition, for which they had qualified three weeks earlier at Houstonfest. All of the students did really well, and several of them took home medals, trophies and prizes. In addition, one of them even received a scholarship. The Taylor team as a whole finished 7th place in Sweepstakes.

Individual results were as follows:
Katelyn Kuhl, 1st place, research paper. This carries a $1,000 scholarship prize.

Samantha Birchard:
1st place, reading comprehension level I
1st place, listening comprehension level I
3rd place, vocabulary level I
4th place, prose memory level I
6th place, directed dialogue level I
$325 scholarship

Tracy Morgan:
1st place, Club Album
$1000 scholarship

Camryn Stoll:
1st place, Nontraditional Gingerbread House

Maisen Lawhon, Addison Turner:
2nd place, traditional gingerbread house
Lynsie Patschke, Ashley Smith, Griselda Morales:
4th place, T-shirt design

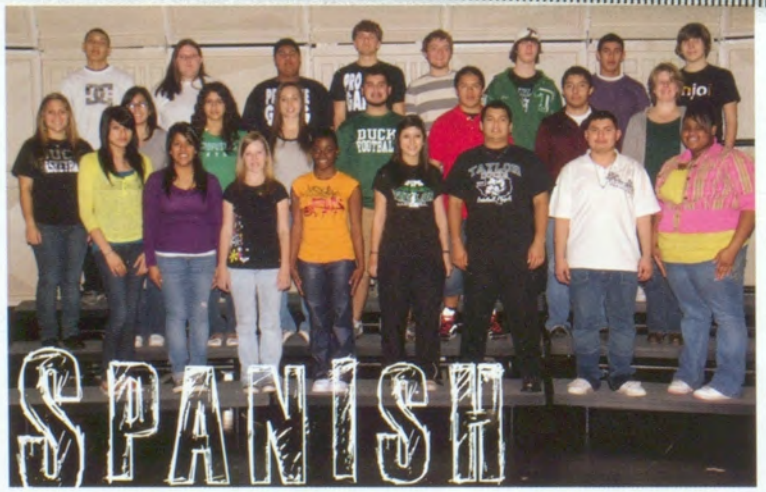
Lynsie Patschke, Allyson Powell, Aleck Kralczyk, Ashley Smith, Blayne Hegar, Dustin Johnson, Griselda Morales, Reagan Fischer, Jalen Kerley, JT Peterson, Shayla Harvey:
4th place, Skit Level I

Allyson Powell:
8th place, directed dialogue Level I

Allyson Powell, Lynsie Patschke:
9th place, duet acting Level I

Damian Alayon, Samantha Pachicano, Michael Carlson, Shannon Vongerichten, Maisen Lawhon, Kelsie Kaatz, Seth Smensky, Bradley Ging, Lilly-Ann Engler, Addison Turner:
10th place, skit level 2

Jeff Carpenter, Josh Hannington, Justin Patschke, Chase Richter, Shelby Jo Roan, Isabel Yanez, Thomas Solbach, Elric Martinez, Hunter Wilson:
10th place, video show



Front: Deyanira Castillo, Zuleica Delucerda-Ordaz, Zoey Howard, Courtney Fields, Mary Kate Walls, David Rodriguez, Edwin Villasenor, La'Shaye Deary. **Second:** Chelsie Carter, Leah Morales, Briana Ortiz, Sabrina Atkinson, Zach Talavera, Conception Moreno, Simon Martinez. **Third:** Johnny Reyna, Mary Griffin, Patrick Gamez, Steven McAllister, Gerald Dobbs, Andrew Makare, Jacob San Miguel, Nathan Jones **Not pictured:** sponsor Jose Silva.

Officers

President: Concepcion Moreno

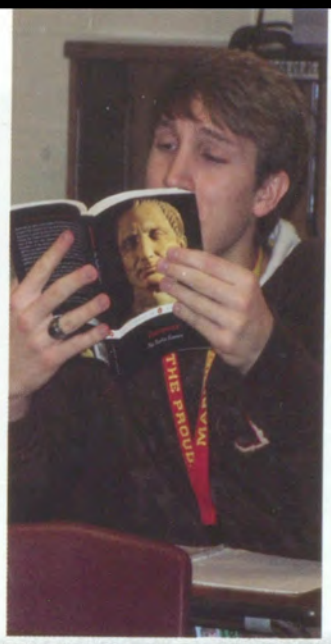
Vice-President: Chelsie Carter

Secretary: Andrew Makare

Tresurer: Sabrina Atkinson

Historian: Johnny Reyna







HAIL CEASAR Latin students read and discuss *The Twelve Ceasars by Svetonius*. "Part of being a Latin scholar is exploring the ancient culture," said Mrs. Tellez. Students, left to right, are Naomi Hundley (11), Paul Smith (11), Zach Lindsay (11), Ashley Wilson (11), Corey Terwilliger (12), Kasi Lozano (11), and Manuel Cornejo (12). *Photo courtesy of Krystina Tellez.*



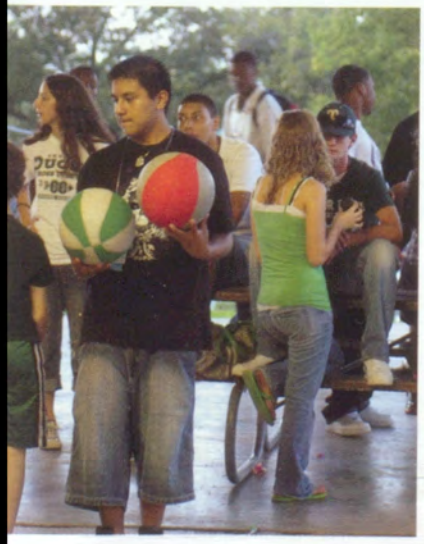
DER GEWINNER Tracy Morgan (11) displays the first place trophy she won for the Club Album. *Photo courtesy of Leslie Decker.*



SERVIN' IT UP IN GERMAN Serving up snacks and drinks to the Ducks' football fans, Max Villanueva (12), Erica Agundis (11), and Ana Ramirez (11) worked the concession stand at Memorial Field for German club. "It was fun because we stayed during the whole game, we got in the game free, and we got discounts on the food. It was really fun until it got really busy," Max said. All clubs have to work the stand at some time during the football season. *Photo courtesy of Ana Ramirez.*



JUHU! German Club members show off their ribbons, trophies, and medals after Houstonfest Regional Competition in February. *Photo courtesy of Leslie Decker.*



A HELPING HAND Daniel Moreno (9) helps out the kids at the homecoming carnival with the basketball booth. "It felt good helping the kids and giving back to the community," Daniel said. The Spanish Club held the basketball booth during the homecoming carnival. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



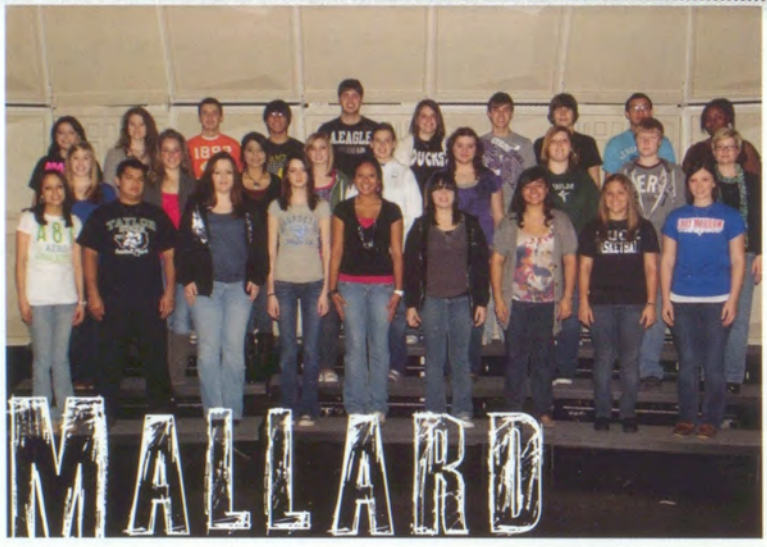
Front: Lauren Tucker, Adviser-Melanie Catuogno. **Back**: Ryan Gonzales, Kristyne Baran, Addy Turner. **Not pictured:** Kameren Hodnett.

Mission

THS-TV students produce a TV news show every couple of weeks. A typical broadcast includes interviews with students, public service announcements, and a feature of student creative work.

"THS-TV GIVES ME A REASON TO COME TO SCHOOL. FILM INTRIGUES ME--IT'S A MOVING ART FORM."

--Kameren Hodnett, Producer



Front: Kari Alderete, David Rodriguez, Business Manager Becca Cocke, Kendall Wrinkle, Alyssa Torres, Kelsey Walton, Jessi Lopez, Section Editor Chelsie Carter, Addy Turner. **Second**: Page Editor Jessica Humphreys, Claire Berger, Maisen Lawhon, Manging Editor Mallory Strmiska, Courtney Sprenger, Justin Patschke, Adviser-Melanie Catuogno. **Back**: Lisa-Marie Farmer, Austyn Savage, Bradly Nemec, Ryan Gonzales, Section Editor Brandon Dupy, Sloane Cotner, Cameron Dupy, Nathan Jones, Tino Arzola, Julia Trejo. **Not pictured:** Jace Fontenot.

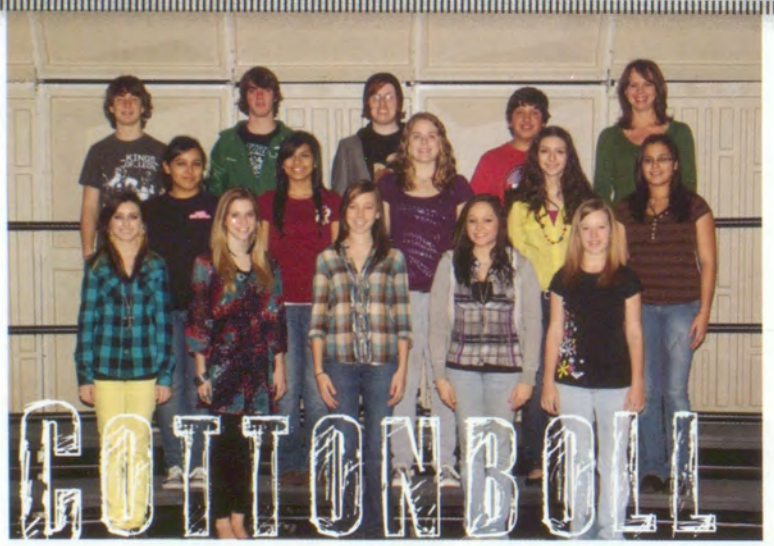
Achievements

- National Scholastic Press Association: First Class rating (highest available)
- Columbia Scholastic Press Association : Gold Medalist rating (highest available)
- Interscholastic League Press Conference: Award of Distinguished Merit and Star nomination (highest available)

The 2009 Mallard, continuing in the tradition of past years, received excellent marks from three major yearbook associations. It was also recognized in the Yearbook Yearbook, a best-of publication from Taylor Publishing.

"NO ONE KNOWS WHAT IT TAKES TO CREATE A BOOK UNTIL THEY'VE ACTUALLY BEEN ON STAFF AND WORKED ON IT."

--Melanie Catuogno, Adviser



Front: Ivy Albright, Hannah Weison, Coty Gola, Megan Chacon, Zoey Howard, Adviser Melanie Catuogno. **Second**: Ashley Zavala, Lexie Orozco, Jennifer Townsend, Devyn Tone, Marcella Ramirez. **Back**: Stephen Svatek, Andrew McKare, Andrew Jones, Joshua Bucek, Advisor Dawn Fischer.

"I HAVE A GREAT STAFF BUT THEY'RE BRAND NEW. WE FACED THE SAME CHALLENGES THAT NEWSPAPERS AROUND THE NATION ARE FACING. OUR CHALLENGES HAVE TO DO WITH ADVERTISEMENT. ITS OUR ONLY SOURCE OF INCOME. WE'VE EXPERIMENTED WITH ONLINE EDITIONS. WHO KNOWS WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS?"

-Down Fischer, Adviser

I HAVE TO BE THE WORST SPELLING EDITOR EVER.

--Andrew Makare, Editor



I HATE THIS PROGRAM Deep in concentration, Kameren Hodnett (12) struggles to edit a video project with Adobe Premiere Elements 8.0. "I'm glad we upgraded because it doesn't crash on me as much," Kameren said. Kameren's favorite thing to edit was the various opening credit sequences for THS-TV. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*





BROADCAST YOURSELF Kristyne Baran (12) and Lauren Tucker (12) tape a broadcast for THS-TV. "It's fun when you're behind the camera, but then when you see yourself on TV, you're like...'I sound like that?'" Kristyne said. The girls did many takes to get the news right. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

TECHNICAL EXPERTISE Setting up a tripod, Ryan Gonzales (12) prepares to film an interview for THS-TV. "I wanted to be on the TV staff last year, but I couldn't do it because my calculus class conflicted with that class," Ryan said. Ryan spent many hours outside of class filming and editing videos. *Photo by Lauren Tucker.*



YEARBOOK ROCKS Bradly Nemec (12) sports a funky hairstyle on Rockstar day for Homecoming 2009. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*





SPREADING THE LOVE Everyone wants their yearbook. They want to look at pictures, read stories, and forever have their high school printed in CMYK ink. Ryan Gonzales (12) and Jessi Lopez (11) work on completeing the yearbook spreads before their next deadline. " The work is hard, but the atmosphere makes it really exciting and intense," Ryan said. The 2010 yearbook staff had a lot of great times and worked hard to finish the book on time. *Photo by Mallory Strmiska.*

NO EXCUSES Never mind the crutches---Jace Fontenot (10) talks with Brandon Dupy (12) about his current assignment. "Jace is a good designer," said Mallory Strmiska (12), "but he needs to stop being such a slacker and meet those deadlines." The deadline-driven culture of yearbook came as a bit of a shock to most new staffers. *Photo by Mallory Strmiska.*



ANGRY EYES Staffers share a laugh as Lexie Orozco (10) struggles to write her story. It is not easy to coordinate a bunch of individuals to work on a common project. "A lot of times our personalities clash," said Hannah Weison (10), "but we've all learned to buckle down and realize that the newspaper is the most important thing when it comes to our class." *Photo by Mallory Strmiska.*



TWO HEADS ARE BETTER Jonathan Holman (12) and Devyn Tone (12) work on their ideas for the upcoming issue. "It's really difficult going around the school and trying to find stories to write," Jonathan said. *Photo by Mallory Strmiska.*

BRAIN STORM Coty Gola (10) writes and erases as the staff brainstorms ideas for the Prom issue of the Cotton Boll. "After we get all our ideas on the board, then we go through and choose what each person will write about," Coty said. *Photo by Mallory Strmiska.*





Front: Katrina Bushyhead, Diana Ramirez (Vice-President), Ivy Albright (President), Courtney Fields, Jordan Trevino (Secretary), Kelsie Kaatz, Katherine Rodriguez, Sponsor-Candice Martin. **Second:** Sonya Schmidt, Briana Ortiz, Cindy Arriaga, Mireya Sandoval, Katelyn Kuhl, Michael McIntire (Treasurer), Desiree Hernandez. **Third:** Mark Chaidez, Omar Ventura, Hailey Kuntschik, Quade MacCauley, Edward Murray, Seth Smensky, Jacob San Migel, Lillyann Engler. **Not Pictured:** Sponsor-Susan Sumpter.

Activities

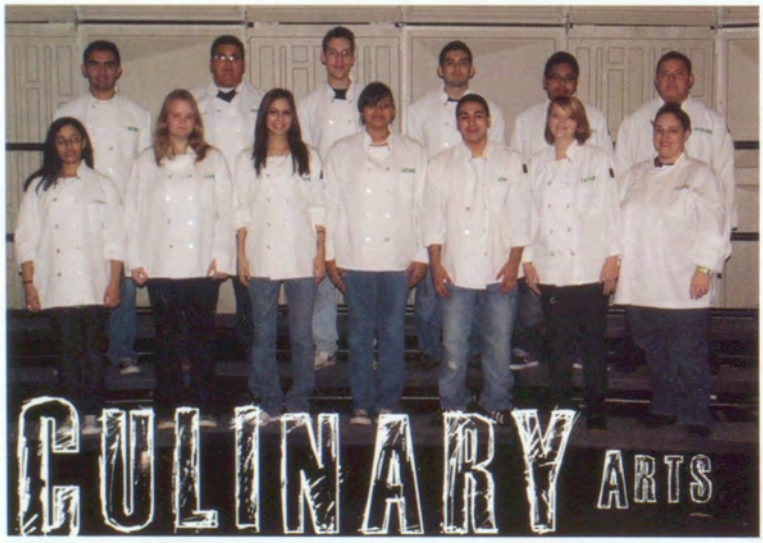
- "Star Events" Regional Competition
- Fundraising for cancer research
- Promoting good citizenship, safety, and health in our community.



BUCKLE UP FOR SAFETY Courtney Fields (11) holds her sign high at the side of the road whild FCCLA members hand out dum-dums and smarties candy for their "buckle up for safety" campaign. *Photo courtesy of Susan Sumpter.*



RIDE FOR THE CURE Members of FCCLA ride the Dillo bus to a Race for the Cure event in Austin in November, where they helped raise money for cancer research. From left, Michael McIntire (10), Seth Smensky (10), Kelsie Kaatz (10), Lily Engler (10), Marissa Guzman (11), Courtney Fields (11), Katelyn Kuhl (10). *Photo courtesy of Susan Sumpter.*



Front: Katherine Rodriguez, Candace Smothermon, Sonya Schmidt, Desiree Hernandez, Jonathan Hernandez, Taylor Donovan, Instructor- Candice Martin. **Back:** Omar Ventura, Mark Chaidez, Quade MacCauley, Manuel Cornejo, Abery Fuentes, Edward Barrera.



HOT HOT HOT Jonathan Hernandez (10) and Ricky Cobia (11) prepare fajitas for the box lunch fundraiser. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



CAN OPENER Sonya Schmidt (12) opens cans in preparation for a Culinary Arts cooking session. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



MMMMMM... Culinary Arts students made chocolate-dipped strawberries for a Valentine's Day fundraiser. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



DEBATE

Front: Trevor Knight, Dantrel Hargers, Seth Thomas (President), Tycom Wright (Treasurer). **Second:** Julia Trejo (Secretary), Sponsor-Nisa Stevens, Chelsea Hernandez (Vice-President).

"DEBATE IS A BLOOD SPORT WHERE YOUR WORDS ARE YOUR WEAPONS."

--Nisa Stevens



CROSS EXAMINATION The debate team has a mock CX session during their 8th period Debate class. "Debate is a grueling task that requires alot of determination," Seth Thomas (10) said. The structured arguing of debate enables a student to learn a subject and prove his or her side of the topic. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales*



JOURNALISM

Front: Delia Trujillo, Jessica Carr, Rhayven Clark, Edwin Villasenor. **Back:** Alex Mullins, Courtney Findley, Michael Carlson, Instructor-Magdalena Zavala.

Activities

Journalism club held a Friendship Portrait Day and sold reprints and photo t-shirts in order to raise money for a field trip to Austin to visit the Harry Ransom Center, the University of Texas, the Austin American-Statesman, and some Austin museums.



PIE IN THE...FACE Journalism teacher Magdalena Zavala takes a pie in the face for a Journalism club fundraiser at the Homecoming Carnival. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

IT GOES LIKE THIS Journalism Club members Josey Booms (9), Terrance Scott (11), Jessica Carr (9), and Rhayen Clark (9) discuss ideas for the Journalism Club logo and video that they will use to recruit more members. The club's motto is "Writing Around the World." The floating idea is that they create a logo that features the world and a photographic mosaic in place of the continents. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

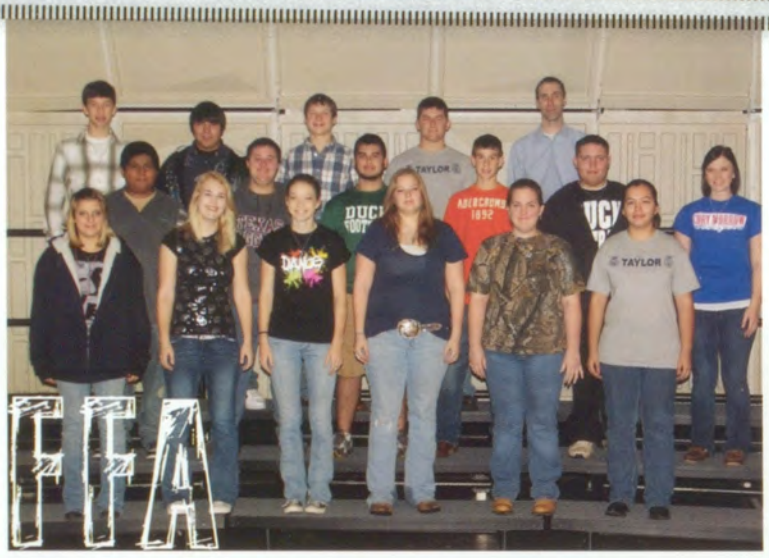




Front: Diana Ramirez, Leticia Marmolejo, Niayesha Jackson, Kelsey Aunspaugh (President), Addy Turner, Brittany Maddux. **Second:** Kyshara Jenkins (Historian), Lorena Gonzalez (Treasurer), Cindy Arriaga, Heather Hegar (Vice-President), Mariah Ojeda (Secretary), Kiera Maddox. **Third:** Marisa Navarrete, Briana Ortiz, Kristen Martinez, Courtney Sprenger, Katie Yanez (Reporter), Maria Sanchez, Advisor-Lisa Vaughan.

Mission

To enhance the delivery of compassionate quality healthcare by providing opportunities for knowdledge, skill, and leadership development of all health science tech students, therefore helping students meet needs of healthcare community.



Front: Samantha Allmon, Ashley Burow (Secretary), Tara Eulenfeld, Catie Stewart, Camryn Stoll (Sentinel), Ashley Wilson. **Second:** Chris Mejia, Matt Thompson, Zach Talavera, Tyler Jaecks, Ryan Montalvo (President), Addy Turner (Treasurer). **Third:** Reagan Fischer, Matthew Reyna, Blayne Hegar, Alex Bogan, Instructor-Scott Bishop.

Achievements

Addy Turner - 3rd place, division champion goat
CJ Sims - 1st place goat, 1st place steer, 8th place pig
Tyler Jaecks - 10th place pig, 4th place pig
Ashley Burrow - 10th place lamb, 2nd place goat
Rhegan Fischer - 14th place pug
Blayne Heagar - 8th place goat, 13th place goat
Matthew Reyna - 5th place steer
Camryn Stoll - Grand Champion Senior Woodwork
Katy Stewart - 14th place rabbits
Mallory Marcon - reserve chapion chicken
Kelbie Stifflemire - 3rd place turkey, 15th place goat
Jacob Doss - 3rd place goat, 5th place chicken, 6th place turkey, 6th place lamb
Ryan Montalvo - 18th place chicken



Front: Carin Gonzales (Vice-President), Brandy Foster, Morgan Cmerek, Addy Turner (Treasurer), Brittany Lopez (Secretary). **Back:** Becca Cocke (Historian), Caleb Cavazos, Maisen Lawson, Sponsor-Barbara Leschber

Achievements

Administrative Support Team State Alternates - Camryn Stoll, Rebecca Cocke, Matthew Thompson, Carin Gonzalez

Desktop Publishing State Qualifier - Morgan Cmerek

Video Production State Alternates: Lauren Tucker, Kameren Hodnett, Addy Turner

Graphic Design Promotion State Qualifier - Mallory Strimiska

Fundamental Word Processing State Qualifier - Camryn Stoll

Banking Finance State Alternate - Maisen Lawhon

Interview Skills State Alternate - Addy Turner



WHERE GERMS HIDE Niaesha Jackson (11) gives the directions of a health game to the Pasemann students. "We created a health game to help kids see where germs hide," Niaesha said. The Pasemann students enjoyed HOSA's company and guidance on learning where germs hide. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*





LISTENING CLOSELY Kyshara Jenkins (12) gives a hearing test to the students of Pasemann. "We helped the nurse help kids with the audiometer," Kyshara said. The Pasemann faculty was glad to have HOSA there for the day. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

A HELPING HAND Heather Hegar (11) shows a elementary student the proper way to wash his hands. "We all had fun teaching kids how to wash the germs away," Heather said. HOSA went to Pasemann to interact with the students, and to give a helping hand. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



SHOW AND SELL Reagan Fischer (9) shows his pig at the Williamson County Stock Show. "It was a lot of work raising my pig, but it was really fun showing it at the stock show," Reagan said. In Reagan's first time showing he earned himself a 14th place ribbon for his pig. *Photo courtesy of Dawn Fischer.*





HARD (WOOD) WORKER Wood working may seem hard...unless you are Camryn Stoll (12) who made a hope chest without any mechanical tools to help her. "I did it all by hand, even hand-made the mallet that I used. I had fun doing it and learned a lot," Camryn said. She won Grand Champion in her class at the Williamson County Youth Fair.

CUTTING CLASS Ryan Montalvo (12) works on a project with the help of Mr. Scott Bishop. "We were cutting a piece of metal for our hay spear that will be entering in the Houston Livestock Show and Ag Mecahnics Contest," Mr. Bishop said. *Photo courtesy of Taylor Daily Press.*





I WANT YOU Mallory Strmiska (12) competed in BPA Graphic Design Promotion, winning first place at the Area competition in College Station in January and advancing to State. "I was really nervous," Mallory said. "The pressure was really intense, plus the bus broke down and we were almost late." The judge commented that the campaign-style button Mallory designed was "clever and unique." *Design by Mallory Strmiska.*

SHARE THE BOUNTY BPA students prepare a food basket for a needy family at Thanksgiving. "I enjoy helping others and am proud to be president of an organization that is willing to take their time to help the less fortunate," Camryn said. After an early morning wake up call BPA was at H-E-B at 7 o' clock to buy canned goods for a family on thanksgiving. *Photo courtesy of Barbara Leschber.*



Front: Simon Martinez, Chelsie Carter, Gail Holman (Vice-President), Kelsey Aunspaugh, Amber Vrabel, Arthur Devlin, Angel Gonzalez (Secretary). **Second:** Sponsor-Dawn Fischer, Devyn Tone, Zach Talavera, Kasi Lozano, Heather Hegar, Addison Turner (Treasurer), Tyler Jaecks, Sponsor-Chad Springer. **Third:** Courtney Sprenger, Concepcion Moreno, Blayne Hegar, Reagan Fischer, Bandon Dupy (President), Jeremy Snyder, Mark Jackson, Lauren Vrana.

Mission

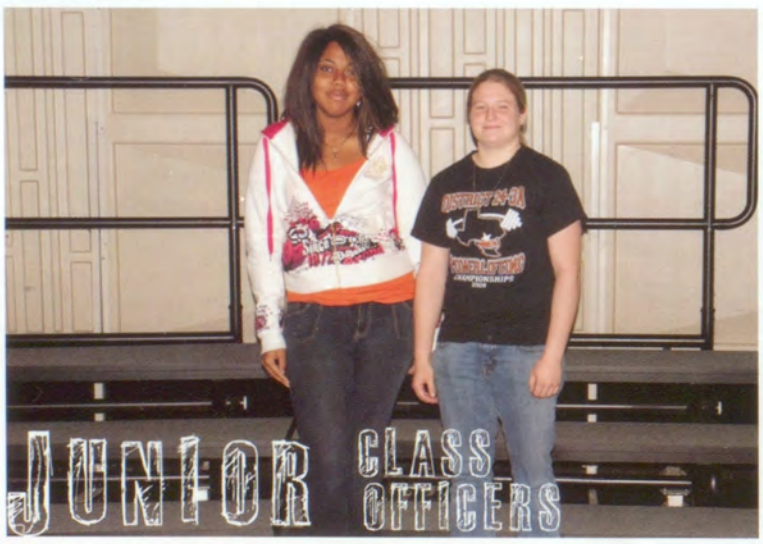
The mission of Student Senate is to provide a forum where positive leadership can flourish and also increase communication between the students and administration, ultimately unifying the community.



Front: Arther Devlin (Vice-President), Reagan Fischer (Secretary), Jeremy Snyder (President), Amber Vrabel (Treasurer)



Front: Hannah Weison (President), Moses Guerrero (Treasurer), Jessica Humphreys (Vice-President), Jordan Trevino (Secretary)



Front: Tanea Bailey, Kasi Lozano. **Not Pictured:** Courtney Fields, Ulises Avalos, Jose Morales.



Front: Claire Berger (Vice-President), Brandon Dupy (Treasurer), Mark Jackson (President), Kelsey Aunspaugh (Secretary)



QUEENS COURT

Front: Paige Caruther (Vice-president), Christian Campbell (Vice-president), Amanda Kimble (President), Kywana Winn. **Back:** Paige Moya, Kadijah Kerley (Secretary), Becky Smith (Treasurer), Lashaye Deary (Treasurer), Sponsor-Magistra Tellez

Activities

- Fundraising projects, community service, club events and trips
- Self defense workshop in the Spring
- Pie throwing booth at Homecoming Carnival



JR HISTORIANS

Front: Chase Richter, Jeff Carpenter (President), Braden Gross (Vice-President), Christian Tone. **Back:** Zachary Lindsay (Secretary), Ian Rucker, Elric Martinez (Treasurer).

Mission

To raise money for charity and to recognize, value, and preserve the history of our community.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH ASSEMBLY

DIANA RAMIREZ (10) "It was motivational and I enjoyed the speaker, but everyone was ready to go."

SAMUEL JIRASEK (12) "I thought it was cool to experience, a brighter side of the African American Culture."

AMANDA FOSTER (10) "It picked up when the choir sang."

LORENZO SANFORD (11) "It was wack, because it wasn't even Black History Month, but the dance was cool."

LAUREN VRANA (9) "It was cheerful and inspirational, and I think everyone enjoyed it."

MARY GRIFFIN (10) "It was interesting, but I was shocked by the disrespect of many students."

JOHNATHAN FLOREZ (10) "It was okay, but there was a lot of speaking."











1 Food for thought. Food Science has become a popular class at THS. Sonya Schmidt (12) washes a skillet after preparing food during the class period. "It's fun other than doing book work. You get to taste what you're cooking," Sonya said. *Photo By Ryan Gonzales.* **2** Max Villenueva (12) rides his Honda Motorcycle trough the high school parking lot. "The reason I got my bike is because it's fast and easy to get out of the parking lot for lunch." Max said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.* **3** Taking a break from working hard in THS TV Lauren Tucker (12) relaxes on the couch in the Mallard break room eating gobstoppers. "The red ones are my favorite", Lauren said. *Photo by Addy Turner.* **4** Hanging by a harness, Brandon Dupy (12) climbs the rock wall after the homecoming game. "I felt super tall, everyone on the ground looked liked ants. It was fun, even though the harness gave me a wedgie", Brandon said. *Photo By Ryan Gonzales* **5** Training for the future Clarrisa Lopez (9) refills water bottles during the football game. " It helps me out with my future , I want to be a pediatrician", Clarisa said. The althletic trainers also helped the players with minor injuries like sprains and pulled mussels. *Photo By Courtney Sprenger* **6** Dance and Décor, Gail Holman (11) prepares the decorations for the homecoming dance after the game against Madisonville. "It's part of school spirit and doing an event at the school get people together with their friends," Gail said. The dance was held from after the game until midnight Friday night. *Photo By Ryan Gonzales* **7** School spirit is for everyone. Coach Kevin Ramm and his daughter have fun at the community pep rally. "I like the small town atmosphere, the closeness of the community and how everyone comes out to support our team and school. I also like how it's a family event and I can bring everyone," Coach Ramm said. *Photo By Brandon Dupy.*

TWIRLER TIMW Taylor High School's only twirler, Julie Polasek (9), performs her routine in front of the crowd at the football game against Navasota. "I've been twirling for seven or eight years. Before I go on I'm excited, not really nervous. I just wonder what the people are thinking," Julie said. Julie twirls at every game, home and away. *Photo by Brandon Dupy.*

Individuals advertising

The only reason most people continue to come to school each day is to be with their friends. For some people it is more specifically to see a boyfriend, to talk to a favorite teacher, or to catch a glimpse of the girl they've had a crush on since 7th grade. When Tara Eulenfeld (12) is mentioned, Ryan Montalvo's (12) name will soon follow. Twins Bryan and Brandon Martinez (9) are almost always paired together, along with big sister Kristin Martinez (12). Selena Olguin (11) and Mariah Ojeda (11) can often be found at Sonic during 8th period.

Relationships have different levels of intensity. Best friends can be here for each other during a tough break up with a significant other, they can be a shoulder to cry on, a person to eat your feelings with, or someone to make you laugh until you cry. A boyfriend will be there for a girlfriend during a death in the family, to share her deepest secrets with, and a girlfriend to listen to how her boyfriend tore his ACL during football practice and to listen to him rant about the newest video game that came out. Brothers will always be there for each other, through thick and thin, no matter how different they are from each other.

Each year, new friends are made. A group of seniors leave and a new batch of freshmen arrive. Old friends move away, but younger friends move into high school. New faces are seen in the hallways. New relationships are created. Unfortunately, some friendships start to fade, but other relationships grow closer. Fresh bonds are created: A new favorite teacher is found, or a boyfriend soon becomes an ex-boyfriend.

Behind this are the faces of all those people who create the bonds and relationships within Taylor High School. Draw a heart around a girlfriend, horns on that horrible math teacher, and a smiley face by a best friend. This year's relationships may change, but this book is a reminder of what this year was.

2010

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their *dreams*.

Class Color: Green

Class Flower: Lily

Song: *It's So Hard to Say Goodbye to Yesterday* by Boyz II Men


David Aguirre


Cody Alderete


Felicia Alderete


Kelsey Aunspaugh


Matthew Ballard


Kristyne Baran


Joshua Bucek


Dell Buckalew


Brittany Buckman


Clarrissa Carrillo


Adriana Carrizales


Caleb Cavazos


Rebecca Cocke


Manuel Cornejo


Andrea Cortez


Alexander Aminzadeh


Issac Aparicio


Cindy Arriaga


Andrea Arroyo


Christino Arzola


Sabrina Atkinson


Alfred Beltran


Claire Berger


David Bishop


Alex Bogan


Robert Brenson


Jordan Brogan


Katrina Bushyhead


Cathy Camarda


Shaquille Campbell


Michelle Campos


Rebecca Carnes


Travis Carpenter


Augustine Cervantes


David Cervantes


Megan Chacon


Mark Chaidez


Marissa Chavana


Richard Cobia


Adrian Costilla


Caneisha Crathers

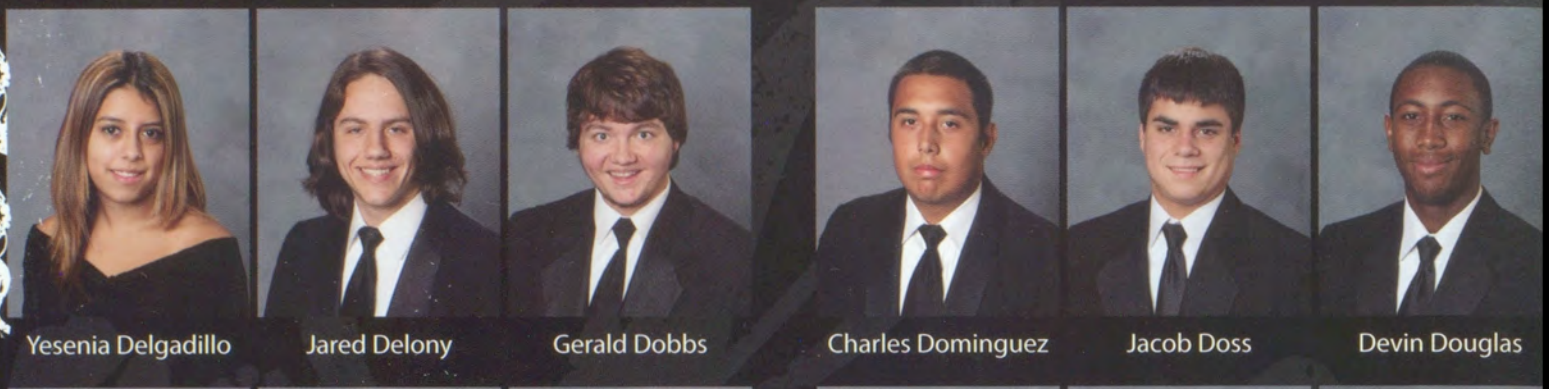

Skylar Crayton


Kayla Cruz


Daniela Davis


Artemio Delacruz

design claire berger



Yesenia Delgadillo | Jared Delony | Gerald Dobbs | Charles Dominguez | Jacob Doss | Devin Douglas



Tara Eulenfeld | Victoria Fail | Tiffany Farr | James Fields | D'Vonte Fisher | Kyle Fontenot



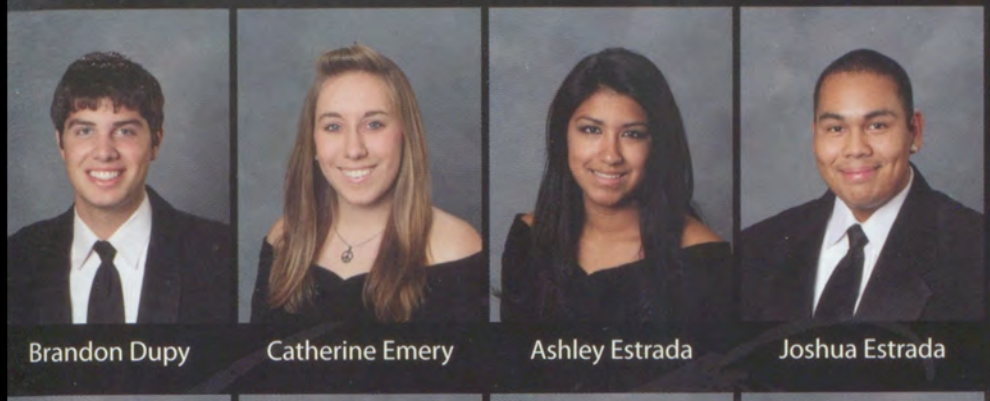
Ernest Garza | Freddie Garza | Carin Gonzales | Cris Gonzales | Matthew Gonzales | Richard Gonzales



Jake Henderson | Brenda Hernandez | Desiree Hernandez | Jeremy Hernandez | Josh Hinkle | Kameren Hodnett



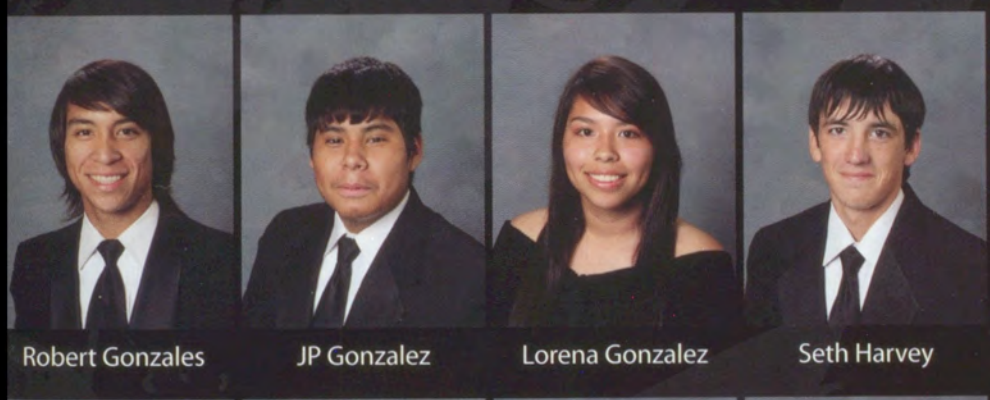
Brittany Jensen | Tiffany Jensen | Samuel Jirasek | Kathryn Johnson | Andrew Jones | Krystle Jones



Brandon Dupy | Catherine Emery | Ashley Estrada | Joshua Estrada



Brandy Foster | Abery Fuentes | Sherelle Gaines | Amber Gamboa



Robert Gonzales | JP Gonzalez | Lorena Gonzalez | Seth Harvey



Jonathan Holman | Nicholas Hull | Mark Jackson | Kyshara Jenkins



Jordan Kiewit | Kalen Kruse | Connor Kutach | Leonel Lavalle











courtesy photos













Courtesy photos



Sandy Lavalle



Chris Leal



Brittany Lopez



Amanda Martinez



Kristin Martinez



Patricia Martinez



Anndranekeya Miller



Meghan Miller



Ryan Montalvo



Rachael Morrison



Rebekah Murphy



Bradly Nemec



Perla Pena



Raymond Pesina



Ruby Pumphrey


Jose Lopez-Leyva


Bethany Lowrance

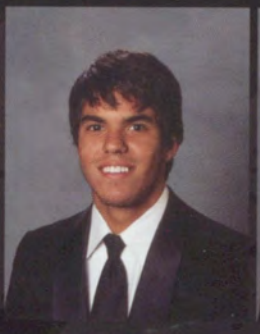

Daphne Maccauley


Quade Maccauley


Shante Marshall


Taylor Martin


Simon Martinez


Chaston Matta


Darlene McFarlin


Diana Mendez


Angel Mesta


Andrew Miller


Julia Moody


Leah Morales


Martha Moran


Roxana Moran


Concepcion Moreno


Valentine Moreno


Natalie Ochoa


Jordan Orta


Briana Ortiz


Erica Ortiz


Cardray Payne


La'Star Payne


Julian Ramirez


Marcella Ramirez


Paula Reeves


Conoley Reinhardt


Johnny Reyna


Shelby Jo Roan


David Rodriguez


Amy Salazar


Jose Salazar


Kelly Salazar


Jacob San Migel


Karina Sanchez


Rowdesha Scott


Ashlee Silva


Cody Slavych


Brian Slivensky


Gabrielle Solis


Courtney Sprenge


Camryn Stoll


Mallory Strmiska


Tyler Susan


Zach Talavera


Corey Terwilliger


Ariel Thomas


Devyn Tone


Maria Torres


Jesus Trujillo


Lauren Tucker


Marcos Urbina

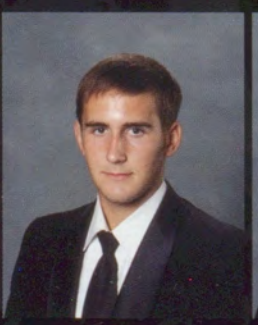

Azucena Valdez


Omar Ventura Sorto


Max Villanueva


Rachael Voytek


Kelsey Walton


Drew Weise


Josiph Welton



Leo Sandoval



Dylan Saucedo



Sonya Schmidt



Miressia Steele



Jordan Stefek



Stephanie Stegall



Christa Thomas



Matthew Thompson



Emily Thorpe



Eric Vasquez



Jason Vasquez



Ashleigh Veit



Kourtney Woods



Kristian Wooldridge



Katie Yanez

Rebecca Cake



"No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted."--Aesop

"Sweet Becca, you have always brought kindness into this world. We are so incredibly proud of the young woman you have become. Trust your heart always. You rock, kiddo!"

Love and kisses,
Mom and Dad

Congratulations SENIORS Class of 2010

JACOB DOSS





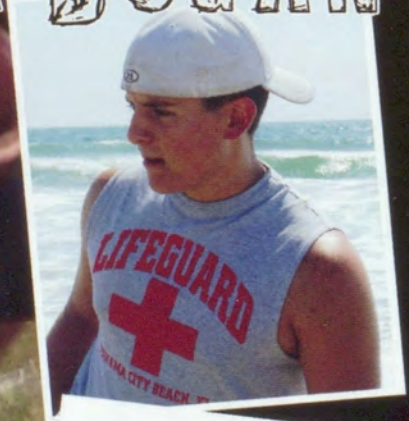


You have given us many wonderful memories. We are very proud of you. Hope all your dreams come true.

Love, Mom & Dad

ALEX BOGAN







You make us more proud every day, Alex. You are a find young man, with such a bright future ahead of you.

We love you dearly,
Dad, Mom, Chris & Jennifer.



Cindy Arriaga

Good job girls, y'all finally made it!!!!

Love,
family Arriaga and family Ortiz



Briana Ortiz

Camryn Hermine Stoll























Sunshine

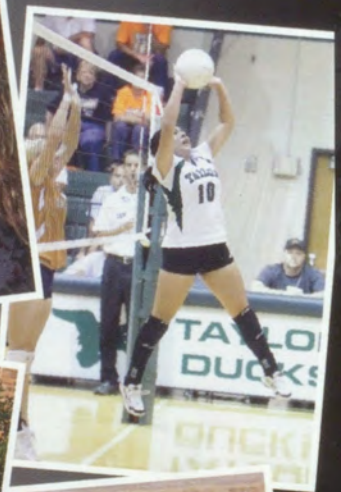
Jeremiah 29:11
"I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord,"Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

We are so proud of you!
Love,
Mom, Dad and Josh

Jordan Kiewit

Leah,
Academic accomplishments..
Athletic accomplishments..
We couldn't have asked for a better student nor a better daughter! We are so proud of you and wish you well at Texas A&M.
Love,
Mom, Dad, and Lance









Leah Morales

Claire Berger



BRADLY NEMEC





Kristyne Baran

We are very proud of you. Good luck at Texas State! Love, Mom, Dad, Deanna, Kyle, and Johnnie



Christino Arzola

Congratulations Tino, we couldn't ask for a better son. You have all the qualities of being successful. Hold your head high and keep the faith. You are awesome.
-Mom, Dad, Kim, Albert, Shane



"I adore you, Lord; in faith take me as your instrument. Nothing I with hold from you."

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



Jordan,
The day you were born was a loving blessing from God and you have brought so much joy to our lives. We have watched you grow in so many ways and are so very proud of all that you have accomplished. Remember to always make God your #1 priority in everything you do. Your faith, determination, and trust in God will carry you through all of lifes trials. When you do encounter adversity, how you over come it will define you as a man. In the father and through Jesus Christ all your dreams can become a reality. When you need us we will be always be there for you. OMG! Granny is just smiling from heaven, proud of her sugar boy always spiritually with you too!
We love you,
Dad, Mom, and Jeff

JORDAN STEFEK





Well, what can I say about our "Katie Pooh". You have grown into a responsible lady with dreams and goals I am positive you will achieve. We are so proud of you. I know this last year has been tough for you, but you've managed to stay focused and positive. We couldn't have asked for a better daughter. Your smile gets me everytime. We love you so very much and are proud of all your accomplishments. We wish you the very best. Good luck at UT. Hook 'Em!!



Katie yanez





Felicia Alcorte
Ryan Gonzales









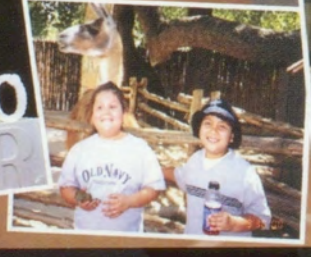
May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face. May the rains fall softly upon your fields. Until we meet again, may God hold you in the hollow of His hand. ~An old Gaelic Blessing. Congratulations Felicia and Ryan!

We are not only proud of your successes in school and graduation. We are also proud of your success in becoming the young woman and young man that you are today. With tears in our eyes, smiles on our faces and love in our hearts for you, we wish you the best in the next chapter of your lives.
Peace, love, and blessings always,
Your parents and families

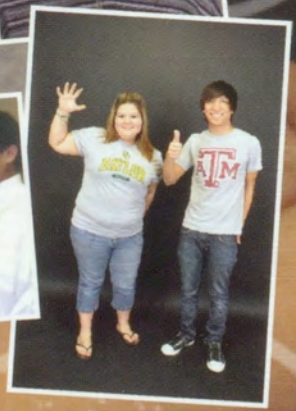
























Mallory Strmiska

we love you

- Mom, Brad, and the zoo



Rachael Voytek

Congratulations my love! You did it... You graduated! All your slacking payed off! College Station...Woo!
I love you so much,
Erik Garcia

Shelby Jo Boan

Girlfriend,
We wish for you, the brightest future. You deserve it.
We love you,
Mom, Marty, Mack ,and Sissy

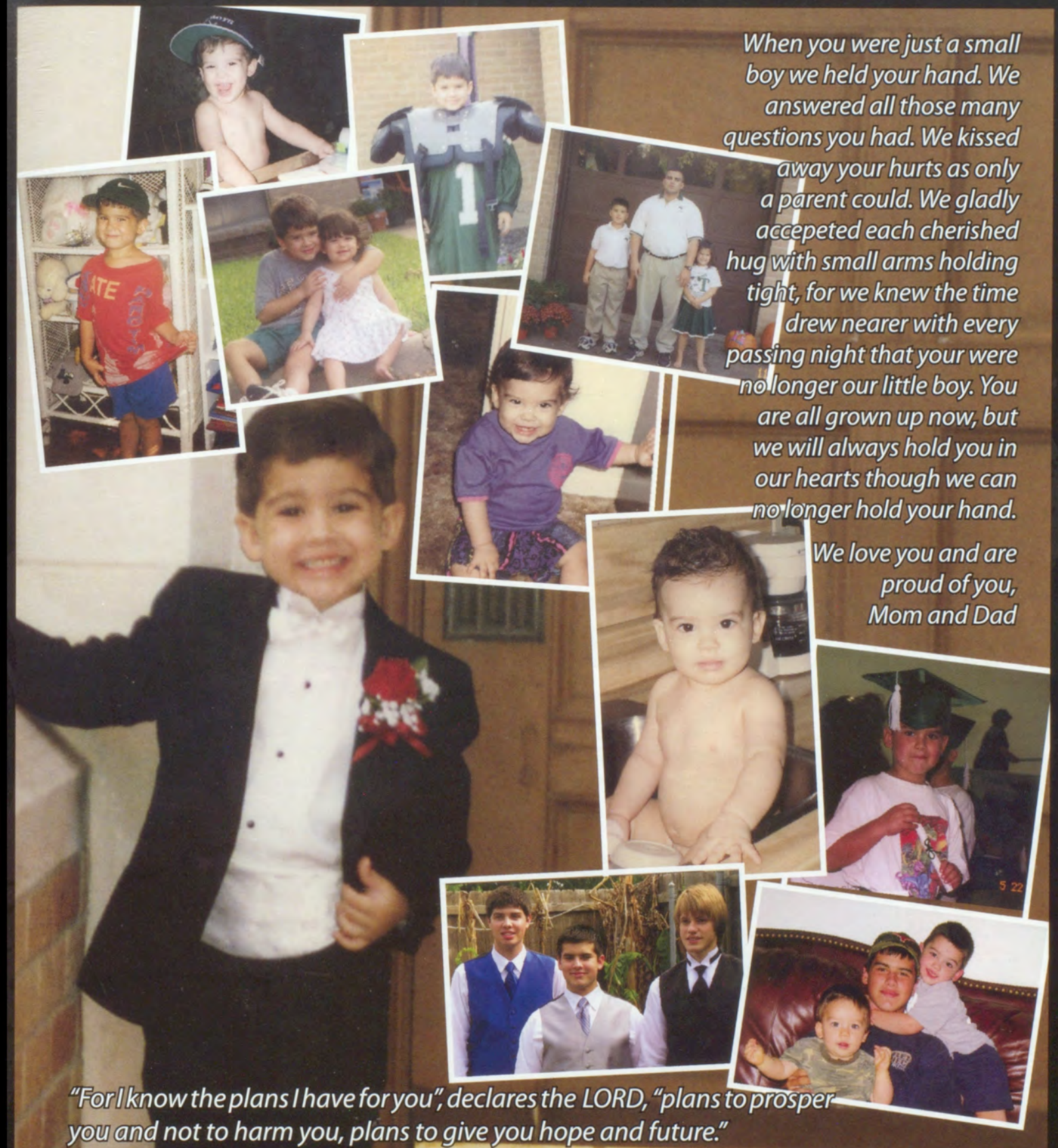




Lorna Gonzalez

"We are very proud of you. We wish you the best!"
Love, Mom, Dad, Laura, and Adolfo





When you were just a small boy we held your hand. We answered all those many questions you had. We kissed away your hurts as only a parent could. We gladly accepeted each cherished hug with small arms holding tight, for we knew the time drew nearer with every passing night that your were no longer our little boy. You are all grown up now, but we will always hold you in our hearts though we can no longer hold your hand.

We love you and are proud of you,
Mom and Dad

"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 future."
Jeremiah 29:11

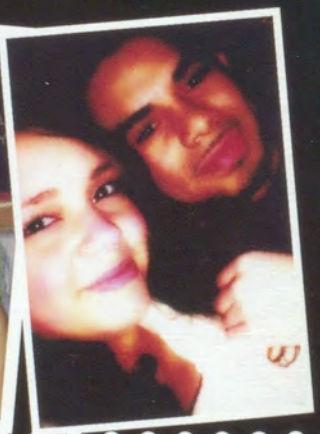
ZACH TALAVERA

Samuel Jirasek



We all are very proud of you and know that you will successed in all that falls in your path of life. Keep your head high, the hard part is over. Be the great woman you are meant to become.
Love, Mom, Cruz, Xander, & Zakariah







Clarissa Carillo



Emily Thor

St. Mary's Knights Of Columbus

Jeana Matetzschk
Hall Manager

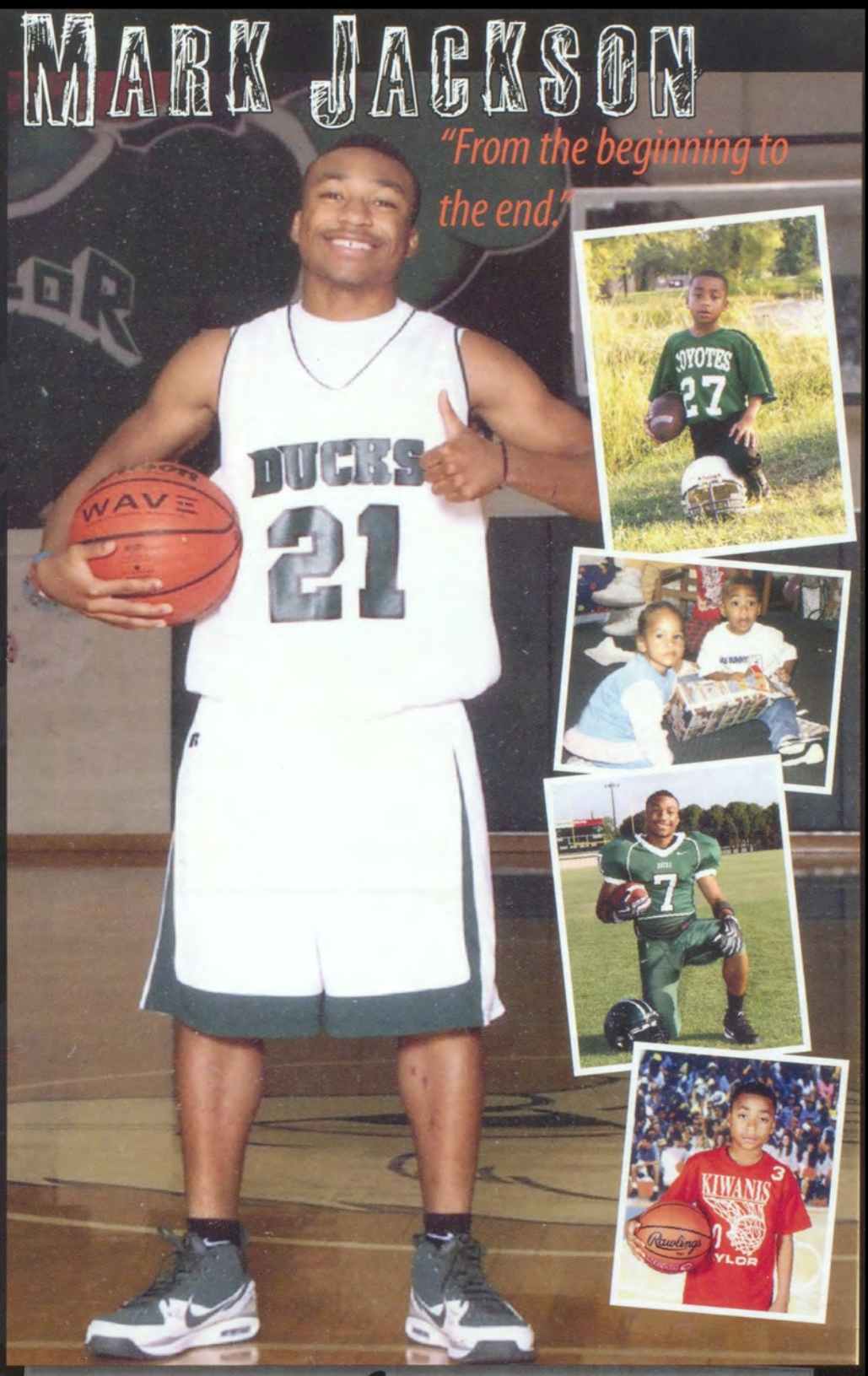
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Home: 512.365.7218
Cell: 512.925.6360

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Taylor, Tx 76574

MARK JACKSON

"From the beginning to the end."





Congratulations Emily!
We are so proud of you! You are an incredible, intelligent, beautiful young lady. I am so proud of the child you were and the woman you are becoming. I am proud to call you my daugther. Always stay true to who you are because you are amazing. You are my sunshine!
We love you,
Mom, Randy, and Caleb

Frills
...the little extras that make life fun!
201 W Fourth
352.5518

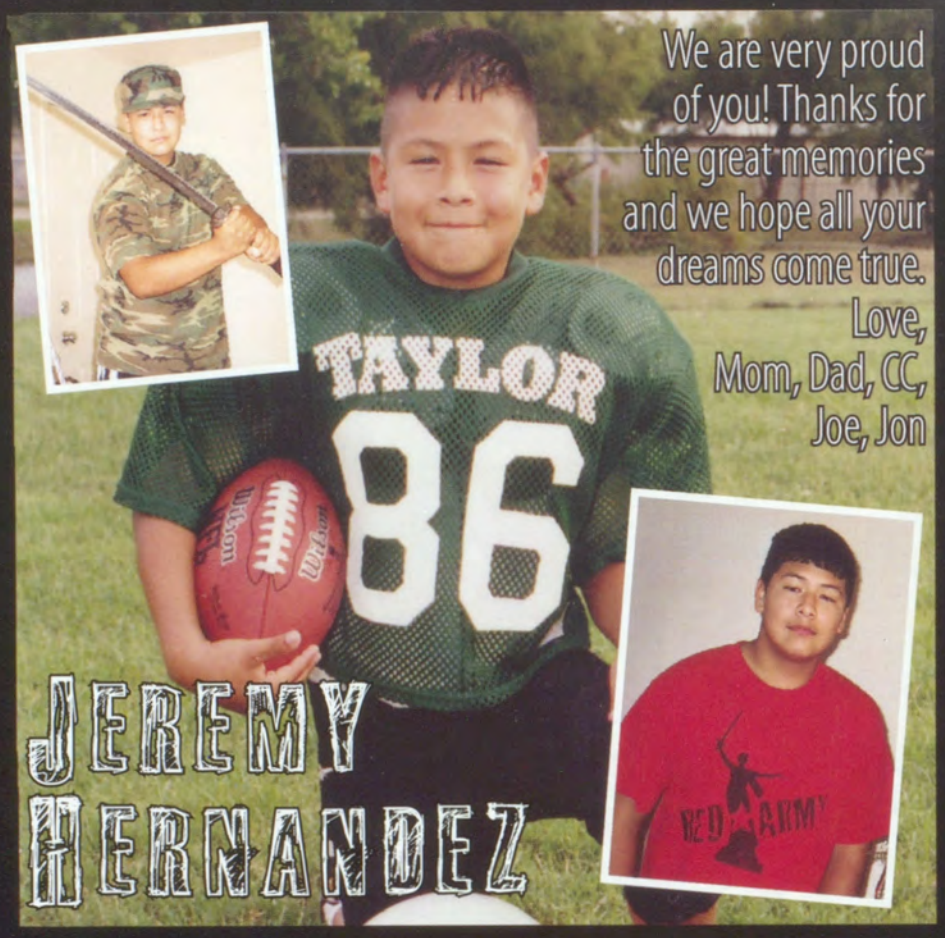


Dear Brandon,
Your entire family is so very proud of the man you have become: strong, kind, intelligent, and trustworthy. Best of luck to you in your new life at Texas A&M and we love it that you're not going too far away. Whoop!

Love Mom, Dad, Cameron and John



Brandon Dupy



Jeremy Hernandez

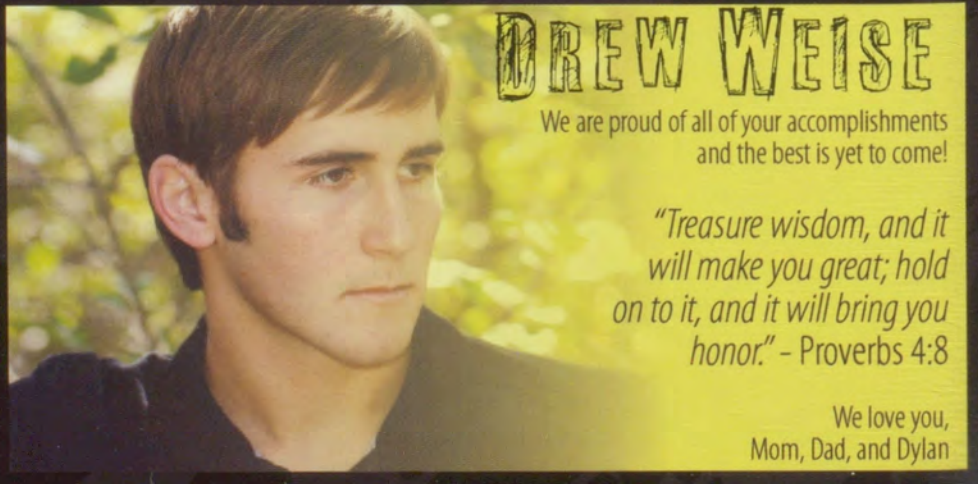
We are very proud of you! Thanks for the great memories and we hope all your dreams come true.
Love,
Mom, Dad, CC, Joe, Jon



Courtney Sprenger

may your heart always be joyful.
may your song always be sung.
- Bob Dylan

Congratulations Courtney, We are so proud of you!
- Love Mommy, Sean, Morgen, Sierra, Ryanne, and Gaven

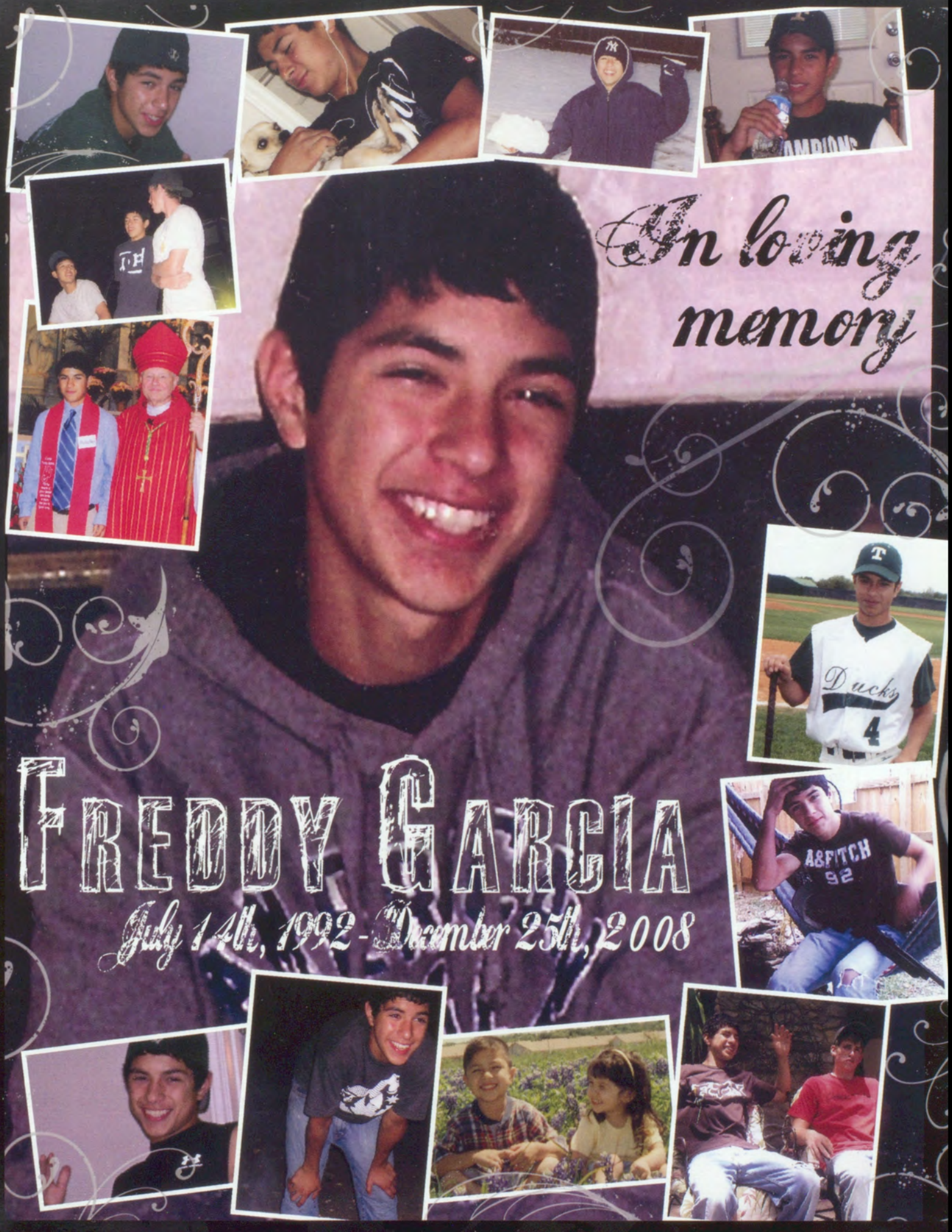


Drew Weise

We are proud of all of your accomplishments and the best is yet to come!

"Treasure wisdom, and it will make you great; hold on to it, and it will bring you honor." - Proverbs 4:8

We love you,
Mom, Dad, and Dylan


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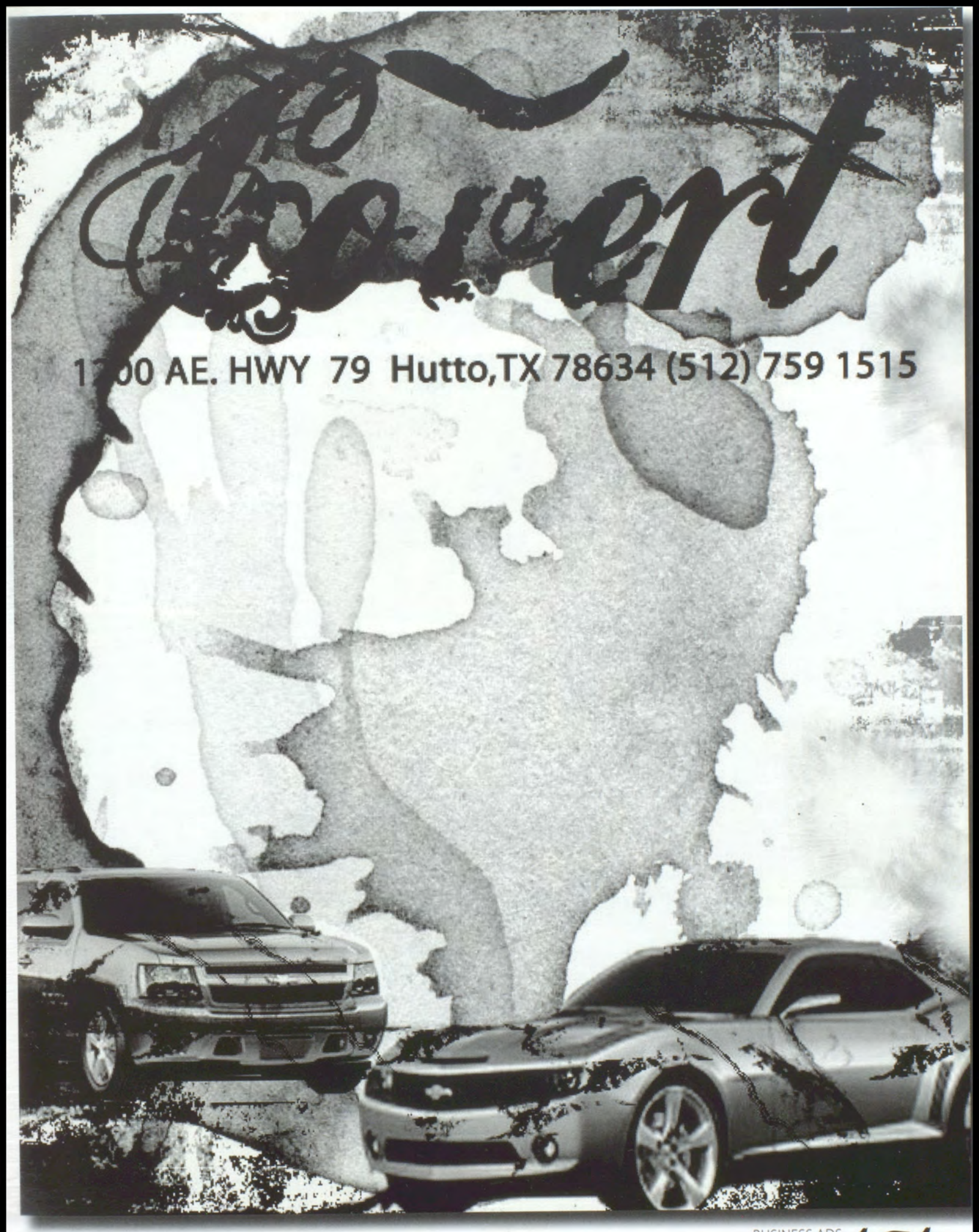
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Best of Luck, Seniors 2010!

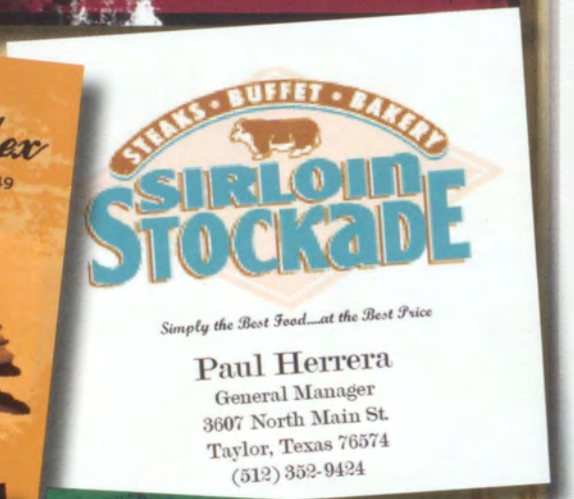
From all of us at

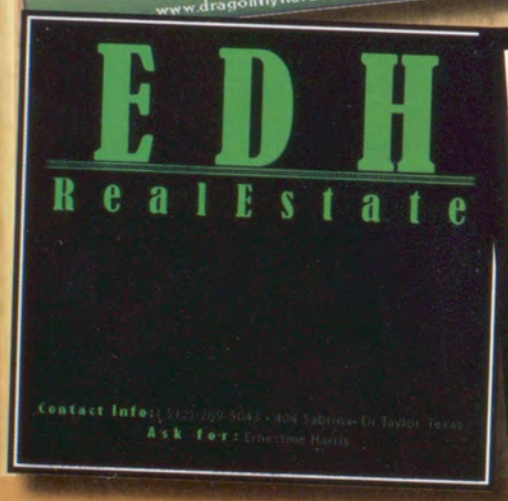
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Ivy Albright 11


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Antoine Alderete 11


Eric Alderete 9


Kari Alderete 11


Desmond Aldridge 10


Samantha Allmon 10


Keila Amieva 11


Jensen Anders 9


Colton Anderson-Rodrig 11


Joie Aparicio 10


Ana Araujo 10


Carolina Araujo 11


Francisco Araujo 10


Oscar Araujo 9


Tania Araujo 9


Amanda Arguelles 10


Ruth Arriaga 10


Shakyetra Ashford 10


Devin Ashworth 9


Dominic Avalos 9


Ulises Avalos 11


Estevan Aviles 11


Kiara Baker 9


Luz Balboa 10


Jonathan Ballard 10


Jacoy Barber 10


Jasmine Barber 10



Edward Barrera 11


Maryah Beals 9


Max Beckwith 10


Ashley Bengtson 10


Kayla Beran 11


Samantha Birchard 11


Lacie Black 10


Jered Boney 11


Josey Booms 9


Arthur Boussart 11


Natalie Branscum 9


Ashley Brian 9


Daron Brockington 9



Essence Brown 10


Janette Brown 11


Joyce Bryant 9

attention please.



Name: Seth Srnensky

Grade: 10th

Sports: Baseball

FavoriteClass: Digital Graphics

Favorite Book: To Kill a Mockingbird

Favorite Color: Green

Favorite Song: Where I'm From

Favorite Movie: I am Legend

Favorite Tv Show: The Simpsons

Favorite Food: Pizza

Seth

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Lauren Camacho 9 | Lisa Camarda 10 | Juan Camarillo 11 | Mauricio Camarillo 9 | Christian Campbell 11 | Christopher Campbell 9 | Milagros Campos 11 | Joseph Cantu 9 | Jenay Cantwell 10 | Leann Cantwell 9



Noemi Cardenas 10 | Michael Carlson 10 | Jeffrey Carpenter 11 | Jessica Carr 9 | Kristoffer Carrizales 9 | Chelsie Carter 10 | Shelby Carter 9 | Paige Caruther 10 | Cory Ray Casey 9 | Christopher Castillo 9



Deyanira Castillo 11 | Selena Castillo 9 | Alex Castro 9 | Sergio Cervantes 9 | Austin Chacon 10 | Jorge Chaires 9 | Kaleb Chambers 11 | Samantha Chase 9 | Luis Chicas 10 | Joshua Cigales 9



Rhayven Clark 9 | Charles Clifton 10 | James Clifton 10 | Morgan Cmerek 9 | Taneal Coleman 9 | Kristen Comer 9 | Jose Correa 11 | Jose Correa 9 | Margarita Correa 10 | Eric Costilla 10



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Ten up:

Damien Alayon lists ten of his favorite movies.

- Saving Private Ryan
- 300
- Forrest Gump
- Knowing
- The Curious Case of Benjamin Button
- Grid Iron Gang
- The Longest Yard
- Green Mile
- What Women Want
- Oceans 13

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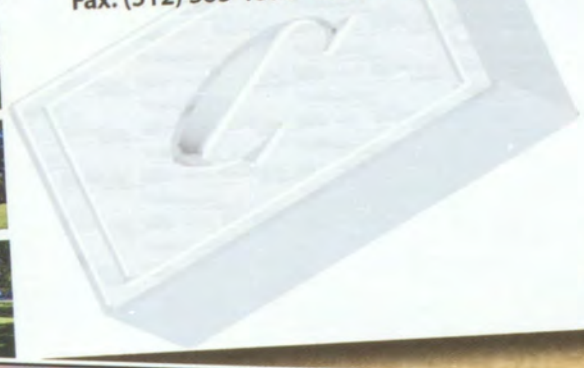
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Brandie Walls 11


Mary Walls 9


Michael Walton 9


Dylan Weise 10


Hannah Weison 10


Kelly Wells 9


Kaelyn Wentrcek 9


Brianna Wilkerson 9


Hayden Wilkins 10


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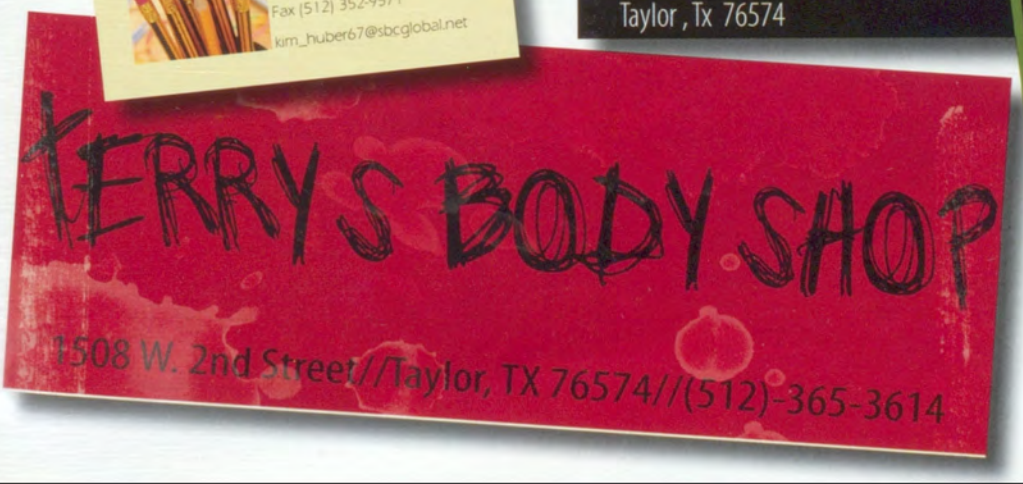

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FAMILIAR FACE

Mrs. Sonia Baker, who had been a THS counselor previously, came back to fill in when Mrs. Holt moved to Thrall. "It feels good [to be back]," Mrs. Baker said. "It's good helping the students to get the right resources." *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



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Life Skills



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Ryan Vrabel
World History, TOC, Boys Athletics



Danny Ward
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Cathy West
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Susan Wind
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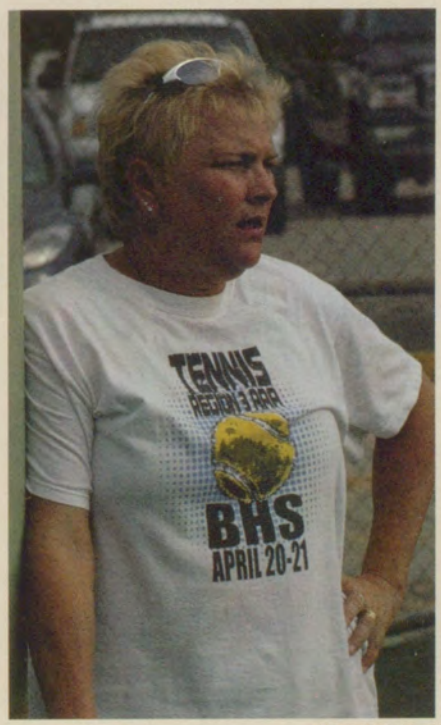
REFRESHING

Algebra teacher and assistant tennis coach Kevin Ramm, drinks a soda on his off period. "A Coke a day keeps the doctor away," Coach Ramm said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



ALRIGHT, MEN

Coach Blake Rives instructs some of his football players on what to do next in the game. Every Friday Coach Rives could be found on the football field coaching the Ducks. During the school day, he often manned the Tardy Tank, returning wayward and late students to class. *Photo by Addy Turner.*

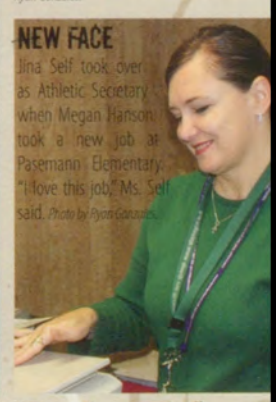


TOUGH LOVE

Coach Vicki Hall concentrates during one of her tennis players' matches. Coach Hall drives her team hard, practicing in all kinds of weather. "She's really big on the fundamentals," Ryan Gonzales (12) said. "If you don't do something right, you'll have to do it for like thirty minutes until you get it perfect." *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*

NEW FACE

Jina Self took over as Athletic Secretary when Megan Hanson took a new job at Pasemann Elementary. "I love this job," Ms. Self said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.*



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mallard staff

Editor's note

Dear 2010 Mallard readers, in case you did not know... It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, but overall it was intense (no pun intended). From workshop in the summer to working on the supplement after graduation this book has been my life for the past year. I never though that 160 pages could take so much effort. From designing spreads, writing stories, editing captions, and trying to arrange photo shoots, yearbook is straight up hard. Coming in to this year I knew that I was going to be in charge and have to lead all 29 of the willing staffers but I did know that I was going to become so attached to all of the people who made this book happen. Brandon you are truly awesome. Coming into this book with no experience but you turned out to be a great leader who wasn't afraid to crack the whip when it needed to be. Ryan, I love you, and without you this book probably wouldn't have been possible. Thank you for always doing things for me even though I know sometimes they were in like two seconds notice. You and your camera skills are quite amazing. Courtney, I will never forget when I pulled out into the suicide lane just for you. For everyone else who wrote stories, took pictures, got quotes, and designed anything, thank you. You worked hard and made this kick butt book possible. Jessica, next year the responsibility is all yours, good luck and I hope you have fun. Mrs. C, thank you for believing in me and for making me a better leader. I appreciate everything that you've done for me, even when it was as little as letting me borrow some tic tacs. Readers, I hope you enjoy this book. Unless you were ever on staff you will never know what went in to these 160 pages.

—Mallory Strniska

Thank You

The Mallard Staff wishes to express sincere gratitude to the following individuals who helped in one way or another with the production of this book.

Jim Anderson, Nancy DeWees, Kevin Reagan, Megan Hanson, Jina Self, Magdalena Zavala and the Photojournalism classes, Vicki Rowe, Nathan Gray, Marilyn Tennill, Barbara Johle, Danny Ward, Christina Solorio, Susanna Lawson, Susan Wind, Robert Borgne, Dawn Fischer, Larry Robbins, Stiles Byrom, Morgan Cmerek, Kayla Beran, Kameren Hodnett, the Taylor Daily Press, the TISD School Board, and all our teachers, coaches, families, and friends.

Colophon

Software: Adobe InDesign CS3, Adobe Photoshop CS3, Taylor Tools. Equipment: 22 Dell Optiplex 360s, 2 Canon 10-D cameras, 2 Kodak EasyShare z885, 1 Panasonic Lumix LS2, 2 Canon Canoscan 8400F, 1 Canon Rebel SXI. **Fonts**: Myriad Pro font family, Myriad Std font family, A Bite, Fail, Tibetan beef garden, Downcome, Undecapped vinyl, Jellyka Evan and Estrya, Jo wrote a love song, Trashco. **Cover**: Smyth .160 binder boards, Lithocote Gloss. Paper: 100# satin enamel. **Portraits**: Photo Texas. **Printing**: Taylor Publishing, Dallas, TX. 160 pages, 300 copies. **Questions** should be directed to THS Mallard, 3101 N. Main, Taylor TX 76574 (512) 352-6326.

ADVISER



Melanie Cartagena

"Why are there so many extra people in here?"

MANAGING EDITOR



Mallory Strmiska

"If your name isn't Mallory Strmiska your butt doesn't go here."

PAGE EDITOR



Jessica Humphreys

"Roxie Anastacia…"

BUSINESS MANAGER



Rebecca Cocke

"I'm so awesome. End of story"

PHOTO EDITOR



Ryan Gonzales

"There'll be three hits; me hitting you, you hitting the ground, then me hitting you again!"

EVENTS EDITOR



Brandon Pury

"It BIT her!"

GROUPS EDITOR



Chelsie Carter

"If I had a secret lover I would definitely tell you!"

INDIVIDUALS & ADS EDITOR



Claire Berger

"I like turtles."

STAFFER



Tino Arzola

"The SKY is the limit."

STAFFER



Emily Thorpe

"Look at these guns!"

STAFFER



Austyn Savage

"What happens at Mallard camp, stays at Mallard camp." ;)

STAFFER



Courtney Sprager

"… And she wanted like HALF the queso!"

STAFFER



Justin Fatschke

"Look, there goes a piggy-fish."

STAFFER



Alyssa Torres

"Well, what do you expect?"

STAFFER



Nathan Jones

"I'm never going to wear that bathing suit again."

STAFFER



Kelsey Walton

"You think you're so mysterious because you have blue eyes and facial hair!"

STAFFER



Jessi Lopez

"MNF… Is that like your secret lover?"

STAFFER



Sloane Cotner

"We tried to go to Chili's… but we ended up at the AIRPORT!"

STAFFER



Cameron Pury

"Courtney, you're gonna get us killed!"

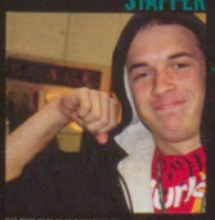
STAFFER



Julia Trejo

"I'm silly."

STAFFER



Brady Nemec

"SEEEEEEEEEE….."

STAFFER



David Rodriguez

"…..YAAAAAAAAA!!!!!"

STAFFER



Sandra Rangel

"I like tea."

STAFFER



Tace Fontenot

"Eleven picas baby."

STAFFER



Addison Turner

"I think there's a pterodactyl in my ear…"

STAFFER



Lisa Marie Farmer

"Ohhh NO!"

STAFFER



Kari Alderete

"Can anybody give me a ride to the elementary school?"

STAFFER



Kendall Wrinkle

"You know you think my mustache is sexy."

STAFFER



Meiser Lawton

"Code name it."

STAFFER

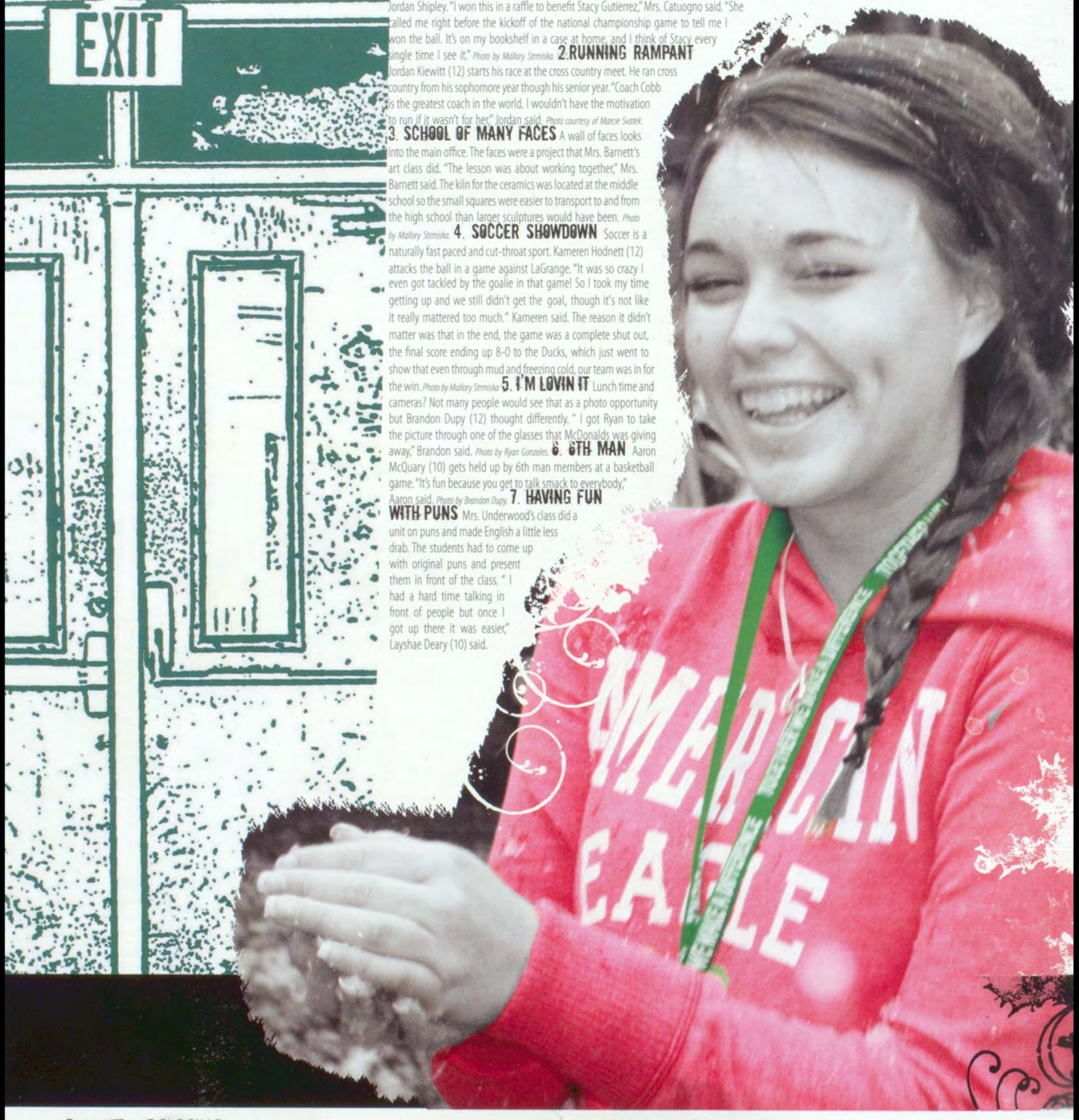


Rachael Voytek

"Does anybody need any help with anything? No? Okay good, I'm leaving."



1.HORNS UP Mrs. Melanie Catougno proudly displays a football signed by Longhorn stars Colt McCoy and Jordan Shipley. "I won this in a raffle to benefit Stacy Gutierrez," Mrs. Catuogno said. "She called me right before the kickoff of the national championship game to tell me I won the ball. It's on my bookshelf in a case at home, and I think of Stacy every single time I see it." *Photo by Mallory Strmiska.* **2.RUNNING RAMPANT** Jordan Kiewitt (12) starts his race at the cross country meet. He ran cross country from his sophomore year though his senior year. "Coach Cobb is the greatest coach in the world. I wouldn't have the motivation to run if it wasn't for her," Jordan said. *Photo courtesy of Marcie Svatek.* **3. SCHOOL OF MANY FACES** A wall of faces looks into the main office. The faces were a project that Mrs. Barnett's art class did. "The lesson was about working together," Mrs. Barnett said. The kiln for the ceramics was located at the middle school so the small squares were easier to transport to and from the high school than larger sculptures would have been. *Photo by Mallory Strmiska.* **4. SOCCER SHOWDOWN** Soccer is a naturally fast paced and cut-throat sport. Kameren Hodnett (12) attacks the ball in a game against LaGrange. "It was so crazy I even got tackled by the goalie in that game! So I took my time getting up and we still didn't get the goal, though it's not like it really mattered too much." Kameren said. The reason it didn't matter was that in the end, the game was a complete shut out, the final score ending up 8-0 to the Ducks, which just went to show that even through mud and freezing cold, our team was in for the win. *Photo by Mallory Strmiska* **5. I'M LOVIN IT** Lunch time and cameras? Not many people would see that as a photo opportunity but Brandon Dupy (12) thought differently. " I got Ryan to take the picture through one of the glasses that McDonalds was giving away," Brandon said. *Photo by Ryan Gonzales.* **6. 6TH MAN** Aaron McQuary (10) gets held up by 6th man members at a basketball game. "It's fun because you get to talk smack to everybody," Aaron said. *Photo by Brandon Dupy.* **7. HAVING FUN WITH PUNS** Mrs. Underwood's class did a unit on puns and made English a little less drab. The students had to come up with original puns and present them in front of the class. " I had a hard time talking in front of people but once I got up there it was easier," Layshae Deary (10) said.



THIS WAS INTENSE

Students count down the last minutes of their last class on the last day and for some, of their last year. The year was full of ups, downs, and turn a rounds, but we made it through. From falling in love to passing finals, the test of high school is over. For some, the year went by fast, and for others it seemed never ending. High school sometimes was a pain and the homework always went on for miles, but in the end we learned a lot. Whether it was how to integrate trig functions or to talk to new people and make friends, many lessons were taught inside these walls. Friends were made, schedules were changed and no one could wait for the final bell to ring.



COLD WAR
Brianna Wilkerson (9) holds a snow ball in her hand during an impromptu snowball fight during the snow flurry. "I put snow down people's pants, and I got hit with a lot of snow balls. It was the first time I had ever seen snow," Brianna said.

DANCE HARD OR GO HOME
Sophomore Kacey Estrada performs a routine at half time during a basketball half time. Performing is nothing new to Kacey "It's about that moment, being out there doing what you love to do," Kacey said.




INTENSE

