

THE GAVEL

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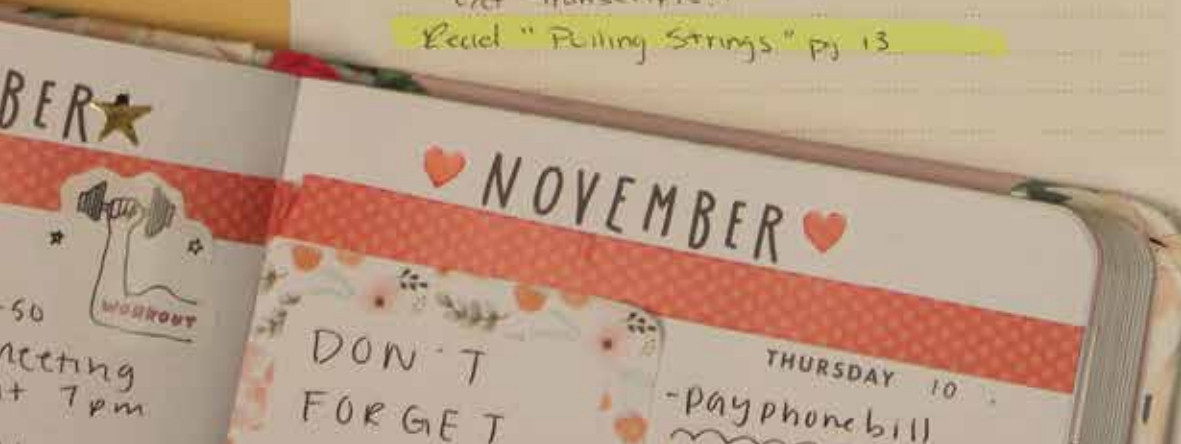
WORK
ISSUE



#HFNVD

To Do

- Read "Saving won't Save You" pg. 2
Do Eco hw
- Read "work work work work" pg. 6
Get Transcripts!!
- Read "Pulling Strings" pg. 13



Name: Hannah

Pre-Calculus – Polynomial Functions TEST

1. Find the vertex and re-write the function

$$y = x^2 - 8x - 3$$

Vertex: (4, -19)

the vertex of the parabola.



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Letters to the editor are encouraged, and may be submitted via e-mail to matthew.singleton@nisd.net, or presented in person in room A102d. The staff reserves the right to edit all letters for length and/or appropriate language or libelous content. All letters must be signed. For advertising information or rates, e-mail Matthew Singleton, or call (210) 397-7054.

Executive Editor: Alondra Martinez
Magazine Co-Editors: Stormy Rice & Keren Cumpian
Photo Editor: Sarah Molina
Copy Editor: Aiyana Villarreal
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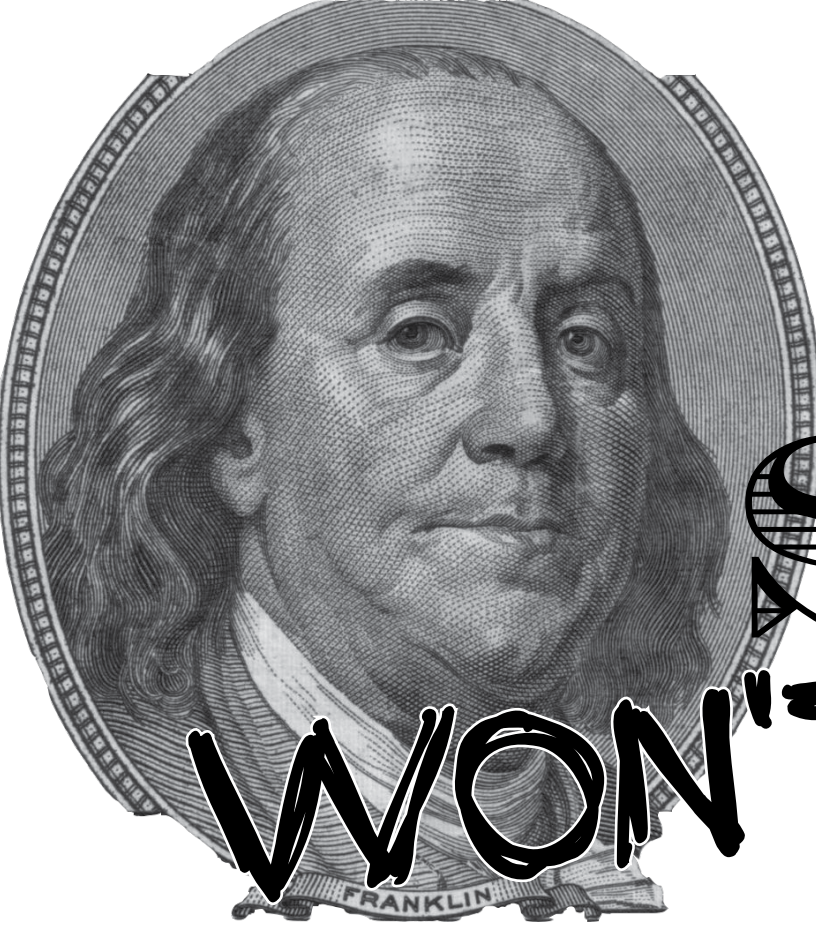
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Christine Diaz	Barbara Zertuche

Holmes/Business Careers High School
 6500 Ingram Road, San Antonio, TX 78238
 Holmes Principal: Ada Bohlken
 BC Principal: Randy Neuenfeldt
 Adviser: Matthew Singleton

THE WORK ISSUE

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cover & intro art by Stormy Rice



SAVING WON'T SAVE YOU.

HIGH TUITION, LOW WAGES, FEW WORK HOURS MAKE SAVING ENOUGH TO PAY FOR COLLEGE A LONG SHOT

by Alondra Martinez, Executive Editor

After two long weeks of work, it's payday. Knowing that money coming in was earned through hard work can give pride and generate excitement about the freedom and possibilities. After direct deposit hits, excitement turns into disappointment with the realization that the amount in the bank account isn't what it seems. From \$250, \$80 immediately goes to the phone bill. Then \$70 goes to helping out with a family bill. With the \$100 that is left, the thought to put some away for college comes to mind. But putting that \$50 in savings doesn't seem it will even put a dent into tuition or cover the cost of a single textbook. The deflating realization is that all the work you're doing may not matter.

The rising cost of a higher education, and the student debt many are racking up to pay for it, was one of the prominent issues for this election. With the continued rise in tuition cost, it is harder for students to realize their expectations of going to college due to a lack of income and the limited amount available from scholarships and aid. Politicians are offering a variety of arguments and solutions, including everything from making college free, to suggesting it's not for everyone, and more students should go directly into the workforce.

Whatever political conclusions are made, it's clear that students on campus are feeling the weight of the issue. Many students experience frustration and hopelessness, when they can work and save all summer and still not have enough for books, much less tuition. Recent graduates like class of 2016 alum Matthew Arriaga are living proof, struggling to meet the costs while attending schools like Texas State.

"I worked all summer and saved all of it and still didn't have

enough for books and things like that before I moved in," Arriaga said.

While a huge number of students are working during the school year, not many of them can use that money toward their future. Senior Angela Villanueva believes that although she is working and trying to save up for college, there are difficulties that get in the way of trying to save that money.

"I'm trying to [save money for college], but it's really hard when I have a car to pay and my phone bill. I'm left with less than \$100 about everytime I get my check," Villanueva said.

Senior Pasquall Williams is also working, but says that he is not able to put away money for college right now and is planning on paying for college through scholarships and student loans.

"I am working, but I am not saving up for college. I feel like student loans and scholarships will help me a lot with paying for college, because the money I'm making right now is not enough to pay for college itself," Williams said.

Working and making money can't be the only focus for students wanting to attend college, they must balance their school performance as well. Advanced Placement World History teacher Robert Stafford recommends that students should only work a maximum of 20 hours per week, in order to focus on academics.

"I think it depends on the student, but I would say [that students should work] 20 hours a week while they're in high school. Once you start getting into or approaching full time employment hours, I think it becomes harder and harder to do academics," Stafford said.

On the average value of what four years of public, in-state

college tuition costs today, a student would have to work 54 hours a week, far above Stafford's suggested amount in order to completely pay for their own schooling.

For a full-time student earning minimum wage, adhering to federal child labor laws, and working from freshman year of high school through senior year, the hours of work needed aren't possible to achieve.

"I don't think it's possible for anybody to work that many hours, let alone then go to school," Stafford said.

The fact that college is so expensive and the high competition for scholarships and financial aid has made it harder for students to get help to pay for college.

"Financially, college at this time in our society is not cheap, and not very many kids can get enough scholarships and financial aid to cover the entire cost of college," Pre-Calculus teacher James Hamric said.

Costs, that will continue to rise, are often out of reach for students with lower household income, but isn't much of a problem for students who come from higher household incomes. One of the main purposes of college is to give people a chance to progress in life, regardless of their background.

"I think this limits students from middle class and lower socioeconomic groups from going to college. College is supposed to be one of the avenues to help people improve and rise in social standings," Stafford said.

While college is expensive, there are sources for money that you can look into, like scholarships and student loans.

"All you have to do is apply for loans and you have a financial aid check waiting for you. No it's not ideal, but not going to col-

MAKING IT WORK
Saving and paying for college **BY THE NUMBERS**

\$9,109 Amount you could save at a minimum wage job if you started Nov 14 and spent none of your paycheck

\$74,275 What you would still owe for four years of a public, in-state university tuition, if you started working right now.

\$43,466 Amount you could save if you started working as a freshman for minimum wage, through your senior year, spending none of your paycheck

\$39,918 What you would still owe for four years of a public, in-state university tuition, if you worked all throughout high school and saved every penny.

Average in-state public tuition for four years: **\$83,384**

*All data to calculate numbers collected from collegeboard.com and quickbooks.intuit.com. Amounts were calculated based on a 40 hour work week earning minimum wage, pre-16 year-old minimum wage working an 18 hour week as required by law, with taxes taken out, and assuming no other payments, charges or withdraws.

infographic calculated and designed by Alondra Martinez

lege because of its cost is unacceptable to me," class of 2013 graduate and current senior at the University of Texas at Austin Dakota Salazar said.

While most students will need to turn to student loans to pay for college, students like Williams are worried about racking up debt.

"I have considered student loans, but that will be my last resort. I'd like to get as many scholarships as I can, and I'd also do other financial aid first, before I do student loans," Williams said.

For most, the goal of going to college is to get a degree and get a good job.

"Once I have a degree, I'll hopefully have a good enough job that paying off my student loans won't be such a burden," Arriaga said.

While Arriaga is hopeful, many believe that student loan debt can hold you back from moving forward in personal aspects of your life, and become a financial stress and burden for years to come. Many teachers on campus have experienced this reality first-hand.

"[Student loans] made it more difficult for things like getting a down payment on getting a house. It's harder coming up with that when you're paying student loans. It affects the next steps of your life," Stafford said.

Democratic primary candidate Bernie Sanders gained massive popularity with young voters on a national scale, suggesting college should be free, while Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton picked up that idea and continued with it throughout her campaign. While some think free is too extreme, most students

agree that it should be more affordable.

"I don't think that college should be free necessarily. I do think that it should be accessible to everyone regardless of their socioeconomic background, but not free," Salazar said.

Current college freshman Arriaga sees things slightly differently.

"Making college free takes away from the value of an actual college degree because eventually everyone will have one and it'll become like a high school degree," Arriaga said.

The high cost of college is rarely about an institution somehow making more money, not being well-funded by the state government, who is spending money on things other than education, or not raising enough in an effort to cut taxes. This leads to a bigger bill for students.

"I think there needs to be improved funding from the state to state colleges and universities. I know that people look at the rising cost of college, but a lot of that is universities trying to make up for money that the state government has cut from them," said Stafford.

Students struggling to save for college or worried about student debt, can do something about these problems in a number of ways. Many have made their voice heard by voting in the Nov 8 election. But regardless of what actually happens regarding government policy, students can use resources like the College and Career center on campus in A102a to get help finding and applying for scholarships, or filling out paperwork to determine financial aid.

"The College and Career Center is additional support service

for students to plan what they want to do after high school. I've found that students arrive to their senior year, and they aren't even aware that we have a College and Career center. So at any type of presentation I try to mention what we have to offer such as SAT and ACT test prep materials and host visitors from colleges and recruiters," College and Career Center Readiness

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ALL MIXED UP

HOLMES AND BUSINESS CAREERS CORE CLASSES COMBINE, DESPITE DIFFERENCE IN TOOLS & STYLE

by Krissie Ruiz, Staff Writer

When two schools exist on one campus, it causes complications. When specific classes have students from different schools/earning together those complications can be difficult to avoid.

The different requirements and tools provided to students enrolled at Holmes, and students enrolled at Business Careers create specific problems when they share the same classes. Students from both schools notice that they have been mixed into each others core classes more than in previous years.

Holmes senior Eboni Oglesby, says she is the type of person who can always "go with the flow", and she noticed the change in her class size and the mix of students in it. "It's a way to meet other people", she said.

Although she doesn't seem to mind the extra people or care which school they are enrolled in, she can see why some students are having their doubts in combining the school in core classes. Rather than seeing it as a complication, Oglesby sees it as a great opportunity for students from both schools to get a better understanding of each other, while getting past the stereotypes that have created a barrier for some, as well as providing a greater understanding of how the groups of students can work together.

"When we come together, we're a normal high school,"

Oglesby said. She sees it as a way for Holmes students to get the same opportunity as any other high school.

These combined classes aren't only appearing in senior courses, but for underclassmen as well. BC junior Mabel Torres pointed out that the combined classes might be due to limited space in required student classes and scheduling issues.

"It seems as though the counselors are filling the space with any student that fits in. It is not fair to the counselors, or us," Torres said.

Torres might be right, due to the fact that not enough students sign up for courses to be able to split them in two, or not having enough teachers to offer multiple course sections. Students like Torres and Oglesby don't seem to mind that they are combined with students from the other school, but they do find the difference in equipment and school culture to be problematic, as do many teachers who teach the combined classes, like physics teacher Eric De La Cruz.

"I know that they are doing their best they can, and no matter how big the class is I'll make it work. Although I do think that certain classes should still be separate, like just the business classes," De La Cruz said.

Holmes student Marilyn Valdodares recognizes the disadvantages she and her peers face in a combined Holmes/BC

class.

"The laptops are definitely an advantage for BC, to have the laptop at their disposal in AP English, they do get a head start at times," Valdodares said.

Junior BC student Monserrat Ramirez sees potential problems this might cause in the future as well, because Holmes students aren't provided laptops like BC students. Due to the heavy workload, it might not give a student without a laptop from Holmes the same advantage as a student with a laptop from Business Careers.

"BC students are so used to going at a fast pace because of our laptops, and this might cause us to slow down. The Holmes students might be forced to go at a much faster pace just to keep up with us," Ramirez said.

According to Ramirez, there is always a give and pull when it comes to situations like this. Although she stated that there might be ups and down, she really likes that this gives her a chance to get to know the Holmes students better rather than just hearing about them.

"It's like there's a chance that Holmes and BC students could get rid of negative image that we all share of one another," Ramirez said.

BELOW: Seniors Leslie Games and Carlos Rodriguez stay focused in Economics teacher Zelda Sendejo's class.



photo by Lizbeth Perez

SCORING POINTS

where it counts RAMIREZ WORKS AT SCHOOL, ATHLETICS, & JOB

by Lizbeth Perez, Arts & Culture Director

BUZZ* *BUZZ The alarm goes off at 5 a.m., his eyes too heavy to open, and he's having to fight the force field the bed feels like it has around it every morning. This is an endless battlefield for senior Matthew Ramirez.

The amount of stress a student goes through can be unbearable with just school work alone. Students are expected to be at school for approximately seven hours a day, then go home and do another two hours of homework.

If you add to that extracurriculars such as sports or an after school job, its easy to see why students like Ramirez are stressed.

One of the biggest issues this non stop, morning to night work creates, is the stress of time management.

"I try to budget my time. During the week, I'll spend an hour or two studying, or try to go to bed at a certain time and wake up at a certain time. During the weekend, I'll make sure I'm doing whatever I have to do to stay on task," Ramirez said.

Ramirez starts positive though, and believes the time he puts into school is only a small price to pay toward what he wants to achieve for himself in the long run. His future plans are what drive him at this pace today.

"My dad is a computer engineer and I'm pretty good with math, so I figured engineering will be a good choice for me," Ramirez said.

But he's not planning to go to just any college. He wants to go to the college he's had his eye on since childhood. "I've been a fan of UT since I can remember and their engineering school is really good," Ramirez said.

Ramirez understands that in order to get into a competitive program like UT's engineering program, students have to go out of their own way to make themselves distinguishable from other applicants they are competing against. On top of all the work he puts in during his the school year, he took advantage of summer break to get on edge.

"This last summer, I went on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic for a week and we helped people over there with their church and everything. This helped with the service hours that are required for NHS and the other organizations," Ramirez said.

Ramirez didn't just do it for the mandatory hours; his beliefs and background made this an unforgettable experience for him.

"I wanted to give back to other parts of the world that aren't as fortunate as I am, and I just wanted to help spread the word of God," Ramirez said.

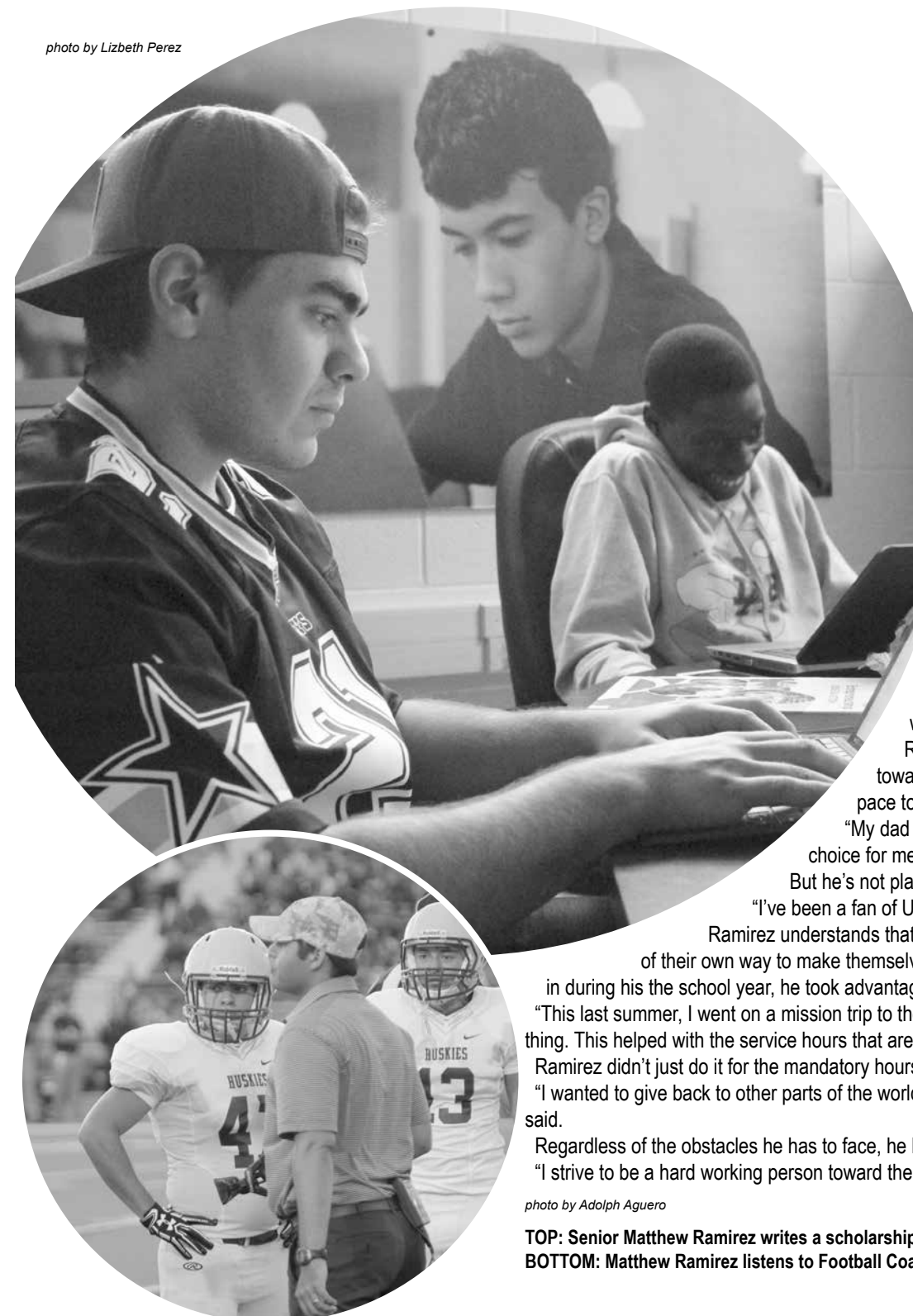
Regardless of the obstacles he has to face, he knows the work he's doing will help him to achieve his goals.

"I strive to be a hard working person toward the goals I'm trying to achieve, and to persevere through challenges," Ramirez said.

photo by Adolph Agüero

TOP: Senior Matthew Ramirez writes a scholarship essay for his senior seminar class.

BOTTOM: Matthew Ramirez listens to Football Coach Jaime Arizpe's instructions before they take the field for kickoff return.



WORK WORK work WORK.

STUDENTS WHO WORK SHARE STORIES

by Alexa Gonzalez, Design Directory, and Sarah Molina, Photo Editor

The majority of students on campus who are old enough to get a job, work. Many others want to work, and are looking for the best fit. From fast food to retail stores, students are working hard, earning money, and having some interesting experiences along the way. Here are some of the people, places, and stories about work life from around campus.



ARIEL BOWSER 12TH
PAY: \$8.50/HR

Best part of the job:
"Best is that it's right across the street from Holmes and they're supportive of Holmes."
Worst part of the job:
"The worst is that after games and events it gets packed."
Best work story:
"Once, late at night, there was a lady holding up the drive through line, and we found out that she fell asleep and we had to wake her up."



DAMIEN GALLEGOS 12TH
PAY: \$10/HR

Best part of the job:
"The best part of my job is learning to communicate with other people, being around a fast-paced environment, and being able to make a person's day."
Worst part of the job:
"Worst part of my job is bussing tables. You get butter all over."
Best work story:
"Once, I met this lady from Guadalajara, she was 64 years old and told me I looked like her son who died five years ago. She asked me if I could sit with her and just pretend to be her son."



RALPH MORENO 12TH
PAY: \$8/HR

Best part of the job:
"Being able to help people out, and finding them what they want."
Worst part of the job:
"Management is bad because they don't work with my schedule at all."
Best work story: "Someone went to the restroom in a bag and left it in the fitting room, and I had to clean it up."



XAVIER GUTIERREZ 12TH
PAY: \$8.50/HR

Best part of the job:
"The best thing is the money."
Worst part of the job:
"My coworker can't get his hygiene in order, HE STINKS."
Best work story:
"I caught a guy doing drugs in the restroom and I called the police."



LESLIE NUNEZ 11TH
PAY: \$7.25/HR

Best part of job:
"Getting paid every other week."
Worst part of job:
"I feel like I'm not getting paid enough for what I do, because I'm usually the one that runs around to help everyone. I don't really have someone there."
Best work story:
"We got robbed once, and I was the next shift over, so the glass was still on the floor because they had broken the window and the cops were there trying to investigate. It was scary because I thought, 'what if that was me working at that time?'"



AMBER CERDA 12TH
PAY: \$10/HR+TIPS

Best part of the job:
"The best thing is that if I work hard I'll get paid more."
Worst part of the job:
"Worst thing is that I'm in the sun all day and I'm sweaty."
Best work story:
"One of my coworkers got a car and he crashed and scraped it. There was paint all in the car and he just got a different one and didn't tell anyone."



RAEKWON MITCHELL 12TH
PAY: \$9.25/HR

Best part of the job:
"I get to hang out with everyone from work, they're fun people, and they're hard workers. They're in from day and night, I come in at 4:30 and they're still there."
Worst part of the job:
"Having to close. I work in the kitchen so it's easy for me to close, but when I'm on dish on certain days it's hard because I've got to clean up everyone else's mess. I would have to clean up the frying pans, the walk-in fridge, reorganize the freezer, and clean the dining room."
Best work story:
"I had placed the ladder outside since I was cleaning the walk-in and I had to get something from the top shelf so I go back outside to get the ladder, and I see this guy grabbing the ladder and he says 'I'm gonna take this' and I told him 'No sir you're gonna leave that here.' So he just takes off with the ladder and I started chasing after him."



JESALYN LOPEZ 11TH
PAY: \$8.25/HR

Best part of the job:
"The best part of my job is getting to hear stories of customers about how long they've been together."
Worst part of the job:
"The worst part of my job is when a really rude customer gets mad at me for something I have no control over."
Best work story:
"This one time a man came in and while I'm taking his order. He whispers to me 'make sure there's a little blood on my fish' and I said 'excuse me?' and he said 'I'm a vampire, don't tell anyone,' and he lifted up his lip and showed me his teeth. They actually looked pretty cool, but he was not cool. He was scary, so I just charged him 30 cents more and gave him a cup of calamari sauce because it's red."



**Hear the latest news?
Chikin
is better
than beef!**



Ingram Park (inside and outside the mall)

TO WORK & TO SERVE



BELOW: The Male Varsity Color Guard presents the colors to honor the tragic victims of September 11, 2001.



photo by Keren Cumpian



LEFT: Senior Noah Woinicki organizes students to get a graffiti clean up project started.
ABOVE: ROTC cadets salute the flag at their after school Homecoming gathering.

WOINICKI WORKS HARD FOR FUTURE IN AIR FORCE

by Gabriel Wilson, staff writer

Cadet Major Noah Woinicki, the Vice Group Commander of ROTC, effectively furthers his experience as he works towards joining the military after graduating, attending the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO.

Noah Woinicki is a BC senior but he is known to many in JROTC, Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp, as the Vice Group Commander.

His role as Vice Group Commander holds many responsibilities toward making sure the cadets are doing what needs to be done and encouraging them to put in their maximum effort. In addition to this, Woinicki is in charge of several events the group puts on. His role is to fulfill these duties as the second highest position in the corp.

"I'm in charge of insuring all the officers are following procedures and attending events like the graffiti clean ups and pizza lunch sales. I just make sure our overall function throughout the corp is continuing," Woinicki said.

Many consider joining the military as an enlisted soldier right after high school, fewer however, consider going to one of the military academies first, in order to join the military as an officer.

An officer holds a leadership position as well as receives a higher pay grade than those of lesser rank. Those that wish to be officers must hold much more responsibility and skill in order to maintain respect with their peers.

"I plan on going to the Air force Academy, where you go to college for four years, they pay for it, and then after, you are commissioned as an officer in the Air Force. I've always had leadership, so I wanted to be an officer," Woinicki said.

For those that wish to rise above their fellow new recruits once in the military, JROTC is a wise place to start to learn more about themselves and what it is they desire in the future. If students are willing to put in the effort, JROTC can be much more than an PE credit. It can be a community full of opportunity.

"It taught me how you start at the bottom and slowly work up to the top. I've just gained a lot of leadership experience here, and I've been able to take that from what I learned in ROTC to other organizations around campus," Woinicki said.

Searching around campus and exploring the different clubs and organizations can expand students' minds on what it is they might enjoy for their future, as well as bringing them more experience and insight during and after high school.

"Joining a lot of different clubs and organizations, colleges look at that. For example, I'm in National Honor Society, National English Honor Society, I'm the President of Interact, I'm in Academic Decathlon, I'm in Cyberpatriot, I'm in National Spanish Honor Society, and Chess club," Woinicki said.

Going to college will open an opportunity for a career as well as a future. What that future is, depends entirely on the person of course.

"Eighth grade, that's when I first got introduced to colleges, and I was like, oh, Air force Academy sounds awesome. I definitely knew I wanted to get a degree in computer science and go in the cyber security field. I know after I retire from the military I will have a good job set in place for me," Woinicki said.

Elective

DEDICATION

BREAKING DOWN HOURS STUDENTS DEDICATE TO THEIR CLUB PER WEEK

by Brittany Volz, Senior Designer, and Jessenia Baez, Senior Writer

Every student knows that school work alone can take up a lot of time, so the work that goes into being in a club or elective can take away whatever time students have left. But just because something is time consuming, does not mean it is a burden. We asked students how many hours a week they dedicate to their club or group, and why they continue to sacrifice their time. Here's what they had to say:



photo by Kaitlin Rodriguez

"It's really nice to go to the tournaments and feel like you accomplished something and feel like your voice is heard by the people in there."

-Leslie Nunez, 11th

**SPEECH & DEBATE:
8 HRS**



photo by Khaila Potts

"My grades have improved since I've begun playing chess. It has allowed me to think differently. Sophomore year I was ranked 124, and at the end of my junior I was ranked 88, and from there I went to 70, so I would say [chess] helped me big time."

-Ryan Schusseler, 12th

CHESS: 6 HRS

photo by Brittany Volz



"I can honestly say [band] has changed me. Not just physically, but emotionally as well. Now music is a passion for me, not like it was before."

-Geronimo Ponce III, 12th

BAND: 10 HRS



photo by Kaitlin Rodriguez

"Whenever we meet, we make sure everything is set in stone and we get everything read. It's good when the work we put in comes back to us."

-Jay Cruz, 12th

**STUDENT COUNCIL:
4 HRS**

"At the end of the shows, knowing that we've had an impact on one of the kids lives, even if it's just one, even if we've just made them smile, we've done our job. We've achieved our goal."

-Jared Peredia, 12th

THEATRE: 20 HRS

photo by Joseph Vasquez

"When we're competing it's a six hour competition. So we're in a room, trapped, for six hours, all working together. But while we're working we're having fun."

-Noah Woinicki, 12th

**CYBER PATRIOT:
16 HRS**



photo by Joseph Vasquez



photo by Brittany Volz

"What I like most about cheering is performing. I love seeing the joy it brings to the audience. Cheer has made me such a positive person."

-Coby Mancillas, 12th

CHEER: 8 HRS



photo by Gabriel Wilson

"We have color-guard, cyberpatriot, physical training and our drill competition. ROTC just teaches you to be a better person in general and to better yourself."

-John Ruiz, 12th

ROTC: 3 HRS

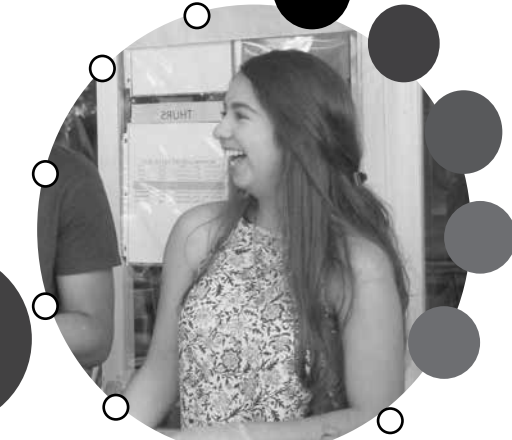


photo by Kaitlin Rodriguez

"I like knowing I'm doing something good for the community. Interact club gave me a better perspective on things."

-Yicel Cortez, 12th

INTERACT CLUB: 5 HRS



photo by Stormy Rice

Millenials for **PRE****S****I****D****E****N****T**

OPINION: STUDENTS MUST BREAK DOWN MILLENIAL STEREOTYPES BY WORKING SMARTER AND HARDER

Personal Opinion Column by Stormy Rice, Co-Editor

In America alone there are 83 million millennials. That is 83 million people who have had a stereotype taped to their forehead. Americans who were born after 1981 are considered "lazy, entitled, job hoppers." The older Baby Boomers and Generation X generations are very quick to make millennials seem like they are the worst version of humanity, but the world is changing and millennials are up to speed while the older generations are struggling to keep up.

Managers are hesitant to hire millennials because of these stereotypes, but when did all 83 million of us suddenly fall into the same stereotype? 68% of organizations say that they find it difficult to manage working with millennials. They try to blame our attitudes toward working, but perhaps they struggle with managing millennials because they don't know how to keep up with the constant change and update that needs to happen in order to grow as a company.

A common complaint about millennials is that we're always using technology. We have become glued to our cell phones and social media. But in return all of this technology has turned millennials into multitasking geniuses. We've learned how to do homework, listen to music, and watch television all at once. Millennials have been given resources that allow us to find information faster than any other generation before us. With the demand for speed in today's workforce, millennials are the ultimate candidate compared to someone born in Generation X. News and information spreads so fast now, due to the internet and cellphones, that the only way to stay ahead of the game is by having people who have grown up doing nothing but multitasking since day one.

Millennials have this reputation of being "self-indulgent and self obsessed", but I would say that millennials are "optimistic and self confident". We are hungry for responsibility, and the older generations can't manage to set us up for success. They put us down because of our work strategies. We prefer to go into work later, because we can do half of our jobs at home. Why go to the office to send out emails when I could do that at home? Gen-

eration X and the Baby Boomers have been taught how to work hard, while millennials are being taught to work smarter. We're learning to make jobs more enjoyable and easier while also being proficient. A higher number of people are going into jobs that they have a passion for. The idea of working just for money instead of happiness is becoming less popular. The more people love their jobs the better companies are going to perform.

If I were to tell someone who was born in Generation X or a Baby Boomer that they were considered "irrelevant" in today's society it would hurt their feelings just as much if they were to tell me I wasn't a hard worker. Millennials have had to work hard in different ways. We weren't all raised to work hard labor-wise, but the pressure to do well in life and be innovative has become a huge competition between millennials. School has gotten more difficult, college tuition has risen, and the competition for the top notch jobs is cut-throat. Millennials were the first kids to have every detail of their lives and childhoods scheduled. From a very young age we have been raised to be organized and to speak out when we wanted something.

In order for us to tear down these stereotypes we need to speak a little louder, not verbally, but with our actions. Starting off with going to work and school on time, being assertive, and working together with Generation X and Baby Boomers. Generation X gave us the start of a technological revolution. So, why not come together and teach and learn simultaneously with those who started it all and have watched technology and our country grow? Be hungry for knowledge and responsibility. Eventually people will start to see that Millennials may be the next best generation.

Pulling *Strings*

PINEDA PULLED IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS OVER FUTURE

by Samantha Ruvalcaba, Staff Writer

A vast majority of students on campus work. Beginning at sixteen, they work to cover costs or to save for the ever-rising price of tuition, fees, and college expenses. Sophomore Miriam Pineda struggles within that tension, and deals with an added complication of deciding between continuing work or continuing education once she walks the stage at graduation. For Pineda, the choice feels like a struggle between family and a higher education.

Located at 4120 Blanco Rd, "La Luz Tortilla Factory" began as a start-up business centered on creating fresh, authentic tortillas as well as tamales, menudo, and barbacoa. It was her parents' dream to start the factory and when they finally had the money, it came true. Around the age of five Pineda became exposed to the business environment when she started helping out and her capacity to understand the working world developed faster than her peers'.

"Our real business has been together for around ten years, and I've been a part of it ever since I was little," Pineda said.

Pineda works alongside her family on the weekends when she's not at a cross country competition, making \$50-\$100, filling in wherever she's needed. While she is a Business Careers student and part of the cross country team, Pineda has a passion for music and wants to be a professional cellist. However, pursuing that passion is not as simple as she wishes it was. Being in the business environment and seeing her parents work hard to keep it going has heavily impacted her career goals.

"I want to be a musician, but that's hard because of the family business. I want to learn the accounting and finance aspect so that I can help out with the business because my mom struggles a lot," Pineda said.

Not only has her career outlook changed, but Pineda has learned crucial work ethics that can be applied to what she wants to do in the future. As a multi-position worker, she had to be trained in all areas of the business, allowing her to learn to be flexible and gain work skills. The only downside is that Pineda has also witnessed the inconvenience her parents deal with when workers aren't available. "When you want to learn there you have to learn quick and if you're not fast enough then you probably won't make the cut because it's mainly for fast, hard working people, so if I want to be a musician or if I want to go to college it's going to be difficult because it also affects the family," Pineda said.

Pineda's father began working at the age of 16 making Mexican dishes, and realized that he wanted to become an entrepreneur. While her parents recognize the importance of hard work, they do believe it should be applied to the workplace rather than to educational purposes. The topic of whether one can succeed without a college degree has been debated tremendously in the past few years. In Pineda's case, her parents' uneasiness toward the value of college stems from their own experience. They reached their goals without the need of a college degree, and they believe that their children can be successful too without spending an excessive amount of money on their education.

"They do want us to work for the business and be with the family rather than us waste our time in college," Pineda said.

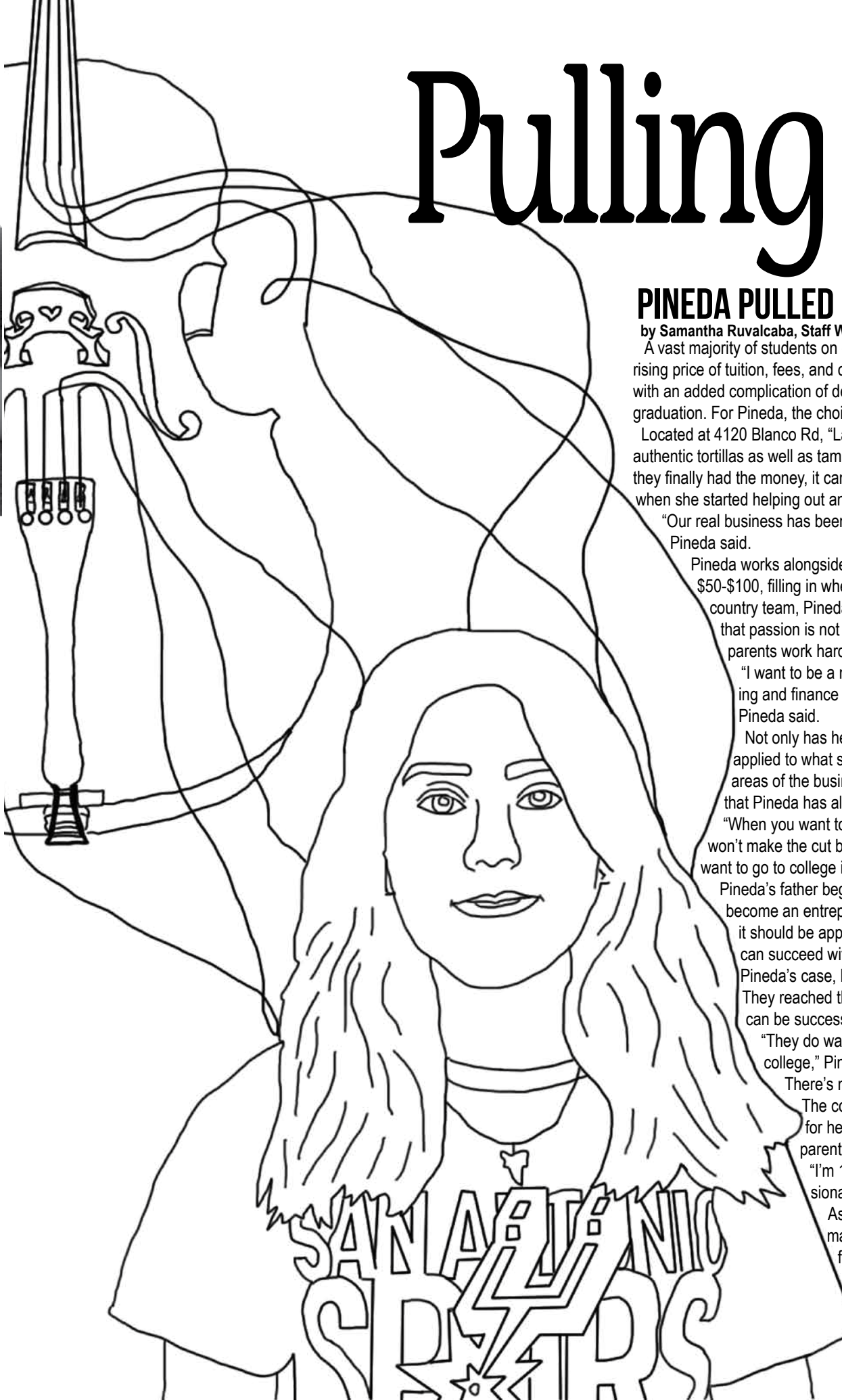
There's no doubt that Pineda loves her family dearly and admires her parents' hard work. The conflict for her is between striving towards her goal and passion, and the love she has for her family along with the feeling of obligation to help the family business. After all, her parents sacrificed so much to get it started.

"I'm 15 just trying to focus on what I need to know now. I want to pursue being a professional cellist but also be there for my family when they need me," Pineda said.

As she continues in her high school career, that's a conflict she'll have to resolve by making tough decisions that might impact her life, and her family's. Whatever her future, Pineda hopes to do the right thing for both herself and her family.

"I can't always have other people making decisions for me. I want to do what I love at my own cost and for my own reasons."

original artwork by Jorge Osorto and Bryanna Ramirez



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SPORTS SHORTS

NEWS BRIEFS



Junior Ethan Hageman is advancing to the State Meet after coming in

2nd PLACE AT REGIONALS

photo by Ricardo Ramos



4 WINS

after going 0-10 last two years

photo by Kodi Oehler



5th

finish for Brandon Morales in the novice tournament

photo by Keren Cumpian



8-10 RECORD

Under new coach Laura Suarez

photo by Noah DeLaRosa



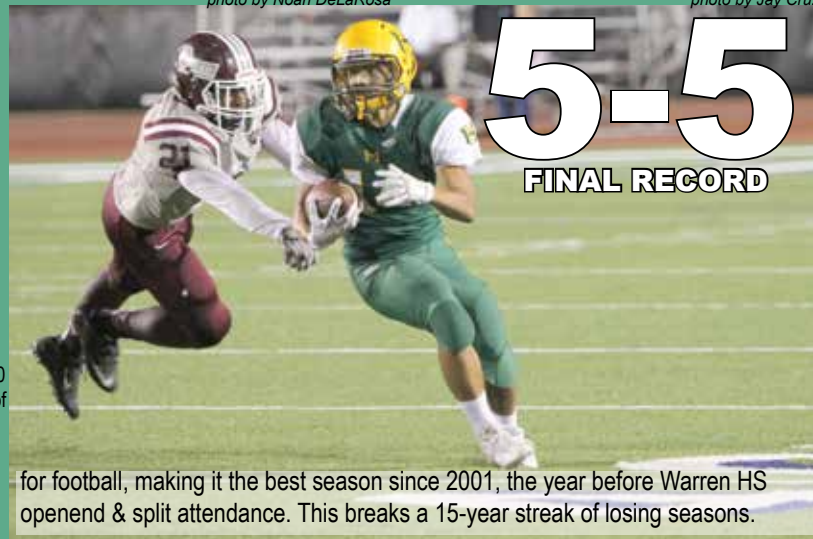
4th PLACE

in the city tournament

GOLF

for the combined girls water polo team

photo by Jay Cruz



5-5 FINAL RECORD

for football, making it the best season since 2001, the year before Warren HS opened & split attendance. This breaks a 15-year streak of losing seasons.

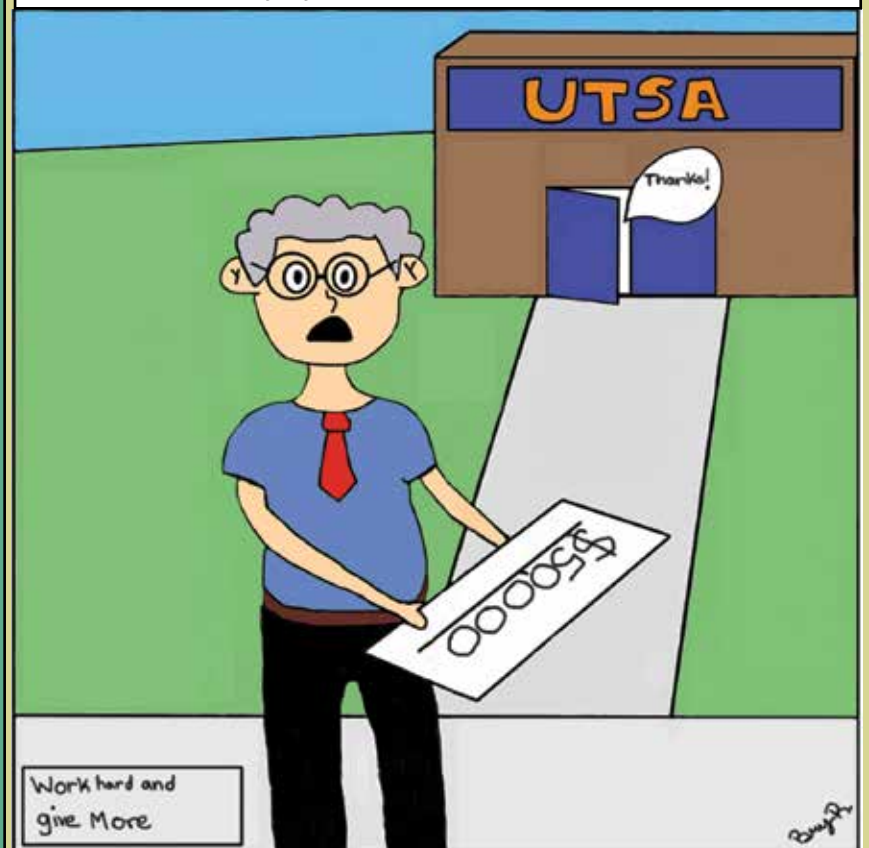
photo by Adolph Aguiero

COMIC RELIEF: WORK

GUCCI TALES by Jorge "Gucci" Osorto



THE HUSKY LIFE by Bryanna Ramirez



Work hard and give More