

# One Nation. Under GUNS

## New law sparks discussion

Listed below is an outline of recently passed open carry laws in Texas along with gun laws related to gun deaths in other nations in order to educate students on powerful ideas surging the Nation. To the right, student opinion and statistics serve to highlight the melting pot of ideas the school body contains, equally balanced between advocates of gun control and gun rights.

### Texas Open Carry Laws

Governor Greg Abbott signed the Texas "open carry" bill, House Bill 910, at Red's Indoor Range, a gun range and store in Pflugerville.

- HB 910:
- Allows Concealed Handgun License (CHL) holders to openly carry firearms on a shoulder or hip holster.
  - Goes into effect Jan. 1, 2016
  - Replaces the CHL with a new license to carry that allows both open and concealed carry.
  - Applications will be the same as the CHL application, involving a background check, classroom and range instruction. One must be 21 or older to apply, or at least 18 for veterans or members of the armed forces.
  - Property and business owners may prohibit open carry on their own property using the proper signage.

Texas is the 45<sup>th</sup> state to allow open carry.

**Article I, Section 23 of the State Constitution**

Every citizen shall have the right to keep and bear arms in the lawful defense of himself or the State; but the Legislature shall have power, by law, to regulate the wearing of arms, with a view to prevent crime.

### Guns Across The World

#### 1. United States

Under the 2nd amendment, citizens can bear arms while following their state's regulations.

#### 2. United Kingdom

A license must be granted to buy and own a gun. One can obtain a license for hunting, target shooting, and collecting, but not for self-defense. Civilians are not permitted to own semi-automatic or automatic guns, handguns, and/or armor-piercing ammunition.

#### 3. Mexico

All civilians may own handguns and semi-automatic weapons if they have a license. Licenses are permitted for hunting, target shooting, rodeo riding collection, personal protection, or based on the applicant's employment. Participants must pass background checks and renew their license every two years.

#### 4. Australia

Citizens can only possess guns if they have a license for hunting, target shooting, collection, and pest control. A license cannot be obtained for self-defense and civilians are banned from owning semi-automatic or automatic rifles, and/or shotguns.

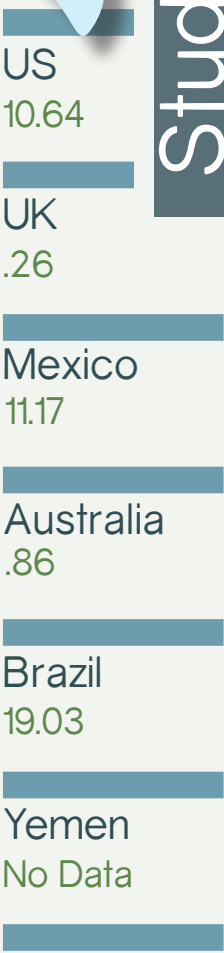
#### 5. Brazil

Gun holders must have no criminal record, attend multiple safety courses, and be at least 25 years old. Licenses for hunting, target shooting, personal protection, and security must be renewed every three years.

#### 6. Yemen

Citizens are allowed to own any type of weapon as long as it has a permit. It is culturally acceptable to openly carry a gun and to fire them in celebration at events such as weddings.

Gun related deaths across the world (per 100,000)



### Student Opinions

Students relay personal experience, ideas, and opinions revolving the two sides of a topic relevant to the issues happening in Texas and the rest of the Nation.

- Identifies as pro-gun rights
- Identifies as pro-gun control

"In order to own a gun I think you should be able to pass a psych test so that you are mentally stable. I think you have a license in order to carry it and when you do carry it has to be open so there is no surprise like a concealed weapon."

Samantha Zinni, 11

"I've grown up around guns I've used them for hunting, target practices, youth competitions. I've seen guns used as healing practices because it allows kids to excel at something whether or not they are able to walk or run."

Jonathan Grey, 11

"Guns are tools people use. They are apart of your rights to own one and use them for your own legal purposes whether it's hunting, pleasure shooting, or self-defense. Same way you can use a screwdriver, you can use them in many different ways."

Jonathan Grey, 11

"Open-carry is not a good idea. It puts people carrying expensive firearms in a dangerous position. Carrying guns on college campuses is really not okay, especially associating the maturity level on campuses. There's a lot more possibility for accidental shootings."

Jonathan Grey, 11

"We shouldn't fight fire with fire, hopefully if we were to just eliminate fire all together it would defuse the situation. The lack of trying to save lives or prevent loss is disappointing. I would've thought more of America would understand how much is at stake here."

Samantha Zinni, 11

"In a perfect world there are no guns in which we can hurt each other, but it's not really very realistic because there is so much circulation and it's so controversial. It just not realistic to say there should be no guns, so I am pro-gun control. I don't think they are very safe in a society that abuses them."

Samantha Zinni, 11

"I think that if everyone was capable of gun ownership everyone would be smarter. Now it's not just one bad person who has the gun, the good person does too. Everyone has the possibility to get a gun if they wanted to, through the black market, so why put them at an advantage to good, working citizens."

Paloma Nunez, 10

"As a family we are very liberal and pro-gun control. I can't say I formed these opinions all by myself. Most kids this age are repeating what their parents say, but I did do some research. In English I wrote about gun-control. I researched both sides, but reading the anecdotes of parents talking about their child in accidental shootings or mass shootings really scare me."

Samantha Zinni, 11

### Student Statistics

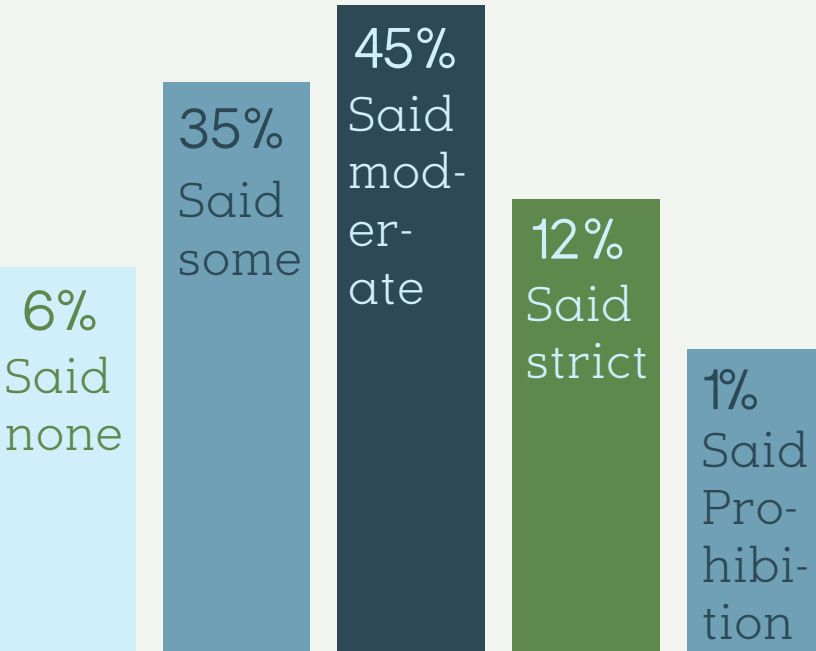
Based on information obtained through a voluntary survey of 110 students during Talon.



45% have shot a gun  
55% have not

50.5% said they have positive views on guns.  
16.2% said they have negative views on guns.  
33.3% said they have neutral views on guns.

### Amount of gun control



# TAKING A STAND

Madi McVan

## LOSS LEADS TEACHERS TO PHILADELPHIA BASED CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Like most 8-year olds, Will Lucas loved Legos.

He loved them so much that with the help of his parents, he planned a lemonade stand to earn money to buy a new Lego set and colored a banner to advertise his business.

But before the Lucases got around to actually setting up the stand, they received news that Will, who had been battling a rare form of childhood cancer, has relapsed. He passed away in May of 2012, before he could hold his own lemonade stand.

They still have the banner.

Teachers Tom and Sara Lucas channel their grief for their son into work with the Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF), benefiting those affected by childhood cancer. They organize lemonade and snack stands and other fundraisers around Pflugerville in memory of Will and donate the proceeds to ALSF.

"My sisters and I were looking to get together for a weekend and one of them found out about ALSF," history teacher Sara Lucas said. "We were so impressed with what they did, and now it's helping us with our grief and helping us parent our son who isn't physically with us."

ALSF began with a lemonade stand held by 4-year-old cancer patient Alexandra Scott, who created the stand to raise money for cancer research. Scott passed away in 2004 at the age of 8, but the foundation continued to grow.

In addition to donating money directly to the foundation through fundraisers, the Lucas family asked those who knew Will to donate the book *Alex and the Amazing Lemonade Stand* to local libraries. The book, geared towards children, tells the story of Alexandra Scott and her dedication to ending cancer. In the end, approximately 80 books were donated.

"It's very fun to hear from librarians around the district," Sara Lucas said. "They will read the books

to students and the students will get all excited about it and hold lemonade stands of their own, which is really what we want. We want to empower people to make a difference in their world."

Former principal Devin Padavil organized a student activity club in order to involve more students in fundraising for the foundation, which provides grants directly to doctors and scientists conducting research on childhood cancer.

"Believe it or not, very little of other cancer fundraising actually goes to helping kids," Padavil said.

"The club is Hendrickson's way of supporting that effort. I was inspired by the effort of Sara and Tom Lucas, teachers at Hendrickson and friends of mine. I was equally inspired by the life of their son, Will."

Padavil appointed junior McKenely Scott president of the ALSF club at the end of her sophomore year. The club, sponsored by Sara Lucas, holds lemonade and snack stands, and plans on selling T-shirts in the near future.

"It's students getting together to help find a cure for cancer by raising money or finding donations," Scott said. "Helping people out is just something I like to do. This is a great way to help a lot of people at once."

Because children account for only a small percentage of cancer patients in the US, many charities do not focus on funding research for childhood cancers. ALSF focuses specifically on finding a cure for childhood cancer, which is why the Lucas family chose to support it. The research funded by ALSF may lead to breakthroughs that could save kids like Will.

"When your child dies you don't stop loving him," Sara Lucas said. "The big fear is that you're going to forget him. You want to know that you're doing something that will help other kids and that you're just honoring him. So it gives us a chance to talk about him, and to know that we are consciously doing something that honors his memory."

IT'S THAT POWER OF YOUNG PEOPLE. IF A KID WHO IS FIVE CAN START THIS ORGANIZATION THEN ANY OF US CAN DO ANYTHING. IT'S EMPOWERING PEOPLE, SO IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT RAISING THE MONEY.

# At the Crossroads

## Crossing Guard expresses love for community and job

Gabby Sanchez Staff Reporter

Max Poss looks around on his morning walk to the corner of Kelly Lane and Kenemer Drive, he then sees signs all the way down the street and on the corner with sayings like “Thank you Mr. Max” and “We love you Mr. Max.” He has no idea what they were doing there. He approaches the corner, parents from all over the neighborhood have cake and cookies for him to enjoy.

Today is Mr. Max Day, a neighborhood wide event to thank him for his service to the community. The high school band arrives to play songs for him, including a popular tune from his high school years called “Land of a Thousand Dances.” Later in the day cars continue to drive by honking and waving at him. The celebration of Mr. Max Day made Poss realize that being a crossing guard is more than just a job.

Poss can be seen standing at the same corner every morning and afternoon in his bright orange vest, rain or shine, and has done so for the past eleven years. Local elementary, middle and high school students depend on him to get to school safely, crossing the bustling, wide intersection with his guidance. Poss, or Mr. Max as the children call him, serves the community every day, leaving an impact on current students and those who have long gone onto university and beyond.

Poss became the full-time crossing

guard at this intersection when his successor called him to action because her foot had been run over. Since then Poss has become such a huge part of the community to the people he serves.

In his youth, Poss served in the Navy in the Air Traffic Control, and he feels like it gave him the proper training needed to be a crossing guard.

“I jokingly say that the two most dangerous places in the world are the flight deck of an aircraft carrier, and this intersection,” Poss said. “It’s a dangerous place, and that kind of thing helps me judge closing speed, speed, separation and all that kind of

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‘You don’t want to let anyone down, I know how they feel about me and I feel the same way about them.’

-Max Poss

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stuff.”

The best part of the job for Poss is the interaction he has with the kids and their parents. The amount of trust the children give him is clear to see. Standing with him for even a few moments multiple people say hello to him as he directs cars and helps them cross the street. They rush in the

morning and afternoons to fill him in on the good and the bad events in their lives whether it’s about their dad coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan or their parents getting a divorce.

Mr. Max wishes he had gotten to Pflugerville sooner because of its small town values and big-small town attitude. He fears that with the exponential growth of Pflugerville it will lose the qualities he cherishes so much.

“Everybody cares about everyone else,” Poss said. “It’s growing so fast now I hope it does not lose that feel.”

His legacy and impact in our community is clear, and he knows there lies great responsibility in his job to ensure the safety of children and their parents in Pflugerville.

“In my teenage days we would say ‘that is heavy dude,’” Poss said. “You don’t want to let anyone down, I know how they feel about me and I feel the same way about them.”

Poss has occupied a wide array of jobs, from his service in the Navy to being a pharmaceutical representative, but out of all of his jobs, being crossing guard is the one he feels like he’s meant to have.

“This is the best job I’ve ever had,” Poss said. “Of all of the jobs I’ve had, this is the one that’s the most endearing to me, I had to wait all my life to get to this point, but I’m here.”

# *A Holiday From Hunger*

## Volunteer options to help those in need

Chloe Pham Staff Reporter

A house down the block is vibrant and full of life as a family gathers around a table smothered with food from top to bottom. They take their seats and give thanks for everything they have in their lives. Not all are as fortunate, but through local organizations and help from the community they are able to spread their fair share in gratitude as they help others that are less fortunate.

Operation Turkey allows people in the community to participate by giving food back to the needy. On Nov. 24 volunteers for the drive will be split

up into different teams. Each team will complete a specific task in making this operation a success. There are cooks who make the food, the preps who prepare the food, then once prepared volunteers pack the food, where it is then delivered to as many people in need. To participate, go to, [www.operationturkey.com](http://www.operationturkey.com) to register and find out more information.

The Austin area also offers a plethora of other options to help give back to the community such as entering marathons. The Austin Turkey Trot is a five-mile run held in Austin at the

Long Center where 100% of proceeds from the event will be donated to Caritas, an organization that provides education and support services to the unfortunate and help them become self-sufficient. To participate, go to, [www.thundercloud.com/turkey-trot](http://www.thundercloud.com/turkey-trot) to find out more information about the event.

Even contributing the slightest time or effort, when put together can make the biggest difference as it can help change the life of one in need.

# Missed Signals

## Unclear guidelines for driving test causes senior confusion

Driving is one of the first steps to freedom. Leaving whenever to go where ever you please is like a right of passage every teenager looks forward to.

Actual driving took me a while to get used to... almost three years to get used to. I know that sounds bad, but I was a nervous driver. I couldn't relax and focus on the road, so I just didn't drive. It took me time before I was comfortable enough and could handle to stress of driving.

After having a chauffeur for a majority of my life, I was ready to take on the responsibility and freedom of driving. When I got to the DMV office, I showed the worker my papers, excited to finally take my test.

"You don't have all of the require-

ments. You're missing the ITTD certificate," the woman behind the desk said. Her annoyed tone and harsh attitude were enough to quiet my excitement. "Reschedule your test and come back when you have all of the required forms."

I was speechless. I had never heard of the ITTD before and when I told the worker, she acted like I lived under a rock.

She told me that it stood for Impact Texas Teen Drivers and was an online class that was needed in order to take a driving test. She said it was all over the news and that my driving school should have informed me about it. She looked down on me in irritation, treating me like an ignorant child.

I may not be number one in my

class, but I'm not dumb. Both my parents and I watch the news, yet none of us had ever heard of the ITTD prior to this incident. Plus, it had been roughly three years since I had been in driving school when the ITTD was not even heard of.

I also called the DMV three times the week before my driving test. Each time i called, I recieved a differetnnt set of requiremnets. Despite this frustration, not a single person mentioned that the ITTD was needed in order to take the test.

I felt devastated. My chance at freedom was hanging right in front of me and was ripped away when I reached for it.

I went home, took the two-hour class, and rescheduled my driving

test. A month later, I returned to the DMV office ready to pass my test. I was treated a lot kinder and felt encouraged by the workers while I was there.

In the end, I walked away with my license and some knowledge.

I learned the importance of not getting discouraged easily. Sometimes other people can have a bad day and have an attitude to reflect it. Just because one person is rude, does not mean that I should take it to heart.

I also learned that it is important to double-check all of the requirements for any legal document. If something is not stated clearly, call and verify any issues concerning the information.