

While some might describe Jayden Payan as having a disability, she says the word has no room in her vocabulary

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7 As the district season heats up, the boy's varsity basketball team plans to make it interesting



stampede

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Are you **better** at math or at reading?

Do you think in terms of pictures or words?

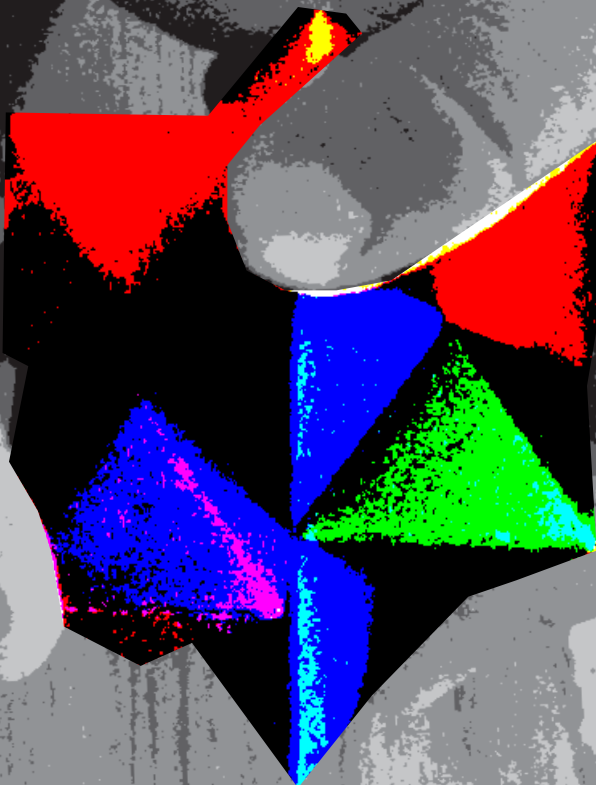
Are you better at drawing or writing?

So, are you **right** or **left**-brained?

Journalist Maddie Ramos finds out putting the

pieces of the **puzzle** together may be more

complicated than some think.



Lady Mustangs hold their own in district race

mark williams | staff reporter

work in progress. That's how the lady Mustangs describe themselves as they continue to fight for the district title.

Although the team beat Austin last Friday in three straight sets, the young district season has yielded mixed results.

"We are playing very good volleyball," all-around player Arielle Mack said. "We do what we have to get a win. We're starting to look less like individuals and more like a team. That's what we were lacking in previous matches."

The team was tested early in the season when it traveled to Lubbock for the Frenship tournament. The girls came away with a win in the Silver bracket.

"We had so many obstacles to overcome," middle blocker Victoria Navarro said. "We played with heart and as a team. We were definitely overlooked and not taken seriously, but we proved just how powerful we are."

The Mustangs got off to a fast start in district action winning the first two matches against Irvin and Bowie, but lost some momentum when they were defeated by Chapin and El Paso High. The team has since rebounded with wins against Jefferson, Canutillo, Andress and Austin.

In a match the girls felt they should have won against Chapin, Mack said nerves were the problem.

"We either play our game or we overestimate them," Mack said. "We weren't as efficient as we could have been. We have a very well-rounded team and we are capable, but we just have to play the way we know we can."

The team is 21-10 overall and 6-2 in district. The team played Irvin last night, but the score was unavailable at press time.

With seven returnees, experience is not lacking, but what is lacking is consistency



As right-sider Marissa Castillo passes the ball to setter Olivia Zubia for a kill against El Paso High, teammates Savannah Marengo and Sunnie Feria get in position to score. The team lost to the Tigers in five sets. "It was an emotional roller coaster the whole time," Castillo said. "We fell apart in the end when we should have been trying to stay together." The team hosts Bowie Friday. The game starts at 6:30

according to head coach Connie Vaughan.

"All you can do is put one foot in front of the other and do as best you can," Vaughan said. "We let other teams dictate what they are going to do to us. We have to play the same every time we go out. If you don't execute your plays, there's nothing you can do because in the end you're playing a game."

Players agree that Chapin and El Paso High are the teams to beat, but defensive specialist Isabella Gonzales said that everyone is a rival.

"All the teams want the glory, but only one team wins," Gonzalez said. "We don't want to be just another average team, we want to be remembered at Burges. We are

determined, and as long as we play smart and with heart we can beat any team that we play."

The team is loaded with talent, according to team captain Olivia Zubia.

"When we play as a unit we're solid, but we tend to be too hard on ourselves," Zubia said. "We have to take it one game at a time and play as if it is our last. No game will be given to us. We just need to remain relaxed and focused."

The team hosts Bowie Friday.

"No game is going to be easy," Zubia said. "Our season has always been a work in progress, and we are working hard to improve because we can never be satisfied by anything less than success."



Wrestlers await new coaches

Members of the wrestling team continue to get ready for the season but without a coach or assistant coach.

After coaching for 17 years, Jeff Himelspach resigned head coaching duties in June. His assistant for the past 10 years, Jeremy Wolf also resigned. Both remain on campus as teachers.

"We can't get ahead now," junior Michael Dominguez said. "We've been going to other schools for open mat. We hope to get a coach before our season starts."

Principal Randall Woods said that will happen, as the application process closed Sept. 18. Interviews take place this week, and a new coach should be chosen by the end of the week.

Players vying for title

Now in his first full year coaching the tennis team, head coach Mark Gonzalez said that the team plans to advance to regionals.

The team beat the Jefferson Silver Foxes Friday 12-6.

The team is now 4-1 in district play.

"Everyone is the team to beat," Gonzalez said. "El Paso High is no longer our rival. With every team we look to go out and do our best."

The went up against Canutillo last night. The score was not available at press time.



Jones injury a huge loss

Bad news hit the UTEP football program three weeks ago. The team lost its star tailback and '13 campus graduate Aaron Jones. A torn ligament in his ankle forced surgery, and now he'll be watching his team from the sidelines.

Jones, the face of the program, was the biggest reason why locals went to the games. I can only imagine what his injury will do to ticket sales. Jones, who was already being eyed by pro scouts, will be red-shirted, meaning he will still be part of the team without the season counting toward his NCAA career.

Before Jones was injured in a 69-20 blowout loss to Texas Tech Sept. 12, he set a UTEP record by running for a 91-yard touchdown. Jones is truly an incredible part of the UTEP football team, and losing him is devastating for the team and the city.

Brady gets away with it

Teflon Tom. That's what the media called New England Patriot QB Tom Brady after the court recently nullified his four-game suspension for his part in "Deflategate."

Since then, the Patriots have gotten off to a frustratingly strong start to the season. The team beat the Steelers in the first game of the season, and then went on to slaughter the Bills and Jacksonville.

Regardless of how well they play, the team disrespected the game by cheating. Football fans sat on the edge of their seats waiting for just punishment. Instead, we got nothing-not even a four-game suspension. I could not possibly be angrier with Brady and the team.

Team surprising doubters

maggie avalos | staff reporter

They only go at one speed, and that's full speed, so says defensive coordinator Bernie Luna about the varsity football team.

The team lost to the Chapin Huskies last Thursday 35-7, and is currently 3-2 overall and 2-1 in district. The team hosts the El Paso High Tigers Friday. Kick-off is at 7 p.m.

"We [the team] didn't come out ready to play [against Chapin]," Matthew Salazar, receiver and cornerback, said. "After being down 28-0 at halftime, we came back and kept fighting. This won't affect the way we will play, but it will remind us to stay humble and not take any other teams lightly. Our goal is not to lose again, and I think it's possible."

The loss was a wake-up call for the team.

"I do think being underestimated has affected the way we [the team] approached offseason and this season," all purpose player Odell Graham said. "We took it personally and tried to show we were better than everyone thought. We think of every game we win as payback."

Luna said he is aware that because of last year's 1-9 record, there are doubters.

"Our players know how good the team really is," he said. "There is a big change from last year, and it's coming from the players."

Graham also credits the turnaround to attitude.

"Although we're still playing a lot of underclassmen," Graham said, "we have 15 seniors, and they're showing a lot of leadership, maturity and accountability. They show up to the weight room on time, and they're on the field on time ready to practice."

Graham said as in past years, depth is an issue, but added players understand their roles on both sides of the ball, and most have experience.

"Our offense is more balanced," Graham said. "Many still play both



Senior middle linebacker Jacob Ramirez leads the Mustangs in a huddle after their 22-15 district win over Bowie Sept. 18. "I felt like we worked too hard to not get what we want," he said. "Beating Bowie was just one step closer to what we want, which is a district championship." Ramirez has played at the varsity level for three years. The team hosts El Paso High Friday.

ways, but we help them by getting them into better shape. Experience means they've gone through an actual game. The players have gone through the crowd noise and the atmosphere of Friday night lights. Having experience on varsity, they've been through these situations, and that means that less mistakes are made."

Four new coaches have been added to the staff. In addition to Luna, Dirk Patterson, an '09 campus grad, coaches the offensive line. Former UTEP football player Marcus Bagley is in charge of defensive tackles. Jaime Amezaga coaches the receivers.

"I like the new coaching staff," third year varsity player Pierre Darbonnier said. "I believe they'll help us get to where we want to go. Our defense is better because the field is taken care of and we can cover more ground."

Darbonnier said players understand the meaning of the word, "team."

"We're [seniors] well rounded because we've all stuck together through senior boot camp," he said. "We play for each other and as a team. We want to keep it going because we want to see the playoffs. When we all come together, we can do big things."

SYMBOLIC INCENTIVES

Given to the player who best holds the defensive unit together in a game

Given to the hardest hitter on offense in each game

between the LINES

So, what's the question?	Isaac Ortiz-11 Golf	Elizama Montes- 11 Tennis	Seth Van Matre- 11 Cross Country
What do you love most about your sport?	"I love that it is a relatively easy-going sport, and that you can have fun playing with a group of people."	"I love being able to play with my friends, and I like the coaches because they try to keep everything fun."	"I love that it is the simplest yet most challenging sport there is."
What would you do if you won the lottery?	"I would drop out of school and travel the world. I would donate some of the money to charity."	"I would keep the amount I needed and donate the rest to kids who cannot afford college."	"I would put 92 percent in the bank, invest 4 percent, give my family 3 percent, and keep 1 percent for myself."
Who is your role model?	"My uncle. He grew up in poverty. He worked hard to become successful, so he could provide for his family."	"Mr. [Eric] Olszewski. He is very intelligent and he always tries to keep it real."	"My parents. They are the most loving, caring, and rational individuals I know."

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Holiday greetings cause more conversation than they should

Nobody seems to know what the proper way is to wish someone happy holidays without offending. The reality is it shouldn't be that difficult. Look around and observe the seasonal decorations. Employees are trained to thank customers with a "Happy holidays" greeting— no more "Merry Christmas." People argue that saying "Merry Christmas" is biased against non-Christian people, but at the same time, "Happy holidays" offends the Christians whose "beliefs aren't recognized."

In 2014, over 70 percent of the American population was Christian, but being the majority does not give people the right to act as though the minority doesn't matter. In the same way that Christians are offended by "Happy holidays" not acknowledging their beliefs, Muslims and Jewish people can be offended by "Merry Christmas" in the same way.

While "Happy Hanukkah" hasn't quite taken off as a greeting card, and "Joyous Kwanzaa" isn't in Wal-Mart's holiday section, these people's beliefs still deserve to be respected.

Last month, Starbucks faced the heat when a blogger commented on their seasonal "red cups" saying the coffee giant "hates Jesus" for removing the Christmas icons like ornaments and snowflakes from the cups



included in previous years. Ironically, all of the attention grabbing headlines paid off for Starbucks.

Politicians even got into the conversation. On the campaign stump, Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump threatened not to renew rent for what he described as "the most successful" Starbucks in the country. It's located in his iconic Trump Tower in midtown Manhattan.

People need to get off of their high horses and understand that being politically correct shouldn't come before anything else. America has become a society so obsessed with being "correct" that people fight over the design of a coffee cup. It's absurd that two words could cause so much conflict.

There will never be an easy solution to the problem, but people might start with respecting one another and understanding that the majority isn't always the center of the universe. There is nothing wrong with people saying "Merry Christmas," but on the other end of the spectrum, Christians and Catholics have to understand that sometimes generalization is important to keeping the peace.

Starbucks gets new cups every year. People practice different religions. Thank goodness for diversity. Merry Christmas. Happy Hanukkah. Joyous Kwanzaa. Oh, and happy holidays.



The only dumb questions are the ones not asked

"Make sure you apply to at least five colleges," I was told my freshman year by my counselor. And that's exactly what I planned to do.

Only one problem. I had no idea how to apply, but I had four years to figure it out. That was future Jonathan's problem.

Now, fast forward three years. With deadlines a few weeks away, I still didn't understand how to apply. Confusion was my middle name. I had had no idea where to start. My mistake was waiting too long before educating myself. I didn't wait because I was procrastinating, I waited because I was afraid to ask questions. I felt stupid for not understanding the process. I couldn't rely on help from home. My family understood the process as much as I did. At school, the counselors told me to apply but never showed me how. I went on my own time and asked them a lot of questions. I even moved my schedule around to be in the college prep class. I got some pointers online.

To the underclassmen reading this— educate yourself. Don't wait. Ask your parents, your counselors, your teachers. Someone can help you. And make sure to save up. I applied to UT-Austin and was accepted, but I had to pay a \$75 application fee. Once admitted, a \$50 housing fee was tacked on, and a \$200 enrollment deposit.

Hind sight is 20/20. I didn't get to apply to five colleges, I only applied to two. Because I waited, I might have missed an opportunity to attend the college of my dreams. Don't let that happen to you.

● My views do not represent those of the district or school.

staff editorial

editor's report card			
A	A+	C	A
to local young artist Adamari Cruz for the release of her album "Spread Your Wings." She collaborated with Guinness world record holder Brandon Bailey Johnson, who composed, produced, arranged, and performed all instruments on the album. Congrats on your debut.	to local chef and campus grad Emiliano Marentes for being a semi-finalist to be a contestant on the Food Network's show "Chopped." His recipe is one of 10 selected. The four recipes with the most votes will compete on "Chopped" for the delicious \$10,000 grand prize.	to the EP school district for its confusing and time-wasting finals schedule. There are eight finals to take and an entire school week to take them. There has to be a way to allow students to take more finals per day instead of dragging it out the last five days of the semester.	to JROTC senior Mayra Villalobos. She earned the position of deputy brigade commander. Villalobos was promoted to colonel, making her the second highest ranking cadet officer in the the El Paso Independent School District. The Stampede staff salutes her.

Did you know?

The campus is celebrating its 60th anniversary. The Stampede will also celebrate the occasion by providing fun facts about the campus in every other issue.

On May 14, 1962, the 1,500 lb. bronze Mustang arrives overnight to surprise students. The classes of '60, '61, and '62 raised funds to pay for the iconic statue.

In May, the class of '76 goes to Disneyland for its senior trip. The three day trip cost each senior \$48, which covered 15 tickets to the park, insurance, and transportation.

" Coming to Burges gave some people the opportunity to do things that they wouldn't be able to at Austin. "

-Milo Gardner-'56 grad, first graduating class, on why he and his classmates left another school to attend Burges in their senior year.

stampede

editor-in-chief
madeline ramos

design editor
jonathan castro

reporters
arionne amezaga
margarita avalos
jonathan castro
jaeden fiocca
odell graham
mark williams

photographers
genesis barraza
michael provenghi

cartoonist
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years and counting