

BRIGHT IDEAS

All eyes are on junior Edwin Diaz as he explains a part of the staff's presentation of the yearbook theme during a summer workshop. "It was pretty intimidating going up in front of so many schools," Diaz said. "Our choice 'This or That' fell into place perfectly. While I was up there, I looked around at everyone and they seemed to be really interested." The three day workshop, held at EPCC, allowed students to develop their theme, improve photography and work on the cover.

WINNER BY DESIGN

Cheers fill the room after yearbook representative Lori Garcia surprises junior Jonathan Castro with the online news that he won the national Walsworth design contest. "There were about 58 contestants," Castro said. "I didn't know what my chances of winning were. It felt like an eternity waiting for the results." Castro won a \$500 Visa gift card and spent part of it on a letterman jacket.



annabeth burgess

LEARNING THE ROPES

One final touch is needed on sophomore Jaeden Fiocca's first story for issue three. "I joined newspaper staff at the beginning of the second semester," Fiocca said. "Approaching people for interviews the first couple of times was a little hard because I can be shy. I'm really glad I got into the program though. It gave me a good opportunity to see what I can do." Fiocca also participated in UIL headline writing for the first time, where he finished third and qualified for regionals.



jonathan castro

"It's a huge commitment. You have to put everything you have into it all year. When the book finally comes out, and you're holding it in your hands, it's an indescribable feeling."
-samantha licon-11

FINAL PHOTOS

Temperatures in the mid 30s doesn't stop head photographer Anna Burgess from covering a boys' soccer game at El Paso High. "Being a senior is so bittersweet," Burgess said. "Every day I'm constantly doing something, whether it's shooting or editing, so having some free time next year could be beneficial for me. At the same time, I will miss it so much. I absolutely love this program and everyone in it." Burgess has been head photographer since her sophomore year.



samantha licon



jonathan castro

STRAIGHT FROM THE SOURCE
Backstage after the Sonima presentation, speaker Stedman Graham, also known as Oprah Winfrey's boyfriend, sits down for an interview with journalists Esther Sanchez, Jordan Steyer and Arionne Amezaga. "I've interviewed a lot of important administrative type people but never anyone as well known as him," Sanchez, newspaper editor-in-chief, said. "It was the best experience of my high school career. He complimented all of us for our professionalism."



annabeth burgess

powerful words

by eliana jaime

Furious Bowie fans scream out at the boys' basketball referees for what they believe is a bad call against them. The sound of her camera's shutter is drowned out by the roar of the crowd and the pounding on the floor. At the end of the game, sophomore Genesis Barraza packs up her equipment and prepares to make her way through the swarm of angry people. "I've never seen something like this happen on our home court," Barraza said. "I could see the anger on people's faces. Taking pictures at that moment didn't feel right to me, but some people had their cellphone cameras on in case it got physical. A woman yanked on my arm and told me to get back. Tension grew. I knew it'd be smart to leave before the situation got worse. It's crazy what can happen when you're out to get that perfect shot."

It wasn't the perfect situation for the Stampede staff. Just four staffers had to put the first issue together. As the semester went on, two more students, with no journalism experience, joined the staff. Second year reporter Madeline Ramos, who

normally covered sports, set out to cover a story about a local 12-year-old musician and producer who made the Guinness Book of World Records. "An opportunity like this doesn't happen every day," Ramos said, "not just for me as a reporter, but for the paper. It was an extremely surreal experience because most people my age are used to only doing regular school work, but I'm out writing stories about someone who has the potential of becoming famous. If he does make it big, I have the honor of being one of his first fans."

While informing others about news, the yearbook staff received some news of its own through a text message from a Walsworth company representative.

"Yay Hoofbeats,' it read," editor-in-chief Jordan Steyer said. "At first we didn't know what it was in reference to, and then we put two and two together. Our book was up for the Pacemaker. I've worked on three books, and I am always amazed how we begin with just a theme, and it becomes this beautiful book. We work from the heart, and I think it shows."



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jonathan castro

SPREAD THE WORD
Off the press that morning, sophomore Arionne Amezaga hands issue three of the Stampede to World Geography teacher Lisa Barnett. "It's a great feeling when the paper comes out," Amezaga said. "We want everyone to read our paper because we work so hard on it." Amezaga wrote two stories in that issue. They included top 10 seniors and President Obama's plan to make attending community college free for the first two years.