

**FLASH THE AUDIENCE**

Surrounded by football fans, seniors Andrew Molina and Edwin Diaz make sure that the crowd notices them. "I needed to find a different way to promote the yearbook," Molina said. "After looking up ideas on Pinterest for quite awhile, I came across the camera box idea. I thought it was good because it would really attract a lot of attention, and it did." Molina created a flash by using three battery candles.



genesis barraza

**STAFF SUPPORT**

Taking a break from deadlines, Hoofbeats members Eliana Jaime, Lizbeth Perez, Victoria Aguilar and Edwin Diaz watch the boy's varsity basketball game streaming live on KVIA. "We were so proud of them making the 'Sweet 16,'" Jaime said. "We wanted to travel with them to Seminole, but we had too much work to get done."



edwin diaz

**PICTURE THIS**

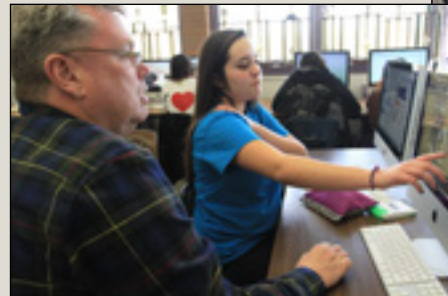
Focused on timing the upcoming hurdler, junior Genesis Barraza prepares her shot. "You always have to be ready to capture the image because everything is really fast pace," Barraza said. "You have to have the camera up 30 seconds before you know you're going to need the picture. I enjoy shooting all sports, especially boys' basketball. It's really intense and aggressive, and I can be close to the action." This was Barraza's first year as head photographer. She's been on staff for three years.



genesis barraza

**BEHIND THE CALL**

On the phone to get an interview with Olfen superintendent Gabriel Zamora, junior Mark Williams asks questions for his story about a four day school week. "Interviewing by phone is easier than face to face," Williams said. "I'm less nervous, and get all my questions answered."



jonathan castro



genesis barraza

**CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM**

Nervous about having Mike Taylor, Walsworth's journalism specialist, sitting next to her, freshman Ilana Johnston shows him her almost finished generations spread. "He critiqued me on a lot of things," Johnston said. "It was really helpful because it made me confident in what I was about to turn in."

"Before I joined journalism, I didn't expect it to be this challenging. My respect has grown so much for this program because I now know how much work it takes." -**jaeden fiocca-11**

# staffs take the lead

by celeen atkins

People from all over El Paso awaited the day Pope Francis visited neighboring city Juarez. Some watched the mass in the comfort of their own homes, while some attended the event "Two Nations, One Faith" at the Sun Bowl and witnessed local history on the big screen. Amongst the crowd of professional journalists and photographers, senior Jonathan Castro stood on the sidelines ready to capture the moment.

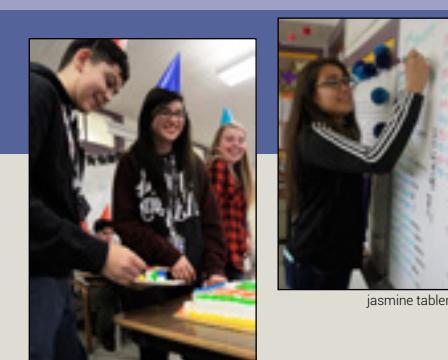
The distance from the sidelines to the stage was too far to get a decent shot. He had to get closer. A picture from a better angle was his top priority. He noticed others following as he stepped forward. He immediately felt the confidence of a professional. He was able to get the right shot before getting kicked off to the sidelines by security.

"I felt independent," Castro said. "There was no teacher by my side telling me what to do. It was all instinct. I thought to myself, 'Did I really just lead a group of professional photographers?' That moment made me grow. This event was extremely important to everybody there, including myself. This was the biggest event I have ever had the honor of covering, and it really made me more confident in my work."

Members of the Stampede staff had to step it up early in the school year when just four people made up the class. Junior Arionne Amezaga was one of them. She remembered what it was like the previous year when a workload for 10 had to be spread out amongst five people.

We didn't really know anybody who wanted to join," she said. "Slowly but surely, the staff gained four more people by spring semester. We accepted students who had no journalism experience and had to train them on the job. Work got easier because it wasn't just one person cramming in three stories. We got to focus more on our writing skills, and I feel that it showed in our stories. I am proud to be on this staff. We have a reputation of a nationally award winning publication, and I think we have maintained that reputation."

**we were there** Photographers will shoot up to 1,000 pictures at a varsity football game, but only one action shot will be used in the yearbook.



jasmine tabler-11

**DIFFERENT CULTURES**

Amongst the thousands of people at the Sun Bowl, Stampede editor Madeline Ramos gets down on one knee to interview a member of the Matachines dancers. "The lady didn't speak English," Ramos said. "I interviewed her in Spanish and wrote the notes down in English. She was very passionate about the Pope's visit, and she started to cry. The whole thing was so surreal, and I'm so happy I got to be a part of covering this huge event." The dancers were part of "Two Nations, One Faith." Those who could not travel to Juarez to see Pope Francis' Feb. 17 visit paid \$18 to see his mass on a jumbotron at the Sun Bowl. (photo by jonathan castro)