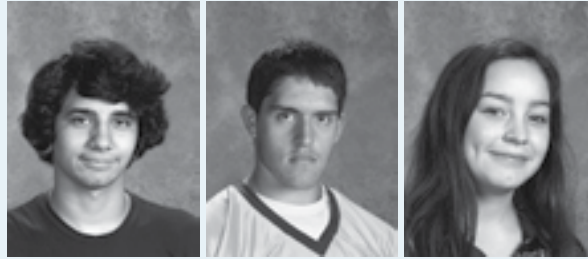
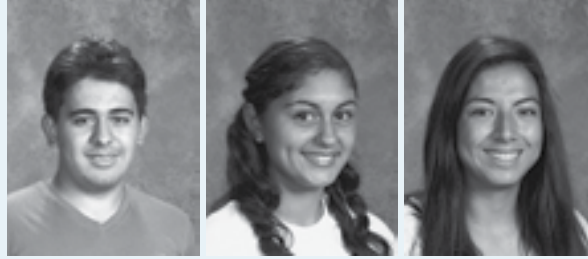


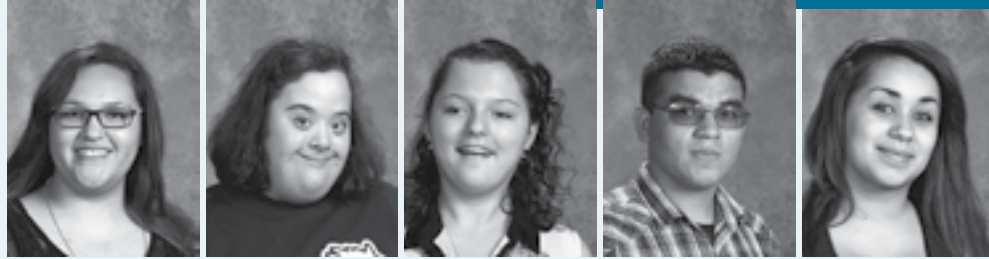
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Cruz Jacobo  
Julie Jacquez



Sergio Jaramillo  
Leonor Jimenez  
Samantha Jimenez



Evelyn Juarez  
Ana Jurado  
Jennifer Lauritzen  
Joshua Lechuga  
Priscilla Ledezma



Victoria Lee  
Natalia Leos  
Tyler Levack  
Viviana Lewis  
Oscar Licerio



Derrick Littles  
Daniela Lopez  
David Lopez  
Mia Lopez  
Christian Lozano



Angelica Lujan  
Arielle Mack  
Sergio Magallanes  
Danny Magana  
Omar Maldonado



Lindsey Marcee  
Lauren Marenco  
Francisco Marquez  
Mary Marquez  
Nicholas Marrufo



class favorites

joel torres  
isabella gonzales



# Frias makes noise on the field

by jonathan castro

He sat in a sound proof room waiting for his doctor. It seemed like an eternity. Born with a 60 percent hearing loss in both ears, five-year-old Jorge Frias will soon hear the world in a whole new way.

"As soon as the doctor put Jorge's hearing aids on, he laughed," his mother Albenia said. "All of a sudden, he heard new things. I think it was a strange sensation for him. He would react to whatever little noise, but I still remember his laugh. He seemed so much happier after that."

Today, Jorge is a junior. He plays football and runs track. His father, Rey said he is proud of all that his son has accomplished.

"We let him be," Rey said. "We raised him like any other kid. He was still punished and yelled at. We never told him he couldn't do something because of his disability. I did notice he would get frustrated at the smallest things. I thought having an outlet to vent that frustration would be good. I told him football or karate. He chose football, so we put him on a city team. We pushed him to push himself. I think his disability has also pushed him. He knows he has a disadvantage, so he has to work harder than the other kids."

That is exactly what Jorge has done. Last season, he led the varsity football team in rushing with over 800 yards. He was also chosen District 1-5A's "Newcomer of the Year."

"I started playing nine years ago," Jorge said. "I've never been the biggest guy, but I work hard in the summer to get strong. I also

have friends on the team who helped me with plays. Odell [Graham] helped me by signing plays to me."

Although his hearing aids help, Jorge prefers not using them.

"The noise gives me headaches," he said. "I wear them at school to hear better, but when I go home I take them off. I also don't wear them for football. It's just too loud."

For the past three years, Ken Kurita has served as Jorge's interpreter. The two have grown close.

"I've always told Jorge that he has to push himself because of his size, and he has," Kurita said. "I have such a strong connection to him because he is like me. I too have a hearing disability. I don't want him to have to go through the hardships I had to go through."

In the classroom, Jorge experienced difficulties at a young age.

"Today his hearing disability doesn't really affect his classwork," Albenia said. "When he was younger, it was really difficult for him. He has speech therapists and interpreters now to help him if he needs it."

Despite his disability, Jorge insists he's just like any other teen. He plans to play college football. He has sparked interest from a college in Washington.

"I hope to play in the NFL one day," he said. "Coach [Marcus] Graham told me I can get a football scholarship. That's my goal. My disability doesn't mean anything. Most of the time, I hang out with non-deaf people. I'm just like anyone else."

CAN'T CATCH HIM

On his way to a first down, running back Jorge Frias escapes the grasp of a Canutillo defender. Born with a hearing disability hasn't stopped Frias from competing in football and track. Frias said he would like to earn a scholarship and continue playing football on the college level.



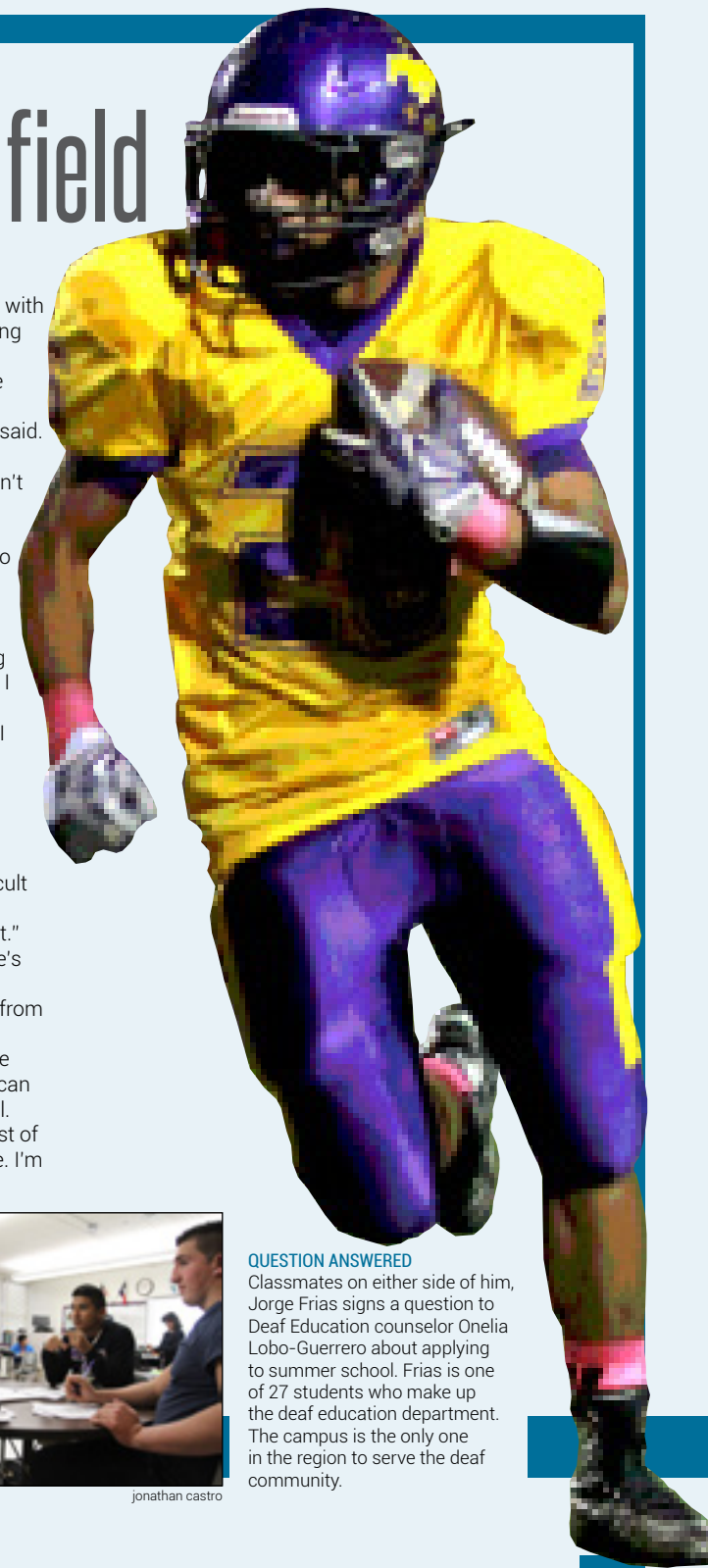
mikey provenghi



jonathan castro

QUESTION ANSWERED

Classmates on either side of him, Jorge Frias signs a question to Deaf Education counselor Onelia Lobo-Guerrero about applying to summer school. Frias is one of 27 students who make up the deaf education department. The campus is the only one in the region to serve the deaf community.



"My number one source of stress is school. Keeping up with eight classes a day and trying to pass all of them is a lot of work."  
-yadhira leyba



Angel Martinez  
Mackenzie Martinez  
Marco Martinez  
Carlos Matamoros  
Joshua Megliorino