



HEADLINE

Going for Goals

Nationally ranked team keeps up playoff pace

by **Carey Wiesenhuber**
The ball slides on the feet of junior Payne McKiver as he works his way up the field. After looking for an open teammate, McKiver prepares and senior Justin Martin positions himself to receive a pass. McKiver sends the ball pass the top of the defense to Martin, who heads the ball straight past

the keeper into the back of the net.
 "Goal."
 The entire stands screamed, and a smile spread across Coach Winston Pool's face.
 "We got to go to the Woodlands early this year," McKiver said. "We ended up finishing the tournament as one of the top teams there,

which felt really incredible." The Tiger's overall play led to them not only being recognized as one of the top teams in the state but also nationally. As of February 16, the team was ranked 5th in Texas and 40th nationally.
 "We feel great about it, but we feel we can exceed that and even accomplish more," McKiver said.



Players prepare to face their competitors

The varsity soccer players stand on the field with nervous energy to expel. Daily practices and workouts help take off the edge of a continual line up of season games, but on game day it takes even more work to loosen up. Before the game begins, and as the team becomes more serious for competition, they run a warm-up lap around the field, stretch and work on plays. "For our home games, no matter what, our nerves are really tense," Senior Gus Barbosa said. 1 Junior Erik Hernandez 2 Senior Jason Vargas 3 Senior Erick Quintana Gomez 4-5 The Team 6 Barbosa 7 Senior David Rojas

Soccer Sweeties show support



Tuesday nights, home or away, Soccer Sweeties clustered together cheering on the team as every steal, pass and goal was made. Finishing her third season as a Sweetie, junior Andrea Varela answered a lot of her friends' questions about the game as she watched her boyfriend move back and forth across the field. "As a Sweetie, you don't have to go to all the games," Varela said, "but I always went because I felt like I should support him." Along with sitting in the stands and providing moral support, the girls encouraged their players throughout the week.
 "Towards the beginning of the season, we decorated their lockers," Varela said. "At every home game we would buy snacks. [We wanted them to know] that they had a really good season and [the Soccer Sweeties] are proud because overall they're a really good team."

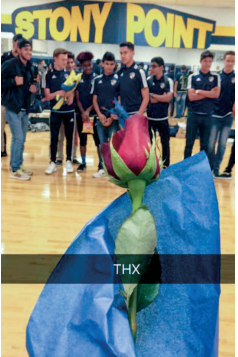


photo courtesy of Zhane Sylvain

"For me it's a great game to watch in general. It's even better because I know a lot of the guys personally and they talk about how much passion they have for the sport. To see it reflected in how they play is amazing. I'll always remember the game they won to secure their district champion spot. The student section was going crazy and how proud all the players looked gave me such a good feeling I'll never forget."
 - Senior Zhane Sylvain



1 Junior Abdel El-Azzami
 2 Senior Eduardo Lopez Rivera 3 Senior Jose Santos Ibarra 4 Senior Gus Barbosa 5 The Varsity Team 6 The varsity Team 7 Junior Santiago Maya

photos by Maino Johnston, Jordan Baack, Gerardo Quevedo, Rebecah Macias

166 **Intensity** shaped athletes' perspectives Describe the traditions you have to calm yourself on nerve-racking days.

What does a typical game day look like for a soccer player?

"We go over our film, which is our game plan."
 - Senior Phillip Haun

"First we usually go to study hall for our soccer period."
 - Junior Erik Hernandez

"I usually drink a lot of water and eat healthy."
 - Junior Cayne Fifield

HEADLINE

“My favorite part is definitely all the people I got to meet along the way, friends from other schools around our county.”

Weighty situation

Sophomore, his potentially high placing porker, faces biggest challenge in their showing career

- by Emily Wolf

From the moment Troy Zambrano and his pig, Gauge, walked in, spectators knew the last to enter the ring, and the first to be penned, Zambrano's pig was in a promising situation and all that was left was the weighing station.

“In most cases, this [weight] isn't a problem,” Zambrano said. “Pigs gain weight fast, but the stressful environment prevents the majority of pigs from packing on too many pounds.”

A normal problem or not, 10 pounds over to 10 pounds under, always means the pig's in the clear. Anything else, the pig is disqualified.

Taking a deep breath, Zambrano walked his soon to be champion into the scales.

“I was nervous,” Zambrano said. “I thought that he might have been over weight.”

The charged atmosphere reflected the apprehension of his friends and family. With all eyes trained on the scene before them, a number flashed on the screen.

Eleven. Zambrano's pig weighed in one pound over weight.

Taking pity on the boy, and trying to determine the scale's validity, those in control of the weighing process asked him to try again. In this case, the second time wasn't a charm.

“I was disappointed,” Zambrano said. “It was just one pound. It sucked, you know, being kicked

out of the arena, but it was definitely a learning experience.”

The show, for which preparation began almost six months prior to that January day, was finally over.

“When I was disqualified, I remembered everything that I had done with Gauge to prepare for all the shows,” Zambrano said.

The duo's run began in August, with Zambrano starting with a small pig no bigger than a Yorkie. Immediately after the purchase, Zambrano spent his day with early morning rises and three hours, daily, dedicated to his animal.

“One of the hardest things was getting up early every morning,” Zambrano said.

In the livestock business, there is no such thing as a day off. Animals rely on their owners.

Sickness, mood, weather, rain or shine, doesn't matter. Gauge had to be treated like an athlete. He was fed, conditioned and trained like a champ, with the hope that he would soon become one.

“I was proud,” Zambrano said. “He was a crazy pig. He wouldn't listen a lot, and while I'd be walking him he'd run off at times, but I was proud of him.”

As for next year, Zambrano's not given up on pigs, but he's discussing something different.

“Overall, I think I had a pretty good showing season, but [next year] I'm thinking I'm going to show a steer,” Zambrano said. “I mean, why not?”



photos by Kaylie Yingling and courtesy of Agriculture Department

Animal clinic takes book knowledge, makes it hands on for future veterinarians



1 Sophomore Haley Crane 2 Sophomore Emily Wolf 3 Junior Ebony Lane



“I felt happy that we got to wash our first set of dogs, and it was really great to have that sense of accomplishment, because all of our hard work is finally paying off.” - Junior Ebony Lane

photos courtesy of Agriculture Department



Ag Mech Teacher Russ Abrams works with students on a new adventure every day. “Giving them an employment skill they can keep the rest of their lives is my favorite part of teaching.”

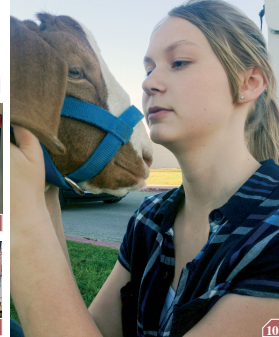
-Teacher Russ Abrams



photos courtesy of Agriculture Department

Livestock show participants learn through experiences in and out of show barn

Even before judges approach, stock show participants know that the personal growth they've made through raising an animal makes them a champion. 1 Round Rock Livestock Show, Pig Remi Junior Drake Ramey 2 Williamson Co Youth Expo, Broilers Sophomore Demetris Davis 3 WILCO Livestock Show, Heifer Stella Sophomore Claire Godwin 4 Event animals Stock show friends 5 WILCO Bunnies Freshman Breanna Williamson 6 Fort Worth Livestock show, Pig Texas Junior Elias Blanco 7 WILCO Show, Lamb Sophomore Loren Pleasants 8 Williamson County Livestock Show, Pig Mudd Sophomore Allison Chambers 9 WILCO Show, Lamb Junior Bennett Anderson 10 On Campus, Goat Soldier Sophomore Caroline Lanz



photos by Kaylie Yingling and photos courtesy of Agriculture Department

104 **curiosity** united learners, instructors

Describe the most important thing your classes have taught you.

What is the most important thing that you have learned being in the AG department?

“The different breeds of sheep.” - Junior Joshua Zeagler

“How to judge livestock on how they look.” - Sophomore Holly Schutz

“To take care of everything around you.” - Senior Kayla Walters

Mums made amazing

“Making mums was overwhelming. It was my first time making mums, and I wanted to make them amazing, like something I would be proud to wear. My favorite part was making my senior mum with Mrs. Fehlis.” - Senior Makayla Staff



Creative control helps students learn design

Through the year in floral design, Mandy Fehlis teaches her students the art of making floral arrangements. Students have creative control to better learn the mechanics of the tools.

- Senior Sonia Renovato



photos by Soleil Guadalupe and courtesy of Agriculture Department

Ag classes, FFA | Remember Animal clinic that they'd do. | 105
Designed by Kaylie Yingling & Emily Wolf

UT Chemistry professor helps student volunteers experience large scale science experiments through hands-on demonstrations

By Madison Guyton
Intense fire, puffs of smoke, magically changing substances and other large scale, hands-on demonstrations drew members of the crowd to center stage. Volunteers immediately found themselves put to work by the mastermind, a professor whose broad hand gestures and extreme facial expressions made some think of a mad scientist or magician more than a college instructor. Together, students and the professor, wowed the crowd with a variety of chemical reactions.

"We had an opportunity to host a UT Chemistry professor, who came and not only blew up chemicals, but our

Senior Cassidy Williams knows UT has a good chemistry program. She's done her research. So, when an opportunity to attend a demonstration by a UT chemistry professor, came about, she was more than ready to attend. "I'm actually applying to UT to study biochem, so I was excited to meet the teacher," Williams said. "She was really passionate, which made me excited."

Interested in the

minds," chemistry teacher Jessica Kilbane said. "The goal was to bring the excitement of chemistry back to our classrooms, and between color-changing solutions, eating marshmallows submerged in dry ice and simulating sparking fireworks with different metallic salts and balloons, it was a success."

The activity also allowed students to put their learning in action.

"The presentation connected concepts such as physical vs. chemical changes, reaction types, hydrophobic vs. hydrophilic molecules, states of matter and density, to name a few," Kilbane said.

program, Williams volunteered.

"She had a pitcher of water and I put red dye in and then we poured dry ice in so it was releasing a bunch of carbon dioxide as the dry ice melted into the water," Williams said. 1

Sophomore Dasia Earls 2, Sophomores Luke Hendry and John Areno 3, Sophomore Radford Graham. 4-6 Sophomore Justin Whitaker 7, Sophomore Ivan Mania 8 Senior Cassidy Williams



HEADLINE

Getting a Reaction

"Everyone likes when things blow up. It was really cool that everybody could just see UT chemistry in action."
-Senior Cassidy Williams

Chemistry lab peaks IB learner's curiosity

"[IB has] helped me be more inquisitive and insightful about the content, and it's helped me grasp concepts better," sophomore Maino Johnston said. "The program teaches you skills to analyze your work and the proper work flow needed to accomplish the concepts of chemistry."

"For one project, we tested out chemical reactions with bubbles. Our teacher created bubbles with this bottle contraction, and we scooped our hands into the bottle to grab some bubbles. He would throw the bubbles into the air and catch them on fire. Then, they'd just go away."



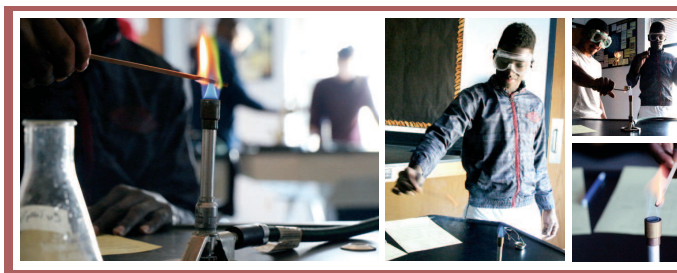
photos by Hannah Mohr

Lab fires up the pressure for chemistry assignment

Students entering the room got super excited. The safety gear's out and all of the black lab tables had laboratory lighters and Bunsen Burners set up.

Since last class period, most had forgotten that they would be doing a lab, and labs, which take up most of a class period, are one of the students' favorite things to experience.

Today's experiment included stations where students would compare the physical properties of mystery elements before, during and after heating. Focusing on change in color, students ended the project by using the collected data to identify each element that had been presented.



photos by Kimberley Cronan

92 **curiosity** united learners, instructors

Describe something that's caught you off guard and your reaction showed it.

What's one science lab that you've done and you don't ever want to do again?

"Making molecule structures out of cheese balls."
Sophomore Caleigh Denmark

"[When we're] weighing different substances."
Sophomore Skyler Winchell

"The molecule lab where we created molecules."
Sophomore Valeria Pulido

Chemistry labs Remember Getting a reaction that day? I do. 93
designed by Touchstone staff

HEADLINE

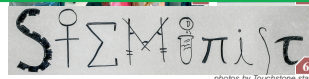
GEM Quality

Girls in engineering extends learning by offering tutorials

After starting the Girls Excelling in Math & Science Club (GEMS), engineering program students began offering student-led tutorials for STEM-related classes the sixth week of every six weeks in B264 from 4:10-5:30. "One of their main goals was to help raise female enrollment in STEM subjects through outreach, mentoring and recruiting." engineering teacher John Peterson said.



1-4 At a Wednesday meeting, the GEMS meet in John Peterson's class room to listen to a guest speaker from MIT. Before the speaker showed up, the girls used the extra time to entertain themselves with circuits and a cube puzzle. 5-6 After researching symbols, GEMS members work to design a logo for their T-shirts.

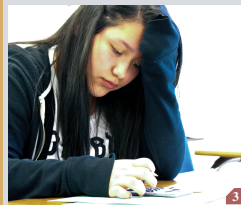


Seniors Vanessa Acosta, Gavino Leon, Duncan Diaz

Number game Students create project for stats

Time moved quickly, but progress was slow at first for senior Duncan Diaz and his partner as they worked on the board game project for a statistics. "It took the most time to decide what we would do and how we would make our game," Diaz said. "We finally created a game based off chance, and it was the best. The theme was 'Star Wars' and it took us two class periods to get it done."

Being done felt good. "I knew we would get a good grade."

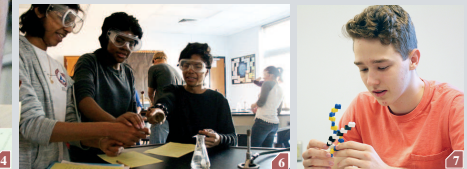


Lab work put curious learners in control of action

After the teacher sends out a Remind 101, science students come prepared for class. They arrive anxious, excited and wearing closed toe shoes. "Please let there be a sign that the mounds of notes will not continue today," a student says to himself. The class hopes it's a day without typical paperwork.

"When we walk in and our teacher is wearing goggles, that's our cue," sophomore Olivia Stout said. "We know it's time to work." From working with labs like dissecting, to completing hot labs that require fire or learning from magical labs with chemical reactions, curious minds watch science happen right in

front of their eyes. 1 Junior Jalen Webb and Senior Gustavo Barbosa Filho 2 Senior Allegra Cooper, Junior Jessica Casas 3 Freshman Rosalinda Reyes 4 Freshman Gabriel Moore 5 Sophomore Olivia Stout 6 Sophomores Neeti Swami, Takiya Tubbs and Jared Villalon 7 Sophomore Grant Davidson



photos by Kimberly Cronan, Caleigh Denmark and Hannah Mohr

To fill a void in course offerings curious students explore space with a new club

Eyes Turned Skyward

"We have a lot of big goals planned this year. Space science has been my passion since I was young. To have a club based around that with other people is really cool."

- Senior Leonardo Aguilar Gamas

1 Vice President of the club, senior Leonardo Aguilar Gamas, attempts to fly his model plane after designing it for the team space craft project. 2 Painting models and rocket ships, senior Allison Edwards and Gamas sit with junior Zachary Guzman. "It was a creative project," junior Syeda Gilani said. "Everyone did different designs and models." 3 As names are drawn from the cup, juniors Justin Batam and Kristina Mouton wait to find out the topic of their planet painting project. 4 Creating unity, club members form a circle and paint their first model for the team space craft project.



photos by Touchstone staff

- by Student Media Staff A dreamer, one full of hopes of finding her place amongst the stars, junior Syeda Gilani feels the potential energy as she gazes at the paint bottles and paint spheres sitting on the tables. She sits, nervously, yet patiently, ready to have others with the same interests arrive and literally grasp celestial bodies in their hands. "Ever since I was little, I've been fascinated by space and everything beyond our planet," Gilani said. "At a very young age I decided that this was the career for me. I'll always hold onto that goal, and I plan on achieving it, but our school generally lacks aerospace classes [to give me a head start]."



During the middle of October, Gilani, senior Leonardo Aguilar and juniors Ryland Rogers and Kristina Mouton found they each had personal interests in space, and with the help of English teacher Teresa Blanton, they made the NASA club official. Just shortly after the club's formation, membership grew to 15

members, and the group started meeting every Friday. "This club is for people who are interested in that topic [NASA and other careers related to aerospace engineering]. It's already gotten some people who weren't interested at first, excited about space." As one of the first

projects for the club, Gilani planned an activity where group members selected an astronomical object from a cup, then they used art supplies to create a model of the item. Beyond classroom projects, Gilani's original plan for the club included fundraising and small projects leading to an end goal: a stratosphere project using a weather balloon, trips to the UT observatory and the Lyndon B Johnson Space Center. "It's been going great," Gilani said. "We started fundraising, and I think our members have a lot to learn from NASA club."

photos by Rebecca White

90 **curiosity** united **Remember** Describe a time when you realized what you were doing involved science or math.

When have you had to use your math skills outside of school?

"There are shopping discounts. I calculate the money I save in my head." - Freshman Mikah Kyle

"I calculated the distance between my home and the beach." - Junior Matthew Carver

"I calculate the mileage on my car to change the oil." - Senior Zachary Warren

Math and science **Remember** Numbers game **that day? I do.** designed by Touchstone staff 91

Contributing to the club

Friends commit to participating in international culture studies

By **Austin Baham**
Turning their thoughts to a time when they learned about different countries, they had fun completing an array of history related activities and ate cultural foods from faraway places, sophomores Laura Huynh and Neeti Swami knew, even though a full year had passed, they weren't ready for those experiences to come to an end.

"In the beginning, a friend and I had been involved in a United Nations Club in middle school where we would talk about a certain country, bring food, play games and have a lot of fun," Swami said. "So we started talking about how much fun it would be if we did that in high school and we went to talk to our AP World History teacher about starting the club."

After securing a sponsor for the new club, the sophomores recruited members to meet in history teacher Jeff Thomas

classroom, C209, on a Wednesday once a month. After the first meeting, with 30 plus members signing up, the girls said they could tell the club was going to be just as fun as they remember it.

"The club started on January 26, and we celebrated Brazil," Swami said. "We had a presentation, ate some Brazilian food and went outside to play soccer."

Since they decided not to have a club leader, the group votes for the country for each month.

"Everyone seemed really excited to contribute to the club, and that is really one of the goals," Swami said. "Everyone gets a duty like bringing food or creating a presentation. Now, we want our club to grow and we want to be able to get our club's name out there," Swami said. "If we get more members, we can do larger activities and even participate in the school's events."

United Nations Club creates collaborative atmosphere

Experience cultures from around the world

"It's a really fun experience because you get to explore different cultures from around the world. It's all student led, so once a month we have a meeting where people can bring food and someone will do a presentation about that country."



- Sophomore Laura Huynh

Bond through experiences with friends

"I feel like I can be international with my friends as we explore different cultures and bond through experiences. At meetings, we learn about different cultures: favorite pastimes, histories, foods, languages and all the fun stuff that makes up a culture."



- Sophomore Ivan Maina

HEADLINE

"Literary Magazine helps me to keep an open mind towards different kinds of writing."

- Freshman Hanna Cuellar

Finding the right words

The text on the page may not be chosen by her, but for a freshman Tiger Tales member every symbol and character becomes important when editing



"I like editing because I love learning from others' words." - Freshman Hanna Cuellar

'Tiger Tales' Literary Magazine team edits submitted works

by **Hannah Mohr**

Reading verse after verse, it does not matter if the poems are dramatic monologues or acrostic pieces, freshman Hanna Cuellar edits them anyway.

"I like editing a lot because I love learning from others' words that they write," Cuellar said. "There's a lot of poetry and short stories. It's just a lot of what people are feeling."

Cuellar and the remainder of the Tiger Tales Literary Magazine Club work collaboratively with students in the school and independently to fill the pages of original works and create the final Tiger Tales Magazine that is sold and

distributed each spring. "Writing for the literary magazine isn't limited to just those in the club," Cuellar said. "Everybody in the school can write, but the club edits."

To get the edits ready, there's a lot of independent work, but in the silence Cuellar enjoys her favorite part of the club.

"Getting to see everyone's stories and poems is my favorite thing about literary magazine," Cuellar said. "There was a poem that I liked. It was about how the writer was writing a poem and didn't know what to write, so they just wrote about how they were stuck."

'Poem' edited By Hanna Cuellar, excerpt stanzas 1-5

submission to 2016 Tiger Tales I was told to write poetry However, inspiration was lacking. It's 9:18 p.m. right now, 9:19 by this line.

As you, dear reader, can without doubt see; this really is a bore. I may write okay poetry. But it's really such a chore.

There might be something poetic about the inconsistency of my rhyming scheme.

The scheme that only exists in the second stanza, rather than having a rhyme scheme anywhere else. As I write this I realize that this poem has an attractive shape Like a bell curve, but not the statistical kind. This poem needs a better title than "Poem,"

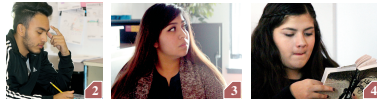
I'm guessing Maybe it should be a metaphor for life or laziness

photo by Yasmin Larsen

Projects and discussions make learning English lively

From standing in front of the class with only a poster as a shield to raising hands hoping to not be selected, students in English class have discussions and projects that get them out of their comfort zones.

"I like that we learn things that we use on a daily basis. We learn the actual meanings and definitions," sophomore Lola Garza said. 1 English: Sophomore Lola Abdula 2 English: Senior Saul Mayen 3 English: Senior Norma Pineda 4 Philosophy: Freshman Leonor Garcia 5 English: Freshman Lauryn Mulkey and Sophomore Shenae Phillips



photos by Madison Gayton and Yasmin Larsen



Creativity posters show learning

"We made posters about literary devices. We had to analyze song lyrics and poems that we found literary devices being used in. Presenting my project was a good experience. It forced me to practice my public speaking skills."

- Sophomore Jude Alvarado



Sponsor guides group to gain skills that last beyond high school

"The junior historians are an amazing group of students. They work hard all day long and then stay after school to work on our chapter project and individual research papers for state competitions, as well as numerous community service events and mentoring on weekends."

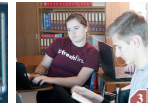
- Teacher Cheri Christian-Winne



Historical searches to find out how, why research, reports

relevant

photos by Madison Gayton



Group gathers historical data

Digging deep into Texas history, Junior Historians meet after school to prepare for their spring, state level competition.

"They work on their chapter project and individual papers, as well as numerous community service events and mentoring on weekends," teacher Cheri Christian-Winne said. 1 Junior Ke'Deshaun Daniel 2 Junior Nathan Sippel and teacher Steven Gradney 3 Senior Natalie Winne

curiosity united learners, instructors

Describe a person whose past you are interested in enough to investigate on your own.

What's the most unusual thing you've learned in a research project?

"I had to research acupuncture." - Junior Alexa Wilson

"We did an essay about the Syrian refugees." - Sophomore Luis Ortiz

"Charles Darwin's process of creating amino acids." - Freshman Jacob McBride

English and social studies Finding the right words Remember that day? I do. 79

Designed by Touchstone staff