



Alvin High



People Project



Putting On A Show

Natalie Horton
Editor

Opening night starts and the actors are all backstage warming up for the first performance. Starting with the vocal warm up leading into the classic shake down counting down from ten. Once they finish they make their way to the stage and once the pershow ends its showtime. The lights turn on and the audience starts to tune in. This is what theater is all about for Lilly Jackson, storytelling with fellow actors and having a fun time.

Theater is well known way to help tell a story with an ensemble of wonderful actors and crew.

LJ has been doing theater for nearly eight years, starting when he was only 8 years old and played the cow in Jack and the Beanstalk at ACC. Once LJ put on the cow costume, he had his whole world flipped upside down. He could already see that theater was something he would be passionate

about. Once this changing life event impacted LJ it gave him the opportunity to perform, and it all started with a simple facebook post found by his mom. After LJ had their first show they looked forward to looking for more things around the arts to express themselves.

“Growing up, I was homeschooled until around 7th grade. As a child, I always had a knack for performing in any capacity—I was a gymnast, I sang all the time, etc. My first ever experience as an actor came from ACC,” Jackson said.

During his time doing shows at ACC, LJ has been given the opportunity to portray numerous roles. Giving him various opportunities to explore and work on his theater etiquette throughout the years. He has done shows like The Addams Family playing Wednesday and A Christmas Carol where he got to portray and explore many different characters.

“At ACC, my favorite shows I’ve been in are by far The Addams Family, where I played Wednesday, and A Christmas Carol, where I played around eighteen characters,” Jackson said.

Theater is very different between high school and college though. The difficulty and production varies from each company. While the companies are different there is one thing in common: every company has hard working passionate people. LJ definitely puts in a lot of work making sure he has all the tools to succeed.

“One of the most prominent differences between the two is the approach to educational theater,” Jackson said.

While he started in the ACC theater LJ also acted in the YJTC program, playing roles like strength in Everybody. LJ works hard and it shows because he advanced to Nationals for duet acting and is currently participating in UIL poetry and prose and film.



She's On Cloud Nail

Brianna Cantu
Staff Writer

Small jars, all colors of the rainbow sit on a table ready to enhance someone's life. With the seat filled senior Karen Romo is ready to work her magic on her friends nails

Romo started practicing doing nails, she has been practicing for about three weeks now. She has practiced nails on some of her friends as well as me and the progress is just getting better and better day by day.

“I would rather do my own nails than go spend money on expensive nails at a nail salon,” Romo said.

Her goal is to be able to do nails on others and start her own nail business as well as have a salon where people can feel comfortable. She has many ideas of what she wants to do and how she will do it. She started taking classes in Houston to get her

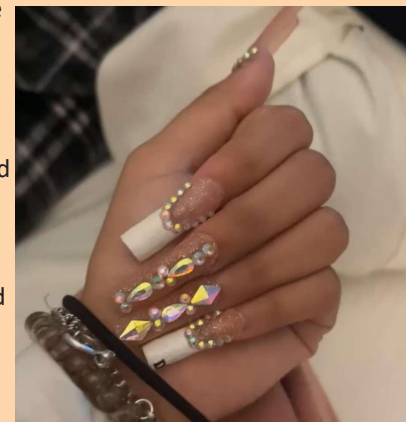
certificate & license to actually start doing nails on other people. The first set of nails she did were short french tip nails with gems. She did some long squared glitter french tip nails with diamonds. She wants to keep practicing to be able to do more different designs.

“Becoming a nail technician has always been my dream since I started getting into highschool,” Romo said.

She started practicing and worked harder every day to be able to succeed. She wants it to be her side job because she feels like it would help her a lot in the future and she would also love for other people to admire and love the nails she does. “I want my clients to be

happy and feel pretty with their nails.” Karen said, “I can't wait for the day I get my certificate and grow my nail business and see where life takes me with my nail business,” Romo said.

The only thing that scares her a bit is the exams that she's going to have to take to get her certificate but she knows that if she puts her all into the exams that she will pass. She hopes it will all go how she has planned it.



Courtesy Photos
Senior Karen Romo is ready to begin a future as a nail artist. She has taken a lot of time to learn and begin practicing now.

Rising To The Occasion

Jazmin Escobedo
Staff Writer

A bead of condensation slides down the slope of Trinity Franklin's furrowed eyebrows as she concentrates on stirring the fifth bowl of the night surrounded by clutter and soft tunes.

Franklin is a freshman who excels in all her APA classes and loves to play soft ball and bake in her free time. Franklin's passion for baking runs in her family and can be traced back through generations of baking enthusiasts.

It all started when Franklin's father had challenged her cooking skills and ultimately made Franklin want to show him how wrong he was. “He would get mad and doubt my cooking skills if I did it wrong, so I taught myself to do it right to prove him wrong,” said student Franklin.

And while Franklin is unsure if she wants to pursue a career out of baking, she certainly does acquire handy baking skills. “I know exactly when something I've baked is done, it just comes naturally to me,” Franklin said.

Franklin's favorite dish is classic, chocolate chip cookies, but they do hold some sentiments.

“My favorite dish is chocolate chip cookies because they remind me of when my grandma from Italy used to make it for me,” Franklin said.

One thing for sure is that Franklin has confidence in her baking skills and would speak her mind when confronted negatively about her skills. “You could jump off of a bridge if you don't like them,” Franklin said.



Courtesy Photos
Trinity Franklin's hobby has turned into a passion and she enjoys spending free time baking up yummy goods to share with family and friends.

Teachers

The Thymine of Her Life

Elliot Jannise
Staff writer

She had left her family and hopped on a plane, leaving them 14,160 kilometers behind. She was ready to embark on a new journey and start her research.

Dr. Sandhya Das is a high school biology teacher with an interesting past. She moved to the United States from Kerala, India, to further her education and secure a postdoctoral position. It was common for people to work at a foreign university after getting their Ph.D, but it was still hard moving, leaving her family and husband of nine months behind. Luckily, he met up with her a few months later. There was a culture shock moving to America from India. It was nothing like the movies or how the media portrayed it, she said.

"I watched a lot of Hollywood movies and thought I knew what to expect—cowboys and people who liked Tom Hanks and Julia Roberts! I was shocked when I was stopped on the street in Galveston by a panhandler. In my imagination, America was so rich that poor people didn't

exist! I gradually learned that regular people's struggles are the same everywhere, be it in the US or India. We just look slightly different," said Dr. Das.

Das has multiple degrees: a Master's in Zoology specializing in animal physiology and a Ph.D. in Life Sciences specializing in cancer biology. She also holds Life Sciences and Composite Science certifications for teaching grades 7–12. While working at UTMB research institute where she worked for India's biggest nuclear research facility. The professor met his mentor; the head of the divisions and told him that Das was his brightest student. After she was offered a fellowship at UTMB putting her in Galveston Texas. "It is customary to work at a foreign university after achieving a PhD. If you are good enough, you should be able to secure a postdoctoral position and publish in high-impact journals. Publish or perish is the motto in the research field," said Dr. Das.

As a PhD student, she

accidentally discovered a health drug. The same one that was used in ancient Indian medicine, that also protected mice and normal cells from radiation-induced damage. Hence, if developed, this drug can serve to protect normal cells during radiation therapy while still targeting cancer cells. This was a huge discovery, leading to four internationally published papers and people still using her work today, citing it, building on it, and referencing her work. She also did research on lung cancer with rats at Johns Hopkins University, one of the most prestigious and respected schools.

After John Hopkins, she spent time at MD Anderson developing some lung cancer models. She didn't stay long enough to publish, but she helped build the lab from scratch.

"I will always love the 'deep thinking' aspects of the work I was involved in. I still read research articles and discuss with fellow scientists major discoveries in the respiratory disease area. When COVID-19 happened, I

wished I was still in the lung research field," said Das.

Das left the research field because she felt that it was unethical. She was breeding mice just to poke and inject them in the name of science wasn't fair and just, she said. She would be open to joining a lab that doesn't involve testing on animals, which is rare itself, but since the majority of her previous work involved animal testing, most labs would expect her to test on animals.

"I do miss immersing myself in the problem-solving aspects of being in the lab and coming up with theories and testing them. What I do not miss are mouse and rat surgeries, breeding, and torturing the poor animals in the name of research. This was one of the main reasons why I left bench research," Dr. Das said.

Now she works as a biology teacher at Alvin High School and Lee College in Baytown. She is going back to school to get her principal's certificate. She enjoys what she does now.



"I have been teaching high school since I was a freshman in college. That is how I paid for college. Teaching just comes naturally to me and in biomedicine, everyone who knew me when I was young

expected me to become a teacher. So, you can say teaching is my calling. After intense work in the biomedical research field with very few holidays or vacations, I enjoyed the 2-month vacation while working at school. It's one of the few perks I get for tolerating all the disrespect from a high



school freshman. I did what I wanted to do in life when I was young, including some wildlife research in India, before I joined the biomedical research field. Now, I just want to do what I enjoy doing," said Das.

An Era Of EnGAGEment

Sutton Wilson
Staff writer

Every now and then, a coach comes along who does more than just coach a team, but also coaches life lessons, mentors his young athletes to strive to become better players and humans. For many football players, Coach James Gage is that mentor for them. As head football coach and athletic director at AHS, Gage been on a mission to improve the football program, and help players on his team.

Gage joined the coaching staff in 2019 as offensive coordinator. However by 2021, he was officially given the reins as Alvin high school's athletic coordinator and football head coach. He said his goal was to leap into action to establish order for the football team and create a standard that would impact every player that came through the field house doors. Gage's plan was to bring back the meaning to the acronym

JPND.

"I enjoy being able to experience watching our players walk through those field house doors as freshmen and leaving as young men as their senior year comes. It's an honor to watch these young men do things they never thought they could do and finding their body's limits is truly special," Gage said.

A lasting piece of advice he lives by and tries to instill in his players, is to live for the moment. In retrospect, high school is a very short amount of time to spend in one place, and he wants each player to maximize their time at AHS. Each player is only guaranteed four years to play a game most have been playing since they were little, and he wants each player to get everything out of the experience he can. He said he wants his players to leave no regrets as soon as their football season

is over, and to provide kids with an opportunity to play a game that can mold them into greatness. Gage's strategy is pretty simple.

"First, coach them hard and love them harder. Second, create expectations. Third, be demanding of those expectations and fourth, be consistent with those demands," Alvin High School Athletic director James Gage said.

"I wanted to make this school and community proud. I wanted to bring pride back to the program and create a culture that people wanted to be a part of," Gage said.

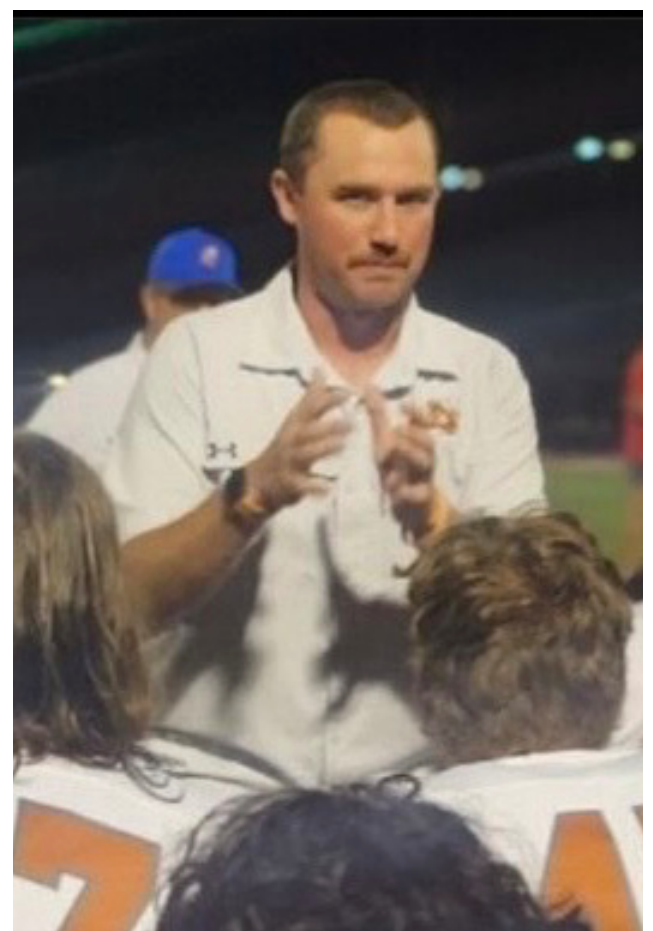
With such an impactful job, Gage has to do a lot of research and leg work.

"I Study film, read a lot of books, visit with coaches from other schools, and have my assistant come up with new ideas. You're either growing or you're stay-

ing the same. Learn what kind of kids we have for next year and build our program around that," Gage said.

When Coach says he loves his players, he really means it. He gets involved with his players and tries to grow each one on an individual basis.

"We built our program on hard work and tough love. We are tough and demanding on our kids, but we love them with all our heart. We don't have a long history of success here so it's about writing our own story and leaving our own legacy. We are working towards starting a tradition of excellence and success," Gage said. "The goals haven't changed. My goal daily is to make Alvin High school and the community of Alvin proud by our work ethic and product we are putting out there for people to see," Gage said.



Head football coach James Gage has spent his time at AHS working hard to improve the culture and expectations of the football team. He has a vision and he is working to fulfill it.

Athletes

Just Dive Right In

Reagan Strban
Staff Writer

Her favorite way to get pumped up for games is by dancing around and having different dance battles with teammates in the locker room before games. Each player is able to relax, laugh, sing and dance before game faces go on and they head out to the court. Their best hype is Megan Thee Stallion music, which feels powerful enough to prepare them for any game or tournament.

Senior Korrigan Wright has been playing volleyball since fifth grade, and has perfected her pre-game routine. She is a Varsity Volleyball all-around Setter. Korrigan has been playing for around 7 years and has been a well deserved Varsity captain for two years. Although she only started playing because of her friends, she found a love for the sport and has played ever since.

“The best advice I’ve ever been given was from my dad,” Korrigan Wright says. He always tells her, “Whether you think you can do it or whether you don’t think that you can do it, you’re always right.”

Korrigan is hardworking not only on the court, but is also an amazing student in the classroom. She shows leadership skills wherever she may be and expresses all of the Jacket pillars everyday.

“She’s very good with her own peers, approachable on and off the court. She’s able to navigate the setting no matter what’s happening. She’s a very reliable kid and she has a great attitude, even when things aren’t going the way they should. She always has a positive attitude and assures her teammates that she has their back,” Head volleyball coach, Amanda

Tacquard said.

Everybody has an idol that they look up to. They contribute as role models, sources of inspiration, or just admiring their hard work. For Korrigan Wright that person is Alvin Jacket Volleyball alumni, Theresa Garza.

“I played with Theresa whenever she was a senior and I was a freshman and she really taught me how to bring out my confidence in my gameplay and taught me how to be a leader for the next three years,” Korrigan Wright says.

While playing high school sports, players will experience many memories that they will cherish forever. For example, Korrigan took a trip to Bastrop for a volleyball tournament her junior year and had the most unforgettable experience as a Lady Jacket. Korrigan and her teammates bonded the whole time



and especially enjoyed hanging out at the bowling alley after eating some pizza.

“My favorite memory happened when we wanted to stay up later than our curfew, so we choreographed a little dance to perform for our coach to make her extend our bedtime an hour later.”



Following A Dream

Miriam Lara Hernandez
Staff Writer

As a kid he had the love for the game, his love for the field had expanded, and soon he was an active in what he loves most: football.

Sutton Wilson tried out for, and joined the team his junior year and grew as a player throughout that time, until he was a senior. Wilson quickly learned, that playing a sport would be a growing process.

During junior year, Wilson had time to improve himself and to get back into his sport as well as improving his mental health, and eventually he became a key player to the team.

“I came here with a lot of appraisal, a lot of people were happy to see me, but then really they were more impressed by the size and that they actually got size other than the person I was,” Wilson said.

Wilson had gotten motivation to continue his dream his sophomore year because of his realization of how he viewed himself and how he saw an open gate to improve as a person.

He said his coaches were a crucial part of this process as they saw potential and

they worked to give him what would pave the way for success.

“I worked hard, over come problems through and breakthroughs. I made spectacular progress, for myself, but I just wasn’t where I quite wanted to be at the end of the season,” Wilson said.



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Alvin High School

—the Clarion

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Leaders

Praying the Way

Allie Najacht
Editor

A room meant to fit a class is filled to the brim with students. Each student with the same belief but a different place to express themselves. But not anymore as this club brings together all Christians.

Christians in the Youth also known as CITY was created in the beginning of 2023 by students Jillian Bates as well as Sarah Howe. The inspiration of CITY came from a shared passion for Christ and the purpose of spreading Christ to everyone around school.

"There were many steps along the way, ranging from conversations, to emails, and meetings with sponsors and AP's, but the biggest and most valued step has been the ability to keep CITY centered on Christ through prayer and trust. Without the Lord every step would have been made impossible and CITY would not be a growing community within Alvin High School," Bates said.

The process of getting the club approved by the school was tedious, but ultimately successful and

has continued to be successful for the past year.

"CITY has remained a constantly growing group, from the growth of numbers to the growth of conversation and community. We are also growing in courage and boldness to go out and spread the love of Christ outside of school, most recently with the addition of weekly Bible Study evenings," Bates said.

The meetings were held in teachers' classrooms at first but as more people began to show up it was moved to the LGI.

"CITY has grown within the last year substantially, from weekly meeting attendance to the growth of conversation and comfortability within the club. The biggest proof of this growth was a meeting we had during October where we got to share our testimonies within small groups, encouraging the members of CITY to step out of their comfort zone and share how God has moved in their lives and called them to Him," Bates said.

Every meeting takes much preparation so that things will run smoothly and members will learn and enjoy their time together.

"Preparing for meetings most often includes a meeting of all four of the CITY Leaders, Thomas Nance, Jacob Robinson, Sarah Howe, and Jillian Bates. During these meetings we discuss our 'series' and the next 8-ish weeks of CITY meetings, so that we have the ability to have a guaranteed direction and are making the most of the members in attendance, as well as intentionally fostering the growth of the community. After these meetings, Jill makes the posters that are then posted on Instagram and we wait in anticipation and excitement for Thursday morning when CITY takes place," Howe said.

The student leaders of this club are constantly working to expand and work to make their club a success by teaching kindness.



CITY club was started by students who wanted to celebrate Christianity with students across the student body.

Leading the Pack Student Leader Emerging

Brenda Gutierrez
Staff writer

From the Silver State, Jackson Morlock is a young man with a shining future in plan. Morlock has been in Junior Reserves Officers Training Corps (JROTC) since his freshman year and has moved up since then. He is now an officer and is always willing to lead others when given the chance. He identifies with many of his peers and this encourages him to continue marching forward. He is also in National Honor Society (NHS) and Technology Student Association (TSA). He tries to volunteer at any given times he's available to have. In TSA, Morlock had placed in 5th at State Finals in creating an innovation. He wants to be an engineer, and he is sure that all his extracurricular activities will benefit

him in some way.

"It should definitely help me get into a good college, from there I can get some good work experience from those extracurriculars so it's all very helpful," student Morlock said.

By being in these extracurriculars, he is able to help himself get into a good state of ease and have good preparation for his future.

"Not fun, but necessary, I mean they help me for the future and I'm willing to do what's needed." Morlock said.

Many of his peers describe him as a good, comedic and helpful person. He's seen helping his friends and also seen joking around with his peers to make light of any situation.

"I'm pretty well-balanced, I have enough time for free time."

Morlock said. In his spare time, Morlock usually catches up with current events, reads articles about his interests and plays common video games.

Being able to balance all these extracurriculars are what many strive for. He's also in the National Merit Scholarship Program, which aligns with being in a good state of ease for preparations of the future. He plans on being an engineer and is looking towards that path.

A student role model, overachiever, and a good friend while also leading in his programs; TSA, NHS and JROTC, Jackson Morlock is a good example of having what it takes to be a student leader and always taking the next big step.



Jackson Morlock practices with his fellow cadets to prepare for future MCJROTC competitions.

Musicians

Marching to Success

Annie Olvera
Staff writer

When trying out for band groups the top band is always the hardest to get, but a freshman managed to make it the first time auditioning.

Freshman Mia Pinete was one of the best trumpets her 8th grade year, and now she's in her high school's top band her first year along with a few others.

"Personally I think it [top band] will help me improve in the future, but at the moment no because I'm still starting out as a freshman and they don't expect me to be as good as a senior," Pinete said. Playing her trumpet especially with others gives Mia a sense of enjoyment and love for the instrument

"My opinion on top band is everything goes at a faster pace, but it is also scary because you're in a room full of players that are more experienced than me and I worry that I'd seem dumb even though it's my first

time experiencing high school and top band," Pinete said.

High school's top bands are really high level and have the best players in that class, mostly juniors and seniors.

"One thing I learned is band consumes a lot of your time and must use the rest of the time wisely," Pinete said. Marching season from the summer all the way to the last game is spent hours with your band, and is a great place to meet new people especially in your freshman year. "I loved my freshman marching season because it has allowed me to make new friends and express myself without being embarrassed,"

Pinete said. The long drives to games and competitions are some times spent with friends, anything can happen on

those buses

"My favorite memory so far is the bus rides to and coming back from places, especially the late night bus rides when coming back from a football game," Pinete said.

Mia has decided her career in the medical field, no band is seen in her future as of now

"As much as I loved it, no, I personally am not going to pursue a music career because I already have plans to be in the medical field. However, my goal is to be good at my instrument and do high achievements so that I can get paid from it but as well receive scholarships and good colleges," Pinete said.



I'm With The Band

Abby Sampson
Staff writer

Drum major Michelle Morales leads the band, and has big plans for the future. As a drum major, she guides the band in rhythm, and to complete the show on beat and with a smile on their faces. Being in band has opened up new opportunities for Morales to be in other activities like; Technology Student Association (TSA), National Honors Society (NHS), Spanish Honor Society (SHS) and Interact. Being in these has advanced social skills, being able to go to social events and get scholarships to brighten her future. Being prepped in leadership to have a bright future ahead.

"A lot of my close friends are in most of the activities I do and the clubs that I'm in, and we help balance each other out. A lot of us take on leadership roles, so we balance out each other in terms of figuring out our responsibilities and seeing what we have to do." Morales said.

Being drum major allows her to get a feel about leading people. This

can propel her to higher positions in her future.

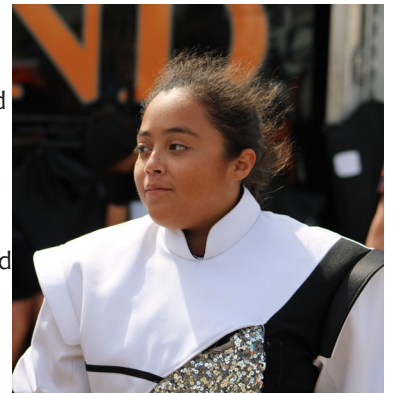
"I have thought of joining Drum Corps International (DCI) and it has opened me up in terms of being more social, and taking up roles in leadership that I have as a drum major in band," Morales said.

Her goal to achieve the position of drum major was a goal she had to get by the end of senior year. She was able to complete her goal by the end of freshman year.

"I looked up to the senior Drum Majors that year and they had restored a lot of the lost faith and confidence I had in myself. The confidence my director gave me pushed me to my limits and eventually earned me the position of Drum Major at the end of my freshman year. Being a Drum Major for the past 2 years so far has been one of the biggest accomplishments I've had during my high school career so far and I am proud of who it has shaped me to be today."

For after high school in her degree plan she wants to attend college and get her degree. "I'm planning to do a dual degree, in chemical engineering and then minor in architecture." Being in these positions can help her climb to the top of her job and push her to do her very best in life.

In a life of leadership, community and band.



In her competition uniform Michelle starts to conduct the band at Freedom Field, leading the band to advancement in UIL.

Strum your heart out

Josie Gertson
Staff Writer

Sitting in her room, she stares at the wall waiting for something, anything, to come to her mind.

Alvin High School sophomore Charlotte Sutton is an energetic musician. She writes her music and performs at various places in Alvin.

"I've sang at Dairyland, Froberg's, and at the FFA district contest, I won for the talent group, and moved on to the second round and got second place," Sophomore Charlotte Sutton said.

Every musician prepares for a show in a different way whether it's a ritual or routine. Charlotte happens to have a simple one.

"I wake up and get my clothes, hair, and makeup ready, then I check my guitar to make sure it's set up and tuned. Throughout the day I can't drink cold water because it messes up my vocal cords, so I typically drink hot tea or room temperature water," Charlotte said.

No matter what career you have, everyone has a reason they started. Charlotte happened to start because of her idol Taylor Swift. Her obses-

sion started when she was little.

"I've been a fan of Taylor Swift for as long as I can remember. One day, while watching her perform on stage, I was inspired by her enjoyment. I've always loved singing and writing, and in that moment, I decided to take up playing the guitar. I realized that if I wanted to pursue this passion, I had to learn, and Taylor Swift played a significant role in motivating me," Charlotte said.

Writing a song can be hard, especially when it's your first.

"The first song I ever wrote, before I even knew how to play the guitar, was called 'If you like me'. I'll always remember this line in it—it's a bit embarrassing but the line went something like, 'If you like me, I can get you free ice cream.' It wasn't my best but I was just starting. I wrote it when I was nine years old, which is when I first started writing. It was essentially like writing in my diary," Charlotte said.

The first song she considered good she wrote in late seventh grade after a track meet. It was called 'Goodbye Forever,'

it wasn't about track but just a song. There were some other songs too. 'Remind me of you' is one of them.

"I went through a poetry phase. I was going through some friendship problems so I wrote it all out on my notes app. When I lack the motivation to sing and play the guitar, I just want to get it out, so I write down my thoughts in my notes app and later use that to turn it into a song. Back then, they weren't the best as songs; they were more like poetry and should probably stay that way," Charlotte said.

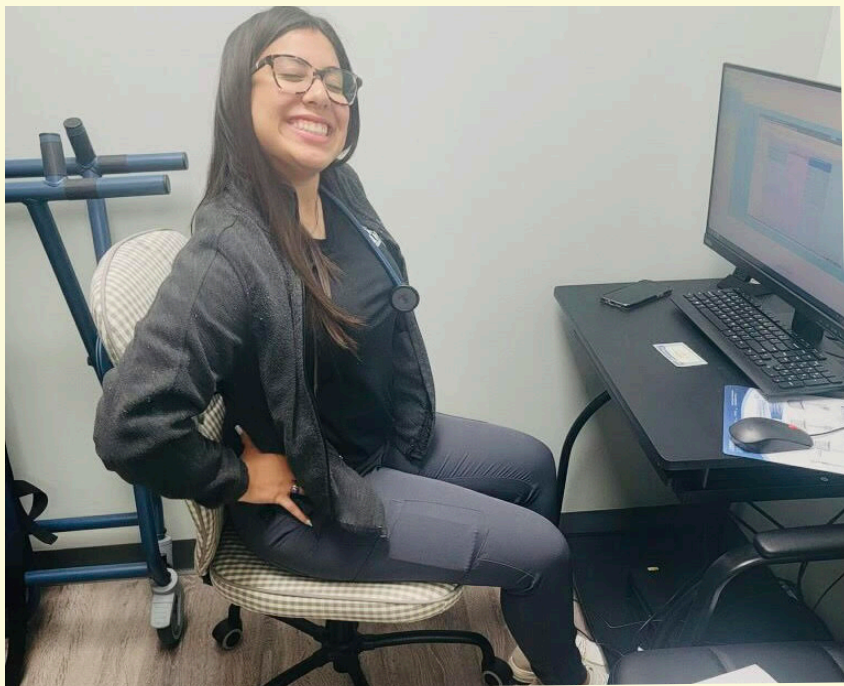
With a variety of songs Charlotte has wrote, she of course has her favorites.

"The song was titled 'Why'd You Have to Go.' Initially, I intended to write about a specific person, but it transformed into a breakup song. I cherish it because, back in fourth or fifth grade, it was on a gloomy rainy day, and I was staring out, creating a vivid piece of writing. One of the lines from the song was, 'Strawberry red lipstick. Pretty pink paper. My old perfume is still stuck in the air,'" Charlotte said.

Charlotte Sutton is a budding singer/songwriter and has big dreams. She currently sings all over town, and any place that she can. She has won talent competitions and also plays guitar.



FUTURE PLANS



A Paw-sitive Career Teen Vet Tech Takes Pride In Her Job

Ellie Jannise
Staff Writer

She walks into a room filled with so many different personalities, they all act differently, react differently, and all have a different problem, but they can't speak. Her job is to help someone who cannot communicate their needs.

Melissa Howard is a veterinary technician at a local shelter. As a veterinary technician or vet tech, her job includes giving shots and immunizations to the animals, checking their vitals, cleaning their kennels and work area, helping prepare for surgeries, and much more. Her job is to assist the vets, making their lives easier and to make things run smoother.

"I love what I do. I'm a huge animal person, so this job is great for me. It's something that I'm passionate about and something I want to do in the future," Howard said.

She works with so many different animals but mainly works with more common animals like cats and dogs, but it's always fun to see the more uncommon animals.

"I normally work with common house pets, but it's always fun to see a unique animal come through. One time someone brought in a reptile; I think it was a lizard. It was just cool to see them since I don't typically see them where I work," Howard said.

Working with animals is something she really enjoys. She takes pride in knowing that she can take care of the animals and help them in any way possible because they can't speak up for themselves when they need help, or when something is wrong.

"Animals rely on us to help them. They cannot communicate what the problem is and how they need help, so it's our job

to help them. I'm glad I can help them be more comfortable," Howard said.

Howard wants to be a Veterinarian when she is older. It is something she has dreamed of since she was younger and something she grew even more passionate about since being a vet tech. This job is preparing her in so many ways that just a class couldn't do.

"This job is preparing me for my future, it's giving me a head-start and a pathway to get started. It makes it easier for me to become a vet because I would be used to the environment and I would be more comfortable since I have that hands-on experience. I'm excited about the next steps in my career. This is one of the most important stepping stones for achieving my dream," Howard said.

VET TECH

A veterinary technician or vet tech is someone who takes an animal's vital signs, draws their blood, gathers medical histories, provides emergency first aid, and collects specimens.



Assist vets
Hands on experience
Skills to become a vet
Certification available
through AISD CTE program



Endless PAWsibilities

Tatum Peters
Staff Writer

One Click Away From Transforming His Future

Allowing his creativity to illuminate, junior Johan Pacheco has picked up the hobby of photography. Finding his passion for photography he has gathered friends and took hundreds of photos around the Alvin area.

Pacheco is enrolled in the photography class taught by Claire Chauvin, and has gotten to expand his knowledge on photoshop while enjoying the people in his class. One of Pacheco's favorite projects was called masters of black and white.

"We got to choose a photographer and take pictures inspired by their work. I ended up choosing three students: Brenda Gutierrez, Alan Reyes, and Ana Lopez", Pacheco said.

He explained that he chose Reyes because he is a close friend while he chose Gutierrez and Lopez because he liked their work and wanted to talk about it with

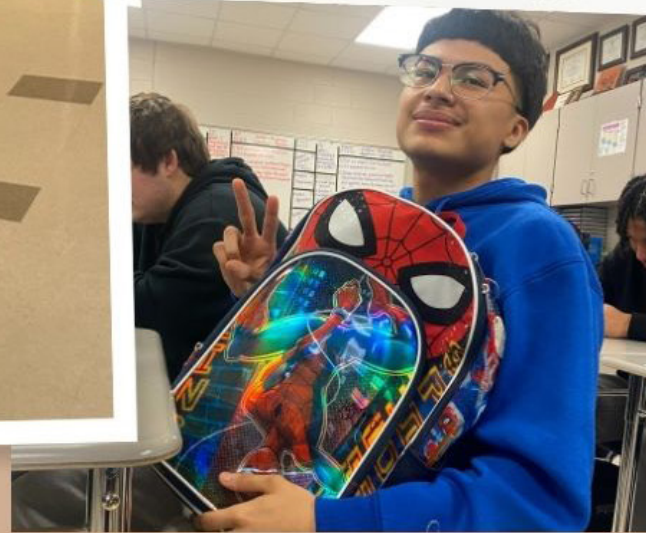
them.

While he loved the project Pacheco's said his favorite memory is being able to learn with friends. He enjoyed getting to know how to work a camera with friends. Pacheco has taken his skills outside the classroom, taking pictures at school events, around the area, and taking pictures with friends for fun. Pacheco described his favorite picture he took as

"Two people, a man and a woman hugging with a lit up green tree, beautiful red and white colors on the tree as the background," Pacheco said.

Pacheco wants to keep taking pictures as a hobby and hopes to make people happy with his work. Leading him to take more photos in the future he hopes to make some side money while still focusing on his future education and career.





Cartoon Character Chaos



Bringing Back A Bit of Childhood

Many students find some joy in using cute character backpacks that were popular during childhood years. These bags bring a bit of nostalgia to each day as they carry the bags from class to class. From Spiderman to Ninja Turtles, these fun backpacks make everyone smile. "I chose a Lightning McQueen backpack because it is my favorite movie, and I thought it would be funny," senior Alexis Vega said.

