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EVERY DAY STORIES ABOUT EVERYDAY STUDENTS AT ALVIN HIGH

REAL STORIES
REAL PEOPLE



Leaders

Leading the Charge: TSA Leader Excels

Jadyn Gomez
Staff Writer

A quick and loud tapping sound quiets the room. The gavel is hit by junior Katheryee Islas, the newly elected president of the Technology Student Association (TSA).

TSA is a club here at Alvin High School where motivated students can enter a number of events related to engineering, architecture, design and many more. Competitions are held at a regional, state, and national level. Regional competitions are held around February at Shadow Creek High School and State competitions are held in Fort Worth, TX around April.

What initially drew Islas to become a member of TSA in her freshman year was her desire to, "get to know more people," Islas said.

Islas has been a part of the STEM program for some time now, for she has taken a copious amount of the engineering classes offered here at AHS.

"I saw myself more attached to engineering in general for a long time and so I figured since TSA is an engineering based program two birds one stone," Islas said.

TSA isn't just for engineering, it intersects all kinds of different fields.

"You can do events such as fashion design or music production," Islas said.

The particular events that she has taken with are game board design during her freshman year, which she qualified for state as a sub-in, and in her sophomore year she competed in extemporaneous speech, prepared presentation, the lone star test, and CAD engineering.

CAD engineering is

made an impact on her relationships and gaining knowledge.

"I've learned perspectives on how different engineering fields work," Islas said. As well as how "people interact with one another," Islas said.

Kathynee Islas, president of TSA, fondly looks back on memories made at state and regional competitions.

"It was a really big bonding moment within



an event where "you're given a prompt and then must design a 3D model," Islas said.

She once again qualified for state competition, in the Lone Star state test event.

"I will be a part of a team event called fashion design, as well as extemporaneous speech and prepared presentation," Islas said.

Being a part of TSA has

the group," Islas said.

Islas goals for her presidency to influence others to join and be active members of TSA.

"Get TSA out there in the school so more people can learn about it as well as show that engineering is not as intimidating as it may seem," Islas said.

Excellence in Action

Natalie Horton
Co-Editor In Chief

Standing in front of her peers, she takes a deep breath as she begins the first meeting of the school year. Nerves and excitement rush through her body as Rylyn Hobbs takes on her newest leadership role at Alvin High School. Years of academic excellence and leadership have brought her to this moment.

Senior Rylyn Hobbs is this year's National Honor Society president. Being the leader of one of the most prestigious extracurriculars on campus, Hobbs holds many responsibilities to ensure her fellow classmates get the most out of what NHS has to offer.

"As the president, I'm in charge of overseeing things like scheduling and budgeting," Hobbs said. "I also get to facilitate both officer meetings and meetings with the entire club body, as well as make connections between our organization and service organizations in the community. The officers and sponsors are largely how we get service projects as a club," Hobbs said.

To get her position, Hobbs had to go through an application process at the end of last school year. This included an essay, paperwork, and an interview with the previous officers. From

there they selected her for her new role as president. Though this decision may have been unexpected for her, Hobbs still takes it in stride and continues to be excited about serving her community.

"I do enjoy being the president; it's nice to have a decision-making role that focuses on the good of the community as a mission rather than an extraneous consequence," Hobbs said. Alongside her other leadership roles, like being one of the cheer captains, Hobbs has made many sacrifices of her own time for the betterment of her activities and community. Helping those around her is always one of her biggest priorities.

"Being extra involved is a little exhausting, I don't usually get home very early on the weekdays because of my commitments to volunteer opportunities, but I think that those

experiences are well worth it and that helping the community is always fruitful," Hobbs said. Being the NHS president has taught Hobbs many worthwhile lessons like learning to prioritize what needs to be done amongst her many extracurriculars. By overloading her schedule, she has taught herself discipline, and has found a new appreciation for all that she is involved in. As a leader she hopes to emulate all of the things that her mentors have taught her and continue connecting with the younger kids that look up to and recognize her out in the community.

"Being involved in my community has brought me so many blessings and an appreciative outlook in my life that I hope to bring with me to new communities as I get older and further out into the world," she said.



Twirling with Triumph

Abigail Sampson
Staff Writer

Leading the guard to victory, senior Brenda Gutierrez is also the Co-Captain of Color Guard, Public Relations officer for Interact, and member of NHS.

As captain of the rifle section, Gutierrez has been on the Color Guard team since her sophomore year.

"I feel like they are my second family," Gutierrez said. "I realize that it is my passion, and something I always want to continue doing. It shows me that I am more capable than what I think

I am. The team feels like a whole family. And that I'm an older sister to all these people."

She loves to be with people and be social. She enjoys going out with friends and has seen color guard as a way that has strengthened her social skills.

"It's helped me grow more social with people. I'm able to have the skills I need for color guard and transfer them to daily life as well. I'm able to grow more socially, it helps me do what I do and be proud of what I can do," she said.

Being in clubs has allowed Gutierrez to grow

and connect with more people that she would have not been able to before. She is also able to teach those that are younger in color guard.

"Being in my position, I teach them and I'm able to help them and give them advice, in general as well," Gutierrez said. "It's like being able to help a younger me, I get to guide them and lead them. Those who do want to be in color guard, I'm really able to help them."

But not only has Color Guard grown her social skills, but it has also helped her grow as a leader.

"There was a competition not going well and I had to give a pep talk after a performance and everyone was down on their luck, and I had realized that I needed to become more of a leader and not just a buddy," she said. "That moment made me realize there was more than connections with each other."

With Winter Guard coming up, Gutierrez is looking forward to interacting with other Color Guards and being able to experience the rush of performing.



Classroom Dreams

Elliott Jannise
Assistant Editor
She sits

down on the colorful carpet in her spot, reading a picture book and showing the pictures around to ensure everyone can see them. She lets the children talk about the book before giving them an assignment and before getting on the bus to head to her fifth period class.

Bethany Lozano is a junior in the education program at Alvin High School, which allows her to visit Passmore Elementary every Tuesday and Thursday and teach a lesson. This helps teach the students lesson planning and how to communicate with kids.

Throughout the week, Lozano plans the lessons for her fourth-grade class. She works to ensure that the kids understand the lesson and that it is engaging. "I like planning the lessons and thinking of fun ways to communicate with the kids. It's a little stressful to talk to them, but

something I enjoy and look forward to every Tuesday and Thursday," Lozano said.

Lozano said that the kids are so fun to talk to and they love having a break from the traditional lessons that their teachers teach.

"The kids are genuinely so sweet, and I love to work with them. I love the bright smiles on the kids. They're always so excited to see me. One of the lessons I did

was I read a book to the students and had them," Lozano said. In the future, Lozano wants to be a teacher and work with kids. This is a big step in achieving this goal. With the lesson planning and interacting with the kids, this is a huge advantage in the future.

"I'm able to gain in the classroom experience which will help me to learn by example from my mentor teacher," Lozano said.



Putting Compassion Into Action

Brenda Gutierrez
Staff Writer

Being able to help others and explain why there's 4 short legs instead of 2 is what Abigail Tijerina plans to do. She's always had a passion for helping others ever since she was little and does not plan on stopping anytime soon. Everybody deserves happiness and for Tijerina, her happiness is helping others.

"I feel like in a way, I've always wanted to be helpful whether it be with animals or people, but helping animals called to me. By being a vet, I'm still be able to help both people and animals by seeing the bond people share with their pets," Tijerina said.

She has always been nurturing and wanted to be a veterinarian to take care of animals in need. "I go to a veterinarian class at JB Hensler, and we have opportunities to help with animals, we do different hands-on assignments and they're always great to take a peek as to what I'm getting into," Tijerina said.

JB Hensler is a great school pro-



gram to truly invest in pursuing whatever career people want to be in. It gives a great opportunity for many to have an insight on what they're going to be doing in the future they want to pursue. Tijerina truly loves partaking in this program and she is constantly speaking about what her class will be doing in the future.

"Since I was a child, I've always loved the idea of working with and helping animals. The fact that I'm able to pursue that career is really important to me," Tijerina said.

The calling to help critters was brought by a memory of her childhood dog, Daisy. She was a playful, sweet dog, that passed due to old age and Abby wanted to help others soothe pain for

their pets as well, pets were not just animals but family.

"Daisy had a big heart, she was sweet and really playful and she would help me a lot through childhood by being silly," Tijerina said.

She's constantly willing to jump at the opportunity to help animals, whether it be a family member's or her friend's.

Other than planning to become a veterinarian, she also is a busy person. Tijerina is also the secretary for the Alvin High School Interact organization, an active member in National Honor Society, and is also lieutenant for the color guard program.

Capturing the Action: The Student Behind the Lens

Rebakah Geurrero
Staff Writer

Lights, camera, action! No movie is complete without the crew behind the scenes. Credits roll and line after line of editors, cameramen, and special effects artists envelop the big screen. While actors may get the glory and the fame, those behind the scenes argue that their job is the most fun.

Senior Connor White is one of the main people behind the scenes at Alvin High School. Working for the school, White films football games and other school events. His 4 years here have given him the skills necessary to create great content—with the school or in his freetime.

"I like making short films and I wanted to learn how to edit. A/V class was the only course teaching editing, and when I saw a video about it, the teacher looked really funny and interesting so I wanted to join," White said. Mr.

Fox, the 'funny looking teacher' as White calls him, teaches Audio Visual Productions to all grades, and is loved by his students and co-workers.

This interest in film wasn't created in high school. In middle school, White and friends created their own short films, inspired by videos they'd see online. What started as a fun hobby became a passion for him.

"We have a lot of fun during production. All of the bloopers and stuff is definitely the best part," White said. "Memories with friends sparked a love for the art." Even when doing assignments, White always adds a carefully crafted blooper reel.

White's favorite assignment over the years is his Mafia Christmas film.

"That film is my favorite because I enjoyed all the fun things I got to do

off set," White said. "I bought, like, 40 candy canes and we ate them all; it was just really fun overall."

Students learn more than film in Mr. Fox's class. Attentive students like White learn about teamwork and cooperation. "The main thing I learned from working with others is that working with people you like benefits how the project turns out," White said. As a senior, White has been looking toward the future, hoping to pursue a career in the A/V industry. Hoping to go to the University of Texas, White plans to earn a film degree. Inspired by his teachers and time in A/V class, White has the tools to carry out his big ideas for his future.

"I'd like to do film, but if not I'll be working operating cameras at stadiums," White said. With the support of many classmates that greatly enjoy his work,

White has a bright future on the big screen. Well, the credits of the big screen.



Personalities

The Alaskan Trip Of A Lifetime

Zoe Martin
Staff Writer

Student Details exciting and scary trip

The whole week, the sun never set. They lived in constant light. Because they took a trip to Alaska. Freshman Allison Guel and her family experienced a trip of a lifetime.

Allie's dad happened to be working in Alaska so her whole family got to take a trip to Alaska. They needed black out curtains since the sun never set.

The trip started off with Allie, her mom, dad, step mom, and step sister arriving in Alaska (via flying of course). They separated the trip into two for the family, the other trip being with her step brothers and the guys in the family.

The first day of the trip was kind of just to chill, they got to meet all of allie's dad's work friends and relaxed. The second day they went fishing and drove to a glacier and hiked a mountain,

"It was probably the prettiest thing I've seen in person."

She also was very proud of her fishing experience since she doesn't go often

"I caught the biggest fish out of everyone, even my dad and all his

friends because i'm the best," she said. The third day was also calmer, Allie's dad was at work so she and her family kinda went and walked around the town, which is called Valdez.

They arrived on Monday and they quickly learned that every Monday and Wednesday they have a tsunami alarm, but it's just a test. Allie's step sister stared, joking around and saying, "What if there was actually a tsunami while we're here."

And then, later that night, there was a 7.5 magnitude earthquake that hit under water, however they didn't feel it, but still had to evacuate.

"We had to get up at 7 in the morning and evacuate, and it was kinda scary... no actually, it was really scary," Allie said.

The next day was Thursday, and first they went fishing at a lake called "Blueberry Lake", but after they went fishing on the coast. Friday they went on a cruise and saw puffins

While on the cruise, they saw a really big glacier and a piece fell off, there was a really big splash and some of



the Alaskan water got on allie and she said it was very very cold. They saw lots and lots of animals and glaciers throughout the cruise. Saturday was the last day there and they were heading home, the drive to the airport was three hours since they had to

drive around a huge mountain, but on the drive they all watched two of "The Purge" movies to stay entertained.

"It was probably the funnest week of my life and I would love love love to go back," Allie said.

Sparks of Interest

Kilee Martin
Staff Writer

In freshman year, a young boy named Bentley Hooper discovered his passion for welding, a craft that would soon define his high school experience. The best part, he says, is playing with fire, a thrilling and captivating aspect of welding that keeps him engaged. However, not everything is perfect; dealing with the other people around him sometimes proves to be the worst part of the job.

One memorable incident involved getting burnt from a hot piece of metal someone left out, a painful reminder of the hazards that come with the craft. Despite such challenges, he finds immense joy in collab-

orative projects. One of his fondest memories is building a fire pit with his friends and then enjoying its warmth, a project that brought them closer together and provided a tangible reward for their hard work.

Among his many creations, a rose made from wire and spoons stands out. This delicate piece not only showcases his technical skills but also his creativity and ability to transform ordinary materials into something beautiful. This young welder's journey is marked by a blend of challenges and triumphs, each experience fueling his passion for the craft.



Creative Vision: Sees the World Through Art

Bianca Cervantez
Staff Writer

The deadline is near. The artist picks up her pencil and begins drawing the images in her head, with all the intricate details placed perfectly. She begins to stress about the time, but the worry dissipates as soon as the pencil hits the paper, bringing her imagination to life. Once finished, her art seems no longer a piece of paper, but imagination coming to life. The artist stands proudly as she knows how much work was put into it.

Since she could remember, senior Alyssa Grow has always been fascinated with all things art-related. She is a self-taught artist currently taking AP 3-D Design for her senior year and even

got a 5 on last year's AP 2-D Design test.

"I am really passionate about art, and I definitely love doing it. It is something I've always come back to," senior Alyssa Grow said.

Grow's favorite art style is illustration whether it is doodling or a complete piece she has finished in class.

"I like doing illustrations that let me explore the ideas in my head," Grow said.

Grow's art corresponds to whatever inspires her at the time whether it's music or another form of external art. She also loves to explore the ideas of femininity, as most of her portfolio from last year reflected them.

"I love drawing feminine figures and graceful poses and that kind of stuff. You can see it in my AP 2-D portfolio last year. My sustained investigation was about femininity, the power that is in it, and exploring what it means as a whole," Grow said.

Grow's favorite piece from her art career was a drawing she did for Alvin High School's Momento Mori Showcase last year, which explores the ideas of life and death.

"My drawing included people in a Renaissance pose in the sky and I liked exploring drawing multiple figures at once and learning how to render that," Grow said.

Today, Grow is taking an AP 3-D Design class

that challenges her to work with different mediums than she is used to working with.

"It has really challenged me to change what I'm usually comfortable with," Grow said.

In that class, she is working on a sculpture

of hands that is inspired by the Greek myth of Midas and His Golden Touch. She is challenged by this because of how anatomical it is and how intricate the details

are with a 3-D sculpture, which is way different than drawing on a piece of paper.

Her advice to others thinking about taking art is to not feel discouraged when you feel like you aren't making progress, because every piece is

progress. She believes that you are always improving, even if you aren't seeing the results you want to see.

"There's a saying that practice makes perfect, but I feel like in art it's more applicable to hear that practice makes progress, no matter what you do. Your art doesn't have to be perfect in other people's eyes because you're not making art for others, you're making art for yourself," Grow said.

Grow plans to go to college and continue art. She hopes to pursue a career in graphic design to allow her to live out her passion and stay creative.



Leaders

Hopping To New Heights Junior Shares Frog Interest

Miriam Lara
Staff Writer

From poison dart frogs to tree frogs, her dedication to amphibians is an inspiring blend of science, love, and responsibility. This croaking rainforest of frogs has been apart of junior Camie Peters' life since seventh grade.

Peters has been preserving these creatures inside her home with special care and factors such as humidity, food, water and heat all in separate tanks. Peters has been collecting these animals since 7th grade and has studied all these frogs in depth.

"Frogs are really fun pets to have," Peters said. "They hop around and have really fun patterns and colors which makes them really special but not all frogs are easy to take care of because some of them have other needs, if these needs are not met they will not thrive and live for long."

Peters has taken it upon herself to investigate all the characteristics and features about these frogs and annotates it down in her research book, both for fun and for reference, noting the frogs needs, care and adaptations.

"In my book, there's a lot of facts and I always write them down, and it's really all information on everything about the frogs like where they originated, what their scientific names are, how big they get,

what they eat and looking at their pictures," Peters said.

Peters has opted to adopt many of her frogs from places such as Petco and PetSmart, but has also collected some from the wild and raised them in aquatic habitats adapting the habitats with coconut moss and humidity factors.

"I make sure they are always fed because they can get skinny really quick and die. You have to have all the right temperatures, all the right humidity in the tanks and that's about it. They don't get sick often, but if they do, I don't know what they have but sometimes they stop eating and you have to put them in separate tanks so you can feed them and you have to make sure they always eat," Peters said.

While the care of frogs is intensive, Peters enjoys the fact she doesn't have to spend much time cleaning after her frogs.

"They are not dirty animals, they are not smelly animals, and you don't have to give them attention and you don't really touch frogs," Peters said.

Frogs are special since they breathe and drink from their skin which overall makes them really delicate and puts these animals at risk because they are meant to be kept

in the tanks. Each type has its own special characteristics.

"Poison dart frogs in the wild are poisonous, but not in captivity because what makes them poisonous is their diet in the wild. So if they get eaten, then the animal dies. Basically they become poisonous from their diet in the wild, and they have a different diet because I keep them in captivity. I feed them mealworms." Peters said.

Out of all her frogs, there is only one who is really special to Peters due to the time together and the frog's personality named Kimo. Kimo has been with Peters since she was a little frog.

"I've always liked Kimo the most, since she's really nice. If I open her cage she'll hop on my hand; she's cute," Peters said.

Frogs have stood out more than any other animal to Peters due to their diversity and uniqueness, their color and long tongues, Peter said. They are just intriguing creatures, and Peters has always been interested in them.

"Well frogs are a sign of luck, they're fun, and they're cute. I like the color green and they stick their tongues out, too. I just like frogs," Peters said.

A Little Miku To Mull Over

Tatum Peters
Co-Editor In Chief

Walking down the hallway hearing all the clinks and clanks classmates can already guess who is walking by. Coming in with 12 keychains on their backpack, Senior Zephyr Foster is known for their interest in the vocaloid artist Miku.

Vocaloid music is a widely used voice synthesizing software created around the 2000s that allows anyone to make vocals from their computer. One of the many vocaloid artists Miku was created in 2007. Gaining a huge following becoming one of the most iconic vocaloid artists with her unique long blue hair and music style. One of Miku's biggest fans was made the day Zephyr went to Tokyo X in Houston. Tokyo X is an anime convention held every year and that's when he bought his first item in his collection.

"The first one that I got was in June or July 2023 at Tokyo X in Houston. She was like \$35 and she was so cool, and I was super excited about her", Foster said. Ever since then Foster has been adding to their collection everything from posters to figures to cars Foster has a huge collection. "I have a Mikuobile. It's my car, and it's just coated with Miku stickers and like little Miku stuff all on the inside, too. Yeah, and then I put

Miku on my letterman and I have a Miku car spot," Foster said.

Miku really started being a huge impact when Foster was between freshmen and sophomore year,

"I remember she was in my art final for freshman year, so it actually picked up as like a genuine fixation. The summer between my freshman and sophomore year, which was 2022", Foster said.

Something that deepened the fixation was Project Sekai: colorful stage, a rhythm game that features Miku's songs and other vocaloids music. The game is similar to any piano tap game where you press the key on beat except in Colorful stage it is more advanced. On certain notes you have to either hold down, swipe up, swipe to the sides, or quickly tap trying to keep up with the song.

"It's actually a little bit complicated to explain. They have 20 original characters like for the game itself, and then six vocaloids with Miku being the face of the game, and then they have old vocaloid songs that they have in the game, and they do covers with the original characters of old vocaloid songs, and then they also commission the artists who made those vocaloid songs for new ones, specifically for the game and

the characters in the game. so you get to play all of those with a little rhythm chart, and then there's also a part of it where it's a Gacha system, you can put cards of the characters, including all of the vocaloids, and then you can use them to get points for events," Foster said.

While Project Sekai isn't the only game Miku is a part of, it is the most recognizable. "There's also Project Diva that I have on my switch is really cool. Project Sekai isn't the first Miku game, but it was the one that blew up. There were other ones, but those are the two that I play," Foster said.

Miku is a very multi talented artist with music, games, movies, and her own books she has inspired a lot of people.

"I love her most for the music and how vastly different it can be. But also, there are a bunch of rhythm games too. That's initially how it got me hooked, because the rhythm games had music and I would listen to the music all the time, and then it would give me extra hooked because I do the best with auditory stimulation. There's games, there's music. there's art, there's figures. It's versatile. It's really cool.", Foster said.



Junior Camie Peters finds joy in frogs. She has several pet frogs and spends a lot of time learning as much as she can.



Athletes

Sprinting to the Line

Harvey Real
Staff Writer

Slade Harvey is a member of the Track and Field team for Alvin High School. Alvin Track is one of the hardest working sports to get to. People like Slade are hard working to get to this opportunity.

Slade has been doing this since he was six years old and he does Track because it was his passion. Track works by running a specific amount of yards until someone finishes 1st place. You will need to be extremely fast to win a medal for 1st place.

"The more I train, the more I realize that it's not about the medal, it's about the journey and the person I become," Junior Slade Harvey

said.

Slade is a positive guy with a great sense of humor and very kind with other people. His teachers like him because of how smart he is getting his work done. He is also one of the friendliest people I ever know.

"The only true limitation is the one you set for yourself," Harvey said.

Slade Harvey had won approximately 20 medals from running on different track fields. Slade was motivated to join track and field to see his true potential and to see what he could get out of it. With those medals and motivation he must be extremely fast. His best memory of track

was winning his first ever highschool medal and his goals were to do track in college. He prepares for his track games by warming up and running while listening to his music and being really confident.



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Racing Towards The Finish Line Junior Celebrates Cross Country Medals

Josie Gertson
Assistant Editor

All he can hear is yelling. People are screaming at him to run faster, that he's almost there, to not look back, but he can't hear any of them. He's too focused on staying in the lead.

Elijah Chaffin, a Junior in the class of 2026, had officially become our cross country JV district champion after working so hard for 2 years.

"The route of the run at district was very weird so I could never tell the placing of the runners from my vantage point," Cross Country coach Mikiyta Stepney said. "When Elijah passed me after miles 1 and 2, he was behind the runner from Pearland. I could tell he was ahead of his time because of my stop watch. I just kept screaming out 'STAY ON HIM ELIJAH. DON'T DIE OUT!' Basically meaning, stay as close to the runner as possible, but don't exert all of your energy. For the final mile, Coach Piper and I moved to the finished line waiting for everyone to come through. Before Elijah arrived, I kept telling Coach Piper, 'I hope he didn't die out. I really hope he didn't die out'. When Elijah came around the corner he was beating the Pearland kid by a large amount. I threw my backpack off my back and I yelled while jump-

ing up and down 'HE'S IN FRONT!!! Let's go Elijah! Let's Go! Finish Elijah! Finish!' Coach Piper and I were so proud. It was a great heartwarming experience for everyone that day."

Stepney said that Elijah is a natural born runner. Running just comes naturally to him from a young age. He pushes himself and whoever runs with him to their limits.

"I first started running my seventh grade year at Fairview Junior High. I joined Cross Country because I took the name literally thinking it would train me to run across a country. Though I stayed because I enjoyed running, and me and my friends were the only ones on the team. So we just practiced and had fun on our runs," Chaffin said.

Stepney said that Elijah enjoys running with his close friends on the team and having their support. She thinks having them with him and them being silly together and supporting each other motivates him way more than she can.

"A few things motivate me depending on what I want to do, or what people expect me to do. For example in cross country what motivates me is knowing I have the chance to win. I just need to put in the effort. But I

know I'm also expected to perform a certain way (like getting a better time), even though that may not be my focus," Chaffin said.

Chaffin said that one of his favorite parts of meets besides winning is the bus ride. The atmosphere is always so energetic and happy.

"For game days, I have to wake up really early and join my team at school, so we can get ready and pack up for the drive on the bus. Depending on how far the meet is we'll usually sleep, and once we arrive we unload the bus, set up tents, and start warming up. On practice days we still get up early just not as early as our meet days. We warm up by jogging a mile on the track then we stretch before starting our workout," Chaffin said.



Athletes

Kicking It: Senior Reflects on Four Years of Perseverance

Merlen Fierro
Staff Writer

Senior Rocio Garcia really enjoys playing soccer, she has learned new skills like speed running and passing, she has met many new friends. She has been playing soccer for 4 years. She is now in varsity. Her cousin inspired her to play soccer because she would watch her. Rocio wants to keep playing. Her long term plans are playing in the university, in front of everyone.

"I started playing soccer in middle school and found out that I had a strong liking towards it, so I decided to continue to play it my freshman year," Garcia said.

Rocio said she takes her soccer game very seriously and is very focused when she is on the field. She never plays around.

What she dislikes most about soccer is the possibility of getting injured. She has had some bad experiences in the field, one of the worst experiences is spraining her ankle, she had to use crutches and wasn't able to play for a while. When they would have a game she had to sit during it and support her team, which is not what she wanted she wanted to play.

"I don't like getting injured because I can't play anymore for a while," Garcia said.

Rocio plays the defense position, she prevents the opposing rest of

the team attacking. Lessons she has learned from being a defense are learning how to strike and block the ball and movements to defend herself. She practices with her friends. They are the ones who help her out and teach her.

"I like being defense because i can prevent many goals," Garcia said.

One of her best memories is when her and her team won a tournament, it was her first ever tournament they had won. During the game the weather was really bad. It was raining so it was really freezing and very cold. The tournament they won was called the Panthers Kickoff Classic.

"It was really awful during the game but it ended good because we won," Garcia said.



From Behind the Plate Softball Player Sets Her Eyes On Future

Gabrielle Rodriguez
Staff Writer

She raises the bat and takes a deep breath in. the pressure is on as she feels everyone's eyes on her. Her eyes were locked on the ball, with a strong swing her bat connected. She urged her legs to move her to the next base.

Isabella Knight, a freshman at AHS, and a player on the school's softball team. Isabella used to be a gymnast but craved a change of pace. She thought gymnastics was far too slow and her coaches and peers were far too judgemental, she wanted something more adrenaline pumping. Using the athleticism and courage she gained from gymnastics as a cornerstone, Isabella has been a softball player for the past nine years. She enjoys the life of catcher and infield. Isabella has always been interested in softball, she likes that it's an outdoor sport that allows her to tan. She

also thinks that softball is just better than gymnastics all together.

"On the field I'm fierce and confident," Isabella said. "In my mind I always repeat "I need to win."

Isabella is on the school's softball team and a softball team outside of school. In fact she recently made junior varsity on the AHS team which is currently her biggest accomplishment. Isabella plans to utilize her experience on both teams and go pro. Her dream is to take on softball as a career. Isabella is aiming to be on one of her dream teams, Oklahoma or UT Texas.

"We're a good team and we uplift each other," Isabella said. "We have fun on the field and lift each other up when we make a bad play."

Isabella believes a pro to playing softball is to have fun with your friends, and enjoy catching the attention

of people when you're on the field. Though the pros are enticing, Isabella also says that there are cons. Losing games and letting your emotions take the reins is what Isabella struggles with. She finds herself getting into altercations with other teams and sometimes her coaches, but she grows from her experiences. She learned to leave it all on the field.

"My favorite baseball player?" said Isabella, "Definitely Jeremy Peña."



Elianna Navarro
Staff Writer

Hoop Dreams: Bringing Heart Hustle to the Court

With only 5 seconds on the clock in the final quarter. Melanie Cantu is making her way down the court. Brushing past people, and pushing all while listening to the crowd cheer. She finally makes her way to the basket, She takes a step back, its all quiet now, everyones holding there breath. The only thing everyone hears is the final bell; everyone's one the edge of their seats. Few seconds later to some felt like minutes, the ball finally made it into the basket and the crowd roars with excitement.

Melanie Cantu is a sophomore on the Alvin Highschool Varsity Basketball Team. Cantu shared her love for basketball from her brother, who has also played in high school.

When Cantu moved from junior varsity to varsity she was in awe, she was excited to play, but as well as nervous. She understood that she

would work harder for herself and her team.

"I'm excited that i got moved up but I feel like i still need some improvement," Cantu said.

Being a student athlete has its challenges. Cantu sometimes struggles with the involvement of both, sometimes putting school above basketball and sometimes basketball above school but when asked how she deals with it.

"I always remember to make time for myself and check myself when i realize one is above the other," Cantu said.

Cantu understands the struggles of having worries about her worth in basketball, and she's always working to improve herself. For her to keep her motivation in the somewhat struggles with basketball she has her support system this includes her family and best friend. To her, no matter where her games are at someone will show up for her and



even after games she asks for advice on what she needs to improve.

Cantu plans to continue with basketball after high school, she wants to make a D1 school, "probably A&M or UT." "My best advice is don't let people tear you down keep going, at the end of the day its your mind not someone else's," Cantu said.



Teachers

Be A Guiding Light

Gabrielle Rupe
Staff Writer

A dedicated woman, a devoted counselor. Attentive, kind, safe, open. A place to go if anyone needs it.

August Lee is the 504 coordinator and counselor at Alvin High School. She offers safety and comfort to anyone willing, her office like another home to many.

"Research shows that people need a certain amount of affection, and you never know if they get that at home," she said, explaining why she always offers hugs.

Lee pays attention to the students. She offers help and comfort instead of the solid yet visible wall found in so many school staff.

"When I was your age, I struggled. I don't want to add on to y'all's stress," she said.

Boundaries are kept, yet she always manages to get on the kids' levels. She behaves and treats students as what they are; human.

"I've always asked if kids need a hug, and I tell them that I love

them. Some kids really need it."

Quite a few students like to go to her office during lunch to talk and hang out, enjoying the security and self-love atmosphere she develops in her office.

"Heck yeah, I love it. Talking to and hanging out with and gossiping with students is the only reason I'm here," she said.

She truly listens to the kids and loves participating in conversation.

"I'm genuinely interested in what y'all have to say. It's fun, and I always learn something."

Ms. Lee is able to connect with students on a level that most can't.

"I think I'm able to be this way because of the struggles I faced in my childhood," she said.

We know how, but why? Why put forth so much effort, so much dedication and attention?

"I want y'all to be and do better than me when I was your age," she said.



504 Coordinator August Lee is always ready and willing to assist students any way she can. For her, it's personal, she says, because she understands the struggles teens face.

From Grammar To Granny Squares

Annie Olvera
Staff Writer

Kelley Smith is an English teacher for the school, but on the side she started the crochet club as a creative and fun way to evolve her crochet skills with others. Currently the club joins in her classroom on Thursday afternoons where they learn as a group.

"I enjoyed learning to crochet and knew several students and teachers also crochet. I thought it would be a different kind of club that is creative and where we can learn from each other," Smith said.

Smith started crocheting last Christmas as she was influenced by the people around her. Her club has done the same to other beginner crocheters as they were influenced to try a new medium.

"I used one of the Woobles kits - the rainbow narwhal - and followed the videos and directions to learn," Smith said

There are so many easy ways to learn to crochet, for example the Woobles kit; a fun and simple way for begin-

ners to make cute animals.

"It's [crocheting] creative and if I'm working on small projects I can take with me on a car trip or airplane. Plus I can put on an audiobook at the same time," Smith said.

Crocheting is a relaxing hobby for many as it provides comfortable stimulation while listening to music or watching TV.

"I saw one of my students crocheting in class and just thought it would be a neat thing to learn," Smith said.

Simple things can influence people, and starting to embrace that new found hobby is a warming experience. Introducing your hobby can be a great way to find friends or involve yourself in a welcoming group.

"Right now we are making bookmarks and coasters to donate to the Alvin Public Library and 1820 Coffee House. Next semester we are going to make baby blankets to donate (we haven't chosen where yet)," Smith said



For an avenue of creativity, many students have joined English teacher Kelley Smith's crotchet club. Together, the group is learning techniques and are finding ways to brighten the days of the people in the community.

Courtesy Photos

Alvin High School
— the Clarion

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