

the shield

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Slipping through our fingers

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continue ongoing battle
against climate change.*

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future is in Gen Z's hands.
We can't lose hope.*

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In this edition of the S Word podcast, Shield editor Ingrid Smith talks with Mac alum Anna McClellan on studying abroad in Spain with Verto Education

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Students on climate change

"Not a lot of people are doing enough to help stop [the climate crisis]. People don't care, so I feel like we're not going to progress enough."

—sophomore Gabriel Lund

"I feel like it's something that everyone has to work towards, or it's not going to get any better."

—freshman Maggie Mass

"I feel like the climate crisis has been around for a really long time and nothing has really changed about it. It's just going to continually get worse."

—senior William Wheeler

About the cover: In this edition of The Shield, the staff reports on various environmental issues from climate change to flooding to carbon footprint. Illustration by Evie Barnard.

Climate change impacts Texas

Knights find hope in collective action, education, call for further change

FRANCIE WILHELM

co-news editor, co-online managing editor

The heat doesn't mess with Texans. In a state with typically hot weather and little to no seasonal distinction, the effects of climate change present themselves differently than what scientists and activists often describe.

At least, that's how it is for the younger generations. Environmental and aquatic science teacher Elaine Bohls-Graham first noticed the changing climate when she began studying the phenomenon as a geology student at Baylor University nearly 50 years ago.

"We definitely had almost four seasons instead of summer, another summer and then a month of winter," she said. "It's the length and the severity that I see changing and these higher temperatures."

Climatic shifts in Texas have been both subtle and extreme. According to a 2021 report by the state climatologist, the daily average of minimum and maximum temperatures have increased by 2.2 degrees Fahrenheit from 1950 to 2020. The first two weeks of January this year were the warmest ever recorded by Camp Mabry instruments, with temperatures reaching into the 80s.

While these difference seems small, the residuals add up. Higher temperatures have led to harsh droughts, such as this past summer when the Austin metro area was without rain for more than 50 days and more intense hurricanes came out of the Gulf of Mexico.

On the other end of the spectrum, 2021's Winter Storm Uri, also known as "snowmageddon," led to a record-breaking 6.4 inches of snow and temperatures as low as 6 degrees Fahrenheit, the most and coldest in Austin since 1937. During the freeze, 246 Texans died due to the severe temperatures and resulting power outages and road closures.

"I'm concerned for the grid here in Texas because ERCOT is a factor we have to live with," Bohls-Graham said. "Now we have to be concerned about the

summer loads and winter loads, on the system."

While climate change and global warming are not synonymous, many climate change-related events can be traced back to rising temperatures and the greenhouse effect.

"CO₂ doesn't take a lot to create the greenhouse effect because it's such a large molecule," Bohls-Graham said. "And it's not as much as you think it is [compared to] the percentage of the atmosphere."

High school student in Texas may not know what to think about climate change because environmental science is not a required course in the state high school curriculum, although the subject is something that Bohls-Graham believes is crucial in addressing climate change.

"It is critical that students that are up-and-coming individuals and adults understand we have one Earth," she said. "It's the only planet that we have; if we can't take care of it, we're in trouble."

With these setbacks, Bohls-Graham sees hope in the younger generation as a whole.

"I'm optimistic because you all are so dedicated and so wanting to make things better," she said. "And I think as you all get older and grow and become wiser and have the experiences, you're going to be the ones that

are really pushing this and helping."

Senior Malia Walewski has been involved with Austin Climate

Coalition, a student-led climate advocacy group, since her sophomore year. She joined the group while it was virtual during the COVID-19 pandemic as a way to kill time but soon fell in love with the program's sense of community.

"I met so many of my best friends within the group," she said. "It feels so good to be in a community that's motivated. No one's there to just put it on their college resume."

Austin Climate Coalition hosts a variety of events to get young people involved in climate action in a productive way, from writing letters to senators to hosting plant swaps and spreading native

wildflower seeds.

"It's fun things mixed with more government action," Walewski said.

Others, like junior Alex Moses, joined the McCallum Environmental Knights to make positive change through school.

"I thought it would be a good club to join because there are so many hands-on activities to clean up our community," she said.

Moses finds climate change to be a worrying, but not impossible, problem.

"Each year, global temperatures rise more and we are placed in greater danger," she said. "But I also feel optimistic. With a little help, whether it be volunteering or even just cleaning up after yourself, everyone can be involved in making a change."

In September 2021, the Austin City Council took on the

Austin Climate Equity Plan with the goal of reaching net zero community emissions by 2040. To achieve this goal, the city government will target key areas of emissions, mainly electricity and transportation. More funding and proposals have been put on the table to support public transportation and renewable energy. According to data provided the City of Austin's Office of Sustainability, emissions in all areas have been on a slow but steady decline.

At a statewide level, however, energy consumption and resulting emissions aren't slowing down. In 2019, Texas produced 683.2 tonnes of carbon dioxide, nearly double that of California. Major state agencies have no policy on how climate change impacts their state activities and little planning on how to deal with its effects. In the wake of disasters like Hurricane Harvey, Gov. Greg Abbott and his administration have recognized the danger of extreme weather events but avoided the use of the term climate change when discussing response and future plans to handle them.

Austin Climate Coalition and other climate activism groups often lobby as a way to force government attention onto climate change and to try to impact legislation. Even though Walewski sees positive indirect actions as a result of lobbying, experiences with people in power have not been as effectual.

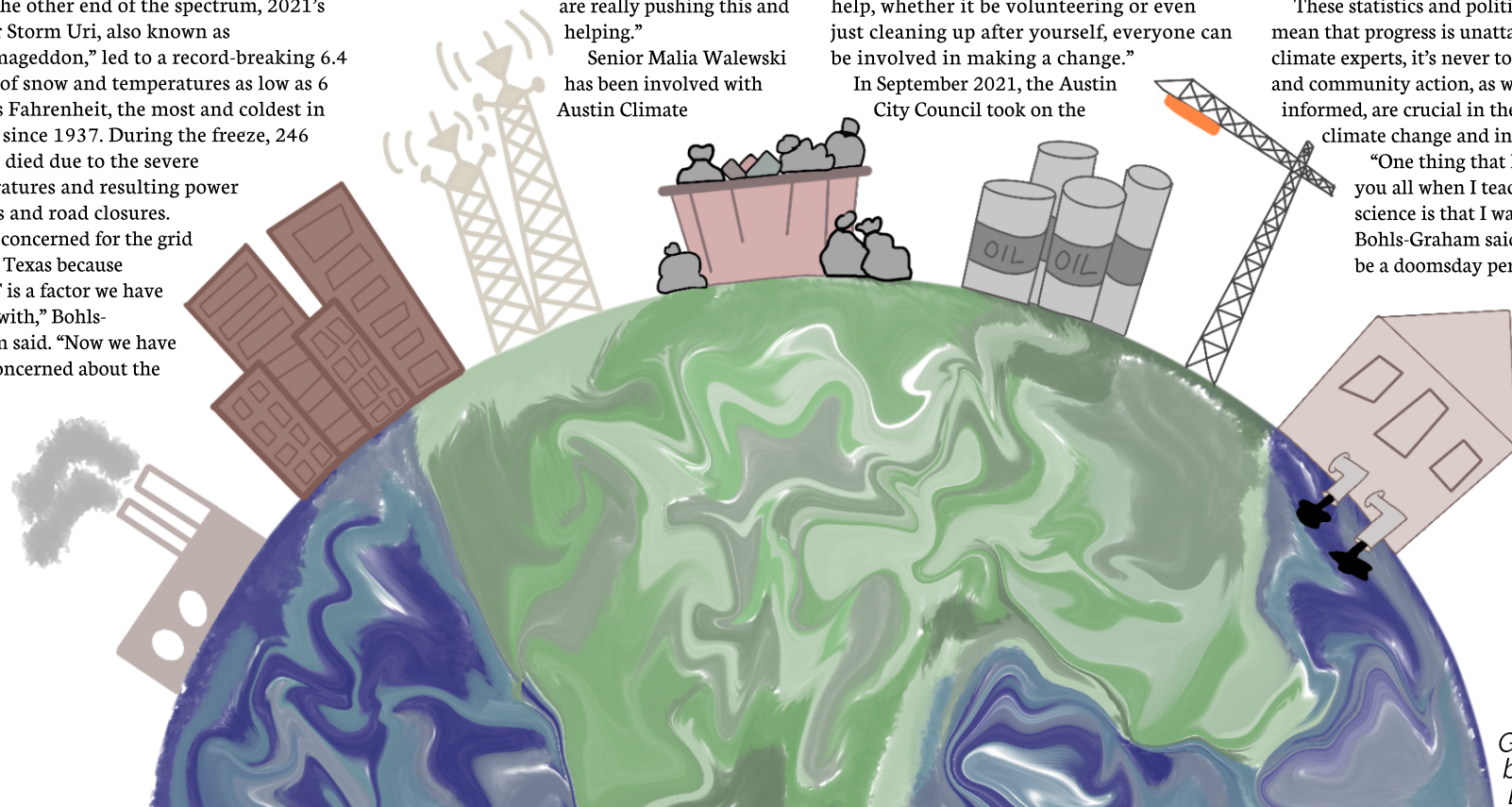
"We talked to John Cornyn and went to his office," she said. "And you can tell [he's] only talking to you because [he] wants to maintain this presence of 'we represent the people' when they are not looking to do that."

These statistics and political staticity don't mean that progress is unattainable. According to climate experts, it's never too late: individual and community action, as well as staying informed, are crucial in the fight against climate change and in finding solutions.

"One thing that I try to convey to you all when I teach environmental science is that I want you to be aware," Bohls-Graham said. "I'm not trying to be a doomsday person or a naysayer, but you all need to be aware of what's going on."

It's the only planet that we have; if we can't take care of it, then we're in trouble.

—environmental science teacher Elaine Bohls-Graham



Graphic
by Sophie
Leung-Lieu.

Ice storm leaves Austin in dark

Power outages spark community anger; students, teachers say they feel overwhelmed

INGRID SMITH

co-online managing editor,
co-news editor

Last week, as an icy storm passed through Austin, what began as a picturesque winter wonderland quickly turned into an electrical power catastrophe. As layers of ice grew thick, and silence was pierced by splitting limbs and shattering branches, the city went dark. Austin was transformed into a wasteland of fallen tree limbs, iced-over roads without traffic signals and pitch-black neighborhoods. According to Austin Energy, nearly 265,000 customers, an estimated 660,000 people, had been affected by power outages by Thursday, Feb. 2.

On Jan. 30, 42 people responded to a Shield Online poll asking readers to predict the number of school cancellations the week had in store. The majority predicted two days, but only seven voters were correct. With many facilities out of power and students unable to leave their houses, AISD canceled four days of school in a row. With power now restored at all campuses but Hill and Perez, AISD resumed classes on Monday.

During a morning press conference last Friday, Mayor Kirk Watson issued Austinites an apology.

“As mayor, I accept the responsibility on behalf of the city, and I apologize that we’ve let people down in Austin,” Watson said.

Residents were originally told that the outages would last no more than 12 to 24 hours. Then, they were told that power would be restored by 6 p.m. on Friday. Despite the help of out-of-city energy crews, Austin Energy ultimately reported that it was unable to provide estimated restoration times.

Austin Energy General Manager Jackie Sargent echoed Watson’s sentiment.

“I’m sorry for how long this is taking,” Sargent said during a Sunday press conference.

As of Sunday night, Austin Energy reported that 94% of customers had power.

But according to Austin Energy’s outage map, five major zip codes within McCallum’s attendance zone (78722, 78731, 78751, 78756, 78757) reflected over 8,900 standing power outages combined. Although significant progress has been made toward restoring power, Austin Energy claimed that remaining power outages would likely require more complex repairs and take longer.

“We are now focusing on the most complicated & time-consuming restoration efforts,” Austin Energy tweeted on Sunday night. “Incoming wind and rain will pose additional challenges. Based on current information, we expect to restore power to nearly all remaining customers by Sunday, Feb. 12.”

For freshman Crow Newman, power outages caused an unexpected family reunion. But card games are no fun in the dark, and Newman’s family quickly split up.

“We went to my grandma’s apartment and played cards and stuff for a few hours,” Newman



A worker for Asplundh Tree Expert Co., a private tree service company that works with Austin Energy, cuts branches away from power lines moments before Austin Energy restored power to about 20 homes in the Northwest Hills neighborhood late Sunday afternoon. Photo by Dave Winter.

said. “My dad and I decided to sleep at home, even though it was cold, and the rest of my family stayed at my grandma’s. That night, her power also went out, so they split up. Every one of us was in a different place.”

Implying that some customers lost power more than once, Austin Energy claimed that 308,000 customers had regained power since the beginning of the historic storm. Newman’s family was one of them. After days spent nestled up against the heater in his family’s car, Newman’s power returned on Friday night.

“I was watching a movie with my boyfriend when I got like eight texts from my family telling me that the power was back on,” Newman said. “It was really nice to be at home again with warmth and light.”

Junior Angelina Rowley first lost power on Wednesday morning. As of Sunday, Rowley had received no more than 15 random minutes of power and no Austin Energy crew assigned to her area. She did, however, catch a cold. Triple-layered socks, a sweatshirt, two hoodies, a scarf and earmuffs have become Rowley’s uniform.

“We’re kind of all frozen, like we are kind of just trying to survive at this point,” Rowley said. “Everything’s just about trying to stay warm. I’m not really processing anything, like the days just keep going by.”

With no internet connection at her house, Rowley was unable to do homework remotely. Late assignments piled up, tests were frozen in

limbo and she had to drive to her mom’s office just to get her computer to work.

“I’ve been freaking out,” Rowley said. “I feel really isolated without the internet. I was trying to be really productive during this period, but I’ve literally been shut off from like the world. I literally have no internet in my house or anything, so I’m having to go places and see if I can get internet to do homework. Even then, it’s not comfortable because I don’t know where anything is.”

After being in college during Austin’s “Snowmageddon” of 2021, chemistry teacher Tabitha Villarreal knows what it’s like for a power outage to put a student’s life on hold. As the teacher this time, Villarreal postponed tests and due dates in an effort to save students without power from even more stress.

“I take so much pride in what I do as a chemistry teacher, but I also recognize that my class is not at the forefront of people’s minds right now,” Villarreal said. “Recognizing that, I need to make sure that my class is not causing any stress for my students.”

After losing power Tuesday night, Villarreal nearly jumped for joy when her lights came back on Saturday morning. While Villarreal welcomed the chance to catch up on comics and spend time with her roommates and their cats, these were the opposite of fun snow days. With no way to charge her computer, doing work was off the table. With no way to cook food, she had no choice but to spend money

on fast food.

“I’m a bit annoyed if anything,” Villarreal said. “I was fine without power, but I’m also young and able to get around easily. I could only imagine how people with young kids or people who are diabetics with their insulin had to deal with this whole ordeal. Like, yes, not having a heater sucks, but the problem is so much bigger than that.”

On Rowley’s fifth day without power, food rotting in the fridge and no promise of a warm shower in the near future, she confessed to feeling overwhelmed and anxious at the prospect of returning to school.

“I need power. Please,” Rowley said. “I have the ability now to go to school. My electronics will be decently charged. I’ll be fine maybe the first day, but if it progresses during the week and if I have to travel to my uncle’s house in Pflugerville to take a warm shower, that would be terrible. Like, I don’t know how I would be able to function.”

While an Austin Energy official likened restoration efforts to a “full-blown war” during Sunday’s press conference, residents like Rowley and Villarreal find it hard to be forgiving. The lack of power, lack of communication and lack of projection for power restoration have left residents feeling like something needs to change.

“City officials have to do better with their response and transparency with the public,” Villarreal said. “It’s a hard thing to predict and prepare for, but I don’t think I have ever come out of these weather storms and thought the city handled it well.”

Layoffs afflict tech industry

Musk's controversial changes at Twitter part of a larger trend throughout sector



MAC Journalism
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CAMILLA VANDEGRIFT
staff reporter

Several of the nation's biggest tech companies have made massive employee layoffs in the past couple of months. On Oct. 28, SpaceX and Tesla owner Elon Musk secured a deal to buy Twitter for \$44 billion and since the transaction occurred he has fired around half of the company's staff. After Meta had a mass hiring during COVID-19, it recently made the announcement that it plans to let 11,000 people go, which is 13% of its workforce. It also announced that it will be enforcing a hiring freeze through the first quarter of 2023. Another recent major company to lay off employees is Amazon, who on Nov. 16 began laying off of about 10,000 workers. Other brands, including Microsoft, Snap and Spotify, also have been letting employees go from their jobs. In 2022, there were more than 86,700 lost jobs in the tech industry.

Economics teacher Vaughn Stockton attributes the layoffs to huge hikes in federal interest rates. He noted that the number of layoffs only keeps increasing, and more companies like Google and Doordash added to the growing list. Sundar Pichai, the CEO of Google's parent company Alphabet, told Google employees in a memo on Jan. 20 that it is laying off 12,000 employees, or around 6.4% of its global workforce.

"It seems like every week there's a new announcement," Stockton said.

At Twitter, Musk has also made a slew of function and policy changes to the platform. In November, he introduced paid verification in the form of Twitter Blue. He repealed it within a week following several parody accounts taking advantage of the service then relaunched it a month later. Musk announced a new view count on tweets in December, and the terms of service have been updated in ways that loosen restrictions on COVID-19 misinformation and hate speech.

The drama surrounding Musk's purchase of Twitter has been inflated all across the media, including on the platform itself. Several former employees have tweeted about their departure from the company after Musk offered his workers an ultimatum: to either

step it up and work "extremely hardcore" or leave with three months' severance pay. Musk has since stepped down as Twitter CEO.

The layoffs at Twitter have led not only to loss of jobs but also confusion among the workers. Melissa Ingle, a data scientist who worked with Twitter to find tweets that violate the company's election misinformation regulations, recounted the situation in an interview with NPR.

"My boss was laid off, and my boss's boss — the head of the department — quit," Ingle said. "So I did not know who my boss was. I didn't know what new assignment I had."

Though these firings across the tech industry have occurred for different reasons — some due to change in leadership, some due to

changes in the economy or unexpectedly low revenue — they all result in the same conclusion: thousands of workers trained in technological backgrounds have now been left without employment. As more and more tech companies lay off large portions of their workforce, institute hiring freezes, and remove employee benefits, workers' options are becoming increasingly limited. Jake Schneider, who was let go in late October from the tech company Recharge, described the current job market in the San Francisco Chronicle.

"We're the canary in the coal mine," Schneider said. "Our main job is to fill roles and if there aren't roles to fill, we aren't needed."

Stockton believes that the widespread job firings could be a sign of a larger economic slowdown that might decelerate the rapid growth of innovation that has occurred over the past few years. He also expressed his concerns that the layoffs may lead to negative impacts on consumers from the tech industry.

"What we really want to be wary of is a lack of moderation," Stockton said. "Just not as much controlling hate speech."

The sudden decrease in staff for technology corporations also might create entry barriers for recent college graduates trying to enter the field.

"If you're someone graduating this year, looking for an internship or a job, maybe steer clear of these larger tech companies," Stockton said. "Those jobs might not be safe moving forward."

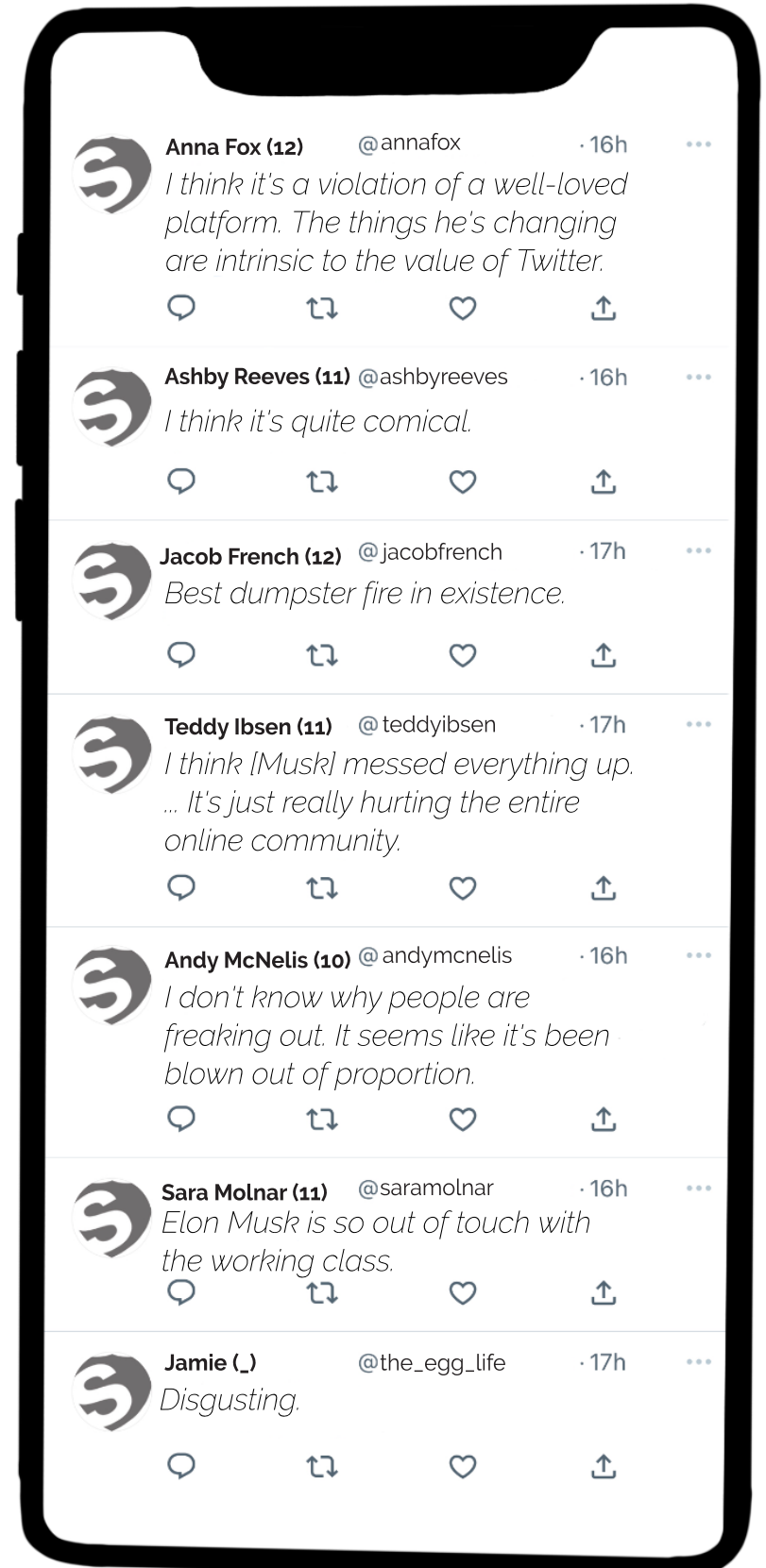
“What we really want to be wary of is going to be a lack of moderation.”

— economics teacher
Vaughn Stockton

“If you're someone graduating this year, looking for an internship or a job, maybe steer clear of these larger tech companies.”

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Vaughn Stockton

Mac students: What are your opinions on recent controversies with Elon Musk and Twitter?





Lack of green space causes floods

A rain gutter dumps rainwater on the McCallum courtyard during flash floods on Aug. 22, 2022. Photo by Dave Winter.

Urban sprawl looked at as source of Austin's lack of drainage, proper infrastructure

JOJO BARNARD

staff reporter

With a growing city comes new developments but also an age-old environmental problem: flooding. According to a study published in the Nature Climate Change Journal, Austin will see a roughly 30% increase in flooding by 2050.

Sources such as the Nature Climate Change Journal acknowledge a correlation between the increase in density and flooding and a decrease in permeable surfaces. When newly built houses take up more space, they cover ground that once absorbed rainwater. New sidewalks and roads also create impervious surfaces.

The city now requires developers to attempt to counteract the recent rise in flooding with methods such as man-made detention ponds, which store storm water runoff and keep it off the impermeable surfaces. Developers like David Whitworth, founder of local development company Whitworth Homes, has observed that the size of these detention ponds is an important factor in their ability to prevent flooding.

"I find larger detention ponds to be much more effective than having a smaller individual one on every lot," Whitworth said. "They're much easier to maintain, and have a larger capacity. You can also make better use of the lot if you don't have to leave room for one."

According to local flood engineer Monica Wedo, detention ponds come with disadvantages as well. Besides taking up space and attracting mosquitos, these detention ponds are often

unable to keep up with the large amount of runoff that a growing city brings.

"The issue we see a lot here in Central Austin is that a lot of our pipes and drainage structures are under-designed," Wedo said. "So it's not that the developers are doing something purposefully sneaky or detrimental; it's that our systems are well below current code standards. A lot of the storm drains are around half the size they are supposed to be, so they don't have the capacity to get the water off the ground as quickly as they need to."

One such problem in Austin that is often chalked up to the city's lack of effective drainage is the flooding at Onion Creek. According to a 2021 report by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, 855 homes in the Onion Creek Watershed were affected by the 2013 flooding on Halloween. This resulted in what is known as the Onion Creek buyout. Starting in 2016, the city began

purchasing houses in the Onion Creek area with plans to demolish all housing in the area and avoid property damage from flooding.

Closer to home, McCallum hasn't been immune to flooding. The ongoing flooding of the McCallum Arts Center, which first occurred on Oct. 17, has been a

frequent problem. Students were displaced from classes in the MAC theater and forced to migrate to other areas of campus. The building was initially drained by a Stanley Steamer truck, but floods have continued to occur with rainy weather. Assistant principal Andy Baxa

said that preparing for the construction of the new dance studio caused the MAC to be susceptible to flooding.

"Until they get far enough into the construction cycle, we're always going to be a little bit vulnerable to the water coming in," Baxa said. "But once our foundation is poured for the new dance studio, we're told that that should remove the vulnerability for the water seepage."

Baxa said the flooding risk is diminishing as the construction progresses.

"Recently we had a heavy rain and did not get any water seepage for the first time since the construction process started," Baxa said. "We're hoping that the problem is getting close to being fixed."

McCallum students are affected by flooding outside of the classroom as well. Senior Molly Holder lives in close proximity to Bull Creek, and she says that heavy rainfall can shut down transportation to and from her house for days at a time.

"When it rains, the flood water blocks certain roads," Holder said, "so none of my neighbors or I can leave our houses. No one can enter either until a few days later when the water levels go down. It's a huge problem. I can't get to school on days the roads are flooded."

Holder thinks the city needs to do more to prevent further issues from occurring.

"When the city builds new apartment complexes, roads, parking lots and other things that take up space, they need to be more aware of the flooding problems," Holder said. "There

are a lot of areas where we can make more drainage points and stuff, like the road leading up to my house, but we're just not doing it. People have literally died on that road, but there is still nothing being done to make it more safe and keep it from overflowing with water."

Holder also voiced her concern about the effects of the floods on wildlife. Floodwater can contain parasites and toxic substances that, if consumed, lead to water-borne diseases. In

addition, residue from harmful matter in the water can also collect on the wildlife and result in chemical burns, dermatitis, hair loss or worse.

Whitworth believes Austin would do well to make existing development denser rather than expanding development outward.

"I'm afraid that if we don't start building in a way that a big city should

be built we're just going to have more highways and fewer trees," Whitworth said. "The city will be more spread out, people will have to drive further distances to get places, and we'll just have a larger footprint in general. That's why I think density is the better choice in terms of the environment."

Wedo believes any solution needs involved a systemic, coordinated planning effort.

"The flooding problem is tricky to fix," Wedo said. "If you put bigger storm drain inlets and pipes in one neighborhood, the runoff will travel faster to the next area or neighborhood downstream, and you have more flooding there."

According to Wedo, properly addressing Austin's flooding problem would be both logistically and financially challenging.

"You can't just fix the issue with a singular solution," Wedo said. "There's a series of things that need to be done, and it's not going to be cheap, or easy."

"Our systems are well below current code standards."

— local flood engineer
Monica Wedo

"It's a huge problem. I can't get to school on days the roads are flooded."

— senior Molly Holder

NEWS BRIEFS:

DEBUNKING CLIMATE MYTHS



A house in central Austin is pictured with solar panels, a form of renewable energy. Photo by Alice Scott.

RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES ARE EXPENSIVE AND INEFFICIENT

The false belief held by some that renewable energy isn't effective and costs too much money for the average person is false.

According to a report done by the International Renewable Energy Agency, the cost of solar farms (solar photovoltaic projects) fell by 85 percent, concentrated solar power fell by 68 percent and wind energy fell by 56 percent for on-shore wind and 48 percent for offshore wind. As the costs of renewable energy lowers, the cost of fossil fuel

energy is increasing.

Additionally, some believe that wind energy will only work when it's windy and solar energy when it's sunny. Although when renewable energy was first introduced this was more true, as technology has advanced, ways to store energy when wind and sun aren't available have been developed and now renewable energy is available at all hours of the day, the World Wildlife Fund reports.

—Kate Boyle

THE EARTH ISN'T EXPERIENCING GLOBAL WARMING IF IT'S STILL COLD

With snow in Austin and record-breaking cold snaps nationwide, some people come to the uninformed conclusion that global warming can't be a real danger. Even though freezes are less in line with the term "warming" than 100-degree summers, NASA reports that 2016 and 2020 are tied for the warmest years ever recorded. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the years from 2013-2021 rank among the 10 warmest years on record. Scientists emphasize the point that a weather pattern in one place does not signify a global trend. According to a report by Northwestern University, the evidence for climate change is not based on one season or year, so a cold season does not give us a cooling climate. Weather patterns like cold snaps are short-term weather occurrences within long-term global climate trends.

—Ingrid Smith

CLIMATE CHANGE BELIEVERS

72% of Americans believe that climate change is happening

65% of Americans are worried about the impacts of global warming

46% of Americans report being personally affected by climate change

Above figures show American beliefs on climate change and related risk perception. Information sourced from research surveys conducted by the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication.

IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE TO REVERSE THE EFFECTS OF THE ONGOING CLIMATE CRISIS

Climate change may be a daunting problem, but it's not too late to reverse some of its effects and stop even worse climate disasters. Scientists point to renewable energy sources, government policies and holding industries accountable as major ways to curb emissions and protect the environment. Even though individual people produce a relatively small amount of waste and greenhouse actions, making more sustainable choices in your daily life can add up and help address climate change in a small but meaningful way.

—Francie Wilhelm

THE CLIMATE HAS ALWAYS GONE THROUGH CHANGES, SO CURRENT ISSUES WITH CLIMATE CHANGE IS JUST A NATURAL PROCESS

The Earth's climate has always changed naturally overtime: our planet has experienced periods of extreme heat, ice age and even global cooling. The climate change taking place today, however, does not follow these trends due to the rapid pace at which they are taking place. According to a 2016 Nature Geoscience study, global temperatures are rising 10 times faster than at the last mass extinction over 55 million years ago. In 2020, temperatures were nearly 1 degree Celsius higher than the 20th century averages, and it's projected that we will soon surpass the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold. These changes are not natural and human activity is the main cause.

—Francie Wilhelm



Austin Climate Coalition members, including McCallum Class of 2022 alums Lucy Marco and Veronica Britton and senior Malia Walewski, pose with signs in front of the Texas state capital at a Students Fighting Climate Change rally on April 2, 2022. Photo courtesy of ACCo

Sweet treats that hit the spot

What started as a bake-sale fundraiser has grown into a thriving family business

Karen and Paul McGarity pose at the Bullseye Bakery booth at the Good Neighbors Fest on Sept. 24, 2022.



Photo courtesy of Karen and Paul McGarity.

SOPHIE LEUNG-LIEU

design and visuals editor

The year is 2019. Archers from Highland Park Elementary and Lamar Middle School have qualified to go to the NASP Eastern National Archery tournament in Louisville, Ky. Lamar archer Riley McGarity and her family decided to put on a bake sale to fund travels. The people love the idea—and so do the McGarities.

Her father, Paul McGarity, has always loved baking. And the bake sale was an excuse to get in the kitchen and bake.

"I had some pretty good recipes for a few things I really enjoyed making," Paul said. "I tend not to make anything that I wouldn't want to eat myself since I've got a serious sweet tooth."

The McGarity family kept baking from their kitchen until they raised enough funds to cover their trip to Kentucky.

"The bake sales were such a hit," Paul's wife, Karen McGarity said. "We had a lot of markets in our front yard where we met more neighbors than we ever knew we had."

Following the competition in May of 2019, customers kept requesting for more.

"It just grew and grew until eventually we realized that we could do this full time," Karen said.

Paul was able to quit his day job to take on their new project: a bakery.

"Bullseye Bakery—the name was a no brainer," Karen said. "It was in honor of our daughter. While

one day she might decide to move on to other things, it's to honor her and the roots in the archery community."

Soon, the McGarities were able to take online orders through their website. They created opportunities for clients to have baked goods delivered to their doorstep, as well as at pickup locations and pop-ups.

"Our tagline is 'Sweet treats that hit the spot,'" Paul said. "We make little bites of happiness with baked goods like the best zucchini bread you could have and the ultimate chocolate-chip cookie."

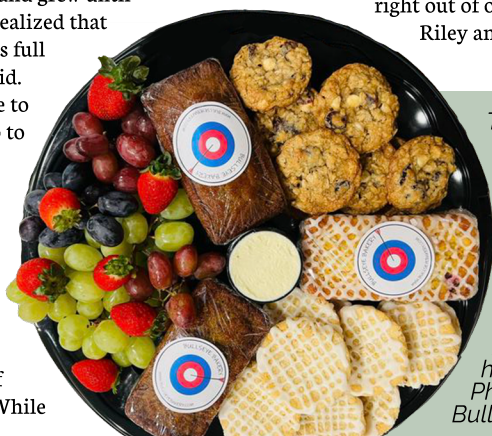
Many of the menu items that Bullseye Bakery offers consist of classic baked goods: the chocolate-chip cookie, banana bread, snickerdoodles and more. Paul, however, has worked to perfect and characterize each item with unique recipes and high quality.

"It's about a lot of the classics or one of the recipes we have grown up with," Karen said. "He has taken those recipes and nailed them."

While Paul is the baker, Karen, Riley and her younger sibling Alex also helped with the process of preparing and selling goods.

"The business is completely family-run," Riley said. "Our whole family helps with it right out of our house."

Riley and her family work at big



The Bullseye Bakery "Standard Party Platter," including banana/walnut, zucchini and pumpkin cranberry mini loaves and 15 of each chocolate chip and lemondoodle cookies. The platter also includes fresh fruit, honey butter and butter. Photo courtesy of Bullseye Bakery.

events and pop-ups, helping run a booth by packaging, labeling and working as cashiers.

"Even my parents like to come to bag and tag to help with the markets," Karen said. "It's just fun; we get a lot of laughs out of it and it doesn't feel like work."

For Paul and Karen, there is much more to the business than baking and selling.

"Along the way, the magic and beauty of it has been the connections," Karen said. "Those relationships are really special. You connect through food. It's a beautiful thing."

The McGarity family's acts of kindness have positively impacted many in their close circles and neighborhood, creating a community of support around them.

"It's such a great feeling," Paul said. "A couple years ago when we had the big freeze, we had stockpiles of baked goods in the house. When nobody could get to a grocery store, we got together with our neighbors and gave bread to everybody."

Bullseye Bakery has also gone out of its way to show support for the archery community and its founder, Coach Jim DeLine.

"Our relationship has grown to the point where I want to do everything I can to support their business and they're really going out of their way to support our program," DeLine said. "It's just so cool, like magic. I never would have thought that something like this would happen."

The love is reciprocated.

"Coach DeLine is so enthusiastic, loving, and supportive of this story," Karen said.

The McGarity family sponsored the 2022 Intra-Squad archery tournament in October, where sophomore Riley competed on the McCallum team. At the end of each flight in the tournament, a one-arrow shootoff determined the winner of a bag of Bullseye Bakery cookies.

"Sponsoring the tournament and continuing to give cookie prizes has allowed us to continue to share that happiness back," Karen said.

The bakery has also promised a supply of cookies for archery tournaments in the future.

"If you ask any archer, that's probably one of the things they look forward to the most," DeLine said.

Paul sees the sponsorship of events and the awarding of sweet prizes as just the beginning of what Bullseye Bakery can do for the archery program.

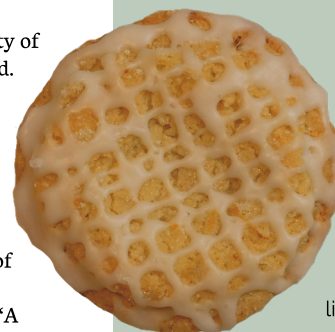
"We are in the early stages of growth," Paul said. "A few years down the road, I can see scholarships coming from us for archers going on to college. I think that would be wonderful."

OPINION: a taste test

Lemondoodle



A common theme in many of these treats is the perfected texture. The sugar cookie laid under the lemon drizzle was a delicious base that supported the fierce flavoring. The citrus drizzle had a strong presence that was a little too sweet for my taste, but perfect for anyone with an intense sweet tooth.



Peanut butter cookie with chocolate and pecans



The balance between two kinds of nuts, as well as chocolate, offers a perfect amount of sweet and savory in one bite. While a hearty choice that will satisfy your hunger quickly, this cookie is a great twist on the classic peanut butter cookie for anyone who has a craving for nuts.



Chocolate chip cookie



This cookie was my favorite by far. We have all tasted the classic chocolate chip cookie, but this was a flawless level of flavor. The chocolate chips were evenly distributed throughout the chewy but light dough. It was also not too filling, with a thin weight to it.



Pumpkin spice snickerdoodle



Not too heavy or reliant on a single flavor, this cookie was a perfect blend of two familiar palates: a comfortable snickerdoodle during the pumpkin spice season. The cookies were crispy on the outside, and soft on the inside, creating a beautiful crunch at the first bite.



Music makes a movie

Film scores deepen meaning, audience viewing experience

Rey (Daisy Ridley) prepares for battle in *The Rise of Skywalker* trailer. Photo accessed on the *Star Wars* YouTube channel. Published here under fair use. No copyright infringement is intended.

Graphic by Sophie Leung-Lieu.

ELIZA JENSEN
A&E co-editor

Imagine your favorite movie without its music. Without their accompanying scores, would the *Harry Potter* or *Star Wars* franchises be as iconic as they are? Would you cry at the beginning of *Up* without its heartbreaking piano to guide you through?

Nowadays, it's hard to imagine a movie without music. In the 1920s, the Age of the Silver Screen, or the era of silent film, dominated the film industry. There was no recorded sound accompanying movies, and especially no spoken dialogue. Despite the idea of combining moving pictures with recorded

sound having been around for almost as long as the idea for the film itself, filmmakers were unable to do so because of the technical challenges involved with the process.

Even when the only movies coming out were silent, however, music always stuck to its side. Many showings of silent films almost always featured live music. It was essential in building the film's atmosphere and giving the audience vital emotional cues.

In the modern day, films are never without their musical companion. Every movie playing at a theater or from a streaming service has its own distinctive score. As films evolve, the score still plays a crucial role in communication that is only implied. An effective score adds depth and emotion to a scene that dialogue cannot.

Think about your favorite movie. Have you

ever listened to the music in the background? Would the tone and atmosphere be the same if you changed it?

An original scores is vital to the story-making process, and by changing it or adding it to another movie, mainly within the same franchise, an ineffective score can take away from what the scene was trying to create. When you take the score from another movie within the same franchise, it can

re-contextualize what the original movie had established.

Take the *Star Wars* franchise for example. Within the nine movies making up the prequels, originals and sequels, John Williams has carefully composed the greatest franchise score of his career, only to be disregarded with *The Rise of Skywalker*. Before the movie came out, John William's idea for the film's original score was leaked. When *The Rise of Skywalker* was released, however, many fans were perplexed when they heard the same music from the original trilogy. Transporting the same version to the sequel put it in a new

context where it no longer held the same meaning and emotion that it held previously.

The music within *The Rise of Skywalker* felt out of order with the film's plot and, most importantly, the use of the scores from the originals felt like the filmmakers were trying to rely on the nostalgia fans might have felt for the originals. It came to light, however, that John Williams had written three hours of music for the film that was scrapped and would potentially never see the light of day that it very much deserved.

That discovery raises the question of whether the movie would have been different with John Williams's new score. What was his vision for the film? These questions will likely never be answered.

It may not seem that important, but composers put a considerable amount of thought into the already complicated art that is film scoring, and for the most part, it goes unappreciated and overshadowed by a film's other components. Even at the Academy Awards, film scores go unappreciated. The film score award was not even presented live at the 2022 Oscars. This omission was a slap in the face to the hundreds of composers, musicians, orchestra members, along with other professionals, who put their heart and soul into each film's score. Their work provides today's cinematic storytelling with its emotional foundation.

There is so much that goes into making a movie, from the screenplay to the cinematography, the editing to the casting, and, of course, the acting. But perhaps the most unappreciated and vital part of cinema today is a movie's score.

“Would you cry at the beginning of Up without its heartbreaking piano to guide you through?”

Let's taco 'bout a new lunch spot

A detailed review of the best taco trucks and tacos walking distance from McCallum

TAQUERIA TORRES: BREAKFAST TACO

I ordered a breakfast taco that consisted of bacon, eggs, beans and cheese which were all wrapped in a warm corn tortilla. It came with two sauces on the side, a green and an orange. When I first bit into it, I immediately could taste the bacon and enjoyed how crisp it was. I was equally surprised with the delicious chocolate-y beans that the bacon was paired with. Although it was a bit messy, I still really enjoyed this taco. I recommend Taqueria Torres and will definitely eat here again. *Review by Paige Whitworth.*

TAQUERIA TORRES: PASTOR TACO

At the window of Taqueria Torres, I was recommended the Pastor Taco with pineapple, onion and cilantro. Although the pastor meat was juicy and flavorful, the taco was made even better by the diced pineapple seeping onto the rest of the ingredients. The salsa verde that came with the order was very spicy and almost tart. The orange sauce was even better. It was not spicy at all, but the zestiness made up for it and made the taco even better. *Review by Caroline Owen.*

TAQUERIA TORRES: VEGETARIAN TACO

My final order from Taqueria Torres was the vegetarian taco. The tacos consisted of re-fried beans, rice, shredded lettuce, avocado and diced tomatoes, all atop a homemade corn tortilla. The tomatoes and lettuce added a pop of freshness, while the creamy avocado added a textural element that tied all the fillings together. But what really brought it from a good taco to a great one was the tortilla. Unlike most corn tortillas this one was durable, but still managed to not be too tough. However, it wasn't too soft, either, and the edges had a nice crispiness to them. Overall, I would highly recommend this taco. My only critique is that I would've preferred the tacos to be served on separate plates instead of just one. *Review by JoJo Barnard.*

TAQUERIA TORRES: CHICKEN FAJITA TACO

I also ordered the chicken fajita taco with a side of green spicy salsa from Taqueria Torres. The taco was absolutely delicious, made with chicken, lettuce, cheese, tomatoes and a homemade tortilla. Personally, I am not the biggest tomato fan, but it totally worked in this taco. The only thing I would change is the amount of lettuce in it. There was an even lettuce to chicken ratio, which kind of took away from what was supposed to be the dominant flavor. The green salsa from Taqueria Torres was my favorite part. It took the taco to the next level, even though it left me in need of water. I would definitely dine here again. These tacos were so good and very conveniently located. *Review by Isley Cameron.*



To combat the daily dilemma of choosing the perfect lunch spot, we decided to scout two different taco trucks in close proximity to McCallum. We took the time to thoroughly evaluate each one to get a feel for what they had to offer. After a trek surrounding our school, we had completed our taste tests and broadened our palettes. Here are our detailed discoveries.

DALIA'S TEX MEX: BREAKFAST TACO

I ordered a breakfast taco that consisted of bacon, egg and cheese wrapped in a warm homemade corn tortilla. It came with sliced cucumber, sliced radish and a green sauce on the side. I enjoyed this taco, but it was a bit too filling for me. It had a lot of cheese, so if you're a cheese lover I highly recommend it; if you're lactose intolerant, maybe not so much. I also loved the seating at this food truck. It added to the experience, which was overall really great. I'm definitely coming here again. *Review by Paige Whitworth.*



DALIA'S TEX MEX: AL PASTOR TACO

At Dalia's Tex Mex, I ordered the Al Pastor. At first glance, I knew the taco would blow me away. The tortilla was overflowing with the red meat, which looked perfectly cooked and smelled heavily seasoned. Upon first bite, I knew my initial impression had been right. The taco was bursting with a tangy, rich flavor due to the lime that I squeezed over the top and made up for the fact that the cilantro, pineapple and tortilla sort of got lost in the shuffle. *Review by Caroline Owen.*



DALIA'S TEX MEX: CHICKEN FAJITA TACO

I ordered the Chicken Fajita Taco exactly how it came on the menu: chicken, cheese, onion, cilantro and green, red and yellow peppers, all on a corn tortilla. Normally I strictly eat flour tortillas, but because they were made fresh daily I had to give the corn tortillas a try. It was warm, straight off the griddle, with the cheese melted right on top of the chicken holding the whole taco together. The cilantro and onion created a unique taste and the peppers added texture to the meal, with the green salsa tying it all together. Served with a lime on the side to give an extra pop of flavor, this was a top tier taco. *Review by Isley Cameron.*



DALIA'S TEX MEX: VEGETARIAN TACO

Similarly to Taqueria Torres, the vegetarian taco I got from Dalia's also had an incredibly tasty homemade corn tortilla. Within the tortilla, my second vegetarian taco held re-fried beans, potatoes, cheese, lettuce, cilantro and tomatoes. The taco's plating was appealing to the eyes, with garnishes consisting of radishes, cucumbers and lime, whose tanginess added just the right pop of flavor to the taco. My favorite part, however, was the salsa verde that was served on the side. I was skeptical at first, considering I am not usually a fan of green salsa but was pleasantly surprised by the abundance of flavor and nice kick of spice it had. I will definitely be getting this taco again. *Review by JoJo Barnard.*



1112 W. Koenig Lane

To start off our journey, we headed to Taqueria Torres, a taco food truck located on the corner of Grover and Koenig behind the Valero gas station. Only a five-minute walk from McCallum, it's a very convenient location to grab a bite. The customer service was exemplary: the people working were very helpful and the food came within five minutes of placing our order. The cost was super affordable especially considering the quality of the food. We would definitely recommend supporting this business.

5626 N. Lamar Blvd.

Next we headed to Dalia's Tex-Mex, on the corner of Stark Street and North Lamar Avenue, less than a 10-minute walking distance from McCallum. We were pleasantly surprised by how great the customer service was, and we received our food in a reasonable time. Everything was beautifully plated, and the food almost looked too pretty to eat. The workers also threw in a complimentary green salsa on the side to go along with avocados, cilantro, garlic, onions and green peppers. The combination created a tantalizing array of flavors. We enjoyed this cute little taco truck and plan to eat here in the future.



Fine arts in a flash

MAC VISUAL ARTISTS EARN THREE OF FIVE AMERICAN VISION NOMINATIONS, 10 GOLD KEYS

The 100th annual Scholastic Art and Writing Awards reception hosted by St. Stephen's Episcopal School was held on Jan. 29. at the Scanlan Gallery in the Helm Fine Arts Center.

There were four tiers of awards given out including Gold Key American Visions Nominees, Gold Keys, Silver Keys and honorable mentions. The American Visions nomination is given to the top five pieces in the region, three of which were given to McCallum students; Senior Teagan Boyd received a nomination and junior Hazel Reddy received two nominations.

"The main idea of the award is to recognize people's unique vision and authenticity, which was something I was really aiming for in the piece," Boyd said. "My sculpture is a part of a collection I'm making which investigates how different kinds of artists experience life and inspiration, and how their art affects them as much as they affect their art.

This idea is something very important to me as an artist, which also made me all the more awestruck when I got the award."

McCallum produced 10 Gold Key recipients, 17 Silver Key recipients, and 35 honorable mentions. All Gold Key recipients will have their artwork judged at nationals.

Senior Teagan Boyd's award winning piece, the (Ne)cromancer. Photo courtesy of Boyd.



SENIOR MAKES ALL-STATE CHOIR FOR THIRD YEAR, BECOMING FIRST IN MAC HISTORY TO DO SO

First, she auditioned for All-State Choir as a tenor 1. She made it as far as the area audition and came in 10th chair.

So the next summer – the summer before her sophomore year – she started preparing audition music with her voice teacher. They decided to go the Alto 2 route.

Then:

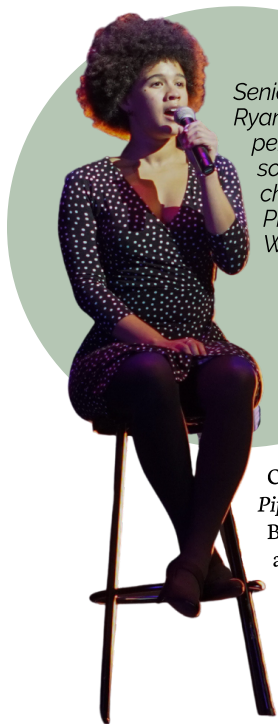
Sophomore year – she made it in to All-State Choir.

Junior year – she made it in to All-State Choir.

Senior year – As of Saturday, Jan. 7, Lauren Ryan-Holt made it in to All-State Choir for the third year in a row, becoming the first student in McCallum history to do so.

"To be completely honest I didn't think I was gonna make it this year," Ryan-Holt said. "My senior year has been filled with college auditions and a musical which has taken over a lot of my thinking. It was a huge weight off my shoulders when the audition was over because I knew I had done my best."

Senior Lauren Ryan-Holt performs her solo during choir cabaret. Photo by Nate Williams.



Cast as Leading Player, the witty narrator in MacTheatre's spring production of Pippin, Ryan-Holt had to balance learning material for two different projects.

But her hard work payed off. But Ryan-Holt sees making All-State again not just as a personal achievement, but an achievement for all of McCallum Choir.

"It means a lot to be apart of McCallum history that I never expected to be a part of in this way," Ryan-Holt said. "This has also shown me how much potential our choir program has. As a theatre major who is also a huge choir lover, I want our choir program to thrive. I think we have a lot of work to do to get our program to a place that makes it shine as well as making it a significant part of the academy."

—Alice Scott

—Alice Scott

A BLUE BRIGADE SPECTACULAR



The Blue Brigade performed on Jan. 25 at the annual AISD High School Dance Spectacular, hosted at Austin High School. Blue Brigade officers spent the day at Austin High preparing to perform with the Austin All-City Dance Company. Junior lieutenant Kylie Reeves enjoyed the experience. "I liked being able to experience a different style of dance and build bonds with other teams," Reeves said. "It was a good opportunity to see other schools and find inspiration." Following the All-City Dance Company's performance, Blue Brigade performed its Team Hip Hop to "1 2 Step" and Pom Ensemble to "Covergirl." Senior Khi Washington was featured in both dances. "I was very excited to perform pom," Washington said. "I felt like this was the time to give it my all, right before competition." Reporting by Sophie Leung-Lieu. Photo by Chris Sparks.

SATURDAY
Feb. 18

Reflections and Shadows fashion show, 7-9 p.m.

SUNDAY
Feb. 19

Reflections and Shadows fashion show, 2-4 p.m.

THURSDAY
Feb. 23

Choir Pre-UIL Concert 7-9 p.m.

FRIDAY
Feb. 24

Knight of Percussion Concert 7-8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
Mar. 8

Guitar Spring Concert 7-9 p.m.

PIT ORCHESTRA FOR MACTHEATRE'S PRODUCTION OF PIPPIN IS A HIT



RIGHT: Junior Meredith Grotevant warms up before a dress rehearsal run of Pippin.

Throughout the show, Grotevant plays five different instruments including acoustic guitar, electric guitar, banjo, mandolin and ukelele for the pit orchestra. "When I agreed to play in the pit, I thought I was just playing guitar," Grotevant said. The next day, Ms. Nelson came up to me and she said 'So the thing is, there are five different instruments on the book.' She started listing them, and I realized that I had at least a little bit of experience playing all of them. It was a little bit scary at first because guitar is my main instrument, but I had them all at home, and I was more than willing to learn." Reporting by Alice Scott. Photo by Noah Braun.

LEFT: Junior cellist Mateo Jones performs in the pit orchestra performs during a Pippin dress rehearsal. For Jones, the Pippin music is different from anything he has ever played. Pippin swings and rocks, but it also demands a strong connection between the actors on stage and the musicians in the pit. "You have to actually pay attention to what's going on on the stage in order to play in the right places," Jones said. "My favorite part has been the part of the musical where the leading player tells us to stop playing our instruments because it's funny every time to have that fourth wall break." For Jones, Pippin has been an eye-opening experience. "It's cool to be immersed in the other aspects of the fine arts program and create something that incorporates all the best parts of the program." Reporting by Ingrid Smith. Photo by Noah Braun.



Like its titular character 'Pippin' continues evolving every act

Actors, musicians, technical elements weave intricate story to standout show

Scan the QR code to view our full Tuesday Top 10 photo essay on The Shield Online.



RIGHT: DOWN TO A SCIENCE: Senior Nick Boehle (King Charles) performs "War is a Science," in which he briefs his soldiers on what to expect for their upcoming battle against the Visigoths. Charles has just reluctantly allowed Pippin to join him in battle despite his lack of experience in combat. For Boehle, this number was an important moment to highlight his character's values. "As someone who's not much of an actor, it kind of took a little bit of time and direction to form this character," Boehle said. "It's a lot of ideas of a character meshed into one." But after much work with scene partners and assistant director senior Finn Sewell McCann, Boehle feels confident in his performance. "I think I'm able to be comfortable with the character on stage now," Boehle said. Reportage by Alice Scott. Photo by Gergő Major.



BELOW: WITH OR WITHOUT YOU: Freshman Samari Davis performs "With You" with junior Henry Maves (Pippin). The dance-heavy number is another one of the titular character's fleeting attempts to find fulfillment in life. "With You" in particular relies heavily on choreography to tell the story of Pippin's quest to build a meaningful life. "My favorite part of doing this show has probably been learning and performing the choreography," Davis said. "Bob Fosse, who originally choreographed the show, is such an important person in the dance and musical theatre world, so it's very important for us that we portray his style in the best way. Throughout the show, my role along with everyone is just to help lead Pippin on his journey." Reportage by Alice Scott. Photo by Maggie Mass.

RIGHT: WORTH THE WORK: During the final rehearsal before the opening night show, senior Lauren Ryan-Holt (Leading Player) and junior Henry Maves (Pippin) begin to perform "On the Right Track." The cast and crew had been practicing the musical since October, but it wasn't until last Thursday that the show finally came to life. "This process has been absolutely worth it," Maves said. "Pippin has been one of the best productions I've gotten to be a part of." The production of Pippin has left Maves with many pleasant memories. "It's hard to pinpoint my favorite experience from working on the show," Maves said. "But there is no feeling quite like performing with the amazing cast and crew. We have done a great job with working together and making every show better than the last." Caption by JoJo Barnard. Photo by Gergő Major.



RIGHT: THE BIG 'FINALE': Members of the Pippin ensemble perform "Finale" when Leading Player's true intentions are revealed as she urges Pippin to give up his life for the epic climax of her show. For Devine, conveying the importance of this moment meant focusing on her expressions. "I get to go full crazy," Devine said. "I definitely put on the lunatic eyes and smile because I am so excited to see [Pippin] burn in fire." Reportage by Francie Wilhelm. Photo by Chloe Lewcock.



LEFT: IT'S TIME TO START LIVIN': Senior Charlotte Blackmon (Berthe) performs "No Time At All" and explains to her grandson Pippin the importance of living in the moment. Blackmon especially enjoys the energy of the song and the audience participation. "It's a super fun song on its own, and the choreography makes it even more fun to perform," Blackmon said. "There are people dancing with showgirl fans and people tap dancing and the audience even gets to sing along during the chorus." Reportage by Francie Wilhelm. Photo by Maggie Mass.

RIGHT: DANCING THE KNIGHT AWAY: Senior Lauren Ryan-Holt (Leading Player) and sophomore dancer Zalie Mann perform "Glorv." For Mann, one of the main dancers in the show, the numbers weren't only about impressing the audience but telling the story in a unique way as well. "I absolutely love all the dances," Mann said. "It's such a crowd pleaser, and every night it gets more and more fun because we can play around with it more." Mann says the whole experience has proved to be more than just a school musical. "Although it's exhausting, I love it so much, and the experience is unlike any other," Mann said. Reportage and photo by Chloe Lewcock.



LEFT: AIN'T NO SUNSHINE: Gliding through the air, junior Ellie Loudermilk (Fastrada) performs the number "Spread a Little Sunshine," in which her character's true motives are revealed. "That specific move is to show off all of Fastrada's assets that allow her to manipulate the king and Pippin," Loudermilk said. In the song, Fastrada, stepmother to Pippin and wife to King Charles, facilitates events that will allow for her son, Lewis, to become next in line for the throne. "Spread a Little Sunshine" is a number where you get to truly see the mastermind at work," Loudermilk said. "In the song she convinces Pippin to kill his father so her darling son can become king. I like the number because I feel like I'm letting the audience into the secret, or rather, to the master plan." Reportage by Alice Scott. Photo by Gergő Major.

Bringing birding to Mac

Senior finds bird club, shares passion with like-minded 'Feathered Friends'

ELENA ULACK

staff reporter

Senior Gillian Lucente's obsession with birds started right before her freshman year. This obsession only increased on July 10, 2021, when she experienced an up-close sighting of a red-shouldered hawk.

"For the longest time I thought I was living next to a red-tailed hawk, but after a while, I was starting to notice a difference between the two," Lucente said. "I was like, 'That's definitely not a red-tailed hawk.' So I started looking into it more."

Eventually, the red-shouldered hawk flew right up to Lucente's window, giving her a glimpse of it just by looking directly up.

"I had never been so amazed to see such a bird up close, to the point where I just had to know more," Lucente said. "It kind of got me even more and more into birding."

Lucente's newfound passion for birding inspired her to found a birding club called McCallum Feathered Friends. She started the club to put it on a college résumé, learn leadership skills and find like-minded people who shared her passion for birds. Kicking off the club, however, proved to be a challenge.

"I was scared to start it because I was afraid people were just going to laugh at it," Lucente said. "After a while, my friend started saying, 'You should totally do it.' So eventually, I was like, 'I guess we'll see how this works.'"

After Lucente filled out the club application form, chemistry teacher Jace Klein caught wind of the proposition and volunteered to be the club's adviser.

"I took a class on birds when I was in college and had a lot of fun," Klein said. "I really tried to help start it and get it off the ground. The students are the leaders. I'm just there for support."

When McCallum Feathered Friends started last year, the leaders began by providing FIT sessions where the group would go outside, enjoy nature and try to look for birds. This year, the group is more organized. At the club's first official meeting, the leaders devised a game where the club members would go outside and look for birds. Based on the kinds of birds they saw, they got a certain number of points.

In the future, the bird club will go on early-morning walks when birds are most active and help the school become more bird-friendly by making birdhouses and feeders.

"I think anyone can do it as long as they have enough patience," Lucente said. "I've noticed some people don't have enough patience to just sit outside and look at a bird long enough to be like, 'OK, that's a blue jay', or see two different crows next to each other and be like, 'That's a different one than that one.'"

Sophomore Kyan Adams was looking for a club that was relevant to his interests in paleontology and zoology and began attending the bird club. Adams is the representative for the underclassmen and is hoping to be a spokesperson for the club, going up front and conducting speeches about a wide range of bird-related topics.

"It's my first year in the club, so for me, it's all new faces," Adams said. "But so far everyone in the club is very cooperative, helpful and fun to discuss with."

To Lucente, bird-watching can be as simple as gazing out the window and walking around or seeking out different bird noises or sightings and trying to identify them. In Lucente's opinion, the best conditions for bird-watching are when it's not very windy. It's a big bonus when there are enough clouds to help see the birds better. Lucente's passion for birds, however, doesn't stop

at bird-watching.

"[I'd like to be an] ornithologist, someone who studies birds in their natural habitats or in a laboratory," Lucente said. "My second choice would be a conservationist so I can help the birds regrow their populations and make sure they have somewhere to go."

Lucente describes the bird club environment as welcoming and its members as willing to learn and help out. She encourages anyone who's even remotely interested to check it out on Tuesdays during FIT.

"Ironically, I actually took a very accurate bird quiz by bird experts online," Lucente said. "Apparently, I'm a mallard duck. It means I can be vocal but also silent and stealthy."



LEFT: To Lucente, bird-watching can be as simple as gazing out the window and walking around or seeking out different bird noises or sightings and trying to identify them. Photo courtesy of Lucente. ABOVE: An artist rendering of the birds found on the McCallum's Feathered Friends logo. Graphic by Evie Barnard.



What type of car do you (or your family members) primarily use?

- 1 — I drive an electric car.
- 2 — I drive a hybrid car.
- 3 — I drive neither a hybrid nor an electric car.



How often do you eat locally grown food?

- 1 — The majority of the food I eat is locally grown.
- 2 — Some of the food I eat is locally grown.
- 3 — Almost none of the food I eat is locally grown.



- 1 —
- 2 —
- 3 —



How do you like to get around?

- 1 — I mostly bike or walk to places.
- 2 — I mostly take the bus or carpool.
- 3 — I drive myself in most places.

What percentage of your energy usage comes from renewable sources?

- 1 — Most of the energy I use comes from a renewable source.
- 2 — Some of the energy I use comes from a renewable source.

- 3 — None of the energy I use comes from a renewable source.



How often do you eat animal-based products?

- 1 — Rarely, I'm vegetarian/vegan.
- 2 — I eat animal products a few times a week.
- 3 — I eat animal products daily.

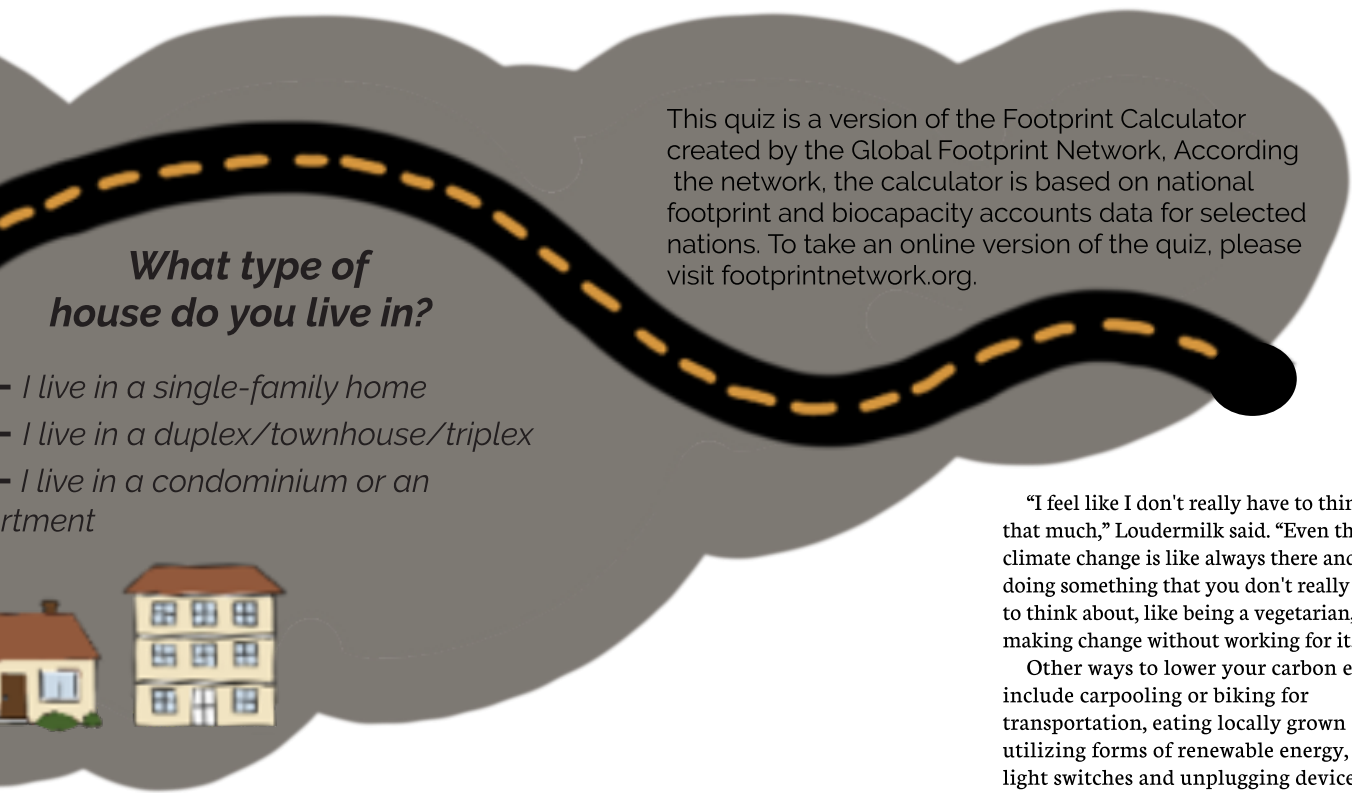


What is driving emissions?

Climate change caused by greenhouse gas in the atmosphere can be monitored by helpful, analytical tool

How many Earth you take up with carbon foot

Answer a few questions to find how much you would need to sustain if every person according to you



What type of house do you live in?

- I live in a single-family home
- I live in a duplex/townhouse/triplex
- I live in a condominium or an apartment

Living your CO2

ALICE SCOTT
co-editor-in-chief

World geography is the required social studies class for all freshmen. It's a class that sets the pace for what students will learn about in history for the rest of their time in high school. But for junior Ellie Loudermilk, that world geography class changed the course of her life. It started with a carbon footprint quiz. Loudermilk's results: It would take four Earths to sustain humanity if everyone lived like her. So, she decided to make a change.

"I became a vegetarian after that quiz," Loudermilk said "I saw that I used three too many worlds and I thought 'This is horrible.' I wondered, 'What can what really can one person do about it?' But I feel like I have to do what I can."

A carbon footprint quiz analyzes the lifestyle of an individual to

calculate their carbon emissions. This type of analysis also allows one to determine which areas of their life release the most CO₂.

"Carbon footprint is how much greenhouse gases an individual emits into the atmosphere," senior and Austin Climate Coalition member Malia Walewski said. "Currently humans are putting way too much carbon dioxide into the Earth and it's a major cause of the climate crisis."

Austin Climate Coalition is a student-run group that extends across multiple different Austin schools that works to fight climate change.

"It's an organization that was founded at a climate march in 2018 by high schoolers from across central Texas," Walewski said. "We focus on promoting local sustainability and lobbying local/state government members to advocate and approve climate friendly legislation. We seek to influence those in power by using our voices as young people because, after all, our votes are the future."

Loudermilk, however, wasn't aware of this organization at the time. She just knew she wanted to make change. As the meat industry is a huge contributor to global carbon emissions, going vegetarian was a way for Loudermilk to make a realistic change to her own lifestyle.

"A lot of my carbon footprint was based off of the meat that I ate every day," Loudermilk said. "My mom grew up eating like this at the her childhood restaurant. My grandma has diabetes because she ate like the most rich beef for dinner every night. Eating meat was so ingrained in our lifestyle, that it was kind of hard to change."

Despite the difficulty, Loudermilk put in the work. Now, being a vegetarian feels almost like second nature.

This quiz is a version of the Footprint Calculator created by the Global Footprint Network. According to the network, the calculator is based on national footprint and biocapacity accounts data for selected nations. To take an online version of the quiz, please visit footprintnetwork.org.

"I feel like I don't really have to think about it that much," Loudermilk said. "Even though climate change is like always there and if you're doing something that you don't really even have to think about, like being a vegetarian, you're making change without working for it."

Other ways to lower your carbon emissions include carpooling or biking for transportation, eating locally grown food, utilizing forms of renewable energy, turning of light switches and unplugging devices when they are not in use, and looking at your own personal carbon footprint.

"It's a helpful unit of measurement for someone's greenhouse gas output," Walewski said. For Loudermilk, the initial hurdle of going vegetarian was finding ways to eat around a family of meat eaters.

"The hardest part about being a vegetarian is how you are with other people because everybody else around me eats meat, especially my family," Loudermilk said. "Luckily my mother was very nice about it, so she would like make vegetarian options for me right at dinner, but I feel like a lot of families don't have a chef in the house that will change meals."

But by making conscious choices when preparing meals, the initial challenges of this lifestyle payed off for Loudermilk.

"It's actually it's very easy," Loudermilk said. "My mom will make a dinner like a stir fry, and she'll make my dinner first, which is just a normal stir fry. Then after she makes mine, she'll add meat in for the rest of the family, which is really easy."

Even for those who don't want to shift their diet completely, Loudermilk believes there are other ways to help.

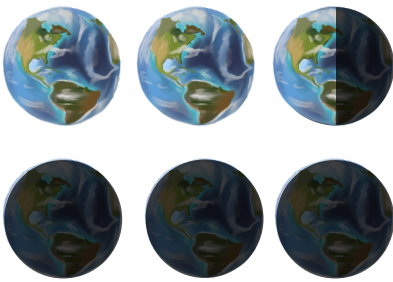
"You don't have to go full vegetarian to lower your carbon footprint," Loudermilk said. "You could just like I don't know, not eat meat every for every meal and have meat every few days of the week instead of every day, which I think is attainable."

Loudermilk herself even "cheats" on her vegetarianism on special occasions. In her mind, it's more about the big picture — everybody pitching in and doing what they can, no matter how much that may be.

"Even the little things are so important," Loudermilk said. "Because even if I'm not making the biggest carbon footprint change, I'm making my own change, and I know that I'm doing the most I can. I'm not forcing it onto anyone, but I am doing what I can do to save."

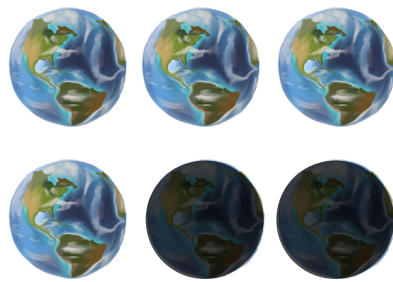
Calculate your point total for quiz results.

If you scored a total between 6-10 points...



Humanity would need between 1-2.5 Earths to sustain itself.

If you scored a total between 10-14 points...



Humanity would need between 2.5-4 Earths to sustain itself.

If you scored a total between 14-18 points...



Humanity would need between 4-5.5 Earths to sustain itself.

LANIE SEPEHRI
co-people editor
& co-print managing editor

Near the end of Gus Fruh Trail, deep in the Austin Greenbelt, there is a rock that juts out from the trail. When there is water in the creek, it becomes a perfect jumping rock. And sophomore Hazel Johnson grew up jumping from it.

Memories of swimming and hiking along the Greenbelt with her family are some of Johnson's fondest. Austin's nature is part of her past. As president of the Environmental Knights, Johnson is working to protect its future.

"[Environmental Knights] mission really resonated with me because I love nature," Johnson said. "I care about keeping it safe and clean. And having green spaces is important for people's overall well-being."

Johnson's love for nature motivated her to join Environmental Knights in her freshman year. But she wanted more for it. So at the beginning of this school year, she approached science teacher Gabriel Adame about sponsoring the club.

"She was a part of [the club] as a member but saw that there was a need for growth and expansion," Adame said. "Just seeing and hearing the motivation that she had, I had to say yes."

From there, Johnson took charge. As president of the club, Johnson is responsible for leading club meetings, organizing activities and communicating with club members and the groups they partner with. It may sound like a lot of responsibility, but Johnson does it because she believes in the club's mission: keeping McCallum trash-free.

"Our goal is to have a cleaner

A Knight in shining arbor

Nature-loving sophomore devoted to keeping campus clean

campus," Johnson said. "I think that it's important because it's helpful for the environment and also for the atmosphere of the school."

To reach that goal, Johnson led monthly campus cleanups with the club. While trash pickups are a small task, they can make a big difference in the long run.

"Cleanups are an easier way [to help the environment] that doesn't require as much effort, but they do make a difference, especially because we do them monthly," Johnson said. "They keep the campus clean over time."

Johnson is always looking for more projects to involve the club in, but she's extremely proud of what they have accomplished. In addition to regular campus cleanups, the Environmental Knights partnered with Austin Creative Reuse, an organization that sells reusable creative materials at an affordable price.

"I'd like to work with [ACR] more because it's a great volunteer opportunity that's accessible to everyone," Johnson said.

Johnson wants to involve the larger McCallum community in environmental awareness, too. She's planning a "Green Week" around Earth Day, which will look similar to PALS's Pink Week fundraiser for breast cancer research. In addition to getting the Mac community involved in environmentalism, it will double as a fundraiser for the Environmental Knights.

"I think [Green Week is] going to be our big thing this year that everything's culminating towards," Johnson said. "We're still in pretty early planning stages, but we've been doing a lot of brainstorming sessions to come up with ideas to make it interesting for the entire student body because we want to get everyone involved."

Adame has noticed that although Johnson expects a lot from her Environmental Knights, her flexibility and passion make its members willing to do their part.

"She's highly influential to her peers," Adame said. "She's just very easy to work with and talk to. The members definitely don't mind when she has a sudden request such as helping out the week of [an event] or something like that."

Sophomore and club vice president Ivy Christie shares Adame's perspective, especially after working with Johnson to run the club.

"Hazel is extremely responsible as a leader," Christie said. "She shows a lot of passion for Environmental Knights and constantly is proving herself as a fantastic leader."

Johnson is proof that if you want to make change, you have to make it yourself. For her part, Johnson is proud that the club she's put so much work into is not only making an impact but also inspiring other students to become environmentally conscious.

"I think that the enthusiasm for the Environmental Knights says that students here really do care about the Earth and they want to do what they can," Johnson said. "That's important because if students don't care now, then in the future, that will mean there aren't people that care about the environment and there won't be people protecting it."

*Johnson stands beneath a tree at McCallum.
Photo by Lanie Sepehri.*



— On the road to success —

Sophomore Zita Conradie pursues lifelong passion in building, fixing, collecting, cars

CAMILLA VANDEGRIFT
staff reporter

Life is a highway, and sophomore Zita Conradie rides it in her very own 1990 BMW 325i convertible that she fixed up herself.

Conradie's interest in cars was sparked at a young age. As a toddler, *Cars* was her favorite movie. As a kid, her dad took her to classic car shows and F1 races.

"Naturally if I was always surrounded by it I would love it," Conradie said.

Conradie spent her summers working on cars with her neighbor, which gave her an opportunity to practice and perfect her mechanic skills.

Jaco Conradie, Zita's father, remarked on the speed with which his daughter's interest progressed.

"I kind of helped her identify the icons on the car, which model it is, and she took it from there," Jaco said. "Within record time, she knew everything about every car. Almost more than me."

Conradie's friend, sophomore Avery Altuna, has noticed Conradie's devotion to cars as well as her ability to fix mechanical issues with ease.

"I think it's one of those things that just comes naturally to her," Altuna said. "I just cannot wrap my mind around how it works."

Altuna also noted that the time and care Conradie has put into her own car is evident.

By now, Conradie has lost track of how many cars she's fixed up, but one stands out as especially significant to her.

"My favorite car I've ever worked on is probably my own," Conradie said. "It's my car, so it feels really

good working on it because I get to connect with it. After I saved up forever for that thing, it definitely paid off."

Finding herself busy with extracurricular activities throughout the week, Conradie devotes her weekends to working on cars. According to her sister, Anneliese Conradie, these are the only days when she can find time to do so.

"She does hard work to make them nice, like, hours on the weekends," Anneliese said. "She gets so excited anytime anyone says anything about a car."

Conradie says the long hours are worth it for the final result.

"It's so satisfying when I've been working on something for a while and I'm finally done," she said, "I get to take a step back and admire the work that I've accomplished."

Conradie has worked long shifts at her job to save the money to buy for cars and the materials she needs to work on them.

"I'll gladly spend a chunk of money on a car," Conradie said, "It makes me so happy to have it look a certain way or be faster. It's just worth working hard and spending

money on something you really love."

*"It's just worth **working hard** and spending money on something you **really love**."*

— sophomore Zita Conradie

ABOVE: An illustration of Conradie's collection of miniature cars, which add to fueling her interest. Graphic by Sophie Leung-Lieu.

Sophomore Zita Conradie poses in front of her 1990 BMW 325i convertible. Conradie fixed up the car herself. Photo courtesy of Conradie.

"Within record time she knew everything about every car, almost more than me."

— Zita's father, Jaco Conradie



Kessler finds the fire within

Junior aspiring paramedic attends LBJ Fire Academy

INGRID SMITH

co-news editor, co-online managing editor

Junior Sophie Kessler knows how to break into a house with a hammer. From CPR to crawling down a burning elevator shaft, she lives for the thrill of saving lives. As a member of LBJ Fire Academy Class 17, Kessler is learning how to be a hero.

For as long as Kessler can remember, she has dreamed of becoming a paramedic. As a child, she carried around a toy medical kit. As a middle schooler, she binge-watched medical dramas. That's why Kessler sent in her application for the two-year certification program five months before it was due. There was no way she could pass up the opportunity to spend her days learning how to save lives.

"There's something that's always been thrilling to me about giving first aid to people or providing them with medical care," Kessler said. "I've always wanted to be an EMT, and I saw that the Fire Academy could certify me for it. Basically, I can start doing the career that I've always wanted, straight out of high school."

But as she boarded the bus to LBJ for her first day in the Fire Academy, she was so nervous she thought she was going to cry. That is, until she met the other kids.

"I got there and everybody was so welcoming and accepting,"

Kessler said. "It was so exciting, pivotal almost. I was like, 'This is a totally different kind of passion.'"

Kessler boards a bus at 8:30 a.m. every other morning to LBJ. As she sips on Gatorade, she prepares to fight fire, fatigue, exams and any other challenge that comes her way. But when she walks into the run-down Fire Academy portable halfway across town and sees the faces of her fellow firefighters-in-training, she knows it's going to be a good day.

"It's just the people there that bring it together, and it's such a strong community," Kessler said, "Everybody gets along. It doesn't really have a lot of funding, so everything's ratty, but nobody complains because everybody's just in it together."

Fellow firefighter-in-training Eunhyo Mah believes that Kessler's positive attitude has an impact on their entire class.

"I remember seeing Sophie on the first day with her winged eyeliner and grunge T-shirt and thinking she looked really fun," Mah

recalled,

"but I was sort of intimidated, so it took a while for us to actually talk for the first time. When we did though, she was so sweet and funny, and I just loved her. She's a really important part of the mesh of our fire class."

At exactly 9:05 a.m., Class 17 gets down to business. The students pull their gear out of a giant shipping container and take on the day's three-hour lesson that will involve a slideshow, a test, physical labor or all three.

LBJ Fire Academy director Leon Hudson only has two rules: no one gets hurt and no one breaks any expensive equipment. According to Hudson, less than 1% of Fire Academy students go into fire service, instead choosing to attend college or pursue other career paths. According to him, the Fire Academy isn't just training firefighters and EMTs, it's shaping young adults.

"My favorite part is watching young people mature and develop skills that are transferable to any career field in life," Hudson said. "Through the program, they develop leadership skills and the confidence to step forward in any situation."

But in order to familiarize students with the dangers and challenges that come with the job, the Fire Academy curriculum is rigorous. Students are assigned textbook chapters

written by the National Fire Commission to prepare them for the 50-question exam at the end of each week. For

Kessler, the biggest challenge she faces in the Fire Academy is studying for block exams.

"That was definitely the worst part for me because I've never been good at studying," Kessler said.

"My motivation for getting over that was that this is something more real than school. I'm not studying about Abraham Lincoln. I'm

studying how to save lives."

Another challenge was physical fitness.

The Fire Academy curriculum includes skills like donning and doffing (getting suited as fast as possible), breaking down a door with an axe, and crawling through confined spaces. Going into these physical challenges without much muscle, Kessler felt like the odd one out.

"For a while, it was almost embarrassing how different I was from most of the class," Kessler said, "but then I realized that it's not about strength, it's about mental state and how you want to push yourself. I also started gaining a little bit of muscle, which definitely helped."

Every few months, the Fire Academy holds "skill

days" where students put on full gear and strap on an oxygen tank before their workout. Kessler remembers one day in particular, standing out in the heat and doing a workout circuit while breathing with a limited amount of air. The students either kept going until their air ran out, or they passed out.

Kessler said that at that moment, the looks on everyone's faces were beyond miserable. But when it was over, the firefighters-in-training were more bonded than ever.

"Just the fact that we all made it through that was inspiring," Kessler said. "Some people made it twice as long as I did. It gives you a lot of respect for someone, seeing them do that."

As Class 17 enters its second semester, Kessler and other students will rotate through different leadership positions. Hudson said he's excited to help Kessler find her voice as a leader.

"She doesn't give up, and she's tenacious," Hudson said. "She had a challenge with a couple of knots, but she just kept going and going until she had it figured out."

Kessler knows that in a firefighter's world, it takes a team. The support of her classmates help her find strength to keep going.

"The first time I raised the 225-pound ladder, everybody was cheering me on," Kessler said. "The whole time I was like, 'I'm going to throw up, this is miserable.' But I could see the little light at the end of the tunnel. Once I did it, it was the best feeling ever."

To Mah, Kessler's companionship can turn even the most brutal day into a good experience.

"Sophie's always so funny and easy to talk to, so I think some of my best memories are just of us talking about random things during skill practices," Mah said.

Through the Fire Academy, Kessler has learned about the mental, physical and emotional dedication that it takes to be a first responder. Kessler believes that she has emerged a stronger person.

"The skills you learn, the people you meet, and the community that grows is beyond life-changing," Kessler said. "It's inspirational, and it's useful because who else knows how to break into a house with a hammer?"

"My favorite part of this whole thing is watching young people mature and develop skills"

-Leon Hudson

Kessler performs an air consumption test with an oxygen tank while doing a workout circuit. Kessler completed the test but said her time still has room for improvement. Photo courtesy of Kessler.

Coulbourn wears her heart on her sleeve

Junior creates clothes from repurposed fabric to cut down on fast fashion consumption, creates unique and tailored pieces

KATE BOYLE

co-print managing editor,
co-news editor

Sewing is in Junior Maggie Coulbourn's blood. She began sewing with her grandma and namesake Margaret Edwards when she was 6, and since then, it's become more than just a hobby.

"Maggie has a family heritage that includes sewing from my and her mother," Edwards said. "Maggie has always seen that and I think her love of sewing came from Maggie observing all of this."

When Coulbourn started learning to sew, she was working with an antique sewing machine that belonged to her great grandmother.

"If Maggie wanted to make something she had to ask her mother's permission to use the sewing machine, and her mother had to be involved because it's an antique," Edwards said. "I thought that Maggie needed a sewing machine of her own, so I found one on the neighborhood list. What this meant for Maggie was she didn't have to ask her mother's permission anymore to sew. You know how some kids color or do crafts or ride their bike all the time. Maggie started sewing a lot."

Although she started with small projects such as bags and pillows, she quickly transitioned to sewing her own clothes. Her clothes, which range from overalls to Italian Renaissance dresses, are unique because they are both by and for her.

"It's super cool to be able to make my own clothing," Coulbourn said. "It's a great way to be able to have stuff that feels uniquely you and, of course, actually fits you properly. You don't have to worry, 'Well, it's too small at the hips, but it's a little gappy around the waist,' because you can fit it to yourself perfectly."

As Coulbourn has progressed in her craft, not only is she able to make more unique and complex pieces, but her preferred tools she uses while sewing have changed as

well. Coulbourn decided to change her preferred dress form, or model of a torso that can be used to fit a piece of clothing, to more accurately make clothes for her specific body.

"My first dress form was from Austin Creative Reuse," Coulbourn said. "It was really rusty, and it was super cool to have when I was just starting sewing, but it was petite, and I'm not a petite person. I finally got one that was mid-size and fits me."

Although her current dress form works, Coulbourn wanted something uniquely hers. So, she downloaded a pattern to create her own dress form. It's taken Coulbourn nearly two years to construct her own model.

"I bought this pattern that was like \$24 off of this website called Bootstrap Patterns," Coulbourn said. "You give them so many measurements and they generate a custom pattern for you to make your own dress form."

Since Coulbourn has created so many different pieces of clothing, it's hard for her to pick a favorite. But it has to be either her floral dress or pair of purple pants.

"I bought this really gorgeous purple fabric, and I wasn't sure what I was gonna do with it," Coulbourn said, "but it was just so pretty that I

was like, 'OK, I have to use this.' I slowly made these deep purple trousers that I love."

Her favorite dress was one she made for a Florence and the Machine concert.

"I really felt like I needed to have something special to wear for that," Coulbourn said, "so I made this really pretty dress. It's got this long, flowing skirt. And these bell sleeves out of this floral fabric."

Although making her own clothing has become a passion of hers, Coulbourn acknowledges that the DIY seamstress route isn't for everyone.

"It definitely requires a lot of practice and materials and everything," she said. "I definitely think it's one avenue that, if you have the time and the commitment, is a really cool way to cut down on your environmental impact."

Whether Coulbourn makes a renaissance dress or a simple pair of pants, Edwards is impressed by her granddaughter's creations and how far she has come.

"I don't understand how her brain works in this way," Edwards said of Coulbourn's sewing process. "I've never known anyone who can do that. She gives pieces of cloth that would otherwise be thrown away a new life, and I think that's special."

Inside Coulbourn's Closet



Pictured is a two-part custom dress made of an underskirt (right) and a top layer (left). Coulbourn and her grandma made the intricate outfit for the Renaissance Fair. Photos courtesy of Maggie Coulbourn.

Junior Maggie Coulbourn poses for a photo of her in the dress she made for a Florence and the Machine concert. Photo courtesy of Coulbourn

Wrestling team makes impact at Capital Classic

JV boys earn three medals; five place in top four in their weight class; at their first tournament, girls win several varsity matches, some by pin

LILLIAN GREY

Mac photojournalism

Walking up to the Delco Center on the night of Nov. 18, the energy was palpable. The parking lot was filled with buses from more than 42 different wrestling teams from all across Texas who were there to compete in the Capital Classic wrestling tournament. The stands were packed with wrestlers who had been there since the early hours and were awaiting their chance at a win.

With just 10 boys and three girls, many of them competing at their first wrestling tournament, the Knights didn't quite know what to expect. All they knew was they were going to give it their all.

The boys team dominated in the JV field with three boys earning a medal and five boys placing in the top four of their weight class. Senior Corgan Berger won two out of his three matches coming in second place in his weight class, while juniors Jacob Peterson and Kilian Oppel both placed third.

Senior Erik Lopez placed fourth in his weight class, scoring eight points for his team. Lopez said nerves got the best of him at the beginning but helped him see what he is capable of for his later matches.

"The tournament started off pretty well," Lopez said. "I was really anxious, which made me lose my first match, but I gained confidence after that."

Rebounding from that initial defeat, Lopez won the next two matches.

"I thought I would do a lot worse, and I realized if I was able to get that far with the first one I could do a lot better," Lopez said. "In my second match, I didn't end up pinning him, but I ended with a score of 10-4."

The girls team entered the tournament with just three girls in the varsity matches, but they were still able to perform well.

Although they were not able to secure any medals against more experienced varsity wrestlers, the girls team with two freshmen and one sophomore were able to make a strong showing. Gaining a couple of pins, as well as a few wins on points, they definitely made an impression on the competition by leaving everything out there on the mat.

Sophomore Lucca Lewis won two out of her four matches and made it the farthest in the tournament out of the

McCallum girls. Lewis was able to beat a opponent in a closely contested match.

"The score was pretty close," Lewis said. "I made a lot of the rookie mistakes, but I got over them."

The match was close, with both wrestlers frequently earning points with constant throw downs, Lewis making the last move.

"My thoughts were just to pick her up and drive, just get her to

the floor," she said. "There were 10 seconds left. I picked her up. I slammed her. I got the two extra takedown points, and I won."

Lewis went on to win one more match but lost her last match because of a pin.

Coach Salazar says the team did a good job and showed a lot of

determination throughout the event.

"The girls pleasantly surprised me with a few of their matches," Salazar said. "The girls that wrestled at the tournament are all first-year wrestlers and were wrestling in their first tournament. All three won at least one of their matches by a pin; it was great to watch them."

This tournament, the first of the season, has showed the team where they stand at this point and what they need to work on individually. Salazar says the team is willing to put in the work and that they will do so to perform better in future tournaments.

"We will prepare by continuing to give 100% in every practice and in every match," Salazar said.

Salazar hopes with more practice and experience, individuals will advance to the next level later in the season.

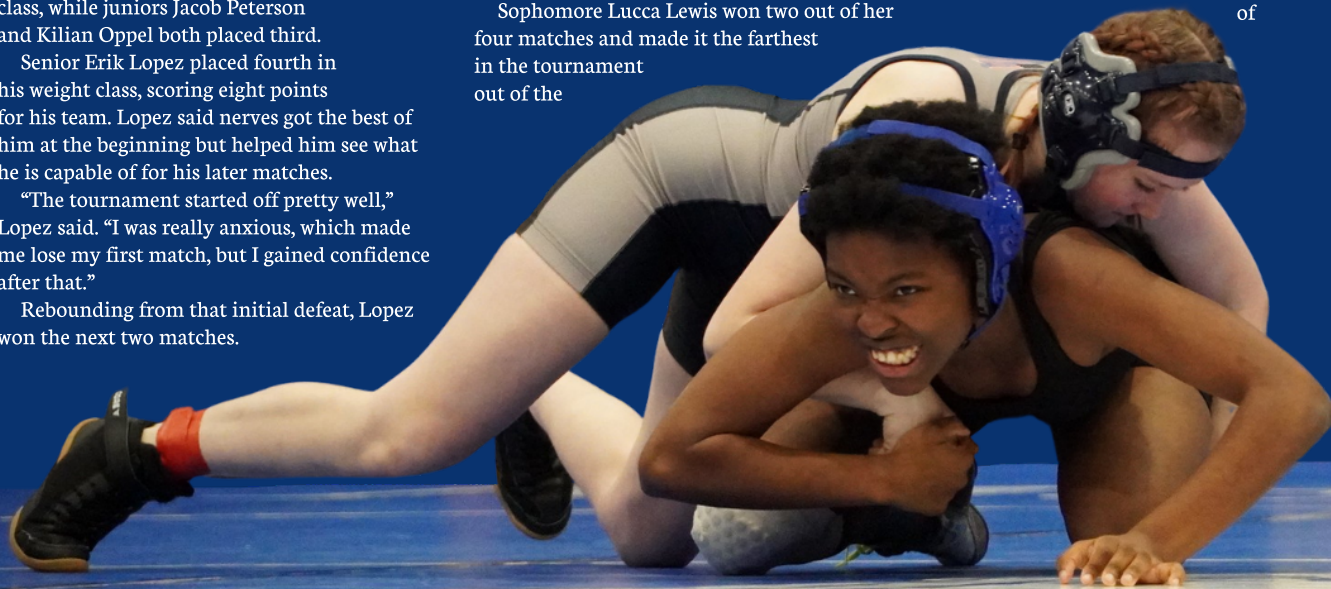
"I feel the season is going great, and we are headed in the right direction," Salazar said. "Our overall goal is to continue to improve with every match and practice and to get a few of our wrestlers to place in the top four in District thus moving on to the Regional tournament and possibly on to State."

The young wrestling team will be using the next couple of months in preparation for their district competition. Given the energy, commitment of the team and its coaches, and this strong showing early in the season, the goals the team have set appear within reach.

Freshman Noble Pierce wrestles her opponent from LASA during the Wrestling Tri Meet held in the McCallum gym on Dec. 7. Photo by Lillian Gray.

"There were 10 seconds left. I picked her up. I slammed her. I got the two extra takedown points, and I won."

— sophomore Lucca Lewis



Sophomore Lucca Lewis (left). Photo by Lillian Gray.

Two wrestling Knights headed to Regionals

Coming off the ice storm, the varsity wrestling team headed to the Delco Center Saturday to compete at the district tournament. Although the team had a good showing, the boys weren't able to get any wrestlers on the podium, and just two members of the girls team remained at the end of the day. Those two wrestlers were sophomore Lucca Lewis and freshman Nayeli Azul who both placed second in their weight class.

First-year wrestler Lewis felt she could have done better but was proud for advancing to the next level and making the podium.

"I had two weeks off of wrestling practice and just had gotten over

being sick, so I wasn't feeling 100%," Lewis said. "I am glad I got second place, but I feel I should have executed some things better."

Azul was also competing for first place in their final match.

"I was very confident going into my last match, and that tends to help me do better," Azul said. "During the match, I was trying to listen to what the coaches and wrestlers were telling me to do, but mostly I don't think about what I'm doing. I just do it."

By virtue of their second-place district finish in their respective weight classes, Lewis and Azul will compete in the regional meet this Friday in Dallas.

—Lillian Gray

A hole new ball game

Golf team embraces new members, changes

“You really want to build **a love of golf** versus a need to compete or get trophies.”

— golf coach Clifford Stanchos

“Golf calmed my **blood pressure** and feels good.”

— junior Jendayi Innocent

HELEN MARTIN

staff reporter

Every Tuesday and Thursday morning, history teacher and golf coach Clifford Stanchos makes the drive over to the golf course. It's the highlight of his day.

“When I drive to work on B-days, I'm driving into the sunrise,” Stanchos said. “You have the sound of these beautiful green birds chirping and the fairways in front of you as the sun rises.”

Though he's played golf his whole life, this is only Stanchos' second year coaching. And so far, it's giving him a run for his money.

“At any point, there are dozens of things that interplay with one another, and when you've been golfing long enough you don't think about it,” he said, “To be a golf coach you need to try and break down each of those processes.”

After longtime coach Nancy Nitardy's retirement at the end of the 2020-2021 school year, math teacher Richard Salazar—a long-time golf buddy of Stanchos'—was offered the job.

When Stanchos learned this, he jumped at the chance to share the job with Salazar.

Despite the newfound challenge of switching from a player's perspective to that of a coach, Stanchos has successfully recruited more members to join the team. Namely, one of his students, junior Jendayi Innocent. Innocent played basketball to combat possible health issues, but as time progressed, she realized she would prefer a more tranquil sport.

“I was having a hard time breathing during basketball, and I didn't want it to be an issue where I miss school to go to the doctor,” Innocent said, “Golf calmed my blood pressure and feels good.”

Finding out that her history teacher coached a sport she'd be able to play was crucial in Innocent's decision to switch.

“When I found out Mr. Stanchos was the

coach I was excited, because I loved how calm his class was,” she said.

Now that she's seen him on the course, she can safely say she made the right decision. His attempts at getting the team to lift each other up have proven successful, with newer players like Innocent finding their footing on the course.

“When I started, I was kind of anxious and nervous because everyone around me was playing like pros,” Innocent said, “but now I'm actually getting the hang of it. I'm finally hitting the ball almost as high as everyone else.”

Stanchos and Salazar have worked throughout the season to bring the team closer together, hoping to disband cliques and welcome new players.

“We want to bring people in,” Stanchos said. “That has an effect on how we coach: you can't be too tough, but you can't be too stringent with your expectations because you might lose interest. You really want to build a love of golf versus a need to compete or get trophies.”

Stanchos has approached coaching in a more hands-on way than his coaches did during his high school years, yet still hopes to foster a similar appreciation for the game.

“You know, our golf coach wouldn't even show up,” he said. “We were just expected to turn in our scorecards to him and sort it all out ourselves. But we loved it so much.”

By contrast, both Stanchos and Salazar participate in both practice and certain tournaments with their players. New additions to this year's schedule include tournaments that encourage coaches to play with their students.

“We signed up for more tournaments this year, a lot more with golf coaches going to the golf course,” Stanchos said, “We've already played two tournaments with our players.”

Playing with his students has allowed Stanchos to appreciate a different side of the game, teaching both him and his players life lessons that can be taken off the course.

“If I do have a bad shot, then I'm gonna demonstrate how I deal with that, which is just how it goes,” Stanchos lamented. “You leave the bad shots, you take the good shots with you.”

Junior John Hyde, a 3-year veteran of the golf team, swings during a 2021 tournament. Hyde has been on the team since before Coach Clifford Stanchos' arrival. Though he enjoyed playing under former coach Nancy Nitardy, he noted that Stanchos offered a different, more approachable perspective on the game. “He's able to get to us more,” Hyde said, “I get more time to ask questions and understand what I'm doing wrong so I'm able to fix it.” Photo by Charlie Partheymuller.

COMPETING

Plummer by the numbers



steals per game **13**

assists per game **14**

rebounds per game **21**

points per game **10.3**

Source: Hudl.com.
Graphic by Francie Wilhelm.

20
points
against
Lake Belton

20
points
against
Crockett

Lone freshman on varsity, Ethan Plummer, finds success on team, hopes to pursue basketball in the future

ISLEY CAMERON
staff reporter

At 3, Ethan Plummer held a basketball in his hands for the first time. At 14, he became the only freshman on the varsity basketball team. Some of his earliest memories are his parents holding their arms out, forming a hoop for him to throw the ball into.

According to Plummer, his lifelong commitment to the game and support from his family is what pushed him to go the extra mile.

"My dad was the one who first taught me basketball," Plummer said.

"He has always supported my career. I have memories of him helping me master my jump shot and perfect my form at a young age."

Despite playing since he was a toddler and later joining the Lamar basketball team in middle school, Plummer still felt like he could do more to ensure he would make an impression during this year's tryouts. Over the summer, he spent hours a day shooting free throws. He was determined to make varsity so

that he could play alongside older, experienced teammates who are just as serious about basketball.

By the time tryouts rolled around, however, Plummer still had his doubts.

"I didn't expect to make the team," Plummer said. "When we first started, the freshman would practice separately, so I didn't think I would have a chance to play in front of the coaches."

But when finally given the opportunity to show what he could do, Plummer rose to the occasion.

"One practice, freshman scrimmaged JV and won," Plummer said. "I think that's when the coaches knew I stood out."

When Plummer made the varsity roster among a sea of upperclassmen, his new teammates welcomed their newest player with open arms. The team's captain, junior Finn Corrigan, was the only freshman on varsity two years ago when he first made the team. This year, he has taken Plummer under his wing.

"I see a little bit of myself in him," Corrigan said, "He's a point guard, so I try to teach him how to run the offense and be a leader even

"I try to teach him how to run the offense and be a leader even though he's just a freshman."

— varsity captain
Finn Corrigan

though he's just a freshman."

The team environment reminds Plummer why he grew to love basketball.

"I've played with a lot of different teammates," Plummer said, "The ones that really stand out are my friends I would play with during elementary school recess."

It was during these pickup games on the blacktop of Highland Park Elementary that Plummer realized his passion for the game.

"I think it's a really special sport in terms of how high energy games are and how fast they are paced," Plummer said.

Plummer's childhood friend, freshman Luke Bell, played alongside him at recess, and has watched Plummer become the player he is today.

"I'm really proud of him," Bell said. "Making varsity as a freshman is amazing, and shows his skills and ability to compete."

Plummer hopes to play Division I college basketball at the University of Texas. After growing up with a basketball in hand and with four years of varsity ball ahead of him, he knows his dream is within reach.

Plummer shoots a basket at the McCallum vs. Navarro game on Friday, Dec. 9, 2022. Photo by Emerson Merritt.

N THE COURT

22
points
against
Crockett

21
points
against
Eastside

31 steals
per game

19 assists
per game

26 rebounds
per game

122 points
per game

Chen
by the
numbers



Source: MaxPreps.com.
Graphic by Francie Wilhem.

After moving from Los Alamitos, CA, sophomore starting point guard finds perfect fit on varsity basketball team

In an exclusive interview with *The Shield*, sophomore starting point guard Emy Chen details her experience joining the varsity girls basketball team at a new school.

The Shield: What was it like to walk into a group of upperclassmen as an underclassman trying to fit in with the team?

Emy Chen: To be honest, it was really easy for me because everyone's really welcoming. So it wasn't like a struggle trying to fit in or anything. They made it really easy, and I felt really welcomed right off the start.

TS: How has your experience joining the basketball team at a new school helped you become accustomed to a new state?

It was really helpful coming in [and] being on a team to begin with because I wasn't just coming in brand new, I had people I knew and people I knew I could rely on. And because we are on a team, I know they always have my back.

TS: Do you think that the team has good chemistry in comparison to basketball teams that you've been on in the past?

That's something I actually really really love about the McCallum basketball team. We have amazing chemistry. We all

get along really well. Everyone's really nice.

TS: What would you say was the highlight game of your season so far?

I think we played recently really well at Cedar Creek, and we also had pretty good performance to the Crockett tournament.

TS: How would you describe yourself as a player?

On the court, I try to be really aggressive and my goal is to help the team in any way possible. I want to get on the floor. I want to get rebounds. I want to be as much of a contribution to the team as I can by trying to do that in whatever way that is possible.

TS: Have you had any major moments that made you feel like you were really part of the team and you were really contributing in a big way?

I feel like it's kind of hard to say because I feel like I was really welcomed from the start. There wasn't any moment of like, "OK, so now I belong." It was like, I came on from the start, and I really felt like I belonged

even though I didn't know anyone beforehand.

TS: What do you think were the main differences between California to Texas?

The people. I feel like, I didn't know what this was actually about but, Southern charm is really a thing.

TS: How has Coach Kehn helped welcome you into the program?

I love her. Right before I moved, as soon as I knew I was going to McCallum, I emailed her. Right off of our first email, I felt really at ease and more comfortable with moving to McCallum. I feel like she really, really helped with the whole process, and I'm really grateful for her.

TS: What do you think your goals are for the future of the

season, as a team and on your own?

I know as a team, I think we should be able to win district. That's our goal this year. Personally, I think I just like to do my best to really make sure that I'm always having a good showing and having a good attitude. I just want to be a positive force on the team that's helpful.

—interview by Caroline Owen

"To be honest, it was really easy for me because everyone's really welcoming. So it wasn't like a struggle trying to fit in"

— sophomore
Emy Chen

Chen shoots a contested layup in the preseason victory over Anderson on Oct. 29, 2022. Photo by Dave Winter.

SPORTSHIGHLIGHTS

KNIGHTS TAME THE JAGS IN BOYS SOCCER

On Saturday Jan. 28, the boys varsity soccer team beat the LBJ Jaguars behind three second half goals to win 4-1. The Knights dominated possession the first half but were only able to put one goal on the scoreboard after Liam Plum finished off a cross

from Tavo Jones. After halftime, the Knights started off slow as the Jaguars tied the game up. The tie didn't last long though: with Ohad Klein sending a long pass over the top to Liam Plum to break the deadlock and Eli Benitez scoring off a layoff by Dash Levy all within eight minutes. Speight Twohey wrapped the game up with a bouncing header off a corner by Eli Betton that ended up in the back of the net and the Knight's fourth goal. Benitez thinks that the team should work on getting ahead earlier in the match.

—Charlie Partheymuller

GIRLS SOCCER TREATS PRESEASON WOES AS A CHEMISTRY PROJECT

The Knights returned from winter break with a bang, playing three games in three days and going 2-1 in the Longhorn Challenge Tournament.

On Friday, Jan. 14 the Knights played in their district opener against Northeast, and won 5-1, conceding a penalty kick deep in the second half. On Tuesday Jan. 17, the Knights

defeated L.BJ 10-0. On Friday, Jan. 20, they defeated Navarro

2-0. On Monday Jan. 23, the Knights faced rival LASA and tied 0-0 despite defeating them 3-2 in the preseason tournament.

—Caroline Owen

WITH CLUTCH FREE THROWS, KNIGHTS EDGE COUGARS

It may have been Senior Night on Monday night, but it was a freshman who saved the day for the Knights in their second-to-last district game.

The Crockett Cougars led by three in a low-scoring first quarter, but the Knights roared back with an 18-6 run throughout the second quarter to lead by nine at the half.

The Cougars cut the Knight lead to one point, but senior Kalab Manor ended the quarter on a high note for the home team, sinking a half-court buzzer beater giving the Knights a four-point lead heading into the fourth quarter.

The Cougars regained the lead by scoring seven points in the first three minutes of the third quarter. The Knights responded to tie the score, and the teams traded baskets in a tense final stanza.

With 20 seconds left on the clock, the Cougars held the ball and a one-point lead, making the Knights' prospects for a Senior Night victory look bleak, but then the Knights stole the ball, and freshman Ethan Plummer was fouled with about 17 seconds remaining on the clock.

"I was a little nervous," Plummer said. "But I had all the guys telling me, 'This is what you're made for; this is what you do best.'"

Plummer dribbled the ball at the free throw line, eyed the basket and launched his first free throw attempt. Nothing but net. The score was now tied. He repeated his pre-shot routine and fired again...swish. The crowd erupted in applause and cheering. After a final shot by the Cougars missed the mark, the Knights had escaped with a crucial 36-35 district win.

"That's my last home game with the seniors, and I've really gotten close with a lot of them, so I was glad to get the win for them," Plummer said.

The Knights close the regular season next Tuesday on the road at Northeast.

—Isley Cameron & Julia Copas



Senior Tavo Jones plays against the B.J. Jaguars. Photo by Camilla Vandegrift.



Freshman Ethan Plummer was clutch at the end of the senior night game against Crockett. Photo by Julia Copas.

| FRIDAY Feb. 10 | SATURDAY Feb. 11 | TUESDAY Feb. 14 | WEDNESDAY Feb. 15 | FRIDAY Feb. 17 |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| Boys JV baseball game 6 p.m. @Georgetown Eastview | Boys varsity soccer game vs. Travis 10:45 a.m. @House Park | Girls varsity basketball game vs. East View 7 p.m. @McCallum Boys varsity basketball game 8 p.m. @Northeast | Girls soccer games vs. Northeast JV 6 p.m. varsity 7:30 p.m. @Northeast | Boys varsity baseball game vs. Cedar Park Vista Ridge 6 p.m. @Cedar Park Vista Ridge |

FRESHMAN DIVER HEADED TO STATE

At the region IIV 5A swim and dive meet freshman Iris Burns-Trahanovsky placed first in the girls 1-meter dive. The first place finish means she will advance to the state meet on Feb. 17-18. Although placing first, Burns-Trahanovsky didn't feel as confident as she could have at the meet because of missed practices the week before because of the ice storm.

Burns-Trahanovsky was also one of four athletes to win Athlete of the Meet. She was the only person from McCallum to qualify for state although other athletes got close including sophomore Liliana Hollinger in the 50-yard freestyle and 100-yard butterfly, junior William Perkins in the 50-yard freestyle, and senior Atticus Adair in the 200-yard individual medley.

"I'm really excited to go to state," Burns-Trahanovsky said. "I feel like no matter how I do, I feel good about making it this far, and I'm excited to compete at the UT pool."

The diving event was composed of 11 dives from each competitor and five judges scored each dive between 1 through 10 and then multiplied by the difficulty level of the dive. Burns-Trahanovsky finished with a final score of 392.3.

"High school diving is different because there aren't as many divers," Burns-Trahanovsky said. "The only competition is 1-meter. I also don't have my main coach with me, so that makes a difference."

Burns-Trahanovsky's main goal for state is to make it to finals, but she says she feels she will be happy no matter how she does.

—Kate Boyle



Freshman Iris Burns-Trahanovsky poses with her first place medal and the certificate she got for winning Athlete of the Meet. Photo by Kate Boyle.



Girls varsity players, managers and coaches pose with the fruits of their collective labor after completing the first perfect district girls hoops season in school history on Tuesday night. Photo by Lillian Gray.

KNIGHTS RUN TABLE TO WIN FIRST TITLE IN 17 YEARS

After cruising to a 52-20 victory over Ann Richards on Tuesday, the girls varsity basketball team not only captured its first district championship in 17 years but became the first girls basketball team in school history to complete an undefeated district season. The team's record is 27-7 overall, 16-0 in District 24-5A.

Head coach Carly Kehn said the team's shared drive enabled its success.

"I think their willingness to improve and take instruction throughout the year has been a huge thing for us," Kehn said. "I think that that desire leads to them working for it, and that's what led us here to becoming district champs on top of building up some mental toughness in close games."

Sophomore guard Miranda DiGiovanni shared Kehn's belief that the players' hard work made the team's historic 2022-2023 season possible.

"I think we set a lot of goals for ourselves and kept our intensity in working towards those goals," DiGiovanni said.

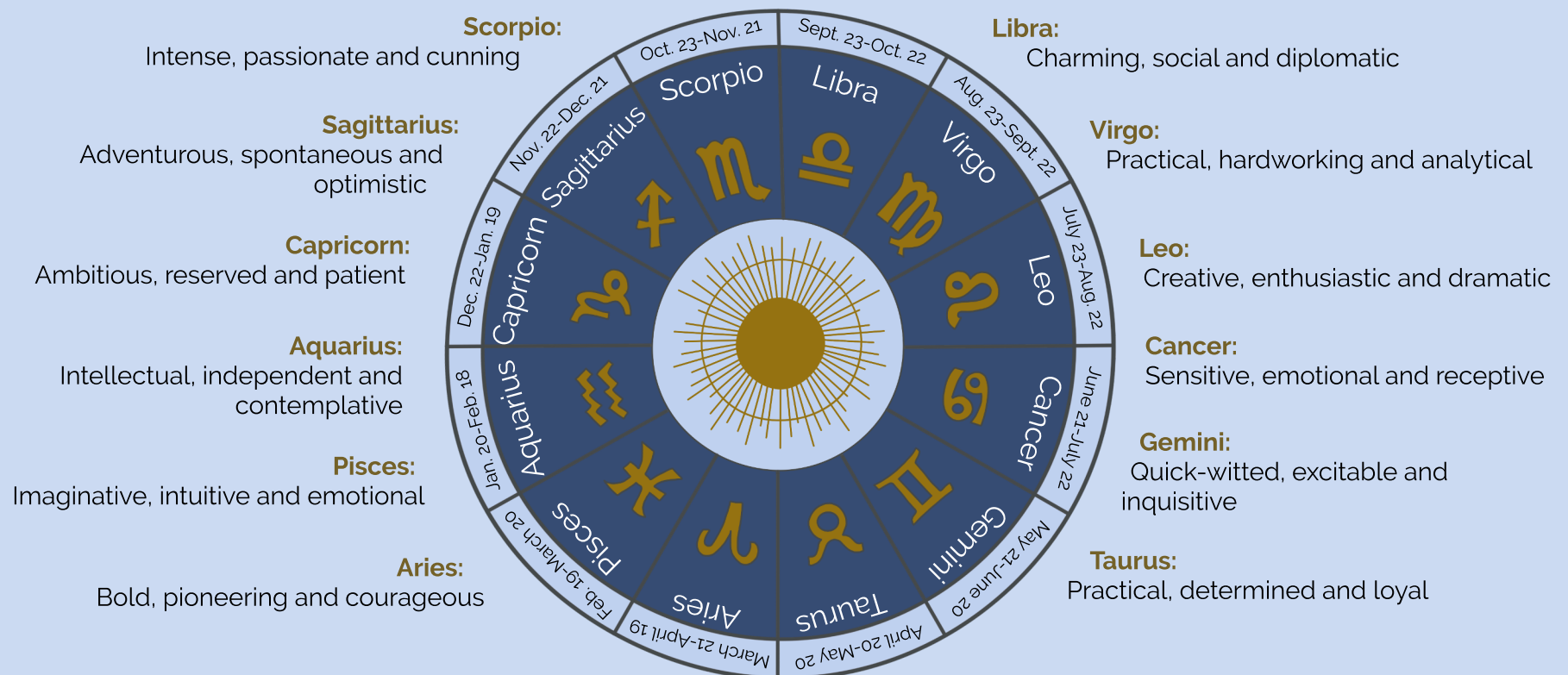
While the district title and undefeated season were team goals, so too is making a run in the 5A state playoffs.

"We definitely need to play to our level and stay fast," DiGiovanni said.

Their first playoff game is 7 p.m. Tuesday at home against Georgetown East View High School (20-13, 8-6 in District 23-5A).

"They are a very fast team, very aggressive, and so we can't play slow," Kehn said. "Working on execution, having patience but also playing quick on defense is going to be what we are working on going into playoffs."

—Lillian Gray



Worse than a Mercury retrograde

Astrology critics give in to misogyny, find unnecessary qualms with harmless fun

FRANCIE WILHELM
co-news editor, co-online
managing editor

I think astrology is wonderful. For years, I've been drawn to understanding what the universe had in store for me from the second I was born and to relate that knowledge to different aspects of my life in hopes of better understanding myself, the people around me and the things that happen to me. The aesthetic of the stars is unmatched, so why wouldn't I lean into that?

I've always identified strongly with my sun sign (Taurus) and learning more about my sign's characteristics has provided me with better understanding of my personality. I'm not saying that every Taurus stereotype is true for me, but a lot of them are. Being a Taurus has become a big part of my identity: traits like being stubborn, grounded and reliable are archetypal Taurus traits and also things that I value in myself. My other "big three" signs (rising and moon, which tend to play a significant role in an individual's personality and daily life), Gemini moon and Capricorn

rising, are also very indicative of who I am as a person. These three categories act as a guide for me through the ups and downs of my life and relationships. It's easier for me to accept that the reason I'm feeling down or that everything seems to be going wrong in my life is that Mercury is in retrograde instead of an actual, more upsetting reason.

Astrology is also a fun way to connect with others; I can bond with other people over being an Earth sign or try and get to know someone based on astrological stereotypes, whether or not they turn out to be accurate. My obsession with analyzing my and my friends' charts got to the point where I downloaded the popular horoscope app

Co-Star, a social media akin to the friends feature of Spotify. I'm able to check my daily compatibility with my in-app friends based on our star charts with in-depth explanations of how all of our placements interact.

Although astrology is something I love learning and talking about, I'm not always open about it, due to the harsh objection it often receives.

You may ask yourself, why does

something so innocuous draw so much backlash? The reason is that astrology is typically enjoyed by teenage girls. And society is unwilling to recognize anything teenage girls like as legitimate.

When girls are vocal about other traditionally feminine amusements like pop music, teen drama shows and fashion, they and their interests are belittled and seen as shallow and unimportant. Astrology is no exception, although ridicule is often under the guise of it stemming from criticism of pseudoscience or that people who enjoy astrology make snap judgments about others based on their zodiac sign. Traditionally masculine hobbies like gaming, sports or collecting basketball shoes are seen as legitimate interests when they're just as arbitrary and frivolous as stereotypically girly things. Teenage girls should be allowed to enjoy things just as much as their male counterparts, and the constant scrutiny is misogynistic, whether it is intentional or not. By tearing down astrology and, by association, its largely young and female fan base, cynics feed into patriarchal ideas and oppression.

The criticism of astrology is absurd for more reasons than the misogyny it perpetuates. Firstly, very few people who abide

by astrology see it as a legitimate scientific method. It's all in good fun. When I read my horoscope, in the back of my mind, I know that they're all general statements with very little basis in reality, but it's fun to pretend

Teenage girls should be allowed to enjoy hobbies just as much as their male counterparts.

that constellations are dictating my day and not just my own choices. Secondly, no one is actually discriminated against or bullied based on their sign. There are negative stereotypes

for every sign, and while some may receive more bad press than others, everyone has their own preferences and interpretations of the zodiac. If you've been made fun of for being a Scorpio, it's most likely because of your personality, not your birthday.

Astrology is simply enjoyment for enjoyment's sake; it's a harmless avocation that's over-hated, and undeserving of such constant criticism. While it's just a hobby, controversy over astrology highlights the pervasive misogyny in American society and brings real harm to a largely young female fanbase. We should be allowed to enjoy hobbies without having to constantly defend them, a sentiment that shouldn't have to be written in the stars to understand.

Graphic by Sophie Leung-Lieu. Sign personalities by the New York Post.



Enact environment education

Texas school boards should prioritize environmental lessons in learning curriculum

GABY ESQUIVEL
staff reporter

In 2022, Texas produced more oil than in any year in its history: 1.8 billion barrels. That amount surpasses the usual yearly production by around 300 million barrels. Though we can't quantify the consequences of this statistic, we do know that continued reliance on fossil fuels affects the air that we breathe, putting at greater health risk people with breathing problems like asthma. With this concern in mind, the Texas education system should put in the effort to educate middle and high school students about the environmental issues that occur in the state and beyond it before the situation worsens.

Our state government contributes to our lack of environmental information and action on climate change. The GOP doesn't have climate change-related issues high on its agenda. According to press releases, the top legislative priorities for Texas Republicans in 2023-2024 are to end abortion and to ban gender transitions for children. Instead of providing and helping their residents and citizens, they are taking away rights that should be someone's own decision. In early 2021, when President Biden signed the executive order to rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement, Gov. Abbott said that the state government would apply legally aggressive strategies against the climate change guidelines specified and the agreement and supported by the Biden administration.

Since the cost of inaction to address climate change falls mainly on the younger generation, we might expect that young Texans would protest Abbott's position on this issue, but currently there is little to no required education on such relevant and important issues. How we can work together to prevent further damage to the planet when essential knowledge and skills taught in Texas don't require educating students on environmental issues, except in environmental systems classes and AP Environmental Science, neither of which are graduation requirements, and are offered by College Board, not the state? In addition, it is difficult to adapt these lessons from those courses into widely accessible classes that don't teach environmental concerns such as Physics I or Chemistry.

There are, however, alternatives. Schools hire guest speakers to present information on bullying, sexual assault and drug use — why not climate change? Speaker suggestions could include university students who major in something that has to do with the environment or someone who studies and examines climate change in Texas. There is so much this generation can do to combat climate change, but those actions must first begin with being informed on the subject.

A common response from the public is the assertion "climate change isn't real," but the contrary is true. A report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said that the United States is entering code red for the climate crisis and that we need to act now. The report stated that there have been more heat-related deaths caused by extreme heat events.

Another excuse presented by opponents of climate action is that this is a change we must learn to adapt to, not prevent. According to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), these last 20 years have had extreme temperatures that have kept rising, especially in the South. This is mostly caused by the high levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. But these changes can be slowed. Reversing climate change, however, starts with learning about the issue through required environmental education that will inform and inspire the prime stakeholders in the climate crisis: future generations.

Do you think environmental education should be taught in school?

*Yes, because we don't realize **how wasteful we are** until we educate ourselves about it.*

—biology teacher
Gabriel Adame

*The best way to get people to take care of [Earth] is to **teach them** when they're young.*

—English teacher
James Hutcheson

*There are **so many layers** to it that should be explored by students who wish to take [environmental classes].*

—junior Olive Greene

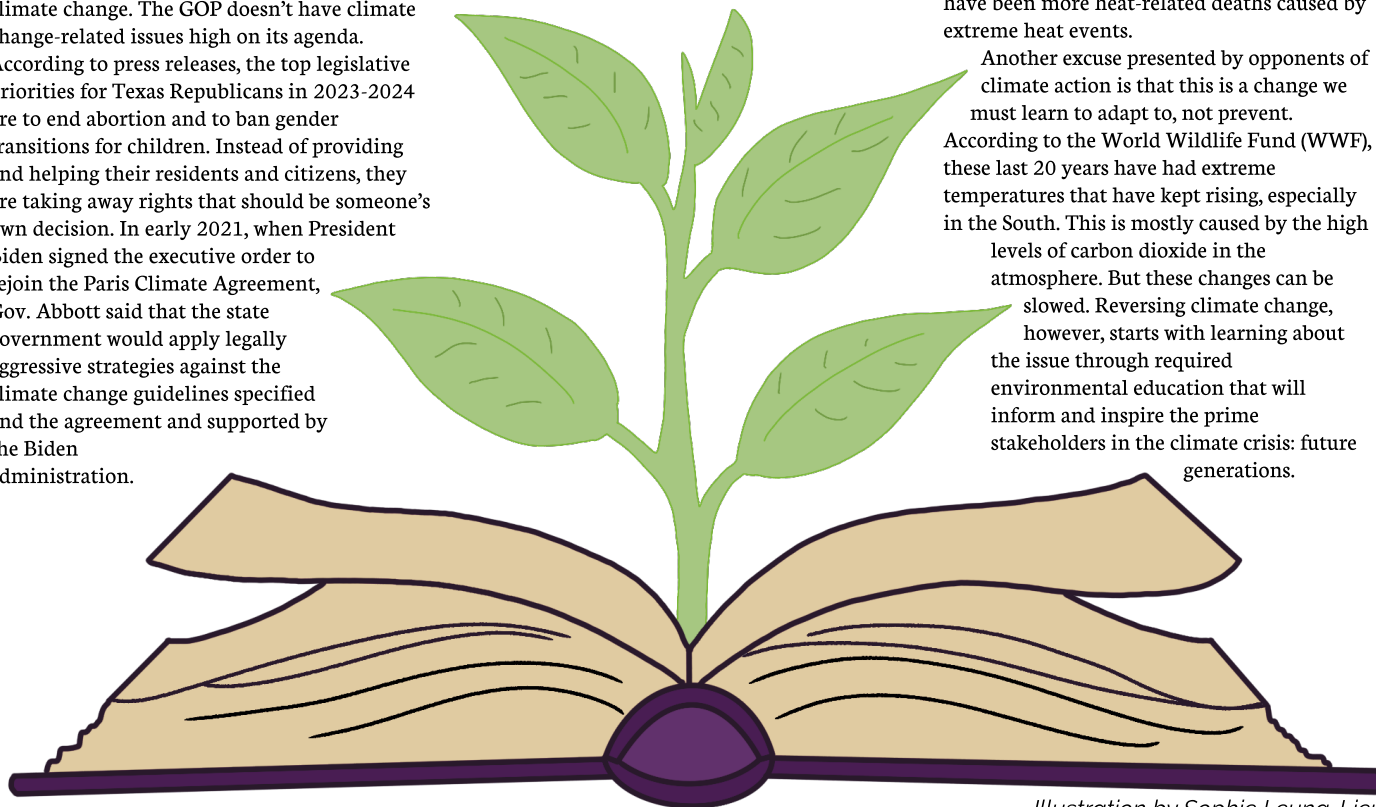


Illustration by Sophie Leung-Lieu.

All hope is not lost

It's not time to give up on envisioning a better future for our climate, planet

SHIELD STAFF

The headlines scream that it's too late. People are tracking their carbon footprints all over the planet, rising sea levels are swallowing cities and glaciers are melting under penguins' feet. If we don't reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, the planet will apparently turn into a giant fireball. But long showers are nice, fast fashion is cheap and teens would rather make use of their shiny new driver's licenses than carpool to school.

Feelings of powerlessness and fear naturally lead to inaction, to convincing ourselves that our choices do not make a difference. But the science says otherwise; it's not too late, and our choices will make or break the climate challenge we face. In fact, it is more important than ever that we not lose hope and instead plant our feet in the earth we need to save.

According to the United Nations, two-thirds of global greenhouse gas emissions are linked to private households. In a world of 8 billion people, our actions matter—the electricity we use, the ways we travel and the foods we eat. But waking up to news of environmental destruction day after day can feel paralyzing. Described by the American Psychological Association as “a chronic fear of environmental doom,” climate anxiety is a widespread issue. A 2021 global study published in *The Lancet*, found that out of the 10,000 young adults surveyed, 45% suffered from daily climate anxiety. The American Psychological Association found that more than two-thirds of Americans experience some

climate anxiety.

Hopelessness is a step in the wrong direction. Although we are far from carbon net zero, there is reason to be optimistic.

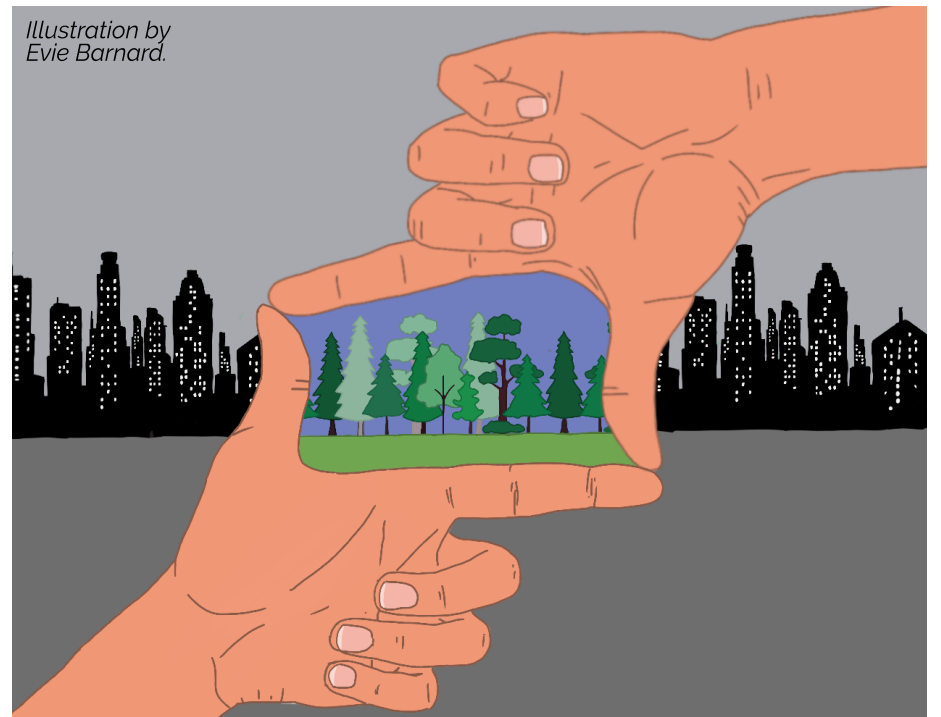
The United Nations report that more than 70 countries, including the United States, have set a net-zero target, covering over three-quarters of global emissions.

China, the world's biggest polluter, experienced its largest cut in carbon emissions in over a decade. The “Race to Zero,” in which entities pledge to take immediate, significant action toward cutting global emissions in half by 2030, now boasts membership of more than 1,000 cities, 1,000 educational institutions and 400 financial institutions.

Slowing the Earth's warming trend, even by a small margin, is a victory. Eco-conscious lifestyle choices make a difference. According to the United Nations, each American emitted 14.6 tons of CO₂ in 2020, more than double the global average. In order to preserve a liveable climate, this number will need to drop to at least 2.5 tons by 2030. By working together and treating the climate crisis with the immediate attention it deserves, this reduction is possible.

From electric cars to solar panels, the solutions we need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions already exist. Take action by saving energy at home, reducing car and plane use, cutting food waste and recycling. Reduce climate anxiety by practicing mindfulness and taking advantage of resources like the Climate Psychology Alliance's “climate-aware” therapists. Tune into “solutions” journalism with websites like Good News Network and

Illustration by
Evie Barnard.



the Good News section of *The Daily Climate*. Put pressure on lawmakers to prioritize the environment, educate yourself and others on climate change issues and vote. Think before you spend and be mindful about what you're supporting with your financing. Most importantly, remember why you care and fight for the future you want.

If all 1,800 McCallum students committed to putting the Earth first, thousands of tons of

greenhouse gas emissions could be avoided. Confront the reality of climate change with stubborn hope, and channel anxiety into action. Find inspiration in the global movement to combat climate change, and seek out practical solutions. After all, we've made a mess of our environment and now it's time to clean it up.

Read the full editorial at macshieldonline.com

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4000 S Interstate 35
Austin, TX 78704-7420

She's hooked on fashion design

SENIOR ARTIST spotlight

Through "overfished," Reynolds creates editorial art in a wearable medium

Senior Lilli Reynolds began her means of self expression through makeup.

"I used to go roller skating, and enjoyed getting dressed up beforehand," Reynolds said. "I would put on this eyeliner, and eventually I just started getting more into it."

The interest grew, and eventually Reynold's eye makeup became more creative, as she began drawing stars and other various shapes around her eyes as well.

"I started with my wearable art using makeup," Reynolds said.

After participating in the 2022 McCallum fasion show, however, Reynolds began extending her talent towards fashion.

As a result, Reynolds worked to create her fish dress titled "overfished" (right).

Composed of small felt stuffed animal versions of various endangered fish, the dress was inspired after Reynolds spent time learning about overfishing and the harm it inflicts.

"The ocean is so important to us, and overfishing is a serious threat," Reynolds said.

Making the dress allowed Reynolds to connect with an issue of great importance while still allowing her the opportunity to express her creativity.

"These fish are absolutely beautiful, and to be able to create them and see it was really eye-opening," Reynolds said.

—Naomi Di-Capua



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