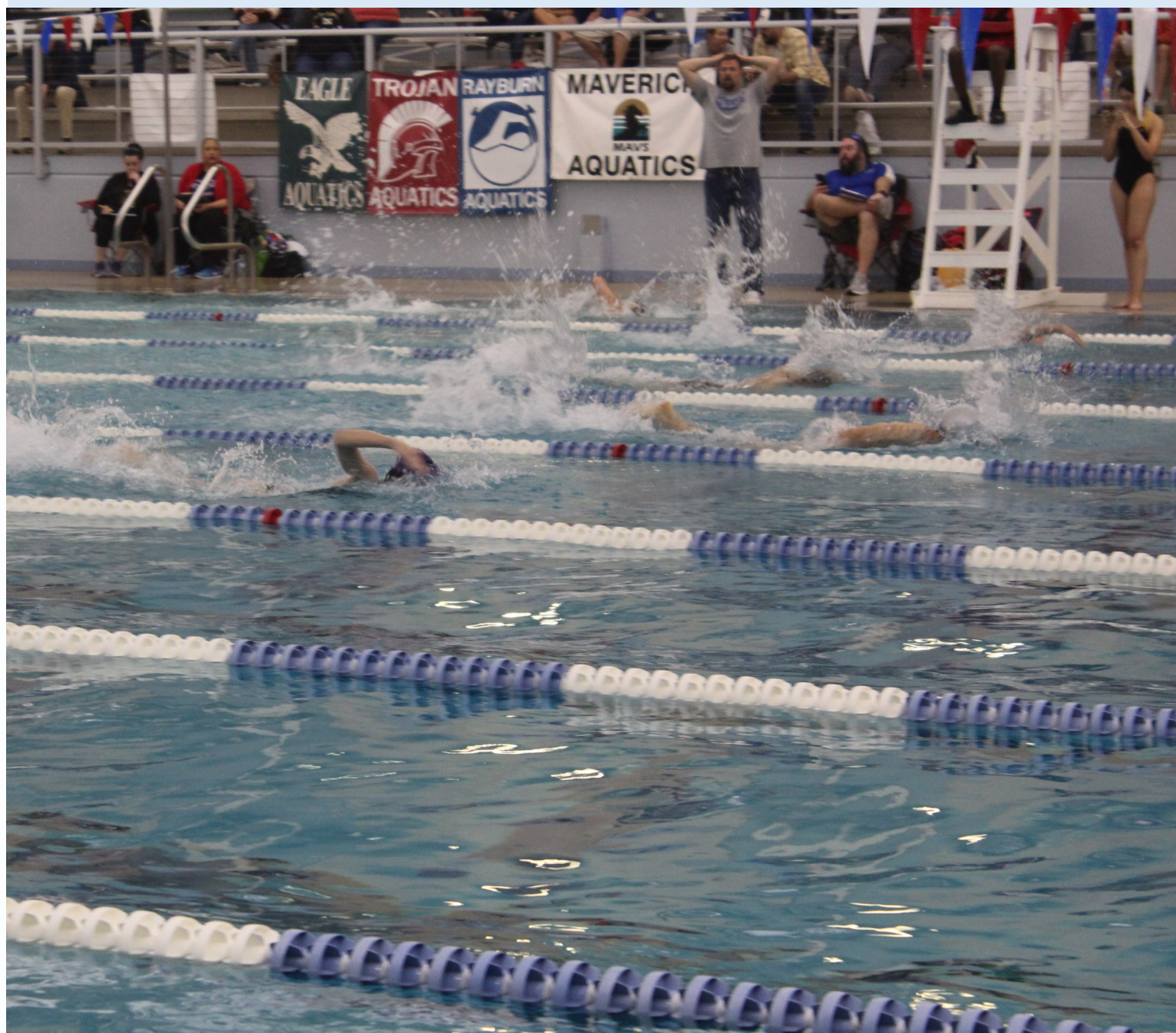


# Tornado Winds



*Where the news takes flight!*

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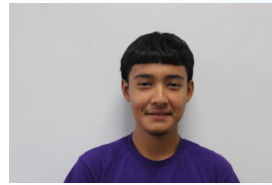
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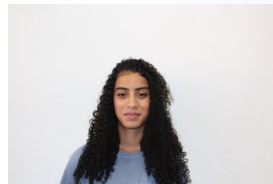


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# Artist of the Month

*By Rilee Whinery*



## Chloe Powell

Chloe Powell, a junior at BHS, is enrolled in Ms. Lepo's AP 2D Design Class and is a member of the National Art Honor Society. "She developed an interest in art as a child and has been drawing and painting since middle school," said Ms. Lepo.

"Her style is expressionistic and acrylic on canvas is her medium of choice. She paints images that are familiar to her and part of her daily life," Lepo added.

After graduation, Chloe plans to study fine arts in college.



## The choir Sings Christmas Carols in the Commons!



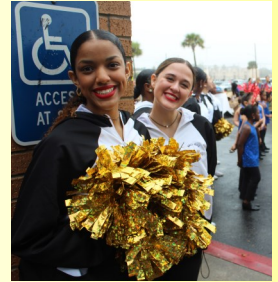
The choir also entertained the large crowd gathered in front of Ball High during the Food Drive.



*Ball High students and faculty pitched in to make the 2022 Channel 13  
Food Drive a stunning success to help feed the poor.*



The Ball High cheerleaders helped promote the Galveston Food Drive by performing acrobatic feats for the crowd's entertainment!



## 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual ABC13 Share Your Holidays Food Drive

By Cooper Berry

Students at Ball High School participated in the Channel 13 Annual Food Drive to benefit their community. Partnering with the Houston Food Bank, the organization Feed Galveston will provide 160,000 meals to families in need, according to Michael Dudas, the Ball High media liaison who organized the participation of many of the sponsors, such as the namesake ABC13.

"Our involvement grew from an in-school small food drive to this enormous community event which it is now where we collect tens of thousands of pounds of food which you can see in these bins right here" Dudas said, looking at his students with pride as they distributed the food. "This year, the total amounted to 19,613 lbs. for families."

Many groups worked to make this possible, including the ARK and Internet Club, the NHS, and the Key Club. Feed Galveston trucks arrived with groceries for the participating students to organize and hand out to recipients in need patiently waiting in line in their cars

Ball High School has been involved with this since 1980, being one of the two drop-off locations for anyone willing to donate to the cause. Donators could also drop off needed supplies for weeks leading up to the event at places such as City Hall, Island Transit, and Sanitation.

On the day of the event, the choir, band, and cheerleaders all gave special performances during the event. Cassius White, a sophomore in the band, said he loved playing for people while at the food drive. "It was a wonderful opportunity to see everyone and bring cheer to people who might be going through a rough time."

The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual ABC13 Share Your Holidays Food Drive brought the community together, students and teachers alike working together to bring positivity and joy to the people of Galveston.



# Swim Team Makes a Splash

By Janeth Huerta and Nazaret Aguilar



The Ball High swim team has established nine school records over the past two seasons. Prior to last season the last record broken was in 2008, some of the records go back to 1999. Six of the nine records are individual event records set by one swimmer, junior Kai Jankowiak; 50-meter freestyle, 100-meter freestyle, 200-meter freestyle, 100-meter backstroke, 100-meter breaststroke and 100-meter butterfly.



The swim team competed in the annual Texas City Turkey Bowl Swim Meet and finished third overall out of 17 area teams. Individual medalists include Kai Jankowiak – 1<sup>st</sup> place in the 100-meter freestyle and the 100-meter breaststroke. Noah Legrand-Mixon came in 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 50-meter freestyle, Kolton Bolte won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 100-meter backstroke, Kyanna Jankowiak earned two 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishes in the 200-meter freestyle and the 100-meter freestyle, Abigail Obert finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 100-meter butterfly, Moya Hudson earned two 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishes in the 200-meter and 100-meter breaststroke and Isabel Obert earned a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish in the 100-meter breaststroke.



Freshman diver Sianna Acosta finished 1<sup>st</sup> overall in the Turkey Bowl Dive Meet and is considered a top contender for district titles.

Kai Jankowiak re-broke many of his school records set last year including the 50-meter freestyle, 100-meter freestyle, 100-meter backstroke and the 200-meter freestyle.



Head Coach Jay Godfrey said that the team's focus is on the future. "We will continue building all three aquatics programs (swimming, diving and water polo) starting with a middle school program."

# Swim Team

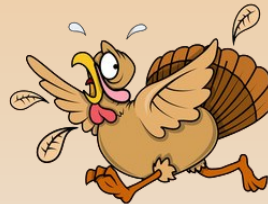


# *Annual JROTC Turkey Shoot Hits the Bullseye!*



## **Shooting for the Turkey**

**By Ernesto Hernandez**



The annual Ball High JROTC Turkey Shoot took place on November 17, 2022, providing adults and students the opportunity to demonstrate their skill with an air rifle and the possibility of winning a turkey for their Thanksgiving meal.

JROTC give a big thanks to Arlan's Market for donating more than 20 frozen turkeys for this yearly event. The JROTC's biggest fundraiser used air rifles that are safe and handled by Cadet Safety Officers when shooting. Thanks to the efforts of the students of JROTC and the people participating in the fundraiser, the JROTC class made over \$1,000 to use on their end of the year field trips and other expenses.

The winners in each time slot follows: 8:30 Joe Pillar 28, 9:00 Sean McGregor 29, 9:30 Luis Garcia 28, 10:00 Gabriel Carey 29, 10:30 Bradley Cox 29, 11:00 Avery Fuller 27, 11:30 Javier Calderon 29, 12:00 Jose Arreola 26, 12:30 Mike Mcculloch 25, 1:00 Bud Collier 28, 1:30 April Burkheart 28, 2:00 Heather Canak 29, 2:30 Emily Dabney 29, 3:00 Virginia Martinez 27, 3:30 John Taylor 29, 4:00 Wayne Mcculloch 29, 4:30 Jeff Petta 29, 5:00 Eli Gonzales 29, 5:30 Jorge Campos 30, 6:00 Grant Trippon 29

While covering this story I decided to give it a shot myself, although I've never fired a rifle before in my life. Holding the rifle to shoot gave me a rush of excitement. Once I got ready to aim and held the rifle steady and concentrated on the target in front of my field of sight, I took the first shot and I could not tell if I hit the target or not until a spotter (an JROTC cadet who used a pair of binoculars to see where the shots hit on the target) told me where my shot landed.

I received some timely advice from a cadet on how to aim and shoot and, lo and behold, I became more confident in my last two shots! I retrieved my target paper and happily discovered that each shot was closer to the center than my first shot. I got a score of 22 points and did not win the turkey, but I sure had fun trying!



# Galveston History Class Takes Harbor Tour



Mr. Mark Kelso's History of Galveston students embarked on a boat tour of the Port of Galveston in December. "The student tour included cargo operations at the Port of Galveston, the Battleship Texas (in drydock), Selma, the cruise ship Allure of the Seas and Texas A&M Galveston facilities"

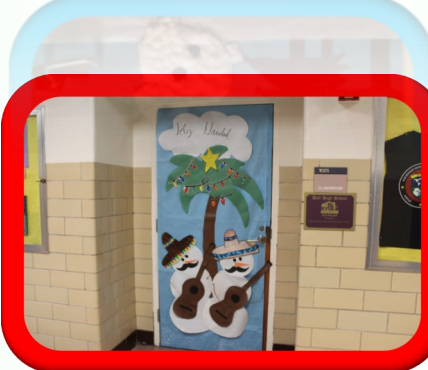
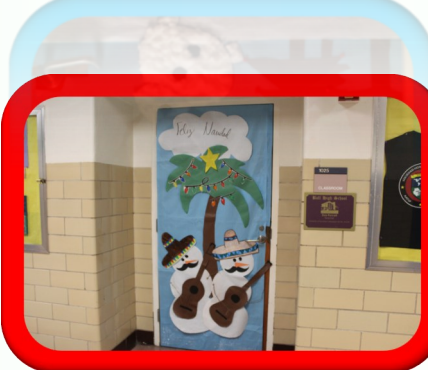
Kelso added, "Thanks to Galveston Party Boats and to the crew of the New Buccaneer."



# Merry Christmas from the Student Council!



The Student Council sponsored a door decoration contest. First prize won a popcorn party for the winning room; second and third prize winners won candy for the rooms!





# Merry Christmas from the Student Council!



The Student Council members voted Mr. Whitman's door, room 2016, first place in the Christmas Door Decoration Contest. Ms. Rocha in 1058 won second place and Ms. Carranza in room 2062 won third place. Thank you to all the teachers who participated! Ms. Purcell room 1025, Ms. Peterson room 1063, Ms. Legate room 1059, Ms. Rocha room 1058, Ms. Hollis room 1049, Ms. Glover room 1096, Ms. Howard room 1098, Ms. Lewings 2037, Ms. Carranza room 1062 Ms. White room 2074, Mr. Whitman room 2016, Ms. Wagner room 2077 and Mr. Dachnke room 3015.



Mr. Whitman, room 2016, won first place and will be awarded a Popcorn Party in his room.



# Fingernails Cost an Arm and a Leg!

*By Janeth Huerta and Nazaret Aguilar*



The holidays are around the corner, and every girl wants their nails and hair done for the family photos and holiday celebrations. Personally, we love getting our nails done because the finished product is so beautiful, and we receive so many compliments. We get our nails done by a local nail technician where the normal price is between \$45 and \$80, depending on the length of the nails and any additional gems.

The nail process is incredibly detailed. First, you need to prepare the nail by drilling and dehydrating the nails. Second, the tips are glued on to all nails and cut to the desired length. Next, the nail technician will apply the acrylic powder to create the base layer. Depending on the design and the desired look, the nail tech may need to add more steps into the nail process. The final step is to apply the topcoat and then insert the nails into the UV light to seal it; this takes about a minute.

If you want gems and rhinestones added to the nails, your tech can do this for a very reasonable price. It's Christmas, get crazy, get wild and enjoy the holidays with magnificent Holiday Nails!



## Ball High Cheerleaders Pose with All-Pro Mike Evans



The Ball High cheerleaders gather around All-Pro receiver Mike Evans in the Ball High gym where Evans stopped by to visit his friends at his alma mater.. Evans plays for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

## Following the Poetry Trail

Mrs. Seiler and Mrs. Singleton's class did a Poetry Vocabulary Trail in the English hall on the second floor, in which the students analyzed excerpts from poems and identified the poetic devices.



London Gigon, Meah Borderlo, and Brianna Fortini check their guides for the next assignment on the Poetry Trail created by the Freshmen English teachers to make an interactive assignment.

Jaidaa Estrada and Eduardo Vazquez follow the poetry trail as it winds its way down the hall.



# The Robot Challenge:

Zander Oramous is a member of the Ball High robotics organization at the school that participates in a competition known as Vex VRC.

“At the beginning of each year we are issued a challenge/task that our robot must compete against other robots to outperform them,” Oramous explained. “We go across the state participating in tournaments to try and earn qualification to the regional championship, in which many high skill leveled teams compete to win their region of Texas.”

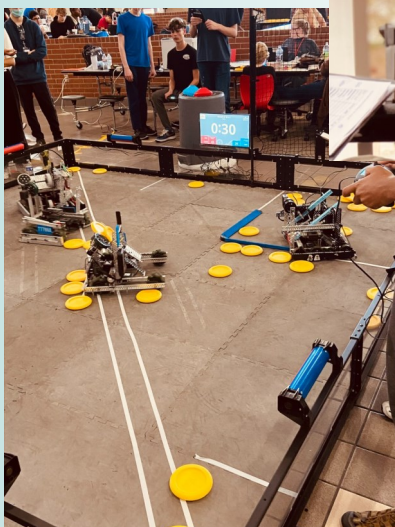
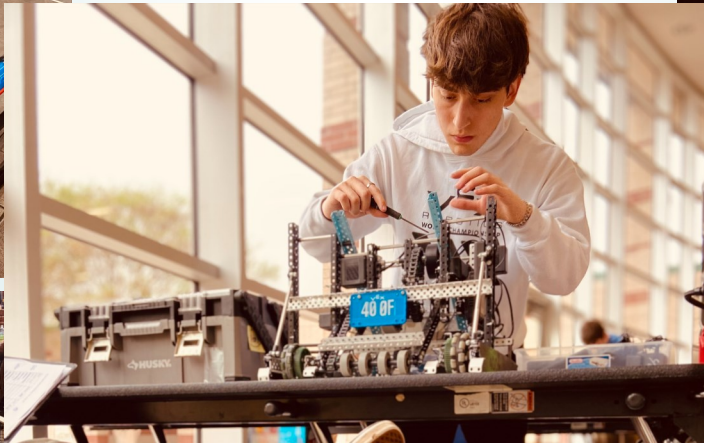
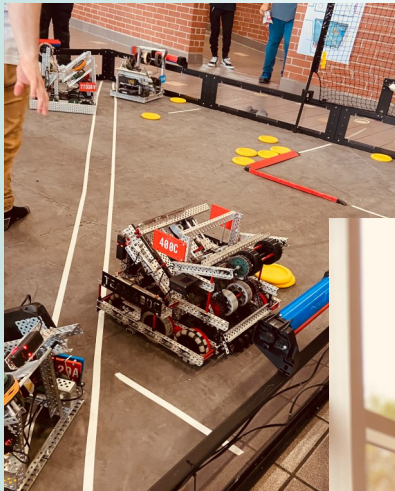
From regionals, the Ball High teams can qualify to the world championship in which teams from all over the world compete to earn the title as the best.

“In 2016 we won the world championship and beat out teams from all over the world. We have since qualified each year to worlds and we are determined to take out title back as best in the world,” Oramous said.

Below: Zander Oramous fine tunes his robot in the robotics classroom.

Left : Zander Oramous' robot.

Right and bottom: Teams compete to pick up the yellow disks and drop them in a bucket.



“... our final goal this year is to win at worlds and make our legacy again as team 400 around the world!”



# World Champs Look to Repeat!



Ms. Pickavance stands in front of the World Championship banner.

The teams are coached by Ms. Catherine Pickavance, who schedules the tournaments for the year.

“Our organization’s name is 400, in which each team has their own letter to follow. We currently have four teams that compete in our organization with each having their own team captain,” Oramous said.

The first team is 400B (Christian Leitzell’s team), the second team is 400C (Dylan Hester’s team), the third is 400F (Zander Oramous), and team the fourth team is 400E (Kai Jankowiak).

This year’s game is known as Spin Up and it is played on a 12’x 12’ field. The objective of the game is to score 5” discs into goals that are elevated three feet above the ground. Teams can also score points by spinning rollers to our alliance color.

“In accordance to the game rules, we also have two limitations on our robots that make the challenge more difficult and gives us problems that we have to work around,” Oramous said. “Our robots may only be 18”x18” and (contain) one V5 brain that is provided by the company that hosts the games.

“We build these robots from scrap metal and spend hours perfecting and programming them in order to be competitive. As of right now this year we are still in the early tournaments to qualify to regionals and our final goal this year is to win at worlds and make our legacy again as team 400 around the world!”

# Golf Teams Get Into the Holiday Swing!

By Rilee Whinery

The Ball High boys and girls golf teams competed in their own Turkey Leftover 9-Hole Scramble at Moody Gardens GC.

The Tors took home the 3rd place medals by shooting a 42. This brings the boys JV record to 9-2 for the season. The boys representing the Tors were Dylan Rowe, Juan Santos, Travis MacLauchlan, Rio Jones and Hogan Lanier.

The Lady Tors came in 4th place out of 11 schools by shooting a 41. This brings the girls JV season record to 13-4. The girls representing the Lady Tors were Annie Boeh, Anna Hoffman, Jolee Kershaw, Addison Rozier, Ivy Culling, Josie Lorenzo, Halen Swafford, MacKenzie Mielsch and Rhiannon Conley.



The Ball High girls varsity golf team came in 2nd Place today at the Pasadena Memorial Winter Scramble at Pasadena Municipal GC. The Lady Tors shot a score of 76.

The girls representing the Lady Tors were Shaifer Goalen, Falon Dunn, Liberty Cox and Kayleigh Lorefice.

1st - Clear Creek - 72

The Ball High girls varsity golf team competed in the Clear Creek Girls Varsity Winter Classic at Bay Oaks Country Club today. The Lady Tors only competed as medalists today and not as a team. Shaifer Goalen led the Lady Tors by shooting a 106, which tied for 28th place out of 67 players. The rest of the Lady Tors were Kayleigh (125-54th), Lorefice (125-50th) and Liberty Cox (128-54th).



**Men's Golf Tees Off At Moody Gardens**  
The Ball High boys varsity golf team competed in their own Galveston Ball Fall Invitational at Moody Gardens GC today. The Tors came in 18th place out of 25 schools by shooting a team score of 376. This brings their season record to 43-25.

Sully Mixon led the Tors by shooting a score of 83, which tied for 33rd place out of 113 total players. The rest of the Tors were Parker Koza (93-T73rd), Preston Jinks (96-T87th) and Grayson Root (104-



## The Girl's Basketball Team Reloads

By Janeth Huerta

As the Girls Basketball season gets underway way, Ball High Head Coach Jeffrey Johnson has great expectations for his team, "We have a really great team this year. We have two freshmen, KK Toussaint and Bracon Arceneaux, who have added a lot to our team. They know how to score and distribute the ball and are excellence defenders."

The Tors (3-5, 0-0) opened the season 2-0 with 62-32 victory over La Marque and 48-42 win over Eisenhower. They traveled to Alief for a tournament where they lost to the Heights 47-36 and fell to Clear Falls 48-32. Freshmen KK Toussaint was named Most Valuble Player.

The Lady Tors took the court against Cyfair and lost 50-42, then suffered another defeat against Clear Creek 66-6. The Tors took the win home against Galen Park 58-23 and then fell to Randle 51-40.

Johnson said Heaven Barrientos has started on the varsity for the past three years and adds a lot of experience and knowledge to the team, but it's the dynamic freshmen captains who Coach Johnson looks to for leadership on the court, captains Jazzhe Jones and KK Toussaint.

"They give everything they have at all the practices and games. They lead by example and others look up to them," Johson said.



## Here Comes The Judge



Bradley Cox provides instructions to his students as they prepare for the mock trial in their makeshift courtroom on the second floor in front of the theater balcony entrance. The mock trials went on all week before the class concludes at the end of the first semester.

**Taylor Polzin** (non-convicted Defendant) said that [he] "enjoyed learning the function in order of the Court room."

**William Gomez** (Attorney) stated that [he] "liked the impact and importance of the Prosecutor during Trials."

**Sophia Comeaux** (convicted Defendant) stated, [she] "loved the interaction of the Court room, and playing it out was awesome, rather than just reading or seeing it."

“In US Federal Government, the course covers necessary items over the structure and function of Government, which is designed in the US Constitution. According, there are phases of learning such as Origins, Federalism, Checks & Balances, and the Branches (respectively Legislative, Executive and Judicial). Since the course final phase ends with studies in the Judicial Branch, the students cover the Federal Court System and are allowed to conduct their own “Mock Trial”, supporting a Make-It-Real philosophy,” said Mr. Bradley Cox, the instructor who came up with the idea of the mock trials.

“All classes perform their own case(s) and develop their own story-lines. The instructor just provides the skeleton-structure for the “Mock”, then guides them through normal Court room activities,” Cox added.

Since the instructor supports the 1st Amendment in it’s ‘Originalist form’, he puts little if any censorship regarding these “Mock (Criminal) Trials”. These studies are usually done during a four-to-five-day stretch, and just before Course Reviews in preparation for Finals



Mr. Bradley Cox provides last minute instructions to his courtroom.



Left; Students swear in as they’re about to testify. Right; the court docket is laid out for students to read.



Taylor Polzin and Sophia Conceaua pose as defendants talking to their lawyer, played by Kayla Martinez, during Mr. Cox’s second period courtroom drama.



# The Rite of Passage Every Teenager Craves!

By Ernesto Hernandez



The greatest achievement for any high school student is earning the right to drive, but that achievement comes with issues. The major issue, as usual, is finding the money needed to pay for classes that last three weeks. Fortunately, Ball High School has free Drivers Education classes for qualified students.

However, there are other requirements necessary to earn the privilege to attend the classes. The major requisite is to attend the ACE program for 30 hours after school in the library, and this program offers help that ranges from assistance with schoolwork to just hanging out. Once the 30 hours are completed, the candidate will be asked to sign in normally, but instead of being in the library, he/she will be moved to the lecture hall.

The driving instructors are employees at the South Region Driving School. One of the two teachers explains the purpose of the classes and what requirements the candidate needs to avoid getting kicked out of the class, like filling out the paperwork correctly or missing too many classes. After the introduction, the teacher immediately begins teaching the class on basic interactions with the police if told to pull over by the police, and after that the students are taught the rules of the road and street signs.

The second week starts with a permit test over the last week's lessons, and after passing the test, the students will get their DE 964 form and a VOE (a form that tells the DMV that the candidate is still in high school) from the attendance office: both are required for the permit to be issued. During the third week the classes involve more basic driving knowledge and driving with the teacher before the big driving test! Once the driving test is successfully in your rearview mirror, the state issues your driver's license and unleashes a novice driver upon the nation's highways!

# **GISD Students Use Drones To Aid Communities**

**By Cooper Berry**



With partnership from the National Science Foundation, Ball High students are taking flight into the world of drone-led disaster relief. After a two-week, 80-hour program, both select GISD staff and students are now FAA certified to operate drones.

The purpose of the drones is to ensure insurance payments are given to people affected by severe weather. Before the program, insurance companies could deny coverage since there was no proof of how the damage exactly happened. Now, thanks to the drone team, property owners are able to prove the damage sustained to their homes and businesses was caused by storms, high wind, water, and other natural factors.



***Since 2019 we have had six (6) Ball High students achieve the highly prestigious Texas High School Aerospace Scholars. Will you/your child be next?***



*Don't forget to buy your Ball High Yearbook, available in room 2063, to keep your memories of this fantastic school year. Use the QR code to purchase your book.*

